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ISSUE 711 Oct. 12, 2026

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the Montrose Mirror

CITY COUNCIL HEARS FROM RESIDENTS NEAR MHS



By Catlin Switzer

MONTROSE-The Montrose City Council convened on Tuesday, Oct. 6. There were two chairs empty at the start of the meeting; that of former District IV Councilor Dave Frank, who resigned his seat last month, as well as that of at-large Councilor Adam Woodden, who had resigned his At Large seat prior to being named to the vacant District IV Seat during the Council meeting.

Mayor Michael Badagliacco opened the session and asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri said that the only change to the meeting agenda was a change to the dollar amount of a purchase authorization.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Badagliacco opened the floor to comments from the public.

The first speaker was a woman named Lainey, who said that she had lived on South Fourth Street for 18 years. She asked that the city reinstate the "permit parking only" signs on her street. The street is now being used as a parking and loading zone, and has experienced vandalism, drug dealing, car horn honking, car alarms, students trespassing on private property, yelling, loud car stereos, excessive and reckless speeding and driving, failing to stop at stop signs, and taking up all parking on the street. South Fourth Street has no off-street parking, she noted. "Since the police can't seem to help us with these issues--we have called them many, many, many times--we are asking you...to reinstate the 'permit parking only' restrictions that were in place for many years that made a significant difference in the abuse of our streets..."

Addressing the same issue was James Keller, also a resident of South Fourth Street. The neighborhood is pleasant during the summer, he said, but when school starts the environment changes. He said students sit in running cars with blacked out windows, and any attempt to confront students escalates into a push and shove. Keller said that he feels insecure every day from 8am to 4pm. Keller recalled that he and his neighbors paid for the street to be put in in the early 2000's. He said that neighbors had circulated a petition and collected numerous signatures, and he asked that parking restrictions be reinstated.

Dave Stockton spoke next, comparing the citizens who oppose the City's ballot measures being included on the ballot in November to the citizens who formed a committee to declare independence from Great Britain 250



Residents of the neighborhood adjacent to Montrose High School spoke to City Council on Oct. 6 about parking, litter, and other issues. Photos by Harry Switzer.

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Editor!

Regional News
Briefs!



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HORN TO DISCUSS WORK ON THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL

Special to the Mirror
 MONTROSE-This month Chipeta Archaeology Society has invited archaeologist Jon Horn to discuss his extensive work on The Old Spanish Trail. Wednesday Oct. 21 at 7pm,
 United Methodist Church, 19S Park Avenue Montrose. Free.

SPECIAL EVENTS PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

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

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





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NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

**Mail Ballot Election
Montrose County, Colorado
Tuesday, November 3, 2026**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Election will be a mail ballot election held in Montrose County, Colorado on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**.

Ballots will be mailed to all active, registered voters the week of **OCTOBER 5**

The Voter Service Polling Center (VSPC) locations are able to assist with all election services during the hours listed below.

VSPC Services Include:

- Issue / Replace Ballots & Electronic Machine Voting
- Register Voters & Update Voter Registration
- Disabled Access

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In-Person Voting begins: **MONDAY, OCTOBER 19**

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 31, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

MONTROSE COUNTY EVENT CENTER (ELECTION DAY ONLY)

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

NUCLA-NATURITA – NATURITA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

107 West Main Street, Naturita, Colorado

In-Person Voting begins: **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29**

Thursday, October 29, Friday, October 30, and Monday, November 2, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 31, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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419 S. Horton Avenue, Olathe, Colorado

Monday – Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

DATED this 12th day of October, 2026, in Montrose County, Colorado

Montrose County Clerk & Recorder, Elections Office

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elections@montrosecounty.net

All voted mail ballots must be **received** in the office of the Montrose County Clerk & Recorder by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

To track your voted ballot, visit **ballottrax.coloradosos.gov**

To check your voter registration, visit **www.govotecolorado.gov**

For a sample ballot, visit **www.montrosecounty.net/elections** or a VSPC

CITY COUNCIL HEARS FROM RESIDENTS NEAR MHS

From pg 1

years ago.

"...Government gets its power with consent of the governed, so it is most appropriate for a group of concerned citizens to rebel against what it believes to be overreach or heavy handedness by elected officials." Stockton called attention to yard signs and banners opposing the proposed charter amendments, paid for by a citizens group. The Republican Party has advertised support for the charter. Stockton said, adding that the party wants control of all elected positions within the County.

"We are under siege..."

Stockton said that City Council is non-partisan and urged voters to think long and hard and reject the proposed amendments.

Dave Congour, a resident of South Fifth Street, also spoke about the increasing challenges of living close to Montrose High School. "We're all justifiably proud of our Montrose students, but some of them need more supervision. They're making life difficult for permanent residents."

He read from a list of disruptive behaviors experienced regularly in the neighborhood, including excessive traffic, loud or non-existent mufflers, excessive speeding, cars running stop signs at full speed, loud car stereos, frequent horn honking, trash being thrown out of car windows, apparent drug activity, and trespassing.

Most students who pass through the neighborhood are well behaved, but those who are not make life difficult for residents, he said. Congour suggested a consistent police presence and a return to permit only parking for students.

South Fourth Street resident Don Martin spoke. While kids will be kids, the littering, loitering and trespassing have become excessive, and parking is a problem, he said. "There's just a lack of respect, and unfortunately a few bad eggs ruin it for everybody..."

Next, Leah Vandersluis spoke. "We are a republic, and we voted you guys in. The ballot measures make totally logical sense. Term limits make sense. Having the election in November makes sense. And having some oversight in the hiring and firing of the City



Citizens say the Pledge of Allegiance at the regular Montrose City Council meeting on Oct. 6. Meeting screenshot.

Clerk and City Manager makes sense...if we don't have any accountability in those hiring and firing practices I think we have a problem. I support all the ballot measures."

Next to speak was Chris Russell, who lives two blocks from the high school. "I'm here to ask for some help in improving our relationship with the high school. I'm sure they're all lovely people but they're terrible neighbors."

He cited trash in the streets and litter at his home, as well as screeching tires, running stop signs, and noise pollution. He suggested speed bumps on Selig between City Market and the High School.

John Brown discussed the November ballot and the importance of informed voting and researching the issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri said that Mr. Brown has been approved for the Honor Flight for Veterans to Washington DC. Brown acknowledged that he would be flying to DC and visiting memorials, all of which have been constructed since 1976, which was the last time that Brown was in Washington, DC. "It's an exciting thing for me to be able to see these memorials..."

Ulibarri thanked Brown for his service.

"And yours too," Brown said.

Resident and property owner Adam Parr, who lives near the High School, spoke in favor of reinstating the parking permit requirements. Parr spoke of donuts in the street, speeding, blaring

music, and a tailgate party atmosphere. He offered several solutions. "I would definitely be in favor of a greater law enforcement presence, especially during school hours."

Christopher Armour of South Fourth Street spoke. "We do have children in our neighborhood...It's a ticking time bomb." He said, "Something bad's going to happen eventually."

Armour said that neighbors have spoken to police. "We don't know how true this is, but we've heard that a lot of these kids park over by us because they can't get a parking permit, because they don't have a license, they don't have insurance...we've had accidents in our neighborhood where that has been confronted, where the parents were asking us, please do not call the cops, they don't have a license, they don't have insurance. And it's like, well, you're the parent. That is what is raising these kids who are coming to our neighborhood."

Armour thanked Council for their time.

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT IV CITY COUNCILOR

Adam Woodden was unanimously appointed and then sworn in to the District IV Council Seat, and then returned to the dais.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the [September 14, 2026, special City Council meeting](#) and the [September 15, 2026, regular](#)

CITY COUNCIL HEARS FROM RESIDENTS NEAR MHS From previous pg

City Council meeting.

YOUTH CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Council voted to approve all Youth Council Applicants except for Dylan Box, who was not present. Youth City Councilors include Niyati Patel, Keira Oldroyd, Jasper Vigil, Ella Sales, Conner Luttrell, and Ashley Haynes.

IT PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION - NEOGOV HUMAN RESOURCES SOFTWARE

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Following a presentation by IT Director Greg Story, Council voted to approve [renewal of the subscription of NeoGov Human Resources software with vendor NeoGov](#) for the total amount of \$68,812.98.

IT PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION - OPTIVE FIREWALL SUBSCRIPTION

Also approved was a [three-year agreement for firewall subscription updates, and support with vendor Optive](#) for the amount of \$80,767.64 per year.

QUASI-JUDICIAL ITEMS

Two items were approved on Second Reading:

ORDINANCE 2731 - SECOND READING

Council approved [Ordinance 2731](#) on second reading, [for the annexation of the Locust Road Addition](#).

ORDINANCE 2732 - SECOND READING

Council voted to approve [Ordinance 2732](#) on Second Reading, for the zoning of the Locust Road Addition as an R-2 Low Density District.

STAFF REPORTS

Utilities Director David Bries gave an [update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project](#).

Police Chief Blaine Hall spoke about the Drug Task Force and efforts to apprehend impaired drivers, and noted the Oct. 8 presentation on police use of FLOCK and other cameras.

Council spent time discussing the upcoming meeting schedule and then adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Badagliacco reminded the public to watch the City's WKRP podcast for episodes featuring himself and Councilor J. David Reed. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Editor's Note:

After hearing the concerns expressed during the meeting regarding parking and other problems in the area near Montrose High School, the Mirror contacted Police Chief Blaine Hall. Chief Hall said that he understands the frustration of those who live near the High School and has reached out to the Principal of Montrose High School, Heidi Voehringer, for assistance. As far as parking "by permit only," Chief Hall said that while there may have been signs at one time, no agency has ever issued permits for on-street parking in the area of South Third or Fourth streets. "I was caught off guard," Hall said. "To my knowledge, I don't think the permitting process was ever something."

The Police Department has received several calls from a neighborhood resident, and one call from students who said that they were being photographed, Hall said.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, the day after the Council meeting, several police cruisers were observed on patrol in the area of South Fourth Street and Selig Avenue over the Noon hour.



The Mirror: many views, one newspaper.

REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

SMPA PURSUES HISTORIC RENEWABLE ENERGY PURCHASE TO SECURE LONG-TERM SAVINGS FOR MEMBERS

Special to the Mirror

CORTEZ – The cooperative partnership of San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), Empire Electric Association (EEA), Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA), and San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC) has agreed to purchase power from Valley Range Energy Park as part of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's Bring Your Own Resource (BYOR) program. If the project is approved by Montezuma County officials, full output solar from Valley Range would supply power equivalent to 40% of 2024 peak demand, and would offer the cooperative partnership an estimated savings totaling more than \$20 million.

Valley Range Energy Park is a 125MW solar energy generation facility collocated with a 62.5MW battery energy storage system (BESS) being developed and planned east of Cortez in an unincorporated area of Montezuma County by Acceleragen Energy. If approved, the low-cost solar in combination with demand stabilizing BESS would generate revenue for SMPA to help offset rising energy costs and necessary infrastructure improvements that would otherwise need to be recovered through electric rates.

"This project represents a decade of work with our wholesale energy supplier, Tri-State, on a process to allow SMPA to purchase more of its power supply from local, renewable energy sources at a lower cost. If approved, this project allows SMPA to provide a much larger percentage of local, clean, renewable energy to our membership while also generating nearly \$5million in savings for SMPA members over the next twenty years. Valley Range is a major win for SMPA and all of the electricity consumers served by the four partner coops" said Brad Zaporski, SMPA Chief Executive Officer and General Manager.

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**October 13th @ Bill Heddles
Recreation Center in Delta @ 4p -
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**October 14th @ MADA in Montrose
@ 4p - 6p**

**October 15th @ Wilkinson Public
Library in Telluride @ 4p - 6p**

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These rare, irrigated lots are just five minutes south of Montrose. One lot is 3 acres and the other is 1.425. It includes a paid water tap and access to UVWUA irrigation water. These properties offer an excellent opportunity to build your dream home or a barndominium, boasts stunning views, and has plenty of space for a 4-H project.

Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.



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COUNTY APPROVES ORDINANCE PROHIBITING NON-NATIVE SPECIES

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-On Wednesday, Oct. 7, The Montrose board of County Commissioners held a regular meeting with all commissioners present, including Board Chair Kirstin Copeland, Vice Chair Sean Pond, and Commissioner Caryn Gibson.

Copeland called the meeting to order; County Attorney Julie Andress led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Garrett Agajanian of St. Stephens Anglican Church delivered the Invocation, expressing thanks for the blessings of living in beautiful Montrose County. He also gave thanks for 250 years of the freedom of being Americans, with all the privileges and blessings that go along with that. Agajanian prayed for the Board of Commissioners, “....graciously grant them wisdom and sound judgment; I pray for the agenda set before them today. Please give an assurance of what would please you and what would benefit those who live and work here in Montrose County...”

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

GENERAL BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2026-01-FIRST READING

After hearing comments from the public, Commissioners voted two to one to approve [Ordinance 2026-01 on First Reading](#), Prohibiting the Intentional Introduction, Release, Transportation, Translocation, Facilitation, or Habitat Establishment of Non-Native Wildlife Species or Non-Native Wildlife Populations within Unincorporated Montrose County.

Copeland voted nay, saying that she supports the ordinance but would like to see more public engagement.

PUBLIC HEARING - Road and Bridge, Brandon Wallace, Public Works Director

Wallace delivered the Montrose County Road and Bridge [Sales and Use Tax Presentation](#), a recap of the 2025 and 2026 projects, planned 2027 projects and future projects.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GENERAL BUSINESS

All items were approved, including:

[Mountain View South Phase 3 Final Plat \[MA26-008\]](#), proposal to divide approximately 27.38 acres into 11 residential lots and retain 12.55 acres for future filings at Parcel 403901205010;

[Gerken Minor Subdivision Three \[MI26-008\]](#) proposal to divide 35.91 acres into three lots at Parcel 399312402002;

[Cannell Minor Subdivision \[MI26-015\]](#) proposal to divide three lots from a 48-acre tract at Parcel 372316200002;

[Shide Trust Large Tract Exemption \[EX26-004\]](#) proposal to divide three lots from 84.06 acres at Parcel 376516200028;

[Willow Pond Amended Plat \[AM26-007\]](#) proposal to adjust the boundary between a lot and a tract and establish an access and utility easement at Parcels 349325305002 and 349325303002; and

Following a public hearing, and after taking verbal and written comment from the public (included in [the meeting packet](#)) the BOCC voted to approve [the Coal Creek Estates III Preliminary Plan \[MA25-016\]](#) proposal to divide 25.94 acres into 12 lots at Parcel 376504200006,

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioners entered Executive Session with the County Attorney and County Manager pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for legal advice regarding the Ordinance prohibiting the introduction of nonnative wildlife species into Montrose County.

Following the Executive Session the meeting was adjourned.



Montrose County Commissioners convened on Oct. 7. Meeting screenshot.



TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PROPERTIES!



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

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



Justin Convington

Broker

970-275-4189

justinconvington@remax.net



553 North Badger Trail

MLS #810743 | TBD N Badger Trail Ridgway \$1,195,000

The home has 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, rec room, and custom finishes throughout. The home also has a nice outdoor dining/entertaining area for you to enjoy the fresh air and wildlife from. The primary bedroom is on the main floor with a patio area attached to the bedroom. The upstairs has a rec room bedroom and a covered porch area for you and your guests to use throughout the year. This home is yet to be built and the builders are happy to work with you to make any changes to have it fit your lifestyle and needs. You are in close proximity to many recreational activities such as hiking fishing, hunting, camping, and skiing.



Mark Convington

Broker

970-209-1956

markconvington@remax.net



MLS #827376 | Lot 23 Eagle Heights \$155,000

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.



Vicki Jones

Broker

970-209-3018

vickijones@remax.net

REMAX Alpine View

1563 Ogden Road

alpine-view-ogden-rd-montrose-co.remax.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HOW HAS SOCIALISM WORKED?

Editor:

Many countries have aspects of socialism, such as the Welfare program in the US. But the definition of true socialism is "an economic and political system where the community or government owns and controls the major means of production, distribution, and exchange".

India tried socialism in the 1920's for about 30 years after the British colonialism ended. After awhile, it couldn't meet the needs of a growing population. More than half the people lived below the poverty line. They slowly moved away from socialism toward a free market economy.

The middle class then included almost half the population. Never before have so many people risen financially so quickly.

After WW2, Israel was socialist for years. It seemed to work at first, although the people's lives were very controlled. But it couldn't keep up with the economic challenges, and changed to a free market economy in the 1980's. In one year, inflation went from 450% to 20%. In the 2000's, the political parties agreed that there is no turning back to socialism.

The UK was socialist for 30 years. Its economy grew more slowly than the other European economies. Powerful unions inhibited productivity.

Public sector workers went on strike for weeks in 1979 and garbage piled up in the streets. Then Margaret Thatcher began to, as she wrote, "reverse the corrosive and corrupting effects of socialism". She privatized industries. Productivity grew faster than in any economy. Inflation fell from 27% to 2.6%.

Several Scandinavian countries tried true socialism for awhile, then changed to a free market economy, and their economies and personal freedoms increased. They tax their citizens heavily and spend a lot on social programs, but no longer control the means and distribution of production.

Venezuela and Cuba adopted socialism, and their economies and personal freedoms went downhill. Multitudes were killed or left the country. The people were poor, but the leaders became very wealthy.

A teacher decided to teach her students the meaning of socialism. After the first test, the grades were averaged, and all of the students received a "C". The students who had worked hard and earned an "A" decided that there was no advantage to working hard. The students

who deserved an "F" were glad that they didn't need to work, and continued doing poorly. By the end of the semester, all received an "F." There was no incentive to do better.

Socialism reduces incentives to work, be innovative, or invest. It brings excessive government control, inefficiency, and causes entrepreneurs to give up or to move to other freer countries. It is based on the belief that there is no God, and that the government is in charge of our lives.

It has failed in every country where it has been tried. It promises much, but delivers poverty and ever increasing government control. In the worst cases, it becomes Communism, where the people are the most repressed and impoverished, and tens of millions have died from starvation and execution.

Support for the idea of socialism is based on its empty promises, but there is no example of it ever working.

Countries have prospered the most when the government is limited, the poor are cared for, innovation is encouraged, and the people are free to make their own choices.

Sandy Anderson, Montrose

HORRIFYING

Editor:

It is horrifying that a President would suggest targeting any US cities for the Iran to take out. Trump's remarks about Iran, "taking out"(his words) Los Angeles, and San Diego, were dangerous and unacceptable because a president should protect Americans, not use language that can reasonably be understood as welcoming an attack on American cities.

Anyone who follows this selfish, frightened, little man, who needs banners of his face on public buildings (similar to how chairman Mao campaigned in China during the Cultural Revolution) is not loving this country BUT destroying it by following a Tyrant.

How can the Republican Party support such Treasonous Action??

Write your legislators and let them know how you feel about the incompetence and lack of good leadership

We deserve better in a President!

Respectfully Disappointed,

Val Hudson, Montrose



★ MONTROSE COLORADO ★ **VOTER GUIDE**

Know Before You Vote ★ November 3, 2026

Stronger Communities ★ A Brighter Colorado ★ A Freer Tomorrow



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-  **U.S. SENATE**
MARK BAISLEY
-  **ATTORNEY GENERAL**
MICHAEL ALLEN
-  **SECRETARY OF STATE**
JAMES WILEY
-  **STATE TREASURER**
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SHERRI WRIGHT
-  **U.S. HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3**
JEFF HURD
-  **COLORADO HOUSE DISTRICT 58**
LARRY DON SUCKLA
-  **LOCAL REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

★ 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

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

★ ★ READ ★ RESEARCH ★ VOTE ★ ★



VOTE YES

**A SAFER,
STRONGER COLORADO**

-  **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.

- For more info, go to MontroseRepublicans.Org -

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE INTEGRITY OF AN ELECTION IS IN THE DETAILS

Dear Editor,

More on my premise: The Integrity of an election is in the DETAILS.

DETAIL # 10. Terms often used to describe some of the many steps in the journey of a ballot.

Ballot Processing usually means the actual trip the ballot takes. It is compiled, mailed to the voter, received by mail or retrieved from the ballot boxes around town, securely stored and then given to the Election Judges to follow prescribed procedures to get the ballots ready for tabulation.

A UOCAVA Voter is a United States citizen who is protected under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Enacted in 1986, this federal law guarantees the right to register and vote absentee in federal elections for specific groups of Americans who are away from their home voting jurisdictions.

1.Members of the Uniformed Services: Active-duty members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard, as well as the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

2.The Merchant Marine: Active service members of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

3.Eligible Family Members: Spouses and dependents of the military and Merchant Marine personnel listed above.

4.Overseas Citizens: Private U.S. citizens living, working, or studying outside the United States, including citizens born abroad who have never resided in the U.S. but are eligible to vote through a parent's last U.S. domicile (depending on the state).

Note: Uniformed service members do not need to be overseas to qualify; they simply must be stationed away from their legal voting residence.

Confidential Voters are voters whose identity is protected by law. These are often law enforcement officers or victims of domestic violence.

A Provisional Ballot is provided to a voter whose eligibility to vote is not immediately established because the voter has completed

the Affidavit, but is not able to readily provide an approved form of identification. Provisional ballots that have been issued and received by 7pm on Election Day are held until the voter's eligibility has been verified. Once verified, that ballot can be included in the final tally for the final results.

State Ballot If a Colorado voter is traveling within the state of Colorado and not able to vote in the jurisdiction where they reside, the eligible voter may be provided a State Ballot that does not include any local items.

Security of voting systems and ballots is essential to a trustworthy election. Every state and local jurisdiction utilizes legal and common-sense procedures and tools to safeguard the voting process. Common best practices include having a designated and secure place which can only be accessed by authorized election officials.

Preferably, this place requires a two-factor verification in order to access a locked room where the equipment and/or ballots are stored. Additionally, one or more security cameras are required in all areas where the ballots are processed. System testing of all electronic equipment should be done before every election and audits conducted after every election.

Chain-of-Custody is an important step in assuring the accuracy and integrity of an election. A complete chain of custody is essential to the integrity of the ballots retrieved by mail or from the ballot boxes, and each step of ballot processing throughout the election. Security best practices include; putting ALL ballots in a metal box, secured with a single-use numbered seal, recording this number on the chain-of-custody log signed by both Election Judges. This log is attached to the box so it tracks where the box was used, who used it and what time it was sealed and then opened. This log should be kept for the required time after the election, as well.

These secure steps should have been followed by the City Clerk, when she hand-carried the remnant ballots unsecured from the County Elections Office to City Hall.

Curing refers to validating the ballots received by 7 pm on Election Day, but were rejected due to signature discrepancies. The voter is notified and requested to come to the Elections Office to rectify the discrepant situation. If the discrepancy

of this ballot is validated or cured, the ballot will proceed to be tabulated. If the voter does not come or cannot provide the required information, the ballot will remain rejected and not proceed to tabulation.

Scanning is a process that only the County Elections Office can do. The City cannot scan ballots as they have no electronic tabulator equipment and must rely on the County Elections Office to do this for them.

The scanning of the ballots involves the input of the verified and voted ballots into an optical scanner known as an electronic tabulator machine. Scanning is the process of capturing the votes made within the ovals on the ballots in order to count and tabulate those votes. It will only read and record every "oval" on the ballot. Any marks or notes made outside the oval do not impact the vote.

For convenience purposes, scanning is done in batches of 50. Every ballot within each batch is stamped with the precise date, time and number sequence as it goes through the machine. The tabulator is capturing every ballot's information. No one knows who the voter is or how they voted, not even the authorized person standing next to the machine because the ballots have already been separated from the envelopes by previous Election Judges during ballot processing! Nor does anyone know the election results until after 7pm on Election Night.

Adjudication (judgement, resolution, decision) is the process of having two experienced Election Judges physically examine the specific ballot which the machine has flagged. Optical Scanners like the one at the County Elections Office will flag an unreadable or ambiguous ballot or digital image for further review.

The County uses two bipartisan Election Judges to evaluate the mark or marks guided by standard 'voter intent rules' to determine how the voter intended to vote. overvote (too many votes on one choice), a write-in candidate or a ballot that has marks or stains near the ovals or is torn, will be flagged for adjudication.

Continued next pg

THE INTEGRITY OF AN ELECTION IS IN THE DETAILS

From previous pg

It is most important to follow the instructions on the ballot so the judges can clearly determine your intended choice!

Tallying otherwise known as the "counting and tabulation of the ballots" is the time when the selections made by the voters will be tallied and reported. After 7 pm on Election Night, the Election Officials will generate and publish a record of the tally of all of the ballots scanned. This tally will show the specific selections made by the voter. The unofficial election results are provided for all interested voters so they can have the preliminary election results.

The unofficial election results are preliminary through the 8 days after the election for the voters whose signature was rejected to 'cure' (validate) their signature. These could also

include UOCAVA ballots arriving from overseas postmarked by Election Day. Once these are ballots are cured, they will be forwarded for tabulation and added to the tally.

Audits and Canvassing. After every County election is the Risk Limiting Audit and canvassing process. In the Risk Limiting Audit, the judges compare the original voted ballots to the electronic/scanned image of that ballot. This audits the machine's interpretation of the original voted ballot.

The County Canvass Board consisting of the county chairpersons (or their designee) of each of the two major political parties reconciles the ballots cast to confirm that the number of ballots counted in the election does not exceed the number of ballots cast; reconciles the ballots cast to confirm that the number of ballots cast does

not exceed the number of registered electors; and certifies the abstract of votes cast to the County Clerk and Recorder, who then transmits the certification to the State.

The City Canvass Board is comprised of the City Clerk, the then seated Mayor and a District Judge.

That's all for now.

In the meantime, don't be influenced by false and misleading gossip. Do the research and trust your own judgement.

It is important to Vote YES/FOR on City of Montrose Ballot Question 2A – Elections to move the Municipal Councilor Office election to the November election – informed voters take the time to learn the FACTS! Consolidate our elections and save taxpayers' dollars!

Patty Greeves, Montrose

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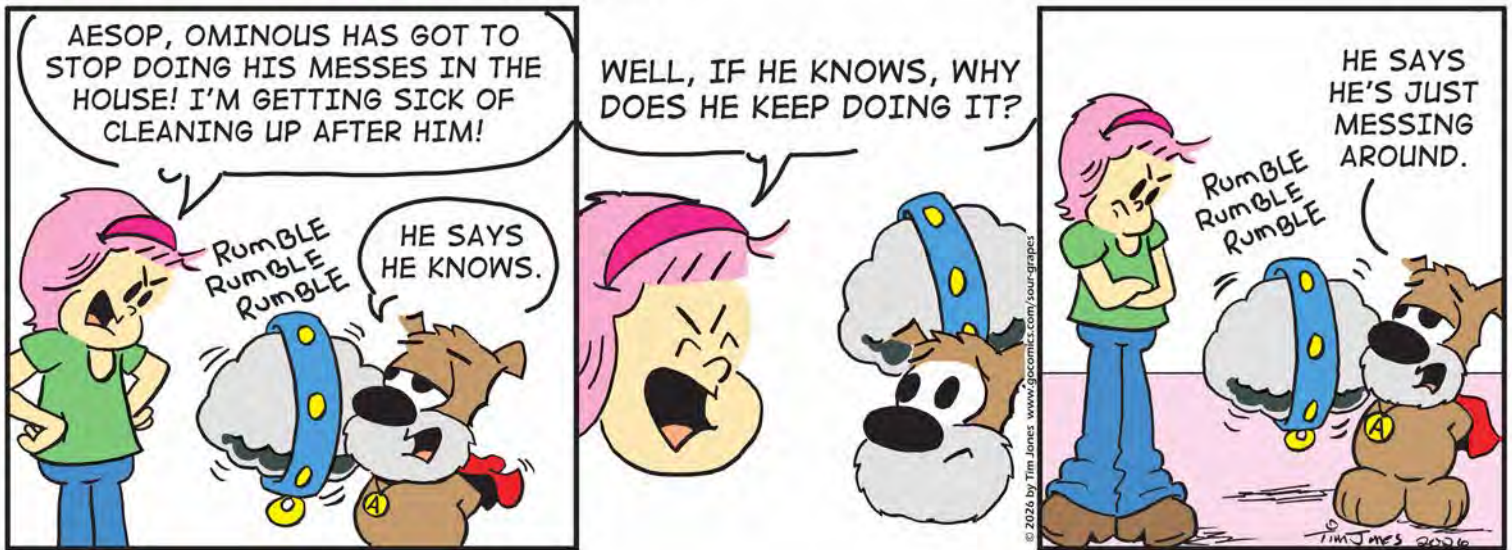
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

CITY OF MONTROSE CHARTER CHANGES – A LIGHTNING ROD OR A REASON TO DISAGREE WITH CITY COUNCIL?

“Non-Partisan” Critics Give You Every Reason Needed to Support Updates to the Charter with a YES vote!

By David White

The protests are all over the place when it comes to four (4) proposed changes to the City of Montrose Charter that are on next month's mid-term election ballot. You'd think we were being asked to vote on a major political matter given all of the ads, banners, public forums and so on. The reality is that the proposed changes – four (4) in all, are practical and needed. We'll get into that shortly.

But why are we here? Where were these critics in 2014 when more than three (3) dozen charter changes were proposed, placed on the ballot and voted on as a package deal without a citizen's Charter Review Committee? The same thing happened in 2025. There was no citizens led Charter Review Committee. No cries of protest. No political campaigning for or against the measure. Yet the citizens made a choice and this time the measure failed. Both of these measures were an all or nothing vote. Accept them all or nothing changes in the Charter. As background, on April 1, 2014, Montrose voters approved a referred measure amending the City Charter (the main document governing us as a home-rule city). It passed with 3,975 votes in favor and 1,421 against.

cityofmontrose.org

This was a package of updates prepared by a Charter Review Committee (led by then-City Manager Bill Bell and involving City Council members) without ANY CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT. Changes to the Charter were amazingly large and had a significant impact on how the City was managed and run. These included both clerical/organizational updates and some substantive shifts, such as:

- Changing masculine-only pronouns to gender-neutral language.
- Updating terms (e.g., “telephone” to “communication system”).
- Clarifying candidate qualifications (no felony conviction) and expanding the list of officials

required to take an oath.

- Adjusting City Council meeting rules (location, daytime meetings, electronic participation, recusal).
- Shifting public comment timing on ordinances.
- Clarifying roles for the Municipal Court, City Attorney, and City Manager (including authority over the police chief and city clerk appointments/removals, and budget line-item changes).
- Removing bonding requirements for officials (in favor of insurance) and references to a fire chief.
- Other updates to align the charter with then-current practices and the city's organizational structure.

cityofmontrose.org

The ballot language summarized many of these points and referred voters to the full revised charter and a redlined version on the city's website which was a questionable practice as full disclosure of the significance of the changes was obscured (many believe deliberately) with the voters being told that most of the changes were “housekeeping measures.”

Of significance were added and clarified multiple references to the City Manager position and duties (the old pre-2014 charter had few mentions). The new changes gave the City Manager sole authority to appoint or remove the Police Chief and the City Clerk removing the previous joint role with City Council in appointing people to fill these positions. And these changes vested in and created an extremely powerful position in the form of the City Manager. A decision that led to an abuse of power as the years passed. That wasn't always the case and sensible modifications to the power invested in the City Manager are long overdue.

In keeping with past practice, the City Council and (Interim) City Manager and the City Attorney have worked together to present, via separate ballot questions, four (4) modifications to the Charter as follows:

1. Move municipal elections from April to November. Change general municipal elections from the first Tuesday in April of even-numbered years to the first Tuesday in November of even-

numbered years. This would align city elections with the regular statewide/general election calendar. cityofmontrose.org

2. Impose a lifetime eight-year term limit for City Council members. Limit any person to a maximum of eight years of elected service on the City Council in their lifetime (consecutive or non-consecutive terms combined). This would apply to candidates after November 3, 2026. Appointments to fill vacancies would not count toward the limit.

cityofmontrose.org

3. Give City Council approval power over the Police Chief. Allow the City Council to approve or disapprove the City Manager's decision to appoint or discharge (hire or fire) the Police Chief. (Currently, under the 2014 charter changes, the City Manager has sole authority.) cityofmontrose.org

4. Give City Council approval power over the City Clerk. Allow the City Council to approve or disapprove the City Manager's decision to appoint or discharge (hire or fire) the City Clerk. (Currently the City Manager has sole authority.)

library.municode.com

Those howling in protest largely claim that somehow or another, these changes have a partisan political bent to them all the while claiming that they are the non-partisan majority of voters. Really? How can any rational person go there?

Let's look at the first question...How, might one ask, is coordinating the City's municipal elections with the November general elections a bad thing? Claims that we lose our independence and conflate or confuse the voters with a coordinated election just don't hold water. The number of disenfranchised Black, Hispanic and other minority voters as well as White voters has been proven to be statistically higher when municipal elections are not coordinated with general elections.

The League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region, Colorado Common Cause and others have sued the City of Colorado

CITY OF MONTROSE CHARTER CHANGES – A LIGHTNING ROD OR A REASON TO DISAGREE WITH CITY COUNCIL? From previous pg

Springs over this very issue. The Colorado Voting Rights Act, recently upheld by the Colorado Court of Appeals, gives strength to the argument that this lawsuit will prevail.

(<https://coloradonewslines.com/2026/09/25/racial-disparities-colorado-springs-off-cycle-elections/>)

And, the City will save roughly \$30,000 by not having to have a separate election as well as avoiding the many missteps and meddling in local elections as they've admitted to having committed over the last 14 years. Election integrity is a real thing. The County Clerk's Office is far more qualified to run an election than the City Clerk's Office. This will also take the cloud of doubt and capability that currently engulfs the City off the table.

The 2nd question...Term Limits...We have them at the State and Federal level and they've served us well. A changing of the guard. New blood. A different perspective on issues. Offering voters a choice beyond someone serving for 8 years is a good thing. All are relevant reasons to support capping the number of years one can hold local public office.

The 3rd & 4th questions...selection of or termination of the Police Chief and City Clerk jointly by the City Council and City Manager...I was on City Council in 2005 when Police Chief Gary Mecham submitted his resignation. The City Charter at the time called for the position to be filled with the approval and consensus of the City Manager and the City Council. The City Council, as the elected body, was there to represent the citizens, give input and act in coordination with the City Manager and Staff to select the Police Chief. The process worked extremely well.

Here's an excerpt from the Montrose Daily Press dated April 29, 2005, describing how Tom Chinn was appointed as the then "new" Police Chief in accordance with the City Charter:

"The City of Montrose got its man this morning, and Cmdr. Tom Chinn got the job he wanted."

"City Council appointed Chinn, a 32-year veteran of the city's police department, to succeed retiring Chief Gary Mecham in June."

"The city selected its new chief after fielding 52 applications, and after a two-day process

earlier this week, in which candidates sat down with the police department, members of the community, other law enforcement officers from around the region, and city staff."

"The police department members met with the candidates in a separate session and passed along written feedback to city staff. The police department did not make a collective recommendation."

"The city took input from each of those groups in formulating a recommendation for council."

"We got lots of good feedback," said Mary Watt, director of administrative services with the city.

"It was very inclusive of the (police department) and of the community."

(https://www.montrosepress.com/news/win-for-chinn---city-picks-new-police-chief/article_ba55cbe5-b90a-577a-937a-9fe8f0fec871.html)

I attended many of those meetings as an observer. The process was inclusive of all. The appointment was made by Council and from that point forward, the Chief reported to the City Manager. The process worked until 2014 when total hiring and firing authority was vested in the City Manager. Citizens and staff, for the most part, were cut out of the process. If you don't think that the City Manager doesn't wield political power within an organization structured to do his or her bidding, you've got another thing coming. This Charter change is long overdue.

As to the City Clerk's position...the same holds true and more. Remember, the City Clerk is not just a "clerk." They are also the Clerk to the City Council. They technically work for the City Council and not the City Manager in that capacity.

Meeting agendas, documentation for meetings, recording of minutes and many other functions performed by and for the City Council entitle the Council to participate in the selection of that person. For all of these reasons and more (as has been proven of late with the multiple disclosures of questionable or outright mishandling of municipal elections) as well as the possibility of the City Manager having played a role not delegated to him relative to municipal elections over the last 14 years, it's time to put our elected officials back in the selection process for any future City Clerk.

In closing, I harken back to the words of current City Councilor David Reed's statement in the Montrose Daily Press in their January 21, 2004,

edition where he said, after announcing that he would not be running for a 2nd term as a City Councilor in the 2004 municipal election that:

"...We need good leadership, whether its city council or organizations within the community, but we also need involved citizens. That doesn't mean we need to have the same ideology; the commitment to serve is what's important."

(https://www.montrosepress.com/news/montrose-names-new-mayor/article_fc972cbb-2dfa-54f0-8149-3ba6306290d8.html)

Unfortunately, those words haven't always been ones he's lived by or governed by which, in part, may have contributed to the current rhetoric being thrown about by some that the City Council is to be a non-partisan body...nothing more and nothing less.

While in practice, Council represents everyone regardless of where they fall on the political spectrum, in reality, everyone comes to the table with a set of biases, beliefs, ideologies, etc. which have been formed by many life experiences. You can't get away from it. It makes you who you are, so those that have railed against Council and their "conservative" politics have shown themselves to exist in a completely partisan fashion with ties directly to "liberal" or left of center organizations or political parties.

Such double talk has only exacerbated the political divisions that exist in this community as those who have stayed silent for so long have exercised their right to voice opposition to the "progressive" elements that have been driving most of the political agendas in this community and now the fight is on as they say. Where it ends is yet to be seen.

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

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REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FIRST READING OF NON-NATIVE WILDLIFE ORDINANCE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - The Montrose County Board of County Commissioners approved the first reading of proposed Ordinance 2026-01 earlier this week, which would prohibit certain intentional introductions, releases, transportation, translocations and habitat establishment of non-native wildlife species or populations within unincorporated Montrose County.

The proposed ordinance is intended to protect private property, agriculture, ranching and livestock operations, grazing, water rights, mineral and energy development, public access and other lawful land uses from potential impacts associated with the intentional introduction or translocation of non-native wildlife.

"We respect wildlife, but we also have a duty to protect our way of life, our economy, and our property rights," said Commissioner Sean Pond. "This ordinance is about local control, responsible stewardship, and common sense."

The ordinance applies broadly to covered non-native wildlife species and populations. It specifically addresses wildlife intentionally captured or translocated from outside Colorado, including gray wolves brought into the state from populations in Oregon and British Columbia.

The ordinance does not apply to the natural and unassisted movement of wildlife into Montrose County and includes exemptions for wildlife rehabilitation, domestic or agricultural livestock, veterinary treatment, permitted scientific and educational activities, and management of existing native or established wildlife populations.

The proposed ordinance recognizes the wildlife management authority of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and Colorado Parks and Wildlife while addressing areas within the County's lawful authority, including property interests, agriculture, land use where applicable, natural resources and public safety.

The second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-01 is scheduled for November 18, 2026. The BOCC will be hosting two Special Meetings prior to the second reading. The times and dates are as follows:

Wednesday, October 28 at 9am

Olathe American Legion Hall #2

315 S. 5th Street, Olathe

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 1pm

Naturita Community Center

411 West 2nd Avenue, Naturita

The purpose of these special meetings is to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed ordinance before the Board considers final adoption.

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

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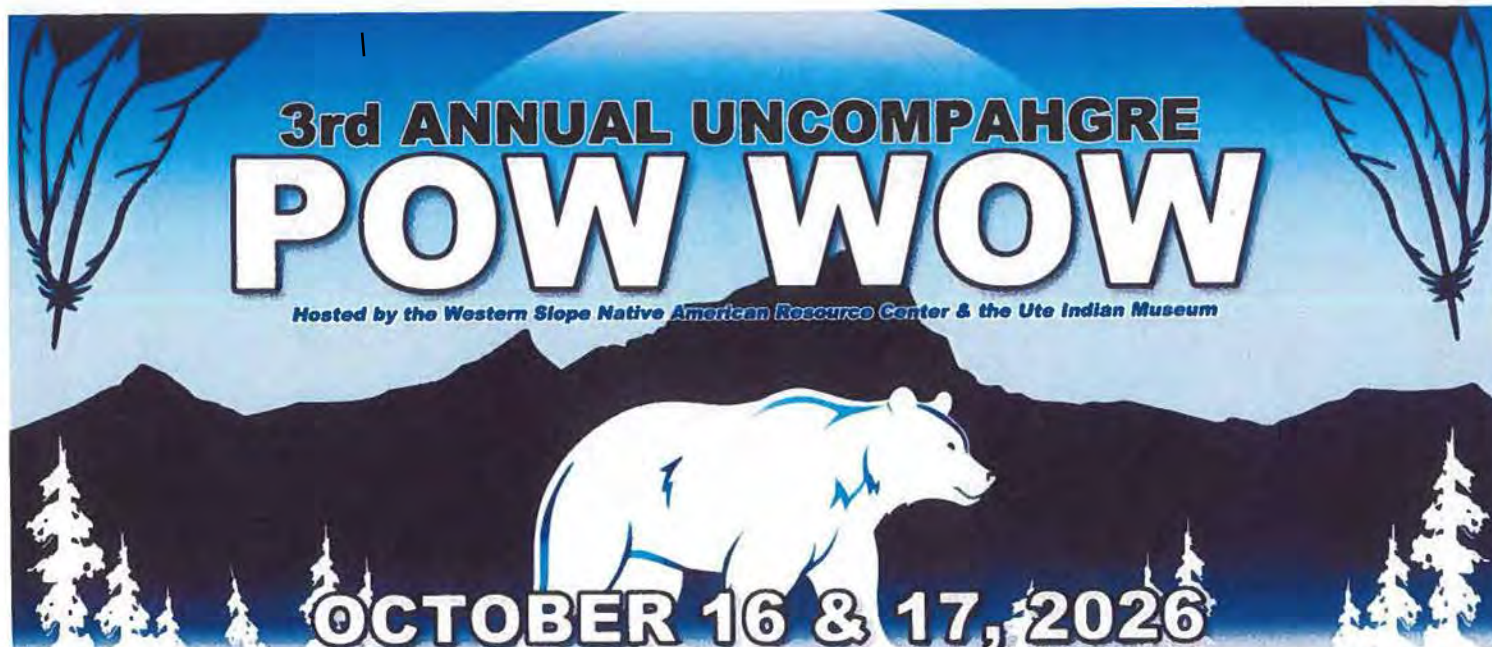
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Montrose County Event Center 1036 N 7TH ST, MONTROSE, CO

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

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Prizes to be announced

DRUM CONTEST

(COMBINED)

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DANCE CATEGORIES

Tiny Tots (0-6)

Paid Daily

GOLDEN AGES (50+)

Men's - Combined All Categories

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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY I AM VOTING AGAINST PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Dear Editor:

My name is Tom Cheney. I was a member of the Montrose City Council from January 1993 until April, 1998 during which time the Charter required joint approval by the Manager and Council for hiring/firing both the Chief of Police and the Clerk. An Amendment to the Charter was approved by vote of the Citizens in 2014 giving the Manager the sole responsibility of hiring/firing these two City staff positions. Approval of two of the present Amendments will undo the Amendment of 2014 and restore the joint approval procedure which existed while I was in office. I am voting against these Amendments for the following reasons:

1. Our City has a "Council – Manager" form of government. The Council is responsible for hiring/firing of the City Manager, City Attorney, and Municipal Judge. The City Manager is the Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for the hiring/firing of all other City employees which include the Police Chief and City Clerk. Why select just the Police Chief and Clerk for the special approval process proposed by the Amendments? Why not the Planning Director, Personnel Director, Public Works, Finance, etc.? The idea of such shared control tends to weaken our existing Council-Manager form of government. Police chief and Clerk would

then serve "two masters". This is very risky and would tend to make these selected operations of the City more political in nature as the Council, as the elected body, would always have the greater power of hiring/firing both the selected staff member and the Manager. We should not undertake this risk with these two staff positions? We would again be heading in the wrong direction.

2. From my own experience these Amendments are bad. Many City staff positions are vacated by retirement or by the person seeking a new job. I can think of three retired Police Chiefs in the past 35 years. One happened during my time of service. We had a good Manager then (Ted Barkley) and there was a good flow of information and cooperation between Manager and Council over the workings of the Police Department. The Police Department is like a military organization with "rank and file" and the initial question was: should we appoint a new chief from within or go outside for "new blood"? The "rank and file" wanted the former as it would open up potential vacant positions. The Manager said the department had a morale issue which could be addressed with a new and experienced person. He also wanted to offer an educational program

where the Citizens could become more familiar with the operations of the police department and find a new Chief with some experience in this area. I personally experienced much pressure from both individuals in the department and their families. This was politics in action and was entirely unnecessary. We relied exclusively on our Manager's advice. Council's involvement was not helpful.

3. The majority of our present Council has demonstrated a poor working relationship with its former Manager resulting in his "separation". A return to the Charter provisions which existed during my term in office would be a step in the wrong direction for the City at this time.

4. Introducing politics into hiring/firing the City Clerk who oversees elections is not in the best interests of our Citizens. What would occur, for example, should one or more the Council be subject to a recall election? Unfortunately we live in an era of allegations of "fraud" and "stolen elections" being made by a losing candidate.

The Clerk should be free of political influence.

Tom Cheney,
Montrose

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Delta: Pour Ernie's
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MRH EXPANDS DIRECTEST SELF-PAY OPTIONS TO LABORATORY TESTING

Program offers discounted, transparent pricing for select laboratory and medical imaging services without insurance

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Montrose Regional Health (MRH) has expanded its DirecTest self-pay program to include laboratory testing, offering patients discounted, transparent pricing on more than 30 lab tests without using insurance. The new laboratory service joins DirecTest Imaging, which has offered discounted self-pay pricing on select medical imaging services since earlier this year. Both services are available exclusively at the MRH Ambulatory Care Center (ACC), 3330 S. Rio Grande Ave.

"We know patients are looking for more transparency and choice when it comes to the cost of their healthcare," said Chad Somerby, vice president of revenue cycle. "Whether someone is uninsured, has limited coverage, or is navigating a high-deductible plan, DirecTest provides another option for accessing certain laboratory and imaging services with clear, upfront pricing while giving patients more choice in managing their healthcare."

DirecTest Laboratory

DirecTest Laboratory offers more than 30 self-pay laboratory tests, along with men's and women's health panels that combine multiple tests at a package price. No provider order is required, giving patients the opportunity to access select laboratory testing directly. Results will be available through the MRH patient portal and will become part of the patient's MRH medical record. Results are not automatically sent to the patient's healthcare provider. Patients are responsible for reviewing their results, sharing them with a licensed healthcare provider, and seeking appropriate follow-up. Laboratory staff can assist patients with the collection process and accessing results but cannot interpret results, diagnose conditions, or provide medical advice.

Laboratory testing is available through the Outpatient Laboratory on the first floor of the ACC. Payment is due before collection, and a \$5 venipuncture collection fee applies in addition to the cost of selected tests. Patients can view available tests, pricing, preparation instructions, and additional information at montrosehealth.com/lab.

DirecTest Imaging

DirecTest Imaging offers select medical imaging services at the ACC, including X-rays, mammograms, and MRI services. A provider order is required for all imaging exams. Self-pay pricing includes both the imaging service and radiologist's interpretation, so patients know their total cost upfront. Imaging services are available on the first floor in Suite 100. For a complete list of available imaging services, pricing, and scheduling information, visit montrosehealth.com/imaging

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AT-LARGE COUNCIL OPEN SEAT

Accepting Applications through 10/21

City Council filled the vacant District IV seat on Tuesday evening. In order to widen the pool of candidates for the vacant seat, Councilor Reed offered an option that would do just that.

So, what happened? Councilor Woodden resigned his "At-Large" seat on Monday 10/5 in order to be appointed to the District IV seat. This did not extend Councilor Woodden's term or shorten the term for the impending appointment for the now open "At-Large" seat vacated by Councilor Woodden.

What it did do is open the seat to the entire city, rather than only District IV residents. A win-win, in the opinion of the entire Council.

This allows for the entirety of the city residents who qualify for the seat to throw their hat in the ring.

The Council is looking for someone the entire Council can get behind as a "consensus" pick by the Council. Meaning, all four of the current Councilors can agree would be the right addition to the Council for the remainder of the At-Large term that concludes in 2028.

We are [accepting applications through Wednesday 10/21](#) and will interview the top 3 candidates on November 2 at the work session and appoint the new Councilor that night at the City Council Regular Meeting.

There are no Council Meetings this week.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Council schedule will be adjusted to accommodate. The next Council meetings will be October 20 with the Work Session from 2:00 -4:00 PM and the regular Council Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Council Chambers at 107 S. Cascade.

For those who need more information to help you make your decision on the four Proposed Charter Amendments on the ballot, the [redlined version](#) with the full text of the proposed changes can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

Thank you,

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE FALL CLINICS HONORS FOUR FOR HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

55th annual event recognizes excellence across medicine, nursing, and community service

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH) and the local medical community recently gathered for the 55th annual Montrose Fall Clinics, where four individuals were recognized for their contributions to local healthcare.

Awards were presented in four categories: Physician of the Year, Advanced Practice Provider (APP) of the Year, Nurse of the Year, and Community Member of the Year. Montrose Fall Clinics is the longest-running medical education conference in Colorado, providing learning, networking, and collaboration opportunities to healthcare providers across the Western Slope.

The Physician of the Year Award was presented to Sarah Judkins, MD, a Montrose general surgeon with more than 15 years of experience in healthcare. The award was presented by Bryce Lokey, MD, chief medical officer at Cedar Point Health. "Sarah communicates realistic outcomes grounded in experience and evidence, and is a skilled and accomplished surgeon," Lokey said. "I'd want her to operate on my mom if she needed it."

The Advanced Practice Provider of the Year Award

went to Michelle Hart, AGACNP-BC, a board-certified adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner in Montrose. The award was presented by Michael Brezinsky, MD, MRH director of continuing medical education. "She embodies compassion and kindness," Brezinsky said. "She is a tremendous team player who is always willing to step in, help others, and do whatever is needed to provide the best care for our patients."

The Nurse of the Year Award went to Shannon Hill, RN. Hill has worked at MRH for 18 years as a medical-surgical nurse and house supervisor. The award was presented by Jesse Bielak, RN, vice president of operations at Montrose Regional Health. "Shannon has oriented, taught, and mentored hundreds of nurses in her tenure," Bielak said. "Each of those nurses now holds a piece of Shannon's beautiful spirit, kindness, resilience, and knowledge."

The Community Member of the Year Award went to Lisa Rediger, executive director of the Magic Circle Players community theater in Montrose. The award was presented by Thomas Chamberlain, MD, a retired MRH physician and Magic Circle volunteer. "She is passionate about live theater and loves every minute of it," Chamberlain said. "Her enthusiasm spreads to everyone."

Fall Clinics is held each September at the Montrose Pavilion. For more information, visit montrosehealth.com/for-providers/fall-clinics/ or contact DeVerna Rogers at drogers@montrosehealth.com.



Bielak and Hill.



Rediger and Chamberlain.



Lokey and Judkins.



Brezinsky and Hart.

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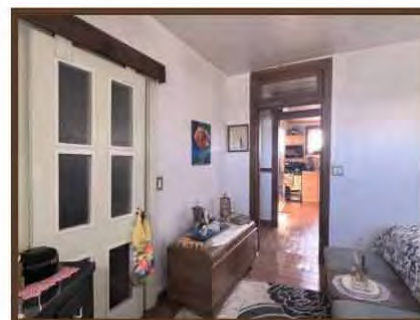
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Montrose Mayors Agree: Vote NO on All Four Amendments

The following former Montrose mayors have joined together in opposition to all four proposed City Charter amendments:

Dave Frank J. David Reed Barbara Bynum
Doug Glaspell Dave Bowman Roy Anderson
Judy Ann Files David Romero Bob Nicholson
Thomas Smits Noelle Hagan Bill Patterson
Tom Cheney Don Gladwell

These experienced leaders understand Montrose city government—and they agree that these amendments are not in the best interest of our community.

Join them in voting NO on all four City Charter amendments.

VOTE NO
ON ALL 4 CITY
CHARTER AMENDMENTS

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Charter Issues Committee. Registered Agent: Robert Nicholson
Learn more at: MontroseCityCouncilWatch.com

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THROWING GRENADES FROM THE SIDELINE

by Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Elective office is a lightning rod. Anyone who has held one knows that it is expected. What is problematic is the person who throws grenades but refuses to actually step onto the field. They will not put their name on the petition; open their life to the same scrutiny they demand of everyone else that is running for office requires. They want to make a stink but still avoid the scrutiny.

That is not the same thing as speaking up. Speaking up is a right. I used it. For a couple of years before I ran for Council, I wrote letters to the editor on a steady basis. One of the first pieces I wrote after coming home to Montrose, if not the first, was about stepping up and getting involved instead of only complaining about what you think is wrong. I still believe that. A letter, a comment at a meeting, a hard question in public: those are part of how a town works. They are not a substitute for standing for the job.

Not everyone can run

Plenty of people cannot take the seat, and I am not talking about them. Young children at home. A job that will not bend. Health. Care for a parent. Those are real limits. I have them too. I keep a full-time job along with the work of Mayor and Council. I write several articles a week on things I care about. I look after my mother, who is nearly 85. It is a juggling act that runs close to twenty hours a day, seven days a week. I do not offer that as a medal. I offer it as proof that the calendar is tight for more people than the critics like to admit.

Service is still the point. Self-government was not designed as a spectator sport. The founders built a republic that runs on people willing to take a turn, not on a permanent audience. If you can serve and you will not, the complaint loses some of its weight.

Read the page, not the rumor

True engagement starts before any of that. It starts with reading the proposal the elected people actually put in front of you. The Charter text. The redline. The ballot question. Not the summary from the committee that already hates it, and not the summary from the side that already loves it.

Confirmation bias is a quiet habit. You hear a name you dislike, and the idea attached to that name is guilty before you have read a word. Or you hear a name you trust, and you stop checking. Either way, you are not deciding the issue, someone else is.

Ask yourself the plain question. Are you voting against this because you have read it and you are against what it does? Or are you voting against it because you were told the person who presented it was evil? Those are different votes. One is about the measure. The other is about the grudge. Only one of them is self-government.

[Read the current proposed language](#). Sit with it long enough to know why your mark is going where it is going. Listening to a biased point of view and calling it research is not.

Committees of the unelected

What I notice is how many of the people heading "committees" that keep popping up in town will not do the one thing that would test their case: run for office. It brings to mind the old [argument sketch from Monty Python](#) where the point is the fight. The substance can wait or never arrive. A legitimate committee can do useful work. It can study a question, gather signatures, or put a real alternative in front of voters. What it cannot do is claim the moral high ground over people who were legitimately elected and now answer to the voters, while its own leaders stay off the ballot avoiding any real scrutiny.

Say it, then stand for it

I am not asking every critic to quit their job or leave a child to run for Council. However, if you have the time and the health to serve, and your main work is telling the people who were elected they are failing the town, consider running for office.

If you cannot run, then argue the issue. Bring a fact, a better sentence for the Charter, a better number for the budget. And before you mark the ballot, read the context, understand the why. That is useful. Throwing grenades because someone told you to hate the hand that wrote it, is not.

Montrose does not need more noise. It needs more people willing to read and understand the issues and candidates.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITY COUNCILORS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE CITY MANAGERS

Editor:

Please vote NO on the proposed amendments to the city charter. Here's why.

Over the 54 years that I've lived in Montrose I have served on the city council, hospital board of directors, project 7 board of directors and other boards and commissions. The major responsibility of citizens elected or appointed to these positions is to hire competent, educated, trained managers/CEO's to run the organizations. They are NOT intended to be managers nor are they supposed to assert authority beyond their appointed role.

The proposed amendments would dramatically alter the way home rule cities are designed to be governed. City councilors have no business appointing or supervising police chiefs or city clerks. If they are unhappy with the way their city manager is doing this job, the manager and only the manager can be replaced by the council.

Citizen councilors and directors volunteer their time to help guide and set policy for taxpayer funded organizations. They are not expected to have the expertise/knowledge to run these organizations. Giving councilors authority to hire/fire beyond the city manager position is not the way home rule works

So again, please join me in voting NO on the amendments. Thank you.

Don Gladwell

PS.... I have been a registered republican for 58 years but I'm appalled at the way our local central committee continues to interfere in local elections that are supposed to be nonpartisan.

REPUBLICANS RUNNING SCARED

Dear Editor,

Running Scared

It is no secret that I have been vocal in opposition to the four charter amendments thrust upon us by a plurality City Council. I've given speeches, written letters and have spoken to "the man on the street." I have deployed numerous signs and made repairs to banners that have partially fallen.

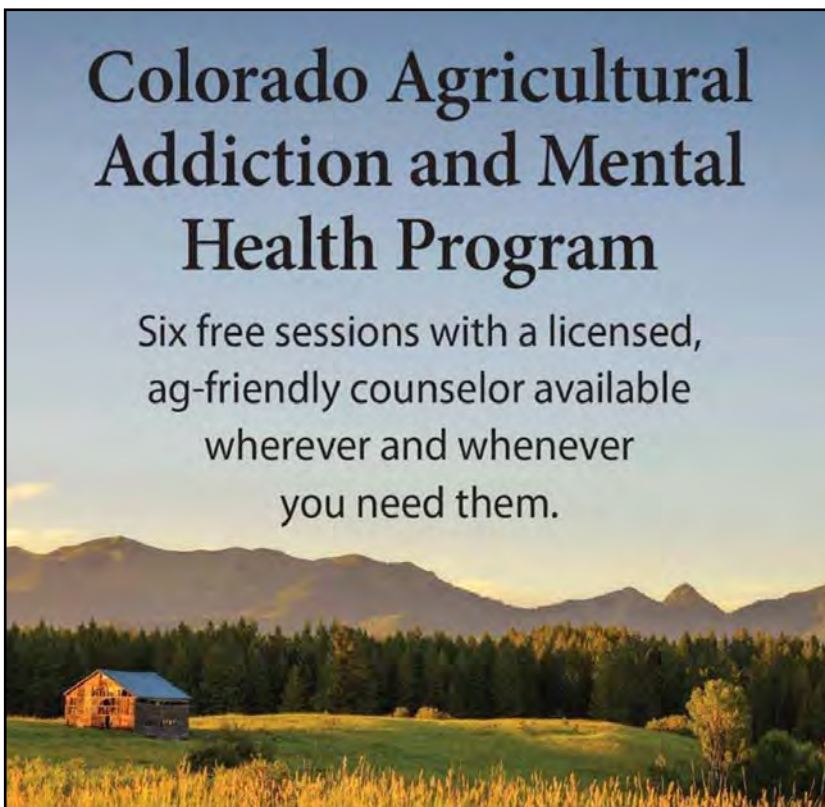
There are those that I refer to as the opposition going around undoing my effort to urge a NO Vote. Two of the signs that I put up legally have been taken down. There was an additional one next to the fence at my house that was trampled on; it was forcefully bent at 90 degrees. No, it was not wind damage. Politics is certainly dirty. But for it to reach the level it has here in Montrose is very disturbing. I ask any of the Republican Central Committee leaders that may be reading this to reach out to your members and encourage them not to remove political signage that may be in opposition to their views. It may be presumptuous of me to assume it is someone from the Republican party committing these acts. However, I can't think of anyone else who would do so.

Keep in mind my fellow Montrosians, it is the deep pockets of the Republican Party paying for and fighting the initiative put forth by concerned citizens. If you see a Vote No sign and it is gone the next; ask yourself what happened. I can assure you it was not anyone from the Vote No committee that removed it. The opposition may in deed be running scared. Join me in voting no on all four amendments this November 3rd.

Dave Stockton - Montrose

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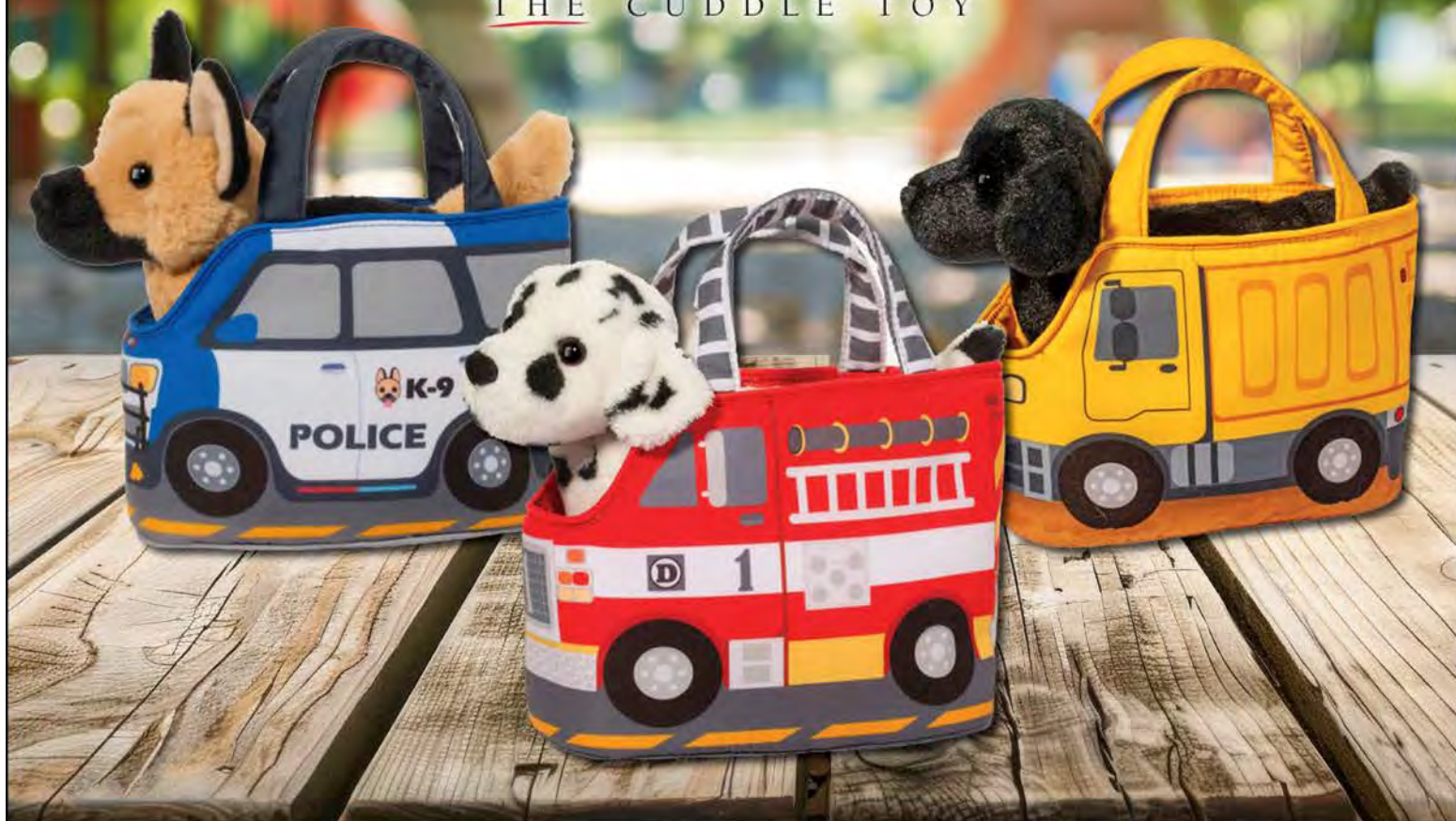
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The CITY ...

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2	✓ ...Elections Office is a separate wing of the Montrose County Building. It is a secure , locked facility, NOT open to public access or unauthorized users.	✗ ...City Clerk says, "Our election room is portable in nature. It is set up in early March and dismantled at the end of April".
3	✓ ...has 28 cameras running 24/7/365 where ballots are accepted, stored, processed, and tabulated.	✗ ...does NOT have surveillance cameras where ballots are processed.
4	✓ ...conducts Logic and Accuracy testing of voting equipment prior to an election to ensure it is working properly (<i>logic</i>) and counting ballots correctly (<i>accuracy</i>).	✗ ...does NOT own an electronic ballot tabulator, and should not hand-count ballots.
5	✓ ...uses bipartisan Election Judges who are eligible voters with either the Republican or Democratic Party.	✗ ...City employees have been used as Election Judges for many years.
6	✓ ...wants to handle all of the election functions for the City.	✗ ...ALREADY depends on the County Elections Office for some of the important functions of an election.
7	✓ ...allows Watchers who are appointed by either political party to witness and verify the conduct of an election.	✗ ...does NOT have Watchers.
8	✓ ...has several areas for people to wait on election night for election results.	✗ ...has NO area for candidates, family, friends, or Watchers to wait on election night for election results.
9	✓ ...encourages the use of BallotTrax through the Colorado Secretary of State's Office so voters can track their ballot.	✗ ...CANNOT use BallotTrax, as it is not available to municipalities.
10	✓ ...ballots in November have a 60-87% voter participation , showing broader voter representation.	✗ ...ballots in April have only 25-30% voter participation, probably because voters don't expect an April election..
11	✓ ...elections will cost significantly less , since a Coordinated Election is subsidized by the State.	✗ ...pays the FULL cost of the April election.
12	✓ ...has a full-time dedicated staff in the County Elections Office all year long .	✗ ...does NOT have full-time employees dedicated to an election.

The Montrose County Elections Office has the EXPERIENCE, FACILITY, SECURITY, and STAFF to manage City Elections.

Submitted by Patty Greeves, a Montrose concerned voter.

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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:

<u>DAY ONE</u> Wednesday 10/28	COMMUNITY RESOURCES	<u>DAY TWO</u> 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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Octubre 28 y 29, 2026

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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

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A LOOK AT JOURNALISM.

Editor:

I have been contemplating writing an article about journalism for some time. What I wanted to do, like with most of my articles, was do the research and try to separate facts from opinions. In a short amount of time, I realized that with this subject of “journalism,” this wasn’t going to be easy.

I want to start with the obvious and undeniable fact of looking at the definition of “journalism.” Should be easy, right? Well, not exactly.

As I researched the meaning of the word, I was surprised to see how many sources put one’s opinions into the definition. This perhaps is why so much journalism today does, indeed, contain lots of opinions. (This is my opinion.)

However, I did see some common trends in the definitions, so we will go with this one from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

“Journalism, noun — 1a: the collection and editing of news for presentation through the media. b: writing characterized by a direct presentation of facts or description of events without an attempt at interpretation. c: writing designed to appeal to current popular taste or public interest.”

So, in my opinion, what I found interesting was 1b: “presentation of facts or description of events without an attempt at interpretation,” and c: “designed to appeal to current popular taste or public interest.”

In my opinion, much of what we see and hear today, for the most part, contradicts the definition. So, with this said, journalism should leave out how one interprets the report, and yet “c” states that it is “designed to appeal to current popular taste or public interest.” If we were to remove part of b and c, then we would perhaps be close to “unbiased” reporting.

Now, this is nothing new. In fact, this has been a factor since the 18th century. Truly, completely unbiased news has never existed because human choices—such as what stories to tell, how to frame them, and which words to use—always introduce some sort of perspective.

Yes, early American newspapers were openly partisan and often funded by

political parties, which used them to promote their agendas and candidates. This practice was common from the 1780s to the 1830s, during the party press era, when newspapers played a crucial role in the political process. (This information can be found in the Encyclopedia Britannica, as well as the University of Illinois research department.)

Now, things changed a bit in 1949 with the “Fairness Doctrine.”

The Fairness Doctrine was a policy implemented by the FCC that required broadcasters to present fair and balanced coverage of controversial issues, which aligned with the principles of objective journalism that emerged as a response to biased reporting. This doctrine aimed to ensure that diverse viewpoints were represented in the media, promoting a more informed public.

The shift from strictly factual news to a more theatrical, opinion-driven, and adversarial style took place largely between the mid-1980s and the early 1990s, driven by a few key regulatory and commercial changes.

The Fairness Doctrine was repealed in 1987 by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which concluded that it had a “chilling effect” on free speech and was no longer necessary for the public interest. This repeal allowed broadcasters to present news without the obligation to provide balanced coverage. Not only was balanced coverage no longer required, but under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, they didn’t even have to tell the truth.

Late 1980s — Cable Expansion and Adversarial Formats: Shows like *Crossfire* pioneered the “left versus right” shouting and debate format on national television, proving that outrage and political polarization generated higher ratings and larger profits than dry, neutral reporting.

Early 1990s — The 24-Hour News Cycle & Tone Shift: Traditional anchors who spoke in a calm, detached, “down-the-middle” monotone were gradually replaced by a more colorful, personality-driven, and sensational style to fill a 24-hour news cycle that needed

constant drama to keep viewers engaged.

Then, in the early 2000s, the rise of social media and algorithms completely changed how news is consumed.

THE SHIFT: Media executives realized that viewers watch longer when they are angry or scared. News networks then pivoted from reporting shared facts to curating narratives tailored to specific political identities. Straight news was pushed out of prime-time slots in favor of theatrical performances.

Performance-based reporting was accelerated by social media and the power of the internet, where journalists and networks are rewarded with clicks and shares for being performative.

Now, let’s look at the approval ratings. I could use this time to call out the lowest-rated news source, but I won’t. When researching ratings, I found polls all over the board, but in general, most outlets are tanking when it comes to approval.

Gallup reports a record-low 28% trust rate. Gallup shows 70% have little or no confidence. Pew Research notes that 56% trust national news organizations.

They push sensationalist articles loudly that might not be true. They feel their job is to tell you what you need to believe rather than simply present the facts.

Conclusion:

Why, you may ask? Well, it works.

Even with low approval ratings, some believe what they hear, and it affects the way they think about all aspects of life—from government and politics to health and more.

Example: Do you know how many people purchase Sun Chips because they are advertised to be healthy? Well, they are still an ultra-processed snack. The name “Sun Chips” refers to the brand’s theme and marketing rather than a direct use of the sun in their production, and yes, they are still deep-fried. But hey, people believe what they may.

The same thing goes with news. Many are caught up in the worldly chaos, and it’s easier to believe what sounds good and is

Continued next pg

A LOOK AT JOURNALISM. From previous pg

in line with one's views than to actually research what is being told.

With this said, when it comes to journalism, keep in mind that it's entertainment. Just like the '80s hit show MacGyver, just because they show it to work and be true doesn't mean that it is.

Should we get mad at news sources for lying? Perhaps. Or should we be mad at ourselves for believing the lies? You decide.

I do wish that there were more accountability when it comes to reporting untruths. I'm not sure what that would look like, as they always scream "freedom of speech." But at what point does freedom of speech end and turn into purposely creating chaos?

Yes, you can be arrested for falsely yelling

"fire" in a public place, as it can lead to charges such as disorderly conduct or inducing panic, depending on the circumstances. This type of speech is not protected by the First Amendment if it creates a clear and immediate danger to public safety.

I do know that news outlets are often sued for slander, and judges often throw the cases out, or they settle out of court because they can't prove that they intended to lie and or slander. After all, they achieved what they wanted to achieve: continuing to spread a certain agenda and/or narrative to anyone who is willing to listen.

My advice is to not believe either side and do your own research. Spend some time on

the important issues, and be careful about where you get your answers.

When we are shopping for something, we often look at a wide range of options. We research the cost, read reviews, compare quality, and consider the reputation of the product before making a decision. Perhaps we should take that same care when choosing a news outlet. Instead of simply accepting what we hear or read, maybe we should research the source, compare it with others, and determine for ourselves which outlets have earned our trust. And don't give any news outlet the satisfaction of spreading their stories until proven, even if it doesn't align with your political beliefs.

Jason Conant, Montrose Colorado

ARE YOU DISSATISFIED?

Dear Editor,

Are You Dissatisfied Part 2

Recently I submitted an opinion piece with a similar title. In that document I shared my concerns regarding term limits and moving the April Municipal election to November. I hope you gave serious consideration to why I thought voting NO on those issues was important and the right thing to do for Montrose. Let's now look at the third and fourth proposed amendment changes.

The third and fourth proposals are the most contentious. They mandate City Council have a say in the employment of the City Clerk and thesee anything wrong with that. Chief of Police. The proposed charter changes, [Redline Charter Proposals](#), are specific in limiting Council's authority. While it expressly prohibits Council to interfere with the day-to-day operation, it does not exclude them from incumbering the city manager from hiring the

right person for the job. I'm concerned Council, this one or a future one, will not want to hire anyone for any position that is not aligned with their political belief system. The changes would make the two positions political appointees. Please review the video from the June 1st City Council work session where Ed Ulibarri says, I was on council a long time ago when the responsibility of picking a police chief was the council's responsibility and the police chief did report to the council. We went through three police chiefs and they reported to the council and they worked with the city manager. I don't

His comment is contrary to the proposed language in the November Ballot. I'd also like to point out the pre-2014 language is not clear on the reporting structure yet our mayor insists on returning to that era. Why? That question has never been answered.

The third and fourth proposals are an attempt to revert back to the pre-2014 language which simply injects City Council into the hiring process; that's it. The proposals strip the autonomy of the City Manager for the hiring and firing of the two positions. If the proposals were to pass, they would add bureaucracy to what should be an administrative function. It's a solution seeking a problem.

I have found the City of Montrose to have been a great place to live in the last eleven years. The government has ensured it has run effectively and efficiently. It has ensured the safety and wellbeing of all the citizens. If you are not dissatisfied and believe the city's staff has your best interest at heart and have done well for the overall benefit of the residents then join me in voting no on the four proposals come November 3rd.

Dave Stockton - Montrose

NO ONE IS ABOVE ACCOUNTABILITY

Editor:

William W. Hood III, Colorado Supreme Court Justice, appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper in 2014, is up for retention on the November ballot. On December 19, 2023, he voted with the majority (4-3) to remove Trump from the Colorado 2024 ballot. Then on March 4, 2024, the US Supreme Court reversed that judgment, unanimously.

Don Hemme, Redvale

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR NOVEMBER 13 WEST SLOPE WATER SUMMIT-UNCHARTED TERRITORY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Registration is now open for the West Slope Water Summit: Uncharted Territory. The Water Summit brings together water leaders, agricultural producers, students and community members for a day focused on the current state and future of water in Western Colorado.

The West Slope Water Summit will be held Friday, November 13, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Montrose County Event Center, 1036 North 7th Street in Montrose. The Water Summit is free to attend, but advance registration is required. Registration is available at www.westslopesummit.com.

This year's program will cover water conditions across the region, the Colorado River, weather, watershed health and the connection between agriculture and water.

Speakers and presentations include:

Andy Mueller, General Manager of the Colorado River District - The state of water and a look at the future of water in Western Colorado.

Don Day, Meteorologist - A weather outlook and discussion of conditions affecting the region.

Colorado River and Current Water Updates Panel - Steve Pope, Marc Catlin, and Bob Hurford will discuss current water issues and the Colorado River.

FFA Student Presentation: Great Green Vision: From Classrooms to Hillsides, Part 2 - Local FFA students will share the next phase of their agricultural experiment and what they have learned through the project.

Watershed Health Panel - Dave Payne and Andy Rossi will discuss watershed conditions, management and work underway to improve watershed health.

The summit is designed for anyone interested in Western Colorado water, including agricultural producers, water professionals, local leaders, students and community members.

The Western Colorado Farm & Ranch Innovation Expo will also be held at the Montrose County Event Center in conjunction with the summit on November 13 and 14. The Innovation Expo will showcase the latest innovations in agriculture, with a focus on soil health, water conservation, livestock management, and equipment. Attendees can explore hands-on exhibits, visit with vendors and agricultural organizations, and see live demonstrations throughout the event. Admission to the Innovation Expo is free and does not require registration.

For event information and questions about the West Slope Water Summit, please visit www.westslopesummit.com or call (970) 252-4508. For information on the Western Colorado Farm and Ranch Innovation Expo, visit <https://www.shavanocd.com/farm-ranch-innovation-expo.html> or www.shavanocd.com.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

FORUM TO HOST ELECTION PRESENTATIONS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-We are excited to share with you the second of two very important October 2026 Forum Election presentations held in CMU-Montrose Cascade Hall:

Our 2026 Candidates When: Wednesday, October 14, 9:00-10:00 am

Where: Colorado Mesa University-Montrose Cascade Hall, corner of South 3rd and Cascade in Montrose

(Park on South 2nd, 3rd, 4th or in the Library Parking Lot and enter Cascade Hall via the double glass doors off Cascade Avenue)

Our 2026 Ballot Candidates will be given up to five minutes each to address any or all of the following:

- an introduction/bio of themselves;
- a statement explaining why they are running;
- an outline of issues they believe are facing us;
- a brief synopsis of their priorities; and
- final comments.

Due to time constraints, there will be no questions. The speaking order for each elected position will be alphabetically by last name. The order will be:

Montrose County

1. Commissioner District 2: Caryn Gibson, Unopposed
2. Commissioner District 3: Ed Lafferty, Unopposed
3. Assessor: Brad Hughes, Unopposed
4. Treasurer: Rosemary Murphy, Unopposed
5. Coroner: Shaye Schottel, Unopposed
6. Surveyor: James Pierce, Unopposed
7. Sheriff: Gene Lillard, Unopposed
8. Clerk: Tressa Guynes, Unopposed

U. S. House of Representatives District 3:

9. Jeff Hurd (R) Grand Junction
10. Dwayne Romero (D) Aspen

Colorado House District 58

11. Larry Don Suckla (R) Cortez, Unopposed

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THE MEDIA HAS MADE A CLEAR CHOICE

Editor:

There is not a week that goes by when we don't get more confirmation that however much we despise the media, it's not enough. The experience of the last ten years verified that the media no longer reports fair and balanced news, but instead looks at the news and decides how to shape it to fit the Democrat narrative. This week a radical Muslim co-pilot tried to kill the pilot with an axe and take down a plane with 180 mostly Jewish passengers. The media reported it as some kind of "conflict" between the pilots (NYT: "Flight to Israel is diverted after pilots clash in cockpit." "It was not clear what prompted the clash." BBC: "Israel bound flight diverted after fight between pilots.") There is no Democrat narrative that allows radical Muslims to be put in a bad light, much less a narrative that doesn't demonize Israel, so the media just reports this like the co-pilot and pilot were fighting over a girlfriend or their soccer teams. I half expect their next reporting to complain about how disproportionate the response was when two or three Jews subdued just one poor Muslim co-pilot (who was intent on crashing the plane into an Israeli building.)

It's no secret that Democrats are totally dependent on black Americans believing Democrats are on their side and the narrative that Republicans are the evil racists. That's in spite of the irrefutable fact that Democrats are the party of slavery, the KKK, Jim Crow laws, etc., and today hold the insulting belief that minorities are too stupid to get an ID card. In the absence of any real racism on the part of Republicans, Democrats have repeatedly relied upon complete hoaxes to keep their false narrative alive. This month it's the "lynching hoax" – there is an epidemic of innocent black people being lynched by white people. A chorus of Democrat politicians (AOC, Ayanna Pressley, Summer Lee, Jasmine Crockett, etc.) joined in the narrative. The facts confirmed that all but one of the alleged incidents were suicides. The one lynching was done by two black men. As usual, when the facts come out, there are no apologies. The media / Democrats just move on to the next hoax. I could write volumes about their hoaxes. We were reminded this week about the "Biden sharp-as-a-tack hoax," which couldn't have happened without the active participation of the media. When Biden was installed in the White House, he would hardly ever talk to the press – for good reason.

Remember when the media went along with Biden's pre-scripted, pre-selected press conferences because he didn't have the cognitive ability to answer anything more than an ice cream question? Now, these same hack reporters want you to believe that Trump banning three fake news outlets from the White House press room is somehow an attack on their free speech. These are the same people that run 100% negative stories on Trump and refused to air his speeches, the same people who cheered when Trump was banned from every major social media platform, and the same people who said nothing when Biden changed the White House press pool and cut off 440 reporters' credentials. These are some of the same deep thinkers who cheered the murder of Charlie Kirk for exercising his freedom of speech.

You get the picture. When a Muslim terrorist attempts a hijacking, the media frames it as an "altercation." When left-wing thugs burn down portions of our cities, they report it as "mostly peaceful." When you and I call for secure borders, fair elections, and safe communities, they call us "right wing extremists."

Unfortunately, our local Montrose Press (specifically publisher Dennis Anderson) and GJ Sentinel (specifically publisher Jay Seaton) seem to be competing with the New York Times for the most blatantly biased and unethical news outlet. Neither publisher attempted to refute the analyses I provided them a couple of years ago documenting their bias. At least the Sentinel is more open about their bias. In an editorial they revealed that the reason their reporting is anti-Republican is that "truth is the only standard," and, according to them, the truth is, Republicans are "more prone to lies, exaggerations, and wacky statements." "We report, you decide" has been replaced with: We know Republicans are a "threat to Democracy" so we will decide, and only report what we define as the truth. Kudos to Sean Pond's 9/27 Mirror exposition of Dennis Anderson. I couldn't agree more. If you are a conservative and you still subscribe to or advertise in either paper, you are not operating in your best interest.

Conservative Republicans enter every election seriously disadvantaged. They first have to overcome the effects of the mind-numbing Democrat propaganda machine, aka "the media." They then have to overcome rampant Democrat fraud at the ballot box. Just as importantly, they have to deal with a segment of conservative voters either upset Trump hasn't solved 50 years' worth of problems in 20 months or that he didn't completely

solve an issue close to their hearts. They don't like high gas prices, so they want to allow the party that tried to totally destroy our domestic oil industry to regain office – the ones who stopped the Keystone pipeline, banned new offshore drilling, and stopped all new federal oil and gas leasing. The ones who closed over a dozen refineries in the U.S. during the Biden administration. The party whose governor closed two significant California refineries in just the last 12 months. Trump hasn't moved fast enough to ban abortion, so they're going to allow the people who celebrate passing full-term abortion legislation and openly excuse a mother's murder of her three children to be elected. Trump is too arrogant for some, so it's OK to elect the party that flooded our country with tens of millions of third-world illegals, funded the COVID virus that killed millions, turned our intel agencies on private citizens, stole an election, illegally spied on the opposition party, poisoned racial relations, installed a dementia patient as the leader of the free world, and has now locked hands with Islamists and DSA communists vying with each other to see who can most effectively destroy our representative republic.

Democrats had eight years of Obama and the four years of the Biden administration to make progress on all the positive change they promise each election cycle. All we got were drag queen story hours, tampons in boys' bathrooms, defunding of the police, transitioning your kids behind your back, and Somalis ripping off taxpayers to the tune of at least \$9 billion. Republicans made gas prices a little bit higher for a few months as a consequence of keeping a primitive cult from having nuclear weapons. Obama facilitated that same rogue regime's worldwide terrorism by flying them pallets of cash (\$1.7 billion).

No, I bet our illustrious media hasn't talked too much about the new \$15 billion steel plant coming to Iowa, or the multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical plant Bayer is putting just outside of Columbus, Ohio. Both are the result of Trump's tariff policies which the media portrayed as the absolute end of the world. Conservatives and Christians can't just sit back and let the inmates regain control of the asylum because they got their feelings hurt. It's a clear choice between protecting our culture and our republic or allowing both to be destroyed.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LISTENING ALONG THE WAY: DISTRICT LEADERS RIDE WITH STUDENTS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— For Delta County School District leaders, understanding the student experience means looking beyond what happens inside the classroom.

Recently, Superintendent Amber Clark, Assistant Superintendent Joe Simo and Human Resources Director Doug Craig joined students on school bus routes to experience another important part of the school day firsthand.

The rides gave district leaders an opportunity to experience what students do each day, including the length and comfort of their routes and the time spent traveling between home and school. Just as importantly, they created opportunities for conversations and connections that don't always happen in a school or district office.

There was no script and no list of questions. The conversations happened naturally.

On Clark's route, students talked about their teachers, what they like about school and things they would like to see improved. The conversation moved to the Student Advisory Committee and ways students can share their ideas and help create positive changes in their schools.

As the ride continued and seats opened up, students who had initially been sitting toward the back began moving forward, choosing seats closer to Clark so they could join the conversation. What started as a casual exchange grew as more students wanted to take part.

"Our children come first, always," Clark said. "Riding the bus gave us another opportunity to experience the school day through their eyes, listen to what matters to them and simply spend time getting to know them. Those everyday conversations help us better understand how we can support our students."

For Craig, a former principal, the ride brought an opportunity to reconnect. Students who knew him were excited to see him and eager to share updates about school and their lives. One student enthusiastically talked about the advanced classes available in high school.

"It was great to reconnect with so many students and hear them excitedly share what they're doing and what they're looking forward to," Craig said. "Seeing their growth and hearing about their achievements is a great reminder of what makes this work so meaningful."

Simo's experience highlighted another important part of the daily bus ride: the relationships between drivers, students and families.

Drivers talked about enjoying the flexibility of their split-shift schedules, but what stood out most were the connections they built over the years. Drivers knew students by name, knew their families and even knew why a familiar student might not be riding that day, such as staying after school for practice. Along the route, families waved as the bus passed.

"What really stood out to me was the connection our bus drivers have with their students and families," Simo said. "They know the kids, they know their families, and over the years, genuine friendships are formed. It was inspiring to see how much these relationships are part of the community surrounding our students."

The rides offered a glimpse of how much of a student's school experience happens beyond the classroom. Bus drivers are often among the first district employees students see in the morning and the last they see before arriving home.

For Clark, Simo and Craig, riding the buses was less about conducting a formal assessment and more about being present, listening and experiencing an everyday part of students' lives firsthand.

The experience offered a simple but meaningful reminder: supporting students means understanding the many people, relationships and experiences that make up their entire school day.



SAVE A TREE READ THE MIRROR

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Applications are being accepted for a vacancy in the At-Large City Council seat. The deadline to submit an application is 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

On Monday, Councilor Adam Woodden resigned from the At-Large seat and was re-appointed to the vacant District IV seat, the district that Wooden resides in, during the council's Tuesday meeting on October 6. As set forth by the City Charter, the City Council will formally vote to appoint a replacement within 30 days.

Anyone interested in filling the vacancy is asked to fill out an [application](#) and submit a letter of interest to the City Council. The council will interview potential candidates during the Monday, November 2, work session and then hold a formal vote to appoint a new councilor later that evening during the council's regular meeting on November 2. The council rescheduled the Tuesday, November 3 meeting due to Election Day.

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

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

CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— In observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day, City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter, Visitor Center, Public Works, Montrose Pavilion, and Police Department offices will be closed on Monday, October 12.

Police Department offices will be closed; however, officers will be on duty and responding to calls.

The Black Canyon Golf Course will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Rusty Putter restaurant, located at the golf course, will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., along with the snack bar.

[Trash collection services](#) that would normally occur on Monday, October 12, will be adjusted as follows:

-Residences located south of San Juan Avenue and Highway 50 that are normally on Monday's trash collection route will be served on Tuesday, October 13.

-Residences located north of San Juan Avenue and Highway 50 that are normally on Monday's route will be served on Wednesday, October 14.

Recycling routes will also be adjusted by shifting collection services normally scheduled for Monday, October 12, to Friday, October 16.

For more information, contact City Hall at [970.240.1400](tel:970.240.1400), or visit www.CityOfMontrose.org/Holiday

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



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO HONORS ALPINE BANK'S COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION

Special to the Mirror

GLENWOOD SPRINGS-Alpine Bank has received a 2026 Innovation Spotlight Award from the Colorado Green Business Network, recognizing the bank's longstanding commitment to conservation and community giving.

The award highlights Alpine Bank's Environment Loyalty Debit Card, which helps support organizations that restore, preserve and protect local ecosystems.

Through the bank's Loyalty Debit Card program, Alpine Bank donates 10 cents every time a customer uses their card, directing funds to causes that matter most to them. In 2025 alone, the Environment card generated more than \$563,000 for nonprofits focused on conservation, stewardship and environmental education across Colorado.

"Receiving this recognition is especially meaningful because it reflects the collective efforts of our customers, employees and communities," said Alpine Bank Senior Vice President Pete Yang, chair of the bank's Green Team.

"Every purchase with an Environment Loyalty Debit Card helps support the people and organizations working to care for the places we all love. That's what makes this award special. It belongs to our customers as much as it does to Alpine Bank."

Alpine Bank's commitment to environmental stewardship stretches back more than 25 years. The employee-led Green Team supports conservation efforts throughout Colorado through volunteer projects, community partnerships and sustainability initiatives. Alpine Bank is also a 100% Green Power User, sourcing all of its electricity from renewable energy sources.

The Colorado Green Business Network recognized 240 businesses statewide during its 2026 sustainability awards program. Alpine Bank was one of six organizations selected for an Innovation Spotlight Award.

"Colorado businesses are protecting the environment while operating more efficiently," said Rayna Olikier, manager of the Colorado Green Business Network. "We are proud to support the creativity and innovation these organizations bring to conserving resources, reducing waste, and lowering emissions."



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Dr. Vanessa Lee,
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Victoria Oliva,
DNP, APRN, FNP-C

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION NN AND NO ON PROPOSITION 137

Editor:

Vote NO on Proposition NN and NO on Proposition 137. Don't fall for the same old tricks they use to eliminate TABOR. If you're not familiar with TABOR, it limits government spending, requires voter approval for any tax increase and requires any revenue above TABOR limits be refunded to the taxpayers. We ALL benefit from TABOR. Don't give the wasteful politicians more of our money. VOTE NO on Proposition NN. SAVE TABOR.

Carol McBride, Montrose

DON'T BE FOOLED AGAIN

Dear editor,

Remember when we were asked by the Colorado State Legislature to vote to legalize marijuana the government promised to use the money for schools and help programs ? Remember when we were asked by the Colorado State Legislature to vote to legalize gambling and lottery the government promised to use the money for schools and help programs ? .

All lies.

Don't be fooled again. Fool me once shame on you....fool me twice shame on me.

Robert Stollsteimer

IMAGINE A DIFFERENT FUTURE: Part I

Editor:

When my mail-in ballot arrived the other day, I felt a rush of excitement, because in my hands was the possibility for change. Yours should be in your mailbox by now. If it isn't, call the Montrose County Elections Office at 970-249-3362, ext. 3, so you don't miss your chance to be heard.

Across the country, an affordability crisis is accelerating at our kitchen tables and in the grocery store checkout lines. Families like mine and yours are making daily tradeoffs, skipping medical care, buying less food, falling behind on bills, and using credit cards just to get through the month. The basics of a good life, the "American Dream"—an affordable home, quality healthcare, nutritious food, a dignified job, a night out, and beyond —are increasingly out of reach for millions of Americans. Especially young Americans.

Just think; is there something you wanted to do this summer but couldn't because of all the high costs? Maybe you skipped the weekend road trip because of the high gas and grocery prices.

At the same time, big corporations and the super-rich are posting record profits, protected by rules and laws. Elon Musk became the world's first trillionaire this summer. His companies, built with tens of billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded contracts, grants, and tax credits, have been rewarded while working families struggle to afford groceries.

What working people pay MORE for, those at the top profit from. Research has shown that this crisis has hit working families, low income, black and brown communities most of all ("States of Affordability: A series on where and why US households struggle to make ends meet", published by Brookings Institution , May 27, 2026).

None of this is an accident: it is the result of a system that has prioritized private profit over public well-being.

WHAT IF there was a plan, a blueprint for a country that works for all of us? A country where a dignified life is a right, and not considered a privilege? There is - it's called : "The Affordability Agenda".

We CAN afford a good life for everyone, of all races, genders and backgrounds. It is simply a matter of making different choices, and if we work together, we can win a future that WE ALL deserve.

Those in power make choices that shape our lives, and elections decide who gets to make them. "Taxpayer funded" is a choice our elected officials make with our money. Rockets or healthcare? Billionaire tax cuts or caring for and protecting our precious public lands? An unauthorized war or disaster recovery at home? I am encouraging you to use your vote as an American citizen because your vote, your choice, is your power. Vote Early. Please return your ballot by 7 pm on election day, November 3, 2026.

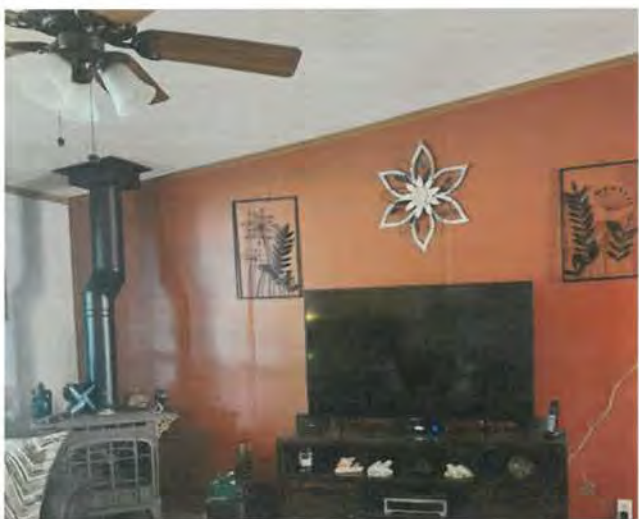
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

OPEN ENROLLMENT IS COMING!

Open Enrollment Is Coming: Take Time to Understand Your Health Insurance

Do you already know which health insurance plan you'll have next year?

Colorado's Open Enrollment period for 2027 health plans begins November 1, 2026, and runs through January 15, 2027. If you purchase your own health insurance, now is a great time to review your options and think about what you and your family may need in the year ahead.

If your employer offers health insurance, remember that your employer's enrollment period may follow a different schedule. Take time to compare:

- Monthly premium
- Deductible
- Copays and coinsurance
- Out-of-pocket maximum
- In-network doctors and hospitals
- Prescription drug coverage

For individuals and families who purchase their own insurance, Connect for Health Colorado is the state's official health insurance marketplace. Depending on your household size and income, you may qualify for financial assistance that can help lower your monthly premium costs.

For Coloradans whose immigration status limits eligibility for other coverage options, OmniSalud provides another pathway to affordable health insurance.

Important Enrollment Deadlines

Enroll by December 15, 2026

- Coverage can begin January 1, 2027.
- Enroll between December 16, 2026, and January 15, 2027

- Coverage begins February 1, 2027.

If You Recently Lost Medicaid Coverage

Many Coloradans have recently lost coverage through Health First Colorado (Medicaid) because of changes in income, household size, eligibility requirements, or missed renewal paperwork.

If you recently lost Medicaid coverage, you may still have options. Losing Medicaid can qualify you for a Special Enrollment Period, allowing you to enroll in a health insurance plan outside of the regular Open Enrollment timeframe. Depending on your income and household size, you may also qualify for

financial assistance to help reduce the cost of coverage.

If you've received a notice that your Medicaid coverage is ending, don't wait until you need medical care to explore your options. A Health Coverage Guide can help you understand what coverage you may qualify for and assist you with your next steps.

Look Beyond the Monthly Premium

Having health insurance does not mean all healthcare services are free. While a lower monthly premium may seem attractive, it is not always the most affordable option when you need care.

Be sure to consider:

- Deductibles
 - Out-of-pocket maximums
 - Prescription medication costs
 - Provider networks
 - How often you expect to use healthcare services
- This is especially important if you take regular medications, see specialists, or manage ongoing conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

We Can Help! (Bilingual Staff Available)

Thrive Community Health Network's Health Coverage Guides provide free, unbiased assistance with:

- Comparing health insurance plans
- Applying for financial assistance
- Enrolling in coverage
- Renewing existing coverage
- Understanding eligibility and coverage options through Connect for Health Colorado, Health First Colorado (Medicaid), and CHP+

- Navigating coverage transitions if you've recently lost Medicaid

Our services are provided at no cost.

Call: 970-708-7096

Email: enrollment@tchnetwork.org

to schedule an appointment with a Health Coverage Guide.

You can also learn more at:

Connect for Health Colorado: <https://connectforhealthco.com/>

OmniSalud: <https://connectforhealthco.com/es/clientes-nuevos/omnisalud/>

Join Us at any of our upcoming Open Enrollment Community Events

We're hosting several free, open-house-style events throughout the region. Stop by to learn about health insurance, ask questions, explore

your options, and connect with Thrive staff. No appointment is needed, and you do not need to know which plan you want before attending.

Pre-Open Enrollment Events

October 13 | Delta

Bill Heddles Recreation Center | 4-6 p.m.
(presentation at 4:30p; Q&A 5-6p)

October 14 | Montrose

MADA | 4-6 p.m.

(presentation at 4:30p; Q&A 5-6p)

October 15 | Telluride

Wilkinson Public Library | 4-6 p.m.

(presentation at 4:30p; Q&A 5-6p)

October 20 | Delta

Bill Heddles Recreation Center | 1-3 p.m.

(presentation at 1:30p; Q&A 2-3p)

October 21 | Montrose

MADA | 9a-12 p.m.

(presentation at 9:30a; Q&A 10a-12p)

October 22 | Telluride

Wilkinson Public Library | 9:30a - 12p

(presentation at 10a; Q&A 10:30a-12p)

OmniSalud Enrollment Events

November 2 | Montrose

MADA | 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

November 4 | Telluride

Wilkinson Public Library | 9a-2p

November 5 | Delta

Delta Library | 9a-2p

Open Enrollment Events

November 18 | Ridgway

Ridgway Library | 1-6 p.m.

November 24 | Norwood

Norwood Library | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

November 24 | Naturita

Location TBD | 1-5 p.m.

Open Enrollment is more than choosing a health insurance plan. It's an opportunity to make sure your coverage fits your healthcare needs, budget, and goals for the coming year.

At Thrive Community Health Network, we believe health is more than healthcare, and understanding your health insurance is an important part of staying healthy.

Don't wait until Open Enrollment begins to start thinking about your coverage.

Whether you're enrolling for the first time, comparing plans, renewing coverage, or transitioning off Medicaid, we're here to help you make informed decisions and find the coverage that works best for you and your family

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

COLUMBUS DAY / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY A Look at History, Politics, and Secular Education

Editor:

Columbus Day originated in 1792 in New York City, organized by the Columbian Order (Tammany Hall) to mark the 300th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas. Many celebrate it as part of their heritage, not necessarily to honor Columbus himself.

Indigenous Peoples' Day originated in 1977 at an international conference in Geneva, Switzerland, as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day.

In 2021, President Joe Biden became the first president to officially recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day alongside Columbus Day. Several states recognize both holidays. However, there has been a growing push to eliminate Columbus Day altogether.

In 2025, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation refocusing the holiday on Columbus, honoring his "extraordinary legacy of faith, courage, perseverance, and virtue." So Why All the Division?

Both Christopher Columbus and Indigenous peoples have a place in history and deserve recognition. For years, both observances existed without the level of controversy we see today.

So what changed?

In 2020, following the murder of George Floyd on May 25, protests erupted across the country, with some turning into riots, looting, and destruction of historical monuments.

On July 4, 2020, protesters tore down the Christopher Columbus Monument in Maryland and dumped it into Baltimore's Inner Harbor. It was one of many historical monuments targeted during that period.

Somehow, the murder of one man became justification for tearing down monuments and pushing to eliminate a holiday with roots dating back 234 years.

Why? What motivates people to erase history because of events happening today? After all, history is full of people who made mistakes, committed wrongs, and failed in many ways. That hasn't changed!

I believe two major factors are responsible: Political motivation and secular education.

Political Motivation

Think back to 2020. We were nearing the end of President Donald Trump's first term, arguably one of the most controversial presidencies in American history. COVID-19 had arrived in January, and our country was deeply divided. Regardless of which side of the political aisle you're on, I believe many decisions during that period were politically motivated and not necessarily in the best interests of our country. But politics is only part of the problem.

Secular Education

The word secular generally refers to the worldly rather than the spiritual, or government rather than church.

Our government education system has become increasingly secular, with politics mixed into what our children are taught.

This becomes especially concerning when teaching history.

Historical context is essential to understanding history. We must consider the circumstances, cultural norms, and events of a particular time rather than judging everything solely through today's worldview.

Teaching history without its full context is like reading the bold headline while ignoring all the fine print.

Ask someone under 25 what they know about Christopher Columbus. I suspect many would describe him as a villain but struggle to name anything positive he accomplished.

How many were taught that Columbus studied the Bible or began learning navigation at sea at age 14?

How many learned about his interactions with the Taino, whom he described as kind and gentle, even calling them "the best people in the world"? Accounts also describe him advocating for their equality, citizenship, and civil rights.

Or what about the claims that Columbus enslaved peaceful natives and transported them to Spain?

Another historical account argues that nearly all those forcibly taken to Spain were Caribs, described as cannibalistic, or people captured during what was then considered justified warfare.

There are also estimates suggesting that before

European contact, 30% to 40% of Indigenous people in the tropical New World were enslaved by other Indigenous peoples. That practice existed long before Columbus arrived.

These are historical claims and perspectives that deserve examination rather than being left out of the conversation.

Does this mean Columbus was perfect? Absolutely not! He made mistakes and failed in many areas, just like countless others throughout history.

But I reject the modern portrayal of Columbus as nothing more than a heartless, genocidal maniac.

There is much more to his story, and I believe secular education and politics have prevented generations from hearing the whole picture. Books like *The "American Story"* by Tim Barton is a great read.

Conclusion

This brings us back to where we are today. Political motivation and secular education.

Our government education system, under the appearance of neutrality, has increasingly promoted a secular worldview while moving away from biblical values.

Generations have been educated through this perspective, and we are now seeing the results both politically and socially.

We have reached a point where what is wrong is considered right, and what is right is considered wrong

Don't simply believe everything you hear on the internet, the nightly news, or even in a classroom.

Do your own research. Investigate. Look deeper into history. Understand the circumstances of the time and seek out the whole story, including the parts that may not fit today's popular narrative.

And ask yourself this: Does tearing down or removing history because of something happening today really solve anything?

We've all heard the old saying, "Two wrongs don't make a right."

They simply make two wrongs.

Jason Conant

Montrose, Colorado

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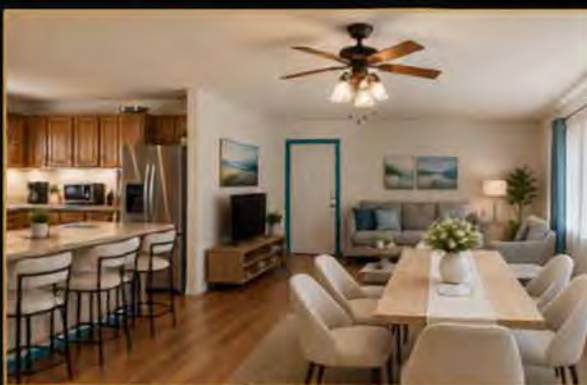
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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING OUR SCHOOLS?

Editor:

To the Montrose & Olathe School Board: Where are you taking our schools—and what evidence can you give this community that we are better off because of the direction you have chosen?

Following last November's school board election, I wrote a letter asking where our new board was headed. The four new members identified three priorities: parents' rights, student achievement and school safety. I supported those goals then, and I support them now. But nearly a year later, taxpayers, parents, teachers, and students should be asking a much tougher question:

What has this board actually done to advance them?

Priorities are not demonstrated by campaign slogans. They are demonstrated by decisions, results and accountability. The record of the past several months deserves serious scrutiny. Since the current board took office, our district has experienced extraordinary turmoil. Most significantly, MCSD has separated from Superintendent Dr. Carrie Stephenson after six years of her leadership.

Before this board asks this community to simply turn the page, we should examine the record Dr. Stephenson and MCSD's leadership team, principals, teachers and staff leave behind.

-During Dr. Stephenson's tenure, participation in Advanced Placement exams at Montrose High School increased dramatically. The number of AP exams taken grew from 162 in 2021 to 470, and Montrose students exceeded national passing percentages on 13 of the 15 AP exams offered.

-MCSD's Career Pathways Program received the Colorado Association of School Boards' 2024 Student Achievement High School Award.

-Montrose High moved from an Improvement Plan in 2022 and 2023 to a Performance Plan in 2024 and 2025.

-The district's most recent performance-framework score increased, with individual schools showing important progress as well. Northside Elementary moved from Improvement to Performance, while Johnson Elementary moved from Priority Improvement to Improvement.

Cottonwood Elementary, Oak Grove Elementary and Olathe Elementary earned Performance ratings. Centennial Middle, Olathe Middle/High and Peak Virtual Academy also earned Performance ratings.

Those results deserve recognition.

These achievements were not produced by the current board. They were achieved under Dr. Stephenson's leadership, working with the previous board and the district's leadership team, principals, teachers, and staff. The current board inherited academic progress we are celebrating.

This is important because if this board chooses to change the current leadership while inheriting a district showing measurable improvement, then the public is entitled to understand why. So here is a question the board should answer plainly--

What measurable deficiency in Dr. Stephenson's academic leadership justified changing superintendents?

If there is a compelling educational answer, give it to the public. The process surrounding her departure has produced considerably more questions than answers. The investigation at the center of the controversy has not been made available to the public.

Think about what that means. A superintendent who served this district for six years is gone, yet the community has not been allowed to see the investigative findings underlying the controversy that preceded her departure. The public is being asked to accept the consequences of the board's actions without having access to much of the information necessary to evaluate them. That is not transparency.

There is now another troubling development. The former staff member, Brian Purnell, who describes himself as the "whistleblower" and whose complaints helped trigger these investigations, is now alleging retaliation and demanding nearly \$570,000 from the district to resolve threatened litigation. To be clear, \$570,000 is a demand. It is not a settlement. It is not a judgment against the district. His allegations have not been proven. There are more rumblings about disgruntled parents considering another lawsuit against the district about a coaching assignment? But taxpayers have every right to ask, How did the leadership of this school board allow this litigious situation to reach this point? Is the legal counsel they hired in March encouraging these lawsuits?

A superintendent is gone. The investigation surrounding her departure remains unavailable to the public. There are others threatening litigation against the district. And taxpayers are paying the legal bills. Those bills deserve attention.

Figures obtained through a Colorado Open Records Act request show that MCSD's legal fees has skyrocketed after this board hired Miller Farmer Carlson as comprehensive legal counsel in March.

The reported legal expenses:

-January: \$1,603.80

-February: \$1,663.20

-March: \$5,023.05

-April: \$6,585.50

-May: \$5,398.50

-June: \$9,295.50

-July: \$8,761.50

-August: \$11,888.50

Continued next pg

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING OUR SCHOOLS? From previous pg

August's legal bill alone was more than seven times January's.

Incredibly, those figures do not establish what caused those legal expenses? The descriptions of the legal work have been redacted. Taxpayers cannot know which expenses involved Dr. Stephenson, the whistleblower matter, charter schools, personnel matters or anything else. That creates another legitimate question for this board, Why are taxpayers given so little information with which to understand what we are paying for?

Legal confidentiality is sometimes necessary. Public accountability is also necessary. Board leadership should be working aggressively to provide the maximum transparency the law permits—not treating confidentiality as an excuse to tell the public as little as possible. Meanwhile, the bills continue to climb.

Return for a moment to the priorities voters were given last November: parents' rights, student achievement and school safety. How has the turmoil of the past several months advanced any of them?

And now there is an even more important question, what happens next?

Whatever anyone thinks about Dr. Stephenson or the board's actions surrounding her departure, MCSD's students need stability. The progress made during the past several years was not accomplished by one person. It was accomplished by Dr. Stephenson and an experienced leadership team, together with principals, teachers, administrators, and staff throughout MCSD. They did the daily work that produced the accomplishments and improvements our community is celebrating. That institutional knowledge matters.

After months of investigations, administrative leave, executive sessions, grievances, legal expenses, threatened litigation and the departure of the superintendent, this district does not need another round of upheaval. Board leadership should resist any temptation to treat the superintendent's departure as permission to dismantle the leadership structure beneath her.

I urge this board to retain the remaining leadership team. Allow them to continue implementing the Strategic Plan. Give them the opportunity to continue the work already underway rather than forcing students and employees through yet another period of unnecessary disruption. Our students should not pay the price for turmoil at the top.

There is another issue the community should not ignore. Although school board races are supposed to be nonpartisan, the Montrose Republican Central Committee financially supported Neisha Balleck, Scott Scarborough, Tiffany Vincent and Shane Daly during the 2025 election. A newspaper advertisement promoting all four candidates was explicitly marked, "Paid for by Montrose Republican Central Committee." After everything that has happened since the election, the public is entitled to ask, "Is partisan politics exerting too much influence over the governance of our public schools?" That question should not offend anyone committed to nonpartisan school governance. It should be answered by the board's conduct. Our school board represents all of Montrose and Olathe—not a political party, political organization, law firm, or ideological movement.

And that brings me back one final time to the promises made after last November's election, parents' rights, student achievement, and school safety. But priorities are demonstrated by decisions—not slogans.

-If fiscal responsibility matters, explain the escalating legal expenses and tell taxpayers what board leadership is doing to control them.

-If "no more secrets" and transparency matter, provide the public with as much information as the law permits about how and why we arrived here.

-If stability and student success matter, protect the experienced leadership team that remains and allow those educators to continue carrying out the Strategic Plan.

-And if this board believes its actions over the past year have advanced parents' rights, student achievement and school safety, then make that case publicly—with facts, results and measurable outcomes.

Last November, I asked where this board was headed. Nearly a year later, we have seen a superintendent's departure, an unreleased investigation, threatened litigation and sharply higher legal expenses. The board wanted the responsibility of governing this district. With that responsibility comes accountability.

So my question today is more pointed than it was last November--

To the Montrose & Olathe School Board: Where are you taking our schools—and what evidence can you give this community that we are better off because of the direction you have chosen?

Our students, educators, parents and taxpayers deserve more than assurances, they deserve answers.

Linda Gann, Montrose



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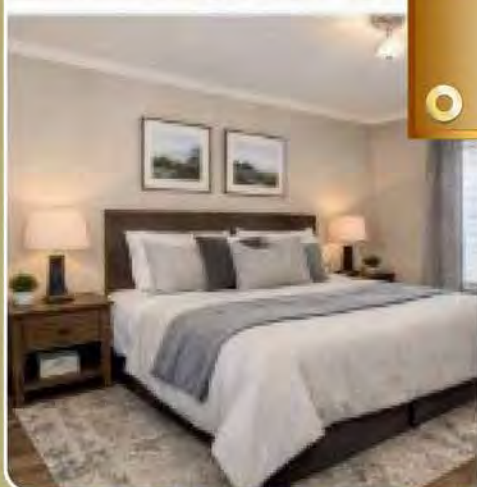
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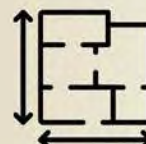
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOPEWEST STRENGTHENS REGIONAL SUPPORT THROUGH COMMUNITY-FOCUSED TEAM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-HopeWest is proud to introduce our regional outreach team serving Montrose and Ouray counties. The team includes Jenni Neil, our newly promoted Vice President of Regional Operations, Jenni Zimmer, Director of Regional Donor Relations, and Chaucey Edwards, Regional Outreach Coordinator.

"HopeWest is evolving to meet our community's needs by focusing on donor relations, outreach, and regional operations," said Jenni Neil, Vice President of Regional Operations. "These specialized roles demonstrate our commitment to exceptional care and to the communities we serve."

In her new role, Jenni will provide executive leadership and strategic oversight across Delta, Montrose, and Ouray counties. She will work closely with executive and clinical leaders to ensure consistent, exceptional service delivery, support operational excellence, and guide continued growth in alignment with the HopeWest mission and values.

To support this expanded regional structure, Jenni is joined by two new team members serving both the

Delta and Montrose regions. Under the direction of Breeana Gumpert HopeWest's Chief Development Officer, Jenni Zimmer, the Director of Regional Donor Relations, will lead donor engagement, philanthropic initiatives, and community partnerships, helping to strengthen the relationships that make our work possible. As part of the larger HopeWest Outreach team, Chaucey Edwards, Regional Outreach Coordinator, will focus on building community connections, developing strategic partnerships, and increasing awareness of HopeWest services throughout the region.

Together, these roles strengthen our ability to serve Montrose and Ouray counties by ensuring continuity, cultivating community connections, and advancing our mission to support those facing aging, serious illness, and grief.

For more information about HopeWest or how to get involved, contact our team at (970) 240-7734 or visit our website at HopeWestCO.org.



Courtesy photo left to right: Jenni Zimmer Director of Regional Donor Relations, Chaucey Edwards Regional Outreach Coordinator, Jenni Neil Vice President of Regional Operations, Breeana Gumpert Chief Development Officer.



**News, if unreported, has no impact.
It might as well have not happened at all.
*Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.***



KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SENATOR MARC CATLIN NAMED 2026 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR BY COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Statewide recognition highlights bipartisan legislative work and the importance of homeownership in Colorado

Special to the Mirror

DENVER- The Colorado Association of REALTORS® has named State Senator Marc Catlin (R-Montrose) a 2026 Legislator of the Year. The award recognizes Catlin's work with real estate professionals and his commitment to finding practical solutions for Colorado communities.

The association recognized Catlin's work during the 2026 legislative session, including his sponsorship of Senate Bill 26-054. The legislation passed unanimously in both chambers of the Colorado General Assembly and addressed an issue affecting residential real estate transactions, providing greater flexibility for homebuyers and sellers.

"I am honored to receive this recognition from the Colorado Association of REALTORS®," said Senator Catlin. "In the communities I represent, housing is one of the most important issues we face. Our teachers, nurses, first responders, and young families should have the opportunity to own a home in the communities they serve. We have good people working on this challenge from every direction, and I believe that by listening to one another and working together, we can make real progress."

The recognition comes as Western Slope communities continue working to address housing affordability and expand access to homeownership. From mountain towns to agricultural communities, local leaders, housing professionals, and state lawmakers are exploring solutions that reflect the different needs of the communities they serve.

The award also highlights the connection between Senate District 5 and statewide housing policy. The Colorado Association of REALTORS® is led by its 2026 President, Molly Eldridge of Crested Butte, a community within Catlin's district.

"On the Western Slope, we understand how closely housing, our workforce, and the future of our communities are connected," Catlin continued. "Our children and grandchildren should have the opportunity to build their lives in the places they grew up. I appreciate the REALTORS® who work with Colorado families every day, and I look forward to continuing our work together."

Beyond his sponsorship of SB26-054, the association recognized Catlin for his willingness to listen to stakeholders, seek feedback, and collaborate on policies affecting Colorado residents.

Colorado State Senator Marc Catlin represents the seven counties of Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, and Pitkin. Senator Catlin is a member of the Agriculture & Natural Resources; Transportation & Energy; and Business, Labor, & Technology Committees. Senator Catlin also serves as a Member of the Colorado Tourism Board.



Senator Marc Catlin (R-Montrose) has been named a 2026 Legislator of the Year by the Colorado Association of REALTORS®. Courtesy photo.



OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

PROTECT MONTROSE FROM THE PARTISAN POWER GRAB

Editor:

Montrose was incorporated as a town on May 2, 1882. In 1906, with a population of 3,400, the community transitioned to full city status. The first city charter was ratified in 1914 and made Montrose the eighth home rule municipality in Colorado, with a foundational commission-manager form of local government.

By 1967 the population had grown to 6,000 residents. A charter convention drafted a completely new charter and it was approved by the electors of the city at a special election held on November 7, 1967. Both charters committed to removing politics from day-to-day operations.

The 1967 charter formalized a strict Council-Manager system that cleanly separated legislative and administrative powers. It transferred complete administrative oversight to a professional city manager who serves at the pleasure of the council. The elected body was redefined as a policy-setting city council whose members studied community needs, set the overall vision, established local policies, and passed ordinances, resolutions, and motions. The 1967 charter is the constitutional framework for the city with approved amendments passed by the voters in 1994 and 2014.

In 1994, with a population of 10,500 residents, voters approved changing the city charter to shift general municipal elections to the first Tuesday in April of even-numbered years. The intent of this change was to cultivate a distinct civic environment. Standalone municipal elections keep voter focus explicitly on local accountability, municipal issues, and candidates without the distractions of broader partisan state or federal cycles. Of note is the clause in our city charter that states: "All special and general municipal elections for elective office of the City shall be non-partisan."

At the state level in 1994, the Colorado Constitution was amended to place term limits on local elected officials. The district council seat was limited to 2 consecutive four year terms for a total of 8 years. The at-large seat was limited to 3 consecutive two year terms for a total of 6 years. A 4 year hiatus is allowed.

By 2014 the population had grown to 18,000 residents. Voters approved altering the city's structure to place the hiring and firing of the Police Chief and City Clerk solely under the discretion of the city manager. These changes removed explicit council-level appointment or removal procedures for those roles. It gave the professional city manager full responsibility over daily city operations and staff management, while the city council focused on policy, vision, and legislative functions.

The city of Montrose has had 2 charters - 1914 and 1967. The 1967 charter has been amended twice - 1994 and 2014.

The questions on your ballot: 2A Elections, 2B Term Limits, 2C Police Chief, and 2D City Clerk seek to undo what the voters have already decided. Why? What's broken that requires these 4 amendments? What problem will be solved by changing our local constitution and undoing what was previously approved by the voters?

Will the proposed 2026 amendments on your ballot improve the health, safety, and prosperity for all the residents of Montrose?

Vote NO on All 4 Amendments. Honor the decisions previous voters made. Protect Montrose from the partisan power grab!

Cliff Faurer, Montrose



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CIMARRON CREEK
Welcome Home

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

DOES AMERICA NEED A MODERN DAY MIRACLE?

By Don Stott

I am not a deeply religious person, but love the miracles as recoded in the Bible or history, and especially our American history. Maybe they're true? If so, did God look down from His Heaven, look at the travail young King George had visited upon his newest colony, and say to Himself maybe: "Those are nice people, hard workers, honest, want freedom from onerous taxation, and they are being sorely abused. I think I'll help?"

For all practical purposes, the American Revolution was impossible to win, except for a few, what today might seem to be, several 'miracles', which rewarded us with victory. Did God provide a mysterious cloud to keep the Brits from seeing George Washington removing his troops away from certain bloodshed by the Brits, as he commandeered all boats available and used them to move his hundreds of troops out of the King's reach? When Washington miraculously moved his forces across the mostly frozen Delaware River near New Hope, Pennsylvania, so they could attack sleeping British troops in Trenton, was that so unbelievable, that is might be called a 'miracle?' When Ben Franklin used his charm to get aid from France to help us win an un-winnable war, wasn't that a one in a thousand possibility? It worked, and they came aboard, helped us, and that intensified the hatred of Britain for France. Whether it was Valley Forge, when most humans would have died from bitter below zero cold, and even down to the final action, when with the aid of France, the Brits were surrounded and had to surrender, had God thought America was worth it, and sent forth divine help?

Did The Heavenly Father look down on Paris, and decide to keep Hitler from destroying one of earth's most beautiful cities? Did He look down on America and see our most beautiful natural wonders, such as the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Yosemite, with its neighboring giant thousand year old redwoods, and ruminant to Himself and consult with his Son about another earthly preservation? Did They decide that these natural wonders They had created several

thousand years earlier, must be preserved? They have been, and it seemed a miracle when it happened.

If you are a Bibliophile, was there a giant flood, which allowed a tiny family to populate a then 'New World,' after the old corrupt one had been drowned out of existence? Did He provide rainbows as a commemorative? Did He part the waters so the Jews could escape their imprisonment? Was Moses found in the bulrushes accidentally? Did Moses indeed come down from the mountain with Heaven provided gold plates in his hand with the Ten Commandments on them, as the book of Leviticus, Chapter 20 records? Did He resurrect his Son after He had been crucified, raised from the dead, and initiated "Christianity?"

History is full of wonders, and the blessings poured down on us throughout our brief 250 year history, such as thousands of patents for airplanes, steel plows, elevators, cotton gins, motion pictures, light bulbs, telephones, radios, televisions, computers, and literally 'all that heaven allows,' have made us the beacon of freedom, which has influenced all nations desirous of copying us, to their respective benefits. The Almighty must have influenced Catharine Lee Bates to ascend Pike's Peak, and conceive of and write, "America the Beautiful." I wish He'd help get rid of the in-singable, absurd, 'Star Spangled Banner,' and make "America the Beautiful," our National Anthem! Please!

Getting back to our current time, President Donald Trump, by his own devices, has alienated our friends and allies, with his Iran War, resultant inflation, installed absurd tariffs on our friends, enlarged the size of the DC. 'Swamp' to unbelievable size and paper money cost, making the federal debt probably unable to ever be paid, other than with 'Monopoly Money.' Trump's unquenchable, seemingly always misplaced ego, blabber mouth, continual lies and exaggerations, must have originated 'down below,' and they must be giving great joy to Democrats, because his Presidency has reached an all time historic low favorable rating, and it is carrying the House and Senate mid-term elections, in serious doubt, as to giving Republicans a repeat of their now slim majority in both Houses.

Have the Democrats' split with the communist "Democratic Socialists of America,' swayed the elections enough, to favor a Republican win?"

Trump ran on sealing the borders, no foreign wars, balancing the budget, reducing government size, and a few other items, which made me and millions of other Americans, send him money and vote for him. He won, and aside from sealing the border, he has accomplished none of his promises. Rather the reverse, with Iran war, tariffs, inflation, wasting ammunition, et al.

When I see his face constantly on the boob tube, I actually feel nauseous, and change the channel. All the 'I want my name on everything,' the Presidential Family in a bit-coin super-profitable affair, possible 'insider' stock trading, and even a wedding paid for with a pro Russian non-entity, Trump has blemished his reputation and approval rating, down to the high 20% range. As I have said in previous columns, has Trump deliberately ruined and abolished a Republican mid-term victory? It seems so.

Here's the unavoidable truth, which I have taken so long to get to, which is important. If the Democrats win control of either or both Houses of Congress, you can kiss the sealed borders goodbye, and say hello to a plethora of even more spending, and a possible total collapse of the U.S. dollar, which has already collapsed over 95%. If the Democrats win control of congress, a Trump veto will count as nothing, and millions of illegals will swarm across our borders, as per Joe Biden. If Republicans don't maintain their slim control of both Houses, our future looks grim.

Is it possible, in spite of Donald Trump, that some above the earth, an invisible force, could look down on us, and again say: "Look at them Son, they've done it again. Their 'money' has become almost worthless, they have started another war, which We got them out of a couple of times before, and now they're possibly self destructing themselves with their reputations and actions.. They never seem to learn. Shall We get involved?" We'll see, won't we?

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL MONTROSE ORGANIZERS ANNOUNCE NO KINGS: VOTE EARLY EVENT ON OCTOBER 17 AS PART OF NATIONWIDE EARLY VOTING EFFORTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— On Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, local Montrose, Ridgway, Ouray and surrounding area residents will come together with millions of Americans across the country in a massive day of voter participation nationwide. The focus of the nonpartisan event is to celebrate and educate eligible voters, and to encourage eligible voters to vote early at their local ballot box.

The fourth No Kings: Vote Early in Montrose will be at a different location on Saturday Oct. 17 at the corners of South Third Street and South Townsend Avenue in Montrose, Colorado at 10 am. The upcoming nonpartisan event will feature voter and ballot education provided by the League of Women Voters of Colorado, ballot drops, music with a local DJ, and a march/protest focused on voting. Organizers are collecting goods for mutual aid and attendees are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items.

“Voting early gives voters the power to make their voices heard on their own terms, before Election Day and before anyone else can decide what happens next,” said Holly Speaks, one of Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible Group Co-Leaders. “We believe that this moment is about making sure ALL voters, regardless of political party, use their power at the ballot box for the future they want for their families, our communities, our country and our world.”

No Kings is a mass, nonviolent movement that has already mobilized millions— from over five million participants on June 14, 2025 to close to 9 million people joining 3,300+ events across all 50 states and the District of Columbia on March 28, 2026.

We’re excited to join with other groups organizing the No Kings non-violent protests across the country including ACLU, 50501, MoveOn, League of Women Voters, and Public Citizen, among others. A full list of partners can be seen at <https://www.nokings.org/partners>.

For a full list of participating cities, event details, and spokespeople available for interviews, visit www.NoKings.org or contact media@nokings.org.

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- ☐ The Proposed Amendment Is A Power Grab
- ☐ Proposed Amendment Adds Bureaucracy To Administrative Function
- ☒ Vote No On Proposed Amendment



Moving Municipal Election to November

- ☐ Loss of Focus on Local Issues
- ☒ Vote No On Proposed Amendment



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ART & SOL

SHADY LADIES OF SILVERTON

"First came the miners to work in the mine. Next came the ladies who lived on the line."

By Kathryn R. Burke

SILVERTON-The Silverton district opened legally to miners in 1874, following the Brunot Treaty with the Utes. An estimated 2000 miners flooded into the region, hoping to strike it rich. Often the first structure in town, even if only a tent city, was a saloon. And right beside it, or above it, was a place where shady ladies plied their trade. When a strike was made, faster than you could blink an eye, saloon keepers and the working girls could separate a miner from his money.

By 1880, Silverton's largest and most profitable industry after mining was...bars and bordellos, gaming halls and good-time girls. Which is not surprising. According to the U.S. Census, by 1880, males outnumbered females 2 to 1 in the American West. Looking at those numbers, it's easy to see why, in the male-dominated San Juan Mountains where hard-rock mining drove the economy and miners dreamed of great wealth, whiskey and whores were a winning combination.

Like all mining boomtowns worth their salt, Silverton had its own red-light district—so named because of its proximity to the railroad, and because the 'girls on the line' hung out a red railroad lantern when entertaining a customer. But not all 'pleasure palaces' lined the rails. In the three-block area along Silverton's 'Notorious' Blair Street, a carousing miner (or 'respectable' businessman out for a bit of slumming) could choose from 32 saloons, gambling halls, and houses of ill-repute. Among their colorful names were the Mikado, the North Pole, and the Laundry...where they 'cleaned you out!'

By 1883, the district's mining production had quadrupled to \$400,000 and Silverton boasted of a population of 2,000 people. It also had 400 buildings, including two banks, five laundries, 29 saloons, several hotels, and the bawdy a "red light district" on Blair Street. And, of course, the more money, the fancier the place that offered girls, gaming, and booze. In less than a decade, tent-city bars and brothels were replaced by more permanent structures. Decent whiskey replaced rotgut 'firewater.' And a new class of 'working girls' moved to town and set up business. From its earliest days, the street was infamous for its loud music and dance halls.

Parlor Houses, Like Dottie Watson's, were the fanciest, stand-alone establishments with a staff and lavishly furnished to suit wealthy customers. Arriving guests were generally shown to the parlor, or perhaps a music room or a poker parlor and invited to partake of a variety of entertainment with wine, gambling, music, dancing, and dining before the couples retired upstairs. The 'soiled doves' (perhaps so called because they usually came from upper class backgrounds, shaming their families) were educated, beautifully dressed, well-paid, and mostly well-behaved. Parlor House Madams usually made a small fortune running the establishment, but rarely servicing customers themselves. The girls sometimes married a local businessman and moved to the 'respectable' part of town.

Brothels or bordellos were more common in Silverton and usually housed above a gambling hall. Their 'Painted Ladies' (so-called,



Big Tilly's Tremont Saloon. Notice the girls in white gowns in the upstairs windows. Courtesy San Juan County Historical Society.

SHADY LADIES OF SILVERTON From previous pg

because they wore a lot of makeup) ranged in age from sixteen to thirty-five and came from a variety of backgrounds. They earned about \$10 per customer and dressed in loose-fitting, easy-off-easy-on gowns so they could serve numerous customers throughout the evening. Most madams were savvy businesswomen who expected their girls to follow the house rules: no fighting, no soliciting. Many girls didn't and wound up in jail, being bailed out by their madam. These sex workers did not fare as well, and if they didn't marry out of the house, often succumbed to alcohol, drugs, or botched abortions.

The oldest bordello in town was in the front portion of where Professor Shutterbug's is today. On the other side of the street, near the tracks, the Green House, built on the site of the old Alhambra Theater (and now housing the Shady Lady restaurant), was likely built in the 1890s and occupied by Mamie Murphy and Kate Starr for many years. But the best-remembered madam was Jew Fanny, one of the last to leave town and considered a good friend by Silvertonians from all walks of life. A balcony was added when it was used to film 'western' movies in the 1950s.

The structure at 1215 Blair (one known as the Lookout by locals) is the site of the former Mikado Saloon and Bordello, established by '21' Pearl Thompson, and later operated by 'Big Tillie' and her girls, including Ollie Kelly and 'Babe,' or 'Blonde Peggy.' After she bought the building, she added 14 rooms (for the girls) upstairs above the saloon. Big Tilly ran the bar and bordello, and weighing almost 400 pounds, also acted, very efficiently, as the bouncer. In rough and tough Silverton, where the girls and their customers were all inclined to get into fights and shootings, bouncers were a necessary part of the staff.

The corner of 11th and Blair, where Natalias is now, was the site of the infamous 557, built in 1883 and one of the first dens of iniquity on Blair Street. The building was most widely known as Matties' Place, or the Welcome Saloon from a sign in the window. The ground floor has been a movie theater and a restaurant, in addition to its most durable service as a saloon.

The former Stone House (next to today's Dalla Valle) was once occupied by several working girls including 'Black Minnie' Heberline who used the building as a crib. Minnie was white... but legend records her disposition as black.

Dance hall girls, also known as 'hurdy-gurdy girls,' worked in saloons and entertained customers with song, dance, and skits. Some also doubled as prostitutes in rooms above the saloons, but many were moonlighting housewives, making ends meet while their hubbies caroused in the other sporting houses. Where the High Noon is now, at 1205 Blair, was the site of the Westminster Dance Hall, converted in the 1920s to an infamous gambling establishment and brothel, known as The Laundry.

Cribs were the lowest establishments 'on the line' and usually alongside the railroad tracks to allow for a quick visit from a railman. A single room with a bed and washbowl, near the railroad tracks, served just one purpose, a 'boots-on, two-bit quicke'. The occupant 'ceiling inspector' usually had an oil cloth at the foot of her bed to preserve the spread from her customer's footwear. The area the Old Arcade is now, was once the site of three small cribs and has been at various times a pool hall, a saloon, and a gambling house.

No matter its legalities, prostitution was in demand and flourished wherever men were willing to pay for it. It's still a practice today, but less obvious in 'houses' and more common in 'mistresses' or 'kept' women living in condos bought and paid for by 'respectable' businessmen who want a little 'something on the side.' Prostitution is the oldest business in the world, the earliest written records from Mesopotamia, where priests 'pimped' services of male transvestites. When you look at the history, and some of the forms it took, Silverton, where the girls were often an important part of the community for their humanitarian efforts, was not such a bad place to be if you chose that profession.

Learn more and here some of the stories at the Senior Center, 1 pm, Monday, October 19, when Kate Burke presents Silverton's Shady Ladies, part of her Western History Series. The event is free.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

NU BLU TO PERFORM IN DELTA OCT. 13

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Delta Montrose Community Concert Association presents Nu-Blu on Tuesday, Oct. 13 as the next concert in the 2026-2027 concert season. The concert begins at 7:00 PM at the Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Avenue in Delta. Doors open at 6 PM.

North Carolina-based Nu-Blu, has quickly established themselves as one of the top acoustic acts in the music industry. Led by husband and wife, Daniel (guitar, vocals) and Carolyn Routh (bass, vocals), Austin Hefflefinger on banjo, and Justin Harrison on mandolin. Nu-Blu delivers a warm, layered Appalachian sound featuring country standards with a bluegrass twist.

Blending seamless vocal harmonies, they deliver upbeat, blazing-fingers pick work as well as gentle, heartwarming ballads, all with a natural togetherness that can't be faked, creating a connection with the audience and variety to suit fans of any music genre.

Single admission tickets will be available at the door on the night of the performance: \$25 for adults and \$5 for students.



The Delta-Montrose Community Concert Association presents Nu-Blu at the Delta Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Courtesy photo.

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL HONORS OCTOBER DIVISION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Montrose High School is pleased to announce the recipients of its October 2026 Division Awards. This monthly recognition honors students who demonstrate exemplary behavior and make positive contributions to the school community.

Students are recognized in a variety of subject areas and award categories, including the Red Hawk Way Award, which is presented by school administration.

The October Division Award recipients are:

Isabella McCants - World Languages

Bella Magana - Fine Arts

Sheylen Downs - Career & Technology

Madalyn Cobb - Math

Maria Sotelo Alvarez - Physical Education

Julian Morrow - English

Kevin Ball - English

Aiden Walker - Science

Holly Thompson - Social Studies

Audriana Comer and Levi F. Cooper - Reading, Writing & Communication Dynamic Duo

Felipe Lopez-Villagomez - The Red Hawk Way Award

Montrose High School and the Montrose County School District congratulate this month's honorees on their well-deserved recognition.



Montrose High School Division Award recipients. Courtesy photo.



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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451 <https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/> 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?



YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE – TRUE GRIT

Greetings Mirrorites!

By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD.

We all know the movie if we're over 50 years old, and almost all of us know the café in Ridgway. Youngsters might think that true grit refers to a drought-stricken riverbed or improperly washed salad greens. In this article I will be referring to the kind of grit that is a personal attribute, whether you are John Wayne or not.

Long after the movie was crafted, a psychologist came up with a definition of grit. [Psychologist Angela Duckworth](#) brought the concept of "grit" back to the public, providing evidence that talent and luck aren't all that matter for certain kinds of situational success. She defined grit as the passionate pursuit of long-term goals. She and her colleagues published research in 2007 introducing the Grit Scale, which they used to analyze educational achievement, persistence at a military academy, and other stressful venues with continuous pressures over time.

She proposes two primary components of grit: finding your passion (which involves a sense of purpose) and persevering against obstacles. Unlike resilience and hardiness, grit emphasizes constancy rather than adaptability. It involves sticking to the same goals, heading down the same path, and maintaining effort over time, even when faced with challenges. And yes, there is a lot of overlap with resilience, but they are not the same.

Resilience is also about the ability to cope effectively with stress, challenges, and setbacks. It involves two key components: bouncing back and bouncing forward. Bouncing back means returning to a relaxed physiological state after facing a stressor, while bouncing forward means learning from the experience so that you can better handle similar challenges in the future. This adaptability – the ability to change, adapt, and reorganize in response to shifting circumstances – is the core quality of resilience. Resilience enables persistence and internal drive, but is not the same thing.

I'm sure you can see that they are both important personal strengths. Grit keeps a person grinding away over the long haul to achieve a greatly desired outcome, while resilience helps with short term challenge management. Resilience keeps highly gritty

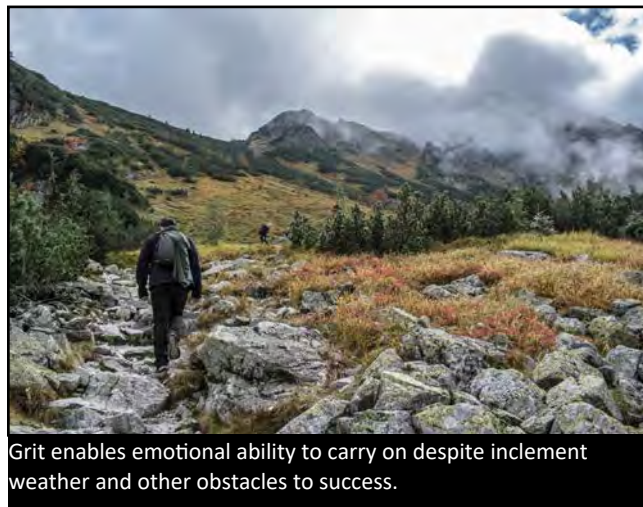
folks from beating their heads against a wall, and grit keeps resilient folks from changing course prematurely.

Hollywood westerns are by definition outdoor narratives. But in these more modern times, does being outdoors really help develop true grit? Current research has some potential answers.

For instance, in [one study](#), over 1,200 university students took part in a 16–18 week course in either traditional physical education (basketball, aerobics, tai chi) or outdoor education (camping, rock climbing, wilderness survival). Their grit levels were measured before and after using a well-established psychological scale assessing two traits: perseverance of effort and consistency of interest (i.e. Duckworth's passionate pursuit). They found that while both groups improved, "Outdoor education produced bigger gains across every measure of grit, especially perseverance." Were these improvements equally true for all participant groups? Not really. Female participants gained the most grit through increased and sustained interest and effort in the outdoor condition vs. athletic. Both genders showed greater improvement in resilience compared to the physical education/athletic OK, that's one study, although a pretty big one.

Any others? Yep. A 2024 study looked at the effects of Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) on developing grit and resilience in adolescents. The research involved 350 participants aged 14–18 from various OAE courses. Data collection involved pre/post surveys assessing grit and resilience. Findings revealed grit and mastery increases following the OAE program. Participants demonstrated enhanced perseverance and passion toward goals and better relational dynamics. Unfortunately another variable, emotional reactivity, remained largely unchanged. Can't have everything, I guess.

Girls may benefit more than boys outdoors because they have further to go. By age 2 most little girls are already spending less time outdoors than their male agemates. In the pre-teen, middle school years, most urban girls get less and less confident and more likely to quit a challenging task. Girls that are exposed to wilderness hardship at that age conversely get tougher and grittier faster than boys that age.



Grit enables emotional ability to carry on despite inclement weather and other obstacles to success.

Parents in Wyoming with a shy 13-year-old girl entering a tough mountain bike competition, observed to a reporter with The New York Times... "It's really hard, it's not a kid's race. It's not that long, but there's a lot of elevation gain," said Mrs. Peacock, whose husband decided he'd ride behind his daughter in case she needed extra motivation. She didn't. "She had her own grit and eye of the tiger inside her, and I had not seen that before that race."

That resonates with me because I was a miserable, socially incompetent and insecure middle school kid. Then I got into an Explorer Post group roaming the Sierras as a 15-year-old and was pretty bad ass by the time my senior year rolled around. Had lots of friends as well. I found out that discomfort and even injury were only temporary setbacks and learned, despite parental fears, to keep hittin' it hard in the hills. It horrified my father that I became gritty, not girly, but what a difference it made for my maturity. And popularity. That young biker, Annika Peacock, [15 at the time of the interview](#) eloquently reflected my own brand of outdoor experience... "There's a certain work ethic you have to have to be a mountain biker... If there's a section of the trail that's really hard for me, I'll go try it five more times."

So ya'all get outdoors this fall, try stuff you may fail at the first time, keep going, and get yourselves some true grit. And afterwards do what I sometimes do, roll into the True Grit in Ridgway for a well-deserved burger and adhere to their motto of Stay Gritty. Great life advice, it turns out.

Here's to grit, grins, and bruised shins,
The Mindful Naturalist

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

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

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

Call for an appointment today!

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

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

Special to the Mirror

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



Musical duo Erin Shields and David Shenton present their unique and highly entertaining show, You Raise Me Up.

Our
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is
true

the montrose mirror



YOUR NOVEMBER 3, 2026 BALLOT IS HERE!

Vote **YES** on all **4** Charter Amendments

Four separate Charter amendments. Not one buried package.
You can approve or reject each question on its own merit.

More voters ✓

Lower Costs ✓

Real term limits✓

Fresh eyes and voices ✓

Oversight, not a takeover ✓

WHY THIS BALLOT?

This ballot provides the largest voice of "We the People" to be heard.

Article X, Section 2 gives two paths: A voter petition, or **Council sending amendments to the voters**. Council used the second path. In 2014, a rewrite that was called "largely clerical" moved hire-and-fire of the police chief and city clerk to the manager alone. In 2025, another package went out as one bucket. **These four questions are in plain view.**

YES ON ELECTIONS ✓

01

Move city elections to November

APRIL VOTER TURNOUT

NOVEMBER VOTER TURNOUT

25–35%



60–87%

- November brings the city ballot to us when more of us vote.
- Stand-alone **April elections cost us about \$30,000.**
- Coordinated **November elections cost \$5,000–\$10,000.**
- Creates a **one-time**, seven-month term extension due to a function of the calendar for all current Councilors.

YES ON TERM LIMITS ✓

02

Eight years. Then make room.

8 year lifetime cap

- A YES vote provides for an eight-year lifetime cap
- Current rule is a **"pause"** on consecutive terms, **not a limit**. After a 4 year "pause", they can do another 8.
- Eight years is long enough in a city of 21,000+.
- The new cap allows for new people and fresh ideas

YES ON POLICE CHIEF ✓

03

The Peoples Representatives, the ones **YOU** Elect, would Approve, not select the Chief.

- Allows City Council approval for appointment or discharge of the **Managers Choice** for Police Chief.
- **The Manager selects the candidates**, Council approves from the Managers list, **Council does not initiate or select.**
- **No day-to-day control, supervisory or any other operational authority is granted to the Council.**
- **This is simply a Return to Pre-2014 Charter Authority.**

YES ON CITY CLERK ✓

04

Council would not select the Clerk, only approve the Managers list of candidates.

- Allows City Council approval for appointment or discharge of the **Managers Choice** for City Clerk.
- **The Manager selects the candidates**, Council approves from the Managers list, **Council does not initiate or select.**
- **No day-to-day control, supervisory or any other operational authority is granted to the Council.**
- **This is simply a Return to Pre-2014 Charter Authority.**

WHAT A YES VOTE IS

Trust

More voters on the ballot people already vote on and return.

Honesty

Questions in plain view, not buried in a some "clerical package".

Accountability

Elected people vote to approve the Managers list of candidates for the chief and the clerk

Study the redlines, Then vote yes ✓

Each measure stands alone. Read the current, redlined, and proposed text before you mark the ballot. [Get the facts!](#)

Common Sense Measures for Montrose

VOTE YES ✓

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JUAN LANDING ANNOUNCES 'SAFETY CAN'T WAIT!' FUNDRAISER TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER JAMES SCHMIDT OF THE GABBY PETITO FOUNDATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— San Juan Landing is pleased to announce its upcoming "Safety Can't Wait!" fundraiser, taking place on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, from 4 PM to 6 PM at the Montrose Pavilion (1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, CO). This critical event aims to raise funds to build San Juan Landing, a long-term domestic violence (DV) housing facility designed to support victims, their families, and their pets in our region. The event features Keynote Speaker James Schmidt, stepfather of Gabby Petito (March 1999 – August 2021). Schmidt will share Gabby's story, shed light on domestic violence awareness, highlight crucial red flags, and discuss actionable ways to help loved ones in dangerous situations.

Opening the event is Colorado Deputy Attorney General Janet Drake, who will discuss Colorado domestic violence statistics, the state's Victim Assistance Program, and the work of the Colorado DV Fatality Review Board. "Over the past decade, our community has faced significant challenges in securing both immediate and long-term housing for domestic violence survivors," stated Chantelle Bainbridge, Domestic Violence Task Force Co-Chair. "By collaborating with CASA, community agencies, and non-profits, we have developed a strategic plan for a facility that includes programs specifically designed to bridge systemic gaps and empower survivors to achieve independent, abuse-free lives."

This initiative fills a crucial gap in community resources by providing long term housing that allows pets, and offers survivors a foundation for rebuilding their lives.

"Our nearest resource for housing is in Grand Junction. The facility there serves an important purpose by providing DV victims safety for 3-14 days which allows them to catch their breath. San Juan Landing will be the next step by allowing victims to actually recover by providing long-term stays of 1-18 months with the ability to bring their pets," stated Shelly Fellin, 7th JD DV Task Force member. "This will give victims time to heal, and access resources to establish a new life free of violence." "We are stepping forward not only to raise awareness, but to build a sustainable solution that provides safety and community support where it is desperately needed," explained Carlton Mason, CEO of CASA of the 7th Judicial District. Attendees can also arrive early for an early-access Silent Art Auction running from 3 PM to 8 PM, offering unique artwork available for bidding in support of the cause. Event & Ticket Details:

Date & Time: Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 | 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM (Silent Art Auction open 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM)

Location: Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, CO Tickets: \$30 each (Tickets are selling fast!)

How to Purchase: Scan the official event QR code found on San Juan Landing's Facebook and Instagram pages, in its email newsletter, or on promotional materials to secure tickets online. You can also call 970-252-5200 to purchase tickets through the Montrose Police Department.

About San Juan Landing: San Juan Landing is dedicated to reducing domestic violence in our region by providing a safe, long-term DV housing facility that accommodates victims, their families, and their pets. Help us build San Juan Landing because "Safety Can't Wait!"

SHARING MINISTRIES HUNGER AWARENESS TEA PARTY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Sharing Ministries Food Bank invites you to our Annual Hunger Awareness Tea Party on November 7th from 2pm-4pm at the Pavilion.

Vendor booths will open at 1pm and again at 4pm. Enjoy the high-tea buffet, games, prizes, shopping, and make memories at the photo booths.

Guests may come as you are, dress as your favorite Harry Potter character, or wear your favorite fascinator.

Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door. All proceeds support Sharing Ministries Food Bank.

Visit our website sharingministries.com/hp-tea-party or at 49 N. 1st Street in Montrose to purchase tickets. For more information, call (970) 240-8385.



**Journalism of a
different stripe.**

montrosemirror.com

Are you a parent or caregiver of a child 6 years of age or younger?
Was your family affected by the Colorado wildfires?

This study is for parents of children birth to 6 years of age impacted by the Colorado Aspen Fire, Golden Mountain Fire, or Willow Fire.

Complete our 15-minute online survey about your family's experiences with the Colorado Aspen Fire, Golden Mountain Fire, or Willow Fire.

As thanks for your participation, we will give you a children's book that helps young children process the fires and one of every 20 participants will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Scan the QR code or click the link below to participate:

<https://tinyurl.com/usddisasters>



Principal Investigator:
Dr BreAnne Danzi
Faculty, Disaster Mental Health Institute

Contact:
castlab@usd.edu

Western History with Kate Burke

Shady Ladies of Silverton

FREE 1 pm., Monday October 19th.



At the turn of the last century in Silverton, Colorado there were 32 saloons, bordellos, and gambling parlors between 11th and 13th St along Blair and 130 working girls.



Silverton was a San Juan Mountains mining town, and booze, bordellos, and gambling were the backbone of the economy as late as 1948 when the mines had mostly shut down. Learn more at Kate Burke's talk. With handouts and lots of juicy details!



Reservations, questions, call Liz 970-252-4884

Senior Center Montrose Pavilion

TRIVIA NIGHT

Hosted By:



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

Saturday Oct 24th



**PRIZES
SNACKS
& FUN FOR
ALL!**

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



Scan to Register

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

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

*Elks Cash Bar will also be available

MORE INFO

970-275-0751



6th Annual Trivia Night

Gather your dream team (up to 8 players) and get ready for a lively night of trivia, laughs, and a little friendly competition! Tables are limited, so snag your spot soon. Prizes are up for grabs—and best of all, every question answered helps support the incredible community projects of Altrusa International of Montrose.

DATE: Saturday, October 24, 2026

TIME: 6:30 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Montrose Elks Lodge - 801 S Hillcrest Dr, Montrose, CO 81401

COST: \$30 per person, due at registration. This includes unlimited access to appetizer and dessert bars, and non-alcoholic beverages! (*Elks Cash Bar will also be open)

TEAM NAME: _____

Main Team Contact Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Players' Names:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Please complete one form per team.

We kindly ask that you are seated before our start time of 6:30 pm!

No outside Food or Drink will be allowed.

Questions? Please contact Gail at 970-275-0751 or Ginny at 970-901-1745

Please make checks payable to Altrusa International of Montrose and mail along with the completed application to:

Altrusa International of Montrose

PO Box 932

Montrose, CO 81402

Or call one of the contacts above and we can meet to obtain registration form and check.

LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS

VACANT PARCEL FOR SALE

TROUT RD LAND**MONTROSE, CO****MLS # 837927**

Finding 18.7 acres in one piece with irrigation water is becoming increasingly rare in Montrose. Located just a few miles south of downtown, this raw, vacant parcel offers wide-open space and endless possibilities. Create a beautiful equestrian property, establish a small farm, or build the country retreat you've always envisioned.

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

PRICED BELOW RECENT APPRAISAL**\$699,900.00****18.7 acres**

Irrigation water

CONTACT:
 19702753195

 lesliegorealtor@gmail.com

 <https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21>


October Is Plan-tober for Family Gatherings, Graduations and Weddings



Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Rib City
970-249-7427

Fiesta Guadalajara
Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Stone House
970-240-8899

Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227



Beer Barn II
970-249-5550



CHAMPION HOME



\$99,000

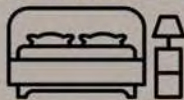
5% Down/25 Year Term



435 32 ROAD
LOT #212
CLIFTON, CO



PROPERTY FEATURES



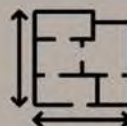
3 Bedroom



2 Bathroom



Well-Kept Home



1188 SF



Comfortable,
Functional, Inviting
Living Space

***ONLY \$1,414.00
per month***

(\$610.00 mortgage plus
\$804.00 lot rent)

CONTACT DETAILS

📞 970-434-8193

✉ manager@midlandsvillage.com

🌐 www.midlandsvillage.com

WAC. Estimated payment, rates and terms may vary based on credit history. Not all applicants will qualify. Subject to lender terms & conditions. Actual term, rate, APR, and loan amount may vary.



CENTURY 21[®]

Elevated

*Home is More
Than a Place...
It's a Lifestyle*

21[®]



2038 Winston Way #B
Montrose, Colorado

\$289,000

MLS #838979

-  1,263 Sq. Ft.
-  2 Bedrooms
-  2 Bathrooms
-  1 Car Garage
-  Built 1991
-  Townhome



This room has been virtually staged.

Low-Maintenance Living in a Prime Location!

Enjoy easy, comfortable living in this well-maintained townhome close to everything Montrose has to offer! Conveniently located near the Pavilion, Senior Center, Botanical Gardens, grocery stores, restaurants, walking and bike trails, parks, and medical services. A great option for full-time living or as an investment property.



This room has been virtually staged.



This room has been virtually staged.



This room has been virtually staged.

Michelle Klippert

Certified Residential Specialist – Senior Specialist
Broker Associate



970-275-3016



michelleklippertrealtor@gmail.com



500 E. Main St., Montrose, CO 81401

*Opening Doors
to Your Next Chapter*

SAVE THE DATE

ONGOING-

Altrusa International of Montrose believes in "Leading to a Better Community" and is always looking for new members. We meet in Montrose on the first three Tuesdays of each month. Our local Altrusa Club has given back over \$1,000,000 in 50 years. Our members unite their varied talents in service to others, achieving as a group what individuals cannot do alone. If you are interested in more information or to come to a meeting, please contact us at 970-765-7666 or Email:

Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com or <https://www.altrusamontrose.org/>

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY provides a monthly program on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at Baldridge Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street. All are welcome and there is no charge. These meetings are also available via Zoom. For information about the speaker and topic presented each month go to the blackcanyonaudubon.org.

Tuesday - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays Black Canyon Audubon Society hosts monthly birdwatching field trips in the Montrose area on 1st Tuesdays of the month and in the Delta area on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Check out the website for field trip details at blackcanyonaudubon.org.

BINGO EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY at 7pm at the American Legion Post 24 Olathe doors open at 5:30. Sunday Bingo will start at 1:30pm. More info call Tom 970 260 8298.

Bosom Buddies breast cancer support group, Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

COLUMBINE QUILTERS meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource Center, 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way Montrose. 1st Saturday except for July at 9 am.

CRAFTERNOON AT THE LIBRARY-The Crafternoon group meets weekly, on Thursdays from 11 AM-1 PM, to knit or crochet

items for charity and this is the 2nd year that they have "yarn stormed" the library. This year, it was done in spirit of the 250/150 celebration. Our lobby, courtyard, and front entrance areas have all been decorated in red, white, and blue.

FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS meets at the Montrose County Events Center, 4th Thursday Jan - Oct, 3rd Thursday Nov - Dec, 9am.

MONTROSE ALTRUSA-1st Tuesday of the month Program meeting; 2nd Tuesday of the month committee meeting; 3rd Tuesday of the month Business meeting. Meetings are held at the Field House on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue at Noon.

MONTROSE AREA WOODTURNERS Montrose Area Woodturners meet second Saturdays 9 am. Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. For location and information contact: Al Head 970-209-0981 or aheadaviation@outlook.com

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Friendship Hall, 1001 North Second, Montrose, 7 pm (970) 249-2085 www.montrosehistory.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH-3rd Wednesday of every month at 6pm, the Montrose County Neighborhood Watch meets at the Sheriff's Office at 1200 N Grand Ave

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP-Breastfeeding Support Group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. An infant scale will also be available to check your baby's weight. Breastfeeding Support Group (Bring your questions and your family!) Montrose County Event Center (1036 North 7th Street Room 3) 10am - 12pm. Questions? Please call 970-252-5015.

MONTHLY

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>

Oct. 21--This month Chipeta Archaeology Society has invited archaeologist Jon Horn to discuss his extensive work on The Old Spanish Trail. Wednesday Oct. 21 at 7pm, United Methodist Church, 19S Park Avenue Montrose. Free.



MIRROR IMAGES: OCTOBER REFRESH



Above, girls with gourds at the Pumpkin Patch on Dave Wood Road. Photo by B. Switzer. At right, Autumn showers bring long awaited Flowers. Mirror staff photo.



Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Crash Burger
970-249-0825

Coffee Trader
970-249-6295
970-787-9021

Tacos & Beer
970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main
970-964-4999

Pahgre's
970-249-6442

Delta: CB's Tavern
970-399-3570

Premier Sponsor:
Montrose Farmers Market
970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing
970-249-6889

**Jimmer's BBQ,
Burgers & Beer**
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
Re-Opening 2026
970-249-2460

El Jimador
970-249-8990

Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe
970-417-4340

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar
970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074