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ASSOCIATION

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ISSUE 708 SEPT. 21, 2026

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MONTROSE HAS HIGHEST WEST NILE RATE IN STATE



Montrose County Public Health Director Jacqueline Davis.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) gathered for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 16. All Commissioners were present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation by Pastor Curt Mudgett of Cedar Creek Church, BOCC Chair Kirstin Copeland welcomed all to the meeting and announced the swearing in of newly-appointed Commissioner Caryn Gibson.

INVOCATION

Mudgett thanked God for recent moisture, and expressed thanks for significant progress on wildland fire mitigation and for those who have worked on fire mitigation and who have lost their lives. He also asked for guidance, clarity, and for a sense of harmony to characterize the meeting. "...we also pray for our county that we would be an exemplary place for people to live, work, and raise their families..." Cont. pg 12

MONTROSE CORN SCIENTIST BRINGING NEW SWEET CORN TO THE WORLD

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-As the growing season winds down, the delicious taste of sweet corn will soon be a memory--unless you are Dave MacKenzie. MacKenzie is the inventor of the popular ultra-sweet strain Mirai.

A globe-trotting corn scientist by profession, he was in Montrose last week and found time to share a corn science update with the Mirror. Most corn contains 15 percent sugar. Depending on the variety, Mirai may contain anywhere from 16 to 19 percent sugar.

Mirai debuted in Japan in 1995, and has been a popular staple at Montrose's Honey Acre Farms for years.

Mirai is also still popular in Japan, where the seed is owned and distributed by a company called Sanatech. In the U.S., Mirai has been sold commercially through Illinois-based Seeds, Inc.

Today, a new ultra sweet strain has been developed, owned by [Meridian Seed Co](#) and [Harris Seeds](#), and MacKenzie himself is now working in the tropics to develop hardy strains with high taste. His goal?

"When 20 percent sugar is ready in tropical corn, I'll present that taste to global markets with deep purple husks to get repeat sales for the growers who plant it."

Also, Will Montrose continue to get delicious corn? "Yes, for sure," MacKenzie said.



Montrose Corn Scientist Dave MacKenzie.

Church Directory!
Calendar of events!

Morgenthaler named
MURA Dierctor p15

Medical Column By. Dr.
Katie Stephens, MD pg 62

Letters to the Editor
Regional News Briefs!

Local
Photos!



Healthcare Career Fair

Wednesday, September 23

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

CMU Cascade Ave Plaza

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Center, CMU:
Montrose
Campus, and
Montrose**



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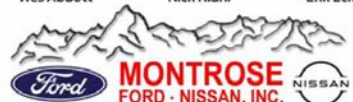


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RULES FOR PUBLISHING

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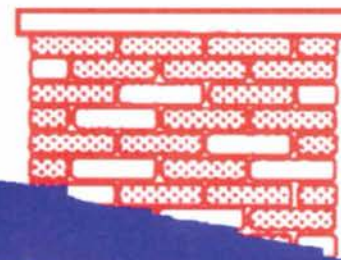
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*We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the **Montrose Mirror** or its editorial team. In addition to the Online News Association, we hold memberships in the Colorado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





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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROAD CLOSURE SCHEDULED ON 6400 ROAD BEGINNING SEPT. 28

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose County Public Works will implement a road closure on 6400 Road between Orange Road and Ranger Road for a bridge reconstruction beginning September 28. For more information, please contact Mike Hindson at 970-964-2448 or Rich Rivera at 970-252-7009.



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REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY APPROVES FUNDING FOR WEST END FAMILY LINK

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose County Board of County Commissioners voted during a special meeting in Nucla on Thursday, September 17, to provide \$75,000 in one-time funding to the West End Family Link Center.

Based in Nucla, West End Family Link has served the area since 1993 and provides free services to residents in the West End and surrounding communities. Services include food assistance, senior food boxes, the BackPacks for Kids program, utility assistance and help connecting people with other resources.

West End Family Link asked the County for assistance with an immediate funding shortfall. After considering the request during the special meeting, commissioners approved the funding to help cover the immediate gap while the organization works to find other funding.

The \$75,000 is a one-time allocation from the Board intended to help West End Family Link get back on its feet while it works to identify and pursue other funding sources.

For additional information about the West End Family Link, visit them online at <https://westendflc.org/>.

CARYN GIBSON SWORN IN AS NEW DISTRICT II COMMISSIONER



MONTROSE—Montrose County is pleased to announce that on September 16, 2026, the Honorable D. Cory Jackson officially administered the oath of office to Caryn Gibson, who was sworn in as the new Montrose County District 2 Commissioner.

Commissioner Gibson joins the Board of County Commissioners in this important role and will serve the residents of District 2 while working alongside her fellow commissioners and County staff to support the continued strength, growth, and well-being of Montrose County.

Montrose County welcomes Commissioner Gibson to the Board and looks forward to her service to the community. Please join us in congratulating Commissioner Gibson and wishing her the very best as she begins this new chapter of public service.

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MLS #838786 | 62874 Niagara Road \$650,000

Beautiful well cared for home on Spring Creek Mesa. The property has no covenants and features 1 irrigated acre with raised garden beds, fruit trees, 2 storage sheds, and oversized 2 car garage and RV parking with a 30-amp hook-up. The interior is lovely and features an updated kitchen with pullout drawers on the lower cabinets and stainless-steel appliances



Gary Cooper

Broker

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garycooper@montrose.net



MLS #830651| Lot 2 E 13th Street \$650,000

Lots 1-3 are each 4-5 acres, with agricultural zoning and irrigation included. These lots offer both proximity to town and irrigated hay pastures, as well as views of San Juan and Grand Mesa. Utilities are available at the lot line. They're ideal sites for building your dream home and keeping animals, and the subdivision features a beautiful split rail fence around its perimeter.



Dee Holman

Broker

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MLS #836393 | TBD 5725 RD \$995,000

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Justin Convington

Broker

970-275-4189

justincovington@remax.net



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

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



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MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



At left, photo by Linda Davis shows water where normally there is none. Above, photo by Harry Switzer of Railroad crews working on the track between West Main and South Third Street.

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MONTROSE HAS HIGHEST WEST NILE RATE IN STATE From pg 1

OATH OF OFFICE

Judge Cory Jackson delivered the Oath of Office to Gibson, which was followed by photos and a 20-minute recess.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Greg Stunder addressed an item on the agenda ([Coal Creek Estates III Preliminary Plan \[MA25-016\]](#)), arguing that a finding was not correct. "...I urge you today to make the finding of act set forth in my Exhibit C..."

Elisa Mckee addressed the same issue and urged commissioners to abide by the Master Plan.

William Hammer spoke about his attempts over time to report a junk problem on the Nancy Way, a situation that began before the county implemented a junk ordinance. In 2015 the County did create a junk ordinance, which was not enforced due to a lack of code enforcement. In 2023, a more robust ordinance was passed. Still, after years of Hammer actively pursuing enforcement, the property continues to be far from compliance, he noted. "I am concerned that it will take yet another year for the county to address this property..."

Scott Riba thanked Sheriff Gene Lillard, Police Chief Blaine Hall, and Fire Chief Tad Rowan for their coordination with the 911 Memorial Ceremony on Sept.11. "It was a great ceremony and we can never forget 911..."

Riba also asked Commissioners to remove items that have expenditures from the Consent Agenda so that those can be discussed in public meetings.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Joe Kerby asked that the order of two items be swapped (moving Item G- to follow item G-2) and removed an Executive Session for legal advice regarding a prohibition of the introduction of nonnative wildlife species into Montrose County.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

The Board left regular session to convene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, where they approved a [Special Events Permit](#) for Magic Circle Players, at the South River Farm, 18106 Woodgate Road.

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board then convened as the Montrose County Board of Health to hear from Public Health Director Jackie Davis, who delivered the Quarterly Update and Review.

Davis said that Montrose County has had two deaths from West Nile Virus, currently has 15 cases, and has the highest rate of West Nile Virus in the State of Colorado. She discussed specifics of the disease.

Davis announced there will be drive through shot clinics this year at the Event Center, at Oathe, and in the West End.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners voted to approve [Resolution 34 - 2026](#), to approve the 1st supplemental appropriation to the [Budget for Fiscal Year Ending, December 31, 2026](#).

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

The BOCC approved the [Sunshine Road Minor Subdivision \[MI26-014\] Proposal](#) to divide 35.12 acres into three lots at Parcel 399311404002 based on the findings of fact listed in paragraph 3 of the staff report.

The BOCC considered the [Coal Creek Estates III Preliminary Plan \[MA25-016\]](#) proposal to divide 25.94 acres into 12 lots at Parcel 376504200006. Planner Kim Ficco noted that Commissioners have had comments from the public on the proposal, and she discussed how it relates to the Master Plan.

Applicant Nick Barrett spoke. The land has been a subdivision that was approved over 20 years ago, he said, and discussed the work that has taken place. "...All the infrastructure has been there for a very long time..."

Greg Stunder said that he lives next to the property and has supported agriculture as a neighbor.

The Board continued the matter until Oct 7 at 9am and reopened public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

The Board entered Executive Session to:

- meet with the County Attorney, County Manager, and Public Works representatives in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for legal advice regarding Kinikin Road and surrounding properties; and;
- meet with the County Attorney and County Manager in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for legal advice regarding entering into a nondisclosure and confidentiality agreement prior to reviewing documents related to a partnership between Montrose Regional Health and Community Hospital.

Following the Executive Sessions, County Attorney Julie Andress said that no action was taken during the first Executive Session. With regard to the second Executive Session, the County would like to review documents, and the non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement pertains to that goal. Commissioners voted to enter into a [Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreement](#) with Montrose Regional Health and Community Hospital related to review of documents pertaining to the formation of a partnership between Montrose Regional Health and Community Hospital.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

PATIENT ADVOCACY AND THE PATIENT AND FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL (PFAC)

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 8:-9AM

Colorado Mesa University-Montrose Cascade Hall

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Navigating healthcare can feel overwhelming, especially when patients and families are facing important decisions, unfamiliar information, or changing care needs. Montrose Regional Health's (MRH) Patient Care Advocate serves as a liaison among patients, families, and healthcare providers to support clear communication, coordinated care, and timely follow-up. The advocate can also help patients and caregivers better understand care plans and treatment options, prepare for important conversations and decisions, and ensure questions or concerns are heard and addressed.

During this presentation, Jonna Houge, MRH Patient Care Advocate, will explain how the program supports patients and families throughout their healthcare journey. She will also introduce MRH's Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), a group of patients, family members, and care partners who provide feedback to help improve the patient experience. Attendees will learn more about the council and how they can become involved as PFAC volunteers.

MONTROSE COUNTY APPROVES ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR WEST END FAMILY LINK

Special to the Mirror

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For additional information about the West End Family Link, visit them online at <https://westendflc.org/>.

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MORGENTHALER ACCEPTS APPOINTMENT AS MURA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With one seat open, the Montrose City Council convened for a regular Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 16. All four councilors were present; also present on the dais was Interim City Manager Ann Morgenthaler.

Mayor Michael Badagliacco called the meeting to order and opened the floor to public comment.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Riba spoke about the 911 Memorial Ceremony at Demoret Park, and thanked the city, Interim City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, Special events, Streets, and Police, as well as County Sheriff Gene Lillard and several local businesses. "...It was a tremendous effort on everyone's part."

"It was an incredible ceremony," Mayor Badagliacco said.

Matt Goldasich spoke of his concerns regarding minor subdivisions and the HUB Apartment Complex. He asked that feathering and buffering be restored to the municipal code, and that growth pay its own way. He also asked that the City consider traffic studies and uphold comprehensive plan standards. "Apartments west of the River don't make sense."

John Brown thanked the city and those involved in the 911 Memorial Ceremony. "It was just really a fantastic ceremony...this is the largest group gathering of citizens displaying the American Flag in unison..."

Cliff Faurer read a prepared statement, reminding Mayor Badagliacco that he won by 31 votes, not a majority. He discussed the makeup of council, noting that Council is predominantly white and male. He asked that the District Four Vacancy and City Manager position be filled with qualified female candidates based on merit. "We ask for and deserve to have the leadership of our city government be a representative snapshot of the people who live in Montrose."

Jason Conant spoke of his observations at council meetings, and thanked Council for doing what they said they would do and were voted in to do. He asked that the City Manager not have complete control. "The City Council are voted members into office, we elect them, they should have some say, especially when it comes to financials..."

Ron Henderson spoke, noting that a vote has

no gender, and that it doesn't matter how many votes a winning candidate wins by.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2026, special City Council meeting and the September 1, 2026, regular City Council meeting.

RATIFICATION OF SEPARATION AGREEMENT

Council ratified the Separation Agreement between the City of Montrose and former Manager William Bell.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER AGREEMENT

Council voted to approve the Interim City Manager Agreement between the City of Montrose and Ann Morgenthaler.

"...I am excited to serve our community the best I can," Morgenthaler said.

MONTROSE URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Also approved was the appointment of Ann Morgenthaler as Montrose Urban Renewal Authority Executive Director.

ROTARY PARK PUMP HOUSE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Council voted to approve a contract with FCI Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$514,011 for the Rotary Park Pump House Replacement Project.

RESOLUTION 2026-14

Resolution 2026-14 was approved, authorizing the filing of a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Non-Motorized Trail - Planning and Design grant application for the Montrose Audubon in the amount up to \$45,000.

AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR CREATING RESILIENT FORESTS IN COLORADO GRANT

Expenditures up to \$329,723 for implementation of the 2023 Creating Resilient Forests in Colorado project awarded to the City of Montrose were approved.

RESOLUTION 2026-15

Resolution 2026-15, authorizing the filing of a Colorado State Forest Service Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation grant application for Buckhorn Lakes in the amount up to \$516,033, was approved.

QUASI-JUDICIAL ITEMS

LOCUST ROAD ADDITION ANNEXATION HEARING

A hearing was held on the annexation of the Locust Road Addition.

Council approved:

Resolution 2026-13, Findings of Fact for the Locust Road Addition Annexation;

Ordinance No. 2731, Locust Road Addition Annexation; and

Ordinance 2732, Locust Road Addition Zoning Designation; zoning the Locust Road Addition as an R-2, Low Density District.

STAR COURT LOT 8 TOWNHOMES SUBDIVISION PRELIMINARY PLAT

After accepting public comment, Council approved the Star Court Lot 8 Townhomes Subdivision Preliminary Plat.

Mayor Badagliacco recused himself from the next two items.

CHELSEI LANE & TOWNHOMES AMENDED PRELIMINARY PD PLAN

With one abstention, Council voted to approve the Chelsi Lane & Townhomes Amended Preliminary PD Plan 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.

CHELSEI LANE & TOWNHOMES AMENDED PRELIMINARY PLAT

With one abstention, Council voted to approve the Chelsi Lane & Townhomes Amended Preliminary 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.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker delivered the Sales, Use & Excise tax Report, by collections and by area.

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave a construction report. The CIP Sewer Project kicked off this week. The Hillcrest sidewalk is well underway, with concrete starting next.

Mayor Badagliacco said that it has been a pleasure to work with Interim City Manager Ann Morgenthaler, and thanked City Attorney Chris Dowsey for his work despite being on FMLA.

Badagliacco said that the application for the District Four Seat is currently open. He thanked Councilor J. David Reed for his efforts to find common ground and for working on a Joint Statement.

Reed also spoke of the importance of presenting a united front and working together despite any disagreements. The meeting was adjourned.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MCSD SCHOOLS STRENGTHEN PERFORMANCE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Montrose County School District schools continued to strengthen performance in Colorado's preliminary 2026 state accountability ratings, with eight schools earning Performance, the state's highest designation under the regular School Performance Framework, and three schools advancing to higher ratings.

Eight of MCSD's 11 schools evaluated under the regular School Performance Framework earned Performance: Cottonwood Elementary, Northside Elementary, Oak Grove Elementary, Olathe Elementary, Centennial Middle School, Montrose High School, Olathe Middle/High School and Peak Virtual Academy. The remaining three, Columbine Middle School, Johnson Elementary and Pomona Elementary, earned Improvement.

Northside Elementary advanced from Improvement to Performance, increasing its framework score from 47.6 to 53 points. Johnson Elementary moved from Priority Improvement to Improvement, climbing nearly 10 points from 34 to 43.8.

Black Canyon High School also advanced from AEC: Turnaround status to AEC: Improvement with a framework score of 51.6. Black Canyon is evaluated under Colorado's Alternative Education Campus School Performance Framework.

Several schools made substantial gains while remaining in Performance. Oak Grove Elementary posted an 18.7-point increase, climbing from 53.8 in 2025 to 72.5 in 2026. Cottonwood Elementary increased 6.4 points to 80.3, while Peak Virtual Academy increased 6.1 points to 75.8. MCSD's overall District Performance Framework score also increased 2.1 points, from 51.2 in 2025 to 53.3 in 2026.

"These results show meaningful progress across our district," said Dr. Jessica Kalb, Acting Superintendent and Executive Director of Academic Services. "We have schools reaching the state's highest performance designation, schools taking important steps forward and schools that were already performing well continuing to improve. That progress reflects the hard work of our students and the educators, staff and families who support them. We are proud of the momentum and know there is more work ahead."

See How Your Student's School Performed:

MCSD has launched an online School Performance Overview to make performance information easier for families and community members to access and understand. The page includes school-by-school ratings, framework scores and multi-year trends, providing a fuller picture of progress and opportunities for continued growth.

Explore MCSD's School Performance Overview:

<http://www.mcscd.org/academics/school-performance-overview>



Olathe Middle and High School staff celebrate the school's status as a Performance School. during an all-school assembly earlier this week.



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GET THE FACTS: DITCH THE FEAR MONGERING!

November 3, 2026 is fast approaching. And you will be asked to make a decision concerning the proposed Charter Amendments passed by city council. Look for your ballot the week of Oct 5th.

There appears to be concerted effort to characterize the proposed charter amendments on the ballot as something they are not. Additionally, they imply that by voting Yes on the amendments, you are voting to eliminate "Trust", "Honesty" and "Accountability", they don't!

The Amendments are straight forward.

Moving the elections from April to November Increases Voter Participation and reduces taxpayer costs and ads ballottrax notifications.

Yes, there is a one-time extension of seven months for everyone currently on council in order to accommodate the change.

Term Limits is self-explanatory, it provides a limit of eight years (lifetime maximum) for all city councilors, including those currently sitting on council once their current term ends if they have hit the eight years.

The amendments asking for the Chief of Police and City Clerk to allow for the Council to approve the hiring and firing simply does that. Both allow council to approve any hiring and discharge for those positions.

Neither gives council authority to direct the day to day of the Chief or Clerk or their staff. It is expressly limited to approval of the hire or release of either position based on the city manager's pool of candidates.

The campaign painting the amendments as anything more than straight forward is disingenuous at best. If you want to vote yes or no, that is your right. Of course I support them all.

I only ask that you [get the facts](#) and ditch the fear mongering.

Thank you,
Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"
Mayor, Montrose, CO



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BROKER ASSOCIATE

RELENTLESS MOVES

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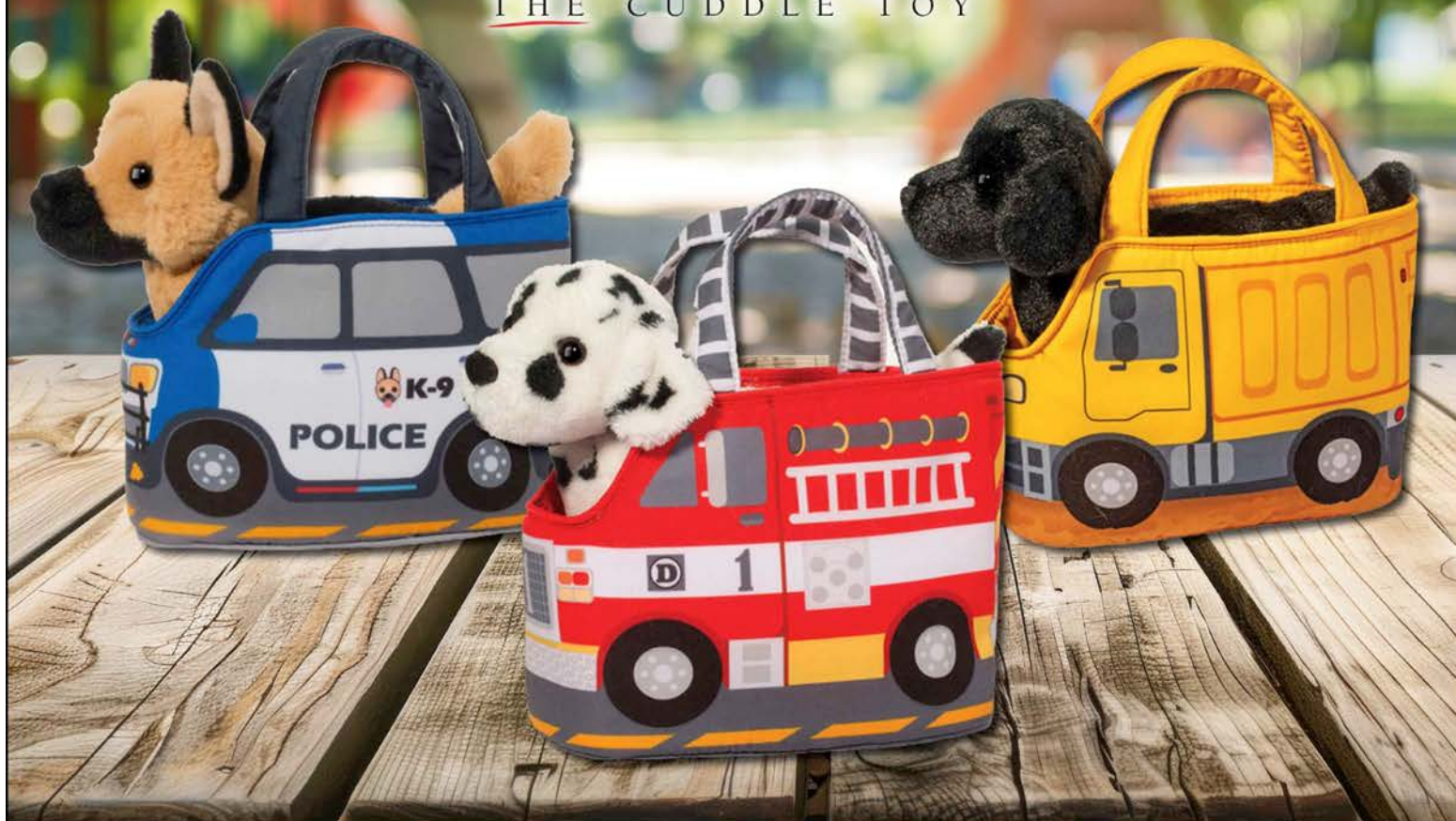
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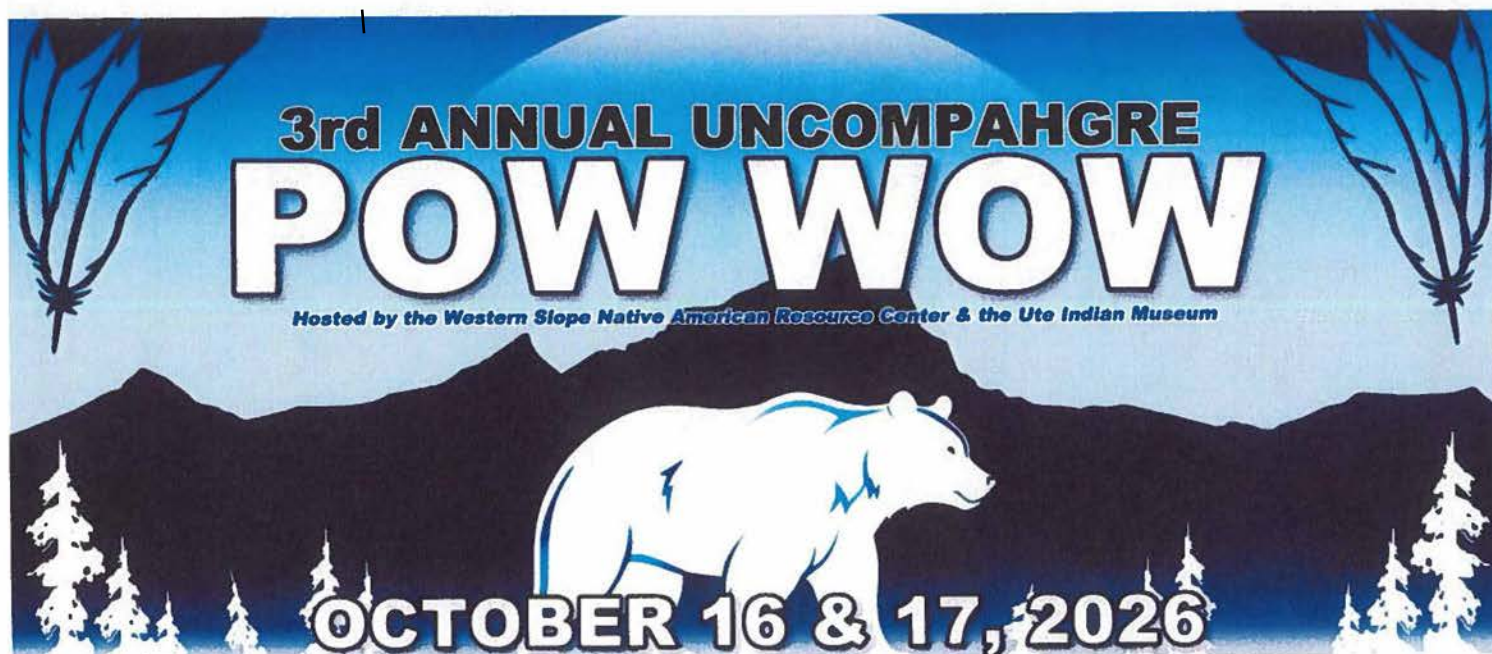
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Friday October 16th
Gourd Dance at 5:00PM
Grand Entry at 7:00PM

Saturday October 17th
Gourd Dance at 11:00AM & 5:00PM
Grand Entry at 1:00PM & 7:00PM

HEAD STAFF

MCs

Jackson "Rollingthunder" Tahuka Phillip Gover - Pawnee/Choctaw
 California, USA Bloomfield, CO

Arena Director

Ronald Goodeagle Jr.
 Dakota/Comanche/Osage/Northern Cheyenne/Sac & Fox
 Oneida, WI

Head Man Dancer

Freeman Pinnecoose
 Southern Ute/Dine/Jicarilla Apache
 Albuquerque, NM

Head Gourd Dancer

Darwin Whiteman
 Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
 Towaoc, CO

Dance Judge Male categories

Tyrin Lasley
 Meskwaki/Dakota/Comanche/Northern Cheyenne
 Colorado Springs, Colorado

Northern Drum

Mato Pejuta
 Isanti Dakota
 Santee, NE

Head Lady Dancer

Jacqueline Cantsee
 Ute Mountain Ute/Navajo
 Towaoc, CO

Drum Judge

Phillip Manning
 Ute Indian Tribe
 Salt Lake City, UT

Dance Judge Female categories

December Arrow-White
 Lemhi Shoshone
 Fort Hall, Idaho

Southern Drum

Ironbow
 Otoe-Missouria/Ponca/Osage
 Red Rock, OK

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All Ute Tribes & Special Guests Native American Women Warriors (NAWW)

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Head Lady Special

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ADULT AGES (18-49 yrs)

Men's - Traditional (Combined), Grass, Fancy

Women's - Traditional (Combined), Jingle, Fancy

1ST PLACE - \$1,000 / 2ND PLACE - \$800 / 3RD PLACE - \$600

TEEN AGES (13-17 yrs)

Boys - Traditional (Combined), Grass, Fancy

Girls - Traditional (Combined), Jingle, Fancy

1ST PLACE - \$400 / 2ND PLACE - \$300 / 3RD PLACE - \$200

JUNIORS (7-12 yrs)

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR COUNCIL VACANCY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Applications are being accepted for a vacancy in the District IV City Council seat. The deadline to submit an application is 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

Councilor Dave Frank resigned from the District IV seat on September 7. As set forth by the City Charter, the City Council will formally vote to appoint a replacement within 30 days.

Anyone interested in filling the vacancy is asked to fill out an application and submit a letter of interest to the City Council. The council will interview potential candidates during the Monday, October 5, work session and hold a formal vote to appoint a new councilor during the council's regular meeting on Tuesday, October 6.

To be eligible for appointment, applicants must be a resident of District IV for at least 12 consecutive months preceding the date of appointment and must be eligible to register to vote.

Visit CityofMontrose.org/CityCouncil to get more details and to complete an application. For more information, call [970.240.1422](tel:970.240.1422), email the City Clerk's office at cityclerk@ci.montrose.co.us, or visit City Hall at 400 East Main Street.

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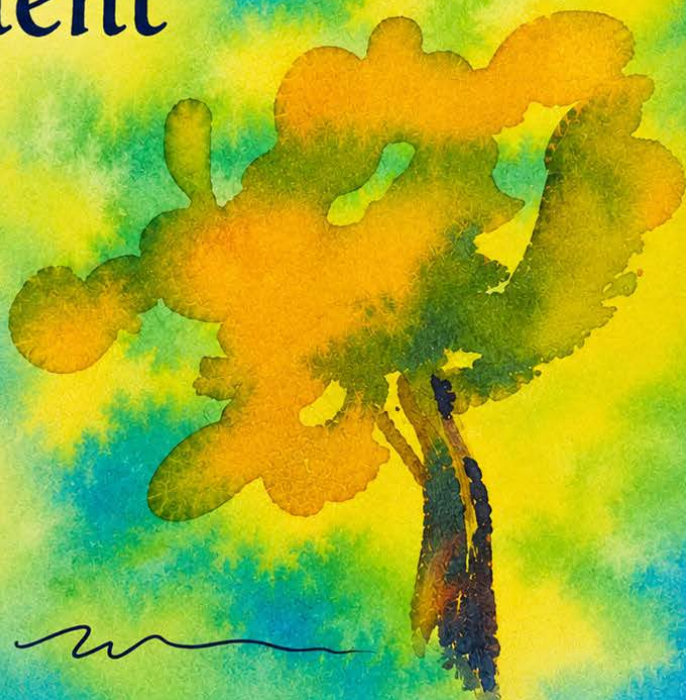
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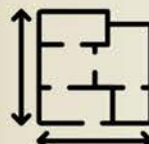
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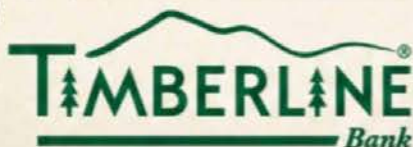
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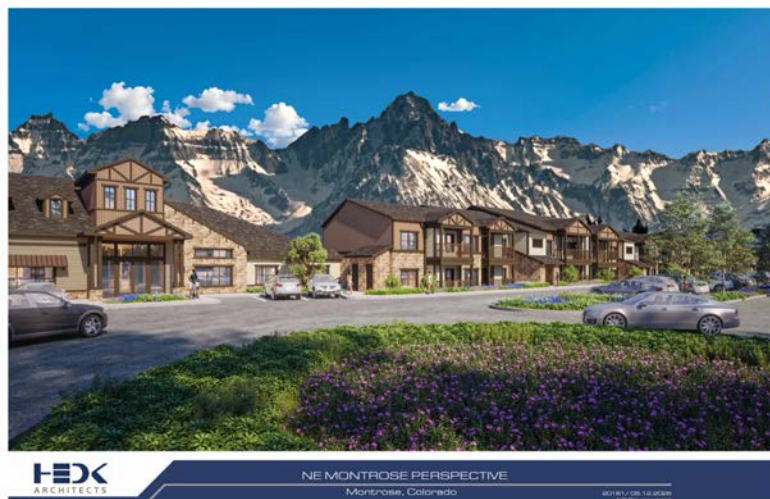
MONTROSE-Matt Miles announced last week that ground has broken on the HUB at Montrose Crossing on Cobble Drive, across from the Cobble Creek golf course. Construction is underway and will be completed in 24 months, with lease-up beginning at Month 20, Miles said. The project is being developed by Matt and Marci Miles and NE Development of Lewisville, TX. NE Construction is serving as General Contractor and NE Management will manage the completed community.

The high-end 160-unit apartment project features one and two bedroom units with garages, and amenities--swimming pool and spa, meeting rooms and exercise rooms, large and small dog parks along with a pet spa, bike lockers and storage, as well as beautiful views of the San Juans, exquisite landscaping and hard scaping.

The project is targeted to meet overwhelming market demand.

"This is housing," Miles said. "We are creating housing for people who are mis-housed, for the person who wants a low-maintenance quality environment, for people who are looking to sell their larger home and move to a smaller place with less maintenance required."

"It really is a nice project."



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

LET THE VOTERS HAVE THEIR SAY

Editor:

I'm noticing more and more signs around town urging voters to reject the four proposed Montrose City Charter amendments. I believe the better approach is for citizens to look carefully at what each amendment would actually do and then make their own decision.

One issue concerns the timing of city elections. For more than 20 years, Montrose has held its city elections in the spring. Spring elections traditionally draw considerably fewer voters than November elections. When fewer citizens participate, a smaller portion of the community determines who represents everyone.

Moving city elections to November would give more citizens an opportunity to participate in choosing their local representatives. More participation means that the people making those decisions would represent a broader cross-section of Montrose voters.

Another proposed change concerns term limits. Montrose is a growing community, and reasonable term limits could provide opportunities for additional citizens to serve on the city council and bring different experiences and ideas to city government. Term limits already exist for certain elected offices at other levels of government, so the question for Montrose voters is whether similar limits should apply to city council service.

The remaining proposed amendments concern the relationship between the city council and certain city officials, including the city clerk and chief of police. As I understand the proposals, the issue is whether the council should have an advisory role regarding those positions. Voters should examine the exact charter language and determine what authority the amendments would actually provide.

There has also been considerable discussion about partisanship surrounding these issues. Local government should be about the community and how its government operates, rather than about whether someone has an "R," a "D," or a "U" next to their name. People can have strong opinions about local government while still disagreeing with one another.

That disagreement is part of having a democracy.

The phrase "We the People" is found at the beginning of the United States Constitution. Those words are a reminder that government ultimately derives its authority from the people. So let the people of Montrose examine these four proposed charter amendments, understand what each one would change, listen to the arguments on both sides, and participate in the decision.

Whatever your position, make your voice heard and exercise your right to vote.

John Brown

Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE IS AT STAKE

Editor

Montrose, Colorado is the perfect place to live. Sweeping views, access to the outdoors, and a thriving community with all the right amenities less that big city feel. Some might even say if you're lucky enough to call Montrose home, you're lucky enough. And yet, the divisive storm of local politics now poses a very real threat to the beauty of the system that makes Montrose so special.

Your quality of life is at stake. Assuming the quality of life in Montrose is a serendipitous or coincidental occurrence is an easy oversight. One might believe that the charm of Main Street or the easy stroll along the river came together naturally or that when you enjoy a beer at the amphitheatre or watch your grandkids play soccer on a well maintained field, your experience wasn't curated. The truth is that for the last fifteen years, the quality of life in Montrose has been woven together with expert precision. The great amenities like the amphitheatre, the rec center, the river development, and the business mix, along with the invisible services like law enforcement, trash, street maintenance, and city planning have all been stewarded toward the mission of increasing your quality of life.

Operating a city, casting vision, and attracting catalytic investments like what has occurred in Montrose takes exemplary leadership. It takes the kind of leadership that can move hearts and minds toward a greater vision, the type of leadership that brings people of all walks together, rather than tearing them apart. The kind of leadership Montrose has recently lost.

My friends, partisan politics have no place in local government. Potholes and crime do not follow party lines. National rhetoric spilling into the decisions that are made on a local level is dangerous. When someone loses an election and blames an election system that has operated with integrity for decades draws attention and resources away from where they are truly needed. When people act out of racism, prejudice, and lack of human decency rather than the greater good, the whole system is at stake. When local government is free of partisan politics, its leaders can focus on the true issues facing the community rather than their own political interests.

If you are a resident of the City of Montrose, the time to act is now. Apathy is the dangerous enemy among us and exercising your right to vote and taking an interest in the leadership of your community is the anecdote.

Vote no on the City Charter amendments to give City Council more authority over the Police Chief and City Clerk. Support or become City Council and County Commissioner candidates who do not run on a political agenda, but rather on the desire to serve their community and contribute to civility. And finally, be cautious of lifetime politicians who are appointed into leadership positions. The decisions you make today will determine the Montrose you leave future generations.

Chelsea Rosty, Parker

VOTE CELESTE LANDRY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for Celeste Landry in her campaign for Colorado Secretary of State. You may not have heard of her, yet, because she is a Colorado Forward candidate. With over 50% of voters in Colorado neither Republican or Democrat, it is time we include Unaffiliated and other party candidates in our mainstream media and in debates.

Celeste has spent years working in the weeds, focused on the right to vote, better representation and election integrity. In a time when trust in our elections is more important than ever, Celeste brings the integrity, transparency, and dedication that Coloradans deserve.

Her commitment to protecting every voter's right—regardless of political affiliation—reflects the nonpartisan spirit this office should embody.

With Celeste Landry as Colorado's Secretary of State, we can be sure that every voice is heard and every vote is counted. I encourage my fellow Coloradans to learn more about her vision and join me in supporting her candidacy. Please visit her website at <https://www.celeste4sos.com/> and vote for her November 3.

Sincerely,

Janine Reid, Hotchkiss, CO

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PUBLIC TRUST IN LOCAL LEADERSHIP DROPS WHEN CITIZENS FEEL LOCKED OUT

Editor of the Montrose Mirror,

City Charter amendments play a crucial role in shaping the governance of local communities. Amendments to the City Charter change the system of governance.

A city charter occupies a unique position in the hierarchy of local governance. Ordinary ordinances—laws passed by city councils in regular sessions—can address zoning, parking regulations, or noise restrictions. Charter amendments operate at a higher level, establishing the structure of government itself.

When citizens are included from the beginning in proposing amendments to the City Charter, there is greater public understanding, which boosts trust in local government and the legitimacy of the ultimate decisions.

In the article “LETTERS DESERVE ANSWERS, NOT LABELS” printed in the September 14th issue of the Montrose Mirror, Mayor Badagliacco offers “Public meetings on the proposals were held July 29, August 3, August 4, and August 18” as a claim that public engagement occurred in proposing amendments to the City Charter.

On the dates listed by the mayor, the following took place:

July 29 Special City Council on Proposed Charter Changes

August 03 City Council Work Session

August 04 City Council meeting

August 18 City Council meeting

Members of the Montrose community who participate in City Council sessions know that the public is limited to 3 minutes of public comment. Response from a member of the City Council to the public comment occurs infrequently.

Do 3 minutes of non-interactive public comment qualify as public engagement? The citizens of Montrose were excluded from active participation in proposing amendments to the City Charter.

Excluding citizens from proposing city charter amendments creates a system where only the local government controls its foundational rules.

Public trust in local leadership drops when citizens feel locked out of fundamental governance processes.

Neonila Martyniuk

TOXIC WORK ENVIRONMENT

Editor:

That is what has been created over the past several months by three of our City Councilors (Badagliacco, Ulibarri, and Woodden) since their election in April. They have been on a crusade to place a number of proposed amendments to our City charter. In succeeding in this process by riding roughshod over any opposition (from either the other two councilors or many of our citizens), it has resulted in several long term and dedicated individuals choosing to leave—City Manager Bill Bell and City Councilor Dave Frank. Rather than seeking a collaborative path to any proposed amendments to our charter, Badagliacco, Ulibarri, and Woodden have gone the route of “my way or the highway”. Whether or not you agree with the proposed amendments, I don’t believe this sort of process should be rewarded—vote NO on all four proposed amendments. They all appear to be solutions in search of a problem.

John Broadbooks, Montrose

THANK YOU FOR READING.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE THE PEOPLE: REMEMBERING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Editor

On September 17, 1787, thirty-nine delegates in Philadelphia signed the United States Constitution. Today, 239 years later, we recognize Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

But Constitution Day should be about more than remembering a date in history. It should remind us what the Constitution does, why it matters, and what “We the People” really means.

Freedom Requires Responsibility

America's constitutional system developed within a culture strongly influenced by religious belief, biblical principles, English law, Enlightenment thought and other traditions. The Declaration of Independence states that our unalienable rights are endowed by our Creator, while the Constitution establishes a government of divided and limited powers.

Our culture has changed greatly since 1787. Ideas about morality, freedom and the role of government continue to be debated. In my view, however, freedom must always be accompanied by morality, personal responsibility and accountability.

The Constitution isn't simply an old piece of paper. It remains the framework under which our federal government operates.

Do We Understand It?

The 2026 Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey found that 35% of U.S. adults could not name all three branches of government, and only 9% could name all five freedoms protected by the First Amendment in an open-ended question.

That should give all of us something to think about.

Federal law requires educational institutions receiving federal funds to provide an educational program about the Constitution around September 17, although it does not dictate a specific curriculum.

But teaching the Constitution isn't solely the responsibility of our schools. It belongs to parents, families, churches, communities—and each of us.

“We the People”

The Constitution begins with three powerful words:

“We the People.”

Our government was designed around the principle that political authority ultimately comes from the people. The Constitution established separate legislative, executive and judicial branches and divided authority between federal and state governments.

The Framers didn't agree on everything. They debated, argued and compromised. Some even refused to sign the final document.

That is worth remembering today because the Constitution was never designed to make Americans agree with one another.

We will disagree about taxes, education, spending, immigration, public safety and the proper role of government.

But our constitutional system gives us peaceful ways to address those disagreements.

We can speak, assemble, petition our government, attend public meetings, contact our representatives, challenge government actions through the courts and vote.

Read It for Yourself

We often hear people claim something is “constitutional” or “unconstitutional.”

Instead of simply accepting what politicians, commentators, social media—or even I—tell you, read the Constitution yourself.

Read the First Amendment. Learn what Article I says about Congress. Read Article II concerning the executive branch and Article III concerning the federal judiciary. Study the Bill of Rights and the amendments that followed.

You don't have to be an attorney or constitutional scholar to understand the basic framework of your government.

Whether Republican, Democrat, independent or none of the above, the Constitution belongs to all of us.

Attend a city council or school board meeting. Learn who represents you. Ask questions. Listen to people you disagree with. Speak when you believe something needs to be said—and allow others the same opportunity.

A government whose Constitution begins with “We the People” requires something from we the people.

It requires our participation.

It requires our attention.

It requires responsibility.

And it requires each generation to understand the Constitution well enough to preserve our system of constitutional government.

Read it. Study it. Discuss it.

Happy Constitution Day.

By Jason Conant, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Montrose Center for Arts Introduces Celebrating Colorado Exhibit

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-2026 is Colorado's 150 anniversary and the Montrose Center for Arts loves its home.

"We are proud to present art that expresses our love of this great state and artists from all over will showcase the natural beauty, the flora and fauna, cities, towns, people, places and things that make up life in Colorful Colorado," says MCA Board President Pat Chaloupek.

The exhibit runs September 29 through November 13, with the opening reception taking place October 8, from 5 – 7 p.m. at MCA, located at 205 E Main Street in Montrose. Although the 2nd Thursday Art Crawl sponsored by the City of Montrose is done for the season, MCA will continue the tradition on the 2nd Thursday of each month with the introduction of new artworks, brief art presentations, refreshments and a chance to meet artists and art appreciators. These events are FREE and open to the public, as is MCA during regular hours Tuesdays – Saturdays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This juried exhibit welcomes all types of artwork including but not limited to: plein air, paintings, woodworking, wood-turning, metal work, ceramics, mixed media and digital art as well as photography. At the reception and award ceremony, five lucky artists will be awarded:

1st Place Award - \$200

2nd Place Award - \$100

(2) Honorable Mention Awards

People's Choice Award

The Judge is Melanie Hoshiko, a Colorado-born artist, educator, and arts leader based in Hotchkiss, Colorado, where she serves as Executive Director of the Creamery Arts Center.

A valedictorian graduate of Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design with a degree in Sculpture and Drawing, Melanie studied under renowned Colorado abstract artist Clark Richert, who became an important mentor in her artistic development. She went on to establish herself as a Colorado abstract artist, earning Best of Denver recognition and exhibiting at venues including the Arvada Center.

After many years working in education and youth services, Melanie returned to the arts with a renewed focus on arts leadership, education, and community engagement. Her work today centers on supporting artists, expanding access to the arts, and strengthening the role of arts and culture in Colorado's rural communities.

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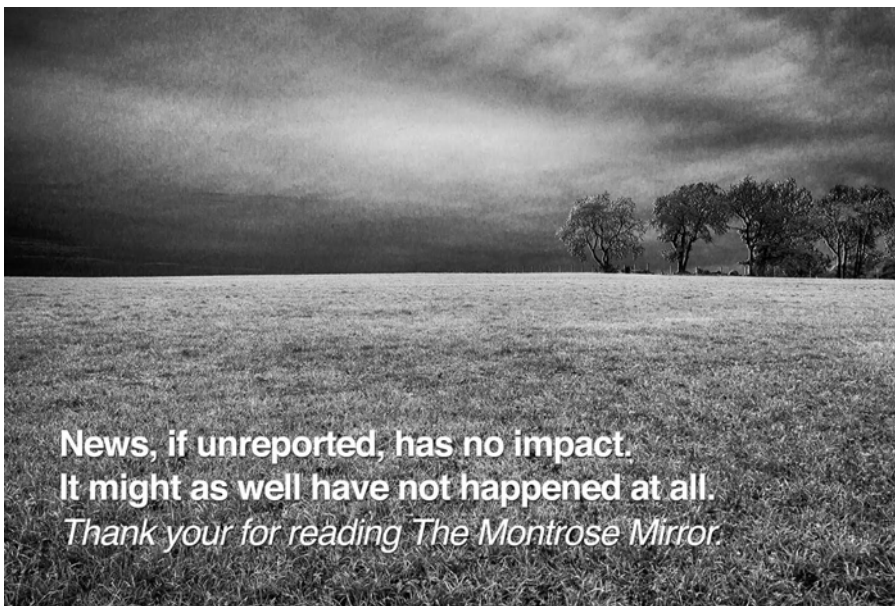


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

JOURNEY OF A BALLOT

Dear Editor,

Voting is a privilege in our country! I look forward to getting a ballot and making an informed choice. I know my ballot matters. I never really thought about the journey my ballot would take once I dropped it in a mailbox. Trustingly, I assumed my ballot was merrily on its way to its' intended election office with security protection and electronic tabulation.

I have a whole new perspective on the importance of the journey my ballot was destined to take. I learned that the integrity of an election is in the DETAILS!

I wonder what journey my ballot took in April? Did it ever make it to the Montrose County Elections Office (County Elections Office) for electronic tabulation? Or was it one of the ones hand-carried by Lisa DelPiccolo, the City Clerk back to her City office to be hand-counted and at that point, never to be seen again!

DETAIL # 1. The importance of the appointment of the Designated Election Official

For the April 7, 2026 election the contract between the City and the County Elections Office was an Agreement for Services (AFS). Under the AFS, Lisa DelPiccolo is appointed as the Designated Election Official (DEO). This means she controls all decisions regarding any City election. She has the final ruling on the ballots. The County, who has responsibility for tabulating the ballots, has no control over the number of ballots they receive from Lisa or the number of ballots Lisa withholds from the County. The AFS states in item 15: All mail ballots returned to the City by 7:00 p.m. Election Day, concerning the election of City Council Members and any ballot question, shall be counted on the electronic tabulation equipment provided by the County Clerk. All processes relating to the tabulation of ballots shall be the responsibility of the County Clerk.

All means entirely, wholly, totally, completely, everything. But as DEO, Lisa seems not to agree with this definition and five months after the election she still withholds 83 ballots from tabulation by the County Elections Office.

Title 31, Article 10, Section 616 of the Colorado Revised Statutes governs the preservation and destruction of ballots for municipal elections: ballots from Municipal Elections must be destroyed six months from the date of an election. The clerk must open the ballot boxes and destroy the ballots by shredding, fire, or burial.

Time is running out! There are only a few weeks left for the City Council or the new Interim City Manager to get Lisa to tabulate these final ballots until she must legally destroy the ballots. What a mess!

What could possibly be the reason why Lisa refuses to tabulate these 83 ballots? So far, she has given no reason for her decision other than she has the right to make this decision. I hope someone can talk some sense into her and the voters can move beyond this controversy.

Maybe by the time this article is published, she will have reconsidered her actions and called Tressa at the County Elections Office and arranged to bring the ballots for tabulation so a final report can be issued to the City.

However, there is a way NOW to ensure this can never happen again! Vote YES to move the date to November. Then, all future City elections will be handled by the County Elections Office under a Montrose County Elections Intergovernmental Agreement for General Elections (IGA). Under this Agreement, Lisa will no longer be allowed to withhold ballots from electronic tabulation.

An IGA between the City and the County Elections Office is not a new arrangement. It establishes the election as a Coordinated Election, to be held in November. This was last done in November 2025.

First and foremost, in the IGA Tressa Guynes, the County Clerk and Recorder for Montrose County is appointed as the General Election Official for all November elections. She will have the ultimate authority for all decisions regarding elections.

Lisa DelPiccolo is appointed as a Designated Election Official, so she will still be involved for the City, but she will not have the same level of control she now holds under the AFS.

Additionally, the IGA has more specific language on the duties and responsibilities for holding an election than is in the current AFS.

DETAIL #2. Where and who processes, secures and stores the ballots is Significant.

Lisa DelPiccolo, has an office at City Hall. Lisa only handles one election in even-numbered years. The City has no permanent secure area to process an election but instead, as Lisa told me, she has "an election office which is portable in nature" which is set up at the end of March and dismantled at the end of April.

The Montrose County Clerk and Recorder, Tressa Guynes, has a fulltime County Elections Office in the Montrose County building on 2nd Street. She conducts an election every November. This is an established facility designed around tight security to hold primary, federal, state and county elections in addition to elections for several cities, fire departments, libraries and schools throughout Montrose County.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible City electors the week of October 5, 2026 for the November Election

This year's November Ballot will ask voters to change the City Charter by moving the election date from April to November. As noted, this ballot question is a lot more involved than just moving the date.

A YES vote will require the City to sign an IGA with the Montrose County Elections Office to establish them with the primary responsibility for handling all future City elections in November.

A NO vote will leave elections in April with Lisa as the Designated Election Official for all future municipal elections.

I will vote YES on moving the date! I want to feel confident my ballot will be guided on a secure journey through the County Elections Office for a final electronic tabulation. I do not want a stop-over at City Hall and the possibility my ballot may never take its' intended journey.

Patty Greeves, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE NO ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Dear Editor,

Are You Dissatisfied

Are you dissatisfied with the current City Charter? I'm not. If you have not heard by now, Montrose voters will be presented with four proposed amendments to change it. The ballot language itself is compelling because of its simplicity. But a word of caution regarding simplicity; simplistic summaries lead to a misunderstanding of the hard underlying truths. One of those underlying truths is, it's human nature to accept simple solutions which often results in failure.

Let's explore the first two ballot issues put forth by City Council.

The first proposed change is to put in place a lifetime limit to the amount of time one can serve as a City Councilor. The City of Montrose currently has limits that fall within terms prescribed in the Colorado Constitution. City Council is looking to capitalize on the provision within the Constitution that allows Home Rule municipalities to deviate from the constitution and set its own course. They're proposing to eliminate the four-year sabbatical currently required under the State Constitution. They also want to increase the limit of the At-Large seat from three two-year terms to four two-year terms.

The second proposal is to move our Municipal elections from April to November. At one point our Municipal elections were in November. They were moved to April in 1994 by a vote of the people in favor of changing the Charter. The rationale was to make the election truly non-partisan, to meet the non-partisan requirement prescribed in the Charter. November elections are for state and federal issues and are partisan in nature. This November voters will make decisions regarding both chambers of congress; we will make decisions regarding at least three proposed amendments to the state constitution, two of them tax related. There are many other issues that require sharp focus.

Montrose is made up of a diverse electorate capable of separating the wheat from the chaff. We know what is good and useful for the community. To facilitate those decisions, municipal issues should stay separate in order to maintain focus on what may affect our community. The transition from November elections to April elections have served us well for three and a half decades. Let's keep it that way.

If you are like me and not dissatisfied with our charter then vote no on these two proposed amendments on November 3rd.

Dave Stockton - Montrose

CONGRESSMAN JEFF HURD VOTED YES ON SANCTIONING RUSSIA ACT

Montrose Mirror Editor,

On August 07th, the U.S. Senate passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act on a 86-11 vote.

On September 16th, the U.S. House passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act.

In a 262-159 vote, 203 Republicans, 58 Democrats and one independent supported the bill — while seven Republicans and 152 Democrats opposed the bill.

Congressman Jeff Hurd voted Yes !

Gratitude is extended to all CO-03 constituents who encouraged Hurd to VOTE Yes!

The bill is now headed to the President's desk for his signature.

What is included in the Sanctioning Russia Act:

- The toughest sanctions yet on Russia's defense industry, financial sector, shadow fleet, government officials, and oligarchs.
- Up to 100% tariffs on the top purchasers of Russian oil and gas, and on the countries helping Moscow evade sanctions.

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CARRY NARCAN

DELTA—An opioid overdose can happen unexpectedly, and knowing what to do can save a life. Narcan, also called naloxone, is a medication that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose and give emergency responders time to help.

Free Narcan is available at Delta County Public Health and all Delta County libraries—no questions, no judgment. Community Narcan boxes are also available at locations throughout Delta County.

Consider keeping Narcan in your home, vehicle, or first-aid kit, and take a few minutes to learn how to use it.

If you think someone may be experiencing an overdose:

Call 911 immediately.

Give Narcan if it is available.

If the person does not respond after two to three minutes, give a second dose if available.

Begin rescue breathing or CPR if you are trained, and stay with the person until help arrives.

The Delta County Board of County Commissioners recently adopted an Overdose Awareness proclamation honoring the people lost to overdose, supporting the families and friends affected, and encouraging our community to respond with compassion instead of stigma.

A local resource card also helps connect residents with treatment, recovery, mental health, and other community support services.

Find current resources through the Thrive Community Health Network Resource Directory at resources.tchnetwork.org.

For a mental health or substance-use crisis, call or text 988. For a suspected overdose or other medical emergency, call 911.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE 1619 PROJECT, PART 3: WE WERE NOT FOUNDED ON RACISM!

Editor:

The 1619 Project teaches that our country is founded on racism, but the opposite is true. For example, Massachusetts was “marked” as a slave-free colony and Blacks thrived as a result. An editorial cartoon from a Massachusetts paper in 1792 called the “The Equality Ball,” showed John Hancock (governor at the time) shaking hands with Paul Cuffe(1), the head of a global shipping business who was the wealthiest Black man in America. The cartoon depicts the celebration that Blacks and Whites were equal in Massachusetts. As a matter of fact, Congressman Robert Brown Elliott said that there was never a time in Massachusetts when Blacks and Whites weren’t equal!

Speaking of equality, many people complain that all our Founders were White men. The famous painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in our Capitol depicts White men only, so it seems that this complaint holds water. However, the painting was done in 1821, forty-five years after the signing, and by that time, most of these men were dead. John Trumbull painted from individual portraits of men of renown that were done decades before, so everyone looked much younger, and there were many involved that lacked portraits for the artist to use.

Back in that era, there were paintings of famous Black men who were involved in the founding of our country. None of them are mentioned in the 1619 Project curriculum, so they are virtually unknown to public-school students. For example, Harry Hoosier(2) was an evangelist involved in The Great Awakening, who preached to massive crowds. Benjamin Rush went to Hoosier’s meetings and thought he was the best orator he ever heard. On a side note, many blue-collar workers, especially woodsmen, came to faith, and as the country expanded west into the Indiana territory, they became known as Hoosiers because they didn’t drink, cuss or smoke. How many of us knew where the term “Hoosier” came from? Who knew that Hoosiers were named after a Black evangelist? Our history looks “White” because we don’t know who we are as a people.

Another Famous Black man, Wentworth Cheswell(3), lived in New Hampshire in a White community in 1768. He was elected to office from 1768 until 1817, and held eight different political positions. He was considered the founder of their public schools and libraries, and was a patriot of the Revolution and made a similar ride in New Hampshire that Paul Revere made in Massachusetts.

In 1641, Mathias De Sousa (4) was a Black man living in a White community in Maryland. That year, he was elected to the State Legislature. By the time 1876 arrived, there were more than a thousand Black elected officials in America. America is racist? I don’t think so. One of the main problems is that Black History has been taught from a southern point of view which emphasized slavery, but nothing is mentioned about what occurred in the North. Remember the Underground Railroad?)

If we compare Great Britain to the United States, we see a blatant difference. Outside of John Richard Archer, who was the first Black to be elected mayor in 1913 in Battersea, the first Black elected in Parliament was in 1987.(5) Italy elected their first Black official in 2010. And we are a racist nation?

Most of our populace are historically illiterate. We don’t know who we are. When we celebrate Black History Month, we only see faces of Blacks who lived in the 20th century, and not the great men from the infancy of our country, such as Harry Hoosier and Wentworth Cheswell, not to mention Thomas Hercules(6) who was elected in Pennsylvania in 1793 or Major Jeffrey(7) who fought in the American Revolution, or James Armistead(8), who was a scout and spy for LaFayette.

In conclusion, we need to make sure that The1619 Project curriculum is not taught in our schools, as it is affecting how our younger generations view our country. We were not founded on racism or slavery. May an accurate curriculum replace this inaccurate depiction of our history.

Leah Vandersluis

Montrose, CO

1.www.Paulcuffe.org/biography

2.<https://harryhoosierproject.org/the-story>

(3) <https://wallbuilders.com/resource/a-black-patriot-wentworth-cheswell/>

(4) <https://thehistoryoftheamericans.com/three-lost-voices-from-early-maryland/>

(5) <https://tinyurl.com/4w6mufsm>

(6) <https://tinyurl.com/4r26nztc>

(7) <https://tinyurl.com/4bys7abk>

(8) Ibid.



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MONTROSE PAVILION

HOW TO GET YOUR DOCTOR TO LISTEN



Dr. Katie Stephens, MD.

By Dr. Katie Stephens, MD

MONTROSE—When I was a third-year medical student in 2004, I did a pre-hospital trauma rotation with a Trauma/ER doctor whom I very much looked up to. Not only did I get to turn on the blue lights and sirens in the ambulance (at this stage, I was thrilled – we had only just started our clinical rotations as medical school is five years in England) but I also received probably the most important advice of my career before or since: “The art of medicine involves this much medical knowledge,” he said, holding his hands a couple of inches apart, “and this much good communication,” moving them about a foot apart.

In the 22 years since, that advice has served me well. Even when patients and I have different opinions, if I can make sure I’ve heard and understood them—and demonstrate that I understand what they are saying and why they are concerned—the tension usually diffuses quickly.

(I should also note, for anyone who doesn’t know me, that I highly respect a patient’s right to autonomy. My job is to give advice and help patients understand their options, while respecting their decisions, even when their choice isn’t what I would recommend.)

While most Americans report positive experiences with their healthcare providers, not everyone feels heard.

In a national survey by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, only [49%](#) of uninsured adults aged 18–64 said their doctors always listened carefully to them. And in a Pew Research Center survey, nearly [1 in 4](#) people who had seen a healthcare provider for an illness or medical condition in the previous year said they felt rushed during their care.

So, I thought it might be useful to give some tips from a doctor’s perspective for anyone who wants to ensure they feel heard by their healthcare provider.

1. Find out how long your appointment is

If it’s only 15 minutes rather than 30 or 60, this will affect how assertive you might want to be from the get-go, especially if it is a follow up appointment and you know there are results or other topics your provider will also want to discuss. This leads to my second bit of advice.

2. Be upfront at the start

I would suggest saying clearly “I know you have things on your agenda to discuss today, but there is something I’m concerned about that I’d also like to talk about”.

Saying this right at the start, instead of after a few minutes of catching up with each other, helps the provider mentally reschedule how they had planned to spend the appointment. If you leave it to the end, there’s a chance then that the provider will be thinking about the next person they are keeping waiting and may feel the need to rush their advice.

3. Bring a friend

This can be especially helpful if the issue is something you find embarrassing or difficult to talk about. Having a friend there who knows you’re concerned might give you the support you need to go ahead and say it.

Also, from a doctor’s perspective, while your feelings of embarrassment are absolutely valid, we deal with “embarrassing” things every day and we aren’t judging you for them. We know how bodies and mental health work—and how sometimes they don’t work so well. I would always want you to tell me if there’s something you’re worried about.

I can’t help if I don’t know about it.

4. Be blunt

If you’re not feeling heard, say so!

If it’s easier to have a phrase ready, you could use “I’m not sure we’re on the same page, do you mind telling me what you think my main concern is?” Then see how close your provider comes and correct anything they may have misunderstood or missed.

5. Persist

If despite the above, if you still aren’t feeling heard, don’t be afraid to say so.

Again, if you want a go-to phrase, you could try “I’m actually still not sure we understand each other.” Then explain your concern again, or ask your provider to summarize what they have understood from what you’ve said.

6. Request documentation

If you are still not feeling heard, one final option is to ask your provider to document your concern in your **chart**.

And if you repeatedly feel that you and your provider simply aren’t communicating well, it may be worth seeking a second opinion or finding a provider with whom you communicate more easily.

It really is important that you feel heard and listened to. While I expect most people reading this have a good relationship with their healthcare provider, for those who don’t, I hope these tips help you get there.

Good medical care isn’t just about making the right diagnosis or choosing the right treatment. As I learned more than 20 years ago, good communication is vital too.

At Cimarron Family Practice, I intentionally keep my practice small and schedule longer appointments, because good communication takes time. If you’re looking for a different approach to primary care, you can learn more [here](#).



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS .

AS GOES WASHINGTON SO ALSO GOES MONTROSE

The facts are clear. Taxpayers are on the hook for government fiscal mismanagement both nationally and locally.

Owing to the ruse of DOGE, a federal Government Accountability Office report just announced that we paid federal government employees \$9.5 Billion in wages to not work in 2025.

Locally, the City of Montrose has agreed to pay the now former City Manager and former School Superintendent over \$500,000 in combined wages and benefits also not to work under “mutual separation agreements.”

In both instances, we, the taxpayers, received nothing but the bill. No services were rendered. We paid for nothing.

False narratives were created, and progress for the many was again thwarted for the benefit of the few. Lies were repeated ad nauseum.

Those who touted these expensive, unfounded, and unsupported falsehoods are culpable.

Don't buy the hype; local Republican City Officials are no more fiscally responsible than an Administration that has increased our national debt to more than \$40 Trillion.

Send a message at the ballot box this November. Ignore partisan propaganda and rhetoric. Look at the facts of what those in office have, or more often have not, delivered.

Elect Officials who understand budgets, believe in compromise, and have responsibility to their constituents. Deny those politicians who consistently act to benefit themselves and their factions any opportunity to do so. Hold accountable those who shirk responsibility or imitate a windsock with their ever-changing beliefs, just to remain in office. Those of true character do not waiver in the face of injustice, and we expose deceit.

Vote No on proposed Amendments that empower those who have shown an unwillingness for thoughtful and thorough preparation, while also projecting a disdain for previous Administrations and Officials.

The great lie can be exposed. It is not too late for a course correction. A return to reason remains possible.

Hayden Janssen

Montrose

CORE VALUES

Dear Editor,

I continue to hear people say they support their political party because of core value alignment, “my core values drive me to support party X.” But I often wonder if those values are ever examined or is it just a cliché.

My core values or what I'm made of are family, religious upbringing, support of community, support of country.

I have a recently departed friend who idolized his brother while growing up. Prior to passing he stated he could not stand his brother, never talks to him and didn't care if he ever saw him again. He believed blood is not thicker than water. I can't imagine living a life like that. Both my parents are gone. I've lost two brothers over the course of time. I have two remaining. Life would not be the same without them; I would be lost.

I was raised in a Christian environment. We went to church every Sunday, said our prayers before every meal and before retiring for the night. As I grew older, I grew away from Christianity and adopted a more universal faith in our creator. But with that, one tenet of the Christian faith has stuck with me, *do unto others as you would have them to you*. I've learned over time Christianity does not have a lock on the Golden Rule: **Islam** – *teaches true believers wish for others that he wishes for himself*; **Judaism** – *do not do hateful things to one's neighbor*; **Buddhism** *emphasizes avoid causing pain to others*. And the list goes on.

Being active and supportive of the community in which we live benefits all. Community members benefit from one's benevolence. Being well-meaning, kind, and having the inclination to do good deeds for others is also good for the soul.

Country was listed last on my core values because of the divisive nature we live in. That divisiveness is driven by the two prevalent political parties. I cannot support a Party that strips its citizens of a social support system: food assistance programs, medical aid support systems, financial support systems that millions have paid into their entire working life to name a few. It baffles me that people say their core values are in line with a political party bent on stripping away those social safety nets that many rely on. What happened to those religious values they learned while growing up? The one I cited above – The Golden Rule.

It's common today for politicians to use language that is harsh, bitter, or venomous. That behavior from anyone is not something I can abide by, it has no value, it is not part of my core, my soul.

So, before saying to me, I support something, I ask you to look into your heart to determine if that something you want to support really aligns with your soul. Does it align with your family upbringing, your religious belief system or community values. If the answer is yes to that self-examination, then we will remain divided.

Dave Stockton

Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE A REPRESENTATIVE SNAPSHOT OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN MONTROSE

Editor:

I attend Montrose City Council meetings not as a liberal activist, not as a leftist resister, not as a socialist, not as a communist, and not as a right-wing extremist.

I attend as a member of the community who wishes to publicly voice my concerns and discuss items that I feel are of interest to all the residents of Montrose.

Mr. Mayor, you like to point out that we are not a pure democracy but rather a representative democracy. We have around 22,000 residents. 15,306 of those residents received ballots in this past April's election.

You received 2,075 votes, Kevin Clay received 2,044 votes, and April Heard received 1,204 votes. You won by 31 votes, receiving 39% of the ballots cast. Not a majority. Not a mandate. Not representative.

Mr. Mayor, you are correct in saying that the City Manager serves exclusively at the pleasure of the Council. We've seen that in action now. You exercised your authority and we've lost a nationally recognized City Manager and a distinguished District IV Councilor and former Mayor. Now we have empty seats in City Council and in City Management.

What would democratic representation look like at the leadership level of Montrose City Government?

Politically, racially, and by gender identity?

The City of Montrose political affiliation is: 14% Democratic, 32% Republican, and 52% Unaffiliated:

- Politically we should have 1 Democratic, 1 Republican, 1 Unaffiliated Republican, and 2 non-partisan Unaffiliated Councilors.

The City of Montrose is predominately white at 80%, with Hispanic or Latino residents making up about 20%:

- Racially we should have 4 white and 1 Hispanic or Latino Councilor.

Montrose maintains a slightly higher percentage of female residents compared to the national average with 53% female and 47% male:

- So, we should have 3 female and 2 male Councilors.

Mr. Mayor and Councilors, make the City of Montrose Government a more representative democracy and fill the District IV vacancy and the City Manager vacancy with qualified female candidates based on merit.

We ask for and deserve to have the leadership of our city government be a representative snapshot of the people who live in Montrose.

Cliff Faurer, Montrose

"NO BRAINER DECISION FOR CITY OF MONTROSE TAXPAYERS"

Editor:

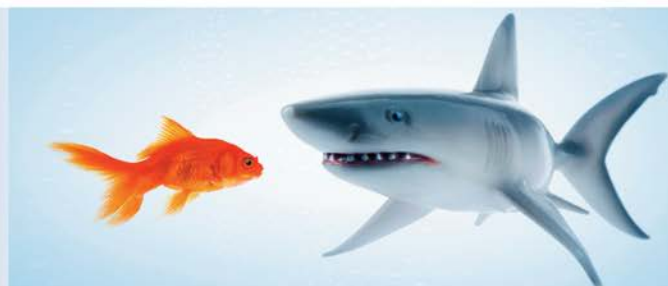
The ballot we shall all soon receive for the November election will contain several proposed City Charter changes. In my opinion all proposals are certainly worthy of a yea vote. One is of particular importance.

In the past, according to City Charter requirements, all municipal elections have been held in the spring. A review of all municipal elections since 2014 shows that voter participation has averaged a disturbingly low 32%. In all other elections held in November during that same timeframe shows that voter participation increases to a much better 52%.

This history of voter participation in our elections clearly shows that moving municipal elections from April to November will increase voter participation and create the potential for increased viability in our city government. It has been estimated that such a move will result in a taxpayer cost saving of approximately \$30,000. This certainly seems to be a "no brainer" decision for City Of Montrose taxpayers.

Dee Laird, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHARTER ISSUES COMMITTEE FORMS TO OPPOSE FOUR MONTROSE CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose residents have formed the Charter Issues Committee to oppose four proposed amendments to the City Charter on the Nov. 3, 2026, ballot. The committee is launching a public outreach campaign to encourage voters to reject all four amendments.

The proposed amendments would move municipal elections from April to November, establish a lifetime limit of eight years of elected City Council service after Nov. 3, 2026, and give the City Council the right to approve or disapprove the City Manager's appointment or discharge of the Police Chief and City Clerk. "Montrose residents deserve city leaders who are trustworthy, honest, and accountable to the people," said Cliff Faurer, Vice Treasurer of the Charter Issues Committee. "Our City Charter is Montrose's local constitution. Significant changes to that document should begin with meaningful citizen participation, careful study and an open discussion of the problems those changes are intended to solve."

The Charter Issues Committee maintains that the four proposals were advanced too quickly and without the broad, citizen-driven review that major changes to the city's governing document deserve. The committee believes an independent charter commission should have been appointed to study the issues, gather diverse viewpoints, and evaluate possible unintended consequences before placing amendments before voters.

"Public engagement cannot be limited to asking residents to respond after proposed changes have already been written," Faurer said. "Residents should have been included in identifying the issues, examining alternatives and developing any proposed solutions."

WHY THE COMMITTEE OPPOSES THE AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1: Municipal Elections

Montrose currently holds nonpartisan municipal elections in April of even-numbered years. Amendment 1 would move those elections to November of even-numbered years beginning in 2028. The change would also extend, by 7 months, the terms of affected sitting council members until their successors are elected and take office following the November 2028 and 2030 elections.

The committee believes holding municipal elections in April helps local candidates and city issues receive focused public attention, separate from partisan state and federal campaigns. It is concerned that longer November ballots could contribute to voter fatigue and cause local issues to be overshadowed by national and statewide politics.

Amendment 2: Term Limits

The current charter generally allows district council members to serve up to eight consecutive years, and the at-large council member to serve up to six consecutive years, followed by a four-year waiting period before becoming eligible to serve again. Amendment 2 would extend the at-large seat to 8 consecutive years, and replace the four-year hiatus with a lifetime limit of eight years of elected service occurring after Nov. 3, 2026. Those eight years could be served consecutively through any combination of two- and four-year terms, but eligibility would not return following a period away from office. The committee believes the existing consecutive-term limits encourage new candidates while allowing voters to re-elect experienced former council members after a four-year break. A lifetime ban would unnecessarily limit voter choice and their ability to select familiar, experienced, and trusted leaders.

Amendment 3: Police Chief

The City Manager currently appoints, supervises, and may discharge the Police Chief. Amendment 3 would give the City Council the right to approve or disapprove the City Manager's decision to appoint or discharge the chief. The City Manager would retain day-to-day supervision.

The committee believes the current structure provides professional management of the Police Department while allowing the council to hold the City Manager accountable. It is concerned that requiring council approval of personnel decisions involving the Police Chief could introduce political or individual council-member interests into public-safety management.

Amendment 4: City Clerk

The City Manager currently appoints, supervises, and may remove the City Clerk. Amendment 4 would give the City Council the right to approve or disapprove the City Manager's appointment or discharge of the clerk. The City Manager would retain day-to-day supervision.

Because the City Clerk administers municipal elections and performs other official duties, the committee believes the position should remain under professional city management and insulated from unnecessary political influence. The committee is concerned that requiring council approval for appointment or discharge could weaken confidence in the clerk's independence.

A CAMPAIGN BUILT AROUND THREE PRINCIPLES

The Charter Issues Committee's campaign will emphasize three principles:

Trust: Public trust is essential for a City Charter to remain durable, effective, and responsive to the community.

Honesty: Home-rule government depends upon open communication from elected officials and an honest explanation of the reasons and consequences behind proposed changes.

Accountability: Elected officials and professional city administrators should act ethically, manage public resources responsibly, and explain their decisions to the people they serve.

"Our community deserves all three—trust, honesty, and accountability," Faurer said. "The committee will work to ensure residents understand each amendment and the concerns surrounding it before casting their ballots."

Residents interested in volunteering with the campaign should visit

[Montrosecitycouncilwatch.com](https://montrosecitycouncilwatch.com) or email mccw26@gmail.com

ABOUT THE CHARTER ISSUES COMMITTEE

The Charter Issues Committee educates voters about the four proposed City Charter amendments and advocates for their defeat. Its campaign focuses on trust, honesty, accountability and citizen participation.

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AS I LOOKED ABOUT ME

By Don Stott

I recently sat in my favorite easy chair, and looked around, thinking of the origins of all the things I know so well. The furniture, wall paper, carpet, kitchen, windows, furnace, laundry equipment, plumbing, garage doors, concrete, central air conditioning, cars, trucks, art, refrigerator, 80" TV, DVD's, telephones, computers, food, beds, dishes, sterling silver flatware, gold, silver, jewelry, wiring, lumber, nails, screws, roof, landscaping, pots, pans, oven, and literally hundreds of items, right here in my home in Montrose Colorado.

Who invented, manufactured, delivered, and even fixes them if they break? Is it, or was it, the federal government, or the private sector? Did government make any of the above listed items, or in any way is it, or was it, responsible for the above, in any way? Clients of ours are building a large two storey garage, next to their home. Does government have any part of it, other than causing increasing delays, costs for permits, inspections and licenses for electrical, roofing, plumbing, masonry, etc?

NO!

Let's go further, while we're on the subject of things government had nothing to do with, and switch to a bigger realm. Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, D.C. current, motion pictures, phonograph, and many others, with no government help or aid. Ben Franklin invented bi-focals, the lightening rod, and of course the Franklin Stove. Franklin tied a key to a kite string, and discovered electricity! Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, George Westinghouse invented the air brake, and along with Nicola Tesla, invented Alternating current. Henry Ford invented the production line, and the Wright Brothers invented the airplane. Andrew Carnegie invented steel made from iron ore, and donated Carnegie Hall to New York, plus 2500 libraries and 6,000 pipe organs to churches and America. Most, if not all, gave liberally to charity in their wills. No government help was wanted by any of them, plus probably hundreds more. Every part in any airplane, locomotive, car, truck, or tractor, has thousands of parts invented by people with no government help. They wouldn't have even known how to ask for it. They used their minds, not subsidies or handouts.

What has the federal government given us? Public housing, inflation, bureaucracy, virtually worthless paper money, wars, crime, riots, illegals, and that list, is also almost endless.

Who is responsible for providing the above? Obviously it is the private sector, individuals, corporations or businesses, who invented the above, risked their capital for their manufacture, and provided the jobs required to make, sell, and distribute them. Our entire life, property, food, housing, clothing, and possessions, have nothing to do with government. Yet, we pay probably 90% of our income to governments, in the form of hundreds of direct, indirect, and hidden taxes,

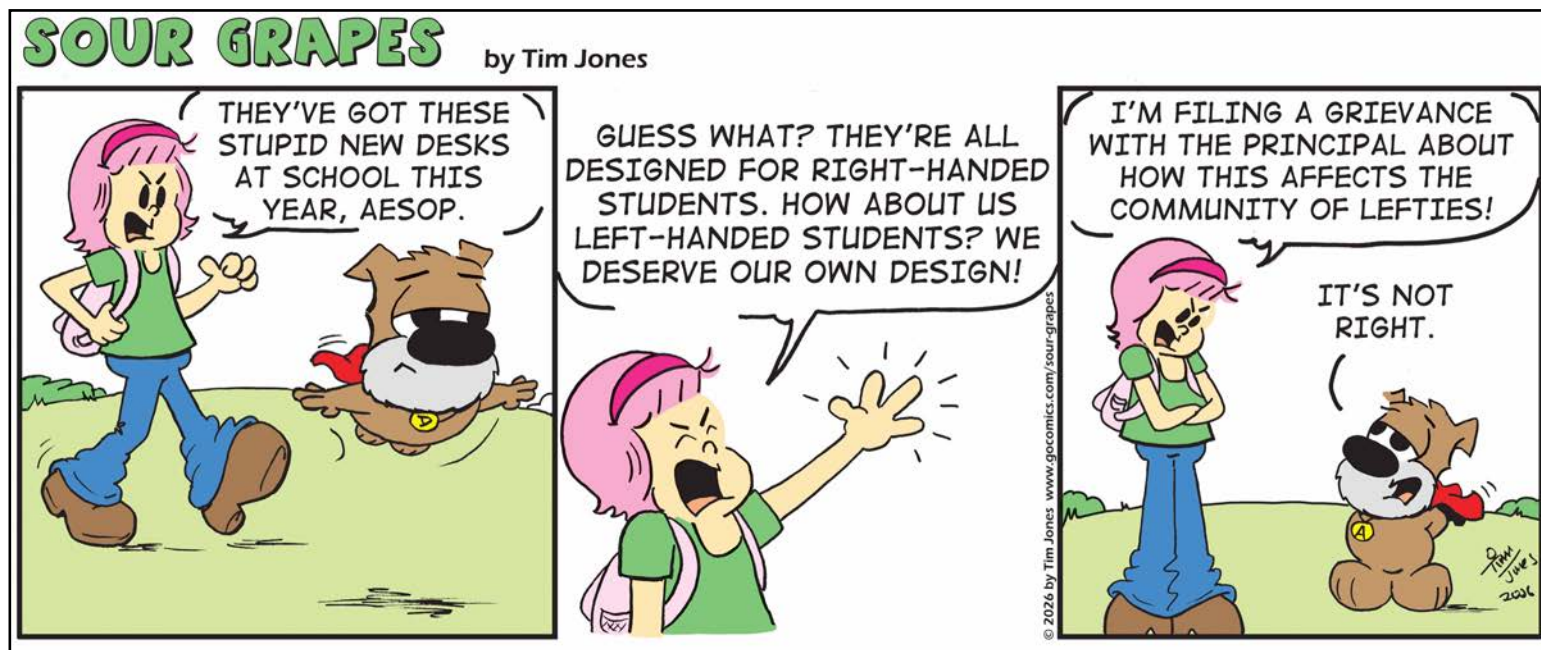
Exaggeration? Could the taxes on a loaf of bread, be used as an example? There are property taxes on the bakery, grocery store, fuel station for the delivery truck and tractor, which cares for the wheat field, seed and fertilizer manufacturer for the farm which grows the wheat, railroad that delivers the wheat, grain elevator which stores the wheat, garage to store the delivery truck & tractor and its implements. Property taxes are on the makers of every product of everything which concerns bread making, plus taxes on all workers of all the above. Taxes are added to the raw materials in the factory which made all of the above. Taxes are levied on the property and employees of the electricity, gasoline and diesel manufacturers. There are taxes on every employee in the exhaustive chain of making a loaf of bread. There are additional taxes on the profits of all in the chain. The farmers' homes, fields, and possessions, are taxed also. Railroads pay property taxes on every mile and acre of their property, which most people don't realize. Government, even taxes the roads on which we and the suppliers and deliverers use, and on each gallon of diesel, and gasoline, and even the tires, motor oil, parts, and property taxes on buildings used to make everything, plus their employees. The end can never be reached, if truth be told, on just on a loaf of bread.

If all the taxes on a loaf of bread were removed, what would a loaf of bread cost? I'd estimate maybe 35 cents. When I was a kid in 1934, a loaf of bread cost 7 cents, a quarter bought five pounds of flour, 22 copper pennies, bought a gallon of milk, and a dollar bought five gallons of gasoline. The size of government in 1934, was a fraction what it is now, and as a kid, I'd never seen a hundred dollar bill. Now, they're common and necessary, just to live. The dollar currency looks about like it did in 1934. The dollar had George Washington's picture on it, as well as Franklin's and other past presidents on them. They still do. The coinage is no longer made of 90% silver nor the penny with copper, and pennies are no longer even made! The items we purchase, are all priced in dollars and cents, which is why most save their surplus in them. After all, if we use them, why shouldn't we save in them? Because while we use them, and prices go up in them, they're backed by thin air, and History 101, shows they are not to be trusted, other than for current purchases.

The Fed raised interest Wednesday, September 14, in a futile effort to curb inflation. Futile, because Fed's inter-bank interest rate, has little to do with causing inflation. Inflation is caused by, "An increase in the money supply," according to all dictionaries. The latest increase in the Fed's interest rate has caused mortgage interest rates, to go to 7%, which will drill another nail into the real estate business, but that will have a microscopic factor in inflation, by keeping people from buying properties, which would add a small fraction to the money supply. The massive increase in the money supply, (inflation), mostly comes from absurd, wasteful federal government expenditures, which invoices must be paid, and paying those bills with Fed supplied, un-backed paper money, computer entries, and bond sales, 'inflates' the money supply. Not to be ignored, are the federal government's monthly increases in inflation, by paying hundreds of billions of dollars in welfare of a hundred different types. The inflating of the numbers of dollars, and their constant weakening, as indicated by increasing dollar prices on everything, may be jilted forward, if Trump's \$5,000 per voter happens. The Treasury just OK'ed the \$5,000, or a trillion dollar addition to the money supply, or more inflation, if it happens.

Continued next pg

CARTOON BY TIM JONES



AS I LOOKED ABOUT ME From previous pg

I did a search of federal government agencies, departments, etc., which begin with the letter "A." There are 37 listed. Local, county, municipal, and other non-federal governments, have nothing to do with causing inflation, as these governmental entities, cannot increase the dollar supply.

Here are a few of the outfits whose titles begin with the letter "A."

Just numbers one through four are: "Ability on Commission," "Access Board," "Administration For Children and Families," and "Administration For Community Living." A few others are "Ahurra TV," "AmeriCorps Seniors," and there are others, which are not counted in the 37, which begin with "A" for 'aid,' and that total is unavailable.

The federal office "Ahurra TV," "Has been downsized to only a couple dozen employees and has a budget of \$69 million," they say, when asked.

Is there any inflation, typical government waste, or stupidity, in "Ahurra TV?"

Aren't we grateful the federal government doesn't make our refrigerators? If they did, to quote from my book "I Hold These Truths," They would be "Expensive, wouldn't last long, wouldn't get very cold, would use a lot of current, would be virtually impossible to fix, and difficult to sell."

Even though the federal government has nothing to do with the first paragraph, its rules, inflation, and 190,000 pages of regulations, have forced manufacturing and jobs overseas.

"INSURANCE." From my New Webster's College Dictionary: "An insuring or being insured against loss." plus "The business of insuring against loss." What 'loss' does Colorado Gold, insure against? The loss in value of the dollar; which we use to live. Has it lost value? The dollar has lost 95% or more of its value of 75 years ago. Will it continue to lose value? Any sense of logic, economics, and history, will answer, "yes." This indicates that its continued decline is without doubt; so mustn't we get out of them, like we would get out of a building which has already collapsed 99% from termite damage? Is it logical to depend on your car's battery to start your car, when it is old, weak, and virtually worthless? Store your surplus wealth in the dollar which has 95% plummeted down the drain? The dollar is necessary to live with, but stupid to save with, because it is backed by "The Full Faith and Credit of the United States Government." That says it in a sentence. Current financial magazines, wealth management outfits, and yes, even the Wall Street Journal, in spite of history, logic and facts, refuse to admit to the dollar's already becoming 95% worthless. Why? Because that's the way they make their living! The truth would cause a major upheaval in America's economics, publishing, banking, and every other part of our system. At 1% with no monthly payments, physical, beautiful, possession, anonymous purchasing, selling and bequeathing, and which goes up in face value automatically, as the dollar goes down the sliding board to zero, we're here.



What is Direct Primary Care?

Direct Primary Care (DPC) is a simple, membership-based model of healthcare. Instead of billing insurance, patients pay a flat monthly fee directly to their physician. This covers most primary care services, including office visits, longer appointments, timely access during regular office hours, and secure messaging for non-urgent questions.

Because there's no insurance paperwork, I can spend more time with you, focus on prevention and long-term health, and keep care straightforward and transparent. Patients who carry insurance can still use it for services outside the practice, such as labs, imaging, and medications, while their Direct Primary Care membership covers their ongoing primary care with me. If labs are needed and you don't carry insurance, I can help you get this at more affordable prices.

DPC works alongside insurance, not instead of it — insurance is still used for emergencies, hospital care, and specialists, while your DPC doctor manages your everyday healthcare and helps coordinate the rest.

To learn more, visit the FAQ section on our website at www.CimarronFamilyPractice.com. Or, visit the 'Membership' or 'For Employers' pages for pricing.

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Montrose, CO 81401
P: (970) 275-5227 | F: (970) 447-1559
hello@CimarronFamilyPractice.com

www.CimarronFamilyPractice.com



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



M: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Tu: 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM
W: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Th: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
F: By appointment only

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

REX ALLEN SWANSON

November 18, 1947-September 15, 2026

“I never met a stranger.”

REX SWANSON was a gifted and blessed man. Gifted with the ability to make small talk and engage people he had never met; no one was a stranger for long. He was blessed to have had a wonderful life with Denise for 31 years. Together their blended family included 5 children: Mark, Paul, Nancy, Curt and Brian. With spousal support from Mandy, Christine, Kristin and Mike, 21 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren were added; and, over time, many extended family members and friends joined their inner circle.

Born in Sidney, NE and establishing himself as an Eagle Scout, Rex demonstrated leadership skills reflective of the Scout Spirit. Scouting changed the course of his life and fueled his passion and commitment to community service. The skills Rex learned as a scout, he applied to every challenge he faced with conviction, integrity and faith.

Being a Cabela's catalog model in 1978 taught him salesmanship, which served him well as a radio and television sales manager for many years. His roots to Nebraska ran deep. He was a dedicated and loyal fan of the Nebraska Cornhuskers. In 1997, Denise and Rex planted new roots in Montrose and found a community they “fell in love with”.

In 2016, Rex served as Mayor and on Montrose City Council. He was the face of “Neighborhood Watch” and instrumental in the formation of MPR (Montrose Prepared Response). His community volunteer contributions included the San Juan Coloradans for NE and numerous local non-profit organizations. He was a member of the Montrose Elks, Masonic, Scottish Rite and Shrine.

Rex carried himself well on the golf course. He and Denise supported and participated in many fundraising golf events. Rex was a consummate story and joke teller while playing cards with family and friends. His favorite pastime was painting golf balls that landed in his yard. Rex gave away hundreds of red ladybug golf balls as a token of friendship. Rex was loud and proud to be of service in Montrose. Though his voice is now silent, his legacy will be how he showed up. Always with a smile and a handshake, saying “Thank you for coming. I appreciate what you do.” His absence will be felt.

Funeral service will be on Thursday, Sept 24th 11:00am, with visitation from 9-11am at the Montrose Christian Church, 2351 Sunnyside Rd. Followed by a burial service at Grand View Cemetery, 16300 6450 Ct, Montrose. Service arrangements coordinated by Crippin Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, monetary donations will be used to fund a park bench in his honor. Park benches play a crucial role in fostering social interactions and encouraging connections while building a sense of community. Rex would love that!



SUSAN FRANCES BOTHWELL

March 1, 1948- September 11, 2026



SUSAN FRANCES BOTHWELL of Montrose, CO peacefully died September 11, 2026 in Hope Springs Care Center of Montrose, CO after a brief illness. Born March 1, 1948, in Allegany, New York, she was the daughter of beloved parents, Edward W Bothwell and Rose C Zuzek Bothwell.

Susan was a 1966 graduate of Archbishop Walsh Academy in Olean, New York. She attended Erie Community College in New York, earning her degree in Dental Hygiene and working in that field for almost 50 years in Atlanta, GA, Denver and Boulder, CO, and Montrose, CO.

Susan led an adventurous and active life of gardening, hiking, and exploring the outdoors - especially her beloved Rocky Mountains. She loved her dog WinniePooh, her two cats Lily and Mason, and many kittens throughout the years. Susan enjoyed being with friends, participating in a Stonecroft Bible Study network, and serving as a volunteer at Black Canyon Women's Connection for almost 9 years and HopeWest for 10 years. Her love for Jesus, beautiful smile, and desire to serve endeared her to many.

Susan is survived by a sister, Mary Bothwell of Nashville, TN and a brother, William Bothwell (Marlene) of Olean, New York, a niece and two nephews, and many dear friends.

Memorial gifts can be sent to HopeWest at 725 South 4th Street Montrose, CO 81401.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

CASEY JOSIAH HASKELL July 12, 1980-September 8, 2026

CASEY JOSIAH HASKELL, 46, passed away on September 8, 2026, in Ridgway, Colorado, where he made his home. He was born on July 12, 1980, in Denver, Colorado.

Casey grew up in the Conifer/Evergreen, Colorado area and was proud to be part of the first graduating class of Conifer High School, Class of 1998. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2003. He then served in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria (2003-2005), an experience helping shape his lifelong love of language, travel, and connection with people from all walks of life. He later returned to Colorado to earn his Master's degree in Psychology and Wilderness Therapy from Naropa University in Boulder in 2013. He spoke conversationally in both Bulgarian and Spanish.

Casey's Chacos carried his heart and education through a life devoted to helping others, working with several organizations dedicated to supporting at-risk youth throughout his life. He was also a builder in every sense, a founding force for several businesses across Colorado, and an inventor at heart who was always designing, tinkering, and creating. In recent years, he found particular joy in laser cutting Christmas ornaments and other items, as well as handcrafting jewelry.

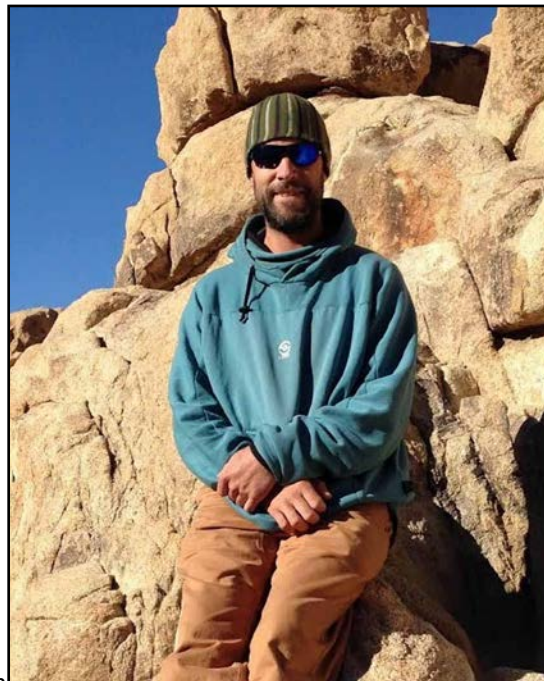
An adventurer to his core, Casey's spirit came alive outdoors and among community. He was a longtime devotee of Burning Man, an avid fan of the Colorado Avalanche, mountain biker, climber, and telemark skier. He traveled widely across multiple continents, always drawn to new places and new people, and he was known everywhere he went for his warm smile and the friendships he built around the world.

Casey is survived by his parents, who loved him very much. He is also survived by siblings, many other family members, along with the countless friends, colleagues, and souls he touched throughout his life.

Casey's memory lives on in the mountains he climbed, the youth he mentored, the friendships he built across borders and languages, and the many lives made brighter by knowing him.

A celebration honoring Casey will be held at The Sherbino, 604 Clinton St, Ridgway CO. on September 18, 3:30pm.

Memorial donations may be made to the Casey Shep Foundation. To support opportunities for at-risk-youth, please click on the following link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-casey-shep-foundation-for-atrisk-youth>



Now more than ever...

Thank you for reading

THE MONTROSE MIRROR



BOOK CLIFFS POETRY FESTIVAL SEPT. 26

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION-The Art Center of Western Colorado and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program have announced a one-day Book Cliffs Poetry Festival on Saturday Sept. 26 featuring performances, award ceremonies, an afternoon lecture, a morning playshop (aka workshop), an open mic and regional poetry program tables.

In the event's premiere performances Wendy Videlock of Palisade will be handing over the two-year Western Slope Poet Laureate (WeSPoL) title to Danny Rosen of Lithic Bookstore and Press in Fruita. Several past laureates will join them in featured readings, including L. Luis Lopez of Grand Junction and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer of Placerville.

"Various communities have hosted the Western Slope laureate title since it began in Carbondale in 2011," said Goodtimes, the first WeSPoL title holder and Talking Gourds director, "including in Telluride, Gunnison, and Crested Butte. But Grand Junction is the queen city of the Western Slope, and we are delighted to collaborate with the Art Center to bring a new festival to the Slope's largest municipality."

Also, as part of the evening's award ceremonies, the 13th annual Karen Chamberlain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Colorado Poetry will be given posthumously to the late Andrea Gibson of Denver.

Past awardees include the late Reg Saner of Boulder, the late Jack Mueller of Log Hill Village, the late Bruce Berger of Aspen, Veronica Patterson of Loveland, the late Chris Ransick of Englewood, Kate Kingston of Trinidad, Aaron Abeyta of Antonito, the late Marilyn Krysl of Boulder, Dr. David Rothman formerly of Crested Butte, and last year George Sibley of Gunnison.

"While Andrea's partner Megan Falley will be unable to attend, they are sending an acceptance video that we are excited to show," noted Goodtimes.

Talking Gourds will be announcing the six winners in the international Fischer Poetry Prize and six winners of Colorado's Cantor Poetry Prize that same evening. Each prize has a first place \$1000 cash award and five \$250 finalist awards.

The program will start in the morning with a Talking Gourds sharing circle, followed by a lecture, a playshop, some spotlight performances by select regional poets, and an open mic. In the evening there will be the award ceremonies and readings. Regional poetry programs and booksellers have been invited have tables to showcase their works.

Dr. Rothman is coming from Salt Lake City, where he currently lives, to give the afternoon playground on the important (almost forgotten) queer poet Belle Turnbull of Breckenridge. And Ms. Trommer, a performance poet, writing coach and co-host of the podcast Emerging Form, will lead a morning "playshop".

Spotlights will occur several times in the day, with a special Spotlight session preceding the Open Mic segment of the program at 4 pm, featuring Elle Metrick of Norwood, Lynda LaRocca of Twin Lakes, Travis Hill of Albuquerque, Deborah Westervelt of Montrose, Karen Bellerose of Telluride, Brenda Wildrick of Fort Morgan, and A Love Supreme of Denver.

The Art Center will host all the festival events at 1803 N. 7th St. in Grand Junction. Tickets will be available at the door: \$50 for the entire festival and \$20 for the five individual shows. Students (high school and college) and seniors (75 and over) will be half-price.

For more information, contact Goodtimes at art@tellurideinstitute.org or check the Talking Gourds website: tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar



Poet Wendy Videlock. Courtesy photo.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

YOU RAISE ME UP – SONGS OF LOVE, HOPE, AND INSPIRATION

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association presents "You Raise Me Up – Songs of Love, Hope and Inspiration" on Tuesday, Sept. 29 as the first concert of the 2026- 2027 concert season. The concert begins at 7:00 PM at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta. Doors open at 6 PM. Musical duo Erin Shields and David Shenton present their unique and highly entertaining show, You Raise Me Up. With over 3,500 combined performances to their credit, these consummate and virtuosic performers have been delighting audiences for years with their sophisticated show featuring highly original interpretations of songs every audience knows and loves. The show, which features Shields as vocalist and pianist, and Shenton on piano, violin and vocals has something for everyone. Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the night of the performance: \$25 for adults and \$5 for students. For more information please contact Anna Marie at 801-870- 8621 or Connie at 970-249-4308 or visit www.deltamontroseconcerts.com.

Expecting a baby or exploring
your maternity care options?

Meet The
Midwives!



Come meet us, see the space,
and ask questions!



Second Saturday of
every month, 8-10 AM



MRH Family Center, 2nd Floor
800 S. 3rd St.
Montrose, CO 81401

No appointment necessary • Hospital tours available
Coffee & donuts provided

For more information, please call

(970) 240-7272



[MontroseHealth.com/Family Center](http://MontroseHealth.com/FamilyCenter)

Offered for Sale.. *passive solar ENVELOPE* home
on 39 acres at \$1,265,000



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- **3 bedrooms/ 3 baths**
- 3454 SqFt remodeled 2020-2025**
- Passive solar design**
- Fully finished lower level**
- Covered and lighted 9' x 16' deck**
- Glass enclosed**
- south facing sunroom**
- Sweeping,**
- unobstructed views**



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Hike, ride.. enjoy the outside



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www.The-RES.com

LUXURY HOME IN BROWN RANCH



Offered at \$739,900

3625 Mocha Ct. MLS # 836972

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



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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/> Rector: The Rev Preston Gordon, pgordon@allsaintsmontrose.org

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM, Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Midweek 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
112Main 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://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 Scripture, 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.

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

W

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY Continued from previous pg

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.

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.
 Sunday School and childcare: None

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,
inform@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, montroseumc.org
 Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
 Worship service times:
 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM: Children's, Youth, and

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 .

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: ststephensmontrose@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?



LUXURY HOME IN BROWN RANCH



Offered at \$739,900

3625 Mocha Ct. MLS # 836972

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



Peg Evanoika 970-209-3934

Realtor@PegEvanoika.com

**CENTURY 21 ELEVATE
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970-249-5673 THE-RES.COM**



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. (Info: 970-765-2210)

*Tribute bricks for veterans and active-duty military
will be placed along the new Memorial walkways
following an opening ceremony.*

This is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

*Public is welcome, however, we ask cooperation
in maintaining a solemn and respectful
environment as loved ones honor their veterans.*

www.montrosevmc.org



Welcome to Your 2026 - 2027 Community Concert Season

Presented by  Delta-Montrose Community Concert Association



You Raise Me Up

SONGS OF LOVE, HOPE, & INSPIRATION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026 | 7:00 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6



Nu-Blu

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026
7:00 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6



The Jersey Tenors

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2027 | 3:00 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 2



It Takes Two

A LEGENDARY DUO REVUE

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2027
7:00 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6

Will Martin

VOCAL + PIANO + TRACK

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2027
3:00 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 2



Single Admission Tickets:

Available at the door
Adults \$25
Students \$5

Season Ticket Prices:

Brochures at the door.
Adult: \$55 | Student: \$25
Family: \$120



DELTA COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS & EDUCATION CENTER | 822 GRAND AVE., DELTA

For inquiries, visit the DMCCA website at www.deltamontroseconcerts.com or Contact Connie Pittenger at 970-249-4308

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Associate Broker

C: 970-596-3521

O: 970-249-7653

DianeHaynes@outlook.com

DianeHaynesRealtor@gmail.com



Choosing a real estate agent with the Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR) designation offers several advantages:

Specialized Training: ABR agents have received advanced training focused on representing buyers, giving them a deep understanding of the buying process and strategies to advocate for your best interests.

Expert Negotiation Skills: They are equipped with the skills to negotiate better terms, prices, and contingencies, helping you secure a more favorable deal.

Market Knowledge: ABR agents are well-versed in local market conditions, giving you insights into pricing trends, property values, and neighborhood information.

Exclusive Buyer Focus: Their primary focus is on buyer representation, ensuring you get unbiased advice and guidance tailored specifically to your needs.

Legal and Ethical Standards: ABR agents adhere to a strict code of ethics, ensuring that you receive professional and trustworthy service throughout the buying process.

In short, working with an ABR-certified agent provides specialized expertise, better representation, and a smoother home-buying experience.

Call for an appointment today!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Hosted By:



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

Saturday Oct 24th



**PRIZES
SNACKS
& FUN FOR
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

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Please note that there is currently no domestic water tap and no utilities are available at the lot line. Bring your vision and explore the potential of this exceptional acreage in a convenient rural location.

PRICED BELOW RECENT APPRAISAL



\$699,900.00

18.7 acres

Irrigation water

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🌐 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CITIZENS JOIN MONTROSE COUNTY FOR TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY

Special to the Mirror

Photo courtesy of Montrose County

MONTROSE-On Sept. 15, 2026, we gathered at the Historic Montrose County Courthouse for a special Time Capsule Ceremony celebrating our community's history, the people who have helped shape it, and the generations who will carry its story forward.

The ceremony included a video presentation about the 1922 time capsule, remarks from County Commissioners and Montrose County Assessor Brad Hughes, and an opportunity for the public to view the items selected for the new time capsule. These pieces of our community will now be preserved for 100 years, until September 15, 2126, when a future generation of Montrose County residents will open it and discover a glimpse of life in 2026.

We are especially grateful to the talented team of local woodworkers, Jim Norfleet, Dustin Orth, Rich Barker and Len Cribbs, who created a beautiful, handcrafted wooden Montrose County logo for the project. Their exceptional craftsmanship is truly a work of art. The piece is now displayed on the third floor of the Historic Courthouse, between the cases containing the artifacts from the 1922 time capsule.

Another meaningful piece of our community's history is also on display in the Courthouse. The commemorative quilt hanging above the third-floor staircase was created from fabric taken from hundreds of handmade face masks sewn by women throughout the Montrose community during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The remaining masks were carefully taken apart and transformed into several quilts by Janis "Jan" Edwards and Margaret "Margi" Young. These quilts preserve the story of a difficult chapter in our history while also honoring the compassion, creativity and community spirit that helped carry us through those challenging years.

A special thank-you goes to Stryker & Co., Inc. for their work in unearthing the 1922 time capsule and for their continued assistance with placing the new capsule that will be opened in 2126. Scott Stryker, Zane Brown and Charles Bunny were recognized during today's ceremony for their invaluable contributions to this effort.

Our deepest appreciation also goes to the Time Capsule Team, Brad Hughes, Tim Stroh, Matt Weed, Jennifer Murray, Zane Brown, Scott Stryker and Erika Story. Their countless hours of sorting, cataloging and preparing the 1922 artifacts for public display have helped bring a century of Montrose County history back to life.

The contents of the 1922 time capsule are now on display in glass cases on the third floor of the Historic Montrose County Courthouse and can be viewed by the public during normal business hours.

Today, we added another chapter to Montrose County's story. One hundred years from now, we hope the people who open the 2026 time capsule will see more than the objects we chose to preserve. We hope they will see a reflection of the people, values, challenges and community spirit that defined Montrose County in our time.

From 1922, to 2026, to 2126, our story continues.



ANONYMOUS

Download The APP. **P3TIPS** 

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CRIME STOPPERS**

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CHAMPION HOME



\$99,000

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PROPERTY FEATURES



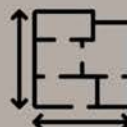
3 Bedroom



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-  1 Car Garage
-  Built 1991
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This room has been virtually staged.



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Certified Residential Specialist – Senior Specialist
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*Opening Doors
to Your Next Chapter*

MONTROSE COMMUNITY BAND PRESENTS:



SEPT
27

3:00PM-
4:30PM

MONTROSE
PAVILION

AMERICA'S CINEMA AND STAGE

MANCINI arr. Stephen Bulla **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE** Lalo Schiffrin/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



SAVE THE DATE

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 Baldridge 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. 24-Friendship Quilters of Western Colorado will meet Thursday, Sept. 24, at Friendship Hall, Montrose County Fairgrounds, 1001 N Second Street in Montrose. The meeting starts at 9am with social time, followed by a business meeting, program featuring challenge quilts, and show and share. Questions? [360.448.0153](tel:3604480153).

Oct. 6-Tuesday Oct, 6 at 5 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs 504 N. 1st, Environmental, Local non Partisan, All Welcome, Local plans to mitigate effects of planet pollution, info [970-765-9095](tel:9707659095)

COMMEMORATING CONSTITUTION DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Keeping to a decades -long tradition, Senator Marc Catlin and wife Kerri delivered Pocket Constitutions to Laurie Laird with Montrose County School District for distribution to teachers and students on September 17th - Constitution Day. Also donated to the school district and the Montrose Regional Library Director Paul Paladino, is an educational piece with facts and information about the Constitution created by Montrose Republican Women and sponsored by Ross Turner of Turner Chevrolet and the Montrose Press.



WANTED: MONTROSE WOMEN BOWLERS

♥ **AVERAGE NOR AGE MATTERS**

♥ **ENCOURAGING WORDS ALWAYS WELCOMED**

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

**LADIES WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE
BOWLING LEAGUE 9am - 12n**

STARTS: Wed Sept 2, 2026

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

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

