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ISSUE 713 Oct. 26, 2026

the Montrose Mirror

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WEST SIDE BECOMES A FITNESS DESTINATION WITH WEEHAWKEN CREATIVE ARTS' NEW FACILITY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Weehawken Creative Arts recently leased the facility at 28 W. South 4th Street in Montrose. The 10,000-square-foot facility will allow the popular arts/education non-profit to bring local classes together under one roof, according to Special Projects Coordinator Mary Menz.



Weehawken Creative Arts has a new location on the West Side. Mirror Staff Photo.

Those classes will include one of Weehawken's popular aerial courses, although higher level aerial classes take place next door at CrossFit Agoge's facility.

"Both our new studio and the CrossFit Agoge spaces have professionally engineered and rigged aerial equipment," Menz said.

Weehawken's fall semester began Aug. 24, with classes initially taking place at the Montrose Field House, Montrose Flex Rec, CrossFit Agoge, and the Presbyterian Church before moving to West South Fourth Street in early October.

Menz said, "We are offering 62 classes in Montrose this semester,

Continued pg 9

IT'S NOVEMBER-BREAK OUT THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

Mirror Staff Report

MONTROSE-With the holiday season on the horizon, Montrose residents have a wealth of opportunities to shop, give back, and take part in fun events.


Mrs. Claus (shown here with a friend) will host her 8th annual Mrs. Claus for a Cause Event starting on Dec. 18. Mirror File photo.

This coming week, the season kicks off with the 2026 Holiday Bazaar and Crafts show at Friendship Hall in Montrose, Nov. 6-8. Hours are 9am to 5pm on Friday, Nov. 6; 9am to 4pm on Saturday, Nov. 7; and 11am to 4pm on Sunday, Nov. 8.

On Friday, Nov. 13, the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club will once again host their Crab Crack Community Seafood Boil, at 6pm at the Montrose Pavilion. The event is a major fundraiser for the Club, which has been serving kids in Montrose and Olathe since 1999. Individual tickets are $75, and $25 for the beer and wine garden. In addition to the seafood boil, there will be a live auction and live music.

Continued pg 11

A Judge in History: By Bob Cox! Pg 50	Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, PhD: Your Brain on Nature! Pg 85!	Community Dog Costume Parade! Pg. 99	A Brown Pelican's Visit to Montrose! Pg 97

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WOMEN'S GIVING CLUB TO MEET NOV. 5

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Nov. 5-The Women's Giving Club will be holding their next meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 5:30 pm at the Bridges Golf and Country Club. ALL women invited. Great opportunity to meet new friends, learn about our community, hear about local nonprofit organizations, and to watch the magic happen. Please call 970-209-9598 for questions.

ROAD CLOSURE SCHEDULED ON SHAVANO VALLEY ROAD BEGINNING NOV 9

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE – Beginning November 9, Montrose County Public Works will begin replacing a culvert on Shavano Valley Road north of K57 Trail. This project will require a temporary road closure and the project will last through November 27th. Drivers are encouraged to plan alternate routes and follow posted signage during this period. For more information, please contact Mike Hindson at 970-964-2448.



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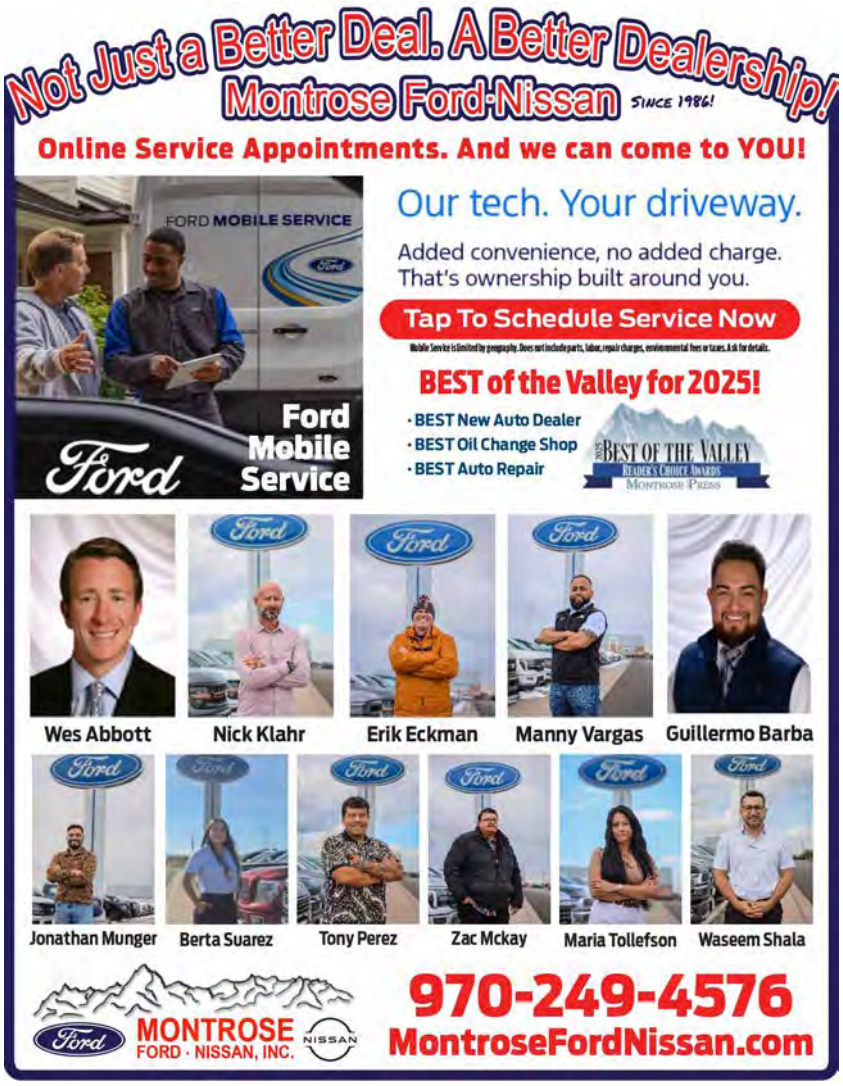
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RULES FOR PUBLISHING

Dear Readers:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the Montrose Mirror

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ROBBER BARONS?

By Don Stott

The so called “Robber Barons” of the early and mid 1800’s, were responsible for most of what made America great. Were they rich? You bet! Were they smart? Absolutely! Were they ruthless? Many were, but given all of the above, few Americans today, are aware of the true facts and what they did. The Vanderbilt’s, Rockefellers, Carnegies, and the entire host of them, built the railroads, and even the cities. America then, had no income taxes, no Federal Reserve, few laws, no bureaucrats, no inflation, and an entrepreneur was free to invent, manufacture, and export. There were no minimum wages or public schools, and America was far better educated than it is now. There was no welfare, no public housing, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, or the wretched wrecks we see major cities now.

John Deere tractors, Singer sewing machines, Baldwin locomotives, Otis elevators, Disston saws, and hundreds of manufacturers prospered and HIRED WORKERS. The workers bought and built millions of sturdy, brick, row houses which had wonderful craftsmanship. Thousands of tree lined neighborhoods came into existence, and were served by electric streetcars who whisked workers to their jobs for a few cents, and created no pollution. America made everything, Two huge streetcar manufacturers in St. Louis and Philadelphia, John Deere and lots of others made great tractors, and railroads carried passengers and freight to all corners of America. All were privately owned, received no subsidies, and were not hampered by endless snooping bureaucrats.

The so called ’robber barons’ invented and started all of this, and became incredibly rich. Was this bad or evil? Far too many think it was, and I wholeheartedly disagree. My daughter Melissa, who has a masters in historic restoration, worked on, and restored some of the huge mansions along the Hudson River in New York State, before she joined me brokering precious metals. Those huge mansions, plus others in America, employed thousands of expert craftsmen to build them and maintain them. Their private railroad cars and steamships took labor to build, maintain and operate. Their swank lifestyles required lots of servants, cooks, and maintainers. Those employees of the rich, made excellent wages, and not a cent was taken by government. None of their rich employers’ profits were taken by government either, so they could build more factories, or invent and develop more things, cities, and neighborhoods, which they did. The robber barons fought with each other, and tried to outsmart and outspend their competitors, which made it even better. Ever been to Newport? Go there and see what a real mansion looks like!

What in heavens’ name was wrong with it??? They became so rich, and discovered that they couldn’t spend it all, so they gave it away, or funded and started universities, Carnegie Halls, Ford Foundations, and the like. Ford was privately owned until the 1940’s, and Ford built the River Rouge, one of the world’s best, most efficient, and largest manufacturing plants…which lies in ruin now. You can wish you were wealthy, but it does no good to hate wealth. Now look at today. Please look at today, and get a glimmer of what we now have.

Today, we have the Bill Gates types, who have but a small fraction of the wealth of the robber barons, and it is all in un-backed, fading paper money. Until we had welfare, the Federal Reserve, and runaway government, there was no inflation, and no income tax! You made a wage and kept it all. Remember the PBS series of a couple of decades ago, titled “Upstairs, Downstairs?” It was about the rich people ’upstairs’ who employed the servants ’downstairs,’ and it was a grand series. Those ’downstairs,’ didn’t suffer at all, and those ’upstairs’ had far more problems and conflicts than did their servants who made decent wages and had no worries.

Those people worked for rich people, and the same held true during the industrial revolution. The workers did their jobs, were paid, and went home to their families, with all their wages, while the bosses and founders kept working and thinking 24 hours a day, and risking their wealth on new projects. New projects which might break them or make them, but whose employees were worry free wage earners. Today, it is virtually impossible to become truly wealthy. No one builds these huge mansions any longer, nor has lots of servants, and all the accoutrements of the robber barons. And no one takes home their wages, but they are confiscated by a greedy, stupid, central government, which constantly not only takes your pay, but decreases in value what you have left. We are all slaves to government, rather than working for a private firm, and taking our wages home, free from taxes. Henry Ford doubled his factory worker’s wages overnight, so they could afford to buy his Model T Fords! Andrew Carnegie employed thousands in his steel mills, built hundreds of libraries around America, and donated 6,000 pipe organs to churches, besides building Carnegie Hall and starting a huge foundation.

America had gigantic steel plants, railroads, prosperous, individually owned farms, privately educated children who could read, write, and calculate effortlessly. I read constantly, and have read biographies of Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Rockefeller and their like, and their riches were spread around greatly to charities, workers, educational institutions, and when they died, to funds, which have been betrayed by their current liberal managers; unfortunately. All of America’s might has been destroyed by government. America’s education has been destroyed by government. During the days of the robber barons, there were no public schools, public transport, or public anything. You rose or fell with your own abilities, and if you fell there might have been a private charity to help. If not, too bad. That’s the way it ought to be now.

The days of the so called robber barons made America great, built America’s cities, and neighborhoods. The days of the innovators, manufacturers, and inventers, gave us millions of inventions with no government help, huge movie palaces, skyscrapers, assembly lines, luxury travel, fine American made clothes, huge department stores, downtown shopping centers, radio, TV, telephone, and every single invention the mind can conceive of, and without government to interfere. All of the formerly great, tax free, inflation free, small government America, with gold and silver money, was indeed wonderful. The rich lived as high as they could, while employing millions, and building an unmatched prosperity the world couldn’t believe. Now, we are poor, in debt, our kids can’t read or write in far too many cases, the cities are full of homeless, decaying public housing, crime, filth, and degradation. Thanks government!

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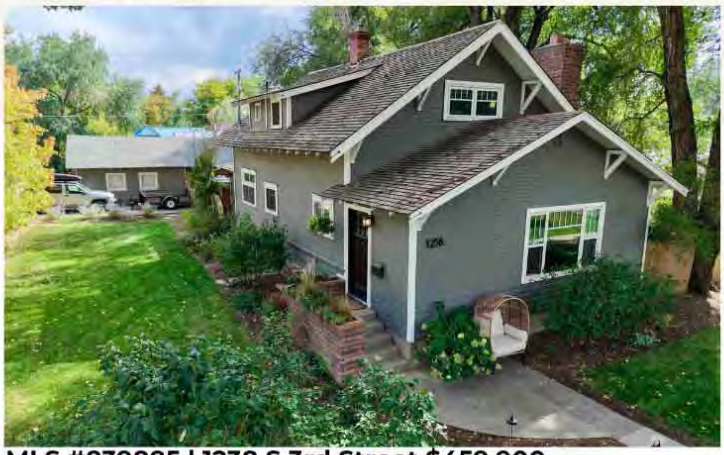


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MLS #839885 | 1238 S 3rd Street $459,900

Beautiful "Turn of the Century" home in downtown Montrose and located only a few blocks from the hospital. This home has had recent modernization updates to the foundation, a new sewer line, updated electrical box, new kitchen appliances and water heater, but offers the charm one would expect of a home built in 1910. The home features hardwood floors, large windows, formal dining area, and living room fireplace.



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OFF TO A GREAT START-OHS XCOUNTRY RUNNER RYLEE FRENCH





Special to the Mirror

OLATHE-Olathe High School Freshman Cross Country Runner Rylee French (at left and above with team) placed 5th in the 2A Regionals, Region 5 with a time of 20:07.00. Rylee has been competing in varsity throughout the season and placed in the top 5 at every meet this year. She also ran in the CHSAA State Championship meet on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026 at the Norris Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS: FORUM HEARS FROM CAREGIVERS

Join us at The Forum on Wednesday, November 4th, 9 a.m.
as we welcome Laird Landon, Chairman of the Caregivers Support Foundation of Montrose

Caring for a loved one facing a terminal illness or serious medical condition can be one of the most difficult and emotionally challenging responsibilities a person will ever undertake. Too often, family caregivers find themselves navigating this journey alone, balancing the needs of their loved ones with their own physical and emotional well-being.

The Caregivers Support Foundation Is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting, educating and empowering family caregivers. Its mission is simple but powerful: to help caregivers provide compassionate care for their loved ones while recognizing the importance of caring for themselves.

"Keep our loved ones safe. Keep our loved ones comfortable."

Whether you are currently caring for someone, have experienced the challenges of caregiving, or simply want to learn more about this valuable community resource, this presentation is for you.

Please join us on November 4th to learn about the Caregivers Support Foundation, the important work it does, and how we, as a community, can better support those who devote so much of themselves to caring for others.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 11, 2026 — "Salute to Veterans" at the new Montrose Veterans Memorial

The Forum WILL NOT meet in Cascade Hall on the 11th. Instead, attendees are encouraged to join the community for one or both of these special events:

10 AM Montrose Veterans Memorial Ribbon Cutting/Dedication

Approximately 11:00 AM Inaugural Veterans Day Ceremony

1800 Pavilion Drive, across from the Pavilion and just west of the Botanical Gardens. Parking is available in the Pavilion parking lot.

We will resume with our normal date, time (9:00-10 AM), and place...November 18, 2026 — Billy Goat Hop Farm & LaNoue Dubois Winery

November 25, 2026 — No Forum: Thanksgiving

WEST SIDE BECOMES A FITNESS DESTINATION WITH WEEHAWKEN CREATIVE ARTS' NEW FACILITY From pg 1

including two at CrossFit Agoge. Most of our ongoing classes meet weekly throughout our 14-week semester, while others are shorter sessions or one-time workshops. We also hold regular Sunday rehearsals during much of the semester.

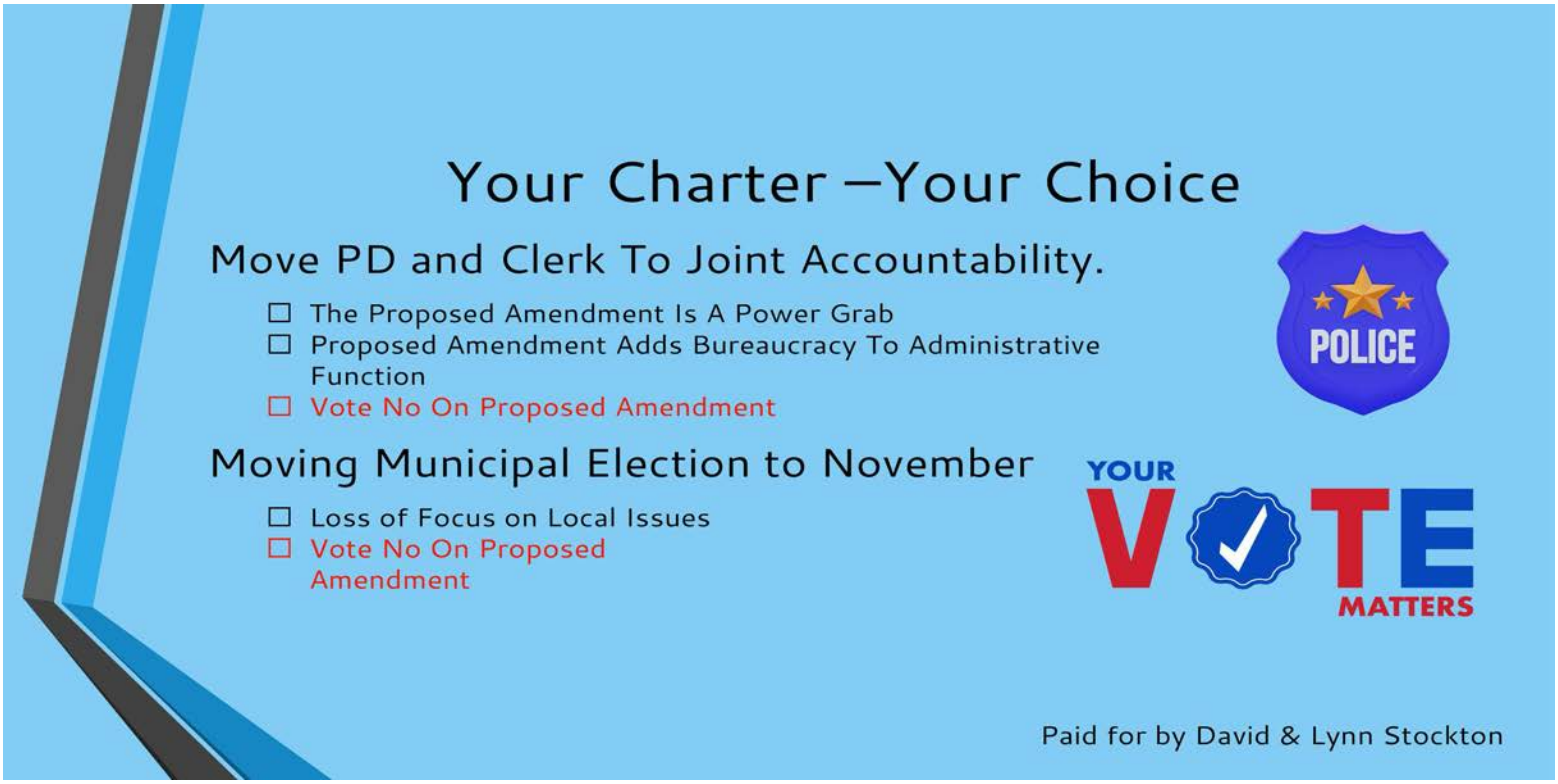
"Our programming generally takes place after school and into the evenings Monday through Thursday, with occasional daytime classes and weekend workshops or rehearsals. The new facility gives us more flexibility to offer additional youth and adult programming over time, with schedules continuing to be determined by facility availability, instructor availability, community interest, and enrollment."

The West South Fourth facility will be used mainly for classes, with performances at larger venues such as the Montrose Pavilion, she said.

"We've also been fortunate to have a local Boy Scout working toward earning his Eagle Scout rank who has taken the lead on improvements to our outdoor courtyard, helping transform the area into a more welcoming and usable space for our students and families."

Weehawken's main office is located in Ridgway. For more information visit https://weehawkenarts.org/about/contact-us/.





OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

DEMOCRATS ARE OK WITH DISMANTLING AMERICA

Editor:

The current crop of Democrat politicians seems to be in a contest with their party's elders to see who can be the most destructive and out of touch. Given that the prior crop of leaders includes Biden, Obama, Hillary, and Bill Clinton, that's quite a challenge. This week, Bill Clinton tops the list of nominees for the “You Should Sit This One Out” Hall of Fame. The former president, who is still married to a self-proclaimed future president who will never get there, took a swipe at President Trump over his perceived lack of reverence for the White House with his renovation of the Rose Garden. Exhibiting any self-awareness has certainly never been a high priority for either Bill or Hillary. The guy who actually defiled the Oval Office, and then committed perjury, wants to talk about “reverence?” Trump should rename the garden the “Monica Lewinsky Rose Garden.” Obama is likewise critical of the White House renovations. The guy who built what appears to be an intergalactic porta-potty for his billion dollar “Presidential Center” is criticizing the way Trump decorates the White House?

On a more serious note, Obama is back on the campaign trail for select Democrat politicians – an effort one writer correctly labeled as “Obama's Amnesia Tour.” Obama campaigned for Abdul El-Sayed, which is odd considering that El-Sayed has totally trashed Obama in the past. The fact that these two America haters are sharing the same stage tells us how fake they both are. Watching Obama pretending that he didn't absolutely destroy our healthcare on a national level while he plugged El-Sayed's Medicare for All was nothing less than hilarious. Obama also screamed against “anger and division” just a week after more revelations were made about Biden-era Democrats illegally spying on conservatives during Jack Smith's treasonous “investigations.” Let's not forget that it was Barack who orchestrated the Russian Hoax against Trump knowing it was false. Rallying in Cleveland last weekend, Obama also tried to re-imagine his own “Iran Deal” and criticize Trump's decisive actions. While Obama bragged that he “kept them from having nuclear weapons,” his deal left the centrifuges running and the enrichment going, and left Iran with a clear path to nuclear weapons. In addition, Iran used the sanctions relief and the $1.7 billion in pallets of cash Obama gave them to fund its proxies across the region. Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Hamas all benefited while Tehran continued its ballistic missile development. Even Saudi Crown Prince bin Salman accused Obama of being a primary sponsor of global terrorism, alleging that the Obama team sought to use Iran as a buffer to prevent the Gulf states and Israel from gaining too much influence. Obama also had the audacity to say that Iran is “in a stronger strategic position now than before the war started.” Brit Hume put it best: “Because nothing says 'stronger strategic position' like losing your navy and air force and having your vital shipping point blockaded and your economy in free fall.” Even more inexcusable were his comments in Belfast fundamentally misrepresenting the Jewish people's connection to their ancestral homeland. Obama tried to rewrite Jewish history when he stated “they took land off people and they were excessive.”

These are not the words of an uninformed observer. He knows that the Jewish people did not arrive in Israel as strangers in someone else's land. He knows that Jerusalem has been at the heart of Jewish identity and history for thousands of years, but he chooses to blatantly lie -- which he does so smoothly. Obama keeps lecturing voters who already lived through his disastrous policies. The records are public. The results are not in dispute.

The Clintons, Obama, and Biden win any “ridiculously out of touch” competition hands down, but the current crop of Democrat politicians has clearly told us that they plan to be even more destructive. Dem Senator Elissa Slotkin just promised that if Democrats take control of the House or Senate, they intend to prosecute and harass young people who dare take jobs in the Trump administration. Slotkin and her comrades intend to turn America into a third-world dictatorship where opposing politics are outlawed. Susan Rice also made it clear that anybody who cooperated with Trump, including corporations, was in their crosshairs, and that Democrats would punish them. Democrats this week also indicated they intend to essentially conduct show trails of Elon Musk and take his assets. All this is absolutely fascist, and openly so.

The difference between the current crop of Democrats and the old is that the current Dems are more open about their intentions. A video of California Governor Newsome was just published saying out loud what should have already been obvious: The Democrat Socialists of America are “going to be dominant” and will be “mainstream” in the Democrat Party. It's no secret what the DSA plans to do because they have put it in writing. The DSA's published program calls for abolishing ICE and granting amnesty to all immigrants regardless of status. It calls for the eventual abolition of the police and the prison system. It intends to eliminate the Senate and the Electoral College, and replace the President and Supreme Court with entities chosen by and subordinate to the “People's Congress.” The DSA and Democrats call themselves democratic while intending to dismantle all the constitutional checks on political power. Democrats are now OK with dismantling the America we know and love as long as it leads to their being in power.

Much worse is the fact that today's Democrat party has become a willing accomplice and bed fellow with Islamic extremists. Obama didn't accidentally campaign for El-Sayed last week. Antisemitic, anti-West Islamist ideology has joined forces with the socialists/Marxists. Both seek control of a world order based on the total rejection of capitalism, albeit from different perspectives. El-Sayed has many documented ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and other terrorist organizations. Try as he may, he cannot hide the fact he is a radical Islamist. Obama campaigning for him is one more confirmation that establishment Democrats are totally on board with this unholy Islamo / Marxist bloc going mainstream within the Democrat Party. As France burns, the French might be thinking inviting third-world, 7th century, sharia loving barbarians might not have been such a good idea after all. Meanwhile, the DSA and their Islamist allies are planning the same thing here: mass violence and street riots in the run-up to the 2028 elections. Anyone paying close attention to the Obama presidency shouldn't be too surprised of this alliance between establishment Democrats and the socialists / Islamists. In 2008 Obama wanted an internal “national security force” as powerful and well-funded as our military. Fortunately, back then Americans, including most Democrats, understood he was talking about an American Gestapo designed to protect the government from the American people. Today's Democrats would be all in on such a plan, which would also include forcibly disarming all Americans. If there are any sane Democrats left, they have to decide which side of the fence they are on.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

IT'S NOVEMBER-BREAK OUT THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT! From pg 1

On Nov. 23, the City will hold its annual Montrose Bucks Monday ($60 in Montrose Bucks for every $50 purchased) at the Public Safety Complex (434 South First Street) , from 9 to 11 am and from Noon to 5pm.

For those who love lively dance performances, Weehawken Dance will once again offer a series of holiday shows. The Nutcracker Remixed, featuring more than 400 local dancers, will run from December 9th-13th at the Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Drive. Visit https://weehawkenarts.org for more information.

On Nov. 19, Artist Kathryn Burke will host a Christmas Wreath workshop at Mosaic in Montrose, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Register online at https//kathrynrburke.com/product/111926m.

The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in Montrose will take place on Nov. 27 at the Montrose County Courthouse, 5:30pm. Following the Tree Lighting Ceremony Santa's Cabin will open for the season at 530 east main Street. For the complete Santa's Cabin Schedule visit https://www.cityofmontrose.org/621/Holiday-Events.

Dec. 4-6 Santa's Workshop and Craft Show will take place at Friendship Hall. Hours will be 9am to 5pm on Friday, Dec. 4; 9am to 4pm on Saturday, Dec. 5; and 11am to 4pm on Sunday, Dec. 6.

The Montrose Parade of Lights is scheduled for Dec. 5 at 5:30pm. The Parade route begins at the Intersection of North Pythian and West Main Street.

Finally, Montrose's own Mrs. Claus and her Elves will host the 8th Annual Mrs. Claus for a Cause event at Friendship Hall in Montrose, on Dec. 18.

Mrs. Claus welcomes children and families with toys, warm clothing items, Disney characters, pictures with Santa, Toadstool Face Painting, The Balloon Dude, haircuts/tinsel, DJ AK Valdez, Cyllia Lynn Photography, Elevation Academy of Dance, cookie decorating, games, toy building with Home Depot, hot cocoa bar, yoga, the Montrose Children's Museum and more!

The first two days are for everyone (Dec. 18 -19 from 10 am. to 5 pm.) and the third day is for special needs families only (Dec. 20 from 10 am. to 3 pm.).

Attendance is free, but registration is required to reserve your spot through the Mrs. Claus for a Cause website. https://mrsclausforacause.org

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7 NOVEMBER
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DINNER INCLUDES
Spaghetti,
Meatballs,
Salad,
Bread,
and Water
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dessert extra $1
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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

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE FOUNDER LAUNCHES SING TOGETHER MONTROSE NOV. 2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-How about a prescription for social engagement and enjoyable activities?

Amy Barth is the founder of Beyond a Prescription (BAP), a mission-driven Montrose company built around social prescribing. In social prescribing, doctors, nurses and other trusted professionals "prescribe" non-clinical activities that build connection and wellbeing. It has been widespread in the United Kingdom since 2018 and is now active in 32 countries. In the United States it is growing fast. Hundreds of programs across the country now connect people to the arts, nature, movement and community, and Social Prescribing USA is working to map them all.

Barth said," Social prescribing is becoming an important part of modern, person-centered health care. My mission is to bring the best of the best to Montrose to support our community."

Among the Community Initiatives launched by BAP is Sing Together Montrose.

Sing Together Montrose holds its inaugural sing on Monday, Nov. 2, at The Association. Sing for community, connection and joy. No auditions, no talent required, just pop, rock and oldies sung together for the joy of it, led by pianist and vocalist Alison. Barth is also looking for a guitar player and wants to hear from anyone who can help.

"We want people to come and sing with us," Barth said. Learn more at www.Beyond A Prescription.com, or call 970-765-8118.






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.
Your Vote Matters!
COLORADO 150
1876 ★ 2026
WE'RE ALL COLORADO
America 250
ONE NATION, MANY STORIES
- For more info, go to MontroseRepublicans.Org -
Paid for by Montrose County Republican Central Committee;
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THE VIDEO TOUR

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2026 HOLIDAY CRAFTS & BAZAAR





FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
NOV. 6	NOV. 7	NOV. 8
9-5	9-4	11-4

FRIENDSHIP HALL AT MONTROSE
COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ACCESSIBLE VOTING INFORMATION

Special to the Mirror



MONTROSE-The Montrose County Elections office is committed to helping ensure that every voter has access to the resources and accommodations they need to vote. Our office offers several accessibility features to help make voting more comfortable and accessible, including:

Ramp Access: Accessible ramp entry to the Elections Office.

ADA Door Openers: Automatic door openers to help voters enter the building.

Accessible Voting Booths: Accessible voting booths designed to accommodate voters with disabilities.

Assistance from Election Judges: Trained election judges are available on-site and happy to assist voters with navigating the voting process and accessing available accommodations.

Language Assistance: Language assistance, including Spanish and other multilingual support, to help voters understand the voting process.

Hearing and Vision Assistance: Accessible voting assistance for voters who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind, or have low vision.

Sip-and-Puff Device: Adaptive voting technology to assist voters with physical disabilities who may have difficulty using traditional voting equipment.

Our goal is to ensure that every voter can access the assistance they need to understand the voting process and participate independently, confidently, and privately. Your vote matters, and we are here to help make voting accessible to everyone in Montrose County.

If you need more information on what technology/aids might be available to you, please reach out to the Montrose County Elections Office at (970) 249-3362, extension 3 or stop by 317 South 2nd Street in Montrose.







PUBLIC TOWN HALL

Updates on Community Hospital Partnership & Health Needs Assessment

Community HOSPITAL

Thursday, December 3rd
3:00 - 4:00 PM

Montrose Regional Health
Conference Rooms A&B, Lower Level
970-249-2211

Learn about the latest updates with the MRH-Community Hospital partnership and participate in our annual Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

Hot chocolate and cookies will be served!

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MichelleKlippertRealtor@gmail.com

500 E. Main St., Montrose, CO

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

CARTOON BY TIM JONES



https://www.gocomics.com/sour-grapes



REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

GET COVERED FOR 2027

Thrive Community Health Network

Your health matters. Health insurance matters!

Special to the Mirror

Health insurance can help you access medical care, manage health conditions, and protect yourself from unexpected medical costs. Having coverage is an important step toward protecting your health and your financial well-being.

You don't have to enroll in insurance to meet with us! Our bilingual Health Coverage Guides can explain your options, help you compare plans and monthly premiums, and see whether you may qualify for financial assistance or tax credits.

Every appointment with Thrive is FREE, and there is no obligation to enroll. We want you to understand your options so you can make the best decision for yourself and your family.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2027

November 1, 2026–January 15, 2027

-December 15: Enroll by this date for coverage beginning January 1, 2027.

-January 15: Last day of Open Enrollment. Enroll between December 16 and January 15 for coverage beginning February 1, 2027.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Already enrolled in OmniSalud with SilverEnhanced Savings?
You must re-enroll between November 1 and November 30, 2026, to keep your current low-cost coverage. If you do not re-enroll by November 30, you risk losing your spot and financial assistance. Contact Thrive for free help with your next steps.

Have Medicaid (Health First Colorado)? Check your mail, email, and PEAK account for renewal notices.

If you receive paperwork or a request for information, complete, sign, and return it by the deadline. If you do not complete your required renewal on time, you may lose your Medicaid coverage. Contact us if you need help understanding your notice.

LOCAL OPEN ENROLLMENT EVENTS
Bilingual staff available. First come, first served. Bring your current insurance information and relevant documents.

RIDGWAY — Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Ridgway Library | Noon–6 p.m.

NORWOOD — Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Lone Cone Library | 9 a.m.–Noon

NATURITA — Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Naturita Community Library | 1 p.m –5 p.m.

GET FREE HELP CLOSE TO HOME!
Thrive Community Health Network
Website: tchnetwork.org
Email: enrollment@tchnetwork.org
Phone: 970-708-7096

Call or email to ask questions, compare your options, or schedule a free one-on-one appointment.

You deserve to understand your health coverage options. Let us help!

Schedule a 1:1 appointment:
https://tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance/

IMPORTANT ENROLLMENT DATES

November 1, 2026–January 15, 2027: Open Enrollment for 2027 coverage.
December 15, 2026: Enroll by this date for coverage starting January 1, 2027.
January 15, 2027: Last day of Open Enrollment.

Enroll December 16–January 15 for coverage starting February 1, 2027.

LOCAL OPEN ENROLLMENT EVENTS
First come-First served; bring your insurance documents with you • Bilingual staff on site

RIDGWAY • Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Ridgway Library • Noon–6 p.m.

NORWOOD • Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Lone Cone Library • 9 a.m.–Noon

NATURITA • Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Location to be announced • 1–5 p.m.
Contact us for location updates.

QUESTIONS? CONNECT WITH US!

Thrive Community Health Network (formerly Tri-County Health Network)
Website: tchnetwork.org
Email: enrollment@tchnetwork.org
Phone: 970-708-7096
Call or email for enrollment help or event information.
Schedule a 1:1 appointment: https://tchnetwork.org/programs/insurance-assistance/



OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ARE YOU TIRED OF THE MISINFORMATION?

Editor: Some opponents of Montrose's four proposed Charter Amendments are having trouble making a legitimate case against them. So, instead they rely on scare tactics, misinformation, and claims that do not match the actual text. They refuse to link to the actual amendment language on the city website. That is not an accident. You should probably ask WHY? ,Voters who read the language for themselves tend to see straightforward, limited changes rather than the overreach being described.

Those asking you to vote YES are willing to point you to the exact wording. The amendments are short. They do what they say and nothing more. If you have not voted yet, take a few minutes to read them rather than relying on summaries from people who oppose them but refuse to provide the actual language.

Montrose has changed in the last thirty years. Turnout in April city elections has been low, (just 25-35%). Holding those elections in November, when people already vote, increases participation (60-87%) and saves the city some money to boot (roughly $20,000 to $25,000 per cycle). That is what Amendment 2A "Moving City Elections from April to November" does.

Amendment 2B sets a real eight-year limit on council elected service. What the city has now is nothing more than a "pause", not a limit. Eight years was long enough for George Washington. It is long enough for a Montrose council member.

Amendments 2C and 2D give the elected council a limited role in the hiring and firing of the police chief and city clerk. The city manager still prepares the list of candidates and still makes the recommendation and the final call. Council simply approves the list and must concur before either position is terminated. These measures do not give council broader authority over city staff or daily operations. They restore a basic form of oversight that voters expect from their elected city council. An unelected manager should not hold sole power over the two positions that most directly affect public safety and election integrity.

These are practical adjustments, not radical ones. They address real problems: low turnout, weak limits on tenure, and insufficient elected oversight of two critical appointments. Read the language here. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT to drop your completed ballot with your signed envelope in the ballot drop box in front of the County Elections office at 317 South 2nd Street, Montrose Colorado NO LATER THAN TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3…
PLEASE DO NOT USE THE U.S. Post office (your ballot MUST be received, not just mailed by 7:00 PM on November 3). OR you can vote in person at the same location and on election day at 317 South 2nd Street, Montrose Colorado, November 3, you can also vote in person at the Montrose County Event Center at the fairgrounds 1036 N. 7th Street, Montrose, Colorado.

VOTE COMMON-SENSE, VOTE YES ON ALL FOUR!

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"
Citizen, Montrose



REGIONAL NEW BRIEFS

SOUTHWEST COLORADO OPIOID COUNCIL OPENS 2027–2028 GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Letters of Interest accepted beginning Nov. 2 for projects addressing regional substance use disorder needs.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council (SWCORC) will open its 2027–2028 grant cycle on November 2, 2026, inviting organizations to submit Letters of Interest (LOIs) for projects addressing opioid-related and other substance use disorder needs across Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, Ouray, San Miguel and Hinsdale counties.

Funding is intended to strengthen prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction and law enforcement-related responses to the impacts of opioid misuse. SWCORC has also identified five strategic priorities reflecting significant service gaps across the region:

1. Behavioral Health Workforce: Strengthening the region's substance use disorder and recovery workforce.
2. Treatment Infrastructure: Expanding detoxification, residential treatment and in-person intensive outpatient services.
3. Expanding Recovery Supports: Increasing recovery housing, sober living and recovery-friendly community spaces.
4. Targeted Supports: Meeting the needs of youth, justice-involved individuals and Spanish-speaking residents.
5. Navigation, Coordination, and Access: Improving connections to services and reducing transportation, cost and other access barriers.

Projects that advance these strategic priorities will receive higher priority in the review process, but proposals are not required to address one of the priorities to be considered, as long as the work meets approved uses. SWCORC welcomes proposals that expand effective existing services as well as new approaches and collaborative initiatives.

"We know there are significant gaps in substance use disorder services across our region, and these funds give us an opportunity to address them," said Grace Franklin, Director of Public Health for San Miguel County and chair of SWCORC. "We're looking for strong proposals that will make a meaningful difference for the people and communities we serve."

Organizations interested in applying can review grant requirements and LOI instructions at www.swcorc.com beginning November 2. Questions about the application process may be directed to SWCORC14@gmail.com.



www.mlkdaymontrose.com



Gigfoot has officially gone from mysterious creature to local celebrity. These days, you might spot him cruising in an Elevate truck on the way to a job, grabbing coffee like a regular at his favorite local spot, or taking a lunch break on the tailgate with the Elevate crew.

Turns out, being part of the community suits him. While driving a tractor isn't technically included with any internet plan we know of, smart farming is another story. Fast, reliable internet helps 18,000+ Elevate customers stay connected to the technology, information, and tools that keep all of our operations moving.

Experience the local legend for yourself.

Get Elevate today!

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Browse and email; for everyday use.

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- Network protection
- 500 Mbps

STREAMER
Stream, scroll, and share with ease.

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Essential plan plus:
- Device Prioritization
- 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps)

Most Popular

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Work, play, and everything between.

$99.95/month

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COLORADO NEW BRIEFS

CBI INVESTIGATES LAS ANIMAS COUNTY HOMICIDE; SUSPECT ARRESTED

CBI News Release

CBI – LAS ANIMAS COUNTY –The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), serving as the lead investigative agency at the request of the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office, has arrested a suspect in connection with a homicide in Las Animas County.

On October 30, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m., deputies with the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a deceased person at a residence in the 13700 block of Winterhawk Drive, Trinidad, CO.

Upon arrival, law enforcement located Kevin Boyles, 59, deceased. A friend of the victim had discovered him and called 911.

Initial scene investigation and interviews led CBI special agents to determine that Mr. Boyles' death was a homicide. Special agents subsequently identified the victim's brother, Steven Boyles, 61, as the suspect and obtained an arrest warrant for First-Degree Murder.

On October 31, 2026, CBI agents and Las Animas County Sheriff's deputies located Steven Boyles and took him into custody without incident. He was booked into the Las Animas County Jail on the first-degree murder warrant.

The CBI acknowledges the critical assistance and collaboration provided by the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office throughout the investigation.

Every individual accused of a crime is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.



Call me for all your Real Estate Questions and Information



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MONTROSE

COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY

$480,000.00

MLS 837908



2,875 SF
HEATED MAIN LEVEL

750 SF
BASEMENT STORAGE

1 BATH
ALLEY ACCESS


FRONT RETAIL / OFFICE


MAIN-LEVEL SPACE


SHOP / STORAGE


OVERHEAD DOOR

Once a blacksmith shop, this character-filled building offers approximately **1,475 sq ft of front office or retail space** and **1,400 sq ft of flexible shop or storage space**, plus basement storage. An overhead garage door with alley access adds everyday functionality.



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HUEY REACHES FINAL LZ AT NEW MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL!

Ribbon cutting, inaugural Veterans Day ceremonies set for Nov. 11

Special to The Mirror

MONTROSE-Following a one-year layover at the Montrose Regional Airport, a Vietnam-era UH-1 Huey helicopter made its way to its final LZ at the new Montrose Veterans Memorial, 1800 Pavilion Dr., Montrose, Colo., last Friday morning.

The Huey now is in place for the City of Montrose ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. at the site, and the inaugural Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition at 11 a.m.

Memorial partner Montrose County representatives also will be at the ceremonies to recognize this historic event.

UH-1 Huey is home

In military terms, LZ stands for landing zone—a term where aircraft (mainly helicopters) can land, and this Huey found its spot above a beautiful pedestal at the new Montrose Veterans Memorial.

The escort, comprised of units from the Montrose County Sheriff and Sheriff's Posse, City of Montrose, Fire Protection District Fire and EMS Services, made their way down Townsend to the San Juan Bypass, then took 6700 Road to Niagara before entering the back of the Pavilion property.

Karen Dunlap, widow of the late Rick Dunlap, rode in a Colorado State Trooper car with her son Chad Dunlap, CSP supervisor. Rick Dunlap was a door gunner on a similar helicopter during the Vietnam War, and the helicopter holds a special meaning for the Dunlap family.

The layover at the airport was courtesy of people like Director of Aviation Lloyd Arnold and Atlantic Aviation's FBO manager Patrick Burke, who made sure there was access and a place to work on the helicopter.

The Friday transport and mounting of the Huey were made possible by many Montrose area businesses including Stryker & Co. (under leadership of Charles Bunney), Sandy Creek Services, Valley Crane Services and others. Prospect Steel Co. and Aaron Ray used amazing industrial, structural, metal and fabrication skills making sure the Huey is secure and safe.

MVMC board member and engineer Troy Meyer and Montrose architect Phil Motley were key in making the MVMC's ideas, including the pedestal mounting of the Huey, a reality.

"After five years of a roller coaster ride, this last main element going in is quite an accomplishment," J. Bob Brueske, MVMC chairman, said. Brueske, a helicopter mechanic in Vietnam, was instrumental in the refurbishing and reinforcing of the Huey and could be seen Friday working inside the "bird" and over the top of it hooking up straps for lifting.

"I can't wait for Nov. 11 when it will be official," he continued, "this was very emotional, I couldn't stop looking at it.

"Big thanks to everyone who helped today."

Hallowed ground honoring veterans past, present and future

"We want folks to know this is for our veterans and their families, supporters and patriots," said Les Williams, MVMC president.

"Just yesterday a woman came up to me--a veteran's widow--who said she now has a place for serenity and prayers, a place to go.

"This is a place of solace, hallowed ground," Williams said, "No pets are allowed so we can keep the grounds clean and respectful."

This will be a place where veterans are cared for and their stories are told for future generations, he said.

"We are so thankful to everyone who has helped build this memorial—now we want to share and protect it."

Another big way to support Montrose veterans

The care for veterans and their families goes deep in Montrose County, Williams said, and he pointed out that MVMC member Welcome Home Alliance For Veterans plays a huge role in that effort.



Figure 1 Sandy Creek Services, owned by Chris and Jana Stehle, transported the Huey from Montrose Regional Airport to Montrose Veterans Memorial Friday, Oct. 30, 2026.



Figure 2 Montrose County Sheriffs Posse, Sheriffs Dept., Montrose City Police Department, Montrose Fire Protection District Fire and EMS, and Colorado State Patrol escorted the Vietnam-era UH-1 helicopter from the Montrose Regional Airport to the new Montrose Veterans Memorial site at 1800 Pavilion Dr. on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026

"Welcome Home helps veterans every day," he said.

"They're hosting their annual fundraiser, the Blue Jean Ball, this weekend and they need our support." The Blue Jean Ball is Friday, Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Montrose Events Center, 1800 Pavilion Dr. Tickets can be purchased at https://www.whafv.org/.

"Our founder, the late Mike Trickey, was director of the WHAFV." He said Trickey would want everyone to carry on that mission as well as supporting the new memorial.

"The WHAFV is part of the Coalition that brought everyone this beautiful memorial." For more information on the Blue Jean Ball and donating to the WHAFV call 970-765-2210.

HUEY REACHES FINAL LZ From previous pg





Figures 3 and 4 MVMC BOD Chairman J. Bob Brueske hooks up straps for lifting the Huey from the flatbed to near the pedestal for preparation to mount. Brueske was a helicopter mechanic in Vietnam more than 50 years ago. Valley Crane Services operator/owner Troy Van Horn had a steady hand.



Figure 6 MVMC Board of Directors Dave Vergamini, Dave Powers, J. Bob Brueske, Les Williams, Troy Meyer and Lance Bach, with Stryker & Co.'s Charles Bunney and Dave Anderson, and Aaron Ray. Not pictured Amy Eifling, BOD secretary.



HUEY REACHES FINAL LZ From previous pg



Figure 7 Another local company, Kaylor Fencing of Olathe, donated wood post/metal rail fencing around the new memorial's border. Donations came from all over the Western Slope (and some from across the nation) to honor veterans.



Figure 8 Prospect Steel's work can be spotted across the Memorial, from the entrance sign and arch to pedestals for many elements. Owner Wayne Brown and crew are doing great work.



Figure 9 'Hallowed ground…a place of serenity.' The new Montrose Veterans Memorial is a very special place.

Thank you to CB Williams for this special report.


Charity Ball
Sports Adventure Ball
TOUCHDOWN ★ TROPHIES ★ BUCKS ★ TUITION
NOVEMBER 21, 2026
6:00 PM
MUSIC STARTS AT 7:00 PM
Music by
CIMARRON
BAND
CASINO NIGHT
SILENT AUCTION
LIVE AUCTION
SWEET WHEEL
RAFFLE TICKETS
Tickets
$40 PER COUPLE
$25 SINGLE
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DOOR
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MONTROSE, CO 81401

CITY OF MONTROSE COLORADO *Mayor's Minute*

WHAT IS ON THE AGENDA

Thank you to all who applied for the open At-Large seat. We appreciate your interest to serve. It was a difficult decision to condense the list to the final three candidates to be interviewed.

Council Meetings this week.
Both the work session and Regular City Council meeting Monday Nov. 2, 2026.
Work Session 10 AM

*Historic Preservation Commission Interviews

Discussion Items:

-IT Purchase – Motorola Flex Maintenance Renewal

-Public Works Division of Property

-Belle Haven Estates Subdivision

*At-Large City Council Seat Interviews

City Budget Open House @ 4:15 at the PD Community Room

434 S. 1st Street
Regular Council Meeting at 6 PM

Agenda Items:

-Appointment of At-Large City Councilor

-Historic Preservation Commission Appointments

-Ordinance 2733 (Budget First Reading)

-Resolution 2026-18 (2027 Fee Schedule)

-Landfill Agreement Extension

-Cedar Creek Townhomes Subdivision Final Plat

-Chipeta Lake 2 Addition Annexation hearing

-Ordinance 2736 Chipeta Lake 2 Zoning

-Spruce Point Subdivision Amended Plat

Work Session and Council meeting at
Council Chambers: 107 S. Cascade (Upstairs).

*Interviews will not be open to discussion.

For anyone needing more information to help you make your decision on the four Proposed Charter Amendments on the November 3, 2926 ballot, the redlined version with the full text of the proposed changes can be viewed by clicking HERE.

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



Historic Commercial & Residential

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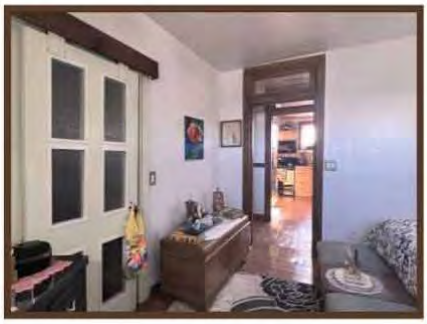
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Montrose Mayors Agree:
Vote NO on All Four Amendments

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**



Montrose Elks #1053

In gratitude and respect,
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NOVEMBER 11

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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 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 ✓

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SMPA'S PROPOSED RATE INCREASE: MEETING THE NEEDS IN CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES

Special to the Mirror

NUCLA — San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has announced a proposed electric rate increase for all consumers, scheduled to take effect on December 15, 2026. The proposal is designed to ensure balanced cost recovery in the face of rising expenses while maintaining SMPA's commitment to providing members with reliable power and choices in how they manage their energy use.

For most residential consumers, the proposed change includes a $9 increase to the monthly access charge, bringing it to $42.00 per month, a 6¢ increase to the on-peak energy rate, bringing that rate to 31¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh), and a .3¢ increase to the off-peak energy rate bringing that rate to 11.3¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

The proposed increase is necessary to help SMPA cover its projected 2027 operating expenses, which include rising wholesale power costs, tools, materials, insurance, and other expenses required to maintain safe, reliable electric service. SMPA is also increasing its fire mitigation operations to reduce utility-related wildfire risks and protect the communities it serves.

Wholesale electricity remains SMPA's largest expense. Increases in the cost of purchased power continue to put pressure on member rates. Meanwhile, inflation and rising costs for equipment, labor, insurance, and infrastructure maintenance make it increasingly expensive to operate and maintain the electric system. Additional investment in fire mitigation is essential to managing risks in SMPA's high-fire-threat service territory.

The proposed rate structure balances these costs between monthly access charges and energy usage while preserving opportunities for members to manage their bills through their energy choices. Members can help control costs by shifting flexible electricity use to off-peak hours, when energy rates are lower. Options such as charging electric vehicles overnight, using programmable thermostats, and taking advantage of energy efficiency programs can help members make the most of these lower rates.

SMPA recognizes that rate increases affect household and business budgets. The Association's goal is to recover the costs of providing electric service responsibly while continuing to deliver reliable power, maintain critical infrastructure, and protect the long-term interests of its members.

For more information about the proposed rates and available energy efficiency programs, members can visit www.smpa.com/rates or send comments to comments@smpa.com. The Board will likely vote on the rate proposal at their November 17th virtual meeting, held on the Zoom© platform. The meeting will be open to the public and the board will hear member comments soon after the meeting starts at 9 AM. Register at www.smpa.com/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes.





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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Colorado-ology

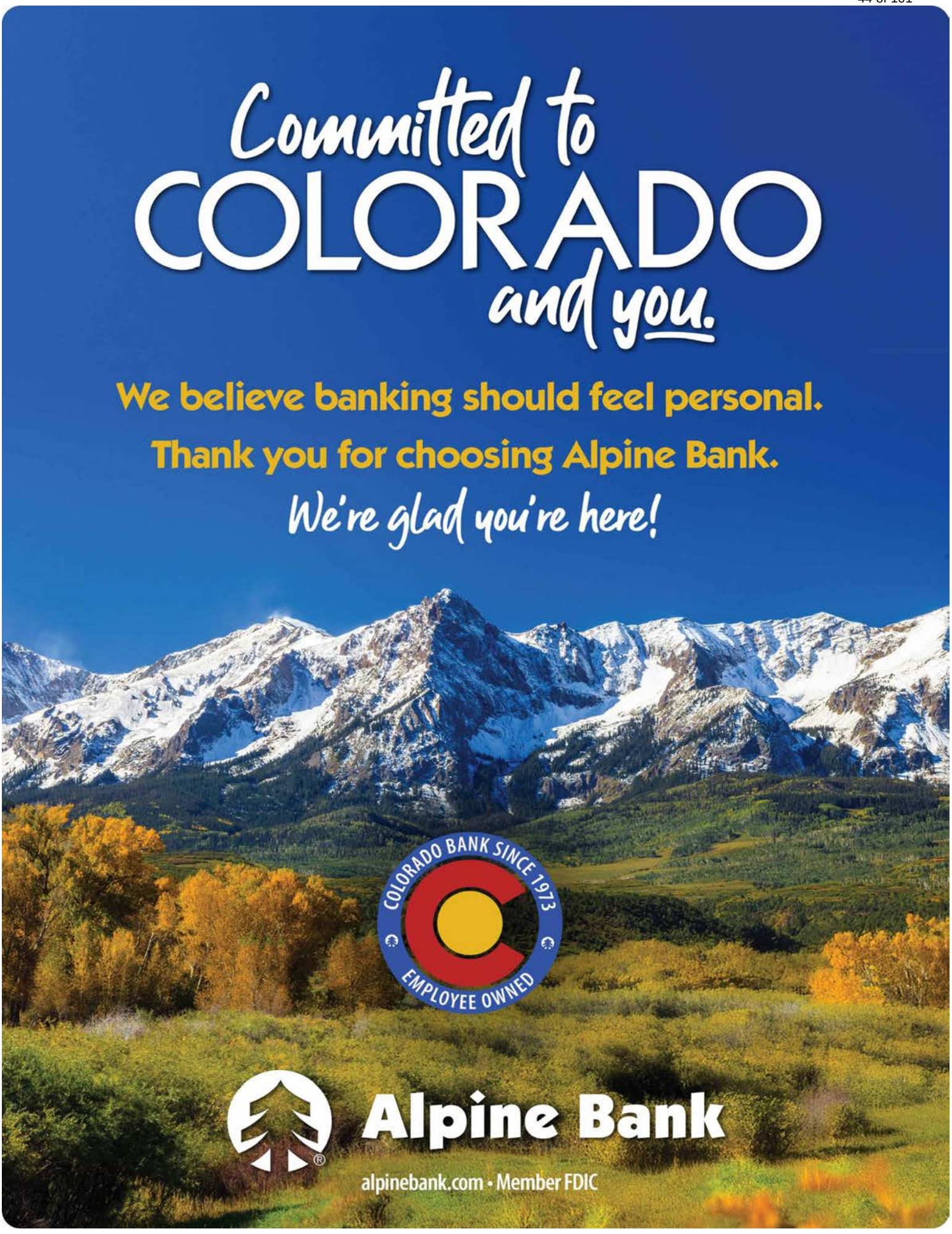
328 E. MAIN ST. | MONTROSE, CO | 970-249-8323

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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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS CELEBRATES THREE YEARS OF COMMUNITY, CONNECTION, & HOMETOWN PRIDE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—The final whistle has blown, but the community spirit of Friday Night Lights continues to shine. For the third consecutive year, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) and Elevate brought local communities together for four high school football games, celebrating school spirit, hometown pride, and the power of giving back.

An estimated 6,000 fans attended games in Montrose, Delta, Cedaredge, and Olathe this season, enjoying free admission courtesy of DMEA and Elevate. What began in 2024 as an effort to bring people together has grown into an annual tradition celebrating the student-athletes, schools, families, and fans who make our communities special.

"Strong communities are built when people show up for one another, support our schools, and take pride in where they live. Friday Night Lights gives us an opportunity to do just that, and seeing thousands of people come together year after year reminds us of the importance of the Cooperative Principle #7 Concern for Community," said DMEA CEO Jack Johnston.

Throughout the season, DMEA and Elevate partnered with local school districts to create memorable game-night experiences. Elevate's mascot, Gigfoot, joined the festivities while DMEA and Elevate representatives connected with members and customers, celebrated school communities, and participated in special on-field recognitions.

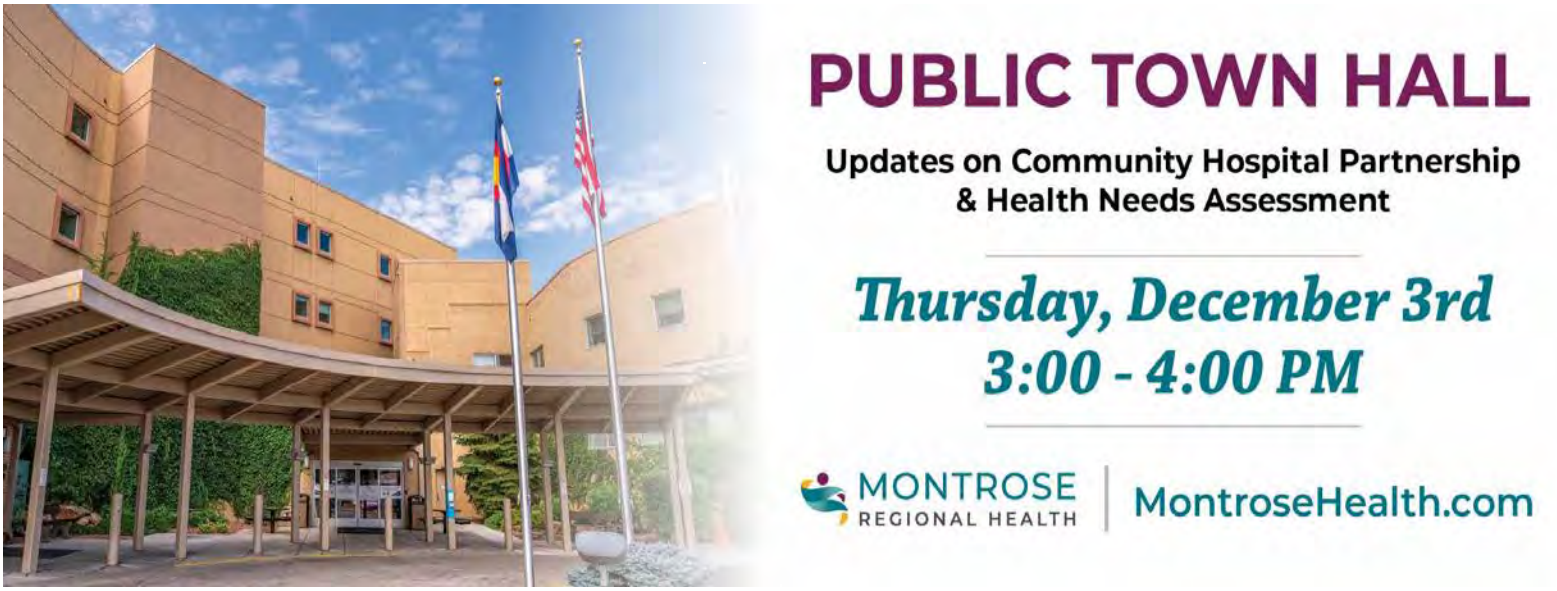
The impact extended beyond the football field. DMEA and Elevate awarded $4,000 in electric and internet bill credits to members through drawings held at each game.

This year also marked a milestone for DMEA's Operation Round Up program, with Friday Night Lights helping welcome more than 60 new participants. Through Operation Round Up, participating members voluntarily round up their monthly electric bills to the next dollar, with the additional funds supporting local charitable organizations and community needs.

From the opening kickoff in Montrose to the final game in Olathe, this year's Friday Night Lights series demonstrated what's possible when local organizations, schools, and residents come together around a shared purpose.

DMEA and Elevate thank the participating schools, community partners, volunteers, and fans who helped make the third year of Friday Night Lights a success. Their continued support is helping turn a shared idea into a lasting community tradition.

For more information, visit dmea.com or elevateinternet.com.



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Straw Bales	$10
Mini Straw Bales	$5



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HUNGER AWARENESS

WHEN: Saturday, November 7
WHERE: Montrose Pavilion
TIME: 2:00 pm

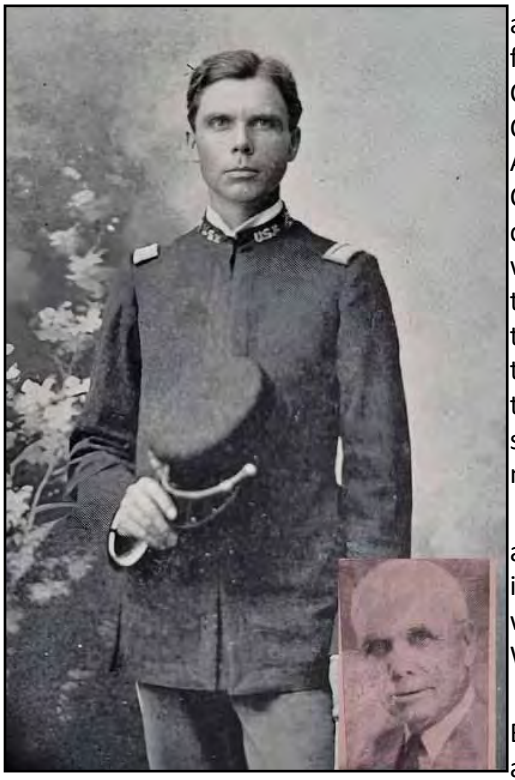
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A JUDGE IN HISTORY



The large photo depicts George W. Bruce in his Missouri Volunteer uniform as published in The History of the Fifth Missouri Volunteer Infantry by James F. Payne (1899). The inset is Judge George W. Bruce published by the Montrose Elks Lodge in their Golden Anniversary booklet in 1956.

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-As the pages of calendars were turned, saying goodbye to 1925 and welcoming the new year, the United States had a new president and Colorado was starting the year with the 50th anniversary of statehood on the horizon.

President Calvin Coolidge had made history by broadcasting his inaugural address and telephone lines were becoming more and more apparent around the country. Information was beginning to be disseminated at comparatively rapid rates , and Colorado was placing itself into that chapter of history.

On March 26, 1926, President Coolidge held a news conference, during which he revealed that he had received several requests and suggestions that he travel to Colorado to observe the state's fiftieth anniversary. Of the various requests was one from Colorado Governor Clarence Morely. A Colorado visit was also encouraged by the Colorado Rotarians and the Colorado Bar Association. Citing the fact that travel to Colorado in early October might not be convenient ,given the distance and the weather at that time of year, Coolidge opted to use a radio address carried by phone lines to Denver. Of course, people who lived on the Western Slope of Colorado were not able to hear the address; the first local radio station, KEXJ, founded by Rex Howell, was not activated in Grand Junction until 1931.

Nearly 57 years before Coolidge's radio address, on August 27, `1869, a boy was born in Pleasant Hill, Missouri. George W. Bruce went on to become a significant part of Western Colorado history.

Bruce attended and graduated from the Bannock Institute in Pleasant Hill, Missouri and enrolled in law classes at the University of Missouri at Columbia. According to an article in the Kansas City times, on April 5, 1892, Bruce received high honors and was recognized as the "Orator of the Year". The same article noted that Bruce would be graduate of the year. At the beginning of the Spanish-American War, George Bruce served in the Missouri National Guard and helped organize the Cass County Volunteers. His efforts were well-documented in a publication entitled, History of the Fifth Missouri Volunteer Infantry by Thomas Payne. A small part of Payne's description read:

To be ready for an emergency J. T. Barney of Harrisville and Mr. Ge. W Bruce of Pleasant Hill began organizing a volunteer company. In advance of the residents' call for men, the Cass County boys had gotten together in almost sufficient number to form a company.

As his law practice got back on track, he was initially employed by the Eastern Loan Company, where, according to several accounts, he became proficient in leading the firm in investments in several cities. He relocated to Kansas City, where he married Josephine Adams. In 1897 Bruce, his wife and one son had returned to Pleasant Hill, where he established a law practice, but evidently still worked with various people overseeing property investments.

Bruce practiced law in Pleasant Hill until 1906, and even served as mayor there for a short time. On April 1, 1907, Bruce came to Colorado to finalize title to some property on behalf of a Kansas City Banker. According to his obituary, it was that trip that convinced him that he wanted to move to Colorado. A short time later he, his wife and two children became residents of Delta, Colorado.

Within a year, Bruce began to establish himself in the Uncompahgre Valley. An ad in the Delta County Laborer, on December 25, 1908 showed that Bruce was a part owner of the Western Slope Realty Company. The advertisement read, "Lands Bought and Sold in the Uncompahgre, Gunnison and North Fork Valleys."

Within a few years after moving to Delta, Bruce became very active in that town and many of the surrounding places. He joined, and became very active in the Delta Elks Lodge, at one time serving as their Exalted Ruler. He re-established his law practice and became a member of both the Colorado Bar Association and the Western Colorado Bar Association. He later moved to Montrose and demitted his membership to the Montrose Elks Lodge. His dedication to the order remained steadfast. Records indicate that he was especially supportive of Flag Day services, the national holiday celebration that Elks lodges nationwide had played a prominent role in establishing.

Bruce also became very involved in Colorado's water resources and the various legal battles that ensued regarding the use and distribution of water. He also became active in the Rotary Club and was routinely asked to address various meetings and ceremonies. In 1926, after the death of

Continued next pg

A JUDGE IN HISTORY From previous pg

Thomas J. Black who was serving as a district judge for the Seventh Judicial District, Bruce was appointed to fill the vacancy. Black was well-known in Montrose, having been the first Exalted Ruler of Montrose Elks Lodge #1053. Bruce's appointment began the parallels with President Calvin Coolidge. Whether those common interests were coincidental or not is open to debate.

One of the first topics that came to light in this commonality was in March of 1926. Here is a small part of the Associated Press release regarding the requests asking President Coolidge travel to Colorado to recognize the celebration of the state's fiftieth anniversary (emphasis added):

During a White House press conference on March 16, 1926, Coolidge noted that he had received "four or five invitations to go to Colorado during the coming season," mentioning specifically that the last one came directly from Governor Morley. Additional pressure and invitations came from organizations hosting major events in the state that year, including the Colorado Bar Association and an international gathering of Rotarians.

On August 3, 1926, Coolidge made his radio address mentioned above. Later that year George W. Bruce was elected to serve a full term as a district court judge.

In late 1926, Coolidge was encouraged once again to come to Colorado. This time to participate in the ceremonial opening of a part of the Moffat Tunnel, which was another interest of George W. Bruce. Coolidge declined and opted to, once again, participate remotely. Here is a segment of how Time Magazine reported that February 18, 1927 event:

At 8:10 PM, sitting in the White House in Washington, D.C., President Coolidge pressed a golden telegraph key. The key sent an electrical impulse dancing across the continent to Colorado, instantly detonating the final charges of dynamite paced 2,300 feet below James Peak. The blast tore through the final eight feet of rock between the eastern and western slopes of the Rocky Mountains...

In 1927, Bruce became the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for Colorado's west district. It was shortly after his DDER term expired when the next interaction took place. Calvin Coolidge had also served his term and was no longer President. Bruce, being a big supporter of the Flag Day celebrations of the Elks, once again tried to get Coolidge to visit Colorado. Here is an excerpt[t , taken from the March 19, 1929 edition of the Montrose Daily Press:

Some time ago an effort was made to secure ex-President Coolidge to give the Flag Day address at Ouray in June. Last year the western slope Elks lodge met in Ouray for a big Flag Day program that proved very successful. Some weeks ago, Judge George W. Bruce started an activity to this end taking it up with U. S. Senator Phipps who is also being asked to be present and introduce the ex-president. The invitation signed by Judge Bruce of Montrose and Murray Hurlbert, grand exalted ruler of the B. P. O. Elks, has been presented as the following dispatch indicates: Washington, March 19. Western Colorado has joined in the general invitation to former President Coolidge to pay the state a visit with a pressing request that he come to Ouray on June 14 to speak at a joint Flag Day celebration under auspices of the western Colorado jurisdiction of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. The Elks' invitation was forwarded to the ex-president at Northampton, Mass. Saturday thru the office of Senator Lawrence C. Phipps of Colorado. It was extended by Judge George W. Bruce of Montrose in behalf of the fraternal order, and all the people of the western slope, including eastern Utah.

Coolidge, once again, declined the offer and, in fact, never visited Colorado. Bruce was ultimately given an honorary life membership in the Montrose Elks Lodge. He served as the 7th Judicial District Judge for 22 years. He maintained homes in both Montrose and Ouray and died in Ouray on August 13, 1949. His body was shipped to Wichita, Kansas, where he was interred in the Mission Cemetery.



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

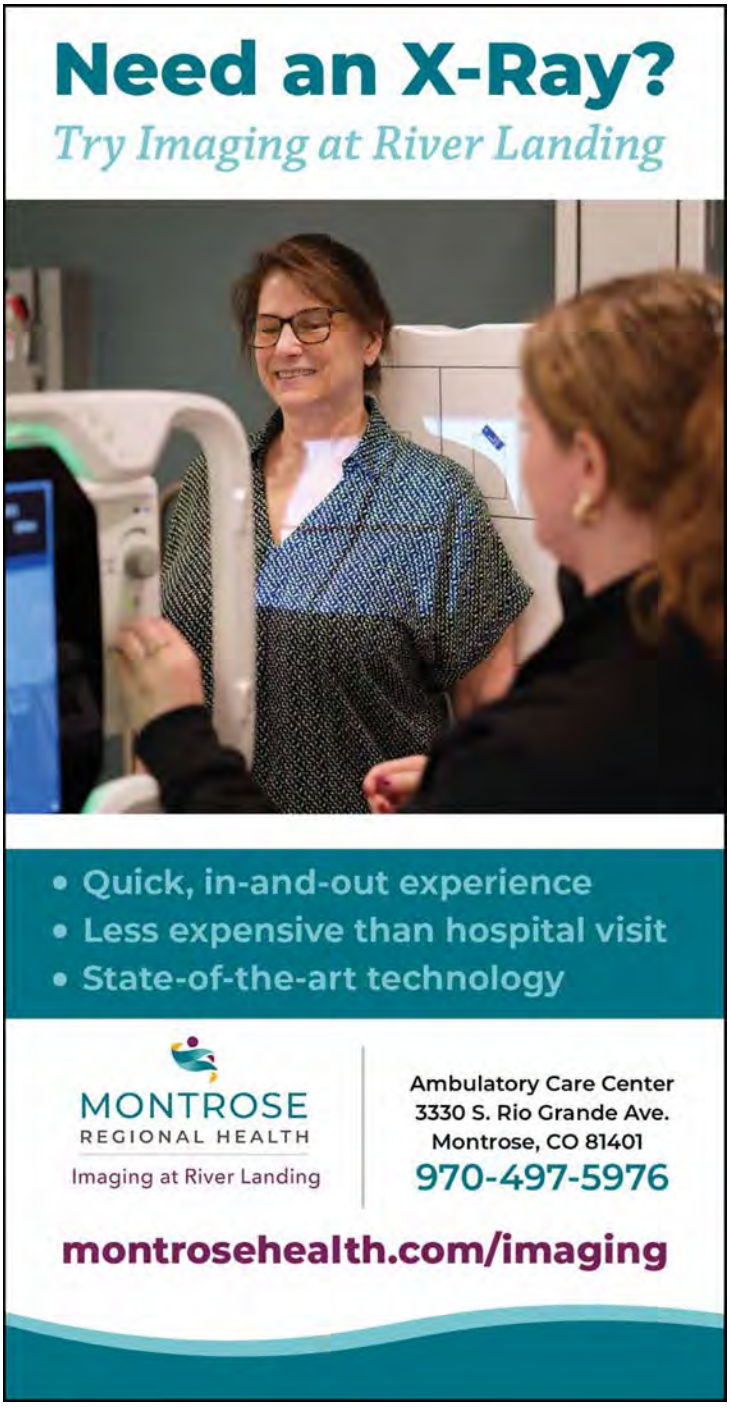
8TH ANNUAL FREE MRS. CLAUS FOR A CAUSE EVENT

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Join Mrs. Claus and her elves for the 8th Annual FREE Mrs. Claus for a Cause event, Friday December 18th through Sunday December 20th at Friendship Hall in Montrose (1001 N 2nd St). This FREE three-day event for the Western Slope community will include toys, warm clothing items, Disney characters, pictures with Santa, Toadstool Face Painting, The Balloon Dude, haircuts/tinsel, DJ AK Valdez, Cyllia Lynn Photography, Elevation Academy of Dance, cookie decorating, games, toy building with Home Depot, hot cocoa bar, yoga, the Montrose Children's Museum and more! The first two days are for everyone (December 18th & 19th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and the third day is for special needs families only (December 20th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.). While attendance is free, registration is required to reserve your spot through the Mrs. Claus for a Cause website. Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are still available, and more information can be found at mrsclausforacause.org

Mrs. Claus for a Cause is a non-profit organization that wholeheartedly embraces the spirit of giving during the holiday season. This organization is committed to supporting underprivileged youth and special needs individuals by gifting toys and warm clothing options around Christmas time. Our efforts stem from a deep sense of compassion and a desire to make a positive impact on the lives of those who need it the most.

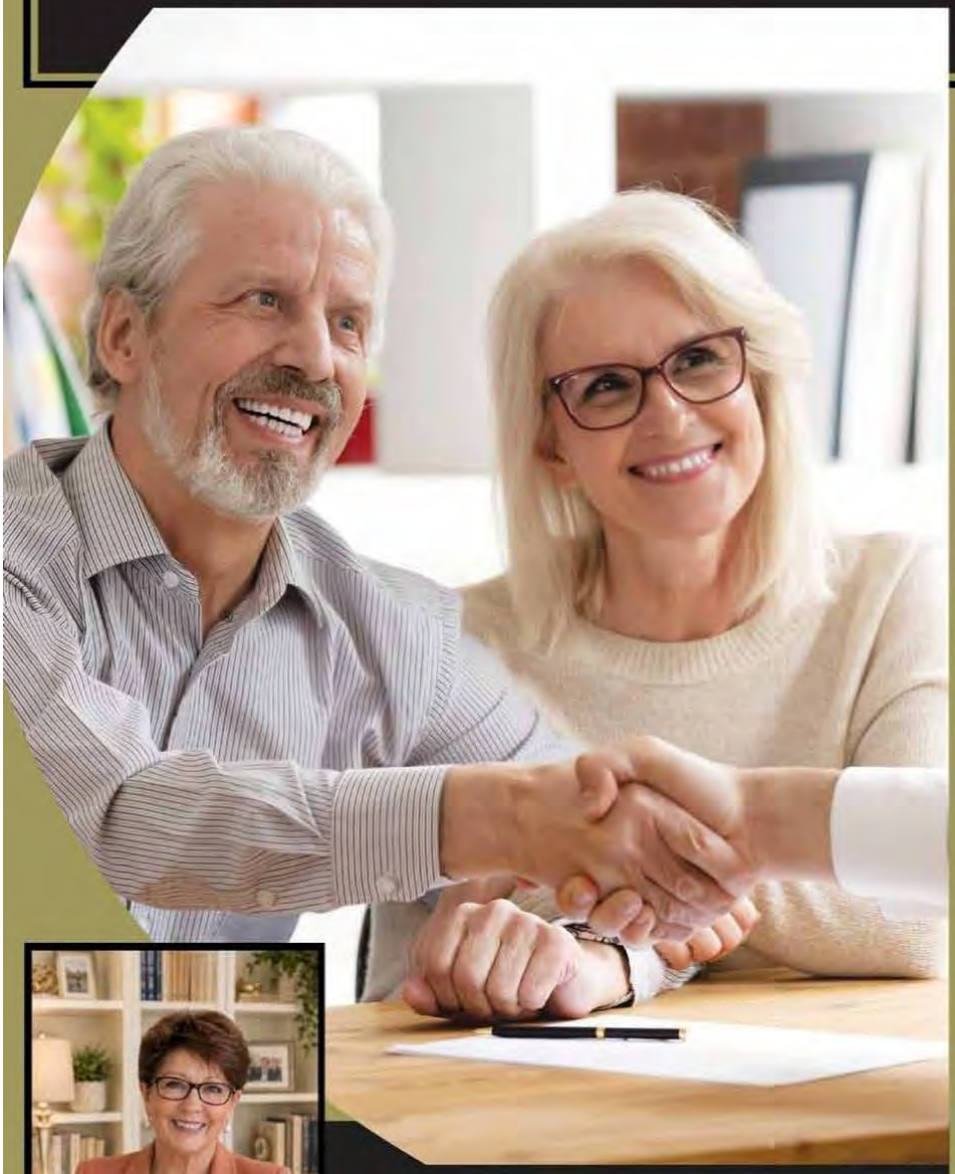
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH NAMES NICHOLAS COLLERAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Special to the Mirror

DELTA- The Delta Health Board of Directors has named Nicholas Colleran, MSHA, MBA, as Chief Executive Officer of Delta Health. Colleran has served as Interim CEO since March 2026.

Colleran joined Delta Health as Chief Operating Officer in December 2024. Since stepping into the interim role in March 2026, he has provided steady operational and strategic leadership through a period of significant organizational transformation for Delta Health's 49-bed hospital and its clinics throughout Delta County.

"Nick has demonstrated leadership during his time as Interim CEO; leading with discipline and a clear plan, by stabilizing our finances and strengthening our leadership team," said Rep. Matt Soper, Chairman of the Delta Health Board of Directors. "The Board is confident Nick is the right person to lead Delta Health forward, as he shares the community vision for healthcare by ensuring that we keep high-quality care, close to home, right here in Delta County."

During his tenure, Colleran led a comprehensive liquidity stabilization plan that grew Delta Health's days cash on hand from roughly 6 days to 30 within four months. He also strengthened revenue cycle performance and helped recruit and onboard a permanent Chief Financial Officer.

“I look forward to continuing the great work that we have accomplished, as an organization, over the past year. Delta Health is where families find care close to home, and where people trust us in some of the most important moments of their lives. That trust has been earned over generations by the physicians, nurses and staff who show up every day for this community, and it’s my job to protect it and build on it,” said Colleran. “My commitment to the people of Delta County is simple: I will listen, I will be present, and I will make decisions with your health and your future in mind. From Delta to Cedaredge, from Orchard City to the North Fork, rural communities deserve high-quality care without having to drive long distances to get it. I’m committed to strengthening the services we offer, supporting the dedicated people who deliver that care, and making sure Delta Health remains independent, accessible and here for years to come.”

With more than 20 years of experience in healthcare, Colleran has developed extensive expertise in hospital operations, physician practice management, and healthcare leadership. His experience spans both physician practices and hospital systems, providing a comprehensive understanding of healthcare operations across diverse settings. Throughout his career, he has held senior executive leadership positions, including Vice President and Chief Operating Officer roles, where he has led operational and financial turnarounds, expanded clinical service lines, and improved quality and patient safety outcomes. Colleran holds both a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

###

About Delta Health – Established in 1913, Delta County Memorial Hospital, now doing business as Delta Health, has been serving the region for over 100 years. Delta Health is a nonprofit, countywide healthcare system with a 49-bed hospital and additional clinic locations throughout the western slope of Colorado. Delta Health’s mission is to inspire hope in a healing environment by providing remarkable care, with the vision to provide compassionate, quality healthcare that the community can trust. For more information go to deltahealthco.org, like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram.



WELCOME HOME ALLIANCE FOR VETERANS

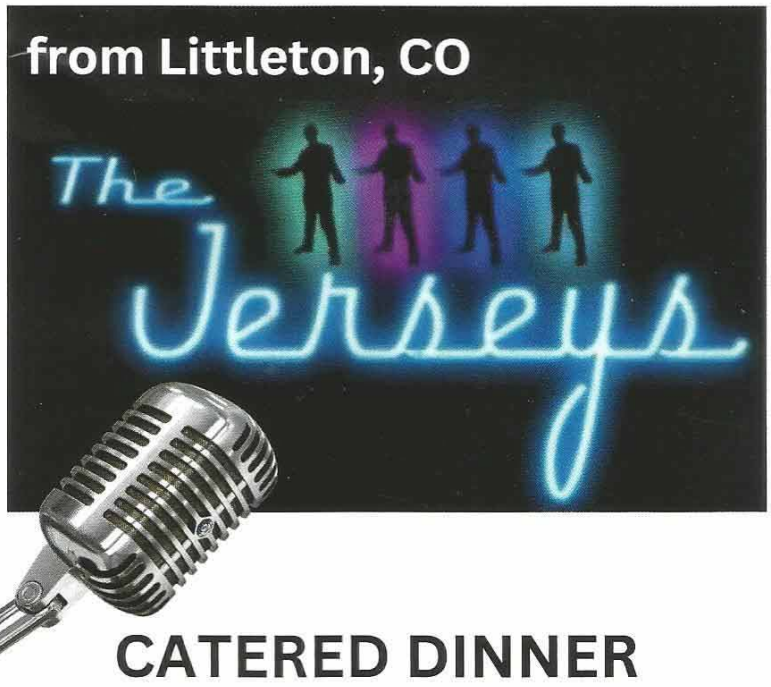
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE FOUNDER OPENS UP ABOUT THE SILENCE OF BUILDING A BUSINESS ALONE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Venessa Kettle, 25, founder of Revenue Operations Advisors (ROA), says one side of entrepreneurship doesn't get talked about enough: the silence.

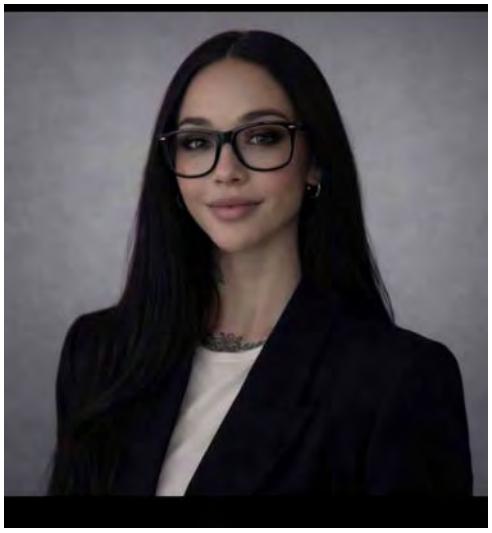
Kettle runs ROA from Montrose, helping growing businesses find where sales slip away and fix it. She came up through what she calls the brutal training grounds of corporate America, including T-Mobile's High Potential Leadership Program and Winners Circle, and managed 30 stores as a regional manager at Verizon's Russell Cellular, earning President's Circle recognition. Through ROA, she has served as an embedded head of revenue operations for a software company, overseeing CRM automation, sales playbooks, and revenue forecasting for three sales and marketing teams.

"People talk about the money and the long hours," Kettle said. "They don't talk about being the one who has to make the call when you're not sure, and you can't fully explain that pressure to the people around you."

Her approach to leadership is simple. "Leadership is being terrified and executing anyway," she said.

Kettle is HubSpot certified, Revenue Operations certified, a member of the Revenue Operations Alliance, and a two-time Influential Women honoree.

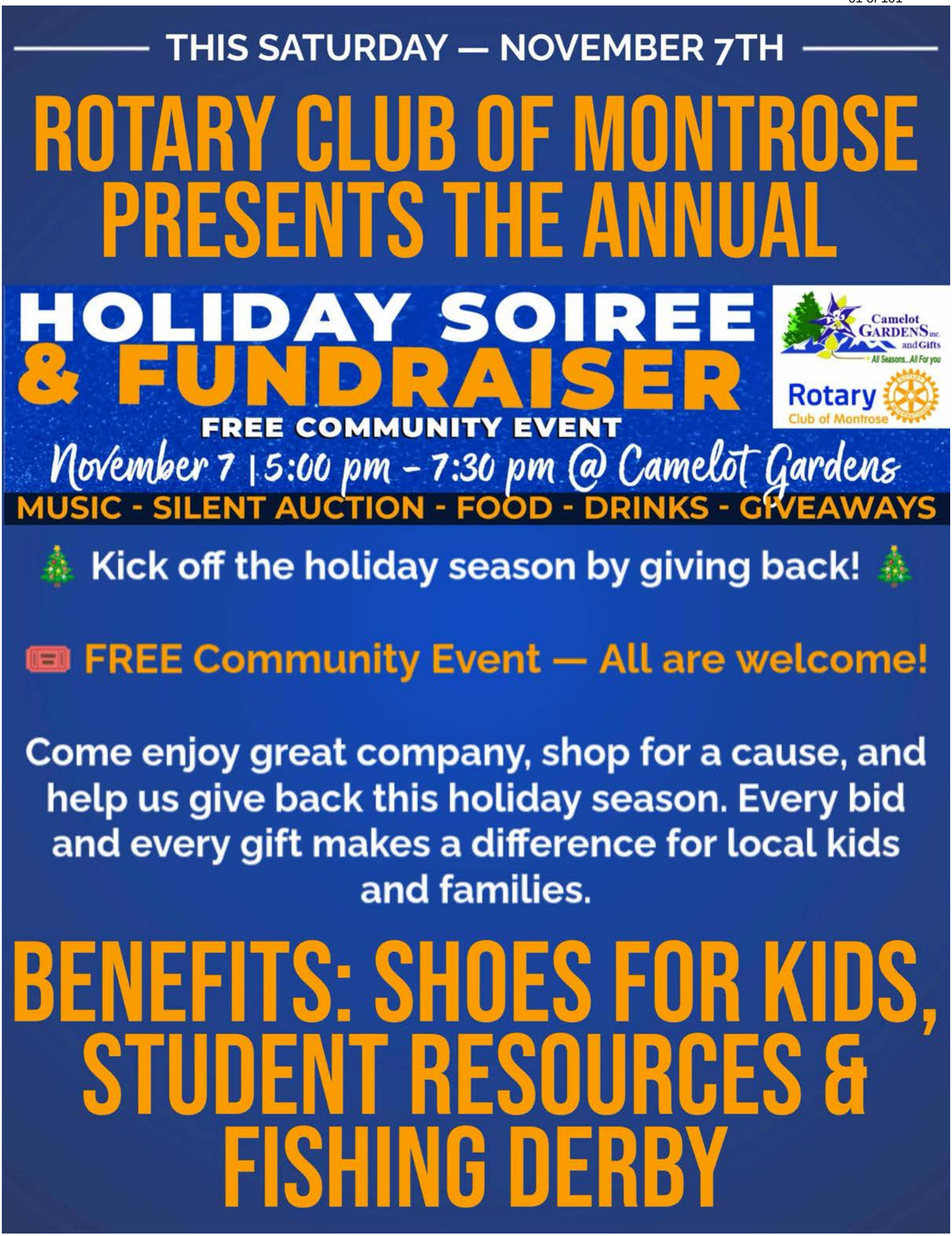
To learn more, visit venessakettle.com or call 970-258-5022.



Montrose Entrepreneur Venessa Kettle. Courtesy photo.

CARTOONS BY MARIANO VELASCO




THIS SATURDAY — NOVEMBER 7TH
ROTARY CLUB OF MONTROSE PRESENTS THE ANNUAL
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November 7 | 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm @ Camelot Gardens
MUSIC - SILENT AUCTION - FOOD - DRINKS - GIVEAWAYS
Kick off the holiday season by giving back!
FREE Community Event — All are welcome!
Come enjoy great company, shop for a cause, and help us give back this holiday season. Every bid and every gift makes a difference for local kids and families.
BENEFITS: SHOES FOR KIDS, STUDENT RESOURCES & FISHING DERBY

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DON'T CALL HER ROBOT, HER NAME IS TALLY



By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-I was shopping for a few necessary grocery items early Sunday, and the busy Downtown City Market was relatively quiet. I was grabbing a loaf of bread from a shelf when someone buzzed by me. She was not your average shopper; she was gliding rather than walking. She was very slim, and taller than I am. I wanted to say hello, but she was much too quick.

Caught off guard, I turned to one of the City Market stockers working nearby.

"Where did that robot go?" was all I could think to ask.

The stocker did not miss a beat. "She's probably gone to another aisle," she said.

"She?" I asked. The Stocker responded. "Yes, her name is Tally. She's really something."

I did some reseach,and found that Tally is the official name of the Simbe inventory robot now working in retail outlets across the country, including here in Montrose.

If you see her, say hello!

At left, Simbe courtesy photo.

DELTA COUNTY AWARDED $10,184 COLORADO TOURISM MARKETING GRANT TO SUPPORT FOUR-SEASON TOURISM MARKETING

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Delta County Tourism has been awarded a $10,184 Tourism Marketing Grant from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) to support the development of a new four-season tourism marketing campaign, "Colorado's Backyard: Authentically Western."

The initiative will strengthen Delta County's position as a year-round travel destination, highlighting the area's agricultural heritage, outdoor recreation opportunities, cultural attractions and distinctive Western Colorado communities.

The grant will support the creation of a professional visual content library featuring the people, places and experiences that make Delta County unique. This collection will provide marketing resources for digital advertising, social media, tourism websites, print publications and collaborative promotions with local and regional tourism partners.

Through the "Colorado's Backyard: Authentically Western" campaign, Delta County Tourism aims to expand awareness among priority Colorado travel markets, encourage visitation throughout all four seasons and strengthen the local visitor economy. The campaign will emphasize working agricultural landscapes, local food and wine, outdoor recreation, cultural heritage and welcoming small communities.

"We are excited to collaborate with the Colorado Tourism Office of OEDIT to showcase Delta County's agricultural heritage, outdoor recreation, and authentic Western culture. This partnership will help us promote year-round visitation and support our local tourism economy.", Amy Perkins, Delta County Tourism & Marketing Coordinator

The Colorado Tourism Office's Tourism Marketing Grant Program awards funding to eligible applicants for projects that promote the state as a tourism destination, supporting CTO's mission to "empower the tourism industry by inspiring the world to explore Colorado responsibly and respectfully". Additionally, these grants may be used for marketing projects that support destination stewardship such as educating visitors on how to recreate responsibly.

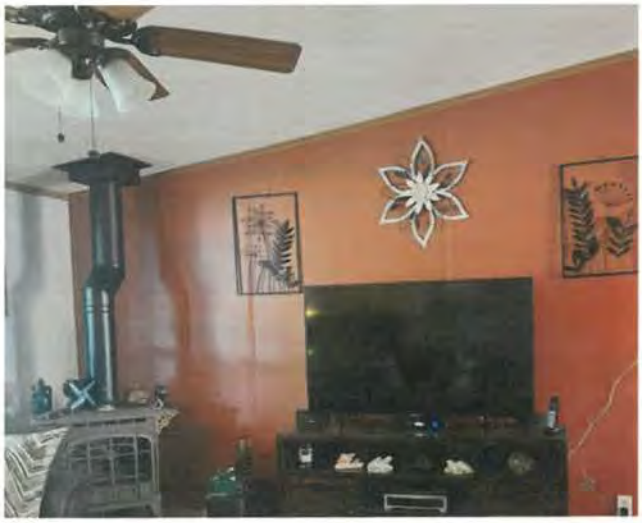
Project work will begin in January 2026 and will spur future economic development and growth for the tourism industry throughout the year and beyond.

This year, the program offers a maximum grant amount of $49,000, with tiered matching requirements that decrease for smaller grant requests. For grants under $20,000, a 4:1 match requirement applies, while grants above this threshold maintain a 2:1 match. This change from previous years underscores CTO's commitment to enabling more significant marketing efforts from smaller tourism entities.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY SCHOOL COUNSELOR RECOGNIZED AS STATEWIDE FINALIST

Special to the Mirror

DELTA, Colo. Amanda Cerise Named Finalist for Colorado High School Counselor of the Year.

For Amanda Cerise, school counseling is about more than helping students navigate their school years. It's about preparing them for everything that comes next.

Cerise, who serves as the school counselor at both Cedaredge Middle School and Cedaredge High School, was named a finalist for the 2026 Colorado High School Counselor of the Year award through the Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA).

The association celebrated outstanding school counselors during its annual awards dinner on October 7 in Keystone, Colorado.

For Cerise, the recognition came as a complete surprise. She learned she had been nominated only after advancing to the final stage of the selection process. Letters of support had been submitted on her behalf by students, school leadership, and other members of the school community.

"It was really a very nice surprise," Cerise shared.

As part of the finalist selection process, Cerise was asked to provide information about her counseling programs, student outcomes, and the philosophy guiding her work.

For her, that philosophy begins with understanding students and recognizing that their needs change from year to year.



Amanda Cerise. Courtesy photo.

"I think the kids are important to me, and trying to plan what they need, which isn't necessarily the same every year," she explained.

Cerise considers the culture of each school, the challenges students face, and their successes when developing programs and identifying resources to support them.

With experience as a Licensed Professional Counselor outside the school setting, Cerise brings a broad perspective to her work. While recognizing the connection between mental health and academic success, she emphasizes college and career readiness, personal development, and helping students build the skills they need to navigate life independently.

"Primarily, my job is to get them ready for whatever happens outside of school after they finish high school," Cerise said.

Her work across both Cedaredge Middle School and Cedaredge High School provides an opportunity to support students through important transitions in their education. From developing healthy decision-making skills during middle school to exploring college and career opportunities in high school, her focus remains on helping students prepare for their futures.

Cerise also recognizes that students need skills beyond academics. Learning to manage challenges, make informed decisions, and respond to difficult situations are important parts of preparing young people for adulthood.

Her approach reflects an understanding that student success looks different for every child and that effective school counseling must adapt to meet those changing needs.

Although Cerise was not selected as the statewide award recipient, being named a finalist is a significant professional honor. The recognition is especially meaningful because it began with nominations and letters of support from people who have experienced her dedication firsthand.

For Delta County School District, Cerise's recognition is an opportunity to celebrate the important role school counselors play in helping students succeed, both in the classroom and beyond.

Delta County School District congratulates Amanda Cerise on this well-deserved statewide recognition and thanks her for her dedication to the students and families of Cedaredge Middle School and Cedaredge High School.

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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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

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Charter Issues Committee. Registered Agent: Robert Nicholson
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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

THANKS FOR THE WISDOM OF OUR MAYORS

Montrose Mirror Editor

I want to extend thanks to all the mayors of Montrose who have weighed in to help the campaign to vote no on all four city charter amendments. None of these amendments improve anything for the residents of Montrose; in fact, they make our form of home rule governing less effective. Altogether, these individuals have served on city council more than 100 years, and they have a solid understanding of how well the city government in Montrose operates as a nonpartisan government.

These 15 mayors include Republicans (the majority), Democrats, and independents. Together they have worked side by side with all of their councils to improve the quality of life for all in Montrose.

Please follow the lead of these mayors and vote no on all charter amendments on the ballot.

Thanks,

Bob Nicholson, Montrose

SCHOOL BOARD PICKED WRONG VP

Dear Editor,

After teaching Special Education for 35 years, I'll give you a hint why you can't find qualified people for your open positions. It is a very challenging job. You have to have a Masters, you spend hours collaborating with all other teachers and administrators, you schedule and coordinate with Speech and Lang. therapists, Occupational and Physical Therapists, counselors, doctors, other special educators etc., you often supervise and write lesson plans for (up to 5) paraprofessionals, you have a high level of parent contact, you spend your planning time and lunch hours testing students (when other teachers get to plan), you write IEPs that have grown to 30 pages long, test and update all objectives monthly and conduct annual IEP meetings on your students that are held at 7 am concluding as the bell rings to start classes or from 3:30-5 pm when other teachers can clean-up, plan for the next day or even go home. It is obvious why teachers do not choose to stay in these positions. Possibly a search of Mid-western Universities would draw "mountain –eyed young teachers" west to our beautiful area.

Electing Shane Daly, a new board member and the least experienced person on the board as far as Public School involvement goes, demonstrates that you are not voting based on qualifications, rather, your AGENDA. I love you, Shane as a person, but have been waiting since before the School Board elections for you to "be transparent" about your lack of Public School experience. As far as I know, and please correct me if I am wrong, you grew up here and only attended Public School part-time @ Northdside Elementary for a few years while being homeschooled. (I applaud your family's decision to do that. This continues to be an awesome opportunity for ALL homeschoolers to participate in the District's classes, sports teams, music, arts, extracurricular activities, Special Ed testing and services etc.) You have not disclosed this. Your own children do not attend public school. You have had 1/5 attend Public School as your oldest was already attending when you adopted her. You have not disclosed this. So, the 4 "Conservative" members, chose you over Jody Hovde, who received her education, spent her career in and had her children in full-time Public Education. Finally, she has served on the MCSD Board of Directors for the last 6 years. Shane, if you were all the things Ms. Vincent claimed, you would have NOT accepted the nomination for Vice Pres and you would have voted for Ms. Hovde as the more qualified person. Ms, Vincent, Mr. Scarbourough, and Ms. President, please explain to your community how you thought Mr. Daly was more qualified than Ms. Hovde to be the Vice President.

Once again Director Scarbourough, (according to your lack of Board Engagement, in the last month you did not visit any schools, speak with any teachers, staff or parents, or attend any extracurricular events. I guess we need to realize you do not intend to put any more time or energy toward this position other than attend the bi-monthly meetings. But, even your fellow board members were surprised when you stated you "did not want to hear from the MHS students 10 minutes a month during meetings as it would make your meetings go too late." Scott, even Ms. Balleck had to remind you that Montrose High School Student Advisory Board (H. New business #7) is a worthy item on your agendas, considering you proclaim to "put students first". Please resign and let someone who cares do this job.

Sincerely disappointed,

Zoe Werden, Montrose

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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

MONTROSE COUNTY PROPOSES NEW DATA CENTER REGULATIONS, PUBLIC HEARING OCTOBER 29

Editor:

The Planning Commission meeting was called to order with a room full of eager community members, Montrose County Planning Commission members, and county employees. The meeting began with the normal agenda items, followed by a well-put-together presentation by Planning and Development Director Tallmadge Richmond on the proposed rules and regulations that would allow for the construction of data centers in Montrose County. Currently, a six-month moratorium on new data center development applications is scheduled to end December 31, 2026. To be clear, this was NOT a hearing to approve a specific data center. Richmond also made it clear that, to his knowledge, no applications have been filed with the county at this time. Which makes perfect sense, because we don't even have the rules for building one set in stone yet. It didn't take long to realize that a lot of time and effort has been spent on this project, as it rightfully should be, in order to protect the county and its citizens.

After hearing the presentation and questions from not only board members but also members of the public, I personally feel that the moratorium will more than likely be extended. Though a great deal of thought and research has gone into the many factors involved in allowing such projects, there is clearly still a ways to go before reaching a point where the county and its citizens are comfortable moving forward.

I also noticed that even though a large majority of those in attendance appeared to be against the construction of data centers, I believe many understand that it's not necessarily a matter of if, but when. Yes, I believe it's going to happen. Just when and where is perhaps the bigger question.

What I do like about the direction the county appears to be going is that each permit application will be approached on a case-by-case basis. Just because you meet the minimum requirements, whatever those end up being, and are located in the proper zone doesn't necessarily mean you're going to be approved for a permit.

Now Let's Get to the Controversial Stuff — The Positives and Negatives

During the meeting, the public raised lots of concerns, ranging from the consumption of electricity and water to environmental footprints, noise, light pollution, and potential health concerns. Various issues involving livestock were also brought up, and many of the questions ultimately led to the same concern: How would any of this even be possible?

The main consensus I took away from the discussions was that more research needs to be done.

First, we need to research the potential impacts on the community, especially regarding the concerns that were brought forward. Second, we need to determine where the bar should be set in order to keep those impacts to a minimum.

As for figuring out the "how," I believe that responsibility would fall largely on the company proposing to build the data center.

Something else that was brought up was transparency. How do we make sure everything is transparent? How do we ensure that qualified, independent third-party companies are conducting the research and providing accurate information? We need reliable data on all the issues of concern.

Then, once a data center is being built, or even after it becomes operational, how do we make sure it stays compliant?

As we all know, when it comes to money, things aren't always on the up and up, if you know what I mean.

What About the Positives?

Now, not one person during the meeting spoke about the potential positives of having a data center in our community.

Data centers can provide significant economic benefits to cities and counties, including job creation, increased tax revenues, and infrastructure improvements. They can enhance local economies by generating additional revenue that can help support schools, roads, and public services, while also attracting supporting businesses and services.

Now, the data center itself doesn't necessarily do all of that directly. Many of the jobs created would be temporary positions during the construction phase, and the number of permanent jobs could be relatively small.

But data centers are the backbone of today's and tomorrow's digital economy. According to projections by GSMA Intelligence, the broader digital economy is expected to account for close to one-third of global GDP by 2030.

Data centers are part of the foundation of a 21st-century digital economy, providing the technology infrastructure behind many of the amenities of modern life and supporting our businesses, healthcare, education, aviation, retail, and beyond.

This type of infrastructure has the potential to attract more business and industry to Western Colorado, creating additional jobs

Continued next pg

COUNTY PROPOSES NEW DATA CENTER REGS

From previous pg

and revenues.

I know many people don't want to grow and don't want change. But growth is happening, and I believe it will continue to happen. So let's make sure that if it's going to happen, and I believe it is, we do it correctly.

Many will say, "Well, I don't like or use AI."

Okay, but you surely might appreciate a nice, big, new hospital if UCHealth or some other healthcare organization eventually came in and helped rescue Montrose Regional Health because our community had become more financially viable.

That's just a one example of what could potentially happen if we are fiscally responsible with the growth that's coming. There are many other possibilities worth considering. How about a property tax break for senior citizens? (No I'm not there yet) but I like the idea of some relief for our elders. How about caps on electricity costs? So much we could perhaps barter into the equation.

Of course, none of these benefits are guaranteed. That's why we need to look at both sides of the equation and make sure the potential benefits outweigh the costs to our community. I would think that a cap on the number of data centers would need to be discussed as well.

What About the Long-Term Impacts of Growth?

One thing I feel seems to have been put on the back burner is the long-term impact of projects like these.

Montrose County's 2026 population is estimated at approximately 44,495, with about half of those residents living within the city limits.

With the projects currently underway, along with future developments such as data centers and other industries, Montrose continues to grow at an estimated rate of around 2% annually.

Then add in tourism, and our roads are already overloaded. I'm sure everyone has noticed the congestion on Townsend Avenue and what appears to be an increased number of traffic accidents over the past year or so. We have a new public works building being constructed near the new roundabout on South Rio Grande Avenue, and the road is expected to continue toward Target. I believe this was originally supposed to be part of a bypass. But will it really be enough? I personally believe this will do little to nothing to remedy the traffic problems in and around town, let alone the congestion on Townsend Avenue, especially as plans move forward to reconfigure Montrose High School. With the growth we've already experienced, including the Amazon distribution center, and now the possibility of a data center or other large industrial developments, when are we going to seriously address the bypass, or lack of one? We can't continue to bring in new development without looking at the bigger picture. What about our roads, emergency services, schools, water resources, utilities, and other infrastructure? Are we planning far enough ahead, or are we simply reacting to growth after it happens? These are valid questions that our community needs to be asking now, rather than waiting until we're dealing with problems that could have been prevented. Again, I'm not against growth. I'm simply saying that if we're going to grow, we need to plan for it and be fiscally responsible in the process.

I encourage everyone who is interested in the growth and future of our community to get involved. If you can't make it to the meetings, you can sign up on the county's website for updates. Get engaged and pay attention. Do your research, ask questions, and don't simply rely on what someone else tells you. Change isn't always bad, even though we don't always welcome it. There will be monthly meetings and public hearings on this subject moving forward. Once the rules and regulations are adopted, we will more than likely see additional public hearings regarding any permit applications filed for the construction of data centers. This is our community, and we all have a responsibility to stay informed and participate in the process.

Conclusion: I commend Montrose County for taking the time to research how to properly permit a data center in rural Colorado. I just hope it doesn't stop there. I hope they don't rush the process and continue to seek out the thoughts, concerns, and ideas of the citizens who live here. I also hope they bring in qualified, independent experts who can provide accurate information on the potential environmental, economic, and infrastructure impacts of these projects. There are a lot of unanswered questions, and those questions deserve honest, well-researched answers. At the same time, I believe we need to keep an open mind and recognize that growth and technology aren't going away. We can either work together to help guide that growth responsibly or find ourselves trying to catch up with it later.

That's why we have public hearings, planning commissions, and rules and regulations in the first place. After all, it's not just about what we build today. It's about what we leave behind for the generations that follow,

Jason Conant, Montrose CO

OPINION/EDITORIAL:COMMENTARY

ELEVEN SOUTH PARK, WHERE MERCY TAKES AN ADDRESS

By Douglas B. Vandergraph


Douglas P. Vandergraph. Courtesy photo.

There is a difference between telling someone we care and giving them a place where that care can be found.

In Montrose, The Grace Center has announced a community food-relief gathering for November 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 11 South Park Avenue. The organization is also accepting winter clothing and essential supplies. Those are straightforward details, the kind that can be written on a calendar or passed to a friend.

But when a household is short on groceries or someone faces cold weather without adequate clothing, an address can mean the difference between vague encouragement and actual help.

In Luke 3, people ask John the Baptist what a changed life should look like. He answers in language anyone can understand: those with two coats should share with someone who has none, and those with food should do likewise. He does not ask his listeners to become impressive. He asks them to notice a need and respond.

I am a Christian, and I believe that instruction is still an examination of our faith. It is easy to speak passionately about what the world lacks. It takes a different kind of devotion to learn which sizes of winter clothing a ministry needs, what food is useful, when volunteers can serve, and how to respect the person asking for assistance.

The most important person in a food-distribution line is not the donor who wants to be congratulated. It is the neighbor whose life must continue after the bags have been carried home. A parent may need ingredients that can become several meals. Someone living alone may need smaller quantities. A person with a disability may need another way to access help. The best service starts by asking and listening.

I live in Fort Collins, not Montrose, and I have not visited The Grace Center. I mention its work because its invitation is public, practical and timely. I would encourage local readers who can help to consult the organization directly about its current needs rather than guessing.

Montrose has many places where people can worship, work, shop and gather. What strengthens a community is the willingness to make room for neighbors whose circumstances have changed.

The gospel does not become more convincing because we speak louder about generosity. It becomes visible when love knows where to go, what to bring, and how to treat people when they arrive.

Eleven South Park is one address. May it remind us that compassion should be possible to find all across town.

Community announcement and donation details: Thank you for inviting community commentary and for reporting on the Western Slope.

Douglas B. Vandergraph, Fort Collins



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOANNE MARIE BIGLEY-RILEY-THOMAS
July 16, 1934- October 17, 2026



JOANNE MARIE BIGLEY-RILEY-THOMAS, 92, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2026, at the Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose, Colorado.

She was born on July 16, 1934, in Battle Creek, Michigan, to Thomas Abner Bigley and Ethel May Wright. In 1952, Joanne enlisted in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. Assigned to the medical unit at Hill Air Force Base in Utah as a medical assistant and clerk, she and her fellow personnel cared for wounded soldiers and provided medical care for the airmen assigned to the base.

Following her military service, she married Jack Edwin Riley on October 2, 1953, in Ogden, Utah, and resided in Utah for over forty years, where they raised their six children. During this chapter of her life, Joanne joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, having been baptized on April 13, 1955, and later sealed to her family in the Manti Temple on July 16, 1960. Throughout her life, she maintained a private, enduring belief and faith in God.

Joanne was an intelligent, beautiful, and hardworking woman who went on to pursue her education at the St. Mark's-Westminster School of Nursing in Salt Lake City, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in the mid-1970s. As a registered nurse, she served her community in a wide variety of clinical roles, notably working for several years as a civil service charge nurse at the Tooele Army Depot Medical Clinic in Tooele, Utah.

Following the end of her first marriage in the early 1980s, she married Roger Thomas on May 20, 1985, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and relocated to Glenwood Springs, Colorado, where she continued her nursing career in a variety of capacities until her retirement in the late 1990s. She remained a resident of Glenwood Springs until moving to Montrose, Colorado, where in her final years, as her health declined, she was cared for by the kind staff at the Valley Manor Care Center in Montrose.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ethel May Wright and Thomas Abner Bigler; her first husband, Jack Edwin Riley; her siblings Dorothy Louise Bigley-Jarvis, Donna May Bigley-Banks, and David Thomas Bigley; and her half-sisters Judith Marlee Banks-Warren, and Judith Kay Bigley-Duff.

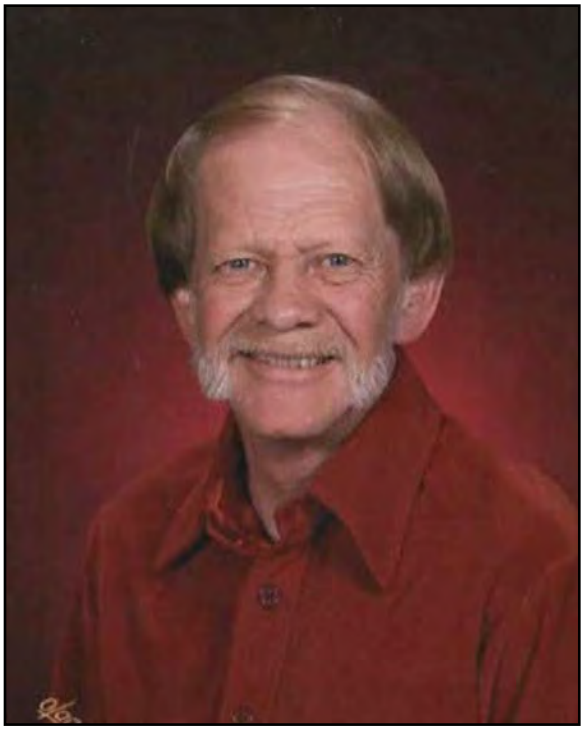
She is survived by her husband, Roger Thomas; her half-sister Susan Kay Banks-Carnell-Baxter, her six children: David Lee Riley [Vonnelle], Larry Edwin Riley [Colleen], Jeffrey Thomas Riley, Caryl Marie Riley-McCormick [Brent], Lynda May Riley-Drake [Stephen], and Launi Riley-Anderson; as well as 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place. A graveside committal service and interment of her ashes will be held at 10 AM on April 16, 2027, at Valley View Memorial Park, 4335 West 4100 South, West Valley City, Utah. A private family gathering will follow the service.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DENNIS LYNN MILLS
July 22, 1955- October 20, 2026



DENNIS LYNN MILLS, 71, passed away at his home in Montrose on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

Dennis was born on July 22, 1955, to Monna Lou (Gilbert) Mills and H.L. (Dude) Mills in Glenwood Springs Colorado.

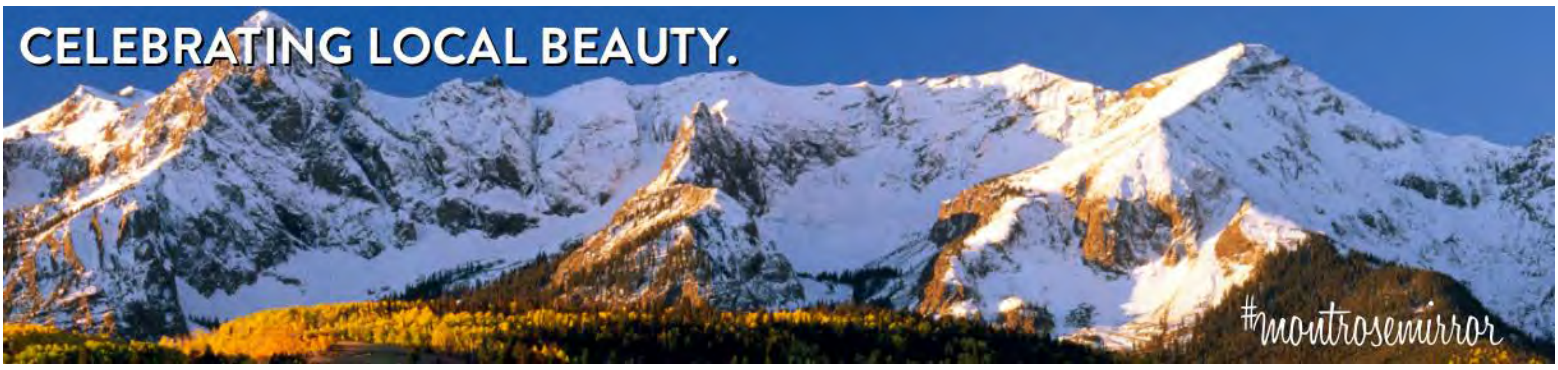
The family lived in Delta County until Dennis' teen years when they moved to Montrose. Dennis attended Montrose High School and graduated in 1974. After graduation Dennis attended Western State College in Gunnison for a time. Deciding college wasn't for him, he moved back to Montrose and returned to the lumber business. Dennis worked in the lumber business along with his father and brothers. Dennis began as a boy working in the yard at Independent Lumber. In 1968 Dude Mills and Bob Jackson bought a Montrose lumber yard and renamed it J & M Lumber. Dennis worked at J & M Lumber until1995 when Dude and Bob sold the yard. The ownership of the lumber yard changed many times throughout the years. Dennis stayed on through them all and worked as an Outside Salesman until he retired from Builders First Source in June of 2024.

Dennis loved the outdoors. He enjoyed gardening, growing and canning vegetables. Fishing, hunting and weekends on the family property at Waterdog were things Dennis loved. From the time his kids were small until a few years ago riding the 4-wheelers and exploring and making new trails on the land was the entire Mills family's favorite. Dennis was a wonderful loving and dedicated father, grandfather, brother, son and husband. Dennis took great pride and joy in his children and cherished his wife. His grandchildren were the light of his life; with them he was all smiles. He will be greatly missed.

Dennis married Mary Jo Schwindt on August 4, 1979, in Lakewood Colorado where Mary Jo grew up. The two lived and raised their children in Montrose for the last 47 years. Dennis was preceded in death by his father Dude, mother Monna, and brothers Danny and Darrin Mills. Dennis is survived by wife Mary Jo, daughter Nicole (Jonathon) Howell, daughter Andrea (Jesse) Gross, son Jeremy, grandchildren McKenzie, Addison, Alexis, Ayla, Marley and Lyrik all of Montrose, Qwynn (Colorado Springs) and Titan (Texas),

There will be a Celebration of Life at Crippin Funeral Home, 802 East Main Street; 1pm Friday November 6, 2026. The celebration will be followed by a reception at the Montrose Elks Lodge, 801 S. Hillcrest Drive.

Donations to Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans in Memory of Dennis can be made through Donate to Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans www.buildinglives.org/donate/ and would be appreciated by his family.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JOHN EDWARD YOUNG
May 9, 1947 – September 25, 2026



John was born in Houston, Texas as a fifth-generation Texan. He was always "Big John" in every aspect of life: Boy Scouts, high school football, thespians, guest ranch cowboy, ROTC and the US Marines. He began his career in the US Marines and went on to become a Fireman in Houston. He met his wife, Glenda White, while working as an EMT in Houston. They were married in 1984. They moved to Ridgway, CO in 1999. He had two children, a daughter Lindsey and a son, John Henry. He also had two granddaughters, Brooke and Riley. His wife and family were the love of his life. He served his community in many aspects: President of FORS (Friends of Ridgway State Park); Vice-President of OCRA (Ouray County Rodeo Association), Volunteer at the Ridgway Visitors Center, Volunteer on the Ridgway Fire Department and Grand Marshall of the Ouray County Rodeo. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Bob and both of his children. The community will miss him. "Big John" had a life well lived. There will be a celebration of life for John on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose, Colorado from 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

VERNA NATEN CORNING
October 25, 1939 – September 23, 2026



VERNA NATEN CORNING, a retired flight attendant, earned her final set of wings on September 23, 2026 in Montrose, Colorado.

Born on October 25, 1939 in Ventura County California, Verna lived and was educated in Ojai, California, and graduated from Nordoff High School in Ojai in 1958. Shortly thereafter she attended airline stewardess school in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She began her airline career in February 1960, working primarily for United Airlines out of Los Angeles, CA. Verna served as a flight attendant until her retirement in 1983, when she moved to Ridgway, Colorado with her husband Frank Corning, who she had wed in 1977.

While in Ridgway, Verna and Frank immersed themselves in their new community and were very active participants. Verna was known for being very independent, for loving the solitude and beauty of Western Colorado and for her generosity. She had several favorite charities that she faithfully supported. She enjoyed collecting antiques, coins and stamps and spending quiet time at home watching her favorite show "Cops".

She was proceeded in death by her husband, Frank Corning, her parents Jess and Gertie (Barnes) Naten and her nine siblings, Naomi, Maxine, Marsha, Jack, Jesse, Richard, Franklin, Marvin and Walter. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Per Verna's request, no services are planned. She was laid to rest next to her husband, Frank at Dallas Park Cemetery in Ridgway, Colorado. Should you be so inclined, memorial contributions may be made to HopeWest or the Salvation Army.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

REYNA GOMEZ DEBRUIN
August, 1987-October 18, 2026



REYNA GOMEZ DEBRUIN, 39, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away on October 18, 2026.

Reyna was born in Montrose in August 1987. At age four, she was adopted by Gordon and Marilyn DeBruin. She grew up alongside her brothers, Jose and Grady, attending schools in Montrose and Mancos.

After high school, Reyna moved to Phoenix, where she connected with her biological father, Jose Gomez. In May 2026, she returned to Montrose with two of her three children and went to work at Marshalls, where she loved her co-workers and excelled at her job.

Reyna loved the Lord and was part of several church communities in Montrose and Phoenix. She enjoyed walks, volleyball, swimming, and cornhole games with her children. She had a kind, gentle disposition and worked hard as a single mom to care for her children. They were a tight-knit family.

Reyna is survived by her three children, Reyes, Christian, and Sara Gomez; her parents, Gordon and Marilyn DeBruin; and her brothers, Jose DeBruin and Grady DeBruin.

A private service will be held for the family, followed by cremation.

A saint is going home
Ere long we trust
She will reach the place
Where God's perfection reigns
And she will be held
In God's embrace
— Renee DeBruin





CRAIG CHILDS AND DAIVA ČESONIS STAR AT STORIES & POEMS TUESDAY NOV. 17

Special to Art & Sol

Courtesy photo



TELLURIDE-Storyteller and writer Craig Childs will join his wife poet Daiva Česonis, both of them living at the edge of Naturita Canyon on Wrights Mesa near Norwood, for an evening of storytelling and poetry at the Wilkinson Public Library's magazine room Tuesday Nov. 17th at 5:15 pm MST.

"These are two exceptional performers," said Art Goodtimes, director of the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program. "Craig is a well-respected Southwestern writer and a master storyteller, and Daiva is one of the best poets and performers of poetry in the region."

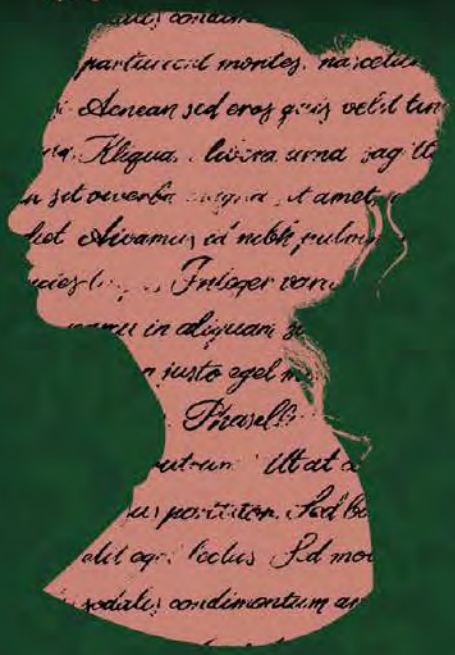
Childs is a hopeless wanderer and author of sixteen books, including The Wild Dark, The Secret Knowledge of Water, and House of Rain, and Prowl: On the Trail of the Mountain Lion, hitting bookstore shelves in April of 2027. Winner of the 2026 John Burroughs Medal, he has contributed to Radiolab and NPR's Science Friday, and his work has appeared in The Atlantic, The New York Times, High Country News, and Adventure Journal. In the fall of 2025, he and his poet wife were Writers in Residence at the Hemingway House in Ketchum, Idaho. He grew up back and forth between Arizona and Colorado, his mother addicted to outdoor adventure, his father a man of whiskey, guns, and Thoreau.

Česonis was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and now lives off-grid in southwest Colorado. She has a B.A. in Russian Studies and an M.A. in Diplomacy & International Conflict Resolution. She moved to Telluride in 1992 as part of the team that built the Gondola transportation system. She stayed and became a snowboard instructor, Art Director at Telluride Magazine, and a traveling minstrel for Mountainfilm on Tour before becoming co-owner of Between the Covers Bookstore, where she co-founded the Telluride Literary Arts Festival. From 2019-21 she was San Miguel County Poet Laureate. Her poems—in translation or written in her first language—appeared in the 2025 and 2026 Anthologies of Lithuanian American Poetry. Her first book of poetry is set to publish sometime this century.

Co-sponsored by the Wilkinson Public Library and the Telluride Institute, this literary event is free and open to the public of all ages. Attendees are encouraged to bring a story or poem of their own, or of someone they like, to read aloud.

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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MagicCirclePlayers.com · 420 S. 12th · Montrose, CO · 970-249-7838 · mcp@montrose.net

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

12TH ANNUAL CRAB CRACK RETURNS NOV. 13 TO SUPPORT BLACK CANYON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Community seafood boil, beer and wine garden, live music, and silent auction at the Montrose Pavilion

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE — Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club will host its 12th annual Crab Crack, a community seafood boil, on Friday, Nov. 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Montrose Pavilion. Dinner seating begins at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds support the Club's after-school and summer programs for local youth.

Crab Crack has become a Montrose tradition and has sold out every year. Guests gather at family-style tables for a seafood boil featuring crab, shrimp, hearty sides, and dessert. Rusty Mountain Revival will provide live music, and a silent auction will feature items from local businesses and supporters.

"Crab Crack is one of my favorite nights of the year, because it's Montrose at its best," said Jennie Tidwell, chair of the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors. "Neighbors tie on their bibs, get a little messy, and have a great time together. Every ticket keeps the Club's doors open for the kids and working families who count on us every afternoon. We'd love to see you there, but buy your tickets early, because this one always sells out."

Dinner tickets are $75, and kids are welcome at dinner with a ticket. A $25 Beer & Wine Garden ticket includes a custom glass and unlimited beer, seltzers, and wine. The Beer & Wine Garden is 21+, and all IDs will be checked. Tickets are available at https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/crab-crack--2026-2.

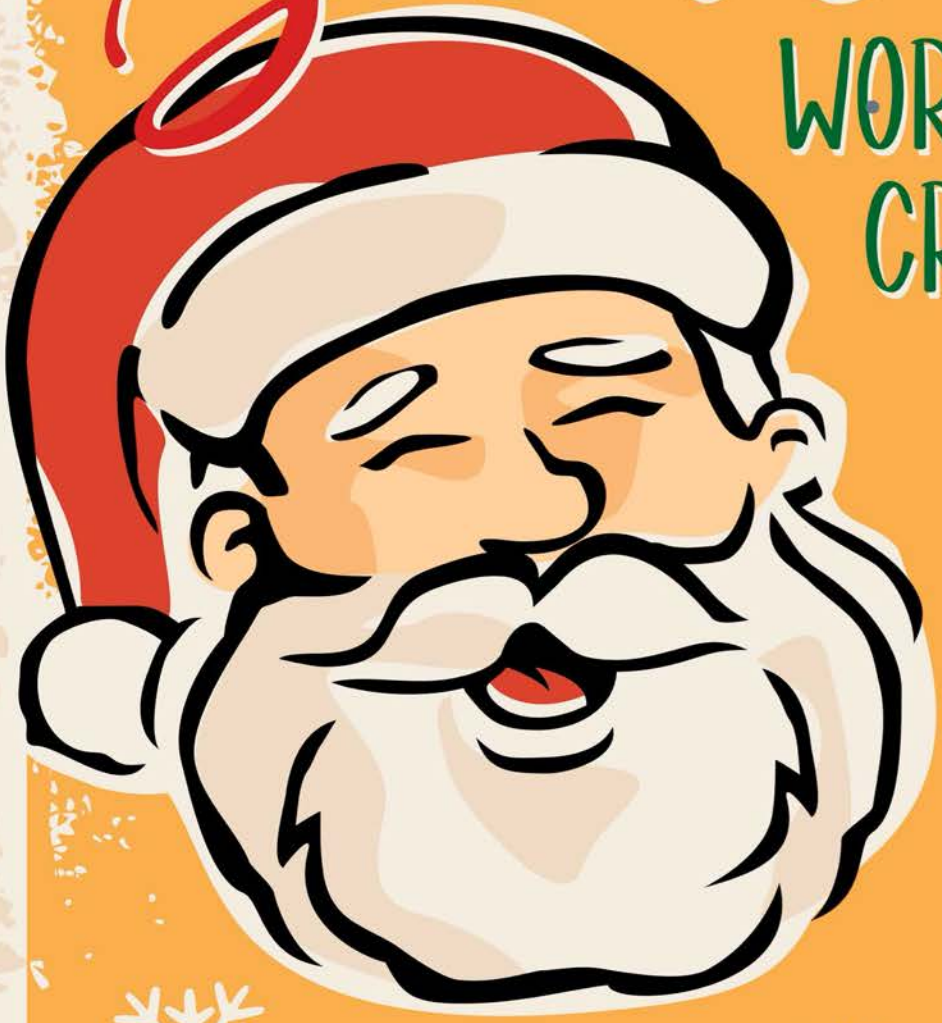
This year's sponsors include Isaiah Perez/Keller Williams, Viner Law, Timberline Bank, the Montrose Police Department, and the City of Montrose, among others. Businesses and groups that would like to join them can still sign on, and sponsorship is the best way to guarantee a reserved group table. To learn more, contact Amy Stahlin at 970-985-9137 or amy@bcbgc.org.

About Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club
For more than 25 years, Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club has given Montrose youth a safe, supportive place to learn, play, and grow. The Club serves more than 300 young people each year through after-school and summer programs. Its renovated Main Street facility, a former movie theater, provides space for STEM, athletics, art, music, and more. Reliable, affordable care at the Club means local parents can keep working while their kids thrive. BCBGC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations qualify for the Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit. Learn more at www.bcbgc.org.



Santa's

WORKSHOP & CRAFT SHOW



FRIDAY
DECEMBER 4 * 9-5

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 5 * 9-4

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6 * 11-4

JOIN US AT MONTROSE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS FRIENDSHIP HALL

OVER 90 VENDORS

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE: GROWING PAINS

Greetings Mirrorites,

There are so many hungry bears out and about this year that I can barely stand it. And it's not my imagination either. According to Outside magazine, there have been 73 bear attacks in North America so far this year. One fatal attack in Glacier National Park this year was the first in 30 years (Backpacker Magazine). The norm for North America is about 11 attacks per year more or less. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) reported a record-breaking 2026 with 12 confirmed bear attacks and over 6,100 total bear interaction reports, nearly double the numbers from the previous year and almost 4 times higher than the 5-year average.

This information kept veteran camper me from venturing out this fall without a group to go with. Normally I prefer solitude, but as climate change and drought affect wildlife populations and behavior, making the outback more dangerous, I must use restraint and common sense. Pack goats attract hungry bears, and I use a tent for camping and not a hard sided vehicle.

With that temporary compromise in mind, I read with amusement a study of children 4 to 11 written about eight years ago. The authors expected real little kids to prefer natural scenes over urban ones the way adults do. The little ones really didn't, but the older ones were starting to. I did not find this all that surprising. A four- or five-year-old lost in the woods in a year like this where bears are actively tearing into people's homes would probably not stand a chance. Evolution has prepared our developing brains for this. Woods can mean danger, and cities can mean safety (and kindly, helpful people, one presumes).

I thought the researchers made a mistake in using such a broad age span for their study. A child's ability to survive will surely impact their attraction to a natural scene. Other studies have confirmed that nine and 10-year-old kids do prefer natural scenes over urban ones, just as long as they are open woods or friendly savannah/park type settings. Brain development is such that physical ability and cognitive competence to navigate novel surroundings is becoming available to that age group. In addition, they are becoming more relational outside of their immediate relatives, and this can extend to abstract attractions. Peers and the opposite sex, for sure, but for nature as well. In 2021, Australian researchers found greatly heightened interest in nature and conservation among 12 through 14 year olds. Then comes 15. I remember it as a terrible time in life, best forgotten. Apparently, and comfortingly, I am not alone. Too bad more 15-year-olds don't have access to outdoor wilderness adventures the way I did. They saved my sanity for much of that time, as well as that of my parents.

Anyway, researchers refer to this age as the 'adolescent dip', where environmental care, awareness, and connectedness to nature seem to pale. I hypothesized that this is because evolution has hardwired us to begin seeking mates around that time, something more available in towns and cities than in wilderness areas (obviously). I decided to deep dive into the literature to see if this appears to be the case.

Hormones do have lot to do with this change, but it's not just chin hairs, voice changes, and zits. There are distinct brain transitions at work that have to do with the brain's reward centers and systems. For instance, researchers now know that the striatum and the nucleus accumbens (the primary reward hub and part of the limbic system) light up much more intensely in teens than in children or adults when anticipating or receiving rewards. A come hither look from a smokin' hot romantic prospect lights up the reward centers far more than poor old nature can. Another system, the mesolimbic dopamine pathway, floods easily with dopamine at this age, making positive experiences, social rewards, music, and risk-taking feel much more intense and exciting. Nature experiences which do provide opportunities for some dopamine and some serotonin, are often not potent enough to compete with social thrills, chills, and spills. The early teen brain engine



Photo courtesy of Evan Wise.

is revved up without any brakes being applied. In fact, the brakes aren't even installed until late teens and the job isn't fully completed until the mid-twenties. That would be the prefrontal cortex, responsible for impulse control, long-term planning, and sober judgment, among other things.

Neurological studies using brain-imaging technology (MRI) have shown that regular time spent outdoors is positively associated with an increase in gray matter volume in the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex. This specific region governs cognitive control, working memory, and the planning and regulation of actions. These are key skills teens often lack but really, really need as they transition into adulthood. If the teen brain was a website, the screen message might read "this page under construction". Nature can help.

So even if time outdoors isn't their jam, and it probably isn't, getting them outside and away from their phones anyway can help this construction project to proceed faster and smoother. Once it's done and open for business, the post-teen brain often returns to a childhood sense of connectedness to nature for the remainder of their adult years, much to the benefit of themselves, their families, and society.

So how do you get those early teens to enjoy the outdoors? Bribe them. A great study, that I wish I had thought of, found

Continued next pg

YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE: GROWING PAINS From previous pg

that natural soundscapes make chocolate taste even better! “The natural soundscape produced the most favorable profile, increasing liking and emotional valence while reducing arousal.” In other words, dark chocolate that kids tend not to like becomes enjoyable while also increasing good mood and inducing relaxation. Some make them take those holiday treats outdoors or do without.

I did not know this before my deep dive, so until climate change makes cacao unaffordable, I think I may take up chocolate nibbling with birdies tweeting close by. And yes, while watching out for bears!

Happy cold weather nibbling of Halloween chocolate with kids, teens, and adults outdoors,

The Mindful Naturalist

SALLY JOHNSON TO PRESENT ON HISTORICAL PHOTO ARCHIVES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose County Historical Society presents retired curator Sally Johnson, exploring the museum’s photographic archives, showcasing historical images that capture the stories of our past. Attendees will discover how to identify details that might otherwise go unnoticed and learn how photographs help preserve and interpret local history. Each image holds a story waiting to be uncovered, revealing meaningful connections between the past and the community we know today. Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, 7 pm, in the Pioneer Room of Friendship Hall on the Montrose County Fairgrounds. Please enter through the small door just to the left of the North Second Street main entrance to Friendship Hall. This program is free and open to the public. Light snacks are provided.

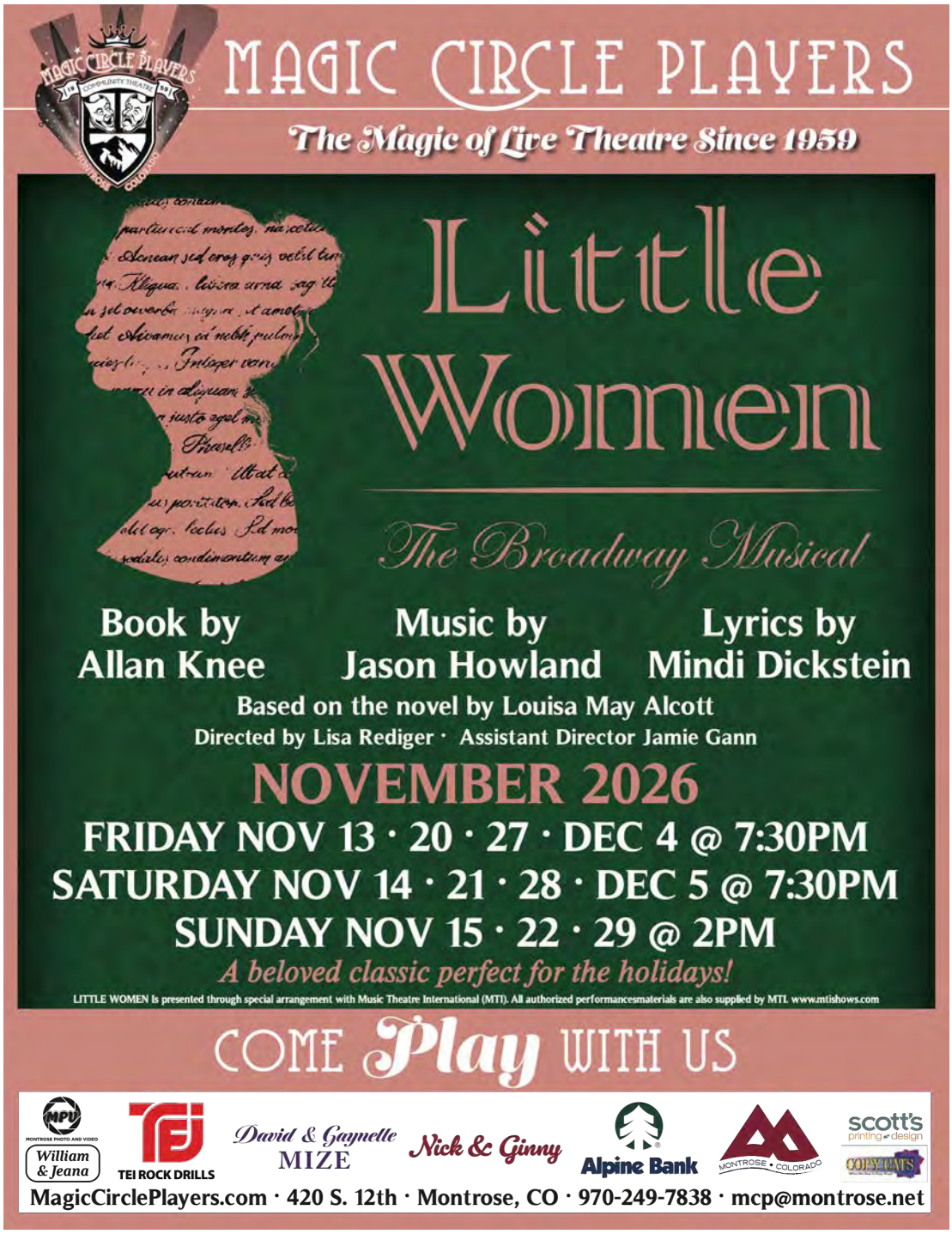




COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS
LITTLE WOMEN: THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Based on Louisa May Alcott's American classic, this Civil War story of love and family follows the coming of age of the four March sisters - Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. Meg longs for love, Amy wishes for beauty, Jo aspires to fame, and Beth is perfectly content at home. While they dream, struggle, fall in love, and reach for independence, they rely on the unbreakable bond between sisters. This stunning musical soars with the sounds of personal discovery, heartache and hope – the sounds of a young America finding its voice. Directed by Lisa Rediger, Assistant Director Jamie Gann. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838 or boxoffice@magiccircleplayers.com.
Friday, November 13, 2026 - 07:30 PM MST
Saturday, November 14, 2026 - 07:30 PM MST
Sunday, November 15, 2026 - 02:00 PM MST
Friday, November 20, 2026 - 07:30 PM MST
Saturday, November 21, 2026 - 07:30 PM MST
Sunday, November 22, 2026 - 02:00 PM MST
Friday, November 27, 2026 - 07:30 PM MST
Saturday, November 28, 2026 - 07:30 PM MST
Sunday, November 29, 2026 - 02:00 PM MST
Friday, December 4, 2026 - 07:30 PM MST
Saturday, December 5, 2026 - 07:30 PM MST



TWO SEATS OPEN ON TRI-RIVER

Get Involved! Help shape the County's future by applying for an open board position on the CSU Extension Tri River Advisory Board. There are currently two open positions. You can find out more about this board and what they do here. You can apply for the board position here.

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 **25–35%** → NOVEMBER VOTER TURNOUT **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

Country Living

THREE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

240 De Maria Ct.

MLS # 837152 | $535,000







- 1,500 sq ft home
- 1700 sq ft large shop
- 1+ irrigated acre
- New roof
- New laminate flooring
- New applinaces
- Cozy cul de sac
- Just minutes from Main St.
- No covenants

SCAN TO VIEW THE VIDEO TOUR

511 Chipeta Dr.

MLS # 836463 | $599,900







- 4.8 acres with irrigation
- 3 beds, 1 bath in main house (built in 1904, 1072 sq ft)
- Hot water baseboard heat
- 2 bedrooms, 1 bath in guest house
- 2,400 sq ft shop
- Mature yard with trees and raised garden/flower beds
- No covenants
- Close to Main St. and Townsend Ave.
- Let your ideas become reality

SCAN TO VIEW THE VIDEO TOUR

2133 - 6450 Rd.

MLS # 835133 | $539,900







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

SCAN TO VIEW THE VIDEO TOUR

Live the Lifestyle You Love



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Broker Associate
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970-249-5673

Offered for Sale.. *passive solar ENVELOPE home on 39 acres at $1,100,000*

A rare and distinctive rural property blending comfort & craftsmanship



MLS # 824397-- 830 Tiyoweh Trail







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

Hike, ride.. enjoy the outside



Peg Evanoika
BROKER ASSOCIATE SRES,CRS,MRP
Celll-970-209-3934
Realtor@PegEvanoika.com
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Century 21 Elevated Real Estate
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CIMARRON CREEK

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Montrose, Colorado







Where comfort, community and Montrose, Colorado beauty come together

- ✨ Brand new, beautiful, modern, move-in-ready manufactured homes
- 🌳 Tree-lined streets, walking paths, large open green spaces
- 🏡 Pride of ownership
- 🚗 Prime Montrose location
- 🐾 Pet-friendly
- 🌞 Colorado lifestyle

WHY RESIDENTS LOVE CIMARRON CREEK

- Large Common Areas
- Scenic Walking Trails
- Peaceful Atmosphere
- Community Center
- Lending Library
- Fenced Playground
- Dog Parks
- Community Garden
- Pet & Family Friendly
- Mature Landscaping

970-249-0493 manager@cimarroncreekcommunity.com

Open: Monday-Saturday, 8AM-5PM

LUXURY HOME IN BROWN RANCH



Offered at $739,900

3625 Mocha Ct. MLS # 836972

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









Peg Evanoika 970-209-3934
Realtor@PegEvanoika.com

CENTURY 21 ELEVATE
500 E MAIN
970-249-5673 THE-RES.COM

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 8AM, Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 10AM, 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?





CENTURY 21

BUYER-FOCUSED REPRESENTATION WITH INTEGRITY AND EXPERTISE





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

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

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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!

BLOWN OFF COURSE – THE STORY OF A BROWN PELICAN'S VISIT TO MONTROSE

A Wayward Pelican found its way to Montrose by a freak of nature!

By David White



Brown Pelican photo courtesy of David White.

The Otter Pond subdivision in Montrose recently found itself as the temporary home for a Brown Pelican that was most likely blown off course due to Hurricane Rachel (a tropical cyclone) which formed on September 27, 2026, of the coast of Mexico. By October 2, the hurricane peaked in intensity as a Category 3 major hurricane. It moved slowly westward, turned northeast and accelerated towards the Baja California peninsula, becoming post-tropical on October 11th as it affected parts of Southern California, before dissipating over the Rocky Mountains the following day.

Research shows that a coastal seabird like this finds its way to a landlocked mountain environment like Western Colorado through weather events such as hurricanes. Strong upper-level winds from tropical systems can trap large, strong-flying birds like pelicans or disorient them, blowing them hundreds of miles off course over the desert and across the Rocky Mountains.

On or about October 12th, this Brown Pelican found its way to Otter Pond and the 15-surface acre lake inside the subdivision where freshwater fish are plentiful but not necessarily the best diet for these saltwater birds. Those in the birding community quickly identified this visitor as the sighting of a Brown Pelican so far from its natural habit in Southern California is an exceptionally rare, mega-rarity event.

In the birding world, this individual is known as a vagrant—a bird that has wandered far outside its normal species range. While most inland vagrants tend to be young, inexperienced juveniles, this particular bird is a rare exception: an adult in breeding plumage.

While American White Pelicans regularly migrate through and breed in Colorado's inland lakes, Brown Pelicans are strictly coastal saltwater birds. The sighting in mid-October 2026 actually marked the first official documented record of a Brown Pelican in Montrose County history.

Once a pelican crosses the coastal mountain ranges and finds itself over the desert landscape of the Southwest, it will intuitively follow major river valleys (such as the Colorado or Uncompahgre rivers) or look for open bodies of water to rest, which likely led it straight to the Otter Pond area in Montrose.

Unfortunately, landlocked states are dangerous terrain for Brown Pelicans. Unlike White Pelicans, which can easily scoop up freshwater fish while swimming, Brown Pelicans are specialized plunge-divers that dive headfirst into deep ocean water from high in the air. Shallow, murky inland ponds make this hunting method difficult or impossible. Local birders and wildlife rescuers heavily monitor these rare inland visitors, as they cannot naturally survive Colorado's upcoming winter freeze and typically require professional rescue and relocation back to coastal environments.

On Sunday, October 25th, a rescue team arrived and the Brown Pelican, who, by this time, was in a weakened state, was readily captured and taken to a rescue sanctuary in Boulder, Colorado where it was to receive care and then was to be returned to its coastal habitat in California.

A positive outcome for a bird that very well would not have survived our coming Colorado winter.

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.

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

COMMUNITY DOG COSTUME PARADE!













Jill Downs (above) of Elite Dog Walking , shown with Ouray's famous Dexter and owner Kentee (top left), brought best friends together last week for a day of play and a parade! Photos by B. Switzer and Jill Downs.

Jill Downs
Owner & Founder | Elite Dog Walking LLC
612-325-9237
www.elitedogwalkingco.com

Trusted by Montrose dog parents since 2023
2025 Small Business Award Recipient
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"Because every dog deserves their best day."

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

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. 5-The Women's Giving Club will be holding their next meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bridges Golf and Country Club. ALL women invited. Great opportunity to meet new friends, learn about our community, hear about local nonprofit organizations, and to watch the magic happen. Please call 970-209-9598 for questions.

Nov. 5-Colorado Mesa University's Montrose Campus Lecture Series presents: "The Uncompahgre Project and the Impacts of Drought" With Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association General Manager Steve Pope Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, 6-7:30 p.m. Cascade Hall, S. 3rd St. & Cascade Ave., MontrosemFree and open to the public

Nov. 7-9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose. Social time is at 9:00, Business Meeting at 9:30, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments. The program will be making pillow cases for the Haven House. For more information: Paula millsappscoui@gmail.com or Cheryl 970-462-3849 Visitors are always welcome.

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: TRICK OR TREAT ON MAIN STREET





Trick or Treaters did not seem especially frightened despite the presence of dinosaurs on Saturday, Oct. 31. Photos by B. Switzer.

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