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ISSUE 709 SEPT. 28, 2026

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the Montrose Mirror

DMEA AWARDS GRANT TO MCF FOR NEW BUILDING

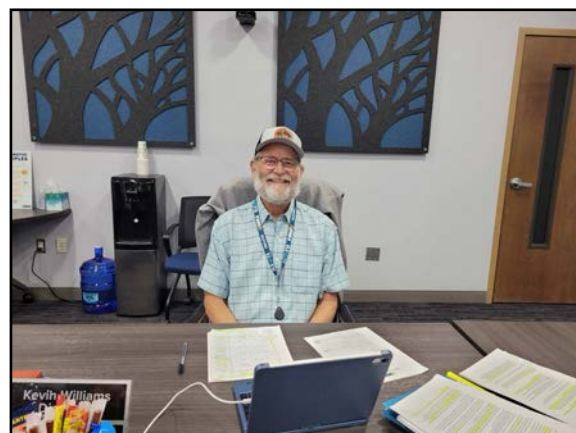
By Gail Marvel

REGIONAL- On Sept. 22, the Delta Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Board of Directors Regular meeting was called to order at 3pm by Vice-President Kevin Williams. With the exception of Board President Stacia Cannon (vacation), Steve Metheny (Zoom), and Jacob Gray (late arrival), all board members were present in person.

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

Introductions:

Attendees included board members, department heads, and staff. Guests included those requesting Capital



In the absence of the DMEA Board President, VP Kevin Williams chaired the meeting. Photo by Gail Marvel.

Continued pg 10

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS WILL BE A HAUNTED HOUSE THIS HALLOWEEN

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With the arrival of cooler weather and shorter days, Halloween is on the horizon. Go big this

Oct 31st from 8 to 10pm, with a treat bag full of fun at the Holiday Inn Express (1391 South Townsend Avenue)! Montrose's premiere hospitality location plans to throw open the doors for a safe, family friendly fundraiser, to benefit local organizations that help children.

"The focus will be on kids," Holiday Inn Express Assistant General Manager Shayne Louder said. "I hope people will dress up and come out!"

The hotel will become a haunted house, complete with laser light shows and kids' activities--everything from trick or treat stations, pumpkin painting, coloring, bobbing for apples, to S'more kits.

Come explore the haunted front desk and ghostly hallways, as well as the Zombie Banquet Room. Parents can cozy up to the Brain Bar with

Continued pg 2

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ENTER IF YOU DARE

OCTOBER 31ST 2026
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Every ticket purchased helps provide support to children and families facing food insecurity.

EVENT DETAILS
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES MONTROSE
1391 S. TOWNSEND AVE.
MONTROSE, CO 81401
OCTOBER 31ST 2026
8:00PM - 10:00PM

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

COMMUNITY SPONSORS WELCOME!
Become a sponsor and help bring The Haunted Hotel to life while supporting Feed the Children and a local charity.
Sponsorship opportunities available!

QR CODE

Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD:
Your Brain on Nature pg 97

Cartoons-pg 68!

First Montrose Book Fair
was a Success! pg. 76

Word From the West:
with Wendy Vidlock! pg 86

Local
Photos!



Looking for a book club?

The next meeting of the
Montrose Library Book
Club will be
Saturday, October 3
at 9:00 a.m. in room 102
at Colorado Mesa
University-Montrose.



The book to be discussed
is ***The Measure*** by Nikki Erlick.
The Montrose Library Book Club for adults
meets on the first Saturday of the month
(except for holiday weekends and
closures).
Email lmclean@montroselibrary.org for
more info.

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MONTROSE REGIONAL
LIBRARY DISTRICT

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS WILL BE A HAUNTED HOUSE THIS HALLOWEEN From pg 1

Halloween Drinks (cash bar), and there will be hot chocolate and warm cider for the kids. There will even be a Patio "Jail Cell" as part of the fund raiser.

Admission will be \$8 for adults 13+, \$5 for kids ages eight to 12, with kids under age five admitted free. Every ticket sold will help provide support for children and families facing food insecurity. Holiday Inn supports <https://www.feedthechildren.org>, but local charities will also benefit through this fundraiser, including [Dolphin House](#), [Haven House](#), and [Faultless, Inc.](#)

CORRECTION: In last week's issue of the Mirror a link in Dr. Katie Stephens' Medical column was inactive. Here is the correct link-

<https://www.cimarronfamilypractice.com/>

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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

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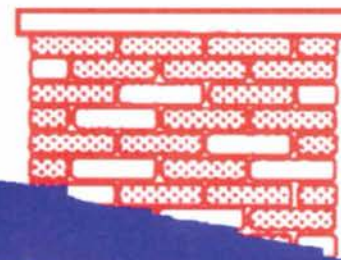
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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or its editorial team. In addition to the Online News Association, we hold memberships in the Colorado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





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION WOULD BE A VITAL SAFEGUARD

Editor:

"A City Charter serves as a local constitution; treating it with ad-hoc legislative edits rather than deliberate, structured review degrades its long-term stability and permanence."

-National Civic League

During the June 01 City Council work session, Councilman J. David Reed suggested forming a citizen review commission to gather public input in proposing amendments to the city charter.

In contrast to opinions expressed by Councilors David Reed & Dave Frank and public comments made by Montrose citizens, Mayor Badagliacco held a position that the city council should directly place amendments to the charter on the ballot without input from a citizen-led advisory committee.

On July 7th, the Montrose City Council voted 2-3 against forming a Charter Review Commission.

Amendments to the city charter change the system of governance.

Without a dedicated committee collecting diverse community perspectives and expert testimony over a sustained period, proposals may miss critical systemic flaws or unintended legal consequences.

When the Montrose City Council drafted amendments to the City Charter without utilizing an independent Charter Review Commission, it removed a vital structural safeguard.

The National Civic League warns that this approach risks conflicts of interest, rushed or politically motivated changes, reduced public trust, and a breakdown in the checks and balances designed to protect the city's foundational document.

Vote No on the 4 proposed amendments to the City Charter that were drafted without utilizing a Charter Review Commission.

Let's first conduct a review of the Montrose City Charter through a Charter Review Commission.

If the Charter Review Commission concludes that changes need to be made to the City Charter, the Montrose City Council will have the opportunity to vote on whether to place the proposed amendments on the ballot.

Citizens can then cast their votes with an increased sense of confidence that amendments proposed to the City Charter are following guidelines recommended by the National Civic League.

*The mission of the National Civic League is to advance inclusive civic engagement and promote innovations in democracy to make decision-making more participatory, equitable, and effective.

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose



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3:00pm-7:00pm
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Special to the Mirror

-BOCC to speak Sept.. 30-8 to 9AM.

-October marks our return to the 9-10 AM time slot.

-Oct. 7 will be a walk through the 2026 sample ballot by Montrose County Clerk, Tressa Guynes, and a non-partisan presentation of the ballot issues by the League of Women Voters.

-Oct. 14 will be candidate presentations by all County candidates plus Jeff Hurd, Dwayne Romero, and Larry Don Sukla.



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Photographer Laura Gillenwater of Montrose captured this image of turkey vultures hanging out in Montrose.

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Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.



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Mark Covington

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970-209-1956

markcovington@remax.net



MLS #827376 | Lot 23 Eagle Heights \$199,000

This charming 1,384 sq. ft. home features 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, and an attached garage in a convenient central Montrose location! Whether you're looking for a primary residence or an investment property, this home offers great potential. The spacious primary bedroom includes a versatile bonus area perfect for a home office, workout space, or reading nook, along with direct backyard access through sliding glass doors.



Steve Zahniser

Broker

970-765-1719

Stevez@remax.net



MLS #837646 | 1665 Sneffels Street \$480,000

Meticulously well kept home located in Vista San Juan, a centrally located subdivision with large lots. This ranch style home is on a .31 acre lot with mature trees. The home has new exterior paint, a 40 yr roof installed in 2023, with 100 yr soffits. The home is cozy, with 3 good sized bedrooms, 2 baths (one with a brand new walk-in shower), and a lot of natural sunlight.



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MLS #837387 | 35 Cactus Place \$519,000

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DMEA AWARDS GRANT TO MCF FOR NEW BUILDING From pg 1

'Credit Community Fund Donations who attended both in-person and on Zoom.
General Business

Consent Items: Action Items

Membership & Meter Report (approved unanimously)

August 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

(approved unanimously)

Informational Item: Committee Chair Reports

Finance, Audit & Rates – Jacob Gray, Chair.

The committee has not met but will have a meeting on Sept. 30.

Energy Services – Steve Metheny, Chair.

Metheny said, "We did not have a meeting."

Member Relations – Kevin Williams, Chair.

Williams said, "We have not met since the last meeting."

Executive – Stacia Cannon, Chair.

The committee has not met since the last meeting.

Informational Item: CEO Report Jack Johnston.

Johnston said, "No MED (Major Event Day) for the month.. One MED in July, the racoon event. Overall, we were able to rebound on the SAIDI [System Average Interruption Duration Index]. System design is one to two weeks out. Meter exchange, three new ones. No movement on energy assessments. Water is still running. Some shut offs [ditches] a few weeks ago; it depends on where you live."

During discussions acronyms often make their way into the conversation. Johnston said, "We need to spell out acronyms before we publish [for public consumption]."
Johnston continued with his report, "The grant for the middle-mile [\$3.8M] in Elevate, we have a \$1.2M match. We're hoping to get all of the match paid for by others. We've been working on all the underground [fiber]for five or six years. We are close to fully staffed. With operations, most of the risk for wildfire mitigation has gone down. We have attended meetings on vegetation management and cyber security. In phishing avoidance, 17 folks had unapproved activity. IT gave us some situations to help us."

Director Sedgley asked about AI and Johnston said, "We talk AI pretty regularly."

Returning to the topic of phishing, Williams asked about the 17 employees that got caught. Johnston said, "The phishing trophy went to the department with the most [offenders]."

In self-defense Chief Engineering and Energy Officer Mateusz Pena said, "NOT me! It was my department."

Johnston's report included changes in positions/titles, the success of Friday Night Lights (two more events scheduled), operation margins strong and healthy, revenue forecasting within the margins, operation expenses trending well, and fuel costs.

Reporting on Operation Round-Up, Executive Director Amy Gavell said, "We have 15 new sign-ups in Montrose and 13 in Delta. We've given out just over \$11,000. We had 27 applications, which we think was an anomaly; usually we average 10 to 15 applications."

Informational Item: Affiliated Organizations & Education Reports.

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

Johnston said, "On August 27 we had a board meeting. I have the VP position on the board; the position is a two-year rotation. We combined the secretary/ treasurer position. I'm chair of the Audit Committee, and we had a great audit. We have strong financial gross margins, sales are up, there is a drop in contractors. The backlog [COVID related] continues to trail downwards.

We welcomed our 100th member. Things are going well with United."

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

Lockhart said, "We had a meeting on August 27 and 28. I attended on the 28th. Nothing major or unusual with committee stuff. There is the Innovation Summit on October 31st. I don't have a crystal ball, and no sense of what legislation will have legs. I assume data centers will be introduced."

Conferences, Webinars & Meetings:

Gray attended a Sept. 14 CFC Financial Forecast meeting.

Sedgley participated in a podcast on using AI to find pockets of Geothermal.

Action Item: Other Items

Electric Service Rules & Regulations

Following lengthy board discussion, Resolution 2026-10 (Electric Service Rules and Regulations) was approved with three edits. The document will go into effect 30 days after adoption. Johnston said, "This was a big, big project. The board and staff can celebrate."

Capital Budget Amendment

Background: The capital budget amendment for \$580,000 was for an overhead-to-underground replacement and conversion project at Grand

Mesa Island Lake. Originally budgeted in 2023, it took three years to get the permits.

A budget amendment was approved unanimously

Metheny said, "This is the power of co-ops all working together to make sure all of our members have an adequate power supply."

Member Comments

There were no member comments.

Capital Credit Community Fund Donation Requests

Montrose Community Foundation applied for \$15,000. Executive Director Diane Bridges (on Zoom) said, "This is for our new building. In 37 years, we have never had our own home. We need help with the outside; stripping around doors, gutters, and painting on the awning."

Bridges was asked to explain the work of the Community Foundation. She said, "We are a non-profit. We administer and manage funds for scholarships, sponsor events, community impact grants, — a lot of scholarships. Last year \$96,000 was given out." It was noted

that the Community Foundation administers scholarship funds for DMEA. No address or location was given for the new facility.

Grand Mesa Pickleball applied for \$120,000. Karen Grant, Chairman for the Grand Mesa Pickleball Fundraising Committee began her presentation by questioning the board about their opinion on the importance of recreating. She said, "Cedaredge is in desperate need of recreation. We have the worst tennis courts [constructed of asphalt in 2006]. We have just two courts and are not able to hold competitions. People must drive 36 miles round trip for tennis. To date [since 2025] the community has raised \$120,000 in donations. We are asking DMEA for a matching grant. We are pursuing other grants." The project proposal is for pickleball courts, as well as tennis courts.

Grant said, "The town of Cedaredge will be responsible for upkeep and maintenance. The school district has donated the land. The top priority project for Cedaredge is a recreation project."

Bergen Spay & Neuter Alliance applied for \$17,000. This Fruita establishment is a 501(c)(3) who offers low cost spay and neuter clinics to rural areas. The Alliance requested funding for Delta and Montrose Counties. Elaine

Continued next pg

DMEA AWARDS GRANT TO MCF FOR NEW BUILDING From previous pg

Johnson said, "There are 4,000 dogs and cats in Montrose and Delta. The cost is \$35 for dogs, \$25 for cats, and feral cats are free. This includes two core vaccines and a microchip."

Co-presenter Kristin on Zoom said, "Next year in March at Montrose we will have a clinic, and in November a clinic in Delta. Next year we want to focus on the Western Slope."

Executive Session

-Capital Credit Community Fund Donation Requests (Montrose Community Foundation, Grand Mesa Pickleball, and Bergen Spay & Neuter Alliance)

-Privileged CEO Report (Proposed Rate Change Timeline & Communication Plan, and DMEA/Elevate Tax Returns)

-Confidential Corporate, Litigation and Regulatory Matters (Legislative Discussion and Legal Advice on Meetings and Materials)

-Confidential Board Governance Matters
Executive Session Summary – Amy Gavell, Chief of Staff.

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

"Upon motion from Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Sedgeley, the Board unanimously approved a Capital Credit Community (CCC) fund donation to the Montrose Community Foundation for \$15,000 for the purpose outlined in its application.

Upon motion from Director Lockhart, seconded by Director Heuscher, the Board unanimously denied the Capital Credit Community (CCC) fund donation request as presented by Grand Mesa Pickleball, instead approving a letter of commitment for an in-kind donation of DMEA work to aid in lighting improvements up to \$20,000, for the purpose outlined in its application, pending reapplication for funding with the letter of commitment by December 31st, 2028.

Upon motion from Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Heuscher, the Board unanimously denied the Capital Credit Community (CCC) fund donation request as presented by Bergen Spay & Neuter Alliance."

Background

During meetings the board hears verbal summary reports of their monthly meetings and activities. Co-op membership has access to some of the written staff reports submitted for board

approval, i.e., minutes of the previous meeting, CEO report, and action items (resolutions).

Following the meeting members can access packet information through SmartHub, the online service which allows members to manage their DMEA accounts.

Board Contact Information

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Dist. 7 – Enno Heuscher, 970-270-6523,
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Dist. 9 - (South Region) Ken Norris,
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOREST SERVICE TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROAD

Special to the Mirror

GUNNISON— The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests will temporarily close National Forest System Road 788 (NFSR 788) near the Cebolla No. 7 bridge to allow crews to install a temporary bridge over Cebolla Creek. The closure begins Monday, Sept. 28, and is expected to remain in place through Friday, Oct. 2, weather and operations permitting.

The temporary closure is necessary to protect public and construction crew safety while heavy equipment operates in the area and the temporary bridge is installed. The temporary bridge is needed to maintain access while longer-term work proceeds. Future work in the area will include installing additional temporary bridges and making short-term structural improvements to nearby crossings. Cebolla bridges No. 7, 8 and 9 will ultimately be replaced once funding becomes available.

Barricades will mark the closure zone and a signed alternative route will be available on NFSR 788. Because NFSR 788 connects Highway 149 on both ends, travelers can navigate around the closure using the opposite side of the loop. Residents or visitors north of the closure can travel north on NFSR 788 to Highway 149. Those south of the closure can travel south on NFSR 788 to Highway 149. This section of NFSR 788 essentially functions as a circular route, allowing access to Highway 149 from either direction.

For updates, please visit the official [GMUG website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION NAMES DR. JESSICA KALB INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Montrose County School District Board of Education voted Wednesday evening to appoint Dr. Jessica Kalb as Interim Superintendent. Kalb, the District's Executive Director of Academic Services, has served as Acting Superintendent since June and will continue leading the district in the interim role, effective immediately.

The appointment follows an internal selection process conducted by the Board of Education. Kalb was named the sole finalist for the Interim Superintendent position at the Board's September 8 meeting.

Dr. Kalb's connection to MCSD began long before she became an educator. She attended Morgan Elementary School and graduated from Olathe High School before returning to the district to begin her teaching career at Olathe Middle and High School.

Over the years, Kalb's ties to MCSD have grown from student to educator, district leader and parent. Since 2013, she has served as Executive Director of Academic Services, working alongside teachers, principals and district leaders to support teaching and learning across MCSD. She also raised two daughters who graduated from Montrose High School.

"This district has always been home for me," Kalb said. "I grew up in MCSD schools, began my career here as an educator and raised my own children here. Those experiences shape both how I understand MCSD and the responsibility I feel to the students, staff, families and communities we serve. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue the work we've been doing together since June."

Kalb will serve as Interim Superintendent through the end of the 2026–27 school year, providing continuity in district leadership as the Board looks ahead to the search for MCSD's next superintendent. Additional information about the search process will be shared as it becomes available.



Interim Superintendent Jessica Kalb. Courtesy photo.

COLORADO NEW BRIEFS

33% OF 2025 TRAFFIC FATALITIES INVOLVED SPEEDING

Special to the Mirror

STATEWIDE — The Colorado Department of Transportation's newly released Driving Behavior Report states that 73% of Coloradans say they speed on main highways at least some of the time. Additionally, 69% of Coloradans say they do the same on local highways. Speeding is a major factor in crashes in Colorado and contributed to 234 deaths in 2025, 33% of total traffic fatalities that year.

"It is well known that increased speed elevates the chance of a fatality in the event of a crash," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Yet, despite the risk, too many Coloradans continue to drive over the posted limit. The faster you go, the longer the stopping distance and the greater the force at impact, so please slow down. Driving the speed limit could give you time to react and avoid a violent crash."

According to a study performed by AAA, at 31 mph, the odds of a pedestrian being killed when struck by a car is 50%. That risk increases to 75% at 39 mph and 90% at 46 mph. That means driving 45 mph in a 35 mph zone nearly doubles a pedestrian's risk of being killed if hit by a vehicle. Additionally, at 30 mph, a car's stopping distance is 75 feet. At 40 mph, a car's stopping distance increases to 118 feet, increasing the amount of time and space needed to react to an unexpected event on the road.

VOTE *Yes* CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS



NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

+ HIGHER VOTER TURNOUT

+ LOWER CITY EXPENSES



COUNCIL TERM LIMITS

+ 8 YEAR LIFETIME CAP

+ NEW VOICES - FRESH IDEAS



CHIEF & CLERK HIRING

+ RESTORE COUNCIL OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Paid for by Montrose County Republican Central Committee; Registered Agent: John Felsing.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE "NO" ON CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Editor:

The proposed changes as presented by "the team" on our city council are unnecessary and do not improve the charter. Another example of fixing problems that don't exist.

The existing structure of the management of the police chief and city clerk have served our city well. We are fortunate to have quality individuals in both positions. I can't say the same for "the team" trying to change this and insert more influence.

The current term limits wording falls in line with the state constitution. Again, there is no problem that needs to be fixed.

Keeping municipal elections separate from state/federal helps reduce partisanship. I agree it is hard to tell, but we need to do our best to keep municipal elections free from party influence.

Steve Welch, Montrose

REPUBLICAN VOTER HAS HAD ENOUGH OF TRUMP

Editor:

Donald Trump, with his war, tariffs, huge debt, and inflation, which he caused, is a total ass. Don't worry, we're going to vote Republican, but it's lucky he isn't running, because it would be history's greatest defeat.

Has there ever been, in all of history, anyone who has had an ego to compare with Trump's? Have we ever had a President who destroyed part of the White House without asking anyone, or will try to destroy, build, or ruin anything, unless his name is on it? Every time I see him on the boob tube, I change the channel. I loved him and sent him money. Do I get a refund?

He ran on closing the border, reducing the size of government, and no more wars. He did the first, but what he has done since, is not what he ran on. What happened to campaign promises?

I inherited nothing, and paid \$1700 to bury my Mom, but I'm fine, smart, healthy, well off, my kids turned out great, and owe no one anything. I'm 92, look younger than Trump, and I am maybe a lot smarter.

Take my name off of all your lists

Don Stott, Montrose

SO ABOUT THAT MASTER PLAN...

Editor:

For anyone concerned about dense housing development outside certain areas defined by the county's master plan, it's important to let your voice be heard at the 10/7 meeting of the board of County commissioners at 9 AM on the third floor of the courthouse. As the population of Montrose grows, developers are jumping on any opportunity to buy up prime farmland and build luxury homes. Montrose County residents contributed to the creation of a master plan that restricts such subdivisions to parameters much closer to the city limits. Subdividing land into 1 acre and 2 acre parcels for single family homes in outlying areas that are currently dense with farming and ranching violate the master plan. Developers are clever in their workarounds though. Start small and get approval for a few parcels, but keep coming back to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners to further subdivide the same land. Keep chipping away at a larger area. Before you know it, the master plan is meaningless!

Lisa Reynolds, Montrose



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34th 2026 ANNUAL

BOSOM BUDDIES

Breast Cancer Support Group of Southwestern Colorado

5K WALK/RUN • 10K RUN

SATURDAY October 10th

MONTROSE PAVILION

**8AM
REGISTRATION**

**9AM
WALK/RUN**



STRONGER TOGETHER!



**Use QR Code to Pre-Register: \$35
Event Day Registration: \$40**

Or register online **BosomBuddiesSWC.org**

REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

CITY NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION VACANCIES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is accepting applications for three vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission. Applications are due by 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2026. The city encourages community members with prior experience or an interest in historic preservation to apply.

The Historic Preservation Commission serves as the evaluative body for historic properties in the City of Montrose, providing recommendations to the City Council on historic property designations, assisting with public education regarding municipal history and historic preservation, and reviewing best practices for designation standards and preservation efforts throughout the community.

[Historic Preservation](#) Commissioners are appointed by the City Council. At least 60% of the Commission's members are residents of the city, and at least 40% of them are professionals or individuals with extensive expertise in a preservation-related discipline, including but not limited to history, architecture, landscape architecture, American studies, American civilization, cultural geography, cultural anthropology, planning, or archaeology.

To learn more about the Commission, please visit www.cityofmontrose.org/History. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 E. Main Street, at www.CityofMontrose.org/History, or by calling the City Clerk's Office at [970.240.1430](tel:970.240.1430).

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

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AWAKEN

SUN 1/17
ENGAGE

MON 1/18
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3rd ANNUAL UNCOMPAHGRE POW WOW

Hosted by the Western Slope Native American Resource Center & the Ute Indian Museum

OCTOBER 16 & 17, 2026

Montrose County Event Center 1036 N 7TH ST, MONTROSE, CO

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

Head Lady Dancer

Jacqueline Cantsee
Ute Mountain Ute/Navajo
Towaoc, CO

Drum Judge

Phillip Manning
Ute Indian Tribe
Salt Lake City, UT

Dance Judge Male categories

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

Dance Judge Female categories

December Arrow-White
Lemhi Shoshone
Fort Hall, Idaho

Northern Drum

Mato Pejuta
Isanti Dakota
Santee, NE

Southern Drum

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

Color Guard

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55+ Women's Special- All category T/J/F - Winner Take All
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Men's Traditional Sneak Up Special - 18 years and up

Prizes to be announced

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(COMBINED)

1ST PLACE - \$5,000 / 2ND PLACE - \$3,500 / 3RD PLACE - \$2,000

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Paid Daily

GOLDEN AGES (50+)

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Women's - Combined All Categories

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

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)

Boys - Traditional (Combined), Grass, Fancy

Girls - Traditional (Combined), Jingle, Fancy

1ST PLACE - \$300 / 2ND PLACE - \$100 / 3RD PLACE - \$75

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MONTROSE PRESS



RE-1J BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTES TO APPROVE JESSICA KALB AS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



The RE-1J Board of Education has appointed Dr. Jessica Kalb, at left, as Interim Superintendent. Meeting Screenshot.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, Sept. 23, the Montrose County School District RE-1J Board of Education met for a special meeting.

All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and sharing a moment of silence.

All directors were present, with District D Director Tom West taking his seat just as it was his turn to vote on approving the meeting Agenda, which was unanimously approved.

Directors include Board President Neisha Balleck; Vice President Ted Valerio; District D Director Tom West; District E Director Tiffany Vincent; District F Director Jody Hovde; District G Director Shane Daly; and District C Director Scott Scarborough.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

The Board spent time in discussion, ultimately voting to approve appointment of the 2026-2027 District Accountability Committee membership consistent with C.R.S. § 22-11-301 and District policy. According to the Meeting Agenda, "The roster is provided as a starting point for the Board's consideration based largely on individuals currently participating in the DAC. The Board will determine the final appointments."

[The Roster](#) is included in the meeting packet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board considered four items in Executive Session:

- Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) and 24-6-402(4)(e)(I), for a conference with the Board's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions, and for determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators, concerning threatened litigation against the District by a former employee - President Balleck;
- Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b), for a conference with the Board's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions concerning the recent investigation involving Olathe Elementary School and whether a written investigative report should be prepared - President Balleck;
- Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b), for a conference with the Board's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions concerning state assessment administration and reporting obligations - President Balleck; and
- Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 24-6-402(4)(b) and 24-6-402(4)(e)(I), for a conference with the Board's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions, and for determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators, concerning the Interim Superintendent Employment Agreement - President Balleck.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon returning to regular session, the Board voted to appoint Dr. Jessica Kalb as Interim Superintendent and to approve her Employment Agreement as presented in Executive Session.

A planned work session to follow the Special Meeting was cancelled.

With no further business the Special Meeting was adjourned.

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- Nicely maintained home with many custom details
- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
- Large main suite with 5 piece bath & jetted tub, exceptional closet
- Spacious laundry/mudroom
- Covered patio and mature landscaping
- 1500 sq ft barn/workshop with additional garage
- 3 stall loafing shed and chicken house
- Just minutes from Main Street
- No covenants



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WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK?

Saturday September 26 was a good day in Montrose.

Families and veterans gathered at the [Montrose Veterans Memorial](#) site next to the Botanical Gardens on Pavilion Drive where 650 tribute bricks were laid around the walkways. It was a quiet, moving morning.

Contact the [Welcome Home Alliance for Veterans](#) if you wish to have a brick for one of your Veteran family or friends laid at the memorial in the next round.

That same afternoon, Oktoberfest filled the Rotary Amphitheatre at Cerise Park. The beer tasting was busy, the music held up, and the crowd showed up.

Fall colors started appearing in the high country. You can feel fall coming to the valley.

What is Happening this week?

No regular City Council or Work Session meetings this week.

Work does continue in the neighborhoods. Starting Monday, Cobble Drive between 6450 Road and Chipeta Road closes for waterline work tied to the Hub apartment project. 6450 Road follows on Wednesday. Access into Cobble Creek will stay open.

Saturday, October 3, [Southwest Fresh Fest](#) is at Billy Goat Hop Farm.

Coming the Week of October 5th

Council will interview applicants for the District IV seat at the October 5 work session and vote on an appointment followed by the swearing in of the new council member October 6.

Ballots for the November 3 election go in the mail the week of October 5. Take time now to study the proposed City Charter amendments so you can make an informed decision when that envelope arrives. [The full text is on the city's website.](#)

www.cityofmontrose.org

Thank you,

Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"

Mayor, Montrose, CO



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LESLIE GORE

BROKER ASSOCIATE

RELENTLESS MOVES

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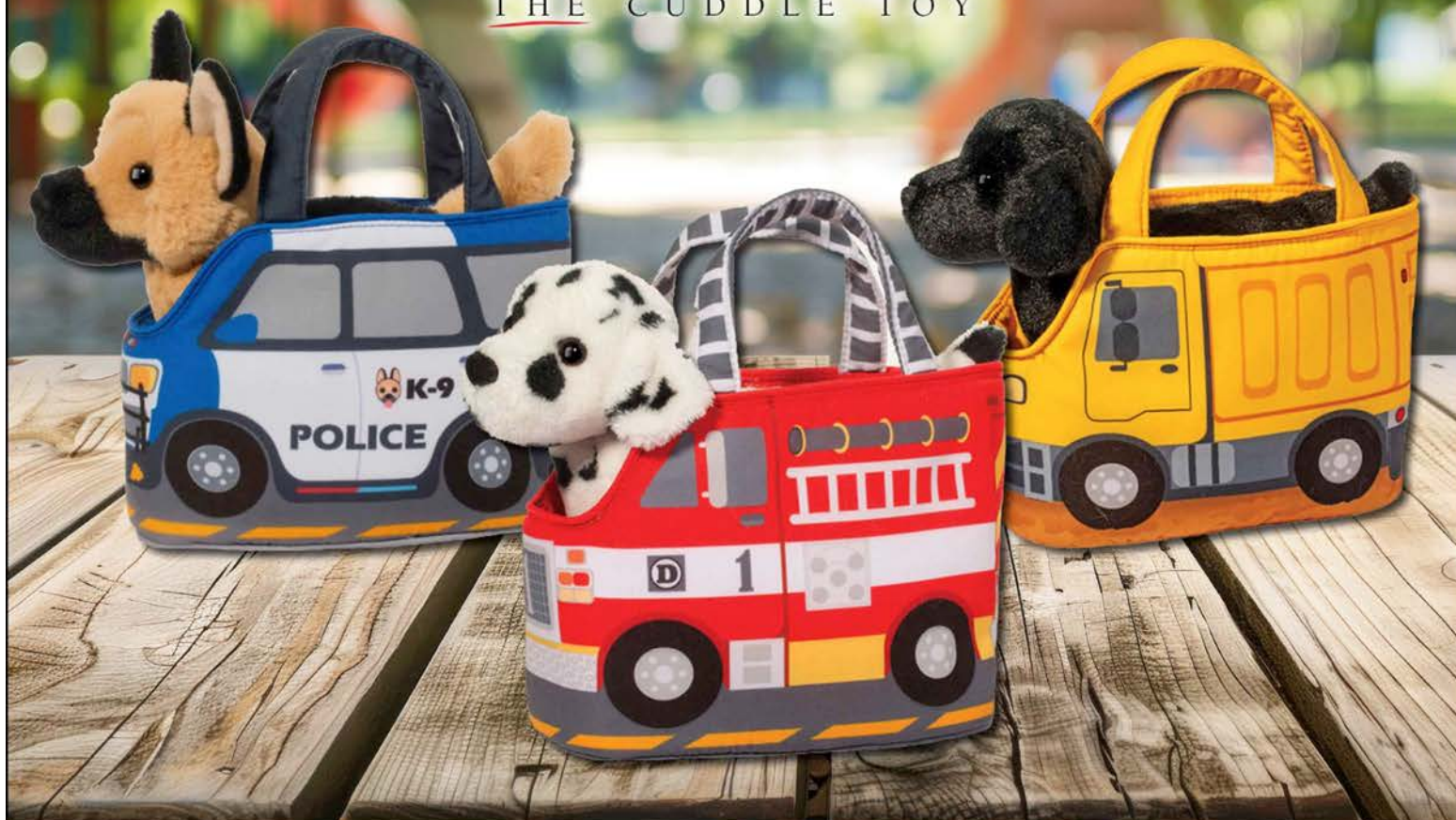
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Legal Resource Days 2026 7th Judicial District

October 28th - 29th

Montrose Combined Courts
1200 North Grand Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401

Event to be held in Montrose
for all counties in the 7th Judicial District;
Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Nucla,
Ouray and San Miguel



ATTEND **FREE** SESSIONS AND LEARN ABOUT:

DAY ONE Wednesday 10/28	COMMUNITY RESOURCES	DAY TWO Thursday 10/29
<u>9:00 a.m.</u> <u>PARENTING EDUCATION WORKSHOP</u> Families in Transition (FIT) Presented by: <i>CASA</i>	Colorado Legal Services (CLS) Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid (UVLA) Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) County Child Support Services Hilltop Community Resources San Miguel Resource Services Hispanic Affairs Project	<u>10:00 A.M.</u> <u>COMPLETE EVICTION PROCESS</u> From Service of Notice through Writ of Restitution Enforcement Presented by: <i>Lindsey Watson CLS</i>
<u>1:00 p.m.</u> <u>CHILD SUPPORT</u> Child Support Services Informational Presentation Presented by: <i>Adriana Hartley CSS</i>		<u>1:00 P.M.</u> <u>CONTESTED FAMILY LAW CASES</u> Family Court Presented by: <i>Andrea Rosenberry CLS</i>
		<u>2:30 P.M.</u> <u>EVIDENCE</u> Evidence for Self-Represented Parties Presented by: <i>Andrea Rosenberry CLS</i>

Consult an Attorney

30-minute appointments are available to speak with an attorney in the areas of family law, probate, and civil (money cases, landlord/tenant, small claims).

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Committee

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Octubre 28 y 29, 2026

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Montrose, Nucla, Ouray y San Miguel



ASISTA A LAS SESIONES GRATUITAS Y APRENDA ACERCA DE:

DÍA UNO Miércoles 10/28	RECURSOS COMUNITARIOS	DÍA DOS Jueves 10/29
9:00 a.m. CLASE PARA PADRES Families in Transition (FIT) Presentado por: CASA	Colorado Legal Services (CLS) Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid (UVLA) Court Appointed Special Advocate (Defensor especial nombrado por el tribunal)(CASA) Servicios de Manutención Infantil del Condado Recursos comunitarios Hilltop Servicios de Recursos San Miguel Proyecto de Asuntos Hispanos	10:00 a.m. PROCESO COMPLETO DE DESALOJOS Desde la notificación judicial hasta la aplicación del auto de restitución Presentado por: Lindsey Watson CLS
1:00 p.m. MANUTENCIÓN INFANTIL Child Support Services Informational Presentation Presentado por: Adriana Hartley CSS		1:00 p.m. CASOS CONTENCIOSOS DE DERECHO DE FAMILIA Tribunal de causas de derecho de familia Presentado por: Andrea Rosenberry CLS
		2:30 p.m. PRUEBAS Presentación de pruebas para partes representadas por sí mismos Presentado por: Andrea Rosenberry CLS

Consulta con un abogado

Se ofrecen citas de 30 minutos para hablar con un abogado especializado en derecho de familia, relacionado con el proceso sucesorio y derecho civil (asuntos económicos, relaciones entre arrendadores y arrendatarios, reclamos de menor cuantía).

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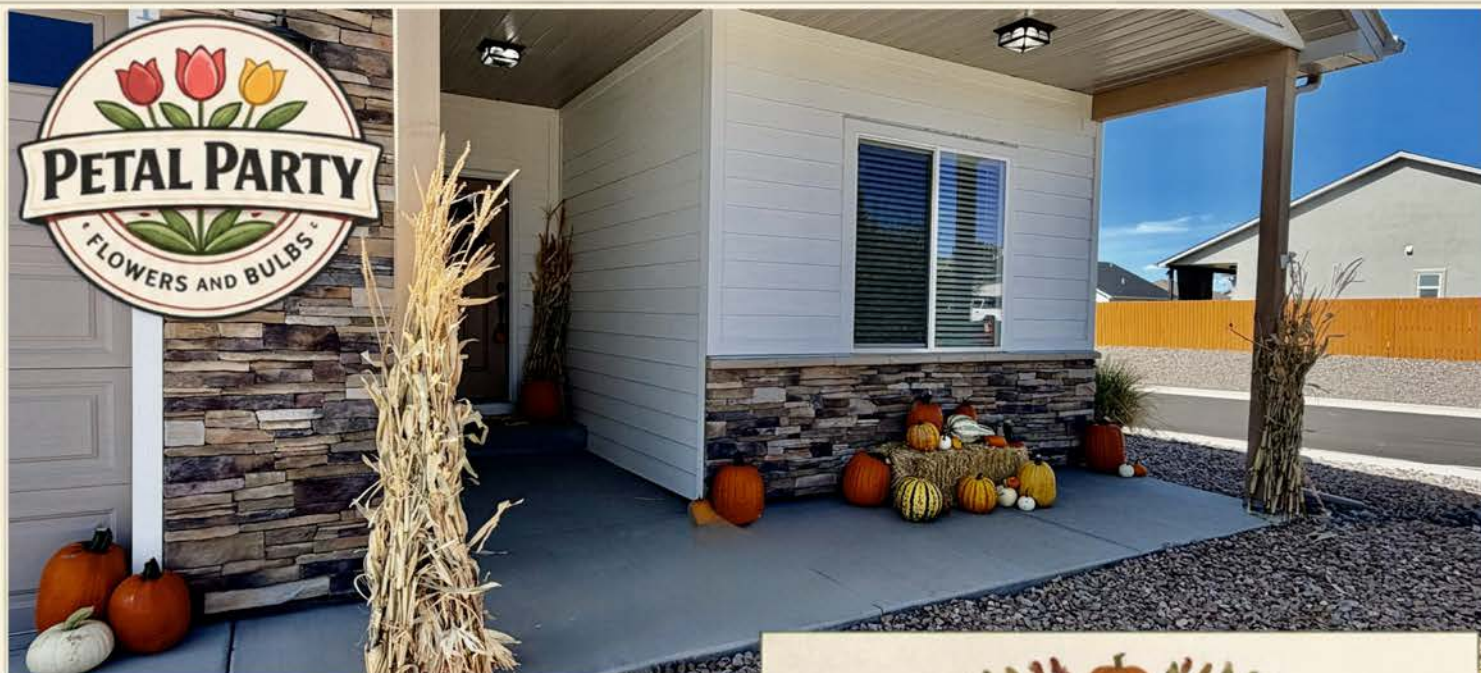
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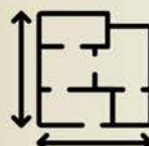
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE INTEGRITY OF AN ELECTION IS IN THE DETAILS-PART 2

Editor,

Continuation of an article I wrote in The Mirror on September 21st, the integrity of an election is in the DETAILS. Elections are very complex!

Both Title 31 and Title 1 in the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) are lengthy and complicated legal documents governing elections. There are specific election rules and processes to follow and consequences, if not followed.

DETAIL # 3. Who governs Municipal elections in the City of Montrose?

Article 10 in Title 31 of the C.R.S. is the state code that outlines the powers, organization, and rules for Municipalities (cities and towns) in Colorado.

The administration and oversight of Municipal elections in April are handled by the Designated Election Official (DEO), the City Clerk Lisa DelPiccolo. Lisa is appointed as the DEO by City officials; she is recognized as the DEO in the Agreement For Services (AFS) between the City and the County. Under Title 31-10-104. Powers of City clerk and deputy. (1) Except where otherwise provided in this article, the clerk shall render all interpretations and shall make all initial decisions as to controversies or other matters arising in the operation of this article. The 7th Judicial District Attorney (DA) does play a specific legal role regarding Title 31. The DA is the statutory designated authority for investigating and prosecuting criminal offenses or violations of the Colorado Municipal Election Code.

DETAIL # 4. Who governs elections in the County Elections Office?

The County Elections Office is governed by the Colorado Revised Statutes Title 1, Article 1-1-102. This code applies to all general, primary, congressional vacancy, school district, special district, ballot issue, and other authorized elections unless otherwise provided by this code. This code applies to any municipal election conducted as part of a coordinated election except to the extent that this code conflicts with a specific charter provision. Any municipality may provide by ordinance or resolution that it will utilize the requirements and procedures of this code in

lieu of the "Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965", article 10 of title 31, C.R.S., with respect to any election.

Tressa Guynes, the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder is the DEO and responsible for General Elections held in November in Montrose County. The Colorado Secretary of State oversees election administration, manages election security, interprets and defends election law, and ensures that every election is conducted securely, accessibly, and accurately.

DETAIL # 5. What measures are in place to provide security for City elections?

Lisa DelPiccolo, the DEO for City elections, is located at 400 E. Main Street. Since the City holds their Municipal Councilor elections every other year in April of even-numbered years, they don't have a designated election area. Lisa reported their election office is "portable, in nature". This must be a shared space or conference room also used as an election office. Lisa would not agree to meet with me. The City has no measures used to monitor unauthorized access to the ballots. She confirmed there is no video surveillance in the shared areas used for the elections.

The City has no electronic tabulator equipment for ballot counting. There has not been a need because of the contractual Agreement with the County for the City to take ALL ballots to the County to be tabulated. The signed AFS states all ballots.

Also, all ballots are required to be transported in a sealed metal ballot transport box, in dual control with a recorded chain-of-custody log. On April 7 election night, Lisa was observed hand-carrying the 42 "remnant ballots" from the County building in her arms, without any of the required security measures.

DETAIL # 6. What measures are in place to provide security at the Montrose County Elections Office?

The Montrose County Clerk and Recorder's Office is located at 317 S. Second Street. The County Elections Office is in a secure section of this building. Only County election officials have access to this part of the building. Any unauthorized must be escorted by the election official, who must scan their employee badge and enter their personal code to access any of these locked rooms.

All election equipment and supplies are stored in

a secured room, all having 24/7/365 video surveillance and a monitoring security system. When the City brings their ballots to the County building for counting, once scanned their bins of ballots are stored in a locked secured room.

In the County Elections Office, there is a total of 28 election area video surveillance cameras running 24/7/365 in these secured areas. This includes everywhere a ballot is handled and stored: the 24/7 drop box, ballot receiving, signature verification, ballot processing, scanning/counting, and storage of the ballots and election records.

The electronic ballot tabulator system at the County Elections Office is an Optical Scanner that electronically scans paper ballots, then tallies the results after 7pm on election night. The scanner captures the marked ovals to count a vote and give a tally of all accepted ballots. No voter identification or notes made by the voter on their ballot are included, only the marks made within the ovals impact the vote. The election judges have already separated the voter's reply envelope from the ballot during ballot processing. These return envelopes are also stored in a secure room. Before each Municipal election, the County Clerk assists the City Clerk to carry out a Logic and Accuracy test (LAT) which tests the electronic ballot tabulator equipment to ensure it is accurately recording the votes made on paper ballots. The electronic tally is compared to a hand count of those ballots. The public can come watch the test and the results of those tests are made public. The County count room with the ballot tabulator is in a separate secure room requiring 2-factor authentication for access. This electronic equipment is never connected to the internet. Only authorized people are allowed in this room. On Municipal Election night, only the City Clerk, City Election Judges and County Elections staff are allowed in the tabulation room.

As of election night April 7, 2026, the City brought the 5,350 ballots and the 42 "remnant" ballots to be scanned and counted by the County. Since the City still had a number of ballots back at City Hall, it was determined to hold the 42 remnant ballots to

Continued next pg

THE INTEGRITY OF AN ELECTION IS IN THE DETAILS-PART 2

from previous pg

add with the 41 ballots remaining at City Hall after the 8-day signature verification cure. The County had agreed to hold those last 42 ballots in a secure box until the City returned for a final tally. However, Lisa chose to take the last 42 with her back to City Hall, again unsecured.

Remember Lisa refused to bring back those final 83 (42+41) ballots to be scanned and tallied by the County, but chose to hand count the final 83 ballots adding this to her total of 5,433 votes cast, which she reported to the Canvass Board on April 17, 2026 to certify the election.

After August 3rd when Lisa made her public announcement of her hand-count, I requested a meeting with Tressa to hear the County's position. Tressa gladly gave me a tour of the building and answered all of my questions. The security for the County areas of the building used year-around (prior to, during and after an election) far surpassed any expectations I had. The Elections Office is truly amazing!

DETAIL # 7. What method is used to count

ballots by the City?

It's the counting of the mail-in paper ballots that takes center stage during an election. One of those annoying DETAILS!

The following statement is in Section 31-10-910 - 3.5 of Title 31 "Mail ballots must be counted in the same manner provided by section 31-10-610 for counting paper ballots or section 31-10-811 for counting electronic ballots." Perhaps there are City Charter exceptions to this ballot counting law that I have not been made aware of, but Lisa announced she used two methods of counting in the April 7th election. They had 5,350 ballots tabulated on the electronic ballot tabulator equipment at the County Elections Office (CO law 31-10-811), then Lisa added the 83 hand-counted ballots (CO law 31-10-610).

She clearly used two different counting methods in the two different locations. Is this in compliance with CO law which states "in the same manner"?

Lisa's decision to not tabulate all of the ballots in the same manner is not only a breach of the AFS, but raises questions and concerns among

many voters. Title 31, as stated above, gives Lisa complete authority. Many think this was a bad judgement call on her part. I confirmed with Tressa that Lisa could still take those last 83 and have the County scan and tally. Only time will tell what she decides to do with these ballots.

DETAIL # 8. What method is used to count ballots by the County Elections Office? All ballots for all elections are tabulated on the electronic ballot tabulator equipment. There is only one method of counting and the method follows all laws and guidelines in Title 1, and is in full compliance with state and federal rules.

Title 31 and Title 1 can be reviewed on several internet websites. I challenge you to learn more about required election procedures and responsibilities for elections. It certainly makes for interesting reading and conversation if you are as curious as I am about the DETAILS of an election.

Be informed and vote YES to move the Municipal election date to November. More next week - Patty Greeves

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THE MORNING AT A GLANCE

- 8:00 AM
- Doors Open — Breakfast, Networking & Expo Marketplace
- 9:00 AM
- Welcome & Sponsor Recognition — Tonya Maddox, Our Town Matters
- 9:10 AM
- Montrose County Address — Joe Kerby, County Manager
- 9:20 AM
- Panel Discussion — moderated by Justin Tubbs, Montrose Business Times
- 10:15 AM
- Keynote: 2027 Economic Outlook — Dr. Nathan Perry
- 11:30 AM
- Audience Q&A — Dr. Perry + Panelists
- 11:45 AM
- Closing Remarks & Door Prizes
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- Adjourn

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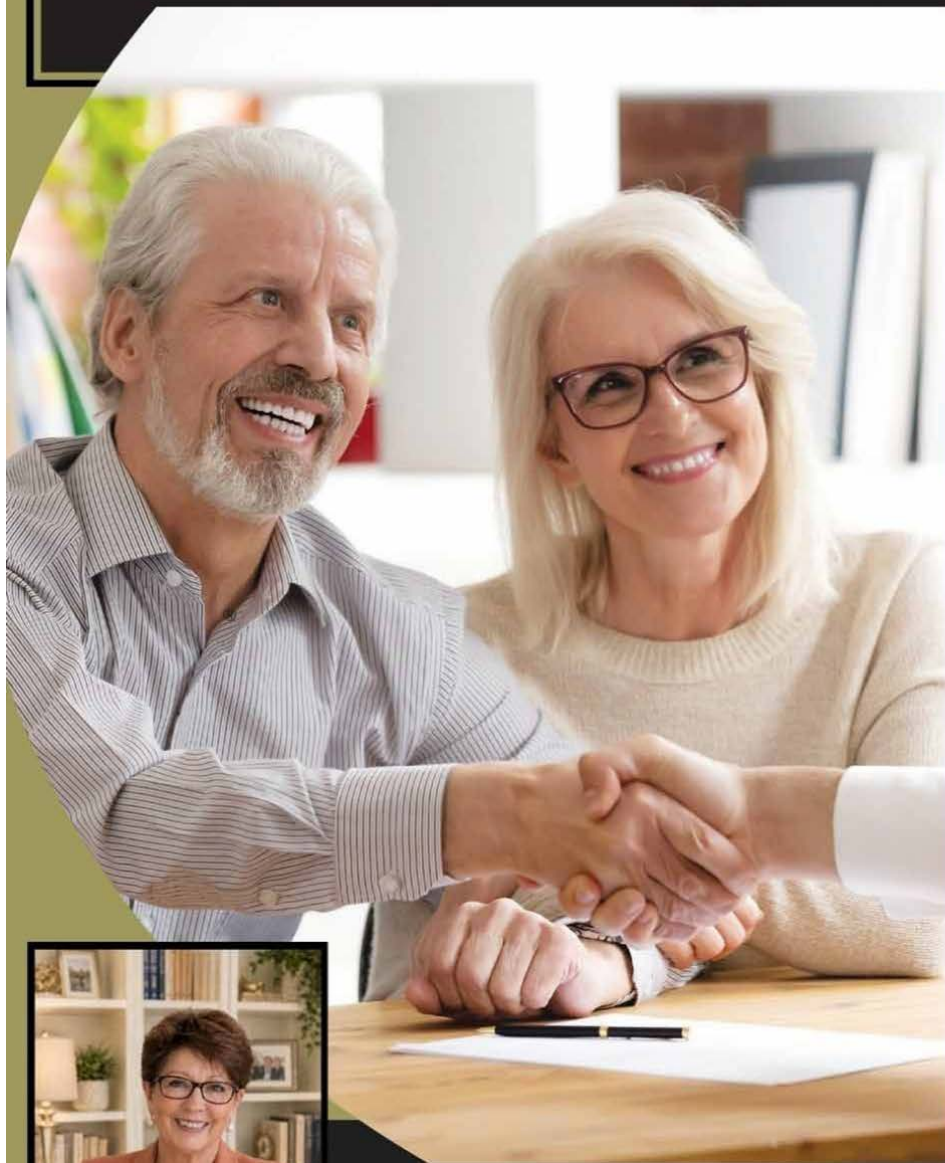


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A LETTER REGARDING THE CITY MANAGER

Editor, Montrose Daily Press

Montrose is a Home Rule City. Its Charter creates 3 branches of government: Judicial (municipal court and city attorney), Executive (city manager), Legislative (city council). Exceptional existing power in the Charter is given to the City Council whose members are the only elected offices. These powers are to hire/fire the city manager, the city attorney, and the municipal judge. However, once the city manager is hired, this person controls the hiring/firing of all other city employees including (without limitation) the municipal clerk and police chief. The council members no longer deal directly with the manager's employees. This "chain of command" in the city is clear and direct. The council sets policy through adoption of Ordinances and the manager carries them out in the day to day operation of the city.

Two of the proposed Charter Amendments seek to alter this chain of command by affording the council control over the hiring and firing of two of the manager's employees: the police chief and the municipal clerk. What is the reason for such a change? Our Mayor says the amendments, if approved at the upcoming election, only give the council a "check" on the existing power of the manager to hire/fire these two employees. Is this proposed power merely a "check" or is it "control"? My opinion is that it amounts to "control". Because the council at any time will then have both the power to hire/fire the manager for any reason and the power to approve/disapprove the manager's hiring/firing of these two employees. Therefore, if the council disapproves any actions taken by the Police Chief, and/or Clerk it can simply force the manager to fire them and hire a new police chief/clerk who pleases the council. This turns the so called "check" into a "power play". This additional power is particularly risky in the case of the municipal clerk who oversees municipal elections. These are the elections for existing city Council persons, two of whom may be on the ballot for the next municipal election.

Recently our Council made a move to investigate our municipal clerk completely bypassing the city Manager in the process. We lost a good Manager and the Clerk may be the next one to go. These Amendments, if passed will afford the Council too much control over both the Manager, the Clerk, and the Police Chief. The motives of the current Council for these changes are unclear, and their explanations are vague. Please join me in voting "NO" for these proposed Charter Amendments.

Tom Cheney, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A Non-Scholarly Response to Leah Vandersluis' opinion piece in the September 7th edition of the Montrose Mirror, titled "The Truth About The 1619 Project: A Tale of Two Colonies-Jamestown and Plymouth, Part 1" and other "opinion pieces"

Editor:

Leah Vandersluis' opinion piece in the September 7th edition of the Montrose Mirror, titled "The Truth About The 1619 Project: A Tale of Two Colonies-Jamestown and Plymouth, Part 1" caught my attention. It follows a trend that has been taking place throughout the country that weaves historical events into the political rhetoric and dialogue that people are using to justify partisanship, Christian Nationalism and non-representation in government agencies that have long been non-partisan, non-religious, and representative of the population for which they serve. In Vandersluis' piece, she makes an unconvincing case against the perils of socialism based mostly on mistruths, wrong historical dates and conflation of groups involved at different times and places. Without quoting each section of her piece, here are my observations:

1. She conflates three separate groups. Jamestown (1607) was founded by the Virginia Company — profit-seeking Anglican settlers, not religious dissenters. These settlers were not Puritans! The Puritan migration to Massachusetts Bay didn't happen until 1630, 23 years later. Plymouth's 1620 settlers were Separatist Pilgrims, a distinct group from the Puritans who came a decade after them. Calling the Jamestown colonists "Puritans" collapses three different groups with different origins, timelines, and motives into one. Facts matter.
2. John Smith was never "Governor." He was president of Jamestown's governing council in 1608–1609, a position, not a governorship (Virginia didn't have that title yet). He left in October 1609 after being badly burned in a gunpowder accident — there's no solid record that colonists tried to kill him over the "he who does not work, shall not eat" rule. Making it seem like the settlers were rebelling against a biblical theme of "if a man does not work, he does not eat" is ignoring the facts and manipulating history to try to make a point that these early settlers were "socialists" and expected to be taken care of.
3. "Socialism" is anachronistic. The word and concept didn't exist until the 19th century. Jamestown's early communal labor system was a joint-stock company structure set up by investors in London to pool risk — an economic arrangement, not an ideology imported from a "socialist monarchy."
4. The Mayflower Compact wasn't "the first civil government in North America." Jamestown itself had a governing council from 1607, and Virginia's House of Burgesses — the first elected representative assembly in English America — convened in July 1619, a full year before the Mayflower Compact which was signed in 1620.
5. "First free market business in the world in 1,000 years" is a false statement.

Where in the world did she ever come up with that? Markets, trade networks, and commerce were widespread throughout the medieval and early modern world — the Hanseatic League, Mediterranean and Islamic trade networks, Chinese and South Asian markets, the Silk Road, European trade fairs, etc. This claim ignores essentially ALL global economic history during that span.

6. Pocahontas's 1613 capture is mischaracterized. She was taken by Samuel Argall as leverage to negotiate the return of English prisoners and weapons held by Powhatan — not primarily a food-extortion tactic; it happened years after the "starving time," of 1609-1610 under different leadership (Thomas Dale), and the Jamestown Settlement was beginning to stabilize in terms of their food supply.

7. "Against slavery for a few decades" undersells Virginia's role. Enslaved Africans were present from 1619 onward as indentured/unfree labor; Virginia law progressively hardened race-based hereditary slavery through the 1640s–1660s. In 1662, the "partus sequitur ventrem statute" was passed. It was a legal doctrine dictating that the legal status of a child followed the legal status of their mother. It wasn't an anti-slavery colony that later relented — the institution was built up gradually through legislation.

8. "Paumanok Indians" is the Native name associated with Long Island tribes, not the Wampanoag people Plymouth traded with under Massasoit. Paumanok was the Algonquian name for Longmont Island.

The piece builds its "socialist vs. free market" and "Puritan vs. Pilgrim" framework on some significant factual conflations and a couple of outright false claims.

So, you ask, "what's your point?" My point is that when you read any opinion piece that makes an ideological claim or tries to justify partisan politics based on a false dialogue involving our earliest settlers, religious freedom seekers and founding fathers, check the facts first before picking up the banner and carrying it around as a justification for going in a political direction that ultimately becomes a separatist FACTION and deviates from mainstream representative government based on the history of the founding of our country.

Think about the current use by Mayor Badaghiacco, of the term "constitutional republic" in our Montrose City Council. Progressives sometimes see "constitutional republic" rhetoric to delegitimize democratic reforms (voting access expansion, direct democracy tools). Conservatives often use it to argue against what they see as judicial or bureaucratic overreach, or unconstrained majority rule. Both sides can also use it to argue against concentrated power. But I want to point out that the phrase is used to create FACTIONS.

The phrase is ambiguous — "republic" doesn't specify who the constitutional constraints are supposed to restrain (majorities? powerful individuals? vocal minorities? executives? courts? all the above?). That ambiguity is exactly what lets people on very different sides invoke it for their preferred outcome. The phrase "constitutional republic" didn't surface until the 19th Century. In 1861, Lincoln said in an

Continued next pg

A Non-Scholarly Response to Leah Vandersluis' opinion piece in the September 7th edition of the Montrose Mirror, titled "The Truth About The 1619 Project: A Tale of Two Colonies-Jamestown and Plymouth, Part 1" and other "opinion pieces" From previous pg

address to Congress, when talking about militant secession: "It presents to the whole family of man the question whether a constitutional republic, or democracy—a government of the people by the same people—can or cannot maintain its territorial integrity against its own domestic foes." But first president to utter the word "democracy" in an official capacity was John Quincy Adams. In his 1825 inaugural address, Adams referred to the United States as a "confederated representative democracy." So, the early founding fathers and the most impactful leaders in the 18th and 19th centuries didn't even use the term "constitutional republic".

What DID present as a reoccurring theme from the early days of the United States of America, was the danger of factions. Madison argued that while you cannot remove the cause of factions (human nature) without destroying liberty, a large "representative republic" can prevent power imbalance by forcing diverse groups to negotiate and compromise. George Washington, in his farewell address, called the spirit of party the "worst enemy" of popular government. He warned that factions distract public councils, enfeeble public administration, and cause opportunistic foreign influence or internal violence. These facts can be researched easily by looking at the writings of George Washington, the founding fathers, Abraham Lincoln, the Federalist Papers, and the Constitution of the United States of America. So, my point is that misinterpreting or misconstruing historical events to justify taking a stand against social movements, as Leah Vandersluis does in her article, or taking random quotes from the mountains of documents our founding fathers left us and piecing them together to create guiding political doctrine, as Mayor Badagliacco does, create a false view of history. That can bring about factions, as our founding fathers warned against, especially if the people who do so represent themselves as teachers of history. My advice is to take opinion pieces written by non-scholars with a grain of salt, and stick with the writings of historical scholars like Heather Cox Richardson, David McCullough, Gordon Wood or Howard Zinn.

Kim Spangrude, Montrose

A TOUGH TIME FOR THOSE OF US TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET

Dear editor,

According to data from the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the current annual U.S. inflation rate is 3.4% for the 12-month period ending in August 2026. However, that figure is very misleading and fails to capture the true cost of living. Consider the following additional expenses that my spouse and I have had to absorb this year alone on a fixed income..

- Auto insurance premium up 16.1%.
- Homeowners' insurance premium up 8.0%.
- Property tax increase of 7.7%.
- Medicare Part B monthly premium up 9.7%.
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- DMEA electric rate increase of 7.49%.
- Elevate Internet charge increase of 9%.
- City of Montrose sewer service charge increase of 22.0%.
- City of Montrose trash and recycling charge increase of 20.0%.
- City of Montrose water fee increase of 3.0%, plus 25 cents extra per thousand gallon.

According to the American Automobile Association, the average price for a gallon of gas in Colorado as of 9/21/26 was \$4.31, an increase from around \$3.12 to \$3.35 per gallon in September 2025. Colorado diesel prices have surged year over year, climbing from an average of roughly \$3.52 per gallon to a record high of \$6.13 per gallon. High diesel prices are rippling through the transportation and agriculture sectors.

And I'd be remiss not to mention the extent to which grocery prices have outpaced general inflation rates while many corporations have reduced package or product sizes.

This all adds up to a tough time for those of us trying to make ends meet, and it's high time our local, state and federal elected officials, no matter their party or political affiliation, took actionable steps to address their constituents' economic **pain**.

Kevin L. Williams

"I am a man crude as any...that I may have spoken well at times, is not natural. A wonder is what it is." - Wendell Berry

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—We are pleased to announce that in October our guest will be Steve Kries who will present stories of sheep ranching in the Uncompahgre River area. Mr. Kries, has worked with sheep shepherds and ranchers during every season. He has assisted shearing bosses during shearing, helped sort sheep in the fall and helped shepherds move sheep. He has lived with shepherds, eaten their food, and appreciated a space on the camp floor on a cold New Year's night. His story is not of a rancher or legal advocate, just an average fellow blessed by God to have been a part of the lives of over 150 shepherds and shearers from eight countries and more than 30 ranchers and foremen.

This presentation will be on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 7pm in the Pioneer Room at Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Please use the smaller door to the left of the main doors. It will be open at 6:30pm. As always, the program is open to the public and free to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. We hope you will join us!

DMEA TO CONDUCT DELTA COUNTY POLE INSPECTION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) is now inspecting power poles in Delta County to include Somerset, Grand Mesa, and Cedaredge. The inspections are expected to last throughout the fall. DMEA is contracting with SBS Inspections to conduct the work.

SBS Inspections may need to access members' properties by vehicle, ATV, or on foot to complete inspections. Their vehicles will be clearly marked with DMEA contractor labels. DMEA asks for its members' cooperation in allowing contractors access to poles located on private property. The pole inspection project is part of DMEA's power reliability and system maintenance program. For more information about DMEA's pole inspection process or property access, contact Wade Wilson, Delta Line Superintendent at 970-240-6897 or wade.wilson@dmea.com.

GUARDRAIL REPLACEMENT ON LASALLE ROAD BRIDGE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—Be advised that on Lasalle Road just West of Highway 50, the guardrails on the bridge over the Uncompahgre River are being replaced. This project is scheduled to begin Monday, Sept. 28. The area will be in a single lane closure with flaggers. Please slow down and stay alert in the construction zone for the safety of everyone.

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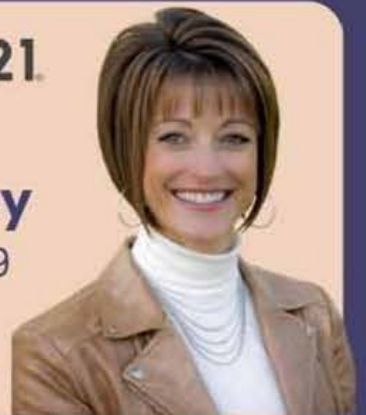
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE ARE ONE ELECTION AWAY FROM OPEN BORDERS AGAIN

Editor:

I enjoy writing these opinion pieces. The only difficulty I have is that I generate way too much information for a one-page letter. Week after week, liberals do so much crazy stuff it's hard to decide which of their ridiculous actions to write about. But when their nonsense keeps piling up, it would be rude to not write about at least some of it, right? This week the House Oversight's DOGE Committee launched an investigation into LA Mayor Karen Bass' handling of \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars being funneled through the LA Homeless Services Authority. Suddenly Mayor Bass is quite concerned about the expenditure of taxpayer dollars to investigate where \$1 billion in federal funds went. Spending money to investigate possible fraud is a waste of taxpayer dollars, but the actual fraud is just fine – nothing to see here folks. Bass has indicated that she can't testify before Congress “because of her schedule.” This is the same mayor who was on a junket to Ghana when major parts of her city were burning. It's also funny how Democrats don't care how much money is spent on attorneys when they are trying to falsify charges against Trump. Also this week, NC Democrat Shelly Headen saw fit to post photos and commentary from her visit to a Nazi death camp. One of her campaign posts shows her in front of the Dachau concentration camp ovens with the caption: “This is where Trump supporters belong.” She's smiling sweetly, as if she's visiting Disney World. In prior posts, she wrote: “I'm so excited! Ready for the MAGAs to die off!!” Also, “I think our only hope is an attack on US soil ... preferably Alabama, Louisiana ... where the stupid people live.” This coming from the party of “hate has no home here.”

Muslim NYC Mayor Mamdani continued his blatant disrespect for families of 9/11 victims, who had requested he not attend their memorial last week. Not only did he attend, but while the names of those killed on 9/11 were being read at Ground Zero, he and his Democrat Socialist ally Rep. AOC were smiling and giggling --- in sharp contrast to the mourners around them who stood silently, many of them weeping. Later that day it was revealed that this same Mamdani has posted pictures of the rap group The Diplomats every July 4th. That group is known for their obsession with 9/11 and refer to themselves as the “Dipset Taliban” or “Harlem's al-Qaeda.” Their most famous lyric praises 9/11: “I worship the prophet, the great Mohammed Omar Atta, for his courage behind the wheel of the plane ...” No stranger to hating America, AOC just said that Republicans are radicalizing young men by encouraging them to embrace their masculinity. And, according to her, masculinity itself is rooted in racism. Never underestimate how much the left hates you, and how much they hate America. They want us to apologize for raising sons who are confident, principled, and proud to be American. That's not radicalization --- that's sane parenting.

I wrote last week about the tragedy of Lindsay Clancy and the travesty of many liberal white women saying she deserves to be acquitted. This week we learned that liberal Democrats / the media are attempting to discredit and destroy the one juror unwilling to acquit Clancy, going so far as to reveal his name and address. Now the juror and his family are afraid for their lives because he stood up for what he believes and didn't get bullied into thinking their way. The lone sane juror has indicated that he is being targeted because he is a Black Republican. Being Catholic and Conservative immediately puts him on liberal Democrats' hate list. Being a Conservative black man who thinks for himself automatically elevates him to the very top of their “destroy at all costs” list. A black juror being demonized more than Lindsay Clancy – who actually killed her 3 kids – says everything about white liberal racism. Their claims to support diversity are confirmed to be complete BS when it comes to independent thinking on the part of a black man. Democrats won't tolerate any black American who wanders off the plantation they have built. Dems expect minorities to accept the garbage that the only hope they have is to rely on “progressives” to throw them a bone now and then – as long as they vote the right way. They are not that much different from the slave masters of old – they just have the audacity to try to pass it off as compassion and empathy. Even more sad, black Democrat politicians have shown themselves to be not much different from the black African chieftain slave traders who willingly sold their own people into slavery around the world. It hasn't gone unnoticed that the NAACP, Al Sharpton, Black Lives Matter, etc. didn't rush to the defense of the lone black juror from the Lindsay Clancy trial. Their silence is deafening.

If it weren't for double standards, Democrats would have no standards at all. They want to demonize ICE and blame them for the challenges of deporting millions of criminal aliens, rather than blame the two morons, Biden and Kamala, for letting 20 million unvetted illegals invade our country. Remember when Democrats supported things Trump is now doing before Trump was even in the picture? Bill Clinton: “We have to end welfare as a way of life, and make it a path to independence and dignity.” Hillary: “If they've committed a crime, deport them, no questions asked, they're gone.” Chuck Schumer: “Illegal immigration is wrong, plain and simple.” Barack Obama: “We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States, undetected, undocumented, unchecked,” in an age when “terrorists are challenging our borders.” Also Obama: “People who enter illegally, and those who hire them, disrespect the rule of law.” But of course, Trump is called racist for trying to solve the problem Democrats created. No hypocrisy there folks. Democrats want to abolish ICE because they know they can't win elections unless they take power away from the current electorate. They have such little respect for Americans that they'd rather import a new class of voters totally dependent on the government than try to win your vote. Their only election strategy for 2026 and 2028 is to keep lying about Trump and hope America fails. Vile ideas that would have once been confined to the lunatic fringe a decade ago have found eager champions in today's Democrat party. If Democrats actually laid out their real agenda, they would never win another election. A significant majority of American citizens want government guided by common sense, rather than crazy, woke ideas that have endlessly proven to make our lives worse. Fortunately, sociopathic insanity doesn't go over too well with most voters. Thinking Americans realize we are one election away from open borders again, communism, gun confiscation, full term abortion, Sharia law, unlimited persecution of Trump and conservatives, and a completely godless nation if Democrats ever get back in power.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FOURTH ANNUAL NATURITA PACK BURRO RACE

Special to the Mirror

WEST END-The Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce announces the 4th Annual Naturita Pack Burro Race, taking place on October 10, 2026, in downtown Naturita. The race begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues to build momentum as interest in burro racing grows across the West End and surrounding communities.

In addition to the main burro race, this year's event includes the Burro Ears Fun Run & Walk, offering both short and long course options for runners and walkers. The Fun Run has become a welcoming entry point for those discovering the event for the first time.

Runners who wish to compete in the burro race but do not own a burro may rent one through Burro Buddies, a regional partner providing trained burros for race day. Interested participants can contact them at burrobuddies@gmail.com.

Full event details, registration information, and updates are available at the Chamber's event website: www.nucla-naturita.com/events.



Images of Pack Burro Race courtesy of Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY

Editor:

It's clear that democracy requires community engagement. One corollary might be that "just because you can change a law, doesn't mean you should." In certain science fields, there persists an unwritten programmer's edict, If it ain't broken, don't "fix" it.

Not everyone has the time or inclination to attend City Council meetings. Many who have, understand the objections made by many citizens to the proposed Charter revisions.

Uncertainty may cloud the minds of local voters on the proposed ballot changes to the Montrose Charter. Here are some things to consider, which hopefully illustrate why a No vote is in order on all of the regime's proposed changes to our constitution.

A vote No to amendment 1 serves to focus municipal elections as nonpartisan and center stage in April of even-numbered years. A home rule town the size of Montrose deserves, needs and should make this so — to the advantage of bringing together all residents. I understand that fifteen prior mayors believe this to be so.

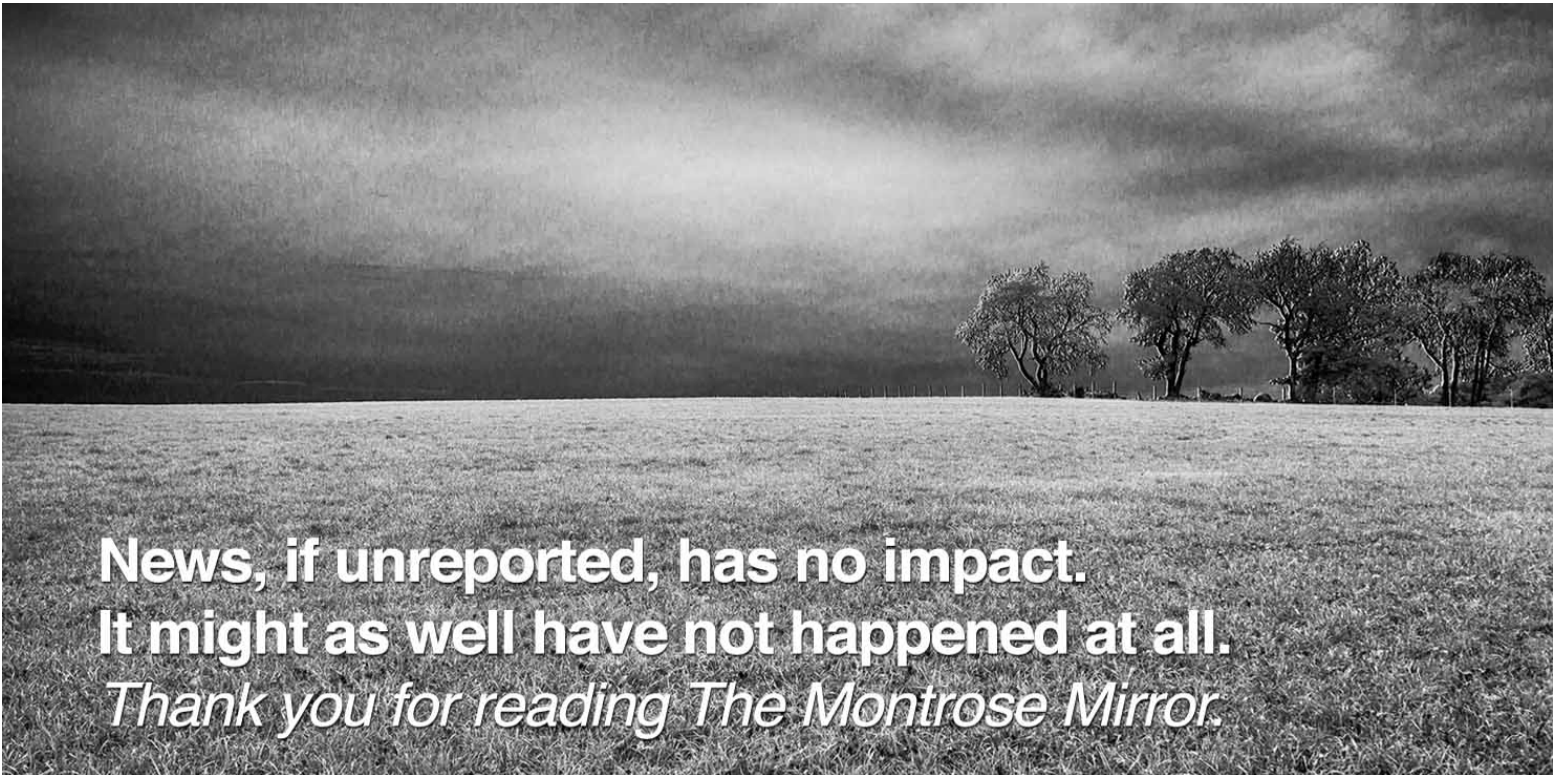
A vote No to amendment 2 allows the Colorado Constitution to continue setting an 8 year limit for district seats and a 6 year term limit for the at-large-seat presently held by Adam Woodden. A vote No supports voter choice while also encouraging new candidates to seek public office. [The amendment, in contrast, is reductive — we would lose the ability/allowance to reset the term limit clock after a 4-year hiatus.]

A vote No to amendment 3 supports the town's management structure. As if it isn't enough that our law enforcement professionals place themselves in harm's way in efforts to protect us from domestic abuse, violence and crime, I argue that they deserve to report to a qualified City Manager, to be evaluated by that manager, and to not have to navigate overseeing (hiring and dismissal) by the City Council. In a sense, our police officers work for all of us. Enough! There are personnel resources in line with our city staff's management. Why add litigious or liability issues to the governance of city staff?

A vote No to amendment 4 supports the current Manager-Councilor structure and prevents the city council from overreaching. It ensures that a qualified, experienced city manager oversees the appointment, discharge, and daily management of the city clerk, who oversees municipal elections. If this amendment changes the charter, the city council ultimately approves the appointment or discharge of the city clerk. This risks introducing special interests from otherwise employed council members who are not trained professionals in local government management.

Our community deserves an easy trust that our charter is grounded in honesty, accountability and durability. We the people need to vote to defend our constitution.

Kate Rohrer, Montrose



News, if unreported, has no impact.
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Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MRH FEATURES WORK OF LOCAL ARTISTS MELANIE KLINE AND DR. MOJGAN ARASHVAND



MRH new exhibit courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror
MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) is featuring new artwork by local artists Melanie Kline and Dr. Mojgan Arashvand, bringing western Colorado landscapes and documentary portrait photography into the hospital for patients, visitors, and caregivers to enjoy. The artwork is on loan and was coordinated through MRH's newly formed internal art committee, which helps guide the thoughtful selection and placement of artwork throughout the hospital. Kline's collection features three original oil paintings inspired by the night sky over western Colorado. The works depict the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, the Cimarron Range of the San Juan Mountains, and the valley of Ouray beneath celestial skies. Kline incorporates oil paint, gold leaf, and copper leaf to evoke starlight and cosmic dust. In addition to painting, Kline is a master silversmith known for handcrafted jewelry and metalwork. Kline's collection is on display on the first floor of the hospital across from the laboratory.

Arashvand's exhibit, "To Truly See," will be on display for approximately one year. The exhibit features documentary portraits created through years of travel and relationship-building across Africa, Asia, and South America. The collection explores shared humanity across cultures, inviting viewers to look beyond outward differences and recognize the individuality of each person photographed.

A cardiologist at Montrose Regional Health, Arashvand approaches photography with the same attention to the individual that guides her work in medicine. She also provides care at MRH outreach clinics throughout the region. Her portraits have been created in locations including the Omo Valley, South Sudan, Mongolia, Algeria, Bolivia, Namibia, Kenya, and Japan. She uses a consent-first approach and provides fair compensation to each person she photographs, emphasizing human dignity, cultural respect, and authentic connection. Arashvand's exhibit is on display near the hospital's main entrance.

"Art has a unique ability to bring comfort, inspiration, and connection into a healthcare environment," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO of Montrose Regional Health. "Featuring thoughtfully selected artwork from professional artists in our region allows us to create a more welcoming space for patients, families, and caregivers while celebrating the creativity within our community."

To view more work from the featured artists, visit melaniekline.com or follow Mojgan Arashvand at [@mojgan_away](https://www.instagram.com/mojgan_away) on Instagram.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ENGAGEMENT VS. PARTICIPATION

Dear Editor,

Throughout the summer a group of concerned citizens have provided testimonials to our City Council in opposition to four ballot proposals that will appear on the November ballot. Throughout those months of publicly speaking out against them, 3/5 of Council chose to ignore the voice of the people. Those elected in April 2026 have been steadfast in their push to move forward. They acted like one body with the majority vote. No independent thought. They assert this is what they were elected to do.

There was hope at one point where Mayor Badagliacco and Counselor Ulibarri were open to forming a Citizens Advisory Committee to evaluate needed Charter changes and make recommendations to Council. At the very next meeting things changed; Badagliacco said, after giving it further thought he changed his mind, that there would be too much delay with an advisory committee. Ulibarri said his feelings were hurt so he changed his mind. I think the local Republican Party got to them and said, what are you thinking? Get this done. Is the Republican Party driving the decisions of what is mandated to be a nonpartisan legislative body?

One of the arguments set forth by the newly elected councilors to move elections to November is to increase voter participation. Participation is nothing more than getting physically involved, checking a box on the ballot. Engagement on the other hand is a state of mind; showing an interest in the issues at hand. To study those issues before simply checking a box.

There are 128 pages in the November Ballot Blue Book. There are 14 statewide measures on the ballot this year. Seven of those are seeking changes to the state constitution. In addition to the statewide measures, voters will have to make decisions regarding retaining judges. Voters will have to make decisions on who we send to Washington D.C.

Our ballot issues will be buried at the end of the ballot. Will the average voter be fully engaged by the time he or she reaches that decision point? I think fatigue may set in.

Vote No on all four Charter Ballot proposals in November

Dave Stockton - Montrose

LONG DISTANCE EV DRIVE It Is Possible If You Plan Ahead

Editor:

We had planned to go on a backpack trip in Yosemite National Park, California. We were a little nervous as we had range anxiety with our EV- a Hyundai Ioniq 6. Our car does charge up to 360 miles so we felt comfortable we could drive over 250 miles between charges allowing for mileage losses due to steep hills or hot temperatures.

Initially, we drove along Highway 6&50- 'The Loneliest Highway' as we identified charging stations all along the way. We bought a charging adapter that allowed us to use Rivian and Tesla charge stations. Along the way we found it easy to use a credit card to charge, and then realized cheaper prices were available if you used the chargers App. So we loaded up with 4 Apps.

We successfully charged at stations across Utah and most of Nevada. We were able to make it almost to California when a big wrench was thrown into our plan. The charging station we identified in Tonapah, NV had not had the software updated and was only open to Tesla vehicles. So we went across town and found the other fast DC charger had not been working for the last few months. So we were stuck using the slow charger which took 6 hours for enough charge to make it to the next DC fast charger.

We drove home along the Interstate and easily found DC fast chargers and the Gas Station 'Flying J' had installed ev chargers next to their gas pumps- so convenient!

We found we were able to pull off a 2000-mile drive with the help of many EV charging Apps (Tesla, Rivian, ABRP). We comfortably drove many miles with little or no range anxiety, found ways to reduce our anxiety (by charging more than we needed) and overall the time spent charging was often a relief from the road giving us time to relax for 20 minutes while the car charged..

So, if you have range anxiety with your EV don't let it stop you. Just do a little planning and you will find you can drive just about anywhere you would like.

Tony Hoag

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:COMMENTARY

COUNCILOR WOODDEN'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE FOUR MONTROSE CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

By Adam Wodden

Amidst some loud voices in opposition to the proposed charter amendments, I want to offer a perspective as someone who sits with one foot in the Montrose community and the other in city government.

I see these amendments as basic and pretty much to the point, with the smallest amount of 'legalese' necessary. A 'Yes' vote changes the charter and if you do not share my viewpoints then vote 'No' to keep it as is. In my opinion, no commission was necessary for putting these simple options before the citizens, as they are single focused amendments.

1: Changing the Election Date from April to the November General Election This reduces voter fatigue, increases voter turnout, gives a way to track your ballot's status, and will let everyone's ballots be processed the same way the rest of the county's ballots are processed. With so many election judges and poll watchers engaged, plus the stricter state mandated rules there is much less room for any inconsistency. One potential negative item I've heard is the names of candidates running for city council seats might feel like small potatoes next to a Senator's name. For me, I see the engaged campaign season presenting far more opportunities for forums and speaking engagements and overall general excitement. This past April I campaigned hard and put my signs almost everywhere, I met anyone from small in-home groups to larger forums. With all the effort many put in, the votes cast rose from a 10 year average of 31% to 35%. The general elections have a much, much higher turnout percentage with nearly everyone aware there is an upcoming vote. The savings perk of \$15k-\$25k is also worthy of considering as postage fees keep rising. Partisan politics is a concern, but from my experience it has always been around. I'm a quiet, reserved person who's generally liked, even though I'm not well known. Early in my campaign, some extreme people I'd never met came up to me and shared how they disliked me. They said they were telling everyone they knew not to vote for me. It had nothing to do with my views—I hadn't spoken much in public yet. Pretty sure they just disliked my wife. Judging someone by who they're married to feels like high school. In my view, partisanship and prejudice was already here long before I ran.

2: 8-Year Term Limit. This affects me more than any other councilor. Under the current rules, I could theoretically serve 8 years, take a 4-year break, serve another 8 years, then take another break and run again. Being in my 40s, I could end up serving 24 years total and finish a sixth 4-year term in my mid-70s. Montrose is large enough that good city council talent will always be available. An 8-year total term limit won't cause us to lose the insight of experienced leaders—those leaders can always become mentors to future councilors. Term limits simply keep fresh, everyday citizens in the policymaking seats. I see no downside.

3: Involving City Council in Hiring or Removing the Police Chief. Before 2014, the City Council and City Manager shared the responsibility of choosing the police chief. The 2014 charter change gave the City Manager sole authority. After 12 years, many citizens believe it should return to a joint appointment. The police chief oversees a wide range of responsibilities: public safety, hiring and training officers, managing a large budget, animal control, code enforcement, and public communication. This is a high-profile role that should stay closely connected to the public. A joint appointment (or removal) helps keep the position aligned with the community's interests. Some worry the Council might interfere in day-to-day operations. The proposed charter language specifically prevents that. Others worry about politics entering the process. Politics simply means groups of people making collective decisions. In my view, having a group choose the right person for such an important role is better than leaving it to a single individual.

4: Involving City Council in Hiring or Removing the City Clerk. Like the police chief position, the City Clerk was once a joint appointment between the City Council and City Manager. The 2014 charter change gave the City Manager sole authority. Many citizens believe this role should return to a joint appointment. The City Clerk manages council meetings and agendas, legal documents, public notices, ordinances, resolutions, public records requests, elections, licenses and permits, park reservations, the cemetery, and many other responsibilities. This position, with its wide range of duties, should stay closely connected to the community's interests. The proposed charter language specifically prevents any councilor from influencing day-to-day activities. Having a group help choose the right person is a better approach, in my opinion.

These are my views, and you may agree or disagree—which is why I believe the voters should decide the direction of the city. I have more reasons for voting "Yes" on each of these amendments, but I wanted to briefly share my main viewpoint. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or thoughts.



MONTROSE COLORADO

VOTER GUIDE

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★ STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES ★

★ READ ★ RESEARCH ★ VOTE ★



VOTE YES

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✓ 81	Law Enforcement & Federal Immigration Allows communication between local law enforcement and federal authorities.
✓ 82	Right to Purchase & Sell Natural Gas Protects access to natural gas.
✓ 83	Constitutional Right to Hunt & Fish Protects hunting and fishing rights.
✓ 84	Mail Ballot Voter Identification Requires ID number or last 4 digits of SSN for ballot verification.
✓ 85	Plain Language Ballot Titles Requires statewide ballot titles to be written in plain language.
✓ 86	Congressional Redistricting Keeps the current committee format with public meetings and no favoritism.
✓ 132	Increase Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes Increases criminal penalties for specified fentanyl offenses.
✓ 133	Human Trafficking of a Minor Increases penalties and allows life sentences for child sex trafficking offenses.
✓ 134	School Sports by Biological Sex Limits girls' teams to biological females and boys' teams to biological males.
✓ 135	Surgery on Minors Prohibits gender-transition surgeries for minors.
✓ 136	Income Tax Rate Cap Caps Colorado's flat income tax rate at 4.4%.

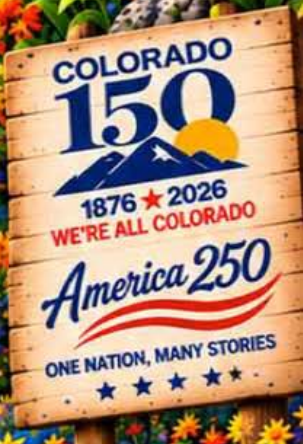


VOTE NO

HIGHER TAXES HURT COLORADO

✗ NN	Education & State Revenue Retains and spends TABOR refunds instead of returning them.
✗ 87	Graduated Income Tax Creates higher tax rates for higher earners.
✗ 137	Sporting Goods Revenue for Conservation Redirects sporting goods tax revenue out of TABOR.





★ LOCAL CITY CHAPTER AMENDMENTS ★



YES

Move April City Council Elections to November



YES

8 year term limits for council members



YES

Council accountability for city manager on police chief appointment and discharge



YES

Council accountability for city manager on city clerk appointment and discharge

- For more info, go to MontroseRepublicans.Org -

Paid for by Montrose County Republican Central Committee;
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OPINION/EDITORIAL:COMMENTARY

WHAT QUALIFIES DENNIS ANDERSON TO JUDGE ANYONE?

Editor:

Dennis Anderson has spent years using the Montrose Daily Press to attack the intelligence, character, courage, sanity, and fitness for office of people he does not like. He has called me a self-centered narcissist, a jellyfish, delusional, paranoid, thin skinned, fragile, a fearmongering demagogue, and a conflict entrepreneur. He has mocked my intelligence, suggested I have attention deficit disorder, claimed my facts processor is broken, portrayed me as unfit for office, and dismissed me as a Senate wannabe.

Those are not policy arguments. They are personal attacks. Before Anderson judges my intelligence, mental health, qualifications, family, or life, he should answer one question. What qualifies him?

Anderson is not a doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist, or mental health professional. Dennis Anderson diagnosing anyone would be like walking into a hardware store and asking the employee mixing paint to administer an immunization. That is, in fact, Anderson's background.

His published biographies identify no college degree, journalism degree, formal journalism education, medical training, psychological training, or relevant professional certification. He worked in retail for 19 years, including at Ace Hardware in Montrose, Colorado. He literally went from stocking shelves, sweeping floors, mixing paint, and selling nails to selling media and eventually being given a publisher's title.

That title gives him a platform. It does not qualify him to judge anyone's intelligence, mental health, character, or fitness for office.

Anderson did not create the Montrose Daily Press, build it with his own money, or risk his home, savings, credit, and future on it. I could find no public record of him starting a business, carrying the financial risk of ownership, employing hundreds of people, or making payroll with his own money.

Since Anderson attacks my intelligence and qualifications, let us compare records.

I served in the United States Navy, reached E5 in only four years, and completed many deployments, including service in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield. I led a division while I was still a young man and earned the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualification. I later worked in radiological health and safety for the Department of Energy at UMTRA, Rocky Flats Building 771, and Idaho National Laboratory's Test Area North. I completed the Department of Energy Radiological Control Technician examinations and oral boards every year, along with the NRRPT process.

Passing those examinations required a high level of technical intelligence and proficiency in mathematics, atomic and nuclear physics, radiation measurement, dosimetry, contamination control, exposure calculations, and emergency response. I had to understand complex scientific information, apply it correctly, defend my reasoning before an oral board, and make calm decisions that protected workers from hazards they could not see.

In my next career, I entered the oil and gas industry. I worked my way up from the drilling rig floor, attended Drilling Fluids Engineering School, and qualified as a drilling fluids engineer.

Not everyone can do that work. It requires chemistry, hydraulics, pressure calculations, density, viscosity, solids control, wellbore stability, circulation, and well control. A bad calculation or panicked decision can destroy equipment, cost millions of dollars, injure workers, or take a life. You must understand the science, recognize changing conditions, calculate the consequences, and make the correct decision under pressure.

I then started a company at my living room table and grew it into a \$20 million corporation. Over the life of that company, I employed hundreds of people, created jobs, negotiated contracts, bought equipment, served customers, carried the financial risk, made payroll, and signed the front of the checks.

I accepted public office, took an oath, faced rooms filled with angry liberal political activists, and made difficult decisions. I have never missed

a roll call vote during my entire time as commissioner. That record is public and verifiable.

Anderson has tried to leave readers with the opposite impression. That is not a difference of opinion. It is false. When a publisher ignores a public record and prints something the record directly contradicts, he is not informing his readers. He is misleading them.

I also entered the race for the United States Senate as a complete political outsider. I was unknown statewide and had no established political machine behind me. In only four months, I traveled to all 64 Colorado counties, raised money, built support, battled the state establishment and its gatekeepers, and earned 23% of the vote at the Republican State Assembly.

That was no easy feat. An unknown outsider entered a statewide race and earned nearly one quarter of the assembly vote in four months. Anderson tried to belittle that accomplishment by calling me a Senate wannabe.

Ask yourself, what has Dennis Anderson ever done that is remotely comparable?

After everything I have studied, tested for, qualified for, built, risked, and accomplished, Anderson calls me stupid, unstable, thin skinned, a jellyfish, and unfit for office.

His accusations are not supported by my record. They are contradicted by it.

His attacks follow a predictable political line. He targets Republicans, conservatives, independent voices, and people who challenge the local establishment. I have not seen him direct the same sustained personal attacks at Democrats or liberals.

He has gone after Scott Mijares, Michael Badagliacco, David White, Monty George, Representative Larry Don Suckla, the Montrose County Republican Central Committee, members of the Montrose City Council, conservative school board members, Republican candidates, business owners, and conservative citizens.

These are people who built

WHAT QUALIFIES DENNIS ANDERSON TO JUDGE ANYONE?

From previous pg

businesses, created jobs, risked their own money, faced voters, and served their communities. David White served on two city councils, served as mayor of Montrose, and completed two terms as a county commissioner. Larry Don Suckla is a businessman, rancher, landowner, former two term county commissioner, Colorado Counties Inc. Commissioner of the Year, and the elected representative for House District 58.

Anderson’s management record deserves the same examination he gives everyone else. He was sent to Alaska to oversee the Mat Su Valley Frontiersman, the Anchorage Press, and Arctic Warrior. The Anchorage Press later closed and employees lost their jobs. The Frontiersman was sold and moved to digital only publication.

Under Dennis Anderson’s management, the Montrose Daily Press declined and was ultimately sold to Grand Junction Media, the company behind the Daily Sentinel. From

where I sit, that is another failure.

Anderson calls me a conflict entrepreneur. I ask readers to stop and consider who repeatedly creates the conflict and drama in Montrose County.

Who turns political disagreements into personal insults? Who questions people’s intelligence and mental stability? Who uses a newspaper to provoke people and then condemns them when they respond?

Dennis Anderson does.

If Anderson can convince readers that someone is stupid, unstable, narcissistic, or unfit, he never has to address that person’s argument. He attacks reputations because it is easier than debating facts.

Dennis Anderson is not qualified to appoint himself the political voice of Montrose County. What office has he held? When has he placed his name on a ballot, faced voters, participated in a political debate, cast a public vote, or answered directly to citizens affected by his decisions? I can find no record that he has done

any of those things.

From where I sit, Anderson is not a political authority. He is a liberal political activist using a publisher’s title to attack conservative officials, Republican candidates, independent voices, and citizens who challenge the local establishment.

His employers should decide whether his personal attacks, amateur psychological diagnoses, political activism, and public bullying represent their standards, and whether he still deserves the position they gave him.

What qualifies Dennis Anderson to judge any of us?

Nothing.

He has built his public identity by attacking, dividing, and demoralizing the people whose communities, businesses, institutions, and way of life his newspaper claims to serve.

Dennis Anderson is the problem and an enemy of the people.

Sean M. Pond, Montrose County



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Holiday Soiree & Fundraiser

An Evening of Giving Back

★ FREE COMMUNITY EVENT ★

SATURDAY · NOVEMBER 7, 2026

5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Hosted at *Camelot Gardens & Gifts*
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- SILENT AUCTION
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Give back this holiday season. Join us for food, drinks, music and a charity auction featuring unique items and experiences — with all proceeds going to Rotary Club of Montrose programs.

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2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL

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Building on last year's \$11,167 raised

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- Vacation Getaways
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- Ski Packages
- Local Artisan Goods
- Restaurant Certificates
- Spa Packages
- Holiday Baskets
- Golf Foursomes
- Professional Photography
- Wine & Spirits
- Outdoor Gear
- & More!

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:COMMENTARY

VOTE YES ON THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

by Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

A new unelected and self-appointed "committee" has formed to urge a NO vote on all four Montrose City Charter amendments, (ballots drop in the mail October 5). They say the process moved too fast, that a citizen's commission should have written the questions, the current Council is "locking out" the public and that each change is a threat to good government. It appears the committee simply wants something other than what the Charter calls for.

According to Article X, Section 2 of the Charter there are two distinct paths to amend the charter.

1.A Voter Petition

2.Council acts on its own and sends amendments to the voters as ballot initiative

The council followed the process outlined in the charter to place the items on the ballot for voters to decide.

The 2014 and 2025 charter amendment packages prove the point.

On February 4, 2014, the Council referred a large "charter rewrite" to the April 2014 election. Reporting at the time described the work as led by the City Manager with council members. Then-Mayor Judy Ann Files called much of it "clerical". There was no citizen's commission. That is the system the committee now calls "professional" and "insulated". It was written in 2014 by the same kind of inside group the "committee" condemns.

Inside that package was a true transfer of power. The City Manager, not the elected Council, gained the sole authority to appoint or remove the police chief and the city clerk. Former state legislator Ben Alexander warned in the [Montrose Press on March 26, 2014](#), that the ballot language hid that change.

The November 4, 2025 package was also a Council referral that went to the voters as one bucket. Ordinance 2690 says the Council and the city's leadership team reviewed the Charter. A June 2025 account named Mayor Dave Frank, Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files, City Manager and other staff. Again, no citizen's commission.

The current proposed amendments were presented by sitting council members, finalized by the city legal staff, debated in public meetings, and placed on the ballot by recorded votes. Voters will approve or reject each individually. That is more choice, not less.

The items are all separate measures, not a single bucket.

Moving City elections from April of even years to November of even years

-April yields 25-35% of registered voters. November pulls 60-87%

-This is when the largest number of voters participate, amplifying the voice of the people in our elections.

-Local races do not disappear on a longer ballot. They gain readers and voters.

-If the fear is "partisan politics," April does not make them less partisan. It just makes them smaller.

-Stand-alone April elections cost \$30,000, November coordinated elections cost \$5,000-10,000

-Due to the calendar, this would create a one-time extension of seven months (April to November) for all sitting councilors. That is an act of the calendar, nothing more.

City Council Term Limits: A lifetime eight-year limit (or cap) on Council service after November 3, 2026

-Current limits are for consecutive terms, not a lifetime "term limit".

-Eight years is a long run on a five-member Council in a city of 21,000+

Council approval of the appointment or discharge of the Police Chief.

-This pertains exclusively to the hiring and discharge; there is no operational authority or change granted.

-This returns proper Council oversight; it's not a takeover.

Council approval of the appointment or discharge of the City Clerk.

-This pertains exclusively to the hiring and discharge; there is no operational authority or change granted.

-This returns proper Council oversight; it's not a takeover.

Public Safety and Elections are not private personnel files. The police chief answers for law enforcement in this city. The clerk administers municipal elections. Elected officials who face the voters should have a recorded yes or no on who holds those jobs. If any Council as a whole or an individual Councilor abuses that, the remedy is the next election, not a Charter that leaves both posts solely in the manager's hands.

Limiting Council to an eight-year cap allows new blood and fresh ideas to flow from the city residents.

Moving city elections to November puts them on the higher-turnout coordinated ballot when people actually vote.

Trust is built when more voters participate in the election. Honesty is putting questions in plain view instead of burying a power shift inside a "clerical" package, as happened in 2014. Accountability is elected people taking responsibility for the chief and the clerk, then living with the vote.

[Study the redlines on the city's elections page](#) and VOTE YES!



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHAT IS THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA...REALLY? PART 1

Editor:

Certainly, most of us have heard people espousing the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) rhetoric: housing for all, abolish fossil fuels, pack the Supreme Court, end ICE, end blockades, embargoes and sanctions, end the war machine, end incarceration and police immunity, feminism for all, free healthcare, free Palestine, and reinstate the Green New Deal. In addition, the DSA wants to do away with or change our Constitution, Bill of Rights, open our borders, and ban private ownership of corporate and private property.(1)

Their website states: "But what if you were free to spend your time how you like without worrying about cost or dreading going back to work? What if you didn't have to think about paying rent or loans at the end of the month, or saving for college, or affording groceries?"(2) This sounds like the World Economic Forum's leader, Klaus Schwab's promise that we will own nothing and be happy.

We have a problem, Houston! Where does the money come from to enable people to live without working? Oh, yeah...from taxing American millionaires and billionaires. Does anyone think they will stick around to fund this unsustainable scheme? They will probably move to Costa Rico.

Margaret Thatcher nailed it when she said, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."(3) She saw what socialism did to Great Britain and other countries, and fought it for decades. As a matter of fact, every country that has embraced socialism has failed. It is a pipedream to think that the government can supply all of our needs. Humans were made to create, to work, and to have purpose. A society where everything is handed to citizens cannot thrive, but will be easily manipulated and controlled.

Socialists want to remove the fail safes of our society so that we will have no ability to fight for our rights (because we won't have any).

Remove the police. Remove the courts. Remove the Electoral College. We will end up with no say in who leads us.

Socialism puts all of us in bondage; there remains no self-reliance and personal independence, which are important virtues in a free society.

Thatcher also said, "Some socialists seem to believe that people should be numbers in a State computer. We believe they should be individuals. We are all unequal. No one, thank heavens, is like anyone else, however much the socialists may pretend otherwise. We believe that everyone has the right to be unequal but to us every human being is equally important."(4) Socialism will make us all "equal" with our own individual number as our identity.

"Socialists despised her because she stood up to them, questioned their false compassion, and dared to expose statism as the senseless, dehumanizing cult that it is. She rhetorically ripped the velvet glove from the iron fist and spoke of welfare-state socialism as a wolf in sheep's clothes. Those are things state worshipers cannot abide." (Thatcher)(5)

The United States is great because we have a free society and free enterprise that engenders innovation and creativity. No one is trying to emigrate to China, Russia, North Korea or Nigeria because there is no freedom., but thousands desire to come to America because of the opportunities given through free enterprise and personal freedoms granted by the Constitution.

The people who are selling socialism are like used car salesmen who talk up all the benefits of a car and after you make the deal and drive off, the wheels come off. Look into the truths of socialism for yourself. It is a very dangerous road on which to travel.

The conclusion is well-stated by Thatcher: "There is no such thing as 'safe' socialism. If it's safe, it's not socialism. And if it's socialism, it's not safe."(7)

Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

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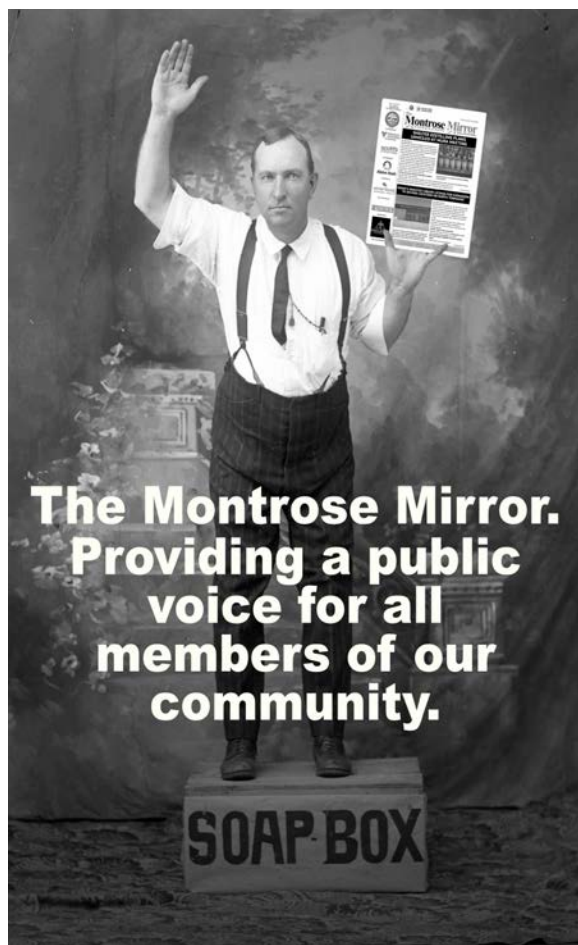
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by Tim Jones



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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

JIMMY DON RAY

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of Jimmy Don Ray - a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend.

Jimmy was the kind of man whose love was not always expressed through words, but through everything he did. He showed up. He worked hard. He helped whenever someone needed him, usually without being asked and never expecting recognition. If Jimmy cared about you, you knew you could count on him.

Born on February 18, 1950, Jimmy graduated from Montrose High School and attended Mesa State College. As a third-generation sawmiller with Ray Lumber, he carried forward a proud family tradition. The work was demanding, but Jimmy understood the value of perseverance, loyalty, and providing for the people he loved. Away from work, Jimmy was happiest outdoors. He loved fishing, hunting, and the quiet peace that could be found beside a mountain stream or beneath an open sky. Those were the places where he could slow down, breathe deeply, and simply enjoy life.

Jimmy's first marriage to Cheryl Humphrey Kerschner brought the blessing of two children, Krislyn "Krissy" Grett and Zachary Ray. Jimmy later met Susan Deltonto, who became his wife, his companion, and an important part of the life he built. This December would have marked their 40th wedding anniversary - a beautiful testament to the many years and memories they shared together. His family continued to grow throughout his life, and nothing he built or accomplished meant more than the people he loved.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Susan Ray; his children, Krislyn "Krissy" Grett and her husband, Tom; Zachary Ray and his wife, Erin; Tina Allec and her husband, Mike; Tim Deltonto; and Brenda Adamson and her husband, Alexi.

He is also survived by his sister, Sheila Menzel; his grandchildren, Karsyn Grett, Emory Ray, Lily Ray, Alicia Hite, Zach Allec, Nichole Allec, Cole Grett, and Payton Grett; and his great-grandchildren, Avery Hite, Adelyn "Ady" Hite, Remy Mays, Harrison Grett, Sullivan Grett, and Banx Thomas Cortez. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends whose lives were better because Jimmy was part of them.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his father, Emory Ray (Carol); his mother, Dorthy Holt Ray (Richard Follman); his brother, Taylor Ray; and his baby sister, Roxanna Ruth.

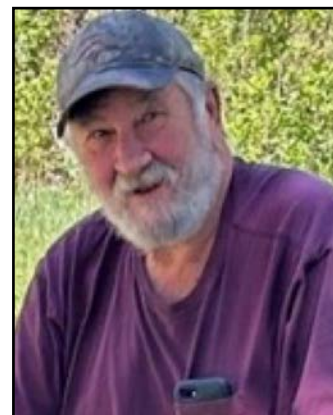
It is difficult to say goodbye to someone who has been part of the foundation of a family. Jimmy leaves behind more than memories. He leaves behind lessons in strength, hard work, generosity, and the quiet ways a person can love others.

His place at the table may now be empty, and his familiar voice may be silent, but the life he built remains all around us - in his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and in every person who was fortunate enough to know him.

He leaves behind the strength of timber and the peace of mountain streams, a kindness that will live on in every life he touched. Though his hands are now at rest, the love he built will stand through every generation.

Jimmy, you were deeply loved. You will be deeply missed. And you will remain a part of our family's story forever.

The Celebration of Life will be held on Nov. 29, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. Lunch will be provided. In honor of Jimmy's life and his final journey home, the family has chosen the song "Go Rest High on That Mountain" by Vince Gill.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

SUSAN F. 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.

mShe 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.



KEVIN WALLACE SMITH

1971-2026



KEVIN SMITH, son, brother, husband, father, uncle and a brand new grandpa, passed away in Montrose, Colorado on September 21, 2026. Kevin succumbed to a long journey of health complications. Kevin was born to Wally and Nancy Smith, in Prescott, Arizona in 1971. Being a little brother to Leianne, he cherished his big sister as they grew up together and when the family moved to Flagstaff. His parents owned and operated Block-Lite, building the business and serving construction needs across northern Arizona. Kevin attended Christensen Elementary School, East Flag Junior High and graduated from Coconino High School in 1990. He worked at Block-Lite all through high school and then full time after graduation. The family enjoyed many trips to Colorado having purchased a ranch on the western slope, Kevin spent summers working the ranch and enjoying the western lifestyle. Two days before valentines day in 1994, Kevin met Tammi at the Redwood Inn in Flagstaff and danced the night away at the Museum Club. They were married on May 4th, 1996 at the Mormon Lake Lodge and the honeymoon ended at their home in Montrose. Kevin worked around town, including Alpine Lumber, the chip re-load and City Market. Kevin became a father for the first time in 1998 and again in 2001. Grant and Carter were true joy, making the family of four whole. Time in the mountains is

where Kevin found peace and God. Learning from the many pastor's and the bible, Kevin grew in his faith and lead his family, teaching his sons life's values of love, hard work, and loyalty. The young family spent time together doing school sports, 4H, camping and motorsports. In October of 2001 Kevin was impacted by his first stroke. This event changed his life and yet he grew stronger in family and fellowship. In December of 2014 Kevin suffered a major stroke that transitioned his life forever and soon after Tammi became his full-time caregiver, honoring her vow when she promised him through sickness and health. Together they would be seen at the grocery store or church, never separated and always joyful for the love they shared. As Grant and Carter grew into young men, the values their dad taught them became evident. The strong sense of family was built upon when Grant married Sara in November of 2025 and brought Sadie Jo into the world making Kevin a grandpa. Carter soon followed marrying Jolee in the summer of 2026 with his dad as a witness. Kevin's life was made whole by his family and the many friends and neighbors he had over the years. He will be remembered for his smile, his conversation and the family he raised. Kevin is survived by his wife Tammi, his sons Grant (Sara) and Carter (Jolee), his parents Wally and Nancy Smith, his sister Leianne (Kevin) Romero, granddaughter Sadie, two nieces and seven nephews. Services will be held Saturday September 26th, 2026 at 1 o'clock at the Circle 3 Cowboy Church in Montrose. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Circle 3 Cowboy Church to support the Ranch Hand Camp.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BARBARA ELLEN WEBER

January 6, 1947-September 18, 2026



Barbara Ellen Weber of Ridgway, Colorado, passed away on September 18, 2026, at the age of 79.

Barbara was born in Iowa on January 6, 1947, to Fred and Betty Goddard. She grew up in the beautiful mountain community of Ouray, Colorado, in a small mining town where agriculture was not initially a part of her life. Little did she know that the path her life would take would lead her to develop a deep and lasting passion for agriculture and ranching.

In 1963, Barbara married the love of her life, Richard Weber Sr. Following their marriage, she moved to the Weber Ranch, where she quickly learned the life of ranching. What began as a new and unfamiliar way of life grew into a lifelong passion. Over the years, Barbara became deeply involved in agriculture and embraced the ranching lifestyle with dedication, enthusiasm, and pride.

Ranching brought with it many challenges. The long days, hard work, uncertainty, and demands of the land and livestock tested Barbara in ways she could never have imagined when she first arrived at the ranch. Yet through those challenges,

Barbara found something that would become even more important to her than the ranch itself—her faith in Jesus Christ.

As she faced the difficult seasons of ranching and life, Barbara came to know Jesus Christ and found in Him a source of strength, hope, and peace. Her faith became the cornerstone of her life and something she relied upon through both the hardships and blessings she encountered. She carried that faith with her in the way she loved her family, served others, worked the ranch, and faced each new day.

Barbara was not only an important part of the Weber Ranch, but also an active member of the agricultural community. She was a dedicated member of the Montrose Cattlewomen's Club, where she shared her love and support for ranching and agriculture. She also played an integral role in the effort to make Ouray County a "Right to Farm" county, helping to protect and preserve the agricultural heritage and way of life that had become so meaningful to her.

Together, Barbara and Richard built a life centered around family, hard work, the ranch, faith, and their love for one another. Barbara shared in the work, challenges, joys, and countless memories that came with ranching and raising a family. Her journey from growing up in a small mining town with no agricultural background to becoming a passionate rancher and advocate for agriculture was a testament to her willingness to learn, her determination, and her love for the life she and Richard built together.

Above all, Barbara treasured her family. She is survived by her beloved husband, Richard Weber Sr., with whom she shared more than six decades of marriage and a lifetime of memories.

She is also survived by her children, Rich Weber Jr., married to Cricket, and Mandi George, married to Jerry.

Barbara was a proud grandmother to Sarah Smedsrud, married to Tyler; Richard Weber; Jordan Lichthardt, married to Joe; and Jared George, married to Hannah.

Her family continued to grow with her beloved great-grandchildren: Kimber Cook, Samuel McConnell, PJ McConnell, Jake Lichthardt, Lander Smedsrud, and Jesse Lichthardt.

Barbara is also survived by her siblings, Edna (Guy) Goddard, Connie Watson, and Jack Goddard.

Barbara's greatest legacy is the family she and Richard built together. The Weber Ranch was not simply a place where she lived - it was a place where she built a life, raised a family, worked hard, discovered a passion for agriculture, deepened her faith, and created memories that will be treasured for generations.

Barbara will be remembered for her love, strength, devotion, faith, and commitment to her family and community. She leaves behind a legacy not only in the family she loved so dearly, but also in the agricultural community she worked to support and preserve.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Betty Goddard, and her brother, Guy Goddard.

Though Barbara will be deeply missed, her love, faith, dedication, and passion for the land and the ranching way of life will live on through her family and all those whose lives she touched. Her family finds comfort knowing that the faith that sustained her through life's hardest seasons now carries her into eternity.

A Scripture of Hope

Barbara found strength throughout her life in her faith in Jesus Christ. One verse that beautifully reflects the hope and perseverance that came to define her journey is:

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

— Isaiah 40:31

Celebration of Life

A celebration of Barbara's life will be held Saturday, October 3rd at 10am at Montrose Christian Church ~ 2351 Sunnyside Road, Montrose, Colorado. Family and friends are invited to come together to remember Barbara, share stories and memories, and celebrate the remarkable life she lived. A reception with light refreshments will follow the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Barbara Weber to Montrose Cattlewomen's at Citizens State Bank ~ 401 East Main Street, Montrose, CO. 81401

Barbara will be lovingly remembered, deeply missed, and forever cherished by her family, friends, and agricultural community. Her faith, her love, and the life she built will remain a lasting part of the legacy she leaves behind.



FIRST MONTROSE BOOK FAIR A PAGE-TURNING SUCCESS

Special to the Mirror-Photo by Kathryn Burke

MONTROSE-Montrose 1st Annual [Book Fair](#), held at the [Ute Indian Museum](#) Sept. 19, was a perfect day in a perfect setting. The event was organized by Kate Burke, San Juan Publishing Group, and hosted by the museum and director C.J. Brafford. A steady stream of visitors walked literary and artistic aisles from 10 am to 4 pm, visiting with participants from Colorado and New Mexico, buying books and art from authors, artists, illustrators, indie publishers, and historical associations. Out on the patio, Renny Currin provided live music while guests enjoyed tamales and baked goods from Alycia Davis' Mama's Cocina and fry bread from Native vendors who also offered hand-made jewelry. Best-selling San Juan Publishing authors [Dr. Mary Vader](#) and [David Padilla](#) helped set up and enjoyed visiting with guests during the event.

Comments from participating vendors said it all, and all plan to come back for the 2nd Annual. Author [George Dewiliby](#) noted "The setting at the Ute Indian Museum was beautiful, and it was a great way to meet some of the other authors and talk with so many people throughout the day." Next to George, author and artist [Sangdrol Blanchard](#) agreed. "It was a great event. I really enjoyed it."

"I so enjoyed speaking with other artists and authors," said author Kathleen Roth, who shared a table with DonnaLee Brown, author and artist, who added: "It was an inspiring, masterfully orchestrated day!"

On the artist aisle, popular and prolific creatives [Barb Torke](#), Cedaredge, and

[MaryPat Ettinger](#), Montrose had fun showing and selling their art and books. Both were pleasantly surprised at the high turnout and called the day "a positive experience!"

[Alice Billings](#), author and equine artist, was at the corner of the art aisle, painting. "It's a great venue," she said. "A wide array of vendors. Met a lot of new people and...I even completed three small paintings!"

Across the aisle, artist and author from Palisade [Alfreda Beartrack Algeo](#), a Lakota Sioux, was the top seller with her [books and art](#). "Thank you Kathryn, CJ, and the rest of the team for your hard work, it paid off indeed. I look forward to next year."

Number two in sales was M.D. McKee, with a variety of trail guides and hiking guides of Montrose County. "We went into the inaugural Book Fair not quite knowing what to expect and were blown away by the response. We loved connecting with so many people who share our appreciation for hiking, biking, and Montrose County."

The day was also a book launch for author [Lance Bach](#), whose 5th military thriller, [Betrayal's Cost](#), was just published. "We had a lovely time and sold lots of books!" said Lance and his wife Sergina. "Also connected with other writers!"

Next to Lance in the storyteller section was [Laura Padgett](#), who tells her stories with a harp! "Such a privilege to be part of this event. I met awesome people and talked to folks from all over. What a joy!"

History was well represented. Joe Zeni, author and president of the Mesa County Historical Society, brought his book [Promise](#).

Julie VanLaanen, [Filter Press Books](#) out of

Westcliffe, had a large collection of history books and was joined by her author

[Joyce Lohse](#), who summed up their experience: "The event was well attended and received! We would be honored to be invited to attend again."

At the table next to them, Jennifer Carter, Curator for the [Montrose Historical Museum](#), was enthusiastic. "Thanks for inviting the Museum to participate! We appreciated the opportunity to interact with interested folks and spread awareness of our Museum." Gail Saunders from the Ouray County Historical Society stopped by and Kate agreed to place them in the history aisle next year.

Several others asked to be put on the waiting list. "We won't have room for too many more, Kate Burke said. "We want to keep the event small enough to retain the ambiance of this beautiful setting."

Alpine Bank was a sponsor, and the event also offered gift baskets provided by local businesses and services. For a complete list of participants and sponsors, visit <https://sanjuanpub.com/2026-montrose-book-fair>



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO 150 FILM FESTIVAL SET FOR OCT. 23-24

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-CO150 Film Festival-Oct. 23-24, @ 7:30pm both nights; Free and Open to the Public

Colorado 150 is a cinematic celebration of the place we call home— told through the voices, visions, and vistas that have defined our past and continue to shape our future. Presented in Montrose through the generosity of the Mighty Arrow Foundation, with recognition directed to Valley Food Partnership. Check out more about the film festival here: <https://colorado150film.com/>

This event is free and open to the public.

Friday is co-hosted by The Association. The featured film is the documentary, American Southwest, <https://theamericansouthwest.film/>. The American Southwest is a family-friendly wildlife movie that takes viewers on an unforgettable journey down the mighty Colorado River. Narrated by Quannah Chasinghorse, the film beautifully showcases the region's abundant wildlife, confronts the ecological impacts of dams and water overuse, and advocates for better management of the river. Made in association with Natives Outdoors, the movie incorporates an indigenous storyline and is told through the perspective of some of the Southwest's most charming characters... such as industrious beavers, bugling bull elk, and soaring condors. Between its legendary landscapes and fascinating wildlife, The American Southwest aims to endear millions of people to better cherish, love, and conserve this unique region.

Saturday is co-hosted by Shelter Distilling. The featured film is the one and only True Grit, filmed in Colorado locations like Canon City, Gunnison, Placerville, Montrose, Ouray, and Ridgway. The murder of her father sends a teenage tomboy on a mission of 'justice', which involves avenging her father's death. She recruits a tough old marshal, 'Rooster' Cogburn because he has 'true grit', and a reputation of getting the job done.

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



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MLK MONTROSE EXPANDS TO FULL WEEKEND CELEBRATION FOR 2027 3rd Annual Event Grows to Three days , Featuring Arts, Dialogue, Service, and Community Celebration

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— September 26, 2026 — The MLK Montrose Planning Committee announced today that its annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration will expand from a single-day event to a full weekend of programming, January 16–18, 2027, in Montrose, Colorado.

Now in its third year, the celebration — themed "Beloved Community, Rural Roots" — will feature three days of events designed to unite the community across every background, belief, and generation in honoring Dr. King's legacy of service, justice, and dignity.

The committee's mission is to unite the rural community across every background, belief, and generation to honor Dr. King's legacy of justice, dignity, and service — through education, the arts, dialogue, and shared action — and to empower every resident, student, business, church, and governing bodies to help build the Beloved Community right here at home. The vision: a Montrose where Dr. King's dream is lived daily, where neighbors of all political views, ages, and walks of life meet in mutual respect, and where one weekend each January sparks a year-round habit of service, understanding, and civic friendship that defines the rural community.

"What started as a Monday event has grown into something much bigger," said Tonya Maddox, founder and CEO of Our Town Matters and chair of the MLK Montrose Planning Committee.

"Our community showed up for two years and asked for more. This weekend is our answer — three days to awaken through the arts, engage in dialogue, and turn inspiration into action through service."

"This isn't a big-city event transplanted here," said Tonya Maddox, "It grows from our soil. Every event highlights local voices, local talent, and the distinct character of Montrose and the Uncompahgre Valley. When we say 'Beloved Community, Rural Roots,' we mean that Dr. King's dream isn't just for big cities or faraway places — it's for us, right here, and it's built one neighbor serving another."

The weekend schedule includes:

-Saturday, January 16 — "Awaken: Arts, Youth & Awareness" — An opening ceremony and flag-raising, a children's and youth festival with art activities, storytelling, and a drumming workshop, a heritage fashion show titled "Threads of Our Community," live performances from local choirs and student musicians, an awareness fair connecting attendees with local nonprofits, and a free community film night.

-Sunday, January 17 — "Engage: Dialogue, Faith & Ideas" — A Lincoln-Douglas style debate on a civic question, a community panel with voices from across the political spectrum, a faith and civic community dinner bringing neighbors of all beliefs together around a shared meal, and small-group listening sessions on bridging divides.

-Monday, January 18 — "Serve & Celebrate: MLK Day of Service" — Community-wide service projects across Montrose — including food packing, park cleanup, senior visitation, and literacy reading — a unity walk through downtown, and a closing celebration with Bridge Builder Awards, music, and the unveiling of a community quilt created by attendees throughout the weekend.

The committee expects 1,000+ attendees across the three days and is actively recruiting volunteers, sponsors, service project partners, student participants, and church involvement. New traditions debuting in 2027 include the Community Quilt, the Bridge Builder Awards, a Student Art & Essay Contest, and the Unity Walk.

The celebration is organized by a volunteer planning committee and funded through community sponsorships and donations. Sponsorship levels range from \$250 to \$2,500, with a sponsorship deadline of December 1, 2026. All programming is free and open to the public, with the exception of the Faith & Civic Community Dinner, which is still free but ticketed.

For more information, to volunteer, sponsor, or participate, visit mlkdaymontrose.com or contact us via email at hello@ourtownmatters.net or call 970-765-0913.



Tonya Maddox, founder and CEO of Our Town Matters and Chair of the MLK Montrose Planning Committee. Courtesy photo.

LaNoue DuBois Winery Sound Journey

ABUNDANCE SERIES

GIA PIRELLI

Oct. 11 Expand

6-8 pm
Sunday
Oct. 11th



Includes Winery Tour & Tasting

Immersive sound journey. Crystal, Alchemy, and Tibetan singing bowls, harmonic gongs, and koshi chimes in a calm, meditative environment with Gia, a certified Master Sound Practitioner. Charcuterie & glass of wine or NA drink preovided.



67289 Trout Rd., Montrose

Register <https://giapirelli.com/product/101126ln>



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

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 Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.

10:30 AM: Sanctuary & Virtual Worship

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY Continued from previous pg

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.

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

For Inclusion in the Directory please provide:

Address

Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

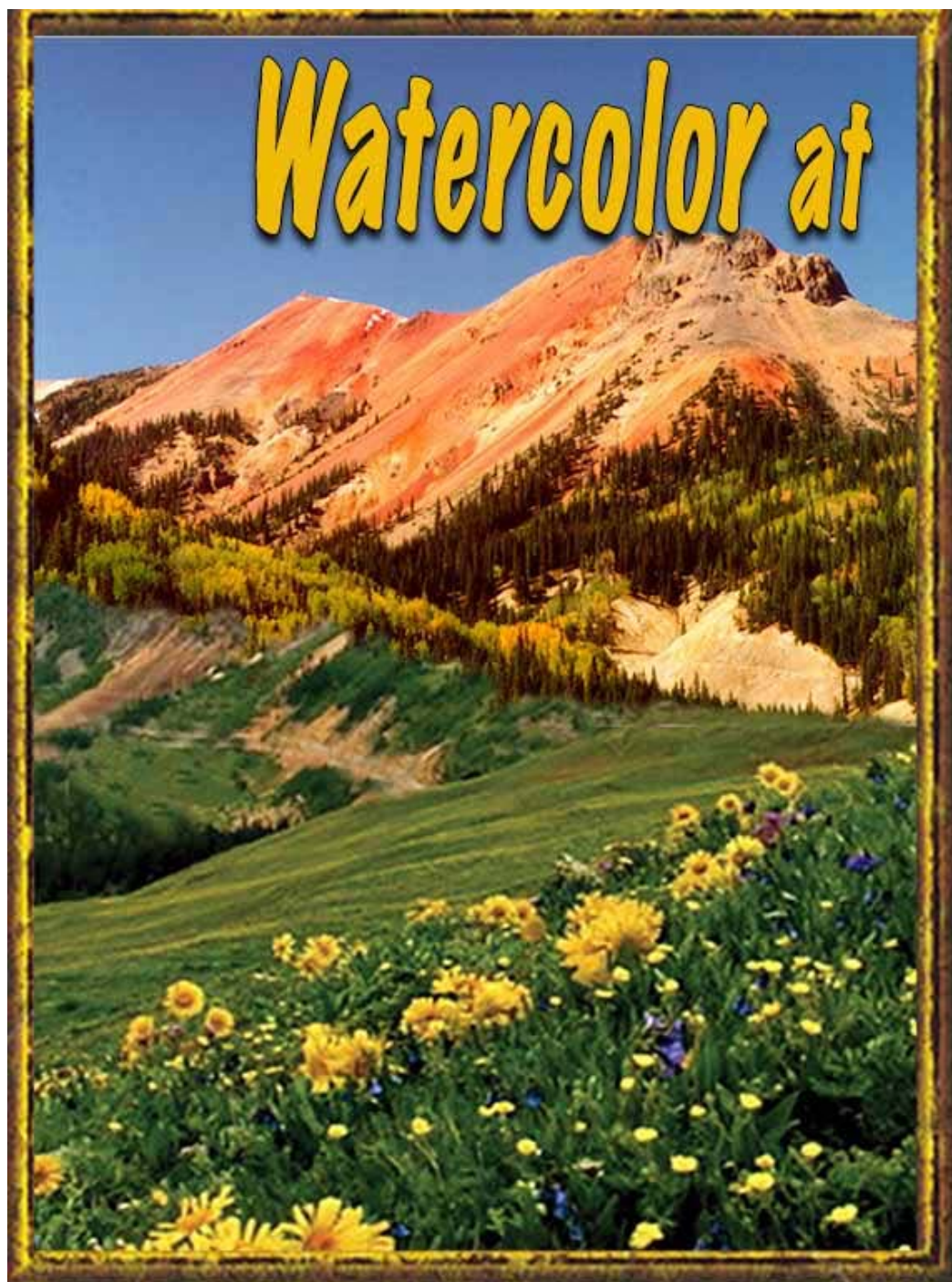
Worship service times

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?





MOSAIC

**Thursday,
October 8th
5:30-7:30 pm
with Kate Burke**



Paint a framable "Red Mountain Floral Landscape" on 9"x12" Cold Press paper with liquid watercolor and watercolor brushes. Everything provided. All levels welcome. Template available or Freehand. S-B-S instructions. Class includes adult beverage or NA drink and seasonal snack. \$42-47.



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<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/100826M>

<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/111226m/>



WORD FROM THE WEST WITH WENDY VIDELOCK- A MARK OF INTELLIGENCE IN AN AGE OF CONFUSION

By Wendy Vidlock

PALISADE-Everybody is talking about Artificial Intelligence these days, but nobody seems to be talking much about Natural Intelligence, which might well become far more valuable the more we rely on AI.

But what do I mean by Natural Intelligence? I mean the kind of smarts and skill that come from creative intelligence, bodily intelligence, social intelligence and emotional intelligence—even moral intelligence.

We all know that a person skilled at mathematics might be entirely incapable of reading a room. A brilliant speaker might be totally useless when a pipe bursts in the middle of winter. A child who struggles with reading might deeply understand or predict the behavior of animals, the turns in the weather and the moods of others with remarkable precision.

The hunter who reads tracks in the woods, the navigator who steers by stars in the night sky or the child who can predict the shifting emotions of a parent all using types of intelligence that, unlike an IQ test, can't be measured.

We sometimes refer to such skills as street smarts. I learned long ago never to underestimate them.

The limitations of a standardized IQ test become even more clear when we turn toward animals. For centuries, humans have tested other species' intelligence by testing how they could perform human-like tasks: counting numbers, mastering a maze, communication skills.

To judge a spider by her eyesight is to dismiss the intricacies of building a web or the power of patience.

A dog, mountain lion or a bear all live within an endless landscape of scent. They can detect chemical traces from miles away, distinguishing between the scent of fear, food, distance and even time.

Humans like to call this instinct, as though intelligence weren't involved. We humans can't even imagine what it's like to possess and make good use of this particular kind of cognition.

Migratory birds pose another kind of intelligence, finding their way across continents using stars, sunlight, smell and the Earth's magnetic field as fence posts along the way.

An octopus can open a tightly closed glass jar, can escape impossible enclosures and can solve ridiculously complex puzzles. Octopus neurons are distributed through the arms, which are used like a moving brain. Here intelligence is not housed in a central location, but is dispersed and fluid.

Crows remember human faces, fashion tools, plan things out and communicate danger to other crows. Bees communicate the direction and the distance of a food source through complicated dance moves. Dolphins use signature whistles to mark their own uniqueness.

None of these creatures possess every kind of intelligence. Neither do we humans.

Intelligence is shaped on capacities, fitted to bodies, designed for habitats, and reliant on risks and desires. And lived experience builds another layer onto our intelligence—as it does the intelligence of any individual animal. A fox living in an urban area develops a different kind of intelligence than one who has never encountered human life, garbage pick up day, a playground at recess.

As machines take on more and more of our analytical, binary labor, our most crucial work might become tasks that are deeply human.

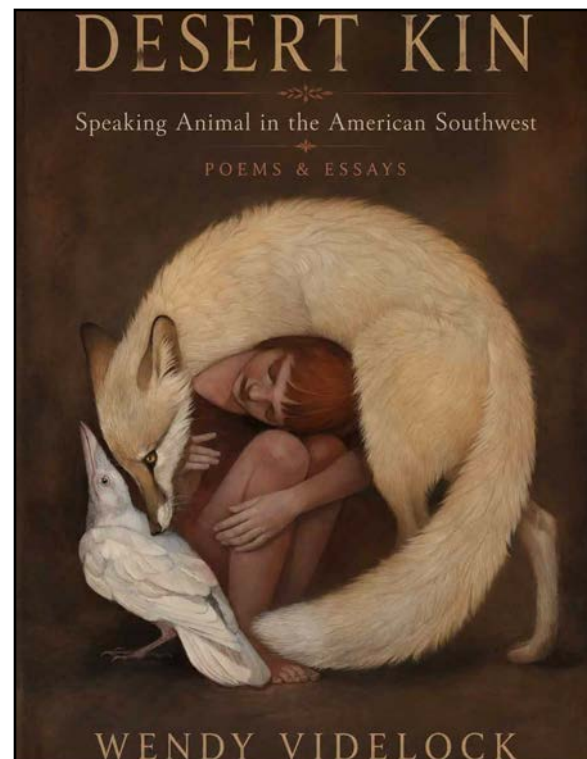
Perhaps we will begin to value that which has, in our consumer culture, lost value: emotional, bodily, spiritual and social intelligence. In order to envision resolutions to our most difficult problems and to comprehend the consequences of our actions, these might be the skills we will come to value in our collective experience—precisely because they are uniquely human.

Perhaps, just perhaps, Artificial Intelligence will not diminish the importance of human feeling and compassion, but will reveal our creative power, healing wisdom and genuine ingenuity.

While AI takes on menial tasks, we humans will be left to cultivate deeper curiosity, tenderness, creativity, wellness and moral reasoning. More than ever, society will need people who can think, reason and intuit beyond our wildest imagination.

By cultivating our own Natural Intelligence, we might recover the full scope of our humility and creativity. We might come to understand that intelligence is not simply the ability to produce a generic answer, generate a product for consumption or predict a pattern, but is rather our ability to respond—to another creature, to a quickly changing world, to the latent power of our own humanity.

Wendy Vidlock's new book, "Desert Kin: Speaking Animal in the American Southwest: Essays and Poems" can be ordered [HERE](https://lithicpress.com/product/desert-kin-by-wendy-vidlock/). <https://lithicpress.com/product/desert-kin-by-wendy-vidlock/>

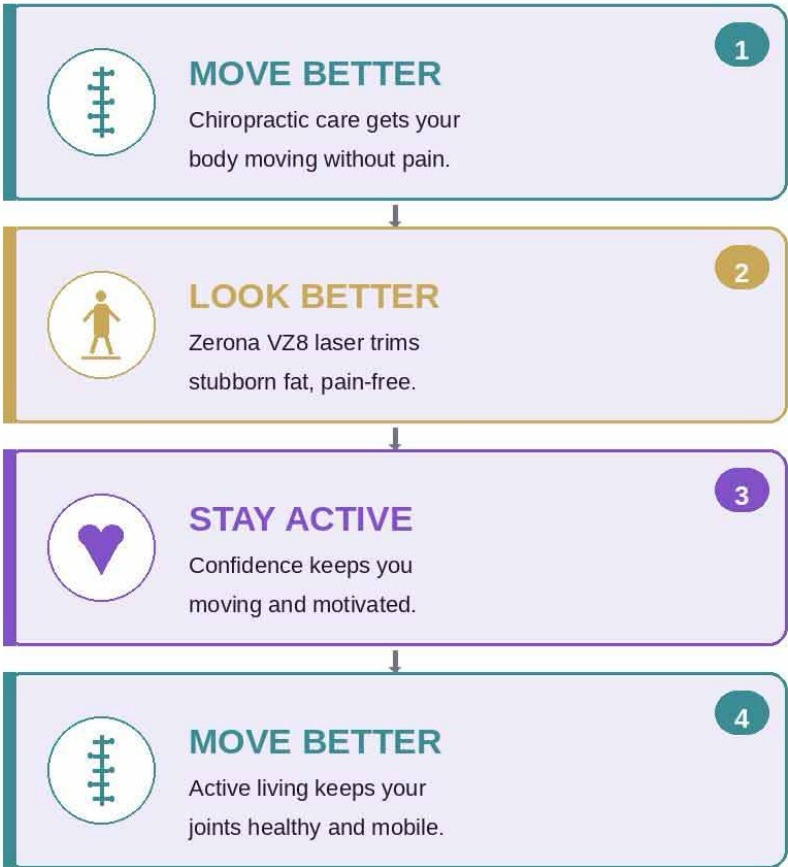




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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

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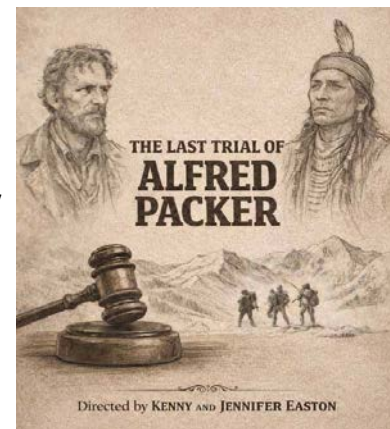
The Last Trial of Alfred Packer by Michael Brooks and Paul Edwards

Set against the rugged backdrop of the San Juan Mountains, the play explores the mysterious events surrounding Alfred Packer and his ill-fated expedition after an encounter with Chief Ouray, blending historical accounts with theatrical imagination. What makes this production especially exciting is its interactive format—audiences don't just watch the story unfold, they help decide its outcome. Directed by Kenny & Jen Easton. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838 or boxoffice@magiccircleplayers.com.

Friday, October 2, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, October 3, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Sunday, October 4, 2026 - 02:00 PM MDT



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PROGRAM CHANGE to...

Montrose County Commissioners
Kirstin Copeland, Sean Pond and Caryn Gibson

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 8-9 AM

Colorado Mesa University-Montrose Cascade Hall

Join the Montrose County Commissioners at the September 30 Forum for an update on what's happening across the county.

Board of County Commissioners Chair Kirstin Copeland, District 1; newly sworn-in Commissioner Caryn Gibson, District 2; and Commissioner Sean Pond, District 3, will share updates on recent County events, current projects and what's coming next. The Forum is also a chance to hear directly from all three commissioners and learn more about the work underway in Montrose County. The Forum is FREE...Invite a friend!

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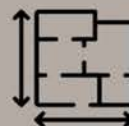
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YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – BUDDING PSYCHOPATHS

By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD

Greetings Mirrorites!

OLATHE-I've been watching a number of psychodramas and cop shows over the summer. If they're a series, at some point a 'troubled youth' will be introduced to the plot line to shake things up a bit. It's such a trope that I began taking bets with myself as to when such a character would make an appearance. And that got me to thinking, how many troubled youths are there in society, really. Is this a convenient Hollywood invention or a true thing?

After taking a deep dive down that rabbit hole, I got my answer, sort of. Of course, kids and teens can have all sorts of mental issues too numerous to count in one article. So, I narrowed it down to psychopathy. But when it comes to kids, you can't call them psychopaths, and for good reason. Labeling them that at 2-3 years old can cause all sorts of damage. So, the proper term is Conduct Disorder. At age 18 a person can be legally diagnosed as having Antisocial Disorder (ASPD), doctor-speak for psychopathy. I found out that calling someone a psychopath might be an accurate assessment of their symptoms (presentation of a suite of characteristics) but it is a colloquial term that professionals seldom use. But anyway, back to the youths.

Conduct disorders are increasing in frequency in global society. Kiddos who display traits of this developmental problem can be as young as 2 years old. According to that bastion of knowledge on these things, [Parents Magazine](#)...Early signs of psychopathy in children can appear as young as 2 years old, through behaviors like lack of guilt, not responding to punishment, and unwillingness to share (A. Morin, August, 2026). It's true that all 2-year-olds act like that occasionally. But when the traits exceed a certain threshold of frequency and intensity, that's maybe when parents can start to worry and film writers can rub their hands together in glee.

Epidemiological studies indicate that the overall prevalence of conduct disorders has increased over recent decades, particularly in Western cultural countries, in the last 3 decades. The most notable increases have been reported in high-income regions, particularly North America and parts of east Asia. While boys carry a higher overall burden of conduct disorder, long-term trends suggest that girls are experiencing a slightly greater

rate of increase. Recent international surveys on these trends indicate that as many as 15% of children under age 15 exhibit a certain number of these traits. The prevalence of conduct problems in schools is roughly three times higher in densely populated urban areas than national averages.

These stats made me wonder about two things concerning brains and nature. Wondering #1... can increasing young female interaction with social media have a bearing on the increasing manifestation of CD?

An article by The World Health Organization states that preteen girls do have more problematic phone use than boys. There is very little research on this topic in general, but one paper indicated that regardless of gender, kids with traits of CD have fewer live friendships and more tendency for unhealthy over-dependence on social media for meaningful contact. So, I tentatively conclude that there is a high likelihood that the increase in CD traits in girls in the 12- to 13-year-old age bracket is probably heightened by social media addiction.

Regarding social media for increasing CD across genders, a [2017 article](#) stated that..." Results suggested that more childhood CD symptoms were significantly associated with greater daily social media use during emerging adulthood, and that more daily social media use was significantly associated with current ASPD symptoms." So, this wondering about girls versus boys will continue for now, but I bet I'm right.

Wondering #2 (the most important one)...does lack of access to restorative environments make a genetic tendency toward CD even greater, and conversely, does access to nature help to dampen this tendency?

Although there isn't a ton of research to date on this, there is a little bit, with the promise of more emerging in the next decade. Ignore all the documentaries on wilderness 'death camps' for troubled youth in Utah and other states that make the news for their prison-like conditions. They are not only inexcusable in general but really do not work on kids with CD. Youngsters with emerging traits indicating CD are not only lacking in empathy and callous to the suffering of others (human and animal), but they are also highly reward driven and respond indifferently to punishment. But can some of these kids actually benefit from structured but kinder experiences in nature?

[One British researcher](#) has found that dark triad traits, of which psychopathy is one, are greatly reduced or absent in people who report a strong



What's missing in this photo? Cell Phones!
Courtesy photo

sense of connectedness to nature. That's great, but what about the kids that don't start out with that blessed connectedness. For instance, low or absent empathy is a predominant trait of CD children. Because the CD brain is structurally different to that of typical kids, instilling empathy may be an uphill battle, but one worth waging. We know that kids with CD have lower activity, development, and connectivity in the medial prefrontal cortex portion of the brain. This is the very region that is important for empathy. This has been measured in before-and-after studies on typical children and has been demonstrated to increase gray matter volume in this area.

So, I feel it's safe to assume that lots of time in restorative environments for children low in empathy might very well help them as well with improved development in this brain region. If true, then some empathy may begin to be possible.

But the settings should be low conflict, challenging but supportive and non-punitive, and populated with non-judgmental others for guidance and role modeling.

So, perhaps Hollywood can be forgiven for introducing the troubled teen as a foil in urban cop shows or long running family psychodramas, because there are indeed plenty of those folks out there. We adults here in this beautiful area cannot be forgiven for ignoring this increasing problem while surrounded by stunning scenery and ample opportunities. Perhaps it takes a rural village to transform a budding serial killer into a budding philanthropist. We can but try. One way to start is by supporting non-profits such as The Nature Connection, and Friends of Youth and Nature.

Food for Autumn Thoughts,
The Mindful Naturalist

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

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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. 29-Tuesday, Sept. 29, 6pm – 7:30pm – Plugged in: Data Center Reality Check in Montrose County. Come learn what data centers are and how they can affect you. Montrose Safety & Police Department Community Room, 434 South 1st Street. Sponsored by Western Colorado Alliance and CCL Montrose.

Oct. 3-9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose. Social time is at 9am, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments. Columbine Quilters will celebrate their 33rd birthday. For more information: Paula millsappscoui@gmail.com or Cheryl [970-462-3849](tel:970-462-3849) Visitors are always welcome.

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:970-765-9095)

Oct. 16-1 to 4:30pm Family Caregiver Summit 2026. Montrose Pavilion. Register at 4CFS.org. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 24-2:30-5:30pm. **Fermentation workshop**. Join Valley Food Partnership and master fermenter Nic Easely to preserve summer's harvest and learn about the health benefits of fermentation. This is a hands-on workshop to learn veggie based saltwater brine. Each participant will take home 2 jars of preserved local veggies! Costs, just to cover supplies, is \$25 per person. Register by October 16: <https://valleyfoodpartnership.org/fermentation-workshop>

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CLASS REUNIONS



By Gail Marvel

On September 25-26, the Montrose High School Class of 1966 held their 60th class reunion. In a memorial service for the 59 classmates who passed away, a Bell Ringing Service was held. For each person the bell rang twice and was followed by the classmate's name and a moment of silence. Known Veterans were saluted and Taps was played following the ceremony. (L to R) Gary Sumner (Navy Veteran) and Rick Sherman conducted the memorial ceremony.

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By
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