SAVE A TREE, READ THE MIRROR!

ISSUE 713 Oct. 26, 2026

the Montrose Mirror

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CITY APPROVES FUNDING FOR THE SHEPHERD'S HAND/LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With the District 4 seat still open, all remaining councilors were present as the Montrose City Council welcomed CMU students and the public during the meeting of Tuesday, Oct. 21.

All joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance; there were no changes to the meeting Agenda.

Council heard Statements of Appreciation from Colorado Mesa University Students Hannah Sulzen, Hope Stevens and Lilianna Delgado, for the scholarships that allow them to further their

Continued pg 36



Miriam Renteria of The Shepherd's Hand addressed the Montrose City Council. Meeting screenshot.

HIDDEN TREASURES IN THE OUTDOORS



Checking out the goods in the ammo box used to store the geocache treasures. (photo/geocaching.com)

By Monica Voehringer, Friends of Youth and Nature

REGIONAL-My day job as a school counselor, particularly my work with at-risk youth, and my love of the outdoors and all things natural and awe-inspiring have melded into quite a compatible partnership. Over the last several years, I've had the opportunity to work in a position that allowed me to bring more of nature and the outdoors into my daily work with young people. Through that experience, I've learned just how important nature is to maintaining a balanced ecosystem of health—mentally, physically, and spiritually—for us as human beings, and especially for our developing young ones.

The research is extensive on the benefits of fresh air and outdoor experiences—not only for mental health, but for our connection to the world around us, our sense of belonging as we engage in activities together, and our desire to become stewards of this great land. If we don't know the land, interact with it, enjoy it, and experience it, we won't feel as connected or responsible for taking care of it. And we will certainly miss out on the many benefits it has to offer, not only for us personally, but for our children as well.

When my kids were younger, we lived on the East Coast—Pennsylvania, to be exact. One day, and I honestly can't remember the how or the who, I was introduced to this new treasure-hunting idea called "geocaching."

Being someone who has always been intrigued by the idea of exploring the outdoors AND hunting

Continued pg 26

Word from the West: with Wendy Videlock! pg 82 | Magic Circle Players Present- Little Women: The Boadway Musical! pg 78 | Regional News Briefs! Letters to the Editor! | Cartoons by Tim Jones and Mariano Velasco!

Mindfulness Matters

Wednesday, Oct 28 - 6:45-9:00 PM
Montrose Library Meeting Room

Erin Easton, the Founder of New Leaf Coaching and a Mindfulness Based Health and Life Coach, will present a 2-hour class introducing the practice of mindfulness. We will learn about the habitual reactions created in the mind and how mindful awareness can bring more peace, purpose, and intention to our lives.

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Property owners are reimagining their backyards to accommodate aging parents, create independent studios, or generate long-term rental income. Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) offer exciting possibilities, but local rules matter. Within Montrose city limits, one ADU is allowed per residential lot, but ADUs permitted after January 1, 2025, cannot be licensed for short-term rentals (fewer than 30 days). Outside city limits projects depend on verifying septic system capacity and well water permits before building plans can proceed.

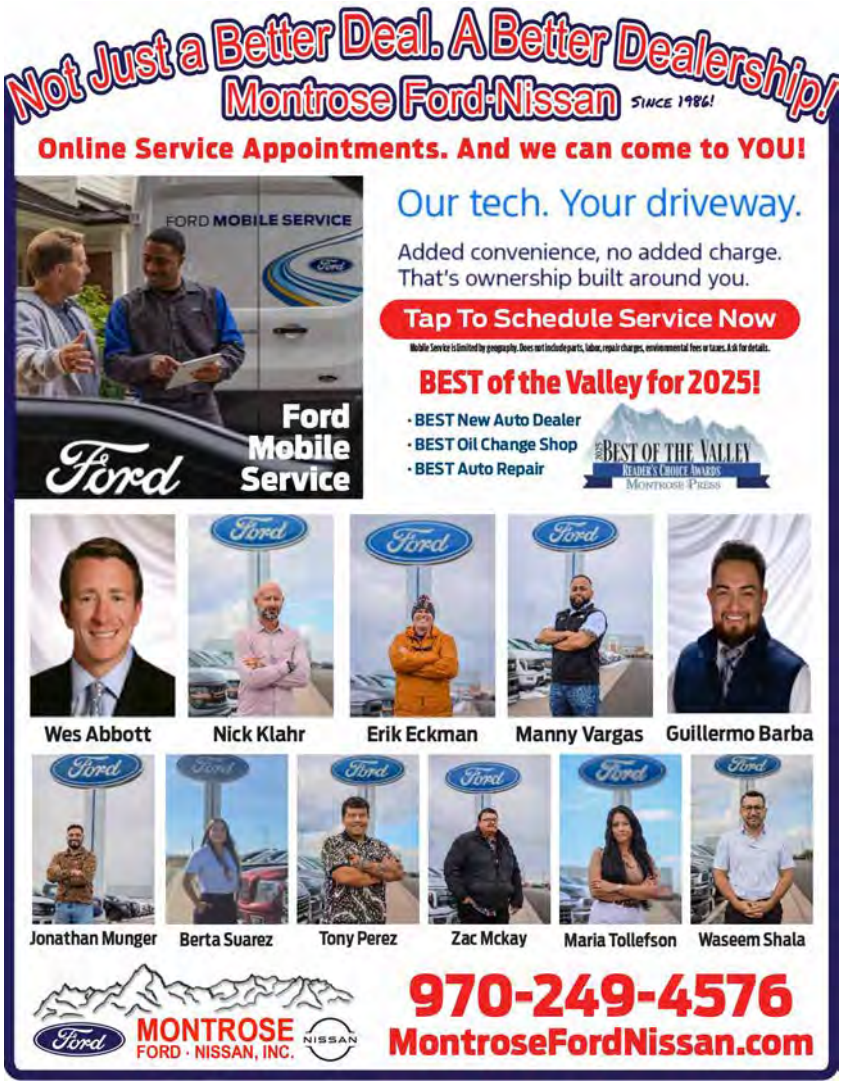
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- Maximizing Resale Equity: Evaluating how an accessory unit impacts your overall neighborhood market value, property taxes, and future buyer appeal.

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



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DON'T BE FOOLED AGAIN

Editor:

Don't be fooled again by the left-wing Politicians. There are definitely two Propositions excluding revenue from the TABOR limitations: NN & 137. Both would give the politicians more money to squander and less back to the citizens. Proposition 137 directs sporting goods sales for Conservation. Sounds good right? But it eliminates or reduces TABOR refunds. Proposition NN wants more money for education and other purposes. It too eliminates TABOR refunds. NN increases state spending by approximately $329.9 Million in budget yr 2026-27 and $521.0 Million in budget yr 2027-28. What are they doing to improve the education of our children? Every election they ask for more money "for the children" but where are the benefits to our kids? How has it improved our lives? Their goal is to eliminate TABOR. They're renaming taxes and calling it "fees" creating government owned businesses ie (enterprises) that charge user fees. Theses qualifying enterprises fall OUTSIDE of the TABOR revenue limit. Common Sense Institute's "Snapshot of Fees in Colorado found the following: "In 1996 about 46% of state spending was TABOR-exempt. In 2024 approximately 74% was TABOR-exempt." Fee based enterprise revenue was approximately $742 Million in FY 1991-94. By 2024, enterprise revenue had reached approximately $25.8 Billion, an increase of almost 3400%!!! It estimates that enterprises created or expanded by the legislature since VOTERS APPROVED Proposition 117 in 2020 cost Coloradans $124.3 Million in FY 2024." Common Sense Institute's Snapshot of fees in the Colorado Analysis in 2025 explains, "TABOR requires voter approval for tax increases. Fees can generally be increased legislatively without voter approval." We voted against ourselves! Will we be smarter this time??? We don't have a revenue problem in our state; we have a spending problem. This may be our last chance to save TABOR and reign in spending. Once it's gone we won't get it back. VOTE NO on Proposition NN and NO on Proposition 137.

Carol McBride, Montrose

STILL WATCHING THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dear Directors,

RE: 9/23 Special and Regular Meetings: Different day and time, NO public comment, meeting starting at 7:00 and going right into 4 consecutive Executive Sessions with Brad Miller (on the big screen),waiting until after to have the Regular Meeting (items CACSA ED for Board as Authorizer , Superintendent search and Goals) ALL OF That really worked to discourage any public engagement at all. I thought "Carlson was to be our legal representative", not THE Brad Miller of School-District-destroying reputation. But alas! How long were you in Executive Session with him? What did that 3-4 hour Special Meeting accomplish and how much did it cost the taxpayers in Legal fees?

RE: 9/8/26 Regular Meeting: Thanks for approving $290K for Northside's Health Clinic Grant. I remember about 25 years ago when we worked so hard to get that clinic on campus to serve our low income families and our school in general. It has been such an asset. Also, thanks for receiving $216K from Colorado State LPA funds for our English Language Learners. This shows serving diverse populations through our schools bring money in, not just out (as with LEGAL EXPENSES).

I'm so interested in Montrose Classical Academy our new Charter school now that it's underway. How can we find out about it? How would we get to tour the newest elementary school in Montrose, talk with the excited teachers and see the Oct 1 student counts per grade? Will there be an OPEN HOUSE to? Where would the public get this information?

At the end of the meetings you ask for "agenda items for the next meeting" from the Board, here's one: We must start talking about the reduced number of babies, in the nation, state, and in Montrose = reduced funding and reduced need for classrooms. The consolidation/closure of a neighborhood elementary school will be a timely, emotional process with many neighborhood school meetings. A clear, fair process will help any transition. Please start communication and planning NOW, do not wait and perpetuate chaos.

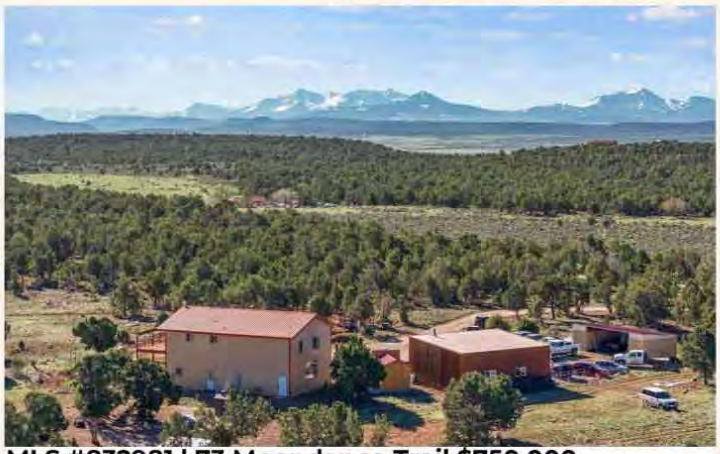
Yours truly, Still watching,

Zoe Werden

PS. I must say, you are terrible pen pals. I've had nice notes from Director Hovde and Vincent about my concern for our School District, (thanks for that) but otherwise, no return mail, no answers to my or the public's many questions.

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This remarkable property provides unmatched access to outdoor recreation bordered by stretches of public mountain land for hunting and cross country skiing. With elk, deer, and other wildlife right out your back door. A thoughtfully crafted trail allows you to explore whether it's hiking, ATV rides, horseback riding, or peaceful walks. This beautiful home with a spacious open floor plan and 1200sq ft shop sits on a 40 acre parcel with a fully fenced garden area!



Britany Butler
Broker
970-209-4388
britanybtlr@gmail.com



MLS #837973 | 68001 Tumbleweed Road $1,100,000

Discover exceptional craftsmanship and timeless high-end style in this meticulously designed custom home, built in 2019 and offering 3,392 square feet of beautifully finished living space on an irrigated 1.24-acre parcel. From the moment you enter, the quality of construction, thoughtful design, and attention to detail are unmistakable. This is a home that feels both refined and comfortable, with a timeless aesthetic that will remain relevant for years to come. The spacious ranch-style floor plan offers an ideal split-bedroom configuration.



Aaron Tobler
Broker
970-275-0780
aaron.tobler@gmail.com



MLS #838789| 1400 Anderson Road $149,000

Rare Montrose commercial land opportunity! This unique corner lot offers an excellent opportunity for commercial development in an established and growing area of Montrose. Zoned B-3 General Commercial, the property provides flexibility for a variety of potential business, professional, service and development uses.



David Kienholz
Broker
970-209-1430
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MLS #830946 | 3200 Ravens Crest $560,000

This 5 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 3 Car garage home is located in the desirable Raven's Crest Subdivision. The home was recently painted, sets on a corner lot. The home is very open, the kitchen opens up into the large living room with sliding glass doors to the private backyard. There is a lot of tile on the floors, baths and showers. There are 5 bedrooms making for a great family home.



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COUNTY APPROVES P&D ITEMS

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-The Montrose Board of County Commissioners met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 21. All commissioners were present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Preston Gordon of All Saints Anglican Church delivered the Invocation. “Psalm 25 says ‘Show me your ways, oh Lord, teach us your paths. Guide us in your truth and teach us for you are God, our savior. We come to you Lord God this morning and ask that you will show us your ways, teach us your paths,.. We pray for the decisions that will be made today in this room for each leader...grant them wisdom, grant them discernment, give them ears to hear your guidance for leading our county...”

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments heard from the public on non-agenda items.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were approved, with Resolution No. 35-2026 assigned to Item 10 and Resolution 36-2026 assigned to Item 11.

MONTROSE COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY

Commissioners left regular session to reconvene as the Montrose County Local Liquor Licensing Authority, approving the renewal of the Lodging Facility Liquor license for CAMPV LLC, doing business as Camp V LLC, 31412 EE 26 Road, Naturita, Colorado, license #03-15199. All appropriate documents, reviews, inspection, background check and fees have been submitted pursuant to CRS 44-3-302. No concerns were reported by the Sheriff’s Office or the Planning Department.

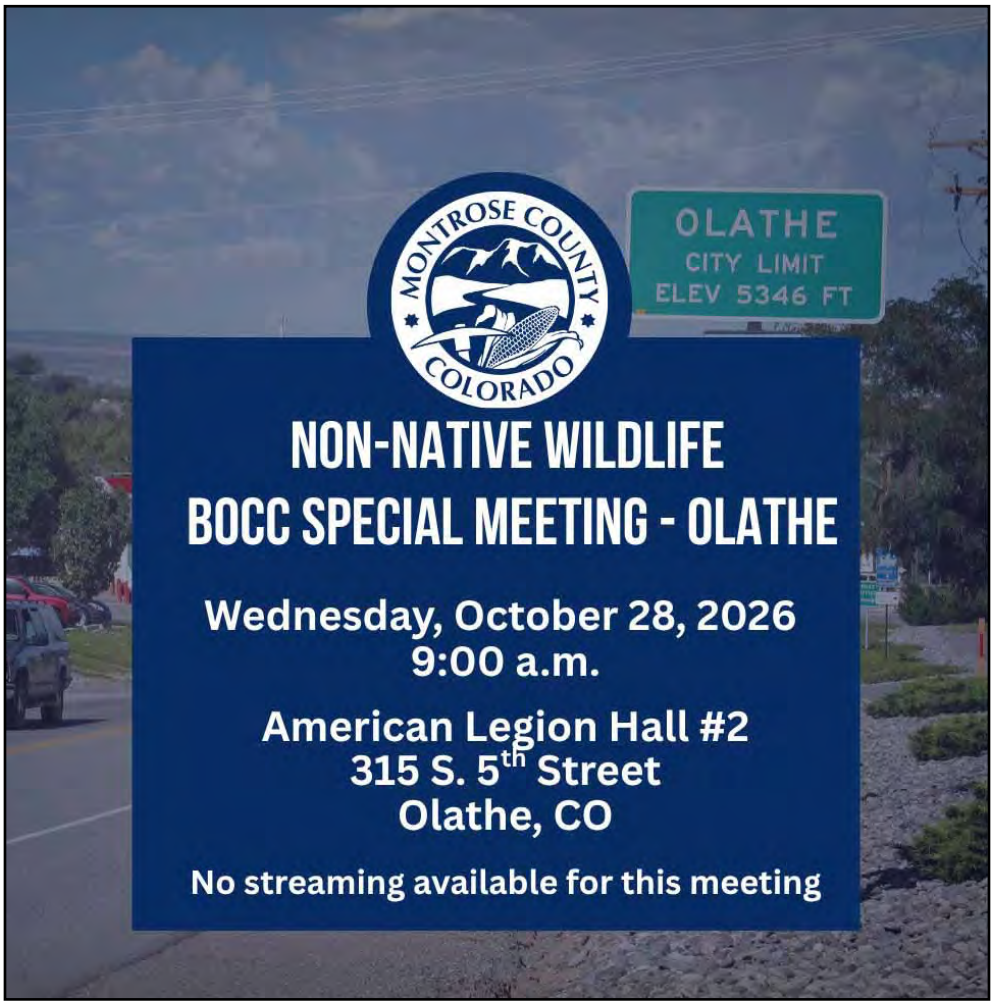
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT-GENERAL BUSINESS

Following a public hearing, The BOCC voted to approve the Iron Will Dog Lodge Special Use [SU26-002] proposal to obtain a Special Use permit to allow for a dog boarding and daycare facility at Parcel 399317102001.

Also approved after a public hearing was the Strole Waiver [WV26-004].proposal to request a waiver from Montrose County Subdivision regulations 3.20.B.a: Lots in Minor Subdivisions shall have a minimum road frontage of two hundred (200) feet at Parcel 376731400035.

The Elk Mountain Estates Subdivision Extension [EXT26-003] proposal to extend the time period of a Major Subdivision application at Parcel 376524103003 was also approved, as was Amended Plat of Lots 1 and 2 David Road and 6125 Minor Subdivision [AM26-008]. proposal to dedicate portions of 6125 Road and replat boundary lines at parcels 372311402001 and 372311402002.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE THE PEOPLE

Editor:

We, the people! I thought I was finished writing about the details of an election. But, in thinking about this more, I realized I missed one VERY IMPORTANT DETAIL. And that is how the current City Clerk and the current Montrose County Clerk and Recorder were hired and get to keep their jobs.

The selection, the oversight and ultimately the tenure of these jobs is very different between these two crucial positions.

The City Clerk in Montrose, Colorado, is an appointed staff position, not an elected one.

The city operates under a council-manager form of government. In this system, the public elects the Montrose City Council and the City Council hires a City Manager. The City Manager has the sole responsibility to oversee daily operations, implement Council policy, and manage City staff. The City Manager reports to the City Council and serves at the discretion of the City Council.

“We the people” have no say in who holds the City Clerk’s position in the City of Montrose.

The City Clerk for the City of Montrose, Colorado, acts as the primary link between the City Council, city administration, and the public.

Core Responsibilities

-City Council Support: Provides staff support to the Montrose City Council, which includes preparing meeting agendas, packets, and official minutes.

-Records Management: Serves as the custodian of city public records, handles city and public records requests, and manages central files.

-Election Administration: Acts as the designated election official for municipal elections, supervising the distribution, handling, and counting of ballots under Colorado law.

-Licensing and Permits: Issues and administers a variety of municipal licenses, permits, and Commercial Solicitation Ordinances.

-Legal and Legislative Documents: Processes and preserves public notices, ordinances, resolutions, and other official legal documents.

-Oversight and Administration: Oversees municipal court staff, cemetery administration, and the private use of city facilities and public rights-of-way (such as park reservations, Lion's Clubhouse, and event/parade permits).

-Upcoming Charter Amendment (November 2026): The Montrose City Council recently approved placing a City Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 coordinated election ballot. If approved by voters, this Amendment would alter the system slightly by giving the elected City Council formal authority to approve the City Manager's appointment or discharge of the City Clerk. The City Manager would bring a recommendation to the Council as to the intent regarding the City Clerk. This would be discussed in an Executive Session as employment matters are private. After discussion, the Council will either agree or disagree with the City’s Manager’s decision.

Since voters elected the Council Members, the Amendment change will allow, by majority vote, to express the will of “We, the people” in determining the future of the person in the City Clerk’s position.

The Montrose County Clerk and Recorder is an elected official responsible for managing three primary public-facing service departments: Motor Vehicle Licensing, Elections, and Public Records Recording.

The specific duties handled by this office include:

-Motor Vehicle Licensing & Titling

-Election Administration

-Recording & Public Records

-Clerk to the Board

As an elected constitutional officer under the Colorado Constitution, the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder is not overseen by a single manager or boss, but is instead directly accountable to the registered voters of Montrose County.

Because the position is independently elected, the Clerk and Recorder operates autonomously within the boundaries of state law.

However, oversight of the office's operations is split into three primary areas:

-The Voters :The ultimate oversight belongs to the public. The citizens of Montrose County elect the Clerk and Recorder to a four-year term. If the public is dissatisfied with the clerk's performance, accountability occurs through the regular election cycle or via a citizen-led recall process.

-Board of County Commissioners holds strict budgetary oversight. They control and approve the overall annual budget and funding allocated to the Clerk and Recorder's office.

-Regulatory Oversight: While the clerk is a county official, the actual duties performed must strictly follow regulations, statutes, and standards set by the state of Colorado.

-Elections: The Colorado Secretary of State

-Motor Vehicles: The Colorado Department of Revenue (DMV).

Montrose County voters already have a “We the people” voice in who will serve them in the position of the Montrose County Clerk and Recorder.

Now it’s time for the voters in the City of Montrose to have a “We, the people” voice by trusting the elected City Council majority to make the right decision regarding the City Clerk, if bought forth by the City Manager.

And in a separate Amendment the same authority regarding the Chief of Police.

Vote YES/FOR on all Four of the City Charter Amendments!

Patty Greeves, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COME TO THE FORUM-
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Have you ever wondered...
What role the Red Cross plays in emergencies...
especially in this summer's Gold Mountain Fire?
Come to The Forum, October 28, 2026, 9-10 A.M. Speaker Christie Caster is the Executive Director of the Western Colorado of the American Red Cross and Beth McCorkle is a community volunteer leader and a vice-chair on the advisory council that includes Montrose, Ouray, Delta and Gunnison Counties.

They will provide an overview of the American Red Cross and its mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Their overview will highlight the organization's key services, including disaster relief, blood collection, support for military families and veterans, health and safety training, and community preparedness programs. Attendees will gain insight into the impact of Red Cross volunteers, donors, and partners in strengthening communities and helping people when they need it most.

Upcoming Programs
9-10 AM
Nov. 4, 2026 — Caregivers Support Foundation: Laird Landon
Nov. 11, 2026 — Salute to Veterans
Nov. 18, 2026 — Billy Goat Hop Farm & LaNoue Dubois

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SUPPORTING HOME RULE

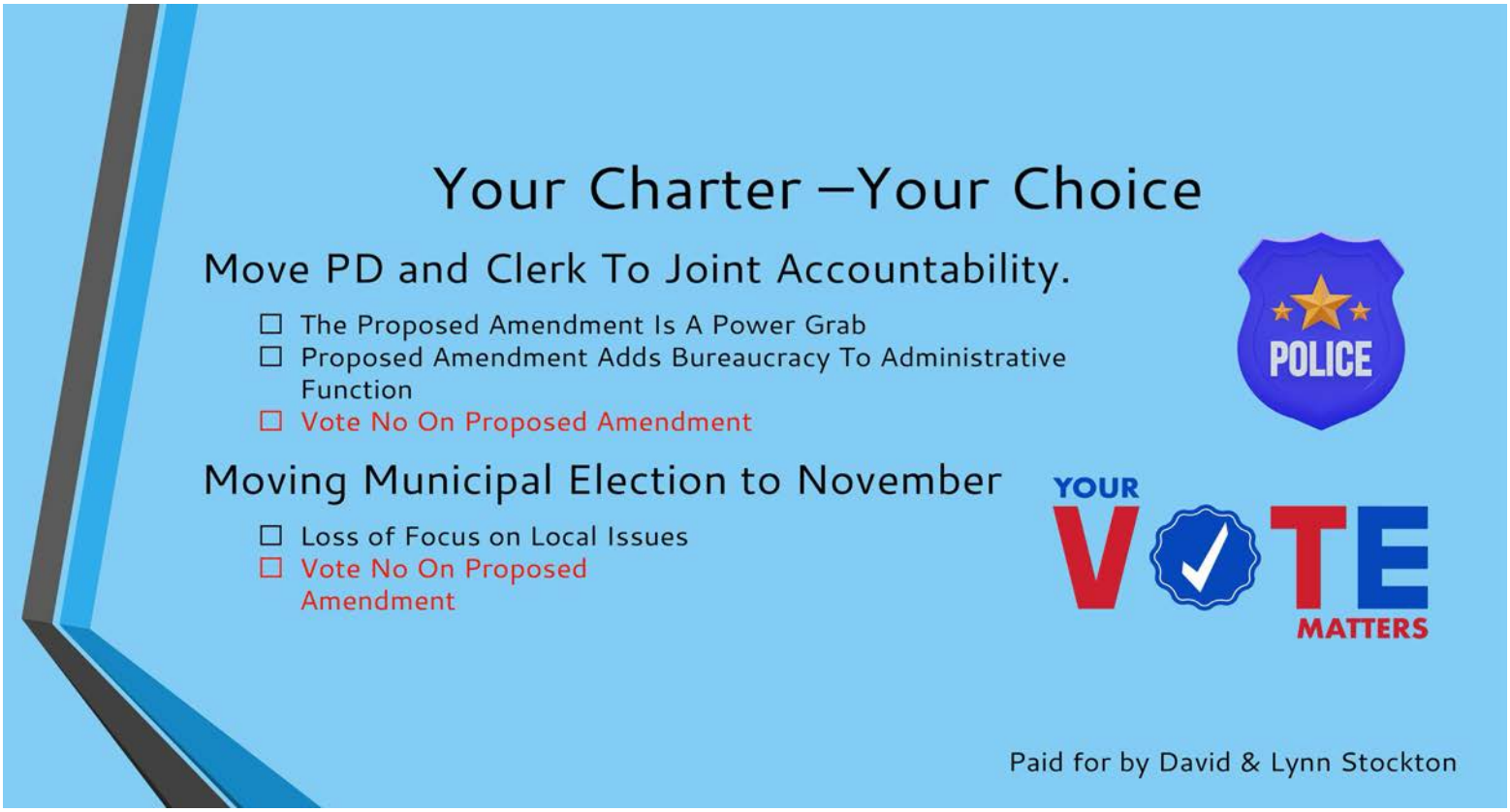
Dear Editor:

In 1914 Montrose, a town of about 3500, decided to adopt its own Charter and become a “Home Rule City”. By so doing it shifted from being run by “Party politics” into being run by non-partisan elected citizens. In addition it adopted a “Council-Manager” form of government whereby the Council provided the policies and the Manager operated the City. For this system of government to operate smoothly, a good line of communication and cooperation is necessary between Council and Manager That “good line of communication” has broken down under a majority of the present Council resulting in the loss of a good and effective Manager (Bill Bell). Why is this so? The present majority initiated a “strong arm” approach by arriving in office with a quick plan to weaken the Council-Manager Home Rule government under which Montrose has operated and prospered for one hundred and twelve years. That plan was twofold: first, by proposing an Amendment to our Charter attacking and weakening our City elections, and second, by proposing Amendments designed to strengthen its control over the City Police Department amd City Clerk's office. This weakens the control of the City Manager over these two departments. Their reasons for such changes: save money by combining our City elections with County, State, Federal, and Sprcial District elections which may result in a higher voter turnout. Is there a cost savings? Questionable! Elections cost money and the City will be required to pay for a portion of this Novembers Election. This year our Citizens will pay for two elections: one last April and this one in November. We're paying more!

A higher voter turnout? No doubt more citizens will cast votes in this election. But are they “informed” votes? We were given a 126 page “2026 State Ballot Information Booklet” from the State concerning State issues and nothing from our Council providing our citizens any balanced information concerning the four proposed Amendments. Insted the majority of our Council is relying upon the old partisan political system of the Republican Party telling its citizen-members to simply vote “yes”. By so doing, the Council is fostering many uninformed votes. It is also allowing “partisan politics” into our City Election which is prohibited in our Charter. Our separate Home Rule City elections have been operated effectively and without a hitch since started in 1993. There is no problem with the existing elections. Why fix it?

Please join me as well as fourteen other former Mayors of Montrose in voting NO on these proposed Amendments. In doing so you are strengthening HOME RULE in Montrose, not ONE Political Party rule.

Tom Cheney, Montrose



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

UKRAINE KEPT ITS WORD

Montrose Mirror Editor!

“I believe steps have been taken to convince Ukraine to capitulate,” Ukrainian President Zelenskyy told Bloomberg News.

The Trump Administration’s actions since October 09, 2026 represent a major shift that directly benefits the Kremlin’s economic and war positioning in Russia’s War against Ukraine.

-Russian Diesel Deal

-Executive Order to waive sanctions in Graham Sanctioning Russia Act

-Throttling Starshield/Starlink Access

-Lapses in Intelligence Sharing

-Withholding Patriot Air Defense Missiles

-Ultimatum on Russian Refineries

-Demands for Leadership

In 1994, the United States of America, along with the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation, signed the Budapest Memorandum with Ukraine. In return for giving up one of the largest nuclear arsenals in the world, the three nations agreed to provide Ukraine with official assurances of security, sovereignty, and the inviolability of Ukraine’s borders. They pledged not to threaten or use force against Ukraine.

20 years later, Russia illegally annexed Crimea and forcibly occupied territory in the Donbas region of Ukraine. In February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine kept its word.

Russia broke its word.

excerpt from a recent Letter

To: Donald J. Trump, 45th and 47th President of the United States

From: Viktor Yushchenko, 3rd President of Ukraine

“So how can anyone today, when a treacherous enemy has attacked us, forget America’s signature on the Budapest Memorandum?”

Neonila Martyniuk, Montrose

RED FLAGS ARE FLYING

Editor:

With just one week to go to election day the RED flags are up! 12 years of experience under the policies of Obama and Biden proved that they once great Democrat party cared little for the average American. Now that party has been taken over by the socialist, communists, and radical Islamic fundamentalist, who have made it clear that their goal is the destruction of this country in our way of life. Voting for anyone dumb enough to run as a Democrat at any level of government is a vote to destroy this country. Just take a look at what's going on in France and you can see what's in store for us if the Democrats regain control of Congress. The Democrat battle cry today is “ affordability” , but voters should remember that during the Biden administration where everything was higher than it is now the Democrats didn't give a rats elbow about “affordability”!

Dee Laird, Montrose

YOUR NOVEMBER 3, 2026 BALLOT IS HERE!

Vote YES ✓ on all 4 Charter Amendments

Four separate Charter amendments. Not one buried package.
You can choose 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 ✓ 2A

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 ✓ 2B

Eight years. Then make room. **8** year lifetime cap

- *A yes vote establishes an eight-year lifetime cap.*
  - ***8 yrs was long enough for George Washington, why not for the City Council?***
- ***Current*** *is a* ***pause*** *after two consecutive terms,* ***not a limit.***
  - *After a four-year break, a person can serve another eight.*
- ***Eight years is long enough*** *for a city of 21,000+*
  - *The new cap lets new people and fresh ideas come from the residents.*

YES ON POLICE CHIEF ✓ 2C

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 ✓ 2D

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 ✓

Paid for by private Citizens, not affiliated with any party or committee

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

AMENDMENT 83-THE HUNTING EXTREMISTS DON'T WANT TO SHARE

Editor:

Sharing is hard. Amendment 83 is the latest example of how a small group of billionaire-funded hunting extremists can't stomach having to share wildlife with 94% of Colorado residents who don't hunt.

That's right, only 6% of Colorado residents purchase hunting tags. Even though these folks make up only a tiny minority, state wildlife agencies have historically been in the hunting industry's pocket. This means that state agencies have managed wildlife exclusively for hunting interests, with other management priorities taking a secondary role.

At one point, this made sense. Before this model, unregulated hunting led to the extirpation and extinction of species, including elk in Colorado and, most famously, the passenger pigeon. A lot has changed over the last 100 years, and managing wildlife this way no longer makes sense. We have learned that intact, healthy ecosystems benefit everyone, including hunters. We have learned that wildlife has many values. We have also learned that holistic wildlife management that benefits everyone is not hard.

Thankfully, Colorado has been transitioning to a more holistic system of wildlife management. Colorado Parks and Wildlife restores endangered and threatened species, protects habitat and land, manages state parks, and oversees recreation, hunting, and fishing, among other things. That change has threatened the old guard of the hunting industry, who have had to learn that as values change and new science informs our practices, they have to share.

So far, my experience with people across the spectrum of wildlife values is that folks are more than willing to share. In fact, many people hold multiple wildlife values at once. As anyone who graduated from kindergarten knows, sharing means no one gets everything they want, but we all get something and can be happy playing together in the sandbox. Sometimes, everyone gets what they want if we are willing to make the proper arrangements.

Unfortunately, the proponents of Amendment 83 never seemed to learn this lesson. They do not want any restrictions on how and where they kill wildlife. In a great tantrum, they are willing to make this brazen attempt to steal and hoard power from the people of Colorado by enshrining a "right to hunt" in the Colorado Constitution.

That's it; everything else is noise. Colorado has a robust and well-functioning hunting system. No one is trying to stop people from putting an elk or deer in the fridge, hunting pronghorn, waterfowl, or a whole host of other wildlife species. Just about everyone (myself included) wants a robust hunting system that can adapt as climate change, disease, values, and new science inform decision-making.

What Colorado voters have made clear is that cruel and inhumane practices are not acceptable. Specifically, spring bear hunts (killing mama bears with cubs), hounding (chasing bears up trees with dogs and then shooting them out of the trees), baiting bears (using human food like donuts to bait a bear), and leghold traps are not acceptable. This is not an attack on "hunting"; it is a specific statement of values and ethics: animals should be hunted in ways that aren't cruel and require fair chase.

When voting, don't reward a tantrum. Vote NO on 83 to keep our robust and healthy system of hunting and fishing in the hands of Coloradans and CPW, not a few extremists who don't want to share.

Ryan Sedgeley, Montrose

COMMON SENSE, CITY CLERK'S ARROGANCE ARE REASONS ENOUGH FOR A YES VOTE

Editor:

Just as maximum voter participation is critical for national elections, so too is it true in our local City Council elections. As previously noted in research into voter participation in City Council elections since 2014, voter participation in November elections increases by 20% average over participation in April. Common sense on this question of the ballot demands a "YES" vote.

As far as the remaining City Charter questions are concerned, the best argument I have heard so far for a "Yes" vote, has come from the City Clerk. The arrogance she has exhibited in withholding 80+ ballots from the County Clerk and Recorder since the April election to now, clearly indicates a need for our City Council to regain its oversight of our main administrative employees.

Dee Laird, Montrose


MONTROSE COUNTY
REPUBLICANS
★ MONTROSE COLORADO ★
VOTER GUIDE
Know Before You Vote ★ November 3, 2026
Stronger Communities ★ A Brighter Colorado ★ A Freer Tomorrow
★ REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES ★
GOVERNOR
VICTOR MARX
U.S. SENATE
MARK BAISLEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL
MICHAEL ALLEN
SECRETARY OF STATE
JAMES WILEY
STATE TREASURER
KEVIN GRANTHAM
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 3
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.
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

A RESPONSE TO DAVID WHITE

Dear Editor,
Critical Thinking Requires Evidence, Not Political Conspiracy Theories
A Response to David White

David White's recent letter, “Do You Know Why You're Being Told to Vote Early?” urges Montrose County residents to think critically before casting their ballots. I agree. Unfortunately, his letter demonstrates what happens when political suspicion replaces evidence and partisan assumptions are presented as established facts.

Let's begin with his central premise: that encouraging early voting is suspicious. Colorado has conducted statewide mail-ballot elections since 2013. Early voting is an established process that gives citizens time to research candidates, examine ballot measures, and vote at their convenience. Someone who researches issues and returns a ballot in October may be considerably better informed than someone who makes a last-minute decision on Election Day.

Mr. White also questions the October 16 Ballot Bash, implying improper ballot harvesting, yet admits he never attended the event. He insinuates election misconduct at an event he didn't witness, without identifying a single illegally collected ballot, coerced voter, or documented violation of Colorado law. Local reporting established that the gathering aimed to help residents understand 14 statewide ballot measures and four proposed Montrose City Charter amendments. Furthermore, Colorado law expressly allows voters to designate someone to return their ballots, subject to statutory limitations, alongside robust security safeguards like signature verification and post-election audits.

Regarding Mr. White's discussion of national organizations and funding: progressive and conservative organizations alike receive contributions from national political networks. The relevant question is whether those funds were used unlawfully, and Mr. White provides no evidence demonstrating they were. Furthermore, Western Colorado Alliance has had Montrose-area organizing roots dating to the early 1980s. Presenting it as a newly arrived outside force ignores decades of local activity.

Perhaps the most revealing allegation is his claim that Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties are being targeted for a political takeover. Montrose County voted overwhelmingly Republican in the 2024 presidential election, while Ouray and San Miguel counties voted differently. That isn't evidence of a conspiracy; it demonstrates that Western Colorado contains residents with differing political priorities who have every constitutional right to organize and advocate.

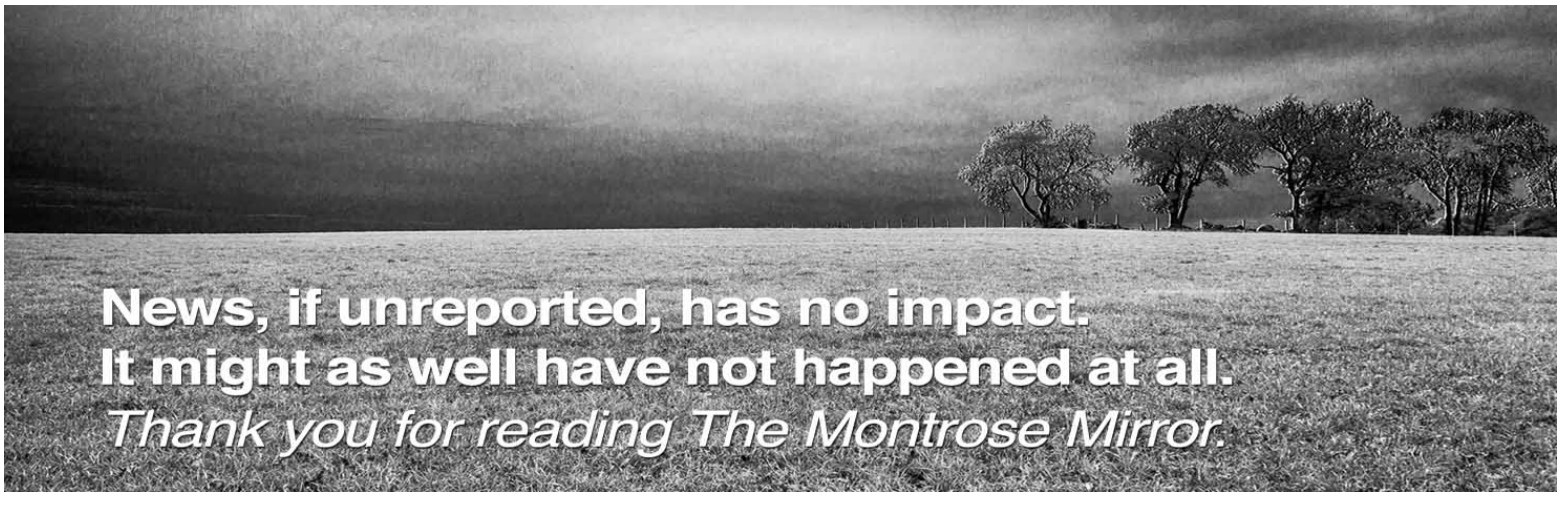
This letter distracts from genuine challenges confronting our communities, such as housing affordability, water security, healthcare access, proposed City Charter amendments, and the future of services in the West End. These issues deserve serious public discussion rather than speculation about national organizations and unsupported election conspiracies.

If Mr. White believes laws were violated, he should present supporting evidence to election authorities rather than implying that participation in a voter-education event is suspicious. Accusations are not evidence, and political affiliations are not proof of misconduct.

Mr. White concludes by telling residents to “Be informed. Vote wisely, not early!” That is a false choice. We should encourage residents to research carefully and cast their ballots whenever they are adequately informed, whether two weeks before Election Day or on November 3.

Critical thinking means questioning claims, demanding evidence, and applying consistent standards to all political commentary. Mr. White is correct that voters should think critically; those publishing political commentary should be expected to do the same.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hyle, Montrose




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CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS
NOVEMBER ELECTIONS
+ HIGHER VOTER TURNOUT + LOWER CITY EXPENSES
COUNCIL TERM LIMITS
+ 8 YEAR LIFETIME CAP + NEW VOICES - FRESH IDEAS
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+ RESTORE COUNCIL OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY
Paid for by Montrose County Republican Central Committee; Registered Agent: John Felsing.

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

VOTE NO ON ALL FOUR AMENDMENTS

Editor:

The city of Montrose has had 2 charters - 1914 and 1967. The 1967 charter was a completely new charter drafted by a charter convention. 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 has been amended twice - once in 1994 and again in 2014.

Thirtytwo years ago the voters of Montrose were asked to shift general municipal elections to the first Tuesday in April of even-numbered years. They said yes.

Thirtytwo years ago the Colorado Constitution was amended to place term limits on local elected officials.

Twelve years ago the voters of Montrose were asked to alter 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. They said yes.

Fifteen of our former Montrose City Mayors and our former Colorado State District 6 Senator support the decisions made by the voters 12 and 32 years ago. Those 15 Mayors and State Senator represent the best of us: women, men, republicans, democrats, unaffiliated.

Vote NO on question 2A Elections - This was decided by the voters 32 years ago. 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.”

Vote NO on question 2B Term Limits - This was decided by the voters 32 years ago. We have term limits today. The district council seat is limited to 2 consecutive four year terms for a total of 8 years. The at-large seat is limited to 3 consecutive two year terms for a total of 6 years. A 4 year hiatus is allowed.

Question 2B on your ballot today seeks to extend and not limit the term of office for the at-large seat from 6 years to 4 two year terms for a total of 8 years.

Vote NO on questions 2C Police Chief and 2D City Clerk:

-The job of city council is to focus on policy, vision, and legislative functions.

-The professional city manager has full responsibility over daily city operations and staff management.

-That’s why 12 years ago, the voters removed explicit council-level appointment and removal procedures for the Police Chief and City Clerk roles.

Listen to the experience and wisdom of our 15 former City of Montrose Mayors, and our former Colorado State Senator.

Value Trust, Honesty, and Accountability.

Vote NO on all 4 Amendments.

Cliff Faurer, Montrose



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ROBIN HOOD

By Don Stott

While Robin Hood and his knights of Sherwood Forest are held in the highest esteem by today's academia and other assorted bubbleheads, I think they certainly are not the apotheosis of civilization. They were common crooks, who robbed the rich and gave to the poor, or so the story goes anyway. Admittedly, King Richard was away, and he seems to have left the store unattended and in the wrong hands, but that's the trouble with kings. They are human, like everyone else, and are not of a higher I.Q., better judgment, or more humanity. They have inherited their position, and for some strange reason, are held in high esteem by their mistaken subjects. If a king goes bad that is tragic, and his people will suffer, but we don't have a monarchy here, so Robin Hood should be no hero in America, in spite of the glorious adulation he receives.

The beauty of America is that we don't have a king, so they can't go bad. That's why we broke away from Mother England; the king had gone nuts and thought the Colonies were supposed to show a huge profit for the royal exchequer. We disagreed, went to war over it, and won. Forget Robin Hood's reasons, as they don't apply here.

What passes for "Robin Hoodism" today, is just as evil, and has no king on which to blame it. Socialism is a nasty word to most, while Robin Hood is wonderful. Both are the same. Robin stole from the rich and gave to the poor. Robin Hood had a king to blame, and we have government. Socialism is leveling everyone's incomes. Socialism is taking from the haves and giving to the have nots. Socialism is government stealing from you and giving some a pittance back in the form of some food, medicine, or other trinkets. Socialism is taking everyone to the poverty level. Socialism is taking away choice, freedom, happiness, productivity, wealth, health, and prosperity. Robin Hood is no example to follow.

America was made great by having all the things socialism takes away, as explained in the previous paragraph. America is a socialistic country, and becomes more so each year, month, and even day. Socialism employs threats from government to accomplish its will. Socialism hates achievement. Socialism loves failure, because failures are so compliant and willing to follow government dictates. Socialism is government of the failures, by the failures, and for the failures.

The achievers that socialists hate so much achieve, not because it is their duty, but a mere outlet for their brain power and creativity. They simply love to do it. The prosperity they provide is a by-product of their aptitude, energy, drive, and intelligence. Socialists hate achievers so much, that they tax them into submission. Taxation is the most common device socialists use, to show their resentment. Regulation is the second. Only achievement can be taxed. Only achievement can be regulated. Nothing else. When something is taxed, you get less of it, namely achievement and prosperity. When something is subsidized, you get more of it, such as poverty and government. We have devolved from a competitive, prosperous, achievement oriented society, into a resentful, guilt ridden, poor, uneducated society. Socialism's stated goal of raising social classes has the opposite effect. Trying to raise social classes is like trying to raise the water level in a cracked swimming pool. The minute you turn off the hose, the water will begin to go down to its former level, below the crack. Socialism plunders private property, and the right to private property was the cornerstone of America from its humble beginnings.

Socialism, places power in the hands of the inept, undeserving, and non achieving. Socialism creates poverty and spends billions trying to eliminate it. The more spent, the more poverty is created. Socialism makes "social work" a career, and issues degrees in that subject. That subject shouldn't exist in the English lexicon. I hope this has been succinct enough for you. I never liked Robin Hood!

The current "Democratic Socialists of America" are indicative of what has happened to America and in France, the welfare state (socialism), is a glaring example of what can happen here if the DSA ever gets its hands on us.



REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

UPCOMING...

Nov. 10-Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 pm. Let Ignite Montrose Spark Your Interest at the Association (39 W Main – Potato Growers Building). Enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, passions and curiosities. Beverage/food service will be available. Check ignitemontrose.org for a list of topics and presenters.

Nov. 12-Thursday Nov. 12, 7 PM, Baldridge Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street, Montrose. Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Jon Horn and Steve Dike presenting "20 days in Mongolia" where they camped and traveled throughout the central part of the country exploring mountains, taiga forests, grass steppe lands, canyons, lakes, wetlands, rivers valleys and the Gobi Desert. These two adventurers saw over 200 species of birds and a wide variety of other critters. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubon.org



www.deltahealthco.org



www.mlkdaymontrose.com

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Members pay about $6 annually. In 2025, 6,700 members participated, and funds add up as more members opt in. A little change can make a big difference.

Where do Donations Go?
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Or make a one-time contribution by calling today!

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HIDDEN TREASURES IN THE OUTDOORS From pg 1

for treasure, the concept piqued my interest rather quickly. I thought it would be a wonderful activity to try with my kids. So, we dove in headfirst.

We downloaded the app and started mapping out some geocaches to try and hunt down. As West Coast natives, Pennsylvania was new territory for us. We didn't know the area well, and we didn't have friends or family there to show us around. That quickly changed as we began chasing down all the geocaches we could find.

Geocaching took us to places we would never have explored or even known about on our own. It became a way of discovering our new home, one hidden treasure at a time. One particular cache we found as a family was hidden among an overgrown rock wall out in the middle of a field. Inside was true treasure—coins from all over the world. What an amazing find

that was! But as I look back, I realize the coins weren't really the treasure. The treasure was the adventure that got us there. It was the places we discovered, the time we spent together, the curiosity it sparked in my kids, and the memories we made along the way.

So, what exactly is geocaching, you might be asking? To put it as simply as possible, it's a modern-day treasure hunt. People hide containers, record their GPS coordinates, and share those coordinates with others who are willing to go looking for them. It honestly requires very little to get started—your phone, the geocaching app, and your feet to get you there. Sometimes a vehicle is involved, depending on how far you choose to wander. And the beauty of it? There are caches hidden all over the world!

Caches come in many different sizes and types. There are traditional caches, which might be a larger container tucked away in the woods; micro caches, which are tiny little containers that can be surprisingly difficult to spot; multi-caches, where finding the first location leads you to clues or coordinates for the next station until you eventually reach the final container; and mystery or puzzle caches, where you have to solve a series of puzzles or riddles to help determine the location.

And that's just the beginning. There are different difficulty and terrain ratings, meaning you can choose anything from a relatively simple find to a much more challenging adventure. You can pick something close to home or find yourself navigating a trail, exploring a new town, or venturing into a landscape you've never seen before.

Perhaps you are one of the many parents or individuals out there who really want to start stepping out into the great outdoors but just don't know where to start. Taking the kids to a park is great, but sometimes it just doesn't quite whet the appetite for adventure. Hikes in nearby forests and national parks can be amazing as well, but sometimes kids need a little extra motivation to get excited about moving their bodies. And maybe that's you, too!

Pair the distraction of tracking coordinates with the excitement of knowing there is a hidden treasure waiting somewhere ahead, and now you just might have found the sweet spot. Geocaching is a doorway to the outdoors. You don't have to become a hardcore geocacher; the point is finding something that makes you—or your child—want to go outside. It can be a catalyst for curiosity, problem-solving, family cooperation, discovery, persistence, and so many other positive outcomes.

Again, it's not ultimately about the treasure at the end. It's the memories made along the way. It's the persistence and perseverance built while working toward a common goal. It's the benefits of fresh air, movement, and time spent together. It's discovering new landscapes, learning a little geography, noticing things you might otherwise have driven right past, and allowing yourself to experience a little wonder.

Fall is an amazing time to get outdoors—cooler temperatures, beautiful colors, and more opportunities to see wildlife. So, round up those kids, download the app, and get to treasure hunting! There's nothing to lose, and so much to gain. To start geocaching, create a free account on Geocaching.com or download the official Geocaching app (https://www.geocaching.com/play) then use it to find nearby geocaches. Navigate to the coordinates provided, search for the hidden cache and log your find online.

Educational Benefits of Geocaching: How Treasuring Hunting Helps Kids Learn (https://geocachingtoday.com/educational-benefits-of-geocaching/)

Geocaching 101 (https://govalleykids.com/geocaching101/)

Get your kids outside with geocaching (https://www.geocaching.com/blog/2020/07/get-your-kids-outside-with-geocaching/)

Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) is a non-profit organization that promotes opportunities for youth and families to go outside, experience outdoor activities and explore nature. For outdoor safety tips, trail game ideas, hiking trails and other ways to get young people involved in the outdoors, or to support FOYAN's work, visit www.foyan.org.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WE HAVE A CHANCE TO START FIXING THINGS

Editor:

In a week, democracy's fate in America may be sealed. If Republicans win, they will bow to Trump, the erosion of government integrity and services will accelerate, the destruction of “the American Century” will be complete, and Vladimir Putin will be ecstatic. If, however, Democrats win, they will be faced with a slew of problems that have built up in recent years by a cowardly, supine Republican congress and a president interested only in his own wealth and power.

A destructive, expensive, national debt exploding, murderously stupid distraction from the Epstein Files in Iran. High gas prices. An ill conceived Tariff World War fueling inflation, wrecking lives. Endless, non-stop, normalized lying. Abandoning Ukraine. Corrupting Christianity. Weakened alliances, Canada and NATO now adversaries. Lack of meaningful employment, affordable housing, healthcare, and protection of Social Security for a new generation. All of this to further enrich and empower Trump's only true constituents: the uber wealthy.

Money in politics ruining the process of picking honest, effective leadership. Billionaires: Musk, Bezos, Theil, et al, controlling our politics. Their power over us grows steadily. Corrupting the election process, insatiable greed pushing up housing prices and commodities, our personal data marketed through increasingly dangerous, unregulated AI. Astronomical investments in data centers artificially sustaining a stock market boom; which could crash down at any moment, leading to recession.

Climate Change, as Montrose folks can see, causing increasingly serious disasters: extraordinary drought followed by sudden sustained downpours that destroy crops, roads, homes, businesses, and lifestyles. Dying forests, sale, poor management, and slashed funding of public lands and parks, wholesale dismissal of environmental protections meant to provide a healthy environment for our children.

Degradation of trust in our own government, which kept us safe and prosperous since the Civil War, has gained steam in the 1990's, led by Republican Newt Gingrich, who, with the help of other political bomb throwers, turned congress into the flaming mess it is today.

Democracy is tough. Democrats are a diverse coalition, disagreeing vigorously amongst themselves on issues. But this is how politics is meant to work; as long as the disagreements are civil and lead to effective compromise. Yes, we face real challenges after the election, and political dialog about solutions will be rancorous, but at least we have a chance to start fixing them … but only with a Democratic majority; and Republican rebirth as the loyal (to the Constitution) opposition.

David Congour

Montrose, Colorado

HOW IS IT THAT REPUBLICANS ENDORSE A MAN WHO CLAIMS WE ARE NOT A DEMOCRACY?

Editor:

Should you vote Republican?

If you’re ok with the cost of Gas and Diesel. If it doesn’t bother you to pay more to buy less in the grocery store. If you don’t mind being in another Mid-East war (1,000 casualties) you probably want to vote Republican. If it doesn’t bother you that Rep. Jeff Hurd refused to hold a town hall last year to answer our questions and concerns….remember that insult? He now professes his love for us when he needs our vote to keep living the good life in Washington and will forget us immediately after the election.

We have a city mayor that wants us to vote yes on 4 city measures. They will give him the power to fire our Police Chief and replace him with whomever he wants. These measures were put on the ballot with zero citizen input. This is a gentleman who has said-direct quote” We are a constitutional republic. Not a democracy.” Really? Not a democracy? How is it our Republican party endorses a man who makes such a claim? Do we really want someone with those views to have the power to pick a police chief? Someone who will dictate enforcement policies and have control over the Flock spy cameras everywhere in the city?

These are the choices we will make and live by with our vote in November. Are we at the start of the professed golden age or just buying into a fools gold proposition?

Paul Janzen, Montrose

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND BUDGET OPEN HOUSE ON NOV. 2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — The public will have an opportunity to receive information and provide feedback regarding the City of Montrose's 2027 budget at an open house planned for Monday, November 2, in the PD Community Room. The event will begin at 4:15 p.m. with an overview of the budget, followed by informal, one-on-one discussions with city officials who will receive comments and provide additional information.

The city budgets annually for a fiscal year that begins January 1. The City Charter (Article V - Finance, Appropriations, and Taxation) outlines the basic procedure that is used to create, approve, and implement the annual budget.

The city manager's office is required to prepare a recommended annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year and provide it to the City Council in mid-October. The budget development process begins in early summer with each department preparing a preliminary budget estimate based on an analysis of its operational needs for the coming year. Departmental budget estimates are carefully reviewed and adjusted by the city manager's office and are then combined into a draft budget for the entire city organization. The draft budget is then provided to the City Council for review.

Following the open house, the budget is drafted into a city ordinance and placed before the City Council for a formal vote of adoption. As with any city ordinance, the council must vote on a first and second reading of the ordinance after conducting a public hearing and taking public comment. Consideration of the budget and appropriation ordinances is scheduled for the regular City Council meetings on Monday, November 2, and Tuesday, November 17.

Residents who are unable to attend the open house are encouraged to view the proposed budget at CityofMontrose.org/Budget. Printed copies of the proposed budget are also available at City Hall (400 East Main Street) from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. All interested citizens are encouraged to provide written and verbal comments.

MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS LOCAL PASTOR FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ON A CHILD

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On Oct. 21, 2026, Ben Garate, 72, a local pastor, was arrested at the Montrose Police Department, 434 S. 1st Street, following an investigation regarding sexual assault on a child by one in a position of trust.

Garate was booked into the Montrose County Jail and is currently being held on a $100,000 bond for the following charges: 18-3-405 Sexual assault on a child by one in a position of trust, 18-3-402 Sexual assault on a child, and 18-6-401 Child abuse or neglect.

For the safety and well-being of the victim(s) and their family(ies), the Montrose Police Department will not be releasing any further information on this case. Detectives are continuing their investigation to determine if there are additional victims, offenses, or witnesses related to this case.

The Montrose Police Department and the 7th Judicial District Attorney's Office encourage anyone who has been a victim of inappropriate sexual behavior or contact to report the incident to local law enforcement as soon as possible by calling WestCo Dispatch at 970-249-9110 or 911.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, the Montrose Police Department encourages you to contact: Montrose Police Department Victim Services staff, Chantelle Bainbridge, at 970-252-5205, or Cynthia Barboza at 970-252-5271; or Montrose County Sheriff's Office Victim Services, Gabby Perez at 970-252-4024. Additional resources include: Hilltop 970-252-7445, The Initiative 303-839-5510, or National sexual assault Hotline/Rainne at 800-656-4673.

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



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE: DELTA COUNTY HONORS AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY NOV. 17–18

Special to the Mirror

HOTCHKISS – Delta County invites the community to Celebrate Agriculture, a free America 250 – Colorado 150 event honoring Colorado's rich agricultural heritage through art, history, and community. The event takes place Nov. 17–18, 2026, at Heritage Hall on the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss, culminating with a free community dinner on Nov. 18th.

The event features the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Ag Mural, created by artist Thomas "Detour" Evans as part of the America 250–Colorado 150 commemoration. Visitors can also enjoy the Western Colorado Community Foundation's Colorado 150: Highlighting Western Colorado's Landscape & Spirit exhibit, artwork by local Delta County artists, and handcrafted centerpieces by the North Fork High School Arts Department, TSA Chapter, "Soul Miners". There will be informational booths by Delta County agriculture and history organizations: Delta & Black Mesa Cattle Women, Delta County 4-H, Hotchkiss - Crawford and Delta Historical Societies and more.

Tuesday, Nov. 17 – Art & Agriculture: Public art and mural viewing will be held from 1–6 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Community Night: Public viewing continues from 1– 4 p.m., followed by a FREE community dinner catered by Zack's BBQ, sponsored by the Delta County Commissioners, from 5:30 –7 p.m. (while food lasts). The evening will feature guest speakers sharing stories of Delta County's agricultural heritage.

"Delta County is honored to host the Colorado Department of Agriculture mural at the Delta County Fairgrounds on November 17–18. Our county's heritage is deeply rooted in agriculture, and this is an opportunity to recognize and honor the producers whose hard work has enriched the lives of so many," said Delta County Commissioner Craig Fuller.

Admission is free and open to the public. All main event activities take place at Heritage Hall, 403 S. 4th Street, Hotchkiss, Colorado.

Additionally, the Hotchkiss-Crawford Historical Society Museum will offer free admission on November 17 from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and November 18 from 1–4 p.m.

For additional event information: visitdeltacounty.com



CITY OF MONTROSE COLORADO

Mayor's Minute

ACROSS THE CITY THIS WEEK

MONTROSE-This week, the Council will be sorting through the list of applicants and giving our recommendations for the top three candidates to fill the vacant "At-Large" seat on the Council to serve through the 2028 election.

We have a rather significant task as there were 10 applicants spanning across the entire city. I am sure this will be a difficult decision as we seek to have full consensus from the Council on who joins us on the dais, a task we take with a tremendous amount of thought and consideration.

The City will host the "North Park Public Outreach and Open House" on Monday Oct. 26, from 5 – 7 PM at the Police Department Community Room 434 S 1st Street.

Candy Crawl Saturday, October 31, from 3 to 5 p.m

Daylight Savings time ends at 2 AM Sunday Nov. 1.

Ballots are out, please consider educating yourselves on the issues and Candidates and be sure to sign and return your completed ballot to the ballot drop box in front of the County Elections office at 317 South 2nd Street in Montrose, or vote in person at one of the Voter Service Polling Center locations before 7 PM Tuesday Nov. 3, 2026 – Don't send your ballot through USPS mail.

Let your voice be heard!

There are no Council Meetings this week.

The next Council meetings will be Nov. 2 with the Work Session starting at 10 am with the interviews of the "Top Three" candidates being the focus of the work session held at the Council Chambers at 107 S. Cascade.

Followed by the Public Budget Open House Nov. 2, at 4:15 PM at the Police Department Community Room, located at 434 S. 1st Street

The regular Council Meeting will be held Monday Nov. 2, at 6 PM, where we will appoint and seat the new Councilor.

Held at the Council Chambers at 107 S. Cascade.

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

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



OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE OZONE "THEORY"

By Don Stott

I have a marvelous book Titled "OZONE CRISIS," which was copyrighted in 1973. And sure enough, in January 1973, Mario Molina and Sherry Rowland 'discovered' that CFC's can destroy the ozone shield in the stratosphere. There's supposedly a protective cloud which protects us and it has a hole in it. They persevered, and in June of 1974, their 'theory' was printed in Nature magazine. In case you didn't know, CFC's are that old fashioned Freon which was used in probably a hundred million refrigeration –air conditioning units in the entire world. From page 8: "In short, the breakdown of CFC's by sunlight would set off a catalytic chain reaction in which one chlorine atom, like a monster Pac Man could gobble up 100,ooo molecules of ozone, turning them into impotent molecules of oxygen." Made no sense to just about everyone, and they got nowhere for 15 years.

Throughout the entire 270 page book, the Rowland-Molina 'theory' is used almost exhaustively. As an example of this, on page 63 the "Rowland-Molina hypothesis was based on calculations and limited knowledge about reactions between chemicals. There were no laboratory experiments that verified the theory."

Chapter 15, beginning on page 230 is headlined, "The End of an Industry," and after 15 years of fake science, and absurd hearings by all sorts of semi-government, semi-scientific, headline grabbing efforts, the book says: "During the nine days in March 1988, Rowland and Molina gained the backing of the three factions they had long sought to convince policy makers, scientists and industry, and the end of the American CFC industry began. U.S. Legislators unanimously approved 83 to 0." The rest of the world followed.

The estimated cost was $235 billion. Ozone is still there, as is that cloud which supposedly has a hole in it, allowing ozone to get through. The air we breathe is generally one part per billion ozone, and is the same as it was before 1973. The odd part is that while Freon 12 was bad, it has been replaced by Freon 134, which doesn't do as good a job as did Freon 12. The tone of the book is best illustrated by the headline on Chapter 9, on page 142: "The Sky Is Falling."

Of course we remember until recently, that burning fossil fuels, such as oil, coal, gas, et al were destroying the earth. That dire warning has mysteriously disappeared, since I suppose people realized that we have been burning fossil fuels since man appeared, and especially a hundred years ago, when there were hundreds of thousands of steam locomotives hauling all our freight, and hundreds of millions of homes were heated by coal! We're still here.

An merican invented LED light bulbs, and as of 2018, had saved over $220 million in electricity, not counting the fact that they outlast the previous filament bulbs by about 20 years! There's been no argument here, but how about the current, and quickly passing theory that our body is needing "BEETS?" I think this is just another fad, and eating beets is no better than eating any vegetable.

Only my opinion, but I really do believe that "Buy low and sell high" makes a lot of sense, and gold and silver are at the bottom as far as I can see ten minutes from now. Silver is half of its previous high, and if I needed any, I'd buy it now.



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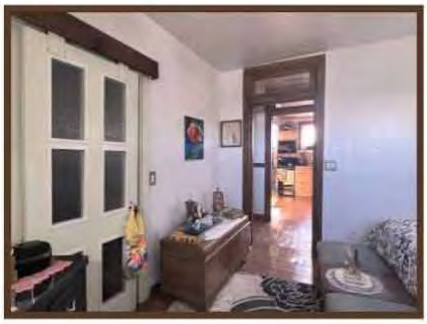
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Montrose Mayors Agree:
Vote NO on All Four Amendments

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	**Peggy Carey**	**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

TRUST – HONESTY – ACCOUNTABILITY

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

CITY APPROVES FUNDING FOR THE SHEPHERD'S HAND/LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER From pg 1

education.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT-NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Cliff Faurer spoke, offering a history of the Montrose Charter and amendments thereto. After presenting the historical context, Faurer urged voters to vote against the proposed charter changes on the November Ballot.

John Brown spoke, "Thank you for your history lesson, that's great history of Montrose. But Montrose is not the same community that it was from 1967, even to the last Charter change in 2014. We have changed...I agree everybody needs to get out and...research what's really being done in the Charter amendments and then vote appropriately..."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council voted to approve minutes of the October 2, 2026, special City Council meeting, the October 5, 2026 City Council meeting, and the October 6, 2026 regular City Council meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026-16

After discussion and hearing from the public, Council voted to approve Resolution 2026-16, making a commitment to increase affordable housing units consistent with Colorado Proposition 123 as presented by Community Development Director Jace Hochwalt.

Cliff Faurer asked about a specific parcel of land; Council informed him that the parcel was recently donated to the Mexican American Development Association (MADA} for land banking purposes, which will help to meet affordable housing goals.

EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SHEPHERD'S HAND SHELTER OPERATIONAL COSTS

Council authorized an expenditure in the amount of $28,597 to The Shepherd's Hand to support seasonal start-up costs and November operating expenses for the overnight shelter that serves individuals experiencing homelessness. Having consolidated with the Lighthouse Ministries non-profit, The Shepherd's Hand is responsible for operations at the Lighthouse Shelter, which is the winter shelter for unhoused people here. The Shepherd's Hand Executive Director Miriam Renteria was present to answer questions.

John Brown spoke, noting the need for more organizations in Montrose to help provide shelter. Brown commended the work done by The Shepherd's Hand. "They do so much with so little."

Brown urged Council to explore year-round opportunities to provide housing to the unhoused, "not just when the cold sets in."

RESOLUTION 2026-17

Council voted to approve Resolution 2026-17, rescinding the City Manager's declaration of a local emergency within the City of Montrose during the summer fire season.

Interim City Manager Ann Morgenthaler presented the ordinance, providing background information.

STAFF REPORTS

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whitaker presented the Sales, Use and Excise Tax Report by collections and by area.

Public Works Dept. City Enhancement Superintendent John Sullivan announced that on Oct. 24 Montrose would be a premiere city for the showing of Reel Rock 20, a series of four films related to the sport of climbing and alpinism. "We are one of the host cities for this film," Sullivan said. The film was to be hosted at the Amphitheatre at 6:30pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Prior to adjournment, Council entered Executive Session for a conference with the City attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and the following additional details are added for identification purposes: quarterly litigation update.





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NOVEMBER 3, 2026 · CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Vote YES ✓ on both!

Each question stands alone. Approve the Amendments you want, **IT IS YOUR CHOICE!**

BETTER TURNOUT, LOWER COSTS · REAL TERM LIMITS · *COMMON SENSE*

2A · ELECTIONS

Move city elections to November

APRIL TURNOUT	NOVEMBER TURNOUT
25–35%	**60–87%**

- ***November** brings the city ballot to us **when the majority of actually vote**.*
- *Stand-alone **April** elections cost about **$30,000**.*
- *Coordinated **November** elections cost **$5,000–$10,000**.*
  - Saving YOU, the taxpayer $20,000 - $25,000 per election!
- *One-time, seven-month term extension for current Councilors.*
  A function of the calendar.

2B · TERM LIMITS

Eight years. Then make room.

8 *year lifetime cap*

- *A yes vote establishes an eight-year lifetime cap.*
  - 8 yrs was long enough for George Washington, why not for the City Council?
- ***Current rule** is a **pause** after two consecutive terms, **not a limit**.*
  - After a four-year break, a person can serve another eight.
- ***Eight years is long enough** for a city of over 21,000 residents.*
  - The new cap lets new people and fresh ideas come from the residents.

Study the redlines on the city's elections page before you mark the ballot.

Paid for by private citizens, not affiliated with any party or committee.

VOTE YES ✓

OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

DON'T LET THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TELL YOU HOW TO VOTE

Dear Editor:

Our Mayor states that he has personal values and has incorporated them into the proposed Charter Amendments. He further states that he has been elected to do this. The effect of these Amendments, if approved by the citizens, will be to reverse the vote of the Citizens in the elections of 1993 and 2014 which approved the very same issues now before our citizens. If approved, they will WEAKEN the City Charter. These proposed Amendments have already created chaos in our City government as the removal of a good City Manager has proven. Please vote NO for these Amendments on your ballot.

Often times government leaders fail to realize that a city has its own set of values quite independent of theirs. Montrose is a "body politic and corporate"(a separaate legal entity) and its values are reflected by its Citizens in the cumulated history found in its Charter. One such value is found in Artical III Section 5 which states that all its elections are to be non partisan. A three person majority of our Council is now relying heavily upon the Republican Party of Montrose County to promote these Amendments through its advertisments in violation of this value. They also approve of information which tends to say that our City election procedures are weak compared to the ones governing Montrose County elections. Yet they fail to be reminded that the City elections in April have been successfully conducted for 33 years without a "hitch" and this includes the election last April when they were elected to office. Our leaders further fail to realize that Polical Parties dislike "Home Rule" because this form of city government tends to leave the influence of political parties "out of its "equation". Thus by joining with the majority of our Council it is furthering its own interest in opposing "Home Rule" in general.

During the 60 years I have been a citizen of Montrose, I can recall at least once when there arose a movement to change our County governemt into "Home Rule" which is allowed under the Colorado Constitution. It would have been an improvement over how County government is now being operated. This movement was shot down largely due to opposition from the political party then in power.

Please join me and 14 other former Mayors and vote NO for these Amendments. Don't let the Republican Party tell you how to vote.

Tom Cheney, Montrose





The bags showcase bright vehicle graphics in soft, kid-friendly materials. Riding inside, the trusty plush partner encourages adventures and storytelling all day long.

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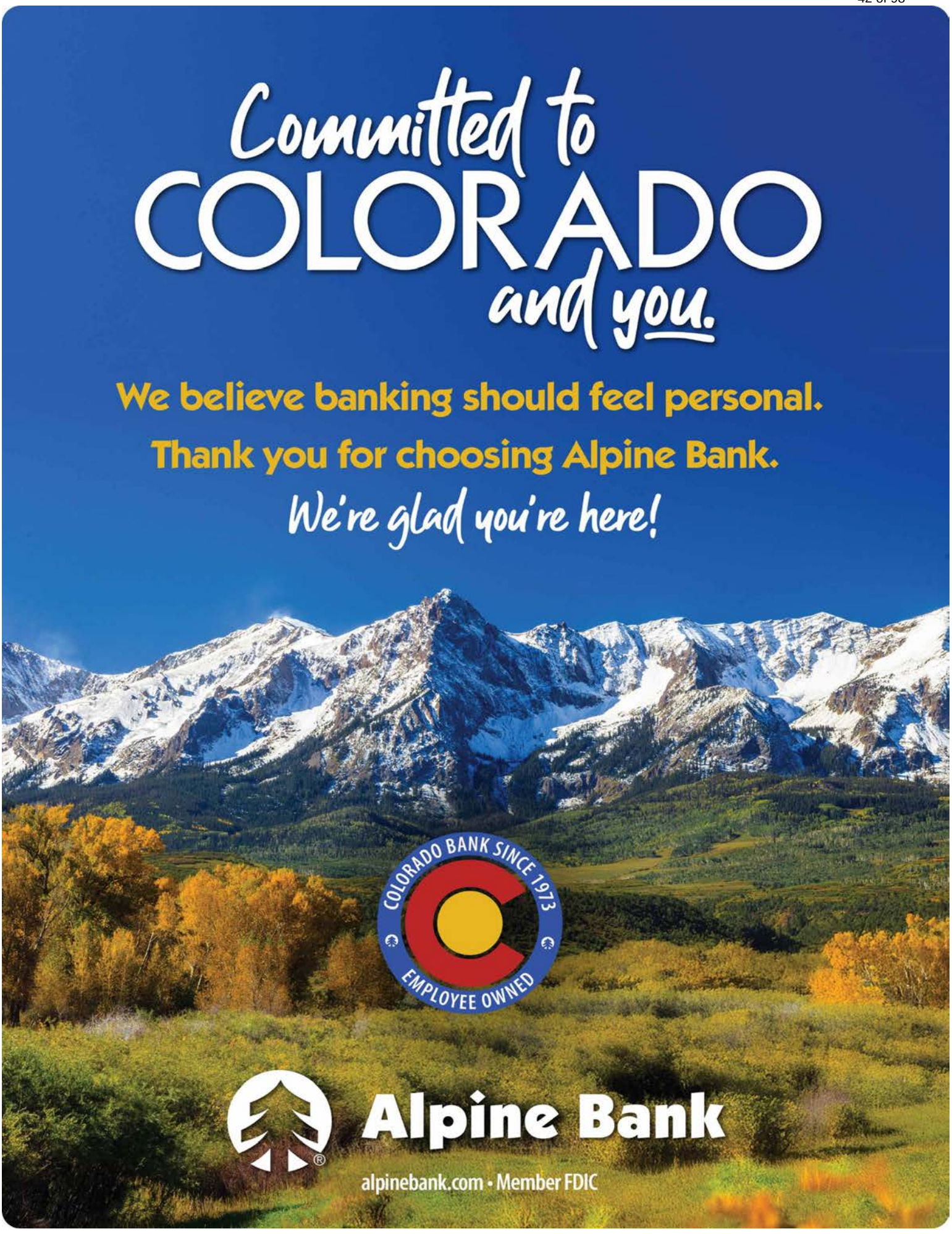
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Protect Your Ballot – Move Election Date to November

	The COUNTY...	The CITY...
1	✓ ...**holds elections** in Primary, Federal, State and County elections, and elections for several Cities, Fire Departments, Libraries and Schools throughout Montrose County.	✗ ...holds an April election in even-numbered years to elect City Council Members. The City has a ballot issue on the November 2026 ballot.
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 (*logic*) and counting ballots correctly (*accuracy*).	✗ ...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

DAY ONE Wednesday 10/28	COMMUNITY RESOURCES	DAY TWO Thursday 10/29
9:00 a.m. ***PARENTING EDUCATION WORKSHOP*** **Families in Transition (FIT)** *Presented by: **CASA***	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	10:00 A.M. ***COMPLETE EVICTION PROCESS*** **From Service of Notice through Writ of Restitution Enforcement** *Presented by: **Lindsey Watson CLS***
1:00 p.m. ***CHILD SUPPORT*** **Child Support Services Informational Presentation** *Presented by: **Adriana Hartley CSS***		1:00 P.M. ***CONTESTED FAMILY LAW CASES*** **Family Court** *Presented by: **Andrea Rosenberry CLS***
		2:30 P.M. ***EVIDENCE*** **Evidence for Self-Represented Parties** *Presented by: **Andrea Rosenberry CLS***

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).

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

***WE ARE DEDICATED IN PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS OR A DISABILITY, PLEASE INFORM US SO WE CAN ARRANGE THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATIONS.**
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OR
07SRLC@JUDICIAL.STATE.CO.US

****Sessions are FREE****
MEET WITH A MEDIATOR
****Pre-Registration Required****

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Día de Recursos Legales del 7.º Distrito Judicial

Octubre 28 y 29, 2026



Tribunales combinados de Montrose 1200 North Grand Avenue Montrose, CO 81401

El evento se lleva a cabo en Montrose para todos los condados del 7.º Distrito Judicial: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Nucla, Ouray y San Miguel

ASISTA A LAS SESIONES GRATUITAS Y APRENDA ACERCA DE:

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

Consulta con un abogado

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

**** SE REQUIERE INSCRIPCIÓN PREVIA****

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

OUR ENEMIES WANT DEMOCRATS BACK IN POWER

Editor:

Democrats operate with the assumption that the rest of the country has been living under a rock. Case in point is Minnesota's Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagun, who is now running for the US Senate, who just told MSNow that "the grift absolutely has to stop." Anyone not in a lengthy coma would naturally assume she was talking about the $9 billion fraud that took place under her and Gov. Walz's administration. Instead, she is relying on the Democrats' favorite tool when they are in trouble: projection -- calling the Trump administration corrupt. She says this while ignoring the fact that she is the #2 executive in what is probably the most corrupt state administration in history – a government that knew about the fraud and did absolutely nothing. She had a seat at the table and knew about the suitcases stuffed with millions of dollars exiting the Minneapolis airport to Somalia. Unfortunately, Flanagan was talking to people who watch Al Sharpton's show on MSNow who thrive on fantasy. These are the same people who listened to the latest Democrat hoax about Trump "welcoming an Iranian attack on American cities," and immediately had a conniption. Trump made the point that a temporary increase in the price of gas is a small price to pay for Iran not having a nuclear weapon, and if you want to see a big price increase, imagine what it would be like if they bombed San Diego or Los Angeles. Everyone in the audience knew that was the point he was making, and anyone reading the full statement would make that same conclusion, including the media. Rather than challenge the administration's position that short-term energy costs are preferable to a nuclear Iran capable of striking the West Coast, Democrats came up with another bogus narrative that even their own left-wing "fact checkers" immediately refuted.

The bogus Democrat narratives about Trump are tiresome, but keep coming. Unfortunately, a certain segment of the population hears it all and is convinced Trump is a treasonous tyrant. I won't rehash all the Biden administration's examples of actual corruption and treason. Let's just talk about Special Counsel Jack Smith in Merrick Garlands' DOJ for some real-life examples of treason. Smith led two investigations into Trump, but nothing came of either investigation, despite an unlimited budget and an army of anti-Trump lawyers. It has now been revealed that Smith and Biden's DOJ collected personal data for 639,000 Republican donors, voters, and supporters. In addition, thousands of Americans who donated as little as $1 to Trump and other Republicans had their checks secretly subpoenaed by Smith and his team. They put the entire conservative movement under surveillance, from sitting members of Congress to the average Joe. They monitored the phone calls of Trump's Chief of Staff, other Trump aides, and certain journalists, and tracked the travel of Trump family members. They went so far as to put the personal information of anyone who bought a MAGA hat into a special data base. Bottom line, Smith treated everyday Americans like parties to some criminal conspiracy due to their party affiliation -- innocent American citizens whose only evidence against them was sympathy for or making contributions to the Republican party. Labeling Smith's actions treason is not fantasy; it is an irrefutable fact.

Projection is a major part of the Democrat playbook. Another is: "Promise everything, do nothing, and blame someone else." And, just as importantly: "Avoid at all costs the actual track record." That is the sum total of the Democrat party platform. Take "affordability" as a prime example. Reporter to Chuck Schumer: What's the actual agenda if Democrats retake the Senate? Schumer: We're going to do everything we can to lower costs. Translation: "We have a poster, a slogan, and ,,,,, that's all." This is the same party that told you that Biden's inflation was transitory, then it was due to "corporate greed," then it was "Trump's fault." If they knew how to cut costs, or even had a desire to do so, New York wouldn't be a case study of why people flee Democrat controlled cities and states. Florida's Gov. Ron DeSantis summed it up pretty well: "We have 4 million more residents than New York State does, yet our budget's $117 billion, their budget's $268 billion!" Across the nation, blue states consistently rank as the most expensive places to live in, but they want you to put them back in power so they can reduce your cost of living? Give me a break. Just a year ago, Virginia's governor Spanberger won her election by promising to "lower costs, save Virginians money, blah, blah, blah." The results are damning. While Spanberger is out there releasing violent offenders, Virginians face soaring rent and food prices and a lagging job market. Her state is losing over 17,000 jobs this year, in stark contrast to the more than 263,000 jobs gained under Republican governor Youngkin. Oh, did I mention crime is now out of control in Virginia? In New Jersey, where recently elected governor Mikie Sherrill campaigned on refusing to raise taxes, the new state budget not only levied new taxes, but increased spending by $765 million. Illinois has an unfunded pension liability of $251 billion. Their budget has increased 10% above inflation. They also enacted about 63 distinct tax increases under the current Democrat governor, adding about $1700 per year to the average household budget. It is clear Democrats talk the affordability talk to get elected, and then immediately revert to their real plan of more taxes and bigger government. They sure don't want to talk about the fact every Democrat in Congress voted against cutting individual tax rates in 2017, against new tax cuts for tips, overtime, and Social Security in 2025, and against keeping individual tax rates the same in 2025.

The Democrat party just picked up a major new endorsement that they probably also don't want anyone to know about. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is telling Americans to vote the GOP out of power in November. We have a wartime enemy actively campaigning for the Democrat party. The IRGC has shifted from "Death to America" to "Vote Democrat." Iran wants Democrats back in power. China wants Democrats to win. Mexican cartels want Democrats to win. Somali fraudsters want Democrats to win. Everyone who hates our country wants Democrats back in power. Let that sink in. And remember that if Democrats ever regain power, they are coming after you for having the wrong political opinions. Fascism means many things to many people, but several things are common in all definitions: 1) forcible suppression of opposition, 2) severe economic and social regimentation, and 3) subordination of individual interests to that of the "state." That pretty much defines today's Democrat party.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES?

Editor:

Are you able to guess accurately which party was responsible for establishing the following amendments in our Constitution and other issues?

1. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery. Which is the correct answer?

a. 50% of Democrats voted in favor

b. 23% of Democrats voted in favor

c. 75% of Democrats voted in favor

d. 12% of Democrats voted in favor

2. The 14th amendment gave slaves U.S. Citizenship.Which is the correct answer?

a. 85% of Democrats voted in favor

b. 70% of Democrats voted in favor

c. 35% of Democrats voted in favor

d. 0% of Democrats voted in favor

3. The 15th amendment gave ALL men the right to vote particularly Black men. Which is the correct answer?

a. 87% of Democrats voted in favor

b. 65% of Democrats voted in favor

c. 30% of Democrats voted in favor

d. 0% of Democrats voted in favor

4. Which party created the Klu Klux Klan?

a. The Republican Party

b. The Democratic Party

5. Which party supports Planned Parenthood predominantly?

a. The Democratic Party

b. The Republican Party

Answers:

1. b. Only 23% of Democrat voted in favor of the 13th amendment, while 100% of Republicans voted in favor. The Republican Party was founded on anti-slavery principles. (1)

2. d. No Democrats voted for the 14th amendment, while 94% Republicans did.

“When the 14th Amendment came up—declaring that formerly enslaved people were full citizens of the states in which they lived and entitled to the same rights and privileges as any other American—not a single Democrat in either the House or the Senate voted in favor.” (2)

3. d. No Democrats voted for the 15th amendment, while 100% Republicans did.

“The House vote was almost entirely along party lines, with no Democrats supporting the bill and only 3 Republicans voting against it, some because they thought the amendment did not go far enough in its protections.”(3)

4. b. The Democratic party established the KKK. “The Democrat Party... founded and championed the Ku Klux Klan. Between 1882 and 1964, a total of 4,743 people were lynched—3,446 Black and 1,297 white. These are the real numbers—painful, factual, and historical.” (3)

5. a. “Planned Parenthood—widely supported and defended by Democrats—kills more Black lives in just three days than the KKK did in 86 years.” (4)

(1) https://fdfny.org/history-13th-14thamendment-and-the-democrat-party-today/

(2) Ibid.

(3) https://findanyanswer.com/what-was-the-vote-on-the-15th-amendment

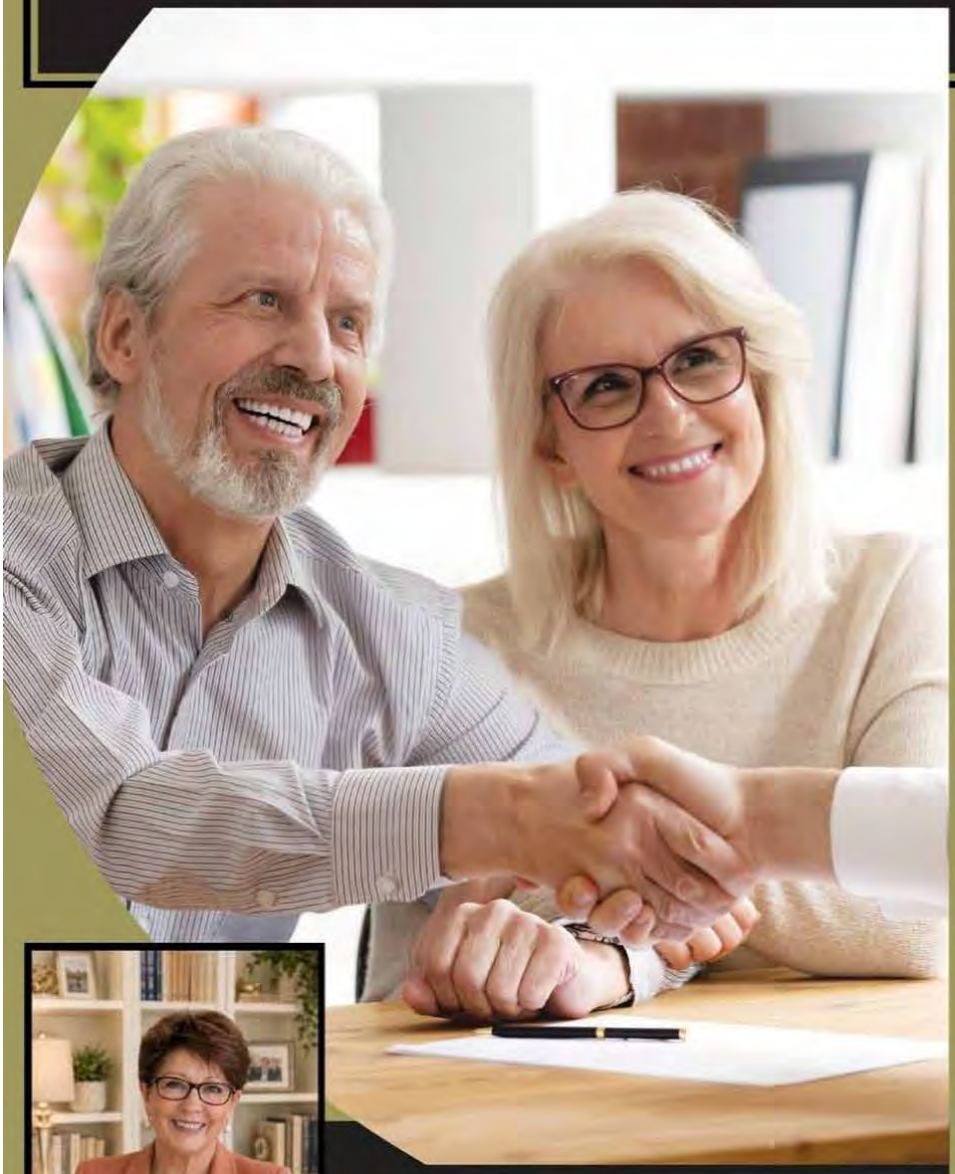
(4) https://fdfny.org/history-13th-14thamendment-and-the-democrat-party-today/

(5) Ibid.

Leah Vandersluis, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

CHALLENGE AUTHORITY: VOTE NO ON CHARTER CHANGES

Dear Editor,

A Duty to Challenge Authority

In the October 19th, 2026 edition of the Montrose Mirror Mayor Badagliacco continues to question the audacity of a "self-appointed committee" to question his push for the four proposed charter amendments. The simple answer is, our nation was founded on the fearlessness of the people to question authority.

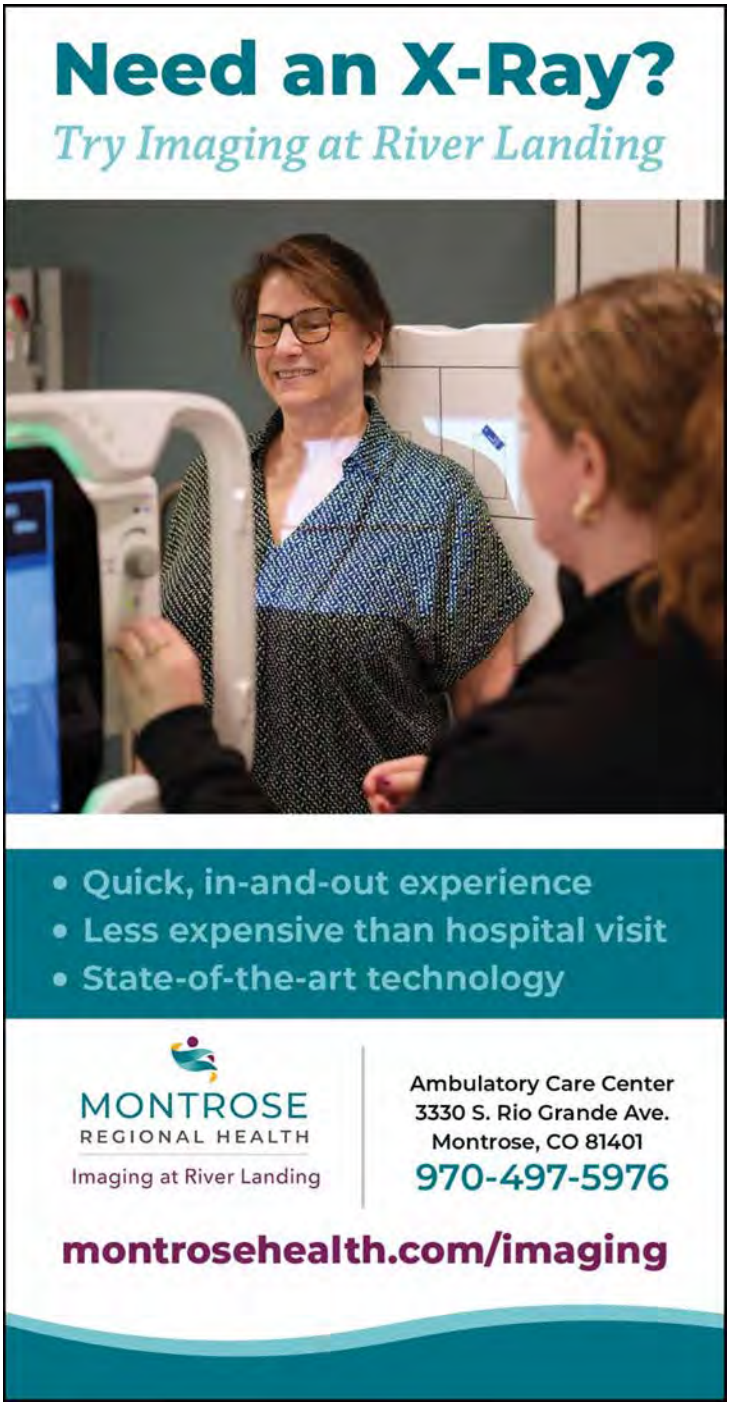
I'm opposed to all four proposed amendments; two of the most contentious are reverting back to the 2014 Charter language where the City Manager can only hire or discharge the City Clerk and Chief of Police with approval of City Council, that's it. Does it make sense to revert back to pre-2014 only to add a level of bureaucracy to what should be strictly an administrative process?

Although, there are safeguards written into the proposed language preventing Council from inserting itself into the day-to-day operation of the PD or Clerk's office, I don't trust intrusions won't happen. 1) There was a former City Councilor/Mayor who tried to use the Police Department as his personal enforcement agency. 2) During the June 1st City Council Work Session, Councilor Ulibarri said, and I paraphrase I was on council a long time ago when the police chief did report to the council. I don't see anything wrong with that. There is no reference to the chief of police reporting directly to City Council in any past Charter. It concerns me, Mr. Ulibarri would enjoy such a relationship. I'm concerned because it leaves room for abuse of the Charter.

Fifteen past mayors are opposed to the four proposed changes put forth by our current City Council. Those past mayors are comprised of Republicans, Democrats and Unaffiliated voters. Two of the fifteen were chairpersons of the Montrose Republican Central Committee. Why is it a mixed bag of political ideologies are opposed to these changes? They simply don't make sense. They don't add any benefit to the well-being or safety of the City of Montrose residents. They are simply a means to make this council feel as though they accomplished something.

Join me and my self-appointed conspirators in challenging a Council, voted in not by a majority but by a plurality, in Voting NO on all four proposed changes to your Charter. Don't delay, do it today.

Dave Stockton – A Concerned Citizen of Montrose



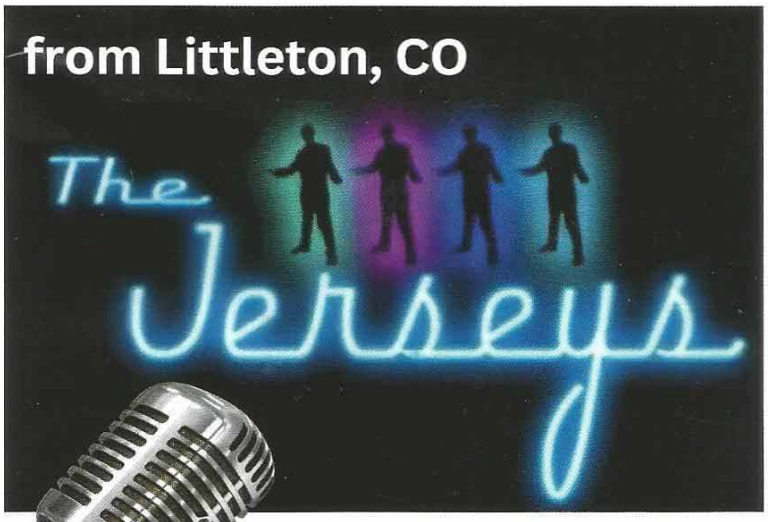


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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ANY ELECTED BODY NEEDS NEW BLOOD AND NEW IDEAS- VOTE YES ON PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Editor:

Former Montrose Mayors Oppose Charter Amendments: WHY???
The former Mayors of Montrose have all come out in opposition to the Charter Amendments, and some voters perceive this opposition as justification to vote against the proposed Charter Amendments.
The question or questions that need to be asked are why are these former elected officials so against the Charter Amendments? One proposed amendment is asking the voters to approve moving the city council elections from March to November in even years. A move that will save the taxpayers thousands of dollars as well as history is quite clear that November elections have a greater voter turnout.
- So, the opposition apparently means these ex-Mayors are against the MAJORITY of Voters electing their City Council representatives, and apparently are against SAVING the TAXPAYERS MONEY. This may be understandable since all of them were elected by a minority of voters. Another amendment asks the voter to return ultimate authority to the City Council to approve or reject the hiring/firing decision by the City Manager regarding the police
chief. This amendment does NOT impede the City Manager's authority of daily administrative duties, yet it does provide a check or balance of power. In other words, the voters would have authority over the police chief through their elected City Council members. The voters in the County have the right to directly elect the chief law
enforcement officer - County Sheriff - but granting ultimate authority to City Council is
wrong??
- So, the opposition that includes those who advocate "defund the police" want to retain the status quo of an NON-ELECTED official, i.e. bureaucrat, having sole authority over the police chief.
- The opposition also includes those who advocate defending our "democracy", yet they are OPPOSED to the democratic process of having the MAJORITY effect the election results, and oppose the people having
control over their local law enforcement via their elected representatives on City Council.
The opposition claims that City Council is supposed to be non-partisan and even claim the proposed amendments are partisan. Well, history of the opposition especially the former Mayors demonstrates a clear record of Partisanship and elitism:
- Repeated FAILURE to provide a safe pedestrian bridge for the Tortilla Flats
"Hispanic" school children.
- Providing tax benefits to "selected" business owners.
- Taxing the "working poor" and poor in general with their increased sales
tax on food.
- Sales Tax increase was justified as a means to provide for better law enforcement. What resulted was building a new police station that many call the "Taj Mahal" of Montrose. Unfortunately, the sales tax revenue has
not resulted in greater police patrols. For example, too many drivers still speed on Townsend Avenue and/or run through red lights due to the lack of sufficient police patrols.
- The opposition is also against term limits and no wonder since the City Council for many of these former Mayors was a revolving door. Our City Council and any elected body needs new blood and new ideas. We do NOT
need or want elitists who believe only they should be elected and far worse to only delegate their responsibilities over the years to the City Manager. Ignore the opposition and VOTE YES on all Four Proposed Charter Amendments if you believe in the democratic process that the majority should elect their officials by reducing the cost to you the taxpayer, term limits benefit the City, and the people should have control over the City Manager via the City Council.

John Brown, Montrose Citizen



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE: DELTA COUNTY HONORS AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY NOV. 17–18

Special to the Mirror

HOTCHKISS – Delta County invites the community to Celebrate Agriculture, a free America 250 – Colorado 150 event honoring Colorado's rich agricultural heritage through art, history, and community. The event takes place Nov. 17–18, 2026, at Heritage Hall on the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss, culminating with a free community dinner on Nov. 18th.

The event features the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Ag Mural, created by artist Thomas "Detour" Evans as part of the America 250–Colorado 150 commemoration. Visitors can also enjoy the Western Colorado Community Foundation's Colorado 150: Highlighting Western Colorado's Landscape & Spirit exhibit, artwork by local Delta County artists, and handcrafted centerpieces by the North Fork High School Arts Department, TSA Chapter, "Soul Miners". There will be informational booths by Delta County agriculture and history organizations: Delta & Black Mesa Cattle Women, Delta County 4-H, Hotchkiss - Crawford and Delta Historical Societies and more.

Tuesday, Nov. 17 – Art & Agriculture: Public art and mural viewing will be held from 1–6 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Community Night: Public viewing continues from 1– 4 p.m., followed by a FREE community dinner catered by Zack's BBQ, sponsored by the Delta County Commissioners, from 5:30 –7 p.m. (while food lasts). The evening will feature guest speakers sharing stories of Delta County's agricultural heritage.

"Delta County is honored to host the Colorado Department of Agriculture mural at the Delta County Fairgrounds on November 17–18. Our county's heritage is deeply rooted in agriculture, and this is an opportunity to recognize and honor the producers whose hard work has enriched the lives of so many," said Delta County Commissioner Craig Fuller.

Admission is free and open to the public. All main event activities take place at Heritage Hall, 403 S. 4th Street, Hotchkiss, Colorado.

Additionally, the Hotchkiss-Crawford Historical Society Museum will offer free admission on November 17 from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and November 18 from 1–4 p.m.

For additional event information: visitdeltacounty.com

CARTOONS BY MARIANO VELASCO

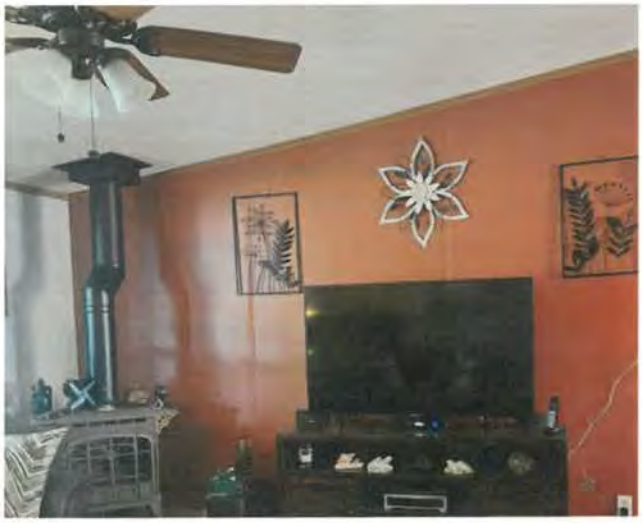




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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST IN MONTROSE BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS?

Something's Up! The turn Montrose and Montrose County Blue Movement is on full Display

By David White

Yard signs, banners and trailers with banners flying expressing opposition to the proposed amendments to the City Charter abound in town these days. Many are asking who are the groups or individuals behind these and other similar signs and the campaign to get people to vote No! on the amendments.

In spite of cries that City governance and rule via the City Charter are mandated to be non-partisan (which is a hard pill to swallow when EVERYONE has their own biases regardless of political affiliation when it comes to many such "non-partisan" positions) it turns out that Democrat Party activists and their so called "unaffiliated" brethren led by Linda Gann and her organization "Neighbors for Good Governance" (NFGG) have organized sub-committees or splinter groups using the same website template as NFGG.org to front an organized opposition under the non-partisan moniker.

Associated with NFGG.org is "Montrose City Council" Watch and its "Charter Issues Committee" which are led by Bob Nicholson, a former City Councilor and Mayor who is a longtime member of and contributor to the Montrose Democratic Party along with Cliff Faurer (local political wonk) serving as Vice Treasurer of the committee. Yard signs, newspaper ads, newspaper and social media editorials and much more have appeared under the name of Charter Issues Committee, which does not need to be registered with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office as a political committee but only with the City of Montrose as their one reason for campaigning is to fight off any changes to the City's Charter and nothing at the County or State level.

Without anything but a disclosure to the City Clerk's Office, they have filed three statements indicating thousands of dollars in contributions (topping $7,400.00) from such anti-Charter change notables as Tom Cheney (a retired attorney and former City Councilor & Mayor) who has given $5,000 to this campaign. Many hundreds of dollars have come in from Mr. Nicholson and his wife as well as other contributions from such folks as the Phoebe Benziger (of the Recall Commissioner Scott Mijares campaign and registered agent for Colorado Rural Voters – a multi liberal foundation backed organization); Treasurer of the Montrose Democrat Party (Bobbie Kuns); Executive Director of the Hispanic Affairs Project (Karen Sherman-Perez; the attorney for DMEA (Sarah Abbott); Chair of the City of Montrose Planning Commission (David Fishering); a member of the Montrose Urban Renewal Authority's (MURA) Board of Commissioners wife (Trudy/Jim Haugsness), former City Councilor & County Commissioner (Bill Patterson) and many others with direct ties to the Democrat Party, League of Women Voters and other groups such as Indivisible, No Kings and Colorado Common Cause (Holly Speaks).

And it doesn't stop there. Grand Junction based "RestoretheBalance.org" is showing up in Montrose this election year with their clear left leaning bias targeting conservative believing voters. "Unify Montrose" and others with ties to major foundations such as the Rockefeller Foundation, the Tides Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundation are pouring money into rural America's small-town campaigns at an astonishing pace.

While these folks and others may cry foul, the fact of he matter is that this concerted effort by them and other groups in this year's election is intended to change the political landscape from "red" to "blue." The Republican Party entered the fray with their support of the Charter changes to challenge the efforts of the left. With their public stance, those to the left went off the edge and hence the political warfare over some commonsense Charter changes. Few others on the conservative right have publicly challenged the moves by an aggressive political left who try to fly under the radar by claiming that they're unbiased and politically agnostic when the evidence is quite to the contrary.

An article in The Federalist on October 16, 2026, titled "Democrats Are Targeting Small Towns Through Migrants And Low-Turnout Races", author Stella Morabito points out that "Democrats usually cannot win fair elections in rural and small-town America. That's why they've increasingly relied on blatantly deceptive and dirty tactics, like masquerading as Republicans." She goes on to point out that "Democrats know that such blatant fraud can only go so far and only last so long. In the meantime, they are developing a "rural ground game" to render conservative voters irrelevant in rural America. In addition to applying heavy doses of propaganda, they walk back and lie about their woke positions to make themselves more suitable to voters in the countryside."

Further to the point, she states that "Beyond the left's nonstop propaganda and use of corporate media to run interference for them, they rely on a bevy of blatant cheating strategies. Many of those strategies, such as gerrymandering, ballot harvesting, early voting, election fraud, and dark money from undisclosed donors, are well-known."

"There are two lesser-discussed means of diluting the conservative voting patterns of rural America. First, through migrations of likely Democrat voters into those places. Second, by targeting low-turnout local elections throughout America to get their candidates in office."

https://thefederalist.com/2026/10/16/democrats-are-targeting-small-towns-through-migrants-and-low-turnout-races/

There's much more to this story and movement that will be told in upcoming articles. For now, be informed and be aware. If you are in support of keeping Montrose a part of the conservative culture that made America and the American West a pillar of this Constitutional Republic known as the United States of America, vote accordingly. If not, beware of the consequences that will be felt. You only need to look to the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) - a movement that is making huge political gains in our big cities to see the future for rural America. Today's decisions will set the course for what comes next.

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.

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 · CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Approving the Manager's choice.

VOTE YES ✓ ***Not a takeover!*** **VOTE YES ✓**

COMMON SENSE FOR MONTROSE

2C · POLICE CHIEF

Council would Approve, *Not Select*.

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 a Return to Pre-2014 Charter Authority.***

2D · CITY CLERK

The same rule as with the Chief.

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 a Return to Pre-2014 Charter Authority.***

> ***This is a return to pre-2014 Charter authority the Council had for 100 years.*** In 2014, a rewrite the mayor called *"largely clerical"* and hidden from the ballot according to reports, moved hire-and-fire authority of both posts exclusively to an unelected official, the manager. These two questions put a recorded yes or no back in the hands of people who face the voters.

Two separate questions. You can approve one, both, or neither.
Public safety and city elections are not private personnel files.

Study the redlines on the city's elections page before you mark the ballot.

VOTE YES ✓

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CHASING MORE POWER

Troopers warn e-bike riders against modifications

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Whether seeking more speed, power or comfort, modifications for e-bikes can reduce the safety components of your e-device, void the manufacturer's warranty and make your device illegal to ride in certain communities.

"While modifications can frequently lead to component failure, the biggest concern for the community is the safety risk," stated Col. Mathew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Altering a bike past class definitions can come with different legal requirements; for example, you might now have a motorcycle."

Modifying your e-bike to exceed legal e-bike speed limits (28 mph) or motor limits (750W in the US) may legally reclassify your e-bike as a moped or motorcycle. Under Colorado law, this means you are now required to register and insure the vehicle with the Department of Motor Vehicles. In addition, Colorado has a minimum age of 16 for motorcycles, and all riders are required to have a motorcycle endorsement on their license.

In addition to modifying speed and power, some riders are removing bicycle chains to ride more like a motorcycle and removing safety switches that cut motor power when the brakes are applied.

"Parents of young riders need to understand that this isn't harmless and should get familiar with the components of their child's e-bikes so they can see when something is different," stated Col. Packard. "Keep the conversation going about safe riding and making changes to the bike. Teens often want to customize their bikes, but modifications should be made by a professional."

Visit the Colorado State Patrol micromobility website for more information.

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

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



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DON CORAM, FORMER STATE SENATOR, SAYS NO!

Don Coram, Former State Senator, in a recent interview, said the process involved in forming the city charter amendments was lacking in general public input and review. All four amendments should be rejected at this time, Coram said.

VOTE NO

ON ALL 4 CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

TRUST – HONESTY – ACCOUNTABILITY

Charter Issues Committee. Registered Agent: Robert Nicholson
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PICTURES HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY STAGED TO OFFER IDEAS



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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

THE CONNECTION OF INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL

Editor:

It is remarkable how many people insist that systems which have never produced broad prosperity can be tried again with different results. Socialism and communism have a clear historical record of shortages, limited mobility, and concentrated power.

America remains the envy of much of the world because our system provides a path for people who work and take risks to build legitimate wealth. It is imperfect, but it offers more opportunity and personal freedom than the alternatives. Those systems promise equality but fail to deliver, offering only mediocrity, and restricting the freedom to try, fail, and try again. It all sounds nice on paper, but the practical effect is a far different situation. Ask anyone who has been subjected to it, they will tell you the truth of it.

The Local Version of the Same Pattern

Closer to home, the same pattern exists with our city charter. Voices raising the banner of "democracy" oppose the most straightforward democratic step available: letting current residents decide specific questions at the ballot box. The same critics often call the Constitution and the charter "living, breathing documents," yet they treat past votes as permanent. A decision made in 1993 or 2014, they argue, should bind today's residents. Using yesterday's vote to shut down today's question is selective, not consistent. When the charter itself provides a clear process for placing issues before voters, those same voices resist using it in favor of an alternative, primarily because of who occupies the seat. They claim the people's voice is not being heard, even referring to councilors as "kings" for following the process the charter prescribes, the very process used by past councils.

What the November 3 Measures Actually Do

Measure 2A moves municipal elections to November, raising participation and reducing costs. The result is more people voting.

Measure 2B imposes real term limits rather than a temporary pause. Current rules allow one to leave for four years and return. That is rotation, not a limit. Capping service at eight years brings fresh perspectives rather than recycling the same individuals.

Measures 2C and 2D restore practical council oversight on the hiring and removal of the Chief of Police and the City Clerk. Day-to-day management stays with the city manager. Council gains only the authority to approve or reject the manager's selections for those two positions. That authority was part of the original charter.

Concentrating Power Away from Voters

In 2014, a charter amendment presented as "largely clerical cleanup" removed that authority. The language, buried in the text, made it so voters did not see the practical effect. The change concentrated power in an unelected official. Shifting authority from the elected body to an unelected individual is not a neutral administrative adjustment. Concentrating power with someone who does not answer to voters is not in the voters' best interests. It trades accountability for expediency. Never a good trade off.

Elected officials are tasked with setting policy, providing oversight, and articulating vision. The city manager's role is to execute those policies and decisions, not to create an environment in which policy can be shaped without meaningful elected accountability. When managers step beyond execution, the arrangement becomes defective. Restoring a limited check on the two positions that carry the greatest public-safety and record-keeping weight returns the structure to its original design.

Answering the Objections

Critics say moving elections to November injects "partisanship". "The calendar is not partisan". It simply places the questions before a larger share of registered voters.

They say term limits already exist. A four-year intermission is not a limit; it is a pause that allows the same individuals to return. A genuine cap changes the incentive structure and opens seats for others.

They say council approval of the chief and clerk injects politics. Under the proposed language, the manager still selects the candidates. Council only approves or denies those hires and removals based on objective criteria and does not initiate the search, or removal, or dictate the pool. Some ask why oversight should apply only to the chief and the clerk. Public safety and the integrity of elections and records differ from routine administrative functions. Other department heads perform important work, but their roles are operational, not rooted in policy.

The national conversation often centers on dismantling institutions in the name of untested systems. Locally, the resistance is to common-sense, practical changes that increase participation, limit service, and restore a narrow form of accountability that once existed. Voters will decide for themselves. I encourage everyone to read the full text and VOTE YES on ALL 4!

Michael J Badagliacco, MJB, Montrose

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY STUDENTS SHINE IN STATE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— There is a lot to celebrate at Delta County School District! Recent results from the Colorado Department of Education highlight strong academic performance, competitive SAT scores, and encouraging graduation outcomes across the district.

In 2026, Delta County 11th-grade students achieved an average SAT score of 967, outperforming six of the eight Western Colorado and comparison districts included in the district's September State of Our District presentation. The district's score was also just 15 points below the Colorado statewide average of 982.

The results are a point of pride for a district serving five distinct communities: Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Hotchkiss, and Paonia.

Continued Academic Success

Delta County School District earned an Accredited rating in Colorado's preliminary 2026 District Performance Framework, scoring 60.7 out of 100 points. The district has maintained its Accredited designation since 2023, reflecting continued commitment to academic achievement and student growth.

Graduation outcomes offer another reason to celebrate. The district reported a 91.6% five-year graduation rate, exceeding the statewide rate, along with an 87.8% four-year graduation rate for the 2024–25 school year.

These accomplishments represent important milestones for students and reflect the dedication of educators, school leaders, support staff, and families who encourage and guide them along the way.

A District and Community Worth Celebrating

For Superintendent Amber Clark, the results are a reflection of the people who make Delta County schools special.

"I couldn't be prouder of our students and the incredible people who support them every day. Our teachers, staff, and school leaders put their hearts into helping students succeed, and our families and communities are right there alongside us. That kind of dedication and support makes a real difference. These accomplishments belong to all of us, and they remind us of what we can achieve together. Our children come first, always."

Across Delta County, schools are more than places of learning. They are important parts of their communities, where students are encouraged to discover their strengths, build relationships, and prepare for the opportunities ahead.

Building on Success

From academic achievement to graduation and career preparation, Delta County School District continues to create opportunities for students to learn, grow, and succeed.

These results provide an opportunity to recognize the hard work taking place in classrooms throughout the district and celebrate the students, educators, families, and communities who make it possible.

Every Student. Every Day.



Montrose Regional

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE LIES!

Editor:

The leader of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard(IRG) has just revealed who they recommend the American public to vote for. The IRG is asking Americans to vote the GOP out of power! What they are suggesting is the same as "death to America" If you do as they say by voting "D". That remark from the leader of the IRG comes as the regime stands accused of killing between 7,000 to 30,000 protesters in January during a brutal crackdown on dissent. They and their Democrat Socialists of America(DSA) cohorts plan to remove our Executive branch as well as the US Senate and Supreme Court.

Yes, they are talking about America, the land of opportunity. Come one, come all as demonstrated by Joe Biden and his Democrat/marxist comrades' four-year open border disaster! Our tradition of open hearts is attacking us right now. Among the millions and millions of foreign invaders, we have welcomed in mortal enemies. The followers of a 6th century prophet, Allah, have come not for freedom, but to enslave us with Shariah law by making it the law of Our land. They have been richly rewarded with help from the America-hating Obama and Biden regimes and the entire Democratic party. Remember it was Hillary Clinton who supplied Iran with uranium to enrich their nuclear program. It was Barack Obama who gave Iran $1.7 Billion that they used to fund their nuclear program. It was Joe Biden who unfroze over $16 Billion of funds for Iran. Now we Americans are left to deal with the damage each of those America haters have done to our country.

The White House Council of Economic Advisors have compiled a list of numbers of what will happen If the midterms are lost to those who are enemies of our Republican form of government. A majority of the fiscal family burdens will come from MEDICARE FOR ALL, which is predicted to cost taxpayers $47.4 trillion. The medicare for all would transform the United States into a single-payer system where everyone will lose their doctors and have to surrender to government doctors and hospitals and wait their turn behind long lines of illegal invaders. Pregnant women would have to shop for available hospitals at delivery time as they did in southern states during the Biden/Marxist invasion. Democrats always paint an idealistic picture of free healthcare with zero out of pocket cost, but their dishonesty routinely deny the massive tax hikes and federal spending required to keep it afloat.(see Obamacare). We would see a massive degrading of healthcare quality, lengthy wait times, and the suffocating of medical innovation. Millions of hard-working American families would lose their private insurance they have worked so hard to earn. We would see experienced and expert doctors leave their practices for retirements or just leave the system altogether and they would eventually be replaced by foreign doctors who have come here and received their college education at reduced residential rates. Remember Barack Obama's infamous lie was to claim that the Affordable Health Care Act wouldn't force anyone to surrender their existing insurance plan or doctor? Wasn't it promised everyone would save $2,500 a year on health insurance? But instead of saving money it ended up costing families an obscene amount of money on premiums, co-pays, and deductibles. In fact, premiums rose so far that Congress quietly had to tack on generous subsidies at taxpayer expense. Then during Covid additional subsidies were tacked on at taxpayer expense again and at the end of 2023 the average monthly premium jumped by 58 percent and the average deductible hit a record $3,786 per family. That lie was what Obama called, "saving the average family $2500 a year!!" Obama later sheepishly admitted that he may(?) have misled people, but he said his "legislation would have stalled without the lie". And it didn't take long for millions of Americans to lose their healthcare plans and doctors, which was Obama's plan all along, forcing everyone into a single-payer system.

And to this day Democrats are again telling the same lie that Americans who currently like their health plans can keep them. But the truth (something Democrats know nothing about) is that the Medicare for All Act of 2023 makes it very clear that it's illegal for private insurers to sell health plans that compete with the government program. Will Americans ever get tired of the lies from Democrats? The Congressional Budget Office's own projections show that federal taxpayer subsidies for health care in 2030 would increase by amounts ranging from $1.5 trillion to $3.0 trillion under the illustrative single-payer options. Back in 2019 a Heritage Foundation report found that nearly 75% of Americans would be worse off financially under a single-payer health system. But the invaders and the lazy will lounge in luxury and causing massive waiting lines for free healthcare. Workers would pay more than 20% higher payroll taxes for their free healthcare. Americans better wake up and smell the lies!

The Trump administration has eliminated Obamacare subsidies for 189,000 duplicate or deceased enrollees and cracked down on improper government healthcare payments projected to save taxpayer approx. $1.5 Billion over the next year. Democrats paint an idealistic picture of everything free with zero costs, but they don't discuss the massive tax hikes required to stay afloat. Americans should look past the rhetoric in those Democrat propaganda pieces and recognize that Medlcare for all will result in disaster for all.

Another Democrat push is canceling student debt and making college free.....but the price tag?

Only about $3.6 Trillion! And we all know by now what is taught in colleges. Forty-three million people now owe the U.S. for their student loans and as yet unpaid. Student Loan debt Statistics by the Education Data Initiative show Americans currently owe roughly $1.9 Trillion in student dept by nearly 43 million loan recipients.

This taxpayer plunder was handed to President Trump to deal with like all the other Biden/Democrat parasitical corruption.

So, in this election season remember.....A communist system can be recognized by the fact that it spares the criminals and criminalizes the political opponent.

Jerry Bartholome, Cedaredge

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

EMILIO ERNANDEZ GOMEZ

October 30, 1953 – October 17, 2026



EMILIO ERNANDEZ GOMEZ, 72, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2026, in Montrose. He was born on October 30, 1953, in Corsicana, Texas, to Gregorio Gomez and Anita Ernandez.

Emilio was a true jack of all trades. He could build or remodel just about anything, and many of his best projects were made for his beloved wife, Adelfina. He filled the house with music on his accordion and guitar, but nothing made him happier than being under the hood fixing a car. To his close family, he was simply known as "Mr. Hood."

Emilio is survived by his wife, Adelfina Cantu Gomez; his children, Reynalda Pino Gomez (Ismael Pino Franco), Reynaldo Gomez (Isabel Vargas), Mary Cantu, Adelfina Martinez, Anita Gomez (Jaime Dominguez), Angelita Gomez (Ed Becker), Mario Gomez (Veronica Martinez-Gomez), Jose Gomez (Adreena), and Rosita Lujan; his siblings, Isabel, Jose, Angela, Oralia, Greg, Rosendo, Anadina, Norma, Juanita, and Luis; his grandchildren, Pedro Julian Medel, Emilio Carlos Pino Gomez, Adriana Saenz, Ismael Pino Gomez, Demetric Gomez, Joseph Gomez, Christiana Gomez, Julian Vargas Gomez, Christopher Vargas Gomez, Eurayllie Cantu, Isaac Aparicio-Cantu, Luis Quinteros-Cantu, Monica Rodriguez, Fernando Martinez Jr., Itzel Martinez, Christian Martinez, D'Angelo Dominguez, Donavan Dominguez, Alexander Gomez, Saija Gomez, Ulysses Alexander Flores, Anabrie Martinez-Gomez, Abriam Martinez-Gomez, Anthonny Gomez, Juan Gabriel Gomez, Avalee Gomez, Anaiyah Gomez, Jose Gomez Jr., Arabella Gomez, Annalea Gomez, Alison Gomez, and Romeo Lujan; his 12 great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends who loved him.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gregorio Gomez; his mother, Anita Ernandez; his brother, Simon Gomez; his son, Juan Gomez; and his grandson, Gabriel Pino Gomez.

A viewing will be held Thursday, October 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Crippin Funeral Home, 802 E. Main Street, Montrose. Burial will take place Friday, October 30, at 11 a.m. at Grand View Cemetery, on what would have been his 73rd birthday.

Family and friends are invited to a meal following the burial at 1:00 p.m. at Montrose Christian Church, 2351 Sunnyside Road, Montrose.

Flowers may be sent to Crippin Funeral Home.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

VELDA MAE FRAZEE SMITH
February 1, 1928 — October 15, 2026



VELDA MAE FRAZEE SMITH was called home to be with our Lord and Savior on Oct. 15, 2026. The Montrose, Colorado, resident was 98.

Velda was born on Feb. 1, 1928, in Metropolis, Illinois, to Harry Leland Frazee and Lillie Marie Slankard Frazee. Her mother later remarried as a senior citizen and assumed the surname VanHooser.

Velda spent most of her childhood in the Fairmount area of Metropolis. She attended Central Grade School and Metropolis Community High School. She also was a member of the Metropolis Church of God and was baptized in the Ohio River at Massac State Park at the age of 12.

Velda subsequently moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the summer of 1944 following the death of her father. Her mother had decided to move to Albuquerque in order to be closer to Velda's maternal grandmother.

Velda went on to graduate from Albuquerque High School in 1946. She married World War II Army veteran Harold Gordon Smith on July 9, 1946, in Metropolis. Harold also hailed from Metropolis. They had been married for 61 years when he died in 2008.

Velda and Harold built two homes in Albuquerque's South Valley. She was a devoted housewife and stay-at-home mom until her children were grown.

Velda faithfully instructed their three children regarding the good news of Jesus Christ. She was a member of the now-defunct West Mesa Assembly of God, where she taught Sunday School. She also was a dutiful caregiver to her grandmother, Ollie Elmina McMillan Slankard Cash. Mrs. Cash died in Albuquerque in 1971 at age 91.

Velda and her family relocated to Colorado's Western Slope in 1973 where they established their final home on Alpine Road in Montrose. She received a plaque from Rosemont Baptist Church for teaching its ladies' Bible class for 29 years. She also volunteered for five years at the San Juan Living Center and for 15 years as a Red Cross Gray Lady at Montrose Memorial Hospital.

Velda was also, from 1980 to approximately 2003, the owner and licensed cosmetologist at VelRose Beauty Shop in Montrose.

Velda was also known for her beautiful crochet work. She made and gave away hundreds of her trademark potholders, doilies and cross-shaped bookmarks.

Velda loved to read her Bible on a daily basis. Her family knows she is now rejoicing in heaven.

Velda's survivors include her children: LtCol Harold Gordon Smith, Jr., USMC (Ret.), and his wife, Cathy, of Albuquerque; Bernard Lee "Bernie" Smith of Montrose; and Rosalie Jane Smith Daigle and her husband, Dan, of Denver. Bernie was his mother's primary caregiver since 2008.

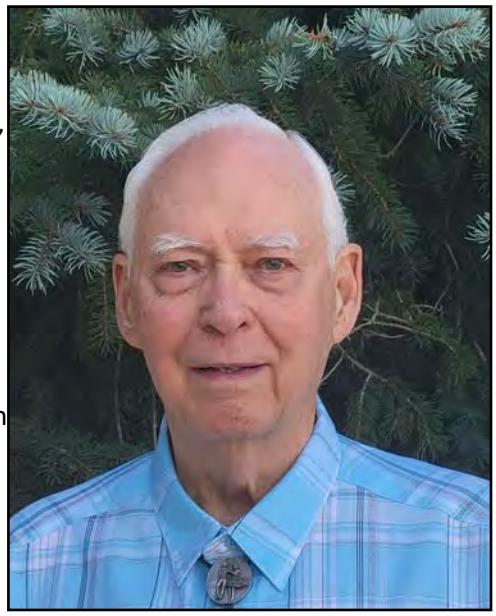
Velda is also survived by her grandchildren: H. Gordon Smith, III, and his wife, Stephanie, of Rossville, Indiana; Bryan Lee Smith and his wife, Sarah, of Montrose; Elizabeth Mae "Lizzie" Smith Wenrich, and her husband, Brian, of Albuquerque; and Joni Marie Smith Johnson, and her husband, Travis, of Katy, Texas. Velda is also survived by 13 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Bryan and Sarah also helped care for Velda in recent years.

Velda was preceded in death by her parents, and all of her eight siblings. Those seven brothers and one sister included MSgt Leland B. Frazee, USAF (Ret.); Vera M. Frazee Reynolds; Harry A. Frazee; Bernard "Pedro" Frazee; Harold D. Frazee; Wayne N. Frazee, USN (Ret.); MSgt Earl L. Frazee, USAF (Ret.); and Lindell G. Frazee. Velda was also preceded in death by her stepfather, Frank VanHooser.

In lieu of flowers, Velda requested that donations be sent to Rosemont Baptist Church in her memory. Call the church office at

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

LOREN JOSEPH DIKEMAN
July 22, 1943 — October 11, 2026



LOREN JOSEPH DIKEMAN JR. , age 83, passed away on October 11, 2026. He was born in Fort Morgan, CO on July 22, 1943 to Loren Joseph Dikeman Sr. and Edna Louise McLaughlin. He was married to Betty Joyce Wilson in 1963 and they had 4 children: Michael Dikeman of Montrose, Patrick Dikeman of Montrose, Maria Nichols of Montrose, and a daughter, Virginia Wood, who passed away in June 2026. They have 7 grandchildren: Sierra Dikeman, Elija Archer, Caleb Archer (Mary), Hayley Dikeman, Gavin Nichols, Drake Archer, and Adalyn Archer. They also have one great-grandchild, Isaiah Archer.

He has one brother, Bryan, of North Pole, Alaska and two sisters: Judith Hawkins of Aurora, CO and Joyce Kenner of Montrose, Co.

Loren graduated from Sterling High School and attended Colorado University at Boulder, CO. He was an Electronics Design Engineer. He worked for the Atomic Energy Commission at Rocky Flats near Denver, and General Electric at Pinellas Park, FL. Over the years he worked at Hammarlund Radio and C.P. Clare in NC, and at Trienco, Inc in Montrose, CO. He was also co-owner of Western Alternator in Montrose, CO. with his son Patrick.

Loren loved jeeping in the mountains in his 1983 Jeep CJ7, and camping at Owl Creek Pass which he did almost every year since he moved here in 1983. He took his family to many of the national parks and places of interest. He loved birds (parakeets and hummingbirds. As a teenager, he roller skated a lot, and later he took Betty, the kids, and the kids' friends to the roller rink weekly. He and Betty Square danced and did Round Dancing for almost 40 years. He and Betty also played pool at the Pavilion Senior Center almost every weekday for the last 10 years.

He loved children, and wished he could have had a farm where kids could come if they needed. He had many teenagers who knew his patience and willingness to teach them and advise them. On his daily walks, he would stop and talk to all the little ones he came to.

He was a jack-of-all-trades - working on his own cars, carpentry, welding, designing machinery or anything he wanted to build. He and his son, Michael, spent countless hours designing projects of all kinds.

Loren loved to tell jokes and funny stories to make people laugh. He could bring a smile to anyone he talked to.

Loren is survived by his wife, Betty; his sons, Michael and his wife, Mary; Patrick and his wife, Holly; his daughter, Maria and her husband Shawn Nichols; his grandchildren and great-grandchild.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Virginia Wood.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.





LITTLE WOMEN: THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

By Jamie Gann & Lisa Rediger

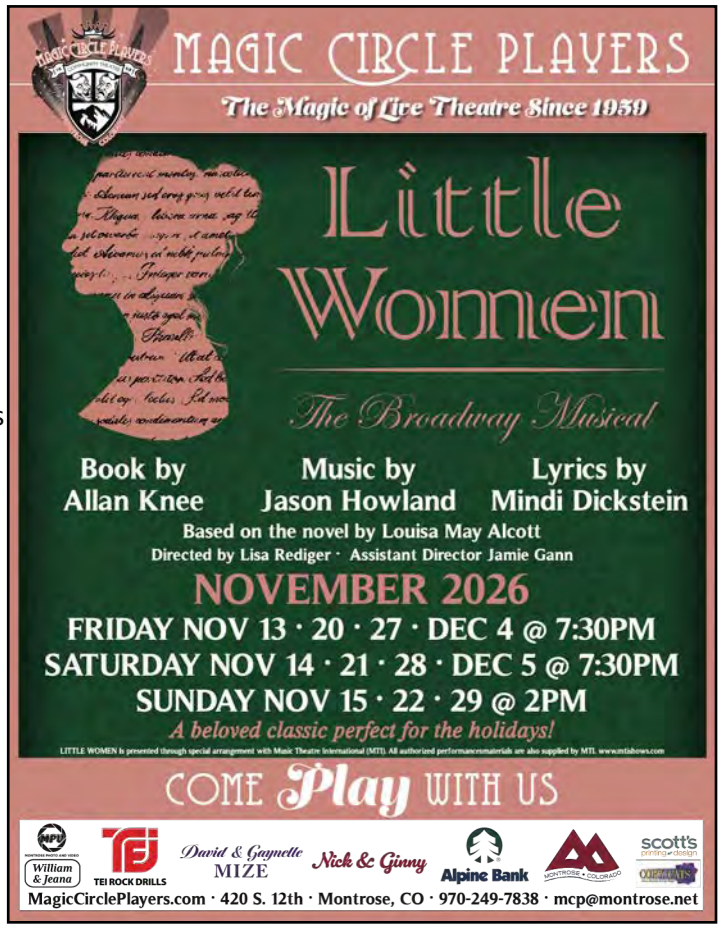
An unforgettable story of family, dreams, and the courage to become who you are.

MONTROSE-Based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic, Little Women: The Broadway Musical brings the timeless coming-of-age story to life with a soaring musical score, captivating storytelling, and vibrant characters who remind us that the greatest adventures often begin at home.

In Concord Massachusetts, as the Civil War changes the fabric of their lives, the inseparable March sisters are raised in a home of modest means, but where hearts are full of hope, imaginations run wild, and the love of family is paramount. Meg, (Jaylee Good) the oldest sister, longs for romance; fiery and independent Jo (Shannon Rediger dreams of becoming a famous author; sweet Beth (Breanna Swanson) is content at home with her piano; and the youngest, Amy, (Molly Cooper) longs for the finer things in life. While their father is serving as a chaplain in the war, their beloved mother, Marmee, (Bethany Ward) guides her "little women" as they grow from childhood to womanhood.

As the war goes on and on, the March women rely on the kindness and friendship of their neighbor, Mr. Laurence, (Gregory Davidson) his grandson, Laurie (Bryce Thompson) and Laurie's tutor, John Brookes (Isaac Jensen.) Their formidable Aunt March (Deb Patterson) is determined that the girls take their proper place in society, and she has the means to see that it happens.

The bonds of sisterhood, family and friendship are tested when Meg falls in love and Jo moves to New York to tutor Mrs. Kirk's (Wendy Maier) children, and discovers a new friend, Professor Bhaer (Dru Silva) as she finds her place in the world,

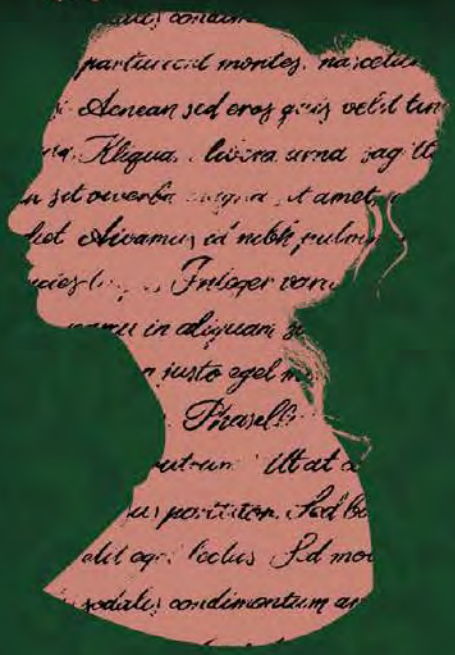


This is a story filled with musical performances that celebrate the power of imagination, the strength of sisterhood, and the courage it takes to follow your heart— all performed by an incredible cast of all local performers (including: Gaia Bailey, Rich Burt, Sam Deater, Dakota Elliot, Jason Kendall, Julie Laube, Keith Laube, Bellea Medina, Elliot Shelton, Max Terry, Michelle Terry) whose talent will take your breath away.

Whether you have treasured this story for years or are discovering it for the first time, the March family's journey through life together resonates with us all. Join us for a moving theatrical experience that will remind you to dream and love, laugh and persevere - and why the best stories never grow old.

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

The Magic of Live Theatre Since 1959



Little Women

The Broadway Musical

Book by
Allan Knee

Music by
Jason Howland

Lyrics by
Mindi Dickstein

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Directed by Lisa Rediger · Assistant Director Jamie Gann

NOVEMBER 2026

FRIDAY NOV 13 · 20 · 27 · DEC 4 @ 7:30PM

SATURDAY NOV 14 · 21 · 28 · DEC 5 @ 7:30PM

SUNDAY NOV 15 · 22 · 29 @ 2PM

A beloved classic perfect for the holidays!

LITTLE WOMEN Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performancesmaterials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS



FORTUNA TIERRA CLUB RECOGNIZED THESE WOMEN AT ITS SEP. 26 RECEPTION

Special to the Mirror

RIDGWAY-Exceptional Educator nominated by Ouray School: Leah Klempner.
Exceptional Educator nominated by Ridgway School District: Maggie Guscott.
Exceptional Woman of Ouray County nominated by Fortuna Tierra Club: Sue Wiens.
Not pictured: Exceptional Healthcare Professional nominated by Ouray County Public Health: Kelly Kamm.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

KINGSTON FEATURED AT BARDIC TRAILS NOV. 3

Special to the Mirror

TELLURIDE-Kate Kingston of Trinidad (CO), winner of the 2021 Karen Chamberlain Award for Lifetime Achievement in Colorado Poetry, will be the featured poet of Bardic Trails Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 7 pm MST.



Kate Kingston. Courtesy photo.

"Kate has been a wonderful poetry leader in the Southeastern corner of Colorado," said Talking Gourds director Art Goodtimes. "Her exemplary literary work has been awarded prizes and she's done a lot to bring poetry to her community."

Kingston is the recipient of the 2026 Consuelo Rivera Fuentes International Prize for Poetry. Her most recent book, The Future Wears Camouflage, has been released from Middle Creek Publishing, 2025. Awards include the Atlanta Review International Publication Prize, Chamberlain Award, Ruth Stone Prize, Crestone Wayfarer Poetry Award, and the W.D Snodgrass

HALLOWEEN KARAOKE @ MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

Friday, Oct. 30 at 7 PM

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Come KARAOKE with Us! Get your costume on and join us for a spooky, spectacular Halloween Eve! You can sing, cheer on a friend, or just come be part of the Magic Circle community - we offer fabulous stage lights, a great sound system, and lots of moral support! This is a family-friendly event. There is a $5 cover charge at the door. Magic Circle Players: 420 South 12th Street, Montrose, CO 81401. magiccircleplayers.com





A Few Words from the West with Wendy Videlock

THE SEASON OF DEEPER LISTENING



Wendy Videlock. Courtesy photo.

PALISADE-Early fall arrives here on East Orchard Mesa with cool mornings and afternoons that haven't yet forgotten the ways of summer. The light takes on a slant that makes even familiar things appear more subtle, more rich, more tinged with the stories of change and the passage of time. Autumn has long been called a season of melancholy, of change and reflection.

The shortening days turn my attention inward and I spend more time writing. Joy, as well as grief, are never far from home. A few of the cottonwoods have begun to turn gold while the sunflowers are still in bloom. The season invites reckonings with what has come to fruition and what has fallen away.

But the valley is hardly quiet. The raucous piñon jays have stayed among us this year, the starlings are swooping overhead, the towhees are rustling and the bears continue to forage here in the lower elevations. The drought has brought many of these critters down from the Mesa and into our irrigated yards and orchards here in the valley. They arrived earlier and stayed longer this year than in years past.



At this time of year I find myself walking the path alongside the Colorado River just down the hill almost every day. Even as the water recedes, even as more of the bank lies exposed, the river speaks.

I follow the current past stones and roots, watching the earliest fallen leaves catch in the shallows. Like a doe, autumn moves lightly across the landscape. I wouldn't trade this life here in the west for anything. Sometimes I think it's by the river I do my best listening.

What the River Said

Just so you know close to the chest
is close to the bone.
Just so you know there's not
much growth in your comfort zone.
Just so you know the pen
is no mightier
than the soul. Just so you know
a guarded heart
keeps the song at bay. Just so
you know the wind
carries your words away.
Just so you know water
eats away at stone and
the volta isn't just for poems.
Just so you know your bliss
is the sister to your pain.
Just so you know the lion
is hungry as the fawn.
Just so you know the lotus
is married to the mud.
Just so you know
to listen deeply is to love.
Just so you know

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PURVI SHAH OF NEW YORK WINS $1000 IN 2026 FISCHER POETRY PRIZE CONTEST



Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program is proud to announce the winner of the 30th Annual Fischer Poetry Prize: Purvi Shah of Brooklyn, New York, for her poem, "Between a rock &".

Final judge Lesley Wheeler of Virginia noted that the contest "sheds a little light on some good poets working to make the world better." She added, "There's so much power here, including in many poems not on the final list -- a hair less skilled at a craft level, often, but so much heart and important things to say!"

Purvi Shah relishes sparkly eyeshadow, raucous laughter, and seeking justice. While serving as Executive Director at Sakhi for South Asian Women, she won a Social Service Excellence Award for her leadership fighting violence against women.



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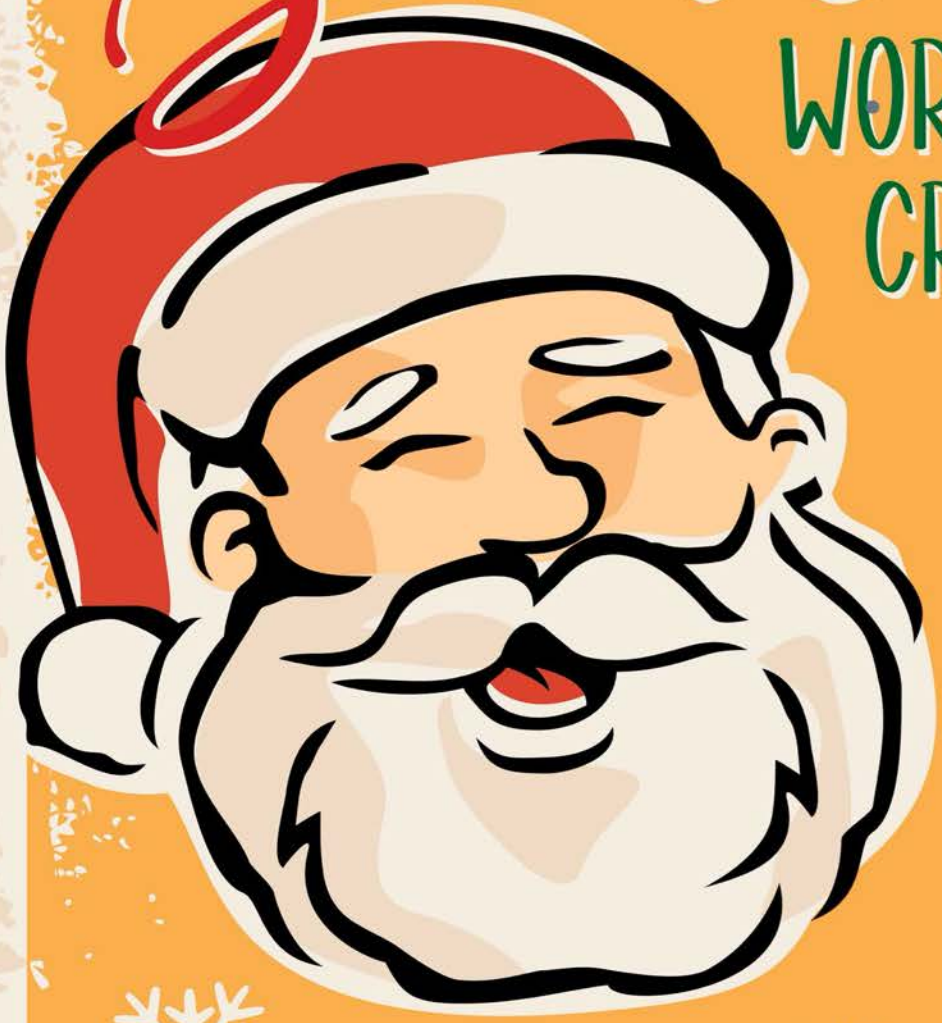


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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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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

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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 Communion10 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?





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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® OFFICIAL DESIGNATION | ABR®

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

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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.

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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!

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
lesliegorerealtor@gmail.com
https://tinyurl.com/LeslieGoreC21

CENTURY 21
Elevated

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



2038 Winston Way #B

Montrose, Colorado

$289,000

MLS #838979

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



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.









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 Montrose County Fairgrounds Friendship Hall, 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. 30-Get your costume on and join us for a spooky, spectacular Halloween Eve! You can sing, cheer on a friend, or just come be part of the Magic Circle community - we offer fabulous stage lights, a great sound system, and lots of moral support! This is a family-friendly event. There is a $5 cover charge at the door. Magic Circle Players: 420 South 12th Street, Montrose, CO 81401. magiccircleplayers.com

Nov. 3-Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 5pm Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Hispanic Affairs 504 N 1st,progress avenues pursued to control local pollution, Nonpartisan, environmental,All Welcome. info 970-765-9095

Nov. 10-Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 pm. Let Ignite Montrose Spark Your Interest at the Association (39 W Main – Potato Growers Building). Enjoy an evening of free entertainment as your fellow community members present fast-paced five-minute presentations on their ideas, hobbies, travels, interests, passions and curiosities. Beverage/food service will be available. Check ignitemontrose.org for a list of topics and presenters.

Nov. 12-Thursday Nov. 12, 7 PM, Baldridge Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, 647 South 1st Street, Montrose. Black Canyon Audubon Society will host Jon Horn and Steve Dike presenting "20 days in Mongolia" where they camped and traveled throughout the central part of the country exploring mountains, taiga forests, grass steppe lands, canyons, lakes, wetlands, rivers valleys and the Gobi Desert. These two adventurers saw over 200 species of birds and a wide variety of other critters. For more information about the speaker and topic go to programs at blackcanyonaudubon.org

MIRROR IMAGES: REFLECTIONS OF AUTUMN

At right, Autum foliage reflected in the lake near the Riverbottom soccer fields. Mirror staff photo.





Above, Cottonwood leaves brighten Prottengeier Hill. Photo by B. Switzer.

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

DINE - OUT MONTROSE



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

Busy Corner White Kitchen
970-323-6215



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