



ONLINE NEWS
ASSOCIATION



FRESH NEWS FOR FREE PEOPLE!

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'AT THIS POINT I'M A NO VOTE' CITIZEN CALLS OUT CITY FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHARTER Citizens also question \$80K in citations for Methodist Church, as council plans 2nd MURA project Downtown



At the council meeting of Sept. 2, a number of citizens questioned ongoing legal action against the Montrose United Methodist Church, pictured above, after the church opened a camping area for the unhoused last winter. The church has closed the encampment and say they have no plans to re-open it, but say that they face more than \$80,000 in citations from the city with no end in sight. Mirror File photo by Harry Switzer.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-All Councilors were present as Mayor Dave Frank called the [regular City Council meeting](#) to order on Sept. 2. There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Frank introduced a [proclamation](#) in support of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and read the proclamation into the record.

Jamie Hurst of Tri-County Health Network accepted the proclamation and spoke briefly about the importance of suicide prevention. According to statistics from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), "...in 2024, our region experienced 41 community member deaths by suicide, predominantly middle to late aged white males."

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Continued pg 6

'WOLVES EAT GROUSE' BOCC approves resolution opposing GORP Act in two to one vote

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-In a rare show of unity, the Montrose Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted unanimously on Wednesday, Sept. 3 to place the County Manager recruitment on hold and to maintain David White as Interim County Manager. Commissioners also approved a resolution in opposition to the proposed GORP Act in a two to one vote, with Commissioner Sue Hansen voting to deny. All commissioners were present for the meeting.

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares called the session to order; attendee Ron Henderson led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

In the absence of the scheduled pastor, the Invocation was delivered by attendee Ray Langston.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Carol Howe was first to speak. "I'm here to comment on your proposed resolution opposing the



Holly Speaks of Montrose-Ouray Indivisible addressed the BOCC about political violence. "I think we can all agree that the unthinkable has become normalized in today's society. We just had the shooting at the catholic children's school last week, and that's become just part of our everyday news feed and that's terrible...." Meeting Screenshot.

Continued pg 16

[Montrose Red Hawks Sports](#)
[By Cliff Dodge!](#)

[Meet Jennifer Carter:](#)
[New Historical Museum Coordinator!](#)

[Gia Pirelli:](#)
[The Satisfied Woman!](#)

[Letters to the Editor!](#)
[Regional News Briefs!](#)

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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.

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

RULE 3. Please limit repetitive mud-slinging to avoid bumping up against Rule 1. Also, in the case of those writing to intentionally discredit a public official or candidate for public office, please provide a link to the source of your allegation if possible. Unsourced, unproven allegations are not credible, and could in fact be untruths.

Finally, opinions expressed in letters and commentary are those of the authors themselves, and do not reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or editorial staff.

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

the
Montrose Mirror



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Published every Monday in Montrose, Colorado, the Montrose Mirror reaches a readership of more than 30,000 across the region and around the world

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We welcome community contributions and commentary! Please note, submitted content does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Montrose Mirror* or its editorial team.

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September 10
3:30-4:30pm
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Meeting Room**



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MIRROR CLASSIFIEDS: HELP WANTED & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: WEST END FAMILY LINK CENTER

NUCLA-The Westend Family Link Center in Nucla, CO, is seeking an Executive Director. We are a 501(C)(3) non-profit. Salary will be based on experience or/and qualifications. Must be at least 18 years of age, Bachelors Degree or equivalent experience in human services or business management is preferred. Professional Management-level experience.

Strong organizational skills are necessary, the ability to work independently. Must have or be able to get a Valid Colorado Drivers license and have a good driving record. Must be able to pass a background check. For more information or to submit your letter of interest along with your resume, contact Jim Guire, at phone number 970-270-1986 or jguire.weflc@gmail.com

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIEFING

Dear Editor:

See you Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13-14!

Colorado Tribute to Aviation
Montrose Regional Airport

This past month has been very good to our mission, and we are grateful for all the support we have received for the Montrose Veterans Memorial. Our last briefing we discussed efforts to get a meeting with the partners of the Memorial to determine a start time for construction now that the final design has been approved, and when it will be completed.

As of this writing, we have not yet received a date for that meeting, but we understand that everyone is busy. We will let you know when that meeting occurs.

The MVMC has gathered nearly \$400,000 in citizen and in-kind donations as of this writing. We are continuing to seek in-kind donations of gravel, concrete, rebar and other construction materials that will help create a spectacular memorial. The total cost of the Memorial will be significantly reduced by the in-kind donations, and we anticipate many of them when the con-

struction schedule is finally announced.

Now that the final plans are approved, we intend to expand our fundraising efforts to assist greatly in this partnership with City of Montrose Colorado Government and Montrose County - Government.

The MVMC already has made two down payments on seven laser engraved black granite panels that depict iconic moments in the life of veterans. They are not "stones," but rather they are panels that honor our veterans' service to protect our nation and freedom.

All seven of these beautiful honor panels will greet visitors as they enter the memorial. The laser artwork of military scenes will be on the front of the panels, and the reverse side will consist of information describing the history of the battles and maps where the battles took place.

In addition, we have acquired a helicopter that will be seen at the south end of the memorial, and we have sold more than 500 tribute and patriot bricks to outline the concrete walkways.

We also have acquired a welcome memorial panel with service seals that will

reside at the front entrance and a bronze statue of a bald eagle to greet visitors.

These are the pieces that will make the flatwork a memorial.

Much like the various sculptures around town, these pieces will draw interest and add beauty and serenity to the memorial grounds.

We look forward to seeing you at the Tribute to Aviation where you can buy our new memorial t-shirts which will help support our veterans and the memorial. And good luck with the silent auction of the quilt. The top bidder will be announced Sunday afternoon--need not be present to be awarded the top bid. All proceeds will go towards the MVMC.

Near the MVMC booth at the Tribute, there just might be a HUGE surprise. Please stop by and check us out!

If you are unable to make it to the Tribute, please visit <https://montrosevmc.us> to donate online.

On behalf of our veterans, supporters and the BOD,

Les Williams, President MVMC

J. Bob Brueske, Chairman MVMC

The Granite Images



The black granite panels will be 2-sided. The War on Terror will include Gulf War, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other conflicts.

*Granite concepts courtesy PG Memorials,
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'AT THIS POINT I'M A NO VOTE' From pg 1

David Stockton spoke. He discussed the [proposed changes to the City Charter](#), including changes to Council Term Limits, elimination of residency requirements for the Municipal Court Judge, and allowing the City Attorney to hire and promote staff. "...The city has an HR Department to handle those duties," Stockton said, "There's no need to change the current mode of operation. I do not see how any of these proposed changes benefit the residents of this City. At this point I'm a No vote."

Next to address Council was Joe Evans. He said that the recently passed "Big Beautiful Bill" (HR1) calls for Oil and gas leases on Federal lands but removes the authority of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to defer oil and gas lease nominations. "This means that if an oil company nominates land for development, even in a world class climbing area or a nationally recognized biking trail, the BLM must put it on the auction block, no questions asked..."

Evans said that of particular concern is a loss of meaningful input from gateway communities, tribes, and local users, as HR1 guts the public's ability to participate in decision making. "In effect it muzzles Americans who care about their public lands...the scope of what's now at risk is staggering..."

Evans said that it's not too late to fix HR1, and that the Black Canyon Audubon Society will host a presentation at the Ute Indian Museum on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7pm.

Next to speak was Annie Hauck, who addressed the ongoing conflict between the City of Montrose and the Montrose United Methodist Church. "...last winter the City of Montrose enacted an ordinance that forbade overnight camping. This led our community's unhoused neighbors to move from their accustomed spots and seek shelter elsewhere. As the weather got dangerously cold, our church found more and more unhoused people seeking shelter on our downtown property.

"We sought to help these neighbors, as we are commanded by Christ to do, by providing temporary shelter that included overnight camping, food, and other assis-

tance. Over the next months we realized that as a church we were not equipped to operate an unhoused encampment indefinitely, and we suspended our operation at the end of May.

"Throughout the winter and continuing until now, we find ourselves in ongoing conflict with the city, which was certainly never our intention. Nevertheless, both the city and our church are now spending countless hours and lots of money working through the legal challenges presented—rather than working together to find solutions to the underlying problem, which is how to serve the poorest of the poor in our community...instead we find we must spend countless hours of salaried employee time as well as volunteer time to respond to charges brought against us by the city. We are required to spend time and energy raising money to pay our legal obligations, rather than spending that money participating in ministries that support our community. We respectfully request the City to drop these pending legal proceedings and instead join with us and others in the community to work toward a more long-term solution."

Mayor Frank said, "No applause please," as those present applauded Hauck's comments.

Next to speak was Neal Platzer. "I wanted to speak today about lessons learned and moving on to better things, and greater things."

Platzer discussed solutions for unhoused people and recalled that when the city's camping ordinance went into effect, the number of people seeking camping at the Methodist Quad went from around three, which it had been for 15 years, to 65.

"...it was decided that it was better to have arranged site...an agreement was created between the unhoused and service providers...many things didn't go as planned...about a third of the unhoused have dogs, they also have more possessions than will fit in a backpack. These reasons prevented many from being able to take advantage of the Lighthouse (Shelter)...shelters need to be managed not on a test, but on actions...the Methodist Church looking ahead does not have

any plans for a future campsite; we're focusing on Sunday supper and working with the community, the city has also learned from the past...therefore I'm asking the members of Council and the City Manager to work with the community moving forward.

"Let's drop the charges against the Methodist Church and all work together to find better solutions..."

Next, Connie Pittenger spoke. "...I'm still very confused about the relationship between our church, the Montrose United Methodist Church, and you, the city government of Montrose.

"It seems that we should be working together instead of against each other. We should be working for the same cause, helping those who need a hand up. It would appear that you kind of despise our church for our efforts to help people.

"We were supposed to have an agreement to get an open records request. We paid our \$2,500 dollars; your part of the agreement has not been fulfilled. We are making efforts to be a part of the solution. We want to be a part of the solution. We need to be a unified community to assist with the unhoused.

"We are hoping that many other entities, churches, and other organizations alike will join with us to reach a better resolution that demonstrates dignity for all involved.

"And I hope that in your executive session later this evening, that your good common sense prevails in your deliberations."

James Whiting spoke. "I also attend the Methodist Church, and over the past year I've learned an awful lot about the unhoused...I feel that the City of Montrose is treating the least of these citizens of Montrose with contempt, and I don't like that...I am surprised that the city has chosen to cite the Methodist Church with very petty offenses and taking it to court, I think that's kind of foolish...I feel that the city should work with the Solutions for the Unhoused group and come up with innovative solutions to work with this group of people who truly need our help..."

Nancy Zaenger spoke, noting that last

'AT THIS POINT I'M A NO VOTE' From previous pg

November, just as frigid weather hit and people had no place to go, the city outlawed camping.

"Montrose United Methodist Church tried to help," Zaenger said, "by providing space on their property so these people would have someplace to lay their head. And the City's response was to issue citations, many of them unrelated to camping."

"Over the course of the winter, the church attempted to assist unhoused people, 83 percent of whom are Montrose natives. They are us. And the city did nothing to help and instead issued citations continuously."

"In the spring the camp was vacated," she said. "The church decided, because it caused a lot of problems at our end too, they decided not to repeat allowing camping this coming winter."

"Yet the city persists in its effort to procure over \$80,000 in citations," Zaenger said. "Money that could be used to help the needy among us. I find it difficult to reason why the city continues this effort, using city money and resources to penalize a church."

"Is there no other work to keep the solicitor busy? Is there someone behind this effort that is exercising pressure on the city? Is the city trying to make an example of the church? To assert a position of power? I see the advisable route for the city is to abandon this ugly and unkind course it has been pursuing, and to attend to other needs such as finding a solution to the situation our fellow citizens have found themselves in. Because this is a city problem."

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved.

RETAINER FOR LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Council considered a Retainer for Legal Services agreement with Bear Peak Law, PLLC for a proposed second MURA project. City Manager Bill Bell spoke about [hiring attorneys from Bear Peak Law PLLC at \\$400 per hour](#) to work on a feasibility study, to identify

blight with the purpose of creating a second MURA in the core of Downtown Montrose. "...Before you can create a project area you have to identify the blighted nature, underutilized nature of that area, and then put in potential projects that you would do that serve a public purpose...I know that they've already had some good discussions with Anthony talking about some of those things, but until we have a formal relationship with them they're leery to bring that into the public eye of course."

Also present was City Economic Development Employee Anthony Russo, who said that the goal of the services agreement would be "to take those next steps...this will be an ongoing process."

Councilor Ed Ulibarri said that he was concerned about having more projects underway. "...We're just going to look at it, we're not actually going to set up another MURA directive or whatever...this is just to look at it, see the possibilities, and not spread ourselves thin."

The retainer for legal service agreement with Bear Peak Law PLLC was approved



"It would appear that you kind of despise our church for our efforts to help people," Connie Pittenger said to City Council on Sept. 2. Meeting screenshot.

unanimously.

BEAR CREEK FINAL PLAT FILING 9B

Councilor J. David Reed recused himself and left chambers prior to the discussion of the [Bear Creek Final Plat Filing 9B](#). The filing was approved with four votes and one abstention. Mayor Frank asked that someone "Fetch Mr. Reed, please."

STAFF REPORTS

City Engineer Scott Murphy gave an update on current City projects.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files said, "We had a great groundbreaking, dirt throwing, whatever you want to call it, at Public Works today, long awaited, it was fun to go down there and do it...it's just so exciting..."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Because your voice carries a lot of weight.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

2025 BLACK CANYON ASTROFEST

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The National Park Service invites you to discover your local day and

night skies at the 2025 Black Canyon AstroFest. Minimal light pollution and expansive public lands result in wonderful

clear days and dark night skies at Curecanti National Recreation Area and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Come celebrate the heavens above at the annual astronomy festival.

Friday, Sept. 19, 2025

Drop-in Solar Telescope Viewing, 2–4 pm
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, South Rim Visitor Center
Evening Ranger Program, 7–8 pm
Montrose Public Safety Complex Community Room

434 South First Street, Montrose, CO

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025

Junior Ranger Activities, 6–7 pm
Evening Ranger Program, 7–8 pm
Telescope Viewing, 8:30–10 pm
Curecanti National Recreation Area, Elk Creek Campground Amphitheater
If you wish to camp overnight at Elk Creek Campground during Curecanti's Astro Fest events, campsites are available by reservation at www.recreation.gov.

Events are free of charge; park entrance fees apply. All events are subject to change or cancellation due to the weather. Location changes or cancellations will be listed in the Alerts section of the park website and posted to the Black Canyon or Curecanti Facebook pages. Dress warmly for outdoor evening events and please bring a red flashlight or headlamp, not white, to preserve night vision. Park only in designated areas, never on vegetation. Learn more about this year's event at <https://www.nps.gov/blca/planyourvisit/astrofest.htm>.

SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR @ 7 BREW!

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE—7 Brew Montrose is kicking off "Happy Hour" every Saturday in September from 2 to 5 p.m., where customers can get any two drinks for \$8. It's an easy way for locals to grab a treat or catch up with friends without breaking the bank!

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEAD CHARGE TO ELIMINATE AP EXAM FEES, DOUBLING PARTICIPATION AND BOOSTING SCORES

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— A classroom question at Montrose High School in 2021 has sparked a districtwide policy change that has removed financial barriers to Advanced Placement (AP) exams — resulting in doubled participation and record-breaking student success.

In AP U.S. Government and Politics class, Teacher Kurt Scriffiny challenged students with a civics project. When their first idea fell through, a discussion about why their district didn't cover AP exam fees sparked a deeper investigation.

"I threw it out there more as a discussion starter," Scriffiny said. "But the students ran with it. They wanted to know why we didn't do that—and what it would take to make it happen."

Students researched AP exam fee policies across the country and found the typical \$90 fee was a major obstacle, especially for students taking multiple exams. The class presented their findings and a proposal to Superintendent Carrie Stephenson, who surprised them by agreeing to cover the full cost of every AP exam upfront, regardless of score.

"It wasn't even a question," Scriffiny said. "Because it was student-directed, Dr. Stephenson listened, and that was the end of the conversation."

Since the policy launched in 2022, AP exam participation at Montrose High more than doubled—from 162 exams in 2021 to 470 in the most recent school year. Pass rates climbed from 54% in 2019 to a record 87% in 2025, surpassing national averages.

Stephenson said, "They made a clear

case, and they cared about the outcome. That's exactly the kind of input we want from students. When they speak up, we listen."

Montrose County School District contin-

ues to invest in removing financial barriers and expanding access to rigorous, college-level coursework for all students.

For the full story and more details, visit <https://tinyurl.com/MHS-APsuccess>.

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7:00 PM, Thursday, September 11
Ute Indian Museum
17253 Chipeta Rd, Montrose

These lands belong to all of us. Learn how and why that matters now more than ever.

Sponsored by the Black Canyon Audubon Society

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REPUBLICAN MONTROSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER SCOTT MIJARES RESPONDS TO RECALL EFFORT: "THE VOTERS GET TO DECIDE"

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Republican Montrose County Commissioner Scott Mijares, District 1 Chairman of the BOCC, issued the following statement regarding the recall election set against him:

"After prayer and careful consultation with my family, friends, supporters, and the Montrose County Republican Party, I have decided to let the people of Montrose determine whether I should continue serving as their duly elected Commission-

er, rather than resign under political pressure" said Mijares. "The people deserve to have their voices heard. Those voices cannot be silenced by a smaller group of people who wish to cancel an election."

The recall petition was filed on July 15, just six months and one day after Commissioner Mijares was sworn into office.

The petition cites five allegations, which Mijares states are entirely false and easily disproven. Commissioner Scott Mijares was elected by voters to represent the

citizens of Montrose County as a Principled Constitutional Conservative. He has kept his promise and delivered results for the people of Montrose County.

Over the past seven months Chairman Mijares has shepherded the passage of important resolutions that:

- Restore voter intent with the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) and strengthen the Sheriff's Department through retirement reforms.

- Oppose the Dolores National Conservation Area (NCA) and the Gunnison Outdoor Resource Protection Act (GORP), that restrict public land access, threaten our farmers and ranchers, threatens our primary water source, and contradicts Presidential Order #14156 declaring a National Energy Emergency whereby American energy and mineral resources must be used to reduce our dependence on foreign sources.

- Defend Second Amendment rights by challenging state-level gun restrictions.

- Partnered with neighboring counties to fight unfunded mandates that threaten local budgets.

"If I am recalled, these accomplishments could be undone by a left-leaning majority on the board," said Mijares. Mijares emphasized that the recall is not based on scandal, misconduct, or illegality.

Instead, he described it as "a political maneuver by the progressive left and RINO Republicans seeking to seize control of the board."

He concluded: "I call on all conservatives—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike—to unite, stand firm, and vote NO on this recall."

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

MEDICAL PROVIDERS BIAS TOWARD WOMEN

Dear editor,

To all male medical doctors , N.P. and P.A. in Montrose fyi.

When you view your patient and their health requests, are you neutral in your assessment/answers/response? Ask yourself, am I more biased towards women, do I treat male patients with more attentiveness and respect? Do I see the human being in front of me, or do I see a woman (needy) or a man (with a problem)? Be honest, yes there are some male doctors who see a human being in front of them, but I can assure you (through [medpageto-day](#), a medical website by and for medical professional) that there is a very real problem of bias towards woman.

If you take the time (time, what time?) To research this, there is very concrete evi-

dence to show that the female is typically short changed and brushed off, when in an office visit.

Because I am advocating for myself, I see this problem crystal clear. In fact, I just experienced this exact issue, just last month. I could not actually speak to my PCP, it was accomplished through an M.A. It took 10 days of back and forth to receive an answer, that was, in fact, a blow-off. What is stunning is the answer I finally received was an erroneous referral.

I have seen this many times in my 10 years as a resident of Montrose. It is unclear to me why a self-advocating woman is found to be a threat. (specifically when she knows her own body and makes a request for information.)

I am completely aware of just how

“trashed” the medical industry is and the demands that are placed upon the professionals.

I am not expecting extraordinary treatment; I do, however, believe equal treatment should be implemented.

When it is painfully obvious (thru a male neighbor) that we share the same P.C.P and he went the extra mile for him and his health, I have to question the ethics of that doctor and his belief system.

Take a good hard look at your belief system, it will make you a better doctor. (or perhaps, it will reflect that you are in the wrong career and time to make a life change).

Lynn Stockton,
3rd gen Coloradan,
10 yr. Resident of Montrose

MAHER TOWN HALL

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DATE

SEPT. 11, 2025



LOCATION

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TIME

11:00AM - 12:00 PM





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BOCC APPROVES RESOLUTION OPPOSING GORP ACT From pg 1

the Gunnison Outdoor Resource Protection Act, or the GORP act. After reading through your resolution, I'm concerned you may not understand what the act will actually do. Nor are you familiar with many of the lands, specifically National Forest lands, that are in the Act. My comments are specific to the National Forest System lands, because I worked for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest (GMUG) in forest and project planning for 25 years...the fact is, almost none of the National Forest System lands in the GORP act have any potential for oil and gas resources...only the Grand Mesa area that's included in the GORP Act has high potential, and it has existing oil and gas leases. There's some areas that are shown as no-surface occupancy stipulation for oil and gas development, and that's been the case since 1993.

"Basically, the GORP Act proposes to continue to manage the areas that they're proposing to designate as special areas in the ways they've been managed for years. "In 2012, many of those areas were verified under the Colorado Roadless Rule as having no open roads or roads open to the public," Howe said. "They do have trails, and many of those trails are open to both motorized and non-motorized use. There's lots of recreation use, there's lots of grazing use. There are some permitted uses that have permitted rights to use roads, but they are not open to the public.

"That type of management has been proposed to continue under the 2024 GMUG Forest Plan. Basically the GORP Act is just trying to maintain those areas in the way they've been managed for years...in the case of an emergency, access will be allowed, and management can be done to lessen hazards; fuel reduction and insect and disease mitigation work can be done now and will continue to be ... there is not much suitable timber in the areas identified under the GORP Act...there is no area in the GORP Act that is in Montrose County; all counties that do have areas in the GORP Act are in support of this, and municipalities in those areas are in support of the GORP Act...it is a by bipartisan

act...I hope you will reconsider your proposal to oppose the GORP Act; if not you should at least make sure that you name the correct Colorado Federal Designation of representatives and senators..."

Next to address the BOCC was Holly Speaks, who said that she is a group leader in the Montrose and Ouray County Indivisible group. "I was here today to talk about the sickness of political violence and what each of us can do to combat that from coming here to Montrose. I think we can all agree that the unthinkable has become normalized in today's society. We just had the shooting at the catholic children's school last week, and that's become just part of our everyday news feed and that's terrible. Back in June of this year, a Minnesota Democratic lawmaker and her husband were murdered in their home, and a state senator and his wife were nearly killed; it wasn't random...this attacker had a list. The assassination attempt on Donald Trump last year in July took one rally attendee's life and the shooter's motive is still unknown. Speaks said, "In 2021, the Capitol Police said they investigated...10,000 direct threats just for congress members alone...these days we witness and process political violence as fuel for our arguments every day. It used to be these events were few and far between... we would give them the respect they deserve...it isn't red, it isn't blue; it's a sickness that's spreading across our country and I'm afraid that it can come to our community.

"...That is why I'm asking all of the Montrose County Commissioners to commit to opposing any comments or actions that encourage violence in our community, especially if something is said on social media that would threaten or support violence against a person or a political group in our community...I ask you to condemn it, period. Don't spin it, don't what-about it, because violence is wrong..."

Speaks continued, "We have a local political leader, Kevin Kuns, who might be leaving this earth today...he has contributed a lot to our community, he has brought a lot of us together, so I just want to recog-

nize that..."

"I am sorry to hear that about Kevin," Commissioner Hansen said.

"I am too," Chair Mijares said.

Next to speak was Valerie Hudson, who said she has a background in psych nursing and as a school librarian and has worked for the City Clerk in Montrose. She read a statement on consensus building, a collaborative decision-making process. "...To minimize conflict and foster commitment to a common goal. It involves clarifying objects, understanding diverse perspectives, discussing pros and cons, identifying common ground, and adjusting proposals to address concerns until a final agreed-upon outcome is reached...not everybody gets exactly what they want, but they get something that they can live with...I did print out a book list...it's about conflict resolution...thank you for your service..."

Next, Joe Evans spoke. He invited the commissioners and community to attend a talk, hosted by the Black Canyon Audubon Society, by Walt Dabney on the future and history of America's Public Lands. The talk will be held at the Ute Indian Museum on Sept. 11.

Also, HR1, the so-called Big Beautiful Bill, calls for energy development of lands and guts the public's ability to participate in decision making, Evans said. "In effect, it muzzles Americans who care about their public lands...outdoor recreation is a huge driver, part of the economy of Montrose County...public lands belong to all of us...knowledge is power...please, if you can, come Thursday night, September 11th at the Ute Museum to listen to Mr. Dabney..."

Ray Langston spoke next. "I would like to...add to what Holly said, that it would be advisable for a lot of us to be a little more careful with the words we use when we speak publicly, because in political discourse it's a little bit too easy for people to start attacking other people...we have two county commissioners who have openly attacked members of the community, and that should not be allowed...people should be allowed to speak their mind and make their viewpoint known without being...personally

BOCC APPROVES RESOLUTION OPPOSING GORP ACT *From previous pg*

attacked...you, Commissioner Mijares, have labeled Harry Gottlieb as a socialist. I have looked into his background and I can see no evidence that he's a socialist — he's a capitalist, no capitalist will ever be a socialist. He is an entrepreneur that is trying to do good works within our community, and with other states as well. So I would advise you to reconsider some of your comments."

Following the Public Comment Period, BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond asked who Harry Gottlieb was. (Gottlieb is the founder of the organization, Unify Montrose).

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares (a Unify Montrose participant) said that he spent over five hours one on one time with Harry Gottlieb. "He told me he has a socialist agenda...I'm not making up anything that he hasn't told me one-on-one. And I find it pretty rich that Ray Langston is making statements about insulting people in public, I would just ask anybody to go to Ray Langston's Facebook page; the smears and the language that he's offered, it's unbelievable...those rules should apply to all of us. Political violence isn't just limited to elected officials, it can be stimulated by members of the public. We all have the same responsibility, and we should all be opposed to it."

"I respond to people when they're attacking me," Langston said.

"Right," Mijares said. "Any other comment?"

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager David White had no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved, with Resolution No. 41-2025 assigned to Item 5, Resolution No. 42-2025 assigned to Item 7, and Resolution No. 43-2025 assigned to Item 13.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The first item was consideration and possible adoption of [Resolution 31-2025](#), in opposition of the [Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act \(GORP\)](#), proposing 730,000 acres of public lands in and around the Gunnison Basin.

BOCC Vice Chair Sean Pond read the pro-

posed resolution into the record.

Commissioner Sue Hansen said, "Historically, we've always worked with counties when some kind of land designation discussion came up...you get the counties together and talk about what their concerns are...this has been going on for years, a long, long time.

"...The main objection to the GORP Act was that the watershed above the reservoir in Gunnison County...there are no lands in Montrose County that are affected by GORP, but there is impact if some kind of devastating fire happened above the reservoir, could have some debris flow, could have some impact—those are the concerns that I have.

"Also, legislating by resolution just bothers me because it takes you out of the game, it takes you out of the conversation, it takes you out of the discussion. So now we have counties that'll just skip over Montrose County because we've got a resolution here which I assume will pass because I'm outnumbered...I don't substantially object to GORP...there's a lot of public lands, they don't just belong to one party, they belong to everybody, but if there's an impact on a county, I think that other counties should consider that and listen to what we have to say...it takes us out of the conversation...

Hansen said, "While I'm conflicted because I don't want that to impact Montrose County...I guess my biggest objection is to be out of the conversation..."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said Happy Birthday to *Daily Press* Publisher Dennis Anderson, who was in attendance, and asked Vice Chair Sean Pond if he had further comments.

Pond said, "Commissioner Hansen, in my opinion I don't believe that passing a resolution from the board takes us out of the conversation—quite frankly, I haven't seen a conversation taking place, this is an introduced act; it's actually going to be voted on in the halls where decisions are made...we can always be involved in it."

Hansen said that it's a matter of opinion, "I don't think that 'no' includes you in the conversation. I think that 'no' says, 'we're taking a stand, this is our bright line, and

we're not going to have a conversation about it'...to me I think we as good commissioners...have to be looking down the road toward the future...we are 100 percent for grazing and timber harvesting...I want to still be at the table...we're sending a message...to me good governance is having a conversation, debating the issues that are important to our community...we are dependent on a very singular water supply...it's not a resolution, it's a phone call, it's a conversation, it's a meeting..."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said, "I agree with you, we shouldn't legislate by resolution, but that's not what we're doing. We're not legislating. We're just one county in the center of this whole thing. Like Commissioner Hansen said, our water supply depends on this. We have not only the right to speak up, but we have the responsibility to speak up and say what the impacts are. Not everybody is fully aware of the impacts to Montrose County that are outlined in this resolution. Maybe this resolution, seeing it in writing, will bring this to the attention of the people that maybe thought they were doing the right thing, but weren't aware of the impacts it was going to have to the people of Montrose County.

"And for that reason, I think the resolution is a message.

"These things aren't always solved with a phone call," Mijares said. "I can tell you that Congressman Hurd's reaction to Sean bringing this was a not good one. In fact, he's instructed both of us, don't contact him directly anymore, contact his Aid. So those conversations have been shut down by...talking about this resolution. And we have a duty and an obligation to protect and defend what keeps our county going.

"The water is important. The recreation is important. And a lot of these things that will take place if the GORP Act is passed as proposed will severely impact our community...let's talk about this. Let's have a discussion. We'll have a seat at the table...the Forestry Plan took seven years to develop, over \$20 million dollars to put together—and it's basically been thrown aside, not even considered in this GORP Act..."

BOCC APPROVES RESOLUTION OPPOSING GORP ACT From previous pg

Vice Chair Sean Pond responded to a reference made by Hansen regarding an earlier resolution he had spearheaded, opposing the National Conservation Area (NCA), during his first week in office. Pond said, "...What people don't realize is that under Senator Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper's plan at that time to introduce a broader land use package, it would have included the GORP...the National Conservation Act in Mesa and Montrose Counties, as well as the current National Conservation Area in San Miguel, Dolores, and Montezuma counties.

"So the only reason that the NCA in Montrose and Mesa counties is not included in this broader land use package is because of that resolution.

"So, I do believe that we have a responsibility to make sure that we kept public lands open, as it does belong to all of us for multi-use..."

Pond also addressed Colorado's wolf introduction efforts, "...Having attended several dozen wolf CPW meetings...the Canadian Gray Wolf was never native to Colorado--they always tell us the best way to deter wolves is to hire range riders, human interaction, in other words, bang pots and pans, make noise, be there, because wolves don't like it.

"When you lock up 730,000 acres and shut it down to include 122,000 acres of wilderness designation with no human interaction, you're creating a prime wolf breeding habitat. The wolf introduction is planned for this winter, 25-26, in Montrose and Gunnison counties.

"So this also has an impact to our ranching communities, our wildlife herds, all of the money that we've spent to establish lands for the Gunnison's Sage Grouse in the Gunnison Basin--wolves eat grouse, they eat turkey, they eat anything that moves...it literally changes our landscape

forever. So those all tie in together."

BOCC Chair Scott Mijares said, "It sounds like you're partially with us, Commissioner Hansen, I would ask that you join us and make this unanimous, so we can send a message that we really do need to talk about it."

"It will still send your message," Hansen said. "I'm inclined to vote differently for the reasons that I stated. And I think, I'm the only one that's been here for seven years, and I'm by no measure a public lands expert, but I do know how we've engaged in the past, and how you have to continue to keep the lines of communication open and state the needs of your own county, and I would want to continue to have those conversations."

Seemingly addressing the audience, Hansen continued, "...Congressman Hurd has not refused to speak to these commissioners; they've been so rude to him that I'm sure it's been untenable to have those conversations.

"Congressman Hurd, freshman congressman, working hard to try to figure out...what all his counties are wanting, he had three counties in support of this, and so that's the way that that works."

Returning to addressing the BOCC, Hansen said, "...You can call for a vote, I think I've said my piece, but I think it's important that we consider what are the ramifications. First of all, nobody's sitting there waiting for our resolution...what does Montrose County think...I think that this is a heck of a way to legislate without having conversations. To my knowledge I've never sat down with either of you, with any of the land managers, any of the people that are knowledgeable about this, to have a conversation about what our needs are, which we did in the previous board."

Vice Chair Pond responded. "I would just

add to that that the first time I put this resolution before this board for consideration, you and I spoke, and I agreed with you to remove it from the agenda in an attempt to sit down with stakeholders and people and discuss that.

"That was been some two months ago, and we've had no discussion."

"Yep," Hansen said, "so how about a follow up that says, 'hey what's happening with that,' since I never see you in the office, I had no idea whether you wanted to move forward with this or not. I'd be happy to strike up those conversations--we have a lot of experts here in the room that have that information--but to do a resolution without reaching out to your colleague...we haven't had a conversation."

Pond said, "I never see you in the office either Sue. You haven't reached out to me once in seven months. Let's just leave it at that."

With no further discussion, the BOCC voted two to one, with Hansen opposed, to approve Resolution 31-2025 in opposition of the [Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act \(GORP\)](#), proposing 730,000 acres of public lands in and around the Gunnison Basin.

The BOCC then voted unanimously to approve the final action item, placing the County Manager recruitment on hold and maintaining David White as Interim County Manager.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board voted to enter Executive Session with the County Attorney and Interim County Manager, pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b), for legal advice regarding the introduction of non-native wildlife species into Montrose County and the protection of rights-of-ways granted under RS 2477.

Following Executive Session, the meeting was adjourned.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE TO END ALL FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

DOLORES— All current fire restrictions in place have been rescinded effective September 5, 2025, for all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office including Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, and all BLM-administered public lands within the boundaries of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, and San Miguel counties.

“With the recent abundant monsoonal weather, our fuel conditions have improved, and the fire load has decreased. Overall, conditions have improved to remove all fire restrictions.” said Tres Rios Field Office Management Derek Padilla.

Year-round wildfire prevention restrictions on BLM-administered public lands in Colorado remain. Those found responsible for starting wildfires will also face restitution costs of suppressing the fire.

These include prohibitions on:

Leaving a fire unattended or unextinguished.


Possession, discharge or use of any fireworks.

Discharge of a firearm using incendiary or tracer ammunition.

Burning, igniting or causing to burn any tire, wire, magnesium, or any other hazardous or explosive material.

Operating any off-road vehicle on public lands unless the vehicle is equipped with a properly installed spark arrester pursuant to 43 CFR 8343.1 (c).

Fireworks are always prohibited on public lands. More information about fire prevention is available at: [Fire Prevention | Bureau of Land Management](#). Current fire prevention notices for the BLM Southwest District are posted online at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/southwest-district>

A photograph of a man and a young boy riding horses in a desert landscape at sunset. The man, wearing a cowboy hat and a patterned shirt, is riding a dark brown horse. The boy, also wearing a cowboy hat and a light-colored shirt, is riding a smaller dark horse. They are both looking towards the camera. The background shows a vast desert with mountains in the distance under a sky with soft, colorful clouds.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

KEEP OUR CHARTER AS IS

Dear Editor,

On November 4, 2025 we have another opportunity to voice our will via the Ballot. There are several important issues at hand, from school board elections to changes to the City of Montrose Charter. I'm writing to discuss the proposed changes to the Charter (<https://www.cityofmontrose.org/documentcenter/view/53856>). If you have not read them, I suggest you do. I spoke to three of them at the September 2nd City Council meeting because they are of concern to me.

My first concern is changing the language regarding Term Limits for City Councilors. The proposed change is to allow the "At Large" seat to serve four consecutive terms. That is an additional two-year term.

I recognize the State Constitution allows voters in local jurisdictions to modify or eliminate term limits. But, Article XVIII, Section 11 establishes the following baseline:

Two consecutive four-year terms.

Three consecutive terms if they are two years or less.

There is a nationwide outcry to have more control over legislative and executive bodies through Term Limits. Now is your opportunity to influence the number of terms allowed.

My second concern is **eliminating the residency requirement** for the Municipal Judge. It is my firm belief that anyone having the authority to hold judgment over someone for alleged violations of the city code or law should be a resident of the City if not the County as currently required. If the residency requirement were to be eliminated, City Council could choose anyone licensed to practice law in the State as a Municipal Judge. Just imagine someone from Denver presiding over our Municipal Court.

Thirdly, the proposed change to the Charter gives the City Attorney administrative authority for Human Resource issues within that department. The current Charter does not define the City Attorney's authority regarding these administrative duties.

More than anything, it is the proposed change to increase the number of consecutive terms the "At Large" position can serve and the proposed elimination of the residency requirement for the Municipal Judge is why I'm voting no on this ballot issue. I ask that you join me.

Dave Stockton, Montrose



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

SEPTEMBER 16 IS NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Editor:

The League of Women Voters will register voters, update voter information, and answer voters' questions at the Montrose Regional Library on September 16, 2025, National Voter Registration Day, from 11 am until 3 pm. The registration process is simple, the information needed is basic: name, address, date of birth, ID information. As Colorado ballots are mailed, and won't be forwarded, it's important to make sure your information is up to date.

Also, the League will present on ballot issues, make them and their impact clear, at the Montrose Forum on October 1, 2025, 8 am, at 3rd and Cascade. We will hold a Montrose County School Board Candidate Forum on October 9, 6 pm, at the City Council Chambers, 107 S. Cascade in Montrose. Check our website for this and other events at www.LWV-UV.org for other voter education events throughout September, October and November.

Voter registration and questions are also answered at www.VOTE411.org, in English and Spanish. Another online resource is www.govotecolorado.gov. Citizens can

also register in person, at the County Clerk's office, and staff are required and prepared to assist with special physical or language requirements.

This year, Election Day 2025 is November 4. Every election is important, and the League of Women Voters was literally born to support voters to use their rights, to increase informed participation in democracy.

We are a non-partisan political organization and our mission is to educate voters, all voters, and defend democracy.

Our Constitution gives us, the People, the right to vote. Our vote is our voice. So many of us were not counted among those "people," at first. Many have strug-

gled, fought and died to win and keep the right to vote, including women, minorities, and the disabled. Exercising your right honors them, protects our precious right to vote and secures our democracy.

That's what voting is – your participation, your duty and privilege to keep our democracy strong and give back to our Nation.

*Jan Edwards, Voter Service Chair
League of Women Voters of the Uncompahgre Valley
832-754-6302*

www.lwv-uv.org www.VOTE411.org



REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHIPETA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM SEPT. 17

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-We're back from our summer break!

Our speaker for September is Susan C Ryan, Executive VP of the Research Institute of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

Susan will discuss the Haynie Site, a multi-component ancestral village containing two great houses located in southwest Colorado. Sept. 17 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church, 19 S Park, Montrose. Chipeta Archaeological Society. Free.

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Delta Health Orthopedics is excited to welcome their newest provider, **PATRICK JON BEVAN, D.O.** to the team.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPTS RESOLUTION NO. 31-2025 OPPOSING THE GORP ACT *Board cites threats to working ranchlands, water rights, access, and the rural economy*

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE- The Montrose County Board of County Commissioners has adopted Resolution No. 31-2025 in a two to one vote, formally opposing the proposed Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act, which is currently pending in Congress as H.R. 3421 / S. 1791. The Board expressed strong concerns that, although the Act does not designate lands within Montrose County itself, it would impose sweeping federal restrictions on nearly 730,000 acres of public lands in surrounding counties including Gunnison, Delta, Saguache, and Ouray, potentially causing significant impacts to Montrose County residents and businesses.

The GORP Act, introduced by U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, along with Representative Jeff Hurd, includes permanent wilderness and conservation designations that would limit future oil and gas development, restrict mining activity, and reduce public land access. According to the Board, these changes directly threaten Montrose County's ability to support working ranchlands, active wildfire mitigation, responsible energy development, and multi-use recreation that form the foundation of the rural economy. The Resolution calls attention to how wilderness designations may sound environmentally beneficial but often come with hidden consequences such as increased wildfire risk, reduced mechanical forest thinning, and the erosion of grazing rights through added regulations.

"Montrose County stands with our ranchers and working families," said Sean Pond, Vice-Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. "Resolution 31-2025 is a clear statement that we will protect grazing, water rights, and access that our livelihoods depend on. The GORP Act may sound harmless on paper, but the fine print would box in multi-use lands, limit stewardship, and push our producers off the range over time. These types of federal land lockups, including wilderness designations, also create and promote prime Canadian wolf breeding habitat. That is not just an environmental footnote; it is a direct threat to livestock, wildlife management, and our

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

THERE IS NO "KING OF THE HILL" ON COLORADO ROADWAYS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-Colorado legalized lane filtering in August 2024. While the law continues to spark some controversy, both riders and drivers are now required to learn this law and respect its legality. Any change in road rules takes time to catch up with all motorists. However, vocalizing a "lack of knowledge" of the law won't help you avoid a ticket, especially if you are caught acting in an aggressive manner.

"Aggressive driving will not be tolerated by anyone using the roadway. This includes a driver tailgating, brake-checking or intentionally blocking a motorcycle from re-entering the lane position," explained Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Bad behavior can escalate creating a dangerous situation on the road. Your responsibility is to not participate in illegal, risky, or uncivil behavior."

If a driver feels that a rider is doing something illegal or aggressive, they should distance themselves from the rider and call *CSP when in a stopped and safe location. If there is a passenger in the vehicle, they can make this call and even take a photo or video of the rider.

According to Colorado's new filtering law, five rules riders must follow to filter legally are:

- To pass, traffic in the rider's lane and adjacent lanes going the same direction must be at a complete stop.
- The lane must be wide enough to fit the vehicle and motorcycle while passing.**
- The motorcycle must go 15 mph or less.**
- The rider must pass safely and control the motorcycle.**
- The rider must pass on the left and not enter the oncoming traffic lane.**

"Take a minute and put it in perspective," stated Col. Packard. "Riders are in a much more vulnerable position than a person in a vehicle. A rider holds the responsibility to practice lane filtering safely and legally because they are most at risk. It is also the responsibility of every motorist to share the road."

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RED HAWKS REMAIN UNBEATEN

Montrose Red Hawks 37, Palisade Bulldogs 20

By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks football team survived an opening period scare and a lightning storm as they defeated the Palisade Bulldogs 37-20 at Stoker Stadium in Grand Junction last Thursday evening. The two teams were halted by lightning in the area and about an hour's delay before being able to kick off and play football.

The Red Hawks won the coin toss and elected to kick off. The Bulldogs took possession at their 20-yard line and broke an 80-yard touchdown run on the first play from scrimmage. The Red Hawks found themselves trailing for the first time this season by the score of 6-0 in favor of the Bulldogs.

The shock and awe of the 80-yard touchdown run did not last long as the Red Hawks embarked on their own 13 play drive to take back the lead 7-6. The Red Hawks fullback, Elijah Womack, carried the pigskin for 12 of the 13 plays including a 3-yard scamper for the go-ahead touchdown.

The Red Hawks defense then stepped up and forced a three and out series and the game's initial punt. The Red Hawks converted the possession into a 4-play touchdown drive with Womack running 24

yards for his second touchdown of the game. The 2-point conversion was successful, increasing the Red Hawks lead to 15-6.

The Bulldogs were, once again, stymied by a stout Red Hawks defense that held the home team to just a couple of yards and another punt.

The Bulldogs then surrendered 24 yards in 6 plays, stopping the Red Hawks at their own 38-yard line, forcing the Red Hawks first punt of the game.

The Bulldogs offense took over and they broke off a 62-yard touchdown burst on their second play from scrimmage. The PAT was no good and the Bulldogs narrowed the score to 15-12 in favor of the Red Hawks.

The 3-point scoring difference did not last long as the Red Hawks again featured Elijah Womack and Chase Mehan as they moved the ball from their own 25-yard line to the Bulldogs 9 yard line for a first goal opportunity. Quarterback Cade Saunders, a junior, then ran 9 yards for a Red Hawks touchdown to increase the Red Hawks lead to 9 points at halftime, 21-12.

The Red Hawks received the second half kickoff and drove 74 yards in 12 plays with Elijah Wooten scoring his third touchdown

of the game from 6 yards out increasing the score to 29-12.

The Bulldogs put together a drive of their own and punched the football into the end zone in 7 plays to close the margin to 29-20 in favor of the Red Hawks as the third quarter came to a conclusion.

The fourth quarter saw the Red Hawks run three plays that resulted in another Red Hawks touchdown. This time the score came on the arm of Cade Saunders as he fired a long pass to tight end Ryan Pankey for a 34-yard touchdown strike. Chase Mehan carried the ball into the end zone for a two-point conversion making the score 37-20.

The Bulldogs embarked on their long drive of the game, 13 plays that moved the ball from their own 19-yard line to the Red Hawks 35-yard line. At this point the Red Hawks defense rose up and forced a turn-over on downs. The game ended with the score Red Hawks 37, the Palisade Bulldogs 20.

The Red Hawks improved their season record to 3-0. The team will have a bye week next Friday and will resume play on Friday, September 18, when the team will travel to Grand Junction to take on the Central Warriors with the kickoff scheduled for 8 P.M.

MONTROSE SPORTS ROUNDUP Sept. 8, 2025



Red Hawks attack the Delta Panthers net. Photo by Cliff Dodge.

VOLLEYBALL:

The Montrose Red Hawks volleyball team journeyed to the Eastern Slope on Saturday to take part in a major volleyball extravaganza hosted by Lewis Palmer high

school with many teams from across the state of Colorado participating. Each team will play four opponents with the results of the first two games determining the seeding for the final two games. The

Red Hawks will be playing two of the best teams in the state after winning their first two matches. The *Mirror* will report on all four matches in the Sept. 15 edition.

Continued next

MONTROSE SPORTS ROUNDUP *From previous pg*

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2, PLATTE VALLEY BRONCOS 0

The Red Hawks handled the Platte Valley Broncos with dispatch as the team outscored the Broncos 25-19 and 25-16 to move on in the competition.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2, MIDDLE PARK PANTHERS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks had a bit more difficulty in their second match with the Panthers. The Red Hawks won the first match 26-24 and then closed out the Panthers 25-18, moving into the competition where all of the previous winners will be tangling to determine winners and losers.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2, WINDSOR 1

The Montrose Red Hawks won their third match at Lewis Palmer by the scores of 20-25, 25-20 and 16-14 to remain undefeated.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 2, PUEBLO WEST 1

The Red Hawks did it again. They defeated Pueblo West by the score of 2-1. The scores were as follows: 18-25, 25-14 and 15-8. This increased the Red Hawks overall season record to 6 wins and 0 losses.

The Red Hawks volleyball team, prior to heading for Lewis Palmer, headed for Bayfield to take on the Wolves last Tuesday. The Red Hawks won their second match of the season defeating the Wolves 3-0 to improve their overall record to 2-0.

The first game of the match was a close-knit affair as the Red Hawks prevailed by the score of 6-24. The second and third games were not close with Montrose winning 25-15 and 25-20. Marcella Mendoza and Maggie Legg led the Red Hawks attack with 11 and 10 kills

The volleyball team returns home on

Tuesday, Sept. 16 as they host the Grand Junction Tigers with first serve scheduled for 6 PM.

RED HAWKS SOFTBALL:

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 8, EAGLE VALLEY DEVILS 1

The much-improved Montrose Red Hawks softball team won their sixth game of the young season defeating the Eagle Valley Devils by the score of 8-1 at the Montrose softball diamond.

The Red Hawks surrendered the Devil's lone run in the top of the first inning and then grabbed the lead for good as they scored 2 runs in the bottom of the first frame. The Red Hawks pushed across 3 runs in the 4th inning and duplicated their effort in the 5th inning to account for their 8-run victory.

Senior Emry Hall led the Red Hawks attack with two base hits. Freshman Bentley Schiller drove in a pair of runs in addition to pounding out a ringing double. She also pitched a 7-inning shutout and gave up no hits. The Red Hawks improved their overall record to 6-1 and are now 2-0 in league action.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 7, DELTA PANTHERS 1

The Montrose Red Hawks proved to be unwelcome hosts as they defeated the Delta Panthers by the score of 7-1 at the Montrose softball diamond. The teams battled to a scoreless tie through the 3rd inning when the home team pushed across two runs and then added five more markers in the next two frames making the final score 7-1 in favor of the Red Hawks.

Senior Abby Siegel led the Red Hawks hit parade with 3 base knocks while Bentley

Schiller, Aubrey Blacker and Jaytli Cannizo chipped in with two hits each. Schiller pitched a complete game giving up 5 hits while striking out 7 Panthers.

MONTROSE RED HAWKS 3, RIFLE BEARS 2

The Montrose Red Hawks won a tight ball game vs the Rifle Bears last Saturday by the score of 3-2. The Red Hawks pushed across a single run in the bottom of the third inning to lead 1-0. The Bears scored two runs in the top of the fourth inning to re-take the lead 2-1. The Red Hawks then scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to seal the 3-2 victory.

Six Red Hawks had base hits: Isabella Mott, Aubrey Blacker, Alexi Garcia, Arianna Mora, Bentley Schiller and Abby Siegel. Schiller had the only extra base knock, a double. Schiller pitched a complete game, allowing 2 runs on 5 hits while striking out 10.

RIFLE BEARS 6, MONTROSE RED HAWKS 0

The Montrose Red Hawks fell to the Rifle Bears last weekend by the score of 6-0 at the Red Hawks home stadium. The Bears pushed across a single run in the top of the first inning and kept the lead as both teams put up zeros on the scoreboard until the top of the seventh inning when the Bears scored 5 runs and put the game in the Bears win column 6-0.

The Red Hawks could muster only 2 hits in the contest and were shut out. The Red Hawks were the recipients of 5 bases on balls while striking out 5 times. The Red Hawks committed 4 errors in the contest. Bentley Schiller pitched all 7 innings, giving up 6 runs and 6 hits.

The Red Hawks travel to Grand Junction on Tuesday to take on the Tigers with first pitch scheduled for 5 pm.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CONCERNED FOR FUTURE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN MONTROSE COUNTY

Editor:

I am a voting constituent in Montrose County and am quite concerned about the matter of the future of solar energy in Montrose County. This is a burgeoning industry that employs many workers and benefits more people. It is an opportunity for further growth within the county and a benefit to both your constituents—my community neighbors—and myself.

It is supported by hundreds of members of the public. It is approved of by rural power associations like the Delta-Montrose Electric Association and San Miguel Power Association, the Colorado Solar and Storage Association (COSSA), plus the Planning Commission.

On September 17 at the next County Commissioners' meeting, they will vote on a measure that will determine the fate of the future of solar energy in Montrose County. Alternative 1 will support this industry and allow it to grow in the future. Alternative 2 will kill it. Write to your commissioners, show up at the meeting. Please Let them know that we do not want he will of the people and the opinion of the experts to be overridden. Let them know we want a vote for the future of Montrose County, a vote for Alternative 1 on the matter of the future of solar energy in Montrose County.

Most sincerely, a voter

Mary Lael Van Ripper



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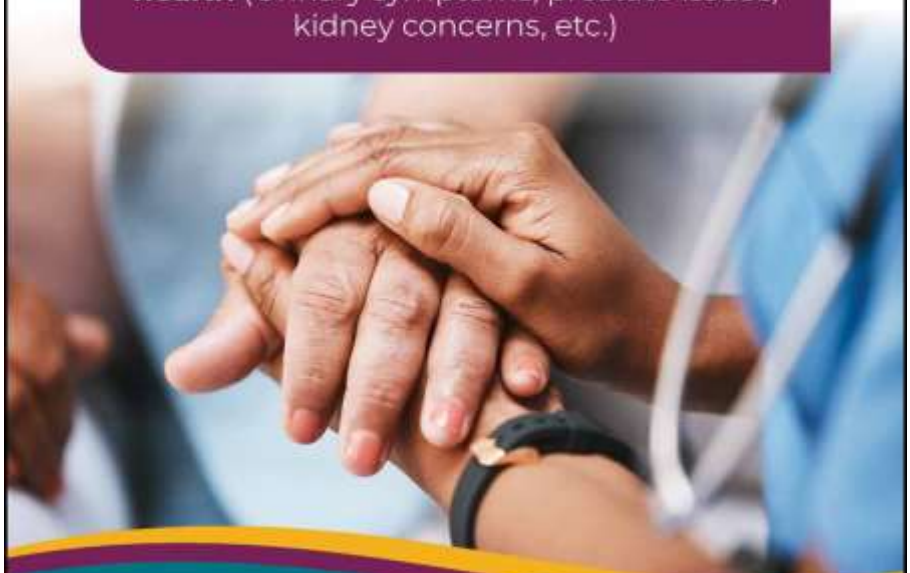
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ALTERNATIVE 2 DENIED STRONG SUPPORT FOR SOLAR

Editor:

The Montrose County Commissioners have stated several times that they want to hear everybody's opinion on solar power generation in the County. If over 1,000 people supporting solar isn't enough then we may never satisfy the two Commissioners. Montrose County Planning Commission public meeting was held with unanimous support for Alternative 1. A Planning Commissioner even asked what recourse do the people who disagree with Alternative 1 have? Nobody spoke in favor of Alternative 2. This was an open public meeting. A Planning Commissioner even said- 'We can't make people attend these public meetings.

In terms of support for solar, the County went through a Master Plan Process where 831 people were polled and 73% of those supported solar power. This was a series of open public meetings.

CCL-Montrose passed a petition around in support of Alternative 1 and we got 400 signatures. That is 400 separate, individual conversations in support of Alternative 1.

The adoption of Alternative 1 doesn't mean projects will be built, it just would give the Commissioners the tools to assess each project on its own merits. On the other hand it gives the project developer the regulations so they know how the County will review each project. That is fair, honest and what every business needs- clear concise guidelines on how to apply to the County.

After public discussion and no support for Alternative 2 the Planning Commission voted 3 to 2 to deny alternative 2. The Montrose Board of County Commissioners now have to decide what to do- approve Alternative 1, which had previously been approved by the Planning Commission, approve Alternative 2, which would go

against the voice of 1,000 members of the public and Planning Commission, or to send both back to the Planning Commission for review.

In my view, it is plain and obvious that the Montrose Board of County Commissioners must approve Alternative 1, and forget about Alternative 2. Overwhelmingly, the public has come out to support solar power generation in Montrose County. It is time to implement regulations that provide for the protection of Montrose County residents and allow individual projects to be reviewed and possibly gain approval by the Montrose BOCC.

This is what the Commissioners wanted (remember the LP Plant and ENEL Projects?)- sideboards on proposed projects so they meet stringent criteria for approval.

Tony Hoag, Citizens Climate Lobby

STATEMENT ON THE RECALL OF SCOTT MIJARES, COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1, MONTROSE, COLORADO

Editor:

Scott Mijares has notified Tressa Guynes, Montrose County Clerk and Recorder, that he will not resign as County Commissioner, District 1. Mr. Mijares rejects what nearly 5,000 Montrose County registered voters made clear: his actions are unacceptable, and change is needed.

Those voters included Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliated community members—united by their commitment to fiscal accountability and public trust. They signed a petition to place the recall question on the November ballot because they believe he puts his personal agendas ahead of the public interest, wastes taxpayer dollars, and through his reckless behavior, erodes public trust. His actions foster a hostile work environment for county employees, compromise the principles of fair and transparent governance, and ignore the voices of the very constituents he was elected to represent.

Now, the decision rests with the voters in November. Montrose County residents deserve leadership that is accountable, responsible, and fair to all citizens.

Vote **YES to recall Scott Mijares** on November 4, 2025. Your Yes vote will restore integrity and trust in county government. Visit our website for more information and to donate to our campaign to recall Scott Mijares. www.recallscottmijares.com

Committee to Recall Scott Mijares

Co-Chairs – Phoebe Benziger & Linda Gann



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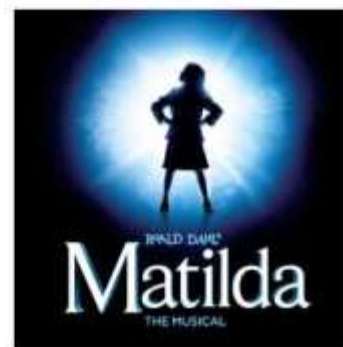
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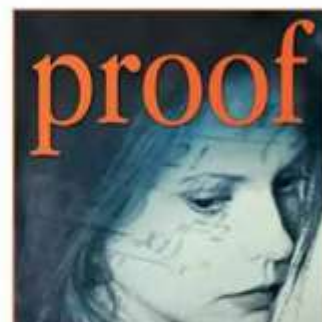
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COME *Play* WITH US

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THANK YOU SCOTT MIJARES

Dear Editor:

I want to thank Scott Mijares for running for and winning the District 1 Montrose County Commissioner's seat. He ran on the principle to provide the citizens of Montrose County transparency of their county government which he is delivering. A successful recall petition naming Scott was issued the 2nd day such an action was statutorily possible as his reward for exercising his First Amendment Right as well as his campaign promise.

I call upon the citizens of Montrose County to become aware of what is happening and thank the framers of our Constitution for our First Amendment, Freedom of Speech, as well as Scott Majares, your County Commissioner, District 1.

Thank you,

Ronald D. Henderson

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-The League will provide a Ballot Information presentation on October 1, at the Montrose Forum at 8 am, on Oct. 1, at S. 3rd and Cascade, in Montrose.

The League will provide a Montrose School District Board Candidate Forum on Thursday, October 9, at the City Council Chambers, 107 S. Cascade, in Montrose.

More information on League events at www.lwv-uv.org

Janine Reid, Co-Chair (Delta County): janinereid57@gmail.com





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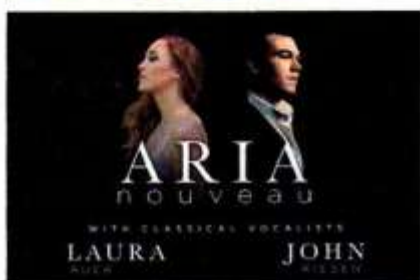
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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO STATE PATROL STOPS MOTORCYCLE TRAVELING 142 MPH ON I-25 AIRCRAFT UNIT LOCATES RECKLESS RIDER ON ROUTINE FLIGHT

Special to the Mirror

DOUGLAS COUNTY— On Sept. 4, 2025, at approximately 2:45 p.m., a Colorado State Patrol aircraft observed a motorcycle traveling at an extremely high rate of speed on northbound Interstate 25 between Larkspur and Castle Rock.

Troopers flying in a Patrol airplane first spotted the motorcycle near milepost 171 in the toll lane, estimating speeds well over 100 mph. After relocating the motorcycle near milepost 180, troopers observed the rider weaving across double solid white lines to pass other vehicles before rapidly accelerating.

Using the aircraft's VASCAR (Visual Average Speed Computer and Recorder) system, the motorcycle was clocked at 142 miles per hour in a posted 75-mph zone and as it entered a 65-mph construction zone. Despite heavier traffic ahead, the

rider was observed repeatedly accelerating to speeds well above 100 mph while weaving through vehicles.

Troopers patrolling on the ground were directed to the motorcycle, and Corporal Matt Normandin successfully initiated a traffic stop with the motorcycle rider on northbound I-25 at milepost 185. The rider of the motorcycle was identified as a 27-year-old male, Matthew Galek. He was arrested on the following charges and booked into Douglas County Jail.

-Speeding 142 mph in a 65 mph zone

-Reckless Driving

-Failed to Present Insurance

"This type of reckless driving is extremely dangerous not only for the rider but for every motorist sharing the roadway," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Motorcycle riders have little protection in the event of a

crash, and speed remains one of the leading causes of fatal crashes across Colorado.


Even at normal, highway speeds, a single mistake can mean tragedy for the rider and everyone around them."

The Colorado State Patrol reminds all drivers that speed is a leading contributing factor in traffic fatalities. For motorcycle riders, excessive speed drastically reduces reaction time, increases stopping distance, and eliminates the margin for error.

Riding at extreme speeds puts lives at unnecessary risk.

Aircraft & Trooper Videos

Arrests and charges are merely accusations until and unless a suspect is convicted of a crime. All suspects and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.



News, if unreported, has no impact.
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

RETHINKING PROJECT 7'S EXPANSION

Editor:

In the Uncompahgre Valley, water serves as both a lifeline and a limited resource. Project 7 Water Authority faces a pivotal decision. The authority, a cooperative serving over 50,000 residents in Montrose, Delta, Olathe, and surrounding areas, operates a treatment plant with a capacity of 27.6 million gallons per day (MGD). Current usage averages 5 MGD in winter and peaks at 15 MGD in summer, leaving ample headroom under the 27.6 MGD maximum. Yet, Project 7 pushes for a new Ridgeway Water Treatment Plant at an estimated \$180 million, adding just 6 MGD of capacity. This proposal raises critical questions about necessity, taxpayer burden, and viable alternatives like raw water diversion for irrigation.

Background on Project 7 and the Proposed Plant

Project 7 was formed in 1977 as a collaborative effort among seven entities to provide potable water. It draws from the Gunnison River via the historic Gunnison Tunnel. The existing plant, the largest on Colorado's Western Slope, treats water for domestic use while the region relies on separate irrigation supplies. Demand projections anticipate growth, with the authority citing risks like droughts, wildfires, and infrastructure failures to justify redundancy. By 2026, the new plant aims to enhance resiliency, serving a population expected to increase amid regional development. However, with current usage well below capacity, the push seems premature. Summer peaks are largely driven by outdoor needs, including irrigation for lawns and agriculture in Montrose, Delta, and Olathe.

Financial Implications for Taxpayers

The financial implications for taxpayers are staggering. The \$180 million price tag includes construction, raw water conveyance, and operations, funded through a mix of grants, loans, and rate hikes. Project

7 has secured federal support, such as a \$612,059 Bureau of Reclamation grant for pilot testing and a \$39 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan invitation. Yet, ultimate costs will pass to ratepayers. A 100% wholesale rate increase could translate to 20-30% higher bills for households, exacerbating affordability issues in a region where median incomes lag state averages. This echoes broader Colorado water challenges, where demand could outpace supply by 2050, but local projections show Montrose's annual demands at about 4,500 acre-feet, or 45% of allocations.

Exploring Viable Alternatives

Why not explore alternatives before burdening taxpayers? Summer usage spikes by 10 MGD, much for irrigation. Diverting this to a secondary raw water system, filtered minimally for turbidity to prevent pipe clogs, could free up treated capacity without a new plant. The Uncompahgre Valley already uses Gunnison Tunnel water for agriculture, diverting 500,000-600,000 acre-feet annually. A dual system for non-potable uses, common in arid regions, would cost far less than \$180 million and allow funds for upgrading the existing facility. Project 7's raw water sources from two points support this feasibility.

Some argue the new plant addresses vulnerabilities like single-source reliance, but data shows no past interruptions. Public sentiment reflects skepticism, with users questioning costs amid economic pressures. As Colorado's water plan emphasizes efficiency, Project 7 should prioritize conservation and alternatives over expansion.

Potential Hidden Agendas and Connections

Is this part of a larger plan thought up by Bill Bell? It is no secret that when Bill Bell was a rookie city manager here, he tried and failed to take over Project 7 water. The former power plant the city acquired has

deep water rights attached to its deed. So, it begs the question, is there something more afoot here than meets the eye?

Or, is it possibly something even more sinister like GORP, the 730,000 acre federal land grab concocted by Senators Bennet (D-CO) and Hickenlooper (D-CO) in conjunction with Congressman Jeff Hurd (R-CD3) which would devastate Montrose's local economy?

We are simply asking the questions, are there ulterior motives here that are driving this push for this second plant? Or is it just another publicly funded entity feeling the need to spend our money? We do not seem to need it based on usage and even future usage trends.

Moving back to Montrose, I was absolutely shocked at the cost of water. When I compare rates of what others pay downstream in states who buy water from Colorado, their water bills are about 50-60% less. Why is it that we pay 2-3 times what they pay when we are supplying their water?

Why are we really looking at adding a seemingly senseless additional plant that produces 25% of the capacity of the current plant we have now? Nobody is answering this very important question. And just remember, there will be a need to update the current plant in the near future that will cost the ratepayers and taxpayers a pretty penny in and of itself.

We deserve a thorough cost-benefit analysis, not lip service. Redirecting irrigation to raw water could meet needs sustainably, saving millions. It is time to pause the \$180 million project and invest in smarter solutions for the valley's future.

Michael J Badagliaccio, "MJB"

Michael is a father of five and grandfather of three, United States Air Force Veteran, International Recording Artist, passionate about the United States of America and the founders Genius of the Constitution and Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report (coDOGEreport.com).

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA COUNTY DOWNGRADES TO STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-On Friday, September 5, 2025, Delta County downgraded from Stage 2 to Stage 1 fire restrictions along with other neighboring counties and the Bureau of Land Management. The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests moved to Stage 1 restrictions prior to the Labor Day holiday weekend. The decision to reduce restrictions to Stage 1 came after

coordination with local, state and federal fire and land management officials. While extreme drought persists in Delta County and fire danger remains high, fall weather patterns are beginning to shift and help firefighters with response to any fires that start.

"The downgrade to Stage 1 fire restrictions allows the County to balance the elevated fire risk and need to take action to minimize the risk of human-caused wildfires with the recreational needs of residents and visitors to the County," said Delta County Undersheriff Quinn Archibeque. The decision was made following coordination with local, state and federal partners on a weekly fire coordination call and review of the fire indices and conditions across the region.

Recent waves of monsoon moisture into Delta County with a few storms forecast in the coming week, combined with higher humidity levels in the morning and evening hours, cooler overnight temperatures and an increase in availability of fire response resources are all reasons to reduce fire restrictions to Stage 1.


While restrictions are being reduced, the Sheriff's Office and fire management partners would like to remind all residents and hunters coming to Delta County to be extra vigilant and to be fire wise to help prevent an unintentional wildfire from starting. Trees, grasses and brush are extremely dry and careless actions such as throwing a lit cigarette out of a vehicle, dragging trailer chains or starting a campfire outside of a permanent fire ring may lead to an unintentional wildfire which can quickly spread and endanger private property and homes. Fire restrictions are meant to balance and protect the health and safety of residents in Delta County and prevent human caused wildfires.

Stage 1 fire restrictions become effective in Delta County on Friday, September 5, 2025 at 12:01 am and apply to all unincorporated lands within Delta County, state parks and wildlife areas and within the Town limits of any municipality within Delta County which elects by appropriate ordinance or resolution to have the provisions of Delta County fire restrictions apply within their jurisdiction. Violations of fire restrictions can result in a citation by law enforcement and fines and the possibility of additional charges based on the conditions of the fire and damages caused. Stage 1 fire restrictions will remain in effect until rescinded by the Sheriff. For the full list of restrictions and a fire restriction graphic, please visit: DeltaCountyCO.gov/FireBan

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

THE DANGER OF UNELECTED COMMISSIONS

By Sean M. Pond

Colorado is in trouble, and one of the biggest reasons is something most folks do not even think about: unelected commissions.

These commissions, boards, and working groups are stacked with activists, lobbyists, and people who could not win at the ballot box but still want a say in how you and I live. They do not answer to the voters, and they do not have to face the people whose lives they are reshaping. Yet they have enormous power over everything from our energy to our wildlife, from the way we heat our homes to whether we can graze cattle or hunt elk on public lands.

What Our Founders Warned Us About

James Madison warned in the Federalist Papers that giving unelected bodies too much power was dangerous because it bypassed the people themselves. A constitutional republic is supposed to be run by elected officials who are accountable to voters. If you do not like the job your commissioner, senator, or governor is doing, you can vote them out. That is the safeguard.

But unelected commissions cannot be voted out. They make rules, enforce policies, and spend your money, all while hiding behind the excuse that they are experts. In truth, they have become a weapon of the progressive movement in Colorado.

Look at Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Take Colorado Parks and Wildlife. That commission has been stacked with environmental activists who do not represent hunters, ranchers, or sportsmen. They are making decisions about wolf reintroduction, limiting hunting, and reshaping wildlife policy, and they are doing it without any real accountability to the people most affected. This is not democracy. It is bureaucracy. And it is being used to chip away at our rural way of life.

A Local Example

This is not just a state problem. It is happening right here at home. Recently, someone tried to convince the towns of Nucla, Naturita, and Montrose County to form yet another commission that would insert itself between local elected officials and the management of our public lands. The person behind it has already run for office and lost, failed to get appointed, and now is looking for a back door to stay relevant.

That is the pattern. People who cannot win the trust of the people try to sneak in through unelected commissions. And once they get there, they wield power over the rest of us without ever being held to account.

Why It Is Dangerous

Unelected commissions are the worst of both worlds. They have the power of government but none of the accountability. They are free to push radical ideas and

outside agendas, often in lockstep with progressive NGOs and activist groups, without worrying about the consequences.

Meanwhile, the people, the ranchers, the farmers, the hunters, the workers who built this state, get silenced. We are told to accept rules and regulations that crush our jobs, kill our industries, and strip away our freedoms, all because some commission of experts decided they knew best.

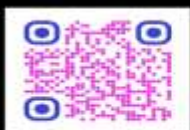
My Stand

I oppose unelected commissions. Decisions about land, wildlife, energy, and liberty must be made by elected officials who answer directly to the people. That is the only way we keep government accountable.

We need to remember this. Unelected commissions are not a tool of democracy. They are a way to bypass it. They allow activists and failed candidates to sneak through the back door and make decisions they were never entrusted to make.

If Colorado is going to survive as a free and prosperous state, we have to draw a line. We must restore power to the people, and that means demanding that elected officials, not unelected commissions, make the big decisions that affect our lives.

Because if we do not, we will wake up one day and realize our freedoms were regulated away by people we never even voted for. And by then, it will be too late.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

TRUMP HAS GIVEN THIS COUNTRY A FIGHTING CHANCE AT SURVIVAL

Editor:

Let's start with a chuckle. California Governor Newsom is suddenly concerned about wasteful spending — specifically accusing Trump of “wasting \$120 million” by deploying the National Guard to Los Angeles. This is the same Democrat governor who spent \$37 billion to end homelessness, while homelessness increased 24% under his watch. (That's 37 thousand million.) This is the same politician who spent \$9.5 billion just in Medi-Cal for illegals in 2024, and spends more in one month on illegals than Trump will spend on the National Guard deployment in total. Newsom might want to comment on where the \$100 million raised from the Fire Aid concert for fire victims went. (Hint: none of it went to fire victims.) Perhaps Newsom can help us understand how \$128 billion of American taxpayer money was spent in more than a decade on his “high speed rail” that hasn't laid a single track yet. Or the \$33 billion his state lost to unemployment fraud. Before Newsom and Democrats talk about “wasting money” they might want to get their own house in order. They have totally destroyed California. Trump is at least trying to fix California's crime problem, but gets lectured by Newsom for doing the job Newsom was elected to do.

This is the same Newsom who is trying to convince people that Trump might send ICE agents to “polling places and in front of voting booths” to “intimidate people.” At least 2.4 million illegals live in California — that's about 24% of the number of illegals in America. It's no secret that Democrats were losing the support of American citizens and opened the borders to people more inclined to vote for the party that promises them more “free stuff.” There is ample evidence that illegals have been voting for years, and Newsom wants that to continue. He knows full well that the only people who might be concerned when they see border patrol agents are illegals. Only a Democrat who has nothing to offer the America people would be concerned about illegals avoiding voting booths and polling places.

I was reminded of another irony this week. This one is not so humorous. We've all seen the social media posts of public-school teachers asking for donations for basic classroom supplies, so that they don't have to pay for such things out of their own pocket.

That sounds like a worthy cause until you think about it. This nation's two largest teachers' unions funnel nearly \$50 million each year to left-wing causes and groups. Teachers' unions continually demand more of our tax money “for the children.” Perhaps they should funnel less money to Democrat politicians and more to the children and teachers they profess to support? Just as importantly, perhaps our local school boards and superintendents might want to cut half of their bloated administrative staffs and designate some of the resulting savings “for the children?” I am also reminded that my property taxes, a good share of which go to the school district, went up by 50% recently. If some of that windfall to the school district can't be allocated for basic school supplies, one has to question the competency of the school administrators.

As you read more and more about Europe these days, you can't help but appreciate all the steps Trump is taking to steer America away from a similar destructive path. The United Kingdom has gone from the birthplace of free speech to arresting comedians for tweets. Upon arrival in the UK, Graham Linehan was hauled off a plane by armed police over his posts on gender. In 1997 the Brits let their government take away their guns. Now they get arrested for memes and get labeled racist for flying their own flag. Amongst a crisis of immigration, grooming gangs, and political correctness, free speech has collapsed in Great Britain. France's public finances are in crisis. Migrant costs are out of control and are taking the country down the road to bankruptcy. In France, which hasn't had a balanced budget in 50 years, government spending is 57% of GDP. Fully 65% of France's government spending goes to welfare, social services, and migrant freebies. Germany and the Netherlands are experiencing similar problems related to unregulated immigration. The more socialism solidifies, the less a shrinking number of taxpayers (the givers) can provide the free benefits demanded by an increasing number of recipients (“the takers”). Elitist European politicians and media choose to ignore any problems related to illegal immigration, and instead accuse anyone clamoring for tighter borders and more police protection of being racists or fascists.

As in the U.S., many illegal arrivals are angrier at their newfound liberal hosts than

the dictatorships they fled back home. The majority of European immigrants come from Muslim countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In addition to lacking skills, language proficiency, and familiarity with the culture of their host nations, their separatist religion and cultural values are completely incompatible with the very place they seek refuge. Worse yet, many have no intention of assimilating into the host country's culture, but instead expect to, in time, force the host county to assimilate their values. It's called conquest of the infidels.

Europe is committing suicide. Current German Chancellor Merz admitted bluntly that “The welfare state as we have it today can no longer be financed with what we can economically afford.” Regardless, for the leftist European leaders, the idea that immigration must be scrutinized or questioned is intolerable. These are the same leaders that foolishly adopted a self-defeating energy policy that subsidized inefficient wind and solar power while shutting down inexpensive natural gas, nuclear, and coal-powered electricity. (Meanwhile China is building two massive coal-fired plants per month.) These are the same leaders that expected those dumb Americans to continue tolerating one-sided tariffs and huge trade deficits with EU nations, and assumed the U.S. would continue underwriting Europe's defense.

Trump is implementing reforms that Europe should have done years ago. He closed the border and ended the illegal invasion. He is adopting more flexible and sane energy policies. He is downsizing the federal government, and doing everything possible to curtail the waste and outright theft of taxpayer dollars. He is trying to ensure that Medicaid and other welfare programs only go to those who are eligible. He is lowering taxes and getting rid of crippling bureaucratic regulations. He is attempting to force big city mayors and Democrat governors to do their job protecting their citizens from rampant crime and filthy cities. (Chicago Mayor Johnson wants us to believe migratory red state guns are causing innocent Chicagoans to shoot each other.) It's probably too late for Europe, but Trump has given this country a fighting chance at survival. Had Democrats maintained control, we would be giving Europe a run for its money to see who self-destructs first.

Ed Henrie, Montrose

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

HAS STATESMANSHIP BECOME A LOST QUALITY?

Editor:

In an era dominated by divisive rhetoric and ego-driven discourse, one cannot help but wonder if statesmanship has faded into obscurity. This noble quality, once the hallmark of effective leadership, seems increasingly rare at a time when society needs it most. As explored in recent discussions on platforms like X, where users lament the decline of civility in politics, the rise of ego has eroded relationships across personal, professional, and political spheres. Statesmanship, defined historically as morally excellent leadership at the polity level, involves foresight, intentionality, and the ability to transcend everyday politics while pursuing the common good. Yet, contemporary surveys reveal a stark reality: 85 percent of Americans believe civility has worsened over the past decade, with political violence and polarization on the rise. Statesmanship is indeed a lost art, contrasting its absence today with the exemplary model of President Ronald Reagan, whose wit, charm, and firmness embodied the virtue.

The Essence of Statesmanship: Historical Foundations

Statesmanship has deep roots in political philosophy. Aristotle and Machiavelli viewed it as the art of governing with wisdom, balancing competing interests for the polity's benefit. In American history, figures like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln exemplified this through prudent decision-making and moral courage. Washington, often called the "father of his country," *relinquished power voluntarily*, setting a precedent for selfless leadership. Lincoln navigated the Civil War with empathy and resolve, as detailed in Doris Kearns Goodwin's "Team of Rivals," where

he assembled a cabinet of adversaries to foster unity. These leaders contemplated positions, valued opposing views, and acted with dignity, qualities now scarce. A 2024 Pew Research Center study highlights this decline, showing that animosity has replaced civility, fueled by social media and populist demagoguery. Over 70 percent of Americans fail basic civic literacy quizzes, contributing to a crisis where ego trumps reasoned debate. The National Civic League notes that incivility weakens collaboration, with root causes including harassment of public officials. In politics, this manifests as snarky exchanges and ad hominem attacks, far from the contemplative statesmanship of yesteryear.

Reagan as the Epitome of Statesmanship

Ronald Reagan stands as a prime example of statesmanship in modern times. Known as the "Great Communicator," Reagan used wit and charm to bridge divides, remaining firm without descending into disrespect. During the 1980 debate with Jimmy Carter, Reagan's quip, "There you go again," disarmed his opponent with humor, not hostility, earning widespread admiration. His moral courage shone in negotiations with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, where he demanded, "Tear down this wall," blending firmness with optimism that helped end the Cold War. Reagan valued others' opinions, even in disagreement. He stimulated economic growth and strengthened defense while maintaining bipartisanship, as evidenced by his work with Democrat Speaker Tip O'Neill on Social Security reforms. His approval ratings averaged 52.8 percent, peaking at 68 percent, ranking him highly among modern presidents. Historians

place Reagan in the top tier, with C-SPAN surveys ranking him ninth overall for leadership virtues like prudence and justice. Reagan contemplated positions rather than reacting impulsively, earning respect across aisles.

The Modern Erosion

Today, ego dominates, as seen in polarized debates and social media vitriol. A 2023 Carnegie Endowment report links political violence to declining trust, with 81 percent of voters believing democracy is threatened. Articles from the 2020s, like those in the *Journal of Democracy*, attribute this to a "crisis of civic virtue," where honesty and civility wane. X discussions echo this, with users calling for "statesmen" amid "lost civility." Unlike Reagan, modern leaders often prioritize snark over substance, eroding public discourse. Our Constitutional Republic was built on public discourse, but our elected officials must maintain a dignified level of statesmanship in the process.

Reviving Statesmanship for a Better Future

Statesmanship is not irretrievable. By emulating Reagan's model of respectful firmness and contemplation, leaders can restore civility. Education in civic virtues, as advocated by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, offers a path forward. In a time of division, reclaiming this lost quality is essential for societal harmony.

Michael J Badagliacco, "MJB"

Michael is a father of five and grandfather of three, United States Air Force Veteran, International Recording Artist, passionate about the United States of America and the founders Genius of the Constitution and Editor-in-Chief, Colorado DOGE Report (coDOGEreport.com).



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS


UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE LOWERS FIRE RESTRICTIONS TO STAGE 1

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Stage 2 fire restrictions have been lowered to Stage 1 fire restrictions, effective Friday, September 5, for all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office. This includes all BLM managed public lands within the boundaries of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Delta counties, a portion of Gunnison County, and the Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Areas. The restrictions align with local orders and guidelines to protect the public's safety during high fire danger.

"With the recent monsoonal weather, conditions have improved enough to step back down to Stage 1 fire restrictions. High fire danger remains, and the continuation of drought is the reasoning for remaining in Stage 1 fire restrictions" said Southwest District Fire Management Officer Rusty Stark.


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Under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions the following acts are prohibited:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire except within agency-provided fire grates at developed recreation sites. Devices using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel are permitted.
- Smoking, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- Operating a chainsaw without a USDA or SAE approved spark arrester properly installed and working, a chemical fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.
- Using a welder, either arc or gas, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter with a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity.
- Using exploding targets.

Stage 1 fire restrictions on these lands are in effect as of 12:01 a.m., MDT, September 5th, 2025, and will be in place until rescinded. Violation of federal fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both. In addition, those found responsible for starting wildfires will also face restitution costs of suppressing the fire.

These fire restrictions are in addition to the year-round wildfire prevention restrictions on BLM-administered public lands in Colorado. These include prohibitions on:

- Leaving a fire unattended or unextinguished.
- Possession, discharge or use of any fireworks.
- Discharge of a firearm using incendiary or tracer ammunition.
- Burning, igniting or causing to burn any tire, wire, magnesium, or any other hazardous or explosive material.
- Operating any off-road vehicle on public lands unless the vehicle is equipped with a properly installed spark arrester pursuant to 43 CFR 8343.1 (c).

Fireworks are always prohibited on public lands. More information about fire prevention is available at: [Fire Prevention | Bureau of Land Management](http://FirePrevention.BureauofLandManagement). Current fire prevention notices for the BLM Southwest District are posted online at: https://www.blm.gov/program_s/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/southwest-district

OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITIZENS NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH

From the Desk of Montrose County Commissioner Scott Mijares

As many know by now I have made the difficult decision to fight this recall effort put forward by the very people who told me it was coming even before I was sworn into office.

In the coming weeks I will be addressing the talking points that have been repeated by volunteers who have canvassed our community with accusations that are untrue.

I will start with the forced resignation of the County Manager. The resignation was not forced. However, the County Manager does serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners.

- C.R.S. § 30-11-107(14) grants the BOCC the authority to create positions such as county manager, administrative assistant, or budget officer by resolution. It states explicitly that:

"Any persons appointed to such offices shall serve at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners.

It is not unusual for a newly elected Board to appoint new staff who's vision is congruent with theirs. What is unusual is for an outgoing board to appoint a new county manager less than 30 days from an election where 2/3 duly elected commissioners will make up a new board. Anyone watching knows that all three candidates, including myself objected to this hire.

What most people don't know is that the new county manager was made aware of the risks of the position the outgoing board put him in. The county manager had a duty to work with the new commissioners to build a relationship that would benefit the organization and the county. Instead he decided to pursue a course that sealed his own fate. It is a fact that he came into my office only a handful of times even though his office was 2 doors down the hall. It is a fact that I received only 16 phone calls from him over the 4 months he served as county manager. It is a fact that he was serving at the pleasure of one County Commissioner not all three.

How can an organization the size and complexity of Montrose County operate functionality when there is a such a huge disconnect in the administrative arm of the organization?

Ultimately despite our efforts, two of the three Commissioners decided the situation was untenable. The resignation was not demanded or forced. It was the culmination of months of frustration from both sides.

In the upcoming weeks I will be addressing other false claims made by the petitioners. Citizens need to know the truth.

If any one would like to meet with me to discuss any of the issues on the petition or any other subject regarding Montrose County please reach out to me. I can meet you individually or in a group. You can also go to my website at www.scotm4montrose.com

Thank you,

Scott Mijares, Chair, Montrose Board of County Commissioners smijares@montrosecounty.net. / 970-650-0902



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MRH WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES EARN STATEWIDE RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING CARE

Alpine Women's Centre and Family Center honored for perinatal quality, breastfeeding excellence, and comprehensive women's health services

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— Montrose Regional Health (MRH)'s Alpine Women's Centre and the Family Center have earned multiple statewide honors for excellence in perinatal and women's health care. These awards highlight the organization's commitment to proven medical practices that improve outcomes for mothers and babies. In addition to these recognitions, MRH provides patients with 24/7 access to delivery services through both board-certified obstetricians and certified nurse midwives.

"At Montrose Regional Health, we are deeply committed to providing exceptional women's health services that support every stage of life," said Jeff Mengenhausen, CEO of MRH. "Through the Alpine Women's Centre and the Family Center, patients have access to board-certified physicians, certified nurse midwives, and a skilled team of caregivers. From prenatal visits to delivery, postpartum care, and broader women's health needs, families can feel confident knowing they have world-class services close to home."

Statewide Awards in Perinatal and Breastfeeding Care

The Family Center recently received two Quality Improvement Awards from the Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative (CPCQC) for its participation in the SOAR (Supporting Vaginal Delivery for Low-Risk Mothers) program. The Q2 2025 Collaboration Award and Q2 2025 Data Award recognize the unit's success in reducing unnecessary cesarean sections among first-time mothers with low-risk pregnancies, improving outcomes for both mothers and babies. MRH earned the Celebrate 6 Award of Breastfeeding Excellence from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This recognition is given to birthing facilities that implement at least six of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative's Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, evidence-based practices proven to increase breastfeeding success and improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

"These awards demonstrate our team's

dedication to evidence-based, family-centered care," said Mengenhausen. "They reflect the hard work and compassion of our providers and staff who strive to deliver the highest quality care for women and newborns in our community."

MRH participates in multiple statewide quality initiatives through CPCQC. The Turning the Tides initiative focuses on supporting pregnant and postpartum individuals affected by substance use disorders through evidence-based care and community partnerships. MRH has also joined SPARK (Strengthening Postpartum Care), a statewide effort to improve maternal health outcomes by standardizing postpartum discharge education, identifying early warning signs, and connecting families to follow-up care and community resources. "Our participation in CPCQC's initiatives reflects our unwavering commitment to advancing the quality of maternal health care in our community," said Jennifer Eckerman, Family Center director. "By engaging in programs like Turning the Tides and SPARK, we are working to ensure every mother and baby receive the safest, highest-quality care possible."

Commitment Beyond Maternity Care

In addition to maternity and newborn care, MRH provides a full spectrum of women's health services through Alpine Women's Centre, including gynecology, family planning, hormone replacement, menopause care, and preventive screenings. At the Family Center, care is available around the clock, with both obstetricians and midwives providing deliveries and advanced support for newborns.

MRH provides vital services through its



Jennifer Eckerman, RN, Family Center director at Montrose Regional Health, leads statewide quality initiatives and the hospital's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. *Courtesy photo.*



MRH Women's Health Services recognized for outstanding care. *Courtesy photo.*

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, which offers compassionate, specialized care for survivors of assault across the Seventh Judicial District of Colorado. Earlier this year, the program received a \$63,538 grant from the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board to continue its work.

"We are honored to receive this grant, which allows us to sustain our program serving the entire Seventh Judicial District of Colorado," said Eckerman, who is also a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurse. "For a rural hospital, this support is especially meaningful, as it ensures we can continue providing vital services for survivors of sexual assault and other violent crimes. This grant strengthens our ability to stand alongside survivors and uphold our commitment to compassionate, comprehensive care."

Trusted Care Close to Home

With a combination of statewide recognition, board-certified providers, and 24/7 coverage, MRH is reinforcing its role as a trusted destination for women's health services across the Western Slope. Families can also hear directly from MRH caregivers in a short video (<https://bit.ly/MRHWomensHealthVideo>) that features providers from both the Family Center and Alpine Women's Centre. In this video, MRH shares how close collaboration between midwives, physicians, and nursing staff helps reduce unnecessary C-sections, how MRH supports patients' individual birth plans, and how the facility offers inclusive care in a centralized, family-friendly setting.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA HEALTH WELCOMES NEW ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN TO EXPAND SERVICES

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Delta Health is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Patrick Jon (PJ) Bevan, a highly trained orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist. Dr. Bevan brings with him not only world-class training and experience, but also a deep personal connection to the Western Slope of Colorado—having grown up in Vail.

Dr. Bevan completed his medical education at Western University of Health Sciences in Oregon. He went on to train at one of the nation’s top institutions, completing his Orthopedic Surgery residency at The Cleveland Clinic. He then pursued a prestigious Sports Medicine fellowship at the Hoag Orthopedic Institute in Southern California, where he also served as an Associate Team Physician for the NFL’s Los Angeles Chargers.



Delta Health courtesy photo.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Bevan to our team,” said Jonathan Cohee, MHA, OT, and Chief Executive Officer for Delta Health “He represents the best of both worlds—a Western Colorado connection and the kind of elite-level training that is typically only found in major metropolitan centers.”

“I love Orthopedics and Sports Medicine because it is a specialty devoted to keeping people active, improving and sustaining quality of life, and partnering with my patients to help them achieve their best musculoskeletal health,” said Dr. Bevan. “I have a subspecialty in ‘all things shoulder,’

and having been a shoulder surgery patient myself, I personally understand the road to recovery—whether it be through non-operative treatments or surgery when necessary.”

Dr. Bevan also brings a passion for rural healthcare, a calling he credits to his early years watching his father help build Vail’s rural health infrastructure from the ground up.

“As a rural general Orthopod, you have the privilege of literally treating your neighbors, their families, and caring for them as if they were your own,” Bevan said.

“I love that I get the opportunity to help improve the lives of our community, which gets me to rise and shine every day.”

Dr. Bevan is excited to return to Western Colorado with his wife and best friend, Maggie. Together, they are raising two wonderful boys, Lincoln and Gordon, and are looking forward to becoming an active part of the Delta County community.

For more information about Dr. Bevan or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Delta Health Orthopedics Clinic at 970.399.2400 or visit deltahealthco.org/orthopedics/.

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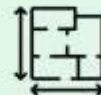
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OPINION/EDITORIAL:LETTERS

WHAT VERSION OF MONTROSE DO YOU WANT?

Editor:

The promise to recall started as far back as 2024.

It was planned and organized by a splintered group with one common goal... take the principled constitutional conservative out of office. He will not bend to our will therefore he has to go.

At the core was the progressive activists like Indivisible and the hold outs from Unify Montrose. They are the same people we see protesting in our streets professing to protect democracy while they work to destroy democracy. They carry No Kings signs, Hands Off signs and "Protect the Vote" signs.

This is not who we are Montrose.

The allegations made in the recall petition

are false and have no basis in fact.

It is time for all conservatives, republican and independent to unite. Stand up and be counted. Your vote counts and should not be cancelled by the vocal minority.

The 18,129 voters who cast their vote for Commissioner Scott Mijares deserve to have their voices heard. They should not be denied that.

I ask all Montrose citizens, what version of Montrose do you want? One that follows the law and procedures that protect your rights granted under the constitution or one that is governed by mob rule?

You voted for Scott Mijares because he said he had courage and conviction-he promised to fight for you. That's exactly what he is doing. Let's unite and fight to-

gether to beat this attack on our way of life for ourselves and generations to follow.

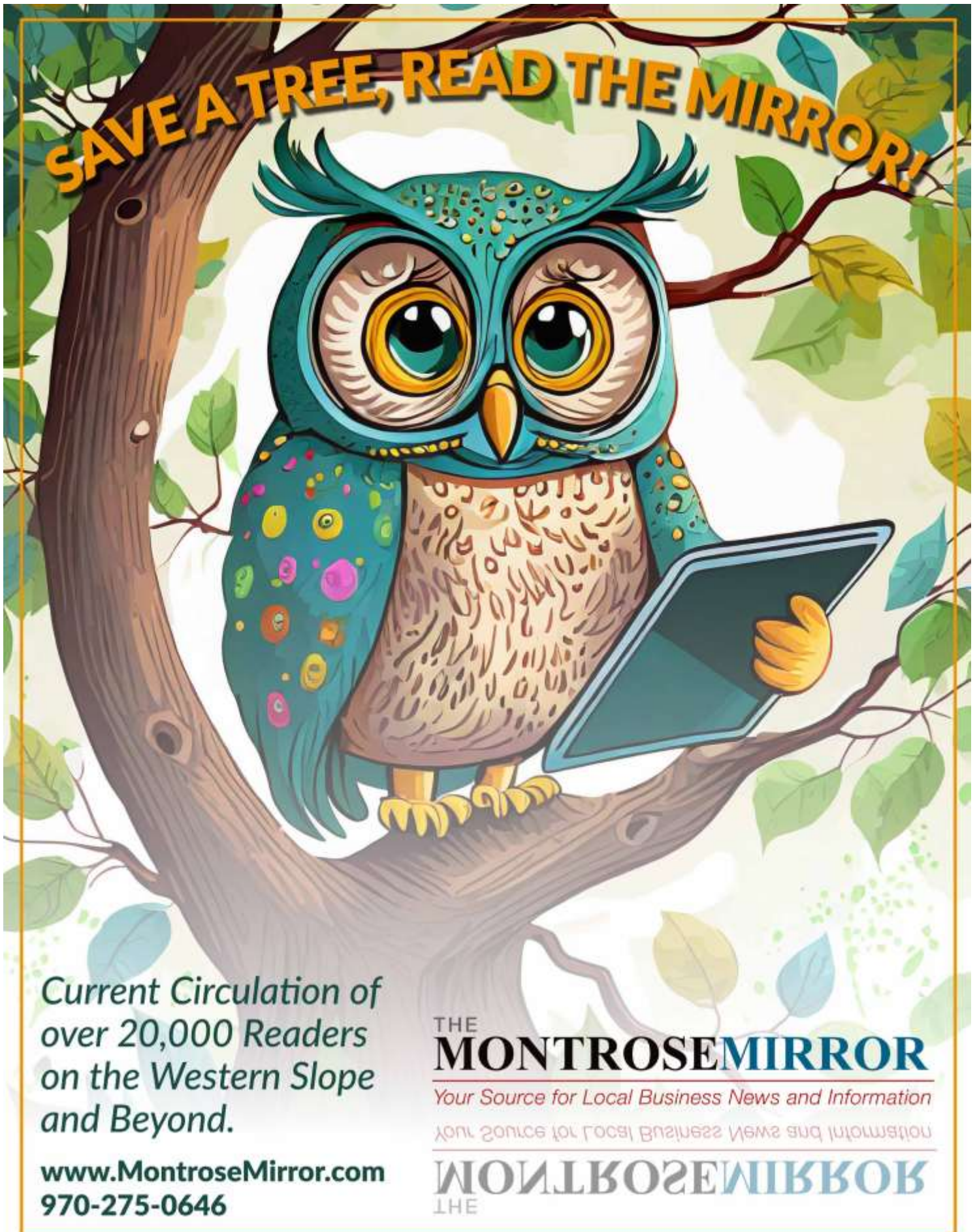
Please get out and VOTE NO on the recall. We cannot afford to give away our county to a bunch of activists who think they know better than us, and want to destroy this county by turning it blue. STOP listening to the lies that they are spewing about Scott and do your own research, and find out the facts that what they are saying are lies.

Mijares and Pond have produced good results and have stood up for our county and citizens.

For more info on the recall go to www.scottm4montrose.com

Doris Van Ness, Bedrock



A vibrant illustration of a stylized owl perched on a thick tree branch. The owl has large, expressive yellow eyes with blue pupils, a blue beak, and blue feathers with colorful circular patterns. It is holding a blue tablet computer in its right talon. The background features green leaves and a brown tree trunk. The entire illustration is framed by a thin orange border.

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TAMARISK A.K.A. SALT CEDAR IS SAN MIGUEL COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED OF THE MONTH

Special to the Mirror


SAN MIGUEL COUNTY—San Miguel County's Noxious Weed of the Month is the Tamarisk, a.k.a. salt cedar, which in our county and throughout the American Southwest, is found growing along river corridors. An introduced species, it was planted in the region to combat the effects of erosion.

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This perennial shrub or small tree bears flowers that bloom from April through September and that range in color from pink to white. Its scale-like leaves are often encrusted with salt

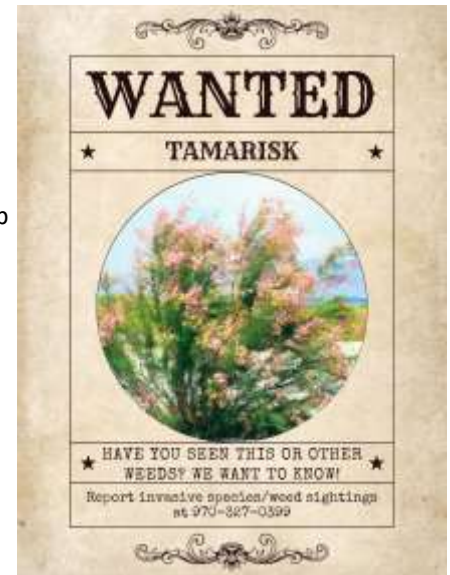
secretions. The leaves are similar in

appearance to cedar or juniper leaves. Tamarisk reproduces vigorously both vegetatively and by seed. Each plant produces up to 600,000 seeds.

To say tamarisk has become a scourge in riparian ecosystems is an understatement. Tamarisk is not a water-wise plant as it consumes massive amounts of water daily and, in so doing, lowers water tables. The plant creates large deposits of salt in the soil and is capable of spreading downstream 12 miles per year. Further, tamarisk degrades the value of wildlife habitat by out-competing native vegetation. Its severe impact along riparian corridors throughout the U.S. West is troubling.

San Miguel County Vegetation Control and Management urges all county residents to manage any tamarisk infestations with elimination in mind. Weed control is a community effort! Please do your part.

For more information about Tamarisk and other noxious weeds in San Miguel County, please contact Julie Kolb, Manager of Vegetation Control and Management at juliek@sanmiguelcountycogov.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MAIN STREET BANNER URGES SUPPORT FOR A SILENT ARMY

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Many banners ripple over East Main Street in Montrose in a year, about 80, the City of Montrose Banner Program says. Some promote events for recreation, others for charities. A unique one this week seeks only understanding and support for a silent army of people across the Montrose and Delta areas — family members who care for chronically ill loved ones at home.

The banner announces the Family Caregiver Summit September 30 at the Pavilion in Montrose and invites all interested to register at 4CSF.org.

"Families caring for a loved one are isolated and alone," said Laird Landon, PhD, board chair of the Family Caregivers Foundation, the group sponsoring the upcoming summit. "Many loved ones don't want to leave the house; many neighbors, and even family members are afraid to get involved. The burden of caregiving leads the caregiver to neglect friends and their own personal needs. Our mission is to relieve the isolation and encourage positive support. We hope to sustain and grow caregiver resilience."

Admission to the summit is free and open to all caregivers and others. It will be from 1 pm to 4:30 pm and will include breakout sessions on relevant subjects as well as displays by firms with vital caregiver services.

The foundation also sponsors and facilitates six support groups each month in Montrose and Delta areas, three in person and three online. Each group has a half-dozen or so family caregivers, and provides guidance to handle challenging tasks such as talking to doctors, taking away car keys and placing a loved one in a care facility if necessary.

Summit-goers also may take home a book, *Caregiving, Journey to a New Hori-*



zon, a collection of stories by caregivers of their challenges and victories. The foundation gives the book away, and it also is available on Amazon.

Like those in the book each board member has experienced years of trials, and joys, while they were caregivers to a family member.

"My father-in-law and I were the main caregivers for my mother-in-law, and we had nobody helping us," Colleen Steinberg, a board member, recalls. "And then my dad was a veteran with health issues, too. We didn't know where to go, you know, and there was no respite for us."

"I was doing twenty-four-seven monitoring for my wife for over 10 years and it was physically disabling," said Bill Bottomly, also on the board. "She was doing unsafe things, and I felt like I was going to die if I didn't get some rest."

Both found relief and support they needed from others in the caregivers foundation. "Caring for a loved one for years, who is declining and will die is one of the hardest things a human being can do," says Board Chair Landon. "Being in a group of other caregivers is the best thing a caregiver can do to reduce the burden."

All of the loved ones who board members cared for have passed, but they couldn't just walk away without wanting to serve others.



Special to the Mirror

Above, Board members of the Family Caregivers Foundation seem almost dwarfed behind the banner now floating this week over East Main Street in Montrose (above left). From left are Bill Bottomly, Board Chair Laird Landon, Sandra Martin and Colleen Steinberg. A fifth board member, not in the photo, is Vice Chair Melanie Fairlamb in Delta. They are the faces and the workers behind the September 30 Family Caregivers Summit at the Pavilion in Montrose. Almost all family caregivers work behind the scenes as well. (Photo courtesy Family Caregivers Foundation).

"Caring for M was the most difficult thing I've ever done," Landon said. "Most caregivers, when the journey is over, want to grieve and move on. So it is common for people to ask why we continue to be involved."

For us, however, it is an honor to be with caregivers as they struggle to find meaning and the will to carry on.

"We know we are making a difference when occasionally a caregiver will say, 'This support group saved my life.' Or when a caregiver who lost a loved one long ago, after hearing one of our talks, says, 'I wish I had known that while I was caregiving'."



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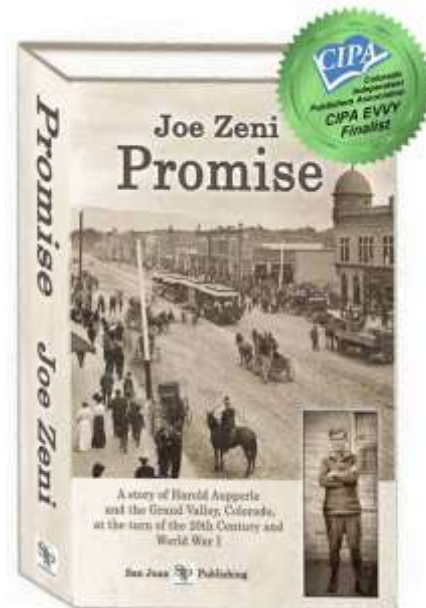
PROMISE BY JOE ZENI FINALIST FOR AN EVVY AWARD IN HISTORY

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-*Promise*, by Joe Zeni, published by San Juan Publishing Group, Inc. is a finalist for an EVVY award in history from the Colorado Independent Publishers Association (CIPA). The

book, 388 pages and now in it's second printing, describes the exponential changes at the turn of the last century in Western Colorado and in the Balkans during World War I. It is a true account, told from the perspective of Harold Aupperle who grew up in Grand Junction, attended Stanford, and served in the

French Ambulance Corps in Eastern Europe during and after the war, where he became a hero to the many families he helped. The story is fascinating, well-researched with over 200 historic photographs (many taken by Aupperle), maps, and newspaper articles. Read more about the book here. <https://sanjuanpub.com/promise/>



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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

ESTHER JENNY ALVARADO

November 19, 1940 — September 3, 2025



ESTHER JENNY LOVATO ALVARADO, 84, of Montrose, Colorado, passed away peacefully on September 3, 2025. She was born on November 19, 1940, in Saguache, Colorado, and grew up especially close to her younger sister, Sally Jiron, while being lovingly raised by their grandparents. Family was always at the center of her life, and she cherished her beautiful nephew and two nieces, Anthony, Connie, and Brenda — with Brenda also holding a very special place in her heart as her god-daughter.

Esther married her first husband, Thomas Lovato, and together they made their home in Silverton, Colorado, where they

raised three children: Thomas, Valerie, and Jerry Lovato. After the tragic passing of her husband in a mining accident, Esther returned to Montrose, where she later met Thomas Rudy Alvarado. With Rudy, she was blessed with three more children: DeWayne, Darrell, and Yolanda Alvarado.

A devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Esther was known for her selflessness and the way she always put others first. Her greatest joy came from her family, and she poured her love into raising and supporting not only her children but also her grandchildren. She shared a special bond with her grandchildren Jenny, Jacob, Josh, Tommy, and Jeremy, and lovingly raised her granddaughter Charlotte as her own. She was a source of leadership, encouragement, and unconditional love for her granddaughter Bryanna, always guiding her to grow into the wonderful individual she is today. Esther also dearly loved her grandchildren Daniel, Sarah Jane, and Brandon, cherishing time with them and inspiring them in ways that helped shape their lives.

Her love and devotion extended to her great-grandchildren, who brought her endless joy. She especially cherished time with Colter and Ezrae, celebrating the blessing of seeing her legacy continue into a new generation.

Esther loved to travel and was blessed to see the world, visiting places such as

South Korea, Hawaii, Germany, and New York. She also enjoyed gambling and had a lifelong passion for bowling. She excelled on the lanes, often scoring over 200, winning trophies, and even prize money for her remarkable talent.

Above all, Esther will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Her kindness, generosity, and devotion never wavered. She was her family's biggest fan, and her legacy of love will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas Rudy Alvarado; her children, Thomas Lovato, Valerie Lovato, DeWayne Alvarado, Darrell Alvarado, and Yolanda Alvarado; her sister, Sally Jiron; her beloved nieces and nephew, Anthony, Connie, and Brenda; her grandchildren, Jenny, Jacob, Josh, Tommy, Jeremy, Charlotte, Bryanna, Sarah Jane, and Brandon; and her great-grandchildren, Colter and Ezrae. She was preceded in death by her son, Jerry Lovato, Randy and Julia Alvarado and her Grandson Danny Alvarado.

A Rosary will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5 p.m. at Crippin Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado.

A Funeral Mass will follow on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose, CO followed by a Committal Service at Grand View Cemetery, Montrose, Colorado

CELEBRATING LOCAL BEAUTY.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

JEANETTE LEE STEWART ***March 4, 1955 — August 30, 2025***



JEANETTE LEE STEWART, 70, passed away Saturday, August 30, 2025, at her home. Born on March 4, 1955, on Luke Air Force Base, in Glendale, AZ, she was a daughter of the late Marvel Karst Lee and the late Willis Edwin Lee. Ms. Stewart's early years were marked by challenges, as she left high school at a young age. However, her indomitable spirit led her to obtain her GED, a steppingstone to her impressive academic journey.

With great courage and determination, she moved away from her family with her two young children to attend Spartanburg Methodist College, laying the foundation for her future in education. Her relentless pursuit of knowledge brought her back to her roots in Pawleys Island, where she

graduated from Coastal Carolina University with a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Her love for learning did not stop there; Ms. Stewart furthered her education at Cambridge College, where she earned her master's degree. Her commitment to lifelong learning was unwavering, as she continued to complete courses throughout her life, achieving her master's plus 30 and being a National Board-certified teacher. These accomplishments were a testament to her intellectual curiosity and passion for education. With more than 28 years dedicated to teaching in public schools, Ms. Stewart inspired countless young minds.

Most of her career was spent in Georgetown County, where she was known for her unwavering devotion to her students, especially those who faced challenges. Her ability to connect with and inspire children was unparalleled. Ms. Stewart's devotion to young minds was evident in her actions. After her granddaughter's time at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), she began collecting coloring books, crayons, and stuffed animals to donate to the Children's Hospital. Her generosity and compassion knew no bounds when it came to children.

Ms. Stewart was an educator by profession but in her spare time she enjoyed crafting. She expressed her creativity through various pursuits such as painting, drawing and sewing. Ms. Stewart even

went on to become a certified picture framer. She was an avid reader, constantly seeking to expand her horizons. Her legacy is one of resilience, determination, and the belief that education is a journey, not a destination.

A lifelong member of All Saints, she was also an esteemed member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 50 remarkable years. Throughout her time with the organization, she served as Worthy Matron on several occasions, demonstrating her leadership and commitment to the principles of charity, truth, and loving-kindness.

Survivors include two sons, Chawn Stewart (Beth Andrews) and Chainé Stewart (Jennifer) all of Georgetown; one granddaughter, Ellie Marie Stewart of Summerville; one sister, Sandra McLeod of Andrews; one niece, Karlyn McLeod of Andrews; two nephews Christopher McLeod and James McLeod both of Andrews; five step grandchildren, Matt Harrelson (Amy) of Andrews, Jessica Moore (Danny) of Georgetown, Katie Harrelson (Jacob Fulmore) of Andrews, Vaughn Gillis (MaryChase) of Mount Pleasant and Palmer Gillis of Mount Pleasant; eight step great grandchildren, Ava, Mason, Ally, Adaline, Aubree, Tanner, James and Georgia; one aunt, Myrtis Graham (W.H.) of North Charleston; one uncle, Elmer Lee (Delores) of Georgetown; and her beloved French bulldog children, Marvel, Simeone, Tillman.

She was preceded in death by the father of her children, Willie Colvin Stewart, Jr.

SUZAN LYNN MITCHELL ***July 12, 1961 — September 1, 2025***

Suzan Lynn Mitchell 64, passed away at her residence on September 1, 2025. Crippin Funeral Home is assisting the family.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

DORIS ANN MINERICH

October 22, 1942 — August 29, 2025

DORIS ANN (SEBERT) MINERICH, 82, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Montage Creek Memory Center on Friday August 29, 2025. Doris was born on October 22, 1942 in Princeton WI to her parents Frank and Helen Sebert. Doris was raised on a dairy farm and was one of six children. She graduated from Princeton High School in 1961 and moved to Milwaukee to attend Cosmetology school. While living in Milwaukee, she met her true love William F Minerich who was serving in the U.S. Navy. They were married on June 29, 1963 in Princeton WI. Together they enjoyed 62 years of marriage and raised two children.

Doris loved raising her children and being a housewife. William and Doris moved frequently while raising children and she always made friends easily. When they finally settled in Montrose CO to retire, they had many friends all over the country.

Once in Montrose, she loved gardening and always had flowers, fruits and vegetables planted. She also loved cooking and baking, her favorite thing to make were

pies. She would often give these as gifts. She entered her pies in the Montrose County fair and won first place three years in a row.

She started her own business cutting hair and giving perms to people who could not get out of their home to go to the salon. This grew into her helping them with grocery shopping, taking them to Doctor appointments and anything else they needed help with. She was a very giving and loving person.

She is survived by her loving husband William, her daughter Julie Steele and her husband Jeff; her son Steve and his wife Angela; her four grandsons Ryan, Connor, Shane, and Lukas; her sister Irene; her brothers-in-law Jerry, Larry (Melanie), and Kenny; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Tom and Ray and sisters, Gerry and Barbara.

Rest in peace Doris, you will be missed but never forgotten.

Many thanks and much gratitude to the caregivers at Montage Creek Memory Center, HopeWest Hospice and Crippin



Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions in honor of Doris may be made to HopeWest Hospice (<https://www.hopewestco.org>) or Montage Creek Memory Center.

Visitation will begin at 9AM on Friday September 12th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose, CO with a funeral mass following at 10AM.

LAWRENCE "CHICO" BARRIENTOS

1954-2025



LAWRENCE "CHICO" BARRIENTOS was born on August 17, 1954, in Montrose, CO, to Flora (Martinez) and Carl Barrientos. Chico worked in various fields and specialized in glass installation, where he demonstrated skill and professionalism.

Chico completed his primary education at Stone School and subsequently graduated from Olathe High School. He attended the University of Southern Colorado – Pueblo and the University of Northern Colorado - Greeley, where he earned a degree in Automotive Industry.

Chico is survived by his daughter, Misti Barrientos; sisters, Judy Barrientos (Juan Valdez), Charlene McDonald Fuentes (Rolando, deceased), Lorraine Dominguez (Ben), Robert Barrientos (Sundee). His brother, John Paul Barrientos (Denise) and his sister, Lynnie Galindo (Adrian) preceded him in death.

Chico is survived by numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

RANDELL ELWAYNE THOMPSON ***February 14, 1953 — August 27, 2025***



RANDELL ELWAYNE THOMPSON was born on February 14, 1953, to Silas Wayne and Theo Edna Thompson in Paris, Texas. He

passed away on August 27, 2025, at St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction CO.

Randell graduated from North Hopkins High School in 1972. After graduation, he began working for Rockwell International and married his first wife, Patsy Sue Harry, in March 1973. Together they had one son, Jeremy.

In 1981, Randell moved to Colorado, where he fell in love with the mountains and made them his home. He married Jackie (Snyder) Thompson in 1981, and together they shared 29 years of marriage and three children: Tera, Tyrell, and Talon.

Randell was an avid hunter and trapper who loved the outdoors. He worked in construction and, in 1984, started his own company, working on Wilson Mesa and forming lifelong friendships along the way. He also took great pride in working the ranch and raising cattle. A man of strong character and many skills, Randell was a

true "jack of all trades" and excelled at anything he set his mind to. His deepest love was reserved for his children and grandchildren, who brought him great joy.

Randell is survived by his son Jeremy Thompson of Sulphur Springs, Texas; his daughter Tera (Brandon) Alexander of Norwood; his son Tyrell (Abby) Thompson of Norwood; and his son Talon (Alexandra) Thompson of Norwood. He is also survived by his grandchildren — Callie, Gracie, Shaylee, Trevor, McKenzie, Ember, Lexi, and Kyah — and his sisters, Paulette Fisher of Ridgeway, Texas, and Ruby Mae Wilburn of Sulphur Springs, Texas, along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Silas and Theo Thompson, and his brothers, Scotty and Roger Thompson.

He will be missed by all who loved and knew him.

KENNETH EARL SANBURG ***August 24, 1938 — August 27, 2025***

KENNETH EARL SANBURG was born in Montrose, Co. on August 24th, 1938 to Clarence Boyd and Grace Lenore (Lund) Sanburg. He passed away peacefully in his home on August 27th, 2025, at the age of 87.

Kenneth grew up on Bostwick Park here in Montrose. Spending his time riding motorcycles, horses, and helping on the family ranch. When he was 15 years old, he contracted polio which left him with noticeable disabilities. Those who knew him know he never let this hold him back or define who he was. He had an enduring, strong and caring nature that inspired many people.

On January 26th, 1968, he married the love of his life Susan Ann DeVinny. Together they had three children Kenneth C.L. Sanburg, Millissa Dawn Miller (Sanburg), and Kevin Howard Sanburg. They raised their children ranching on the family homestead. Creating a wonderful life on Bostwick Park. After many years of ranching, they moved to Peagreen in Olathe to retire.

Kenneth had eight grandchildren Colby Goddard, Jacob Goddard (Rainy Hudson), Cody Sanburg, Kyle Sanburg, Sharon Chadwick, Chloey Chadwick, Rhoad Chadwick, and Tommy Chadwick. He also had an amazing daughter in law and son in law, Shellie Sanburg and Jon Miller. Kenneth was preceded in death by his wife Susan, son Kevin and daughter in law Kim.

Pallbearers: Colby and Jacob Goddard, Cody and Kyle Sanburg, Tommy Chadwick, and Jon Miller. Honorary pallbearers: John and Randy Hawks and Norman Prettyman.

The Family will receive their relatives and friends at Crippin Funeral Home, 802 E. Main Street, Montrose Colorado on Friday, September 19th from 5pm to 7pm. A Funeral Service for Mr. Sanburg will be on Saturday, September 20th at 10am at Grace Community Church, Montrose, Colorado followed by an Interment at Grand View Cemetery, Montrose, Colorado.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

MANUEL ALEJANDRO VIGIL ***June 28, 1975 — August 25, 2025***

MANUEL ALEJANDRO VIGIL, 50, passed away on August 25, 2025, in Montrose, Colorado.

Manuel was born on June 28, 1975, in Englewood, Colorado, to Roger Daniel Vigil and Lucinda Clorinda Lopez Mascarenas. He grew up in Montrose, attended Olathe High School, and lived in the area most of his life. He worked as a carpenter and was proud of his skill and craftsmanship.

Manuel loved the outdoors and spent much of his life in the mountains of Colorado. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, shed hunting, and collecting rocks. He was a gifted musician who played guitar, drums, and piano, and loved to sing, bringing joy and light to everyone around him.

Manuel also loved cooking and was a great cook, often filling the kitchen with warmth and laughter while preparing meals for his family and friends.

He is survived by his parents, Roger Daniel Vigil (Cindy) of Olathe, CO, and Lucinda Clorinda Lopez Mascarenas; his children, Joseph Vigil of Denver, CO, and Isabella Vigil (fiancé Parker) of Montrose, CO;

grandchildren Arkyn Northcutt and Revna Northcutt; brothers Daniel Joseph Vigil (Heidi) and Mark Vigil; and sisters Deirdra Mascarenas and Ashley Medina (Kyle).

Manuel also leaves behind a large, close family and many friends who loved him deeply.

Manuel lived fully, his heart like a song. An artist at heart, with a twinkle in his eye. He carried quiet wisdom from his father, and boundless love from his mother. He grew into a man of warmth and strength—a steady presence, a gentle calm.

He leaned into music, loved to play guitar, drums, and piano, and sang to make people happy. His laughter could brighten your mood all day long. A loyal and true friend, he welcomed everyone he knew.

He was shaped by the love of his large family, a brother's bond unbreakable, and a father and grandfather whose spirit lives on in those he loved.

Though life was heavy at times, it was always filled with good intentions. He faced challenges with courage, carrying hope wherever he could. Now he rests free, no longer in harm, embraced by



peace. His spirit shines quietly, a comfort to all who remember him.

What a reunion it must have been in heaven above, with Grandma, Grandpa, and Uncle Manuel laughing and saying, "¡Qué pasó, mi hijito! ¿¡Llegaste hasta aquí también!?" Smiles and stories, hugs and cheer—he is surrounded by all the hearts he held so dear.

LUTHER MILLER ***March 25, 1940- August 25, 2025***



LUTHER MILLER passed away on August 25, 2025. He was born March 25, 1940 to Clyde and Irene Miller in Pea Green and lived in what he called the Pea Green mansion. He was the youngest of eight children. He lived his entire life in the Olathe area. He was a farmer and was especially enjoyed growing tomatoes and green chiles.

He is survived by his wife Lucy (they were married for almost 67 years) and their three children, Louis (Deb), Larry (Lore) and Susan. They have 5 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son-in-law Frank (Dwayne) Barrientos.

Luther was a good husband, father and a friend to many and will be missed.

He hated to go to funerals and did not want anyone to have to come to his — there will be no services.

ISSUE 538 Sept. 8, 2025

ART & SOL

MEET JENNIFER CARTER, MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S NEW MUSEUM CURATOR-COORDINATOR



Sally Johnson and Jennifer Carter at the General Store Display in the Montrose County Historical Museum. Photo by K.R. Burke.

By Kathryn R. Burke

MONTROSE—Sally Johnson, long-time Museum Coordinator of the Montrose County Historical Society and Museum, is retiring this month. (But don't worry, she'll still be around, helping as a volunteer and leading her popular walking tours.) Stepping up and into the position of Museum Curator/Coordinator—is Jennifer Carter. Years of museum work and public educa-

tion made Carter an ideal candidate for the job. Members and guests got to meet and greet her at the society's monthly program at the Event Center last week. Through a 1:1 personal interview, we learned more about her background and goals in her new position.

"I want to create and nurture really meaningful connections to the collections within the community and with museum

visitors of all ages and backgrounds," Carter said. She places a high value on the mission of the Museum and Historical Society: to preserve, display, and interpret the historical and cultural legacy of Montrose and its surrounding region. Carter feels it is important to "focus on the locality of where we are, to be a repository for artifacts and the stories of generational families who have lived here for centuries." Montrose, founded in 1882, has a long history; descendants of many of the original settlers still reside here and have stories that need to be shared. Carter wants to help them share those experiences with both visitors and the current population, many of them new to the area.

How does she plan to do this? "I want to be inclusive of all the people who have contributed to making Montrose what it is today. With the board's guidance, I hope to help grow the museum into the future and build links to younger generations primarily through education."

More than 25 years of classroom experience and museum work will help her accomplish this. Carter has taught in schools of all sizes and student compositions, from tiny Sitka, Alaska to sprawling Tallahassee, Florida (where she earned her graduate degree). Throughout her tenures, she curated classroom experiences, developed educational curriculum, and later curated museum exhibitions. "I hope

Continued next pg

NEW MUSEUM CURATOR-COORDINATOR From previous pg

to continue these processes here," she said. "My primary focus is to make us a powerful partner with parents, public, and private schools, and home-schooling families. I want to grow the museum, adding more members, especially the younger generations."

Diverse educational resources, through school field trips, educational presentations, museum visits and curated off-site displays will help do this.

Throughout the winter, when the museum (housed in the old depot) is closed from October through April (because it has no heating), Carter will be busy "absorbing." Her focus will shift from active visitation to reading and learning,

absorbing all she can about local history. Weekly and monthly meetings with the board and Board President Ken Huff will involve programming and planning future museum activities and public interactions. "With the board's guidance, I also hope to organize, revise, update, and enhance exhibits and create new displays."

The museum recently received an aerial photograph of Montrose from 1972. Carter compared it to historical photographs dating back more than 100 years and it gave her an idea. "I'd like to do a display that shows the progression, chronologically, of Montrose. Viewers can see areas change over time, what came before...what came after. This is especially

important to our young visitors to give them context and create a connection between past, present, and future."

This Friday, Sept. 12, Carter is working hard to support the museum's fundraising public program: *A Night at the Depot Featuring Remembered Notables*. Guest speakers will give oral histories or re-enactments: *Robert McCollum Remembers Life in Lujane*, portrayed by Brody Wilson; *A Glimpse of Judge John Gray's Conversation with his Daughter, Annie*, portrayed by Bob Cox and Lezlee Cox; *Peggy McCaffrey Remembers Life as a Member of the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) in WWII*, portrayed by Lisa Rediger.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

KATEY HERLAND & ELIZABETH WALTON TO BE FEATURED STORYTELLERS AT WEST END STORIES & POEMS AT NATURITA LIBRARY SEPT. 11TH AT 6 PM

Special to the Mirror

NATURITA-Roc Creek along the Dolores River Canyon has a storied history in the West End of Montrose County. It's been a private residence, a hippie commune and at one time was the home to a mine that produced the first uranium in the region.

Katey Herland and Elizabeth Walton grew up there. While Katey lives with her family in Nucla, Elizabeth continues to make the family's Roc Creek property her home.

The Naturita Community Library and the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds Poetry Program will host these two sisters to share with us their tales of Roc Creek at West End Stories & Poems Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6 pm.

"Our parents owned the Lone Cone Restaurant in Norwood in the early 90s," said Herland, "and I've always considered this area and these communities part of my roots." After being away for many years, she moved back to the area with her family three years ago.

"We're excited for the opportunity to

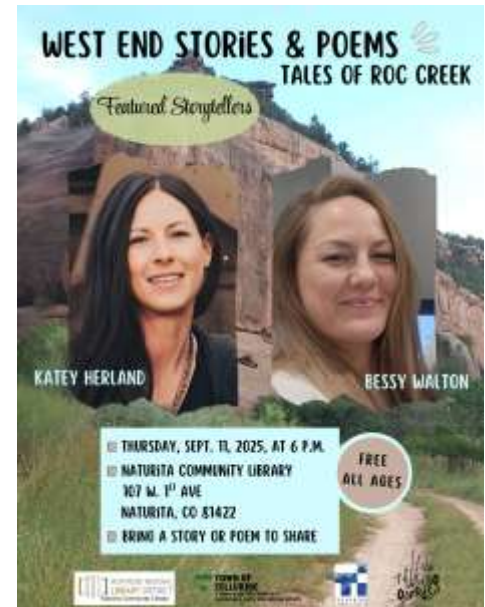
share what we know about the canyon's history," said Herland, "and some of our personal experiences growing up in the Roc Creek Canyon."

Attendees are encouraged to bring stories or poems about Roc Creek when we do the passing of the gourd after the featured presenter.

On Sept. 20 retired archaeologist Glade Hadden will lead a rock art tour at Roc Creek out of the Naturita Community Library. Check the library for details.

West End Stories & Poems happens on the second Thursday of each month. Our featured guest will give a 30-40 min. presentation, followed by a short question and answer period after the presentation. Then there's a passing of the gourd, to give community members a chance to speak.

West End Stories & Poems is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the library, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and Talking Gourds' Fischer and Cantor poetry contests.



For more information on poetry contests and Talking Gourds programs, visit the website www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds. For questions about the event, text 970-729-0220 or email Good-times at art@tellurideinstitute.org



Where Wallflowers Grow is the coming of age story of a shy, introverted, 12-year-old girl. A 1960's latch-key kid, Gail's mom agreed to let her leave her home-alone existence and live in her grandma's boarding house.

The Shelly Boarding House, located in rural southeastern Colorado, was home to male pensioners and Social Security recipients who themselves were loners and had nowhere else to go.

For three years Gail lived in this unconventional family environment where she comes of age, while the old-timers age in place.

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

Where Wallflowers Grow is available online at Amazon.com and wingedpublications.com.



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS HOSTS FREE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Two photos from our entry garden, one is by J.P. Cencer (above), the other (at left) is by Liz Mauch.

the program offers a story-time followed by hands-on salsa-making with ingredients picked fresh from the gardens.

This program is also free and open to kids ages 3 to 12, accompanied by an adult.

Find more details at the MBS website: www.montrosegardens.org/programs. Through the development of the Montrose Botanic Gardens, MBS aims to provide horticultural education and leadership in the Uncompahgre Valley.

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Botanical Society invites the community to join in celebrating their 30th anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Botanic Gardens, just south of the Montrose Pavilion.

Come and enjoy grilled hotdogs (while supplies last), music from the Jedi George Band, games and prizes, bubbles, balloon animals and more!

"This family-friendly event, which is free and open to all, is our way of saying thank you to our community and to the City of Montrose," said Liz Mauch, president of the MBS board. "A special thanks goes out to our event sponsors – Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), Alpine Bank, and John and Nancy Eloë!"

"Thirty years is a big milestone for the Gardens, which have been lovingly tended by a long line of dedicated volunteers," Mauch said. "This celebration is especially meaningful as we kickoff the makeover of Happy Hollow, our children's garden." While the event is free, any donations collected on Saturday will be earmarked for the new project.

The Botanic Gardens is also hosting Kids' Harvest Day in Happy Hollow on the same day from 10 to 11 am. Co-hosted by the Montrose Regional Library's Bookmobile,



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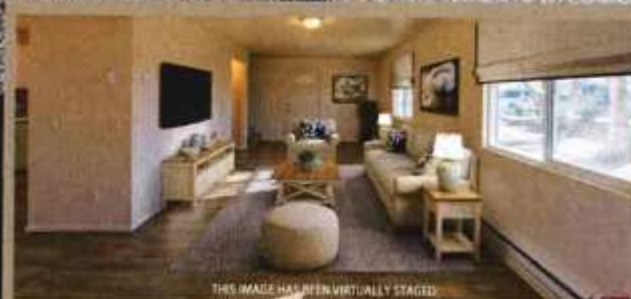


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This beautifully updated 3-bed, 1.5-bath home in Garnet Mesa is a must-see! Nearly everything is new, including the kitchen (cabinets & appliances), bathrooms, doors, floors, blinds, and fresh paint inside and out.

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CARTOON BY TIM JONES

WEEKLY CARTOON

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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The Satisfied Woman



By Gia Pirelli.
Courtesy photo.

There comes a moment in every woman's life when the weight of past mistakes threatens to define her. The voice in her head whispers: "You should have known better. You should have done more. You should have been stronger, smarter."

But here's the reality: you are not your mistakes.

Every misstep, every heartbreak, every stumble is not a life sentence—it's a lesson, a steppingstone, and, if you allow it, a sacred invitation to growth.

Many of us were raised to believe that worth is measured by how flawlessly we navigate life. The perfect partner, the perfect career, the perfect body, the perfect smile plastered across social media. But perfection is a mirage—an unreachable horizon that keeps us chasing instead of arriving. And each failure, each misery, shame, guilt, heartbreak, is a lighthouse that guides us along the way.

Imperfection is not something shameful to hide; it's the texture of your humanity. And everyone's texture is unique. Those cracks and scars in your story are where the light enters. Those vulnerable places that allow and make space for Grace. They are proof that you have lived, loved, risked, and tried.

Modern neuroscience echoes what ancient wisdom has always known: our thoughts and emotions literally shape our reality.

Dr. Joe Dispenza often describes how repeated thoughts trigger familiar emotions, and familiar emotions reinforce the same thoughts—locking us into a feedback loop which creates set neural pathways, becomes our identity, and, ultimately, determines the fabric of our reality. Emotions trigger thoughts, and thoughts trigger emotions. The emotions

are the vocabulary of the body and the thoughts are the vocabulary of the mind. So your mind and body are trapped in an endless cycle emanating from, quite literally, the chemical byproduct (emotion) of past experiences. If you wake up every morning replaying regrets, shame, "what-ifs" and endless anxiety-inducing stories, the body experiences those emotions as if it's happening and cannot distinguish between past, present or future. Over time, the body becomes addicted to those chemical states, and the story of "I am my mistakes" or, simply, "I can't" begins to feel like truth. And even catalyzes behaviors that reinforce that reality.

But the opposite is also true. The moment you shift your focus toward gratitude, self-compassion, or possibility—you break the cycle. New thoughts create new emotional structures in the body, which change the brain, which then influence the way you perceive life. Your biology literally begins to align with a new story.

Your personality—how you think, feel, and behave—writes your personal reality. Which means that reclaiming your worth and embracing imperfection as a fleeting messenger, not a roadblock, is not only a spiritual act, but a biological transformation.

Failure is often painted as an ending, but what if it's really a doorway? Failing forward means choosing to see mistakes not as detours from your path but as a part of it. Like elastic guard rails. Every fall holds information about who you are becoming and, not only the process, but commitment required to get there. It tells you what doesn't work or what isn't needed. It shows you by process of elimination, which eventually starts to narrow and clarify the path toward purpose.

-A broken relationship can teach you self-respect and boundaries.

-A missed opportunity can open space for something more aligned.

-A wrong turn can show you strength you didn't know you had.

Each moment you choose not to relive

the past mistake, but to imagine a better future; or instead of identifying with a perceived imperfection, seeing it as an opportunity for growth and expansion, you're literally rewiring your brain for growth. The beauty lies not in avoiding failure, but in rising each time—stronger, softer, wiser, and more awake.

Many of us carry wounds that still throb quietly in the background of daily life—memories of betrayal, shame, regret, or not being "enough." These scars do not diminish or define you; they are evidence of survival. Of resilience. They mark the places where you have been broken open, where compassion and empathy have taken root. This teaches us humility, empathy, and the ability to reach out and lift others.

Healing does not mean erasing what happened. It means breaking the emotional loop, teaching your body a new story, and realizing that you are so much more than the sum of your past decisions.

There is a divine rhythm to your journeys. What looks like failure in the moment may, in hindsight, be grace in disguise. Sometimes we need to be cracked open so light can pour in. Sometimes we need to be redirected so we don't settle for less than we deserve. Whether that's a job, a career, a partner, or the dissolution of a dream.

Science tells us that what we repeatedly focus on becomes our reality. Where our attention goes, our energy flows. Spirit tells us that what we surrender becomes our healing. Together they whisper the same truth: you are not your mistakes—you are your becoming.

The next time you feel haunted by a misstep, pause and remember:

-You are not your mistakes..

-You are the wisdom gained from them.

-You are the courage to keep trying,

-You are the love and faith that remain, no matter how many times you fall.

Life is not asking you to be flawless. It is asking you to show up, be real, be present, and to keep moving forward—even

The Satisfied Woman

even if it's with trembling steps.

Because failing forward isn't about getting it all right. It's about living fully, deeply, and authentically—knowing that every scar, and every story can become a source of light—for yourself, and for others. The Dalai Lama once said, "The world will be saved by a western woman." Sit with that. You are not failing, you are not flailing, you are becoming. And in that becoming, in that reach and rise, is where you can change the world.

Gia Pirelli—Former master hairstylist, aesthetician, and salon owner for 25 years, she whipped bodies into shape as a group fitness instructor, and crushed finish lines as a competitive cyclist and triathlete. These days she's trading blowouts for balance, and endurance for infinity as a certified Yoga and Mat Pilates instructor, Sound Healing Practitioner, Breathwork & Meditation Guide, mirror and metamorphic consultant. She blends physical, mental, and spiritual wellness with creative pursuits like jewelry design and painting. When she's not guiding clients toward balance and beauty, she's exploring the world, chasing waves, riding motorcycles, and saying "yes" to life. Real Estate pays the bills (for now) but adventure feeds her soul—and Tank, her Pitbull PIC, is almost always along for the ride.



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Delta: Pour Ernie's
970-546-0074



The poster features a festive design with a gold background and white snowflakes. At the top right, there is a decorative branch with pine needles, red berries, and a red ornament. In the center, a large pile of colorful wrapped gifts in various sizes and colors (red, blue, green, orange, purple) is shown. At the bottom left, a dark blue vintage car is decorated with a large green bow on its roof and a string of colorful Christmas lights. A Santa Claus figure is visible in the driver's seat. The text is arranged in a clear, festive layout, with the event name in large, stylized fonts and the dates and times in bold, block letters. The location and entry information are presented in a green rectangular box on the right side.

Annual Holiday Crafts & Bazaar

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

SHERBINO SUNDAY AFTERNOON SPOTLIGHT: JUDY FAIRCHILD ON *THE OLD EVE TREE*

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY— The Sherbino Theater continues its Sunday Afternoon Spotlight Series on Sunday, Sept. 14, with Cedaredge author and Gunnison native **Judy Fairchild**. Join us for an intimate seated talk and reading as Fairchild discusses her debut novel, *The Old Eve Tree*. Doors open at 3:30 PM, and the program begins at 4:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door.

Set in rural Arkansas during the summer

of 1952, *The Old Eve Tree* is told through the eyes of seven-year-old Tilly Harris, who begins to see the world around her in new and unsettling ways. Through Tilly's voice, the novel reveals prejudice, hidden truths, and cruelty disguised as righteousness—while also celebrating the resilience and courage that come from standing up for what is right.

Praised by *Readers' Favorite* as a novel that “masterfully unravels profound life lessons through the innocent lens of a

young girl,” *The Old Eve Tree* weaves together themes of honesty, compassion, fortitude, and acceptance. It has been described as both tender and gripping, balancing innocence with powerful explorations of racism, homophobia, violence, and the enduring strength of family and love. Join us for this special afternoon with Judy Fairchild as she shares her journey to publishing her first novel, the inspirations behind the story, and the timeless lessons woven into *The Old Eve Tree*.

THE HISTORY & FUTURE OF AMERICA'S PUBLIC LAND — FILM SCREENING & TALK WITH WALT DABNEY

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY— The Sherbino Theater, in partnership with ROCC (Ridgway Ouray Community Council), is proud to present *The History & Future of America's Public Land with Walt Dabney* on September 10th. Doors open at 7 PM, with the film beginning at 7:30 PM, followed by an open discussion.

Tickets are \$10 online in advance or \$15 at the door.

America's public lands are unique in the world— a shared treasure owned by all Americans.

This 60-minute film and presentation by Walt Dabney takes audiences on an eye-opening journey through the history of how our public lands came to be, why most are located in the West, and the critical importance of preserving them for

future generations.

Walt Dabney, a highly respected former superintendent with the National Park Service and director of Texas State Parks, offers an engaging and authoritative exploration of questions that few have ever answered so clearly:

- How did America acquire its public lands?
- What role did the U.S. Constitution play?
- How did statehood acts shape ownership?
- Why and how were lands transferred into private hands?
- Why are the vast majority of public lands in the West?
- And—most importantly—what is the future of these lands?

The film was recorded in Moab, Utah, on March 16, 2024, during a presentation to Southern Utah's Outdoor Guides and

Outfitters. It was made possible by the Canyonlands Natural History Association and produced by Finley Holiday Productions for CNHA and Walt Dabney.

This special screening will be followed by an engaging discussion, offering the community a chance to reflect on the past, present, and future of America's public lands.

Event Details:

- When: Wednesday, September 10, 2025
 - Where: Sherbino Theater, Ridgway, CO
 - Doors: 7 PM
 - Film: 7:30 PM
 - Tickets: \$10 online | \$15 at the door
 - Presented in partnership with ROCC
- Join us for this timely and thought-provoking evening that will deepen your understanding of our nation's greatest shared legacy: public lands.

WAKE UP...

and smell the ~~coffee~~ **NEWS!**

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MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

Contact Information: (970) 249-2451
[https:// www.allsaintsmontrose.org/](https://www.allsaintsmontrose.org/) Rec-
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

Sunday Worship. Wednesdays 11AM, Mid-
 week prayer and communion, Wednes-
 day, Noon, Multi-denominational Commu-
 nity Prayer Hour.

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical
 Anglican Church committed to the minis-
 try 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 Sun-
 day service. We would love to welcome
 you here. Following the service, join us for
 snacks and conversation. On the third Sun-
 day 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.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

Denomination: Southern Baptist Church
 (SBC – Southern Baptist Convention)

Address: 2900 Sunnyside Road, Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

Website: [https://
 celebrationmontrose.org/](https://celebrationmontrose.org/)

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

Church Description/Mission: Celebration
 Church makes disciples that make disci-
 ples. Our core values include the Scrip-

ture, 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. Mont-
 rose, 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 Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

Mission: Christ's Church of the Valley is a
 loving and welcoming church whose pur-
 pose 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 pre-
 dominately 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 Syn-
 od

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-
 rose, 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 welcom-
 ing environment being comforted and en-
 couraged 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 CHURCH

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 11am

Mission: Our commitment to a more inclu-
 sive and accepting world is steadfast, and
 we will continue to work towards a future

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

Demographics: We are a small congrega-
 tion 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 Satur-
 days. 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 pre-
 dominantly made up of older folks, but
 have some young blood, too.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

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: Interim 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.
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, info@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 MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox
Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.
Worship Services: The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

Church for Vespers, and we currently meet only on the third Sunday of each month for Divine Liturgy in Montrose at 9:30 AM at the Cimarron Creek clubhouse.

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, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

montroseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young
Worship service times:
 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual
 9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship
 11 a.m. Sanctuary
 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
 email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.
 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 what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.
 We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Denomination affiliation: Independent Spiritual and Interfaith Community
Address: Services at Lions Park Community Building, 602 N. Nevada, Montrose
Office hours: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, Home Office – 970-252-0908
Contact information: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, 970-252-0908, arlyn@spiritaware.org, www.spiritaware.org
Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn

Macdonald, Senior minister; Rev. Ruby Salaz, Assistant Minister. Spiritual Counseling available.

Worship service times: In-person Sunday Unity Service at 11 a.m., (Social Time begins at 10 a.m.); Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m. Virtual Afternoon Service on Zoom at 2:00 p.m., 2nd Sunday of each month; Chai Chats, a Wednesday morning midweek informal spiritual gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Pun Hill Himalayan Restaurant, Mont-

rose; Everyone is welcome. The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects. People of all ages are welcome.

There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: [ststephensmont-](mailto:ststephensmontrose@yahoo.com)

rose@yahoo.com

www.ststephensmontrose.com

Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian

St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am.

Fellowship following service.

Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist
Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm
Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org; website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

Worship Service Times: Sunday School at 9:30am, Sunday AM Service at 10:30am, Sunday PM Service at 6pm, Wednesday Night Service at 6:30pm (all services include childcare)

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost. Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

MONTROSE-As a way of serving the faith community in Montrose, the Montrose Mirror is in the process of establishing a Church Directory. If your congregation or fellowship would like to be included in the directory, please supply the following

information to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

Name of current Senior Pastor

Worship service times

Please give a one sentence description of your church and its mission in the Montrose community.

Brief description of your current church demographics (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles).

Do your church services include Sunday School and childcare?





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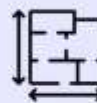
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CONTACT DETAILS

📞 970-615-9412

✉ manager@thehiddenlakecommunity.com

🌐 www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DELTA'S ARTS ON MAIN ANNOUNCES A FULL LINEUP OF FALL EVENTS

Special to the Mirror

DELTA— Arts on Main is excited to announce a vibrant schedule of upcoming events this fall, featuring opportunities for community connection, history, art and creative exploration. From artist meet-and-greets to historical lectures and open-air painting days, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Artist Reception

Friday, Sept. 12 | 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Arts on Main will host an informal reception where artists and patrons can connect in a relaxed atmosphere. Guests can enjoy light snacks and beverages, with a cash-donation bar available.

Historical Downtown Delta Buildings

Thursday, Sept. 18 | 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Local historian Jim Wetzel will present an engaging talk and slide show exploring the history of Delta's Main Street and its ar-

chitectural heritage. Admission is free, though donations are appreciated.

Plein Air Painting at the Emond Homestead

Saturday, Sept. 27 | 7:00 a.m.–4 p.m.

Artists are invited to spend the day creating outdoors at the scenic Emond Homestead (4572 Hwy 348, Delta). The property features orchards, gardens, animals, yurts, ample shade and other modern amenities on-site. Works inspired by the experience will be displayed at Arts on Main at no cost (gallery commissions apply to sales).

Modernism in the West: From Buffalo Bill Cody to Georgia O'Keeffe

Thursday, Oct. 2 | 6:30–8 p.m.

Renowned local multimedia artist and retired New Mexico State University instructor Oudia Touchon, MFA, will present a lecture on

the Modernist movement in American art. General admission is \$12. Students with valid school IDs may attend for free.

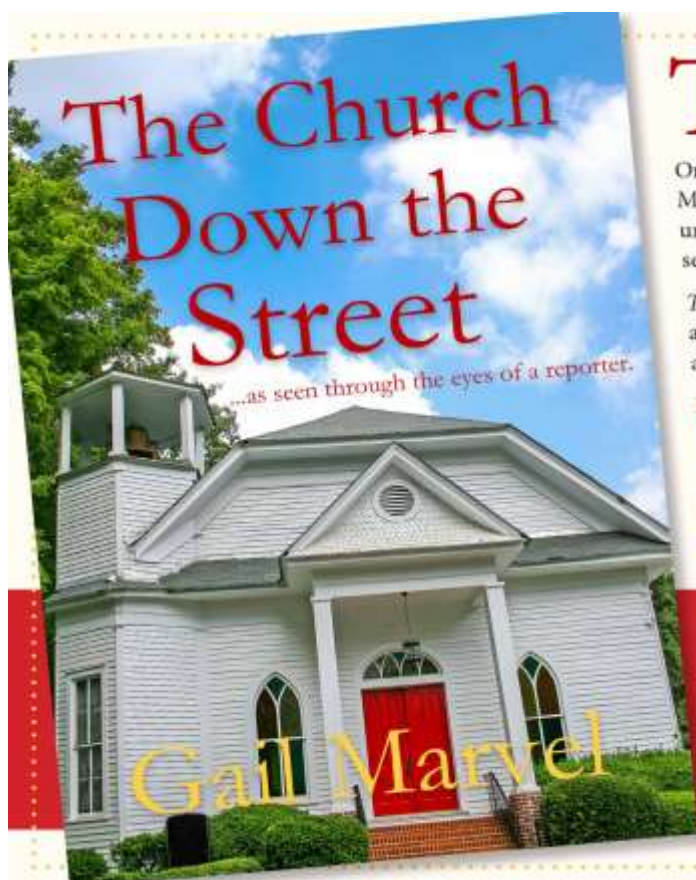
Plein Air Painting at Orval Proctor's Vintage Car Lot

Saturday, Oct. 25 | 8:00 a.m.–4 p.m.

Artists will have the unique opportunity to paint among classic American-made cars at Orval Proctor's Vintage Car Lot (665 Main St., Delta). Works inspired by the event will be displayed at Arts on Main at no cost (gallery commissions apply to sales).

About Arts on Main

Arts on Main is dedicated to fostering a thriving arts community in Delta County by providing a welcoming space for artists, patrons and learners of all ages. Through exhibitions, workshops and community events, Arts on Main supports creativity, connection and cultural enrichment.



The *Church Down the Street*, published pre-COVID, peers into the worship services of more than 70 churches, some of which have a weekly attendance of less than 10.

Organized in a topical format (Hospitality, Program & Source Material, Music, Meditations & Invitations, and The Message), the author uses an unbiased approach to allow readers to experience the worship service as seen through the eyes of a reporter.

The Church Down the Street contains anecdotes and stories from the actual worship services and asks thought-provoking questions that allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

Readers will:

- See strengths and weaknesses in the worship service
- Re-evaluate hospitality toward visitors
- Become more aware of source material used in the worship service
- Compare and contrast music presentations and selections
- Discern the value and content of the sermon.

Gail Marvel's book, *The Church Down the Street*, is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



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Mosaic Montrose

21 N. Cascade Ave.

Friday, Sept. 12. 5:30-7:30 pm

Yes! you can do this! I will help you.

Fall Watercolor



With Kate Burke

Demo & Step-by-step
Instructions to paint
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Template available for beginners.

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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY provides a monthly program on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Montrose Field House, 25 Colorado Avenue, Montrose. blackcanyonaudubon.org

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

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

HEALING COLLECTIVE OF WESTERN COLORADO-Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm the Healing Collective of Western Colorado meets at 220 N Stough Ave. It is open to all wellness providers in the area who would like to collaborate with and learn from other local practitioners.

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 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.

FREE THINKERS meet 1st Sunday of the month for information call 970 417-4183

BOSOM BUDDIES BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, Wednesdays noon-12:45, 645 S. 5th Street

MONTROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets 1st Wednesday of the month @ Montrose Events Center, 1036 No 7th Street 7 pm (970) 249-2085 www.montrosehistory.org

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

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.

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.

MONTHLY

Sept. 11-Paint Italy at Endless Pastabilities. Step-by-step instructions with template and everything provided plus snack and adult beverage or NA drink. Instructor, Kate Burke. 1544 Oxbow Drive, Montrose. Register at

<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/091125pasta/>

Sept. 11-On Sept. 11 Join the Black Canyon Audubon Society for a special presentation on **Public Lands: History and Future** to learn about the value of these lands to all of us. This special community event will be at 7 pm at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose, Free, blackcanyonaudubon.org.

Sept. 11-Montrose and Delta's biggest and funnest celebration for seniors, baby boomers and their families is back! BeaconFest, Colorado's largest senior expo, returns to the Montrose Pavilion on Thursday, September 11, 2025, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is free. For more information about BeaconFest, visit BeaconFest.com or call 970-243-8829.

Sept 12- Watercolor at the Senior Center. MRD Friday Afternoon Art 50+ Program with Kate Burke. Step-by-step instructions with template and everything provided plus snack and adult beverage or NA drink. 1800 Pavilion Drive, Registration code 50+ART-02. Register at <https://comontrose.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/iteminfo.html?Module=AR&FMID=27628274>

Sept. 13-14-The highly anticipated Tribute to Aviation, Montrose Regional Airport's signature event, is officially scheduled for Sept. 13-14, 2025. As one of the largest static aircraft displays in the western United States, Tribute to Aviation will showcase both military and civilian aircraft. For more information, please contact Vendla Stockdale at vstockdale@montrosecounty.net or 970-964-2479 or visit www.tributetoaviation.com

Sept. 17--We're back from our summer break! Our speaker for September is Susan C Ryan, Executive VP of the Research Institute of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

Susan will discuss the Haynie Site, a multi-component ancestral village containing two great houses located in southwest Colorado. Sept. 17 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church, 19 S Park, Montrose. Chipeta Archaeological Society. Free.

Sept. 20-Lake City Uncorked Wine & Music Festival will be held Sept. 20, 2025. Gates open at 10 am seven bands, art booths, beer booth, 125 wines for tasting. <http://www.lakecitydirt.org>

Sept. 22-Health Insurance Information Session-6-7:30p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, Montrose Regional Library, 320 S 2nd St. Montrose, CO 81401. www.montroselibrary.org 970-249-9656.

Sept. 27--Exceptional Women of Ouray County reception honoring April Calabro, Christine Coyer, Jane Errion, Julie Furstenfeld, Kathy Heinrichs, and Debra Willits. 3-4:45 Saturday, Sept. 27. Details: fortunatierra.com.

CLEANUP BEGINS ON FORMER PRODUCERS COOP LAND



MONTROSE--Producers Coop has begun clearing a parcel of land recently purchased from them by Montrose County School District RE-1J, adjacent to district offices and the Outer Range Campus. The land was once owned by Montrose Potato Growers, and included a flour mill, bean shed, and fertilizer plant.



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just for Montrose, put together
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Recommendations for Residential
Xeriscape for Montrose, Colorado

By Ginny Price, Retired Colorado Master Gardener/Small Acreage Assistant

**Beyond
Rock**

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