



ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION



**FRESH NEWS FOR FREE PEOPLE!**

© Issue No. 687 April 27, 2026

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## PROJECT 7 TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP URGES REALISTIC SOLUTIONS: "DON'T BUILD A PROJECT ON OPTIMISM"



*City of Montrose Engineer Scott Murphy, of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), updated the Project 7 Water Authority Board on April 23. TAG brings expertise and serves as a resource for the board. Photo by Gail Marvel.*

By Gail Marvel

**MONTROSE-Background:** The Resiliency Project, which was first presented in 2023, is to build a second water treatment plant south of Montrose that would have direct access to Ridgway Reservoir. The Project 7 Board turned the project over to a contracted management team — Program Manager Engineer Rick Huggins, D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz (financial); Deputy Project Manager Miles Graham, and Jessica Johnson, a Garver employee.

**April 23, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicki Ripp. All board members or alternates were present in person. Two dozen attendees included the board, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and interested citizens. The TAG group consists of experts from all six member entities.

In attendance on Zoom were Attorney James Silvestro, D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz,

*Continued pg 19*

## NEW LEADERSHIP TAKES THE REINS AT CITY HALL

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-Council Chambers were packed as the Montrose City Council convened for the regular meeting of April 21.

There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

Mayor Dave Frank welcomed all to the meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance; Council issued proclamations in support of Earth Week and Arbor Day.

The Youth City Council issued a proclamation in support of America 250-Colorado 150, which was read by Jordyn Simo. Youth Council also recognized their graduating members, Jordyn Simo, Sidney Bell, Reign Icasiano, Shilo Warthen, Vivica Prince, Robin Kitell and Katie Jakino.

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John Brown spoke, saying that it was not only a special day for City Council but a special day for him. "...Two years ago, I came before this body, Mr. Reed was Mayor at that time, we talked about non-sanctuary, I had a lot of discussion by myself here from this podium to this...group, I got to learn quite a lot about city government and what's going on, but it has been an experience addressing all of you and working with you through these last two years. Thank you very much for your time."



*Incoming City Councilors Michael J. Badagliacco, Ed Ulibarri, and Adam Woodden were sworn into office by City Clerk Lisa Del Piccolo. Meeting Screenshot.*

*Continued pg 16*

[The Satisfied Self:](#)  
*By Gia Pirelli!*

[Mayor's Minute:](#)  
*With Mayor Michael Badagliacco!*

[Magic Circle Players](#)  
*Present Sweeney Todd!*

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

[Local Events](#)  
*Calendar!*

# Birds & Blooms

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COLUMBINE QUILTERS TO MEET MAY 2

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-On May 2, 9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource , 4 Hillcrest Plaza Way, Montrose. Social time is at 9am, Business Meeting at 9:30am, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments and a program. Sally Nichols will be demonstrating cutting bias binding and ways to use the bias binding. For more information: Paula [millsappscoqui@gmail.com](mailto:millsappscoqui@gmail.com) or Cheryl [970-462-3849](tel:970-462-3849) Visitors are always welcome.

## CORRECTION:

In our article last week on the Montrose High School Trap Shooting there is one correction from team leadership-"We took 2nd at state 'in our conference'".



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# 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. This rule now includes requests to re-print letters that have already run.

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

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

Thank you,  
Caitlin Switzer,

# the Montrose Mirror



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

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Publisher: Harry Switzer

Of Counsel: B. Switzer, Esq.

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



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE WOMENS' GIVING CLUB TO CONVENE ON MAY 7

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-The Montrose Women's Giving Club will convene again on Thursday, May 7, at The Bridges Golf Club at 5:30 p.m. to give funding support to another local non-profit group. It marks their second quarterly meeting of 2026. The group has given well over \$300,000 to area organizations since 2017. At their last meeting in February, those in attendance voted to donate \$10,700 to Faultless.

All women are invited to come and participate. The premise is simple: Everyone brings \$100 to donate plus an additional \$10 for the meeting room which includes appetizers and a drink. Those people are then able to nominate a non-profit for funding. From the nominations, 3 are drawn randomly to make short five-minute presentations. After that, an anonymous vote is taken to decide the winner for the quarter. The process is fun and it is a great way to meet other women in the community and to learn about what non-profits in the area are doing. In addition, The Women's Giving Club can contribute to them in a meaningful way because the impact of us all working together is huge.

For more information, please contact Phoebe Benziger at 970-209-9598 or [phoebebenziger@gmail.com](mailto:phoebebenziger@gmail.com).



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PERHAPS TWO SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS AND MORE WORK SESSIONS WOULD BE A SOLUTION

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading the article in the Montrose Mirror #686 about REIJ School Board's Meeting held on April 14.

There were two quotes from board members, one said, "It's a lot to absorb" another one said "We have no time to plan really, for the next school year," and there was a statement about how long the school board meetings are with such large agendas.

The responsibilities of the school board are enormous and I would appreciate that they take the needed time in making their decisions and not worry about time constraints.

Perhaps a solution to the problem would be to have TWO board meetings a month, and more work sessions for the board.

Sally Fox, Montrose



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## IN SUPPORT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

*Editor:*

What about a "classic" neighborhood school? You know, one where you walk to school with your neighborhood buddies, ride bikes together, play hide and seek on the weekends, go to the school Halloween party, trade Valentines, celebrate birthdays etc.

What are your childhood memories? My best friend was Gloria Martinez. We lived 3 houses apart and walked to school together. We gossiped, complained about our parents and talked about BOYS! On the weekends we hung out with the rest of the neighborhood kids or our families. We all knew each other. We were proud of our school.

Take away the neighborhood school and you take away a culture.

Spend taxpayer money to promote neighborhoods. Those who want a Classical school should pay for it with tuition like other private schools.

*Jo Klugg, Montrose*

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## HOW MUCH DID THEY PAY HIM?

*Editor:*

The whole drama of the Correspondence Dinner was staged to prevent Trump from making a fool of himself.

Where did they find this person to sacrifice himself? How much was his family paid?

Trump is a genius at changing the narrative from the war in Iraq, the economy, the Epstein files. He's desperate!!

Notice no one else was killed. He's the only witness.

*Jo Klugg, Montrose*

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## MONTROSE REGIONAL HEALTH, WESTERN SLOPE ORTHOPAEDICS, AND MONTROSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNER TO OFFER SPORTS PHYSICALS

***Low-cost physicals help student-athletes prepare for the upcoming sports season***

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE— Mountain View Therapy (MVT) at Montrose Regional Health is partnering with Western Slope Orthopaedics (WSO) and Montrose County School District (MCSD) to offer multidisciplinary sports physicals for students in eighth grade through high school in the Montrose County School District.

Physicals will be offered from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday, May 19, at MVT River Landing, Suite 110, in the Ambulatory Care Center, 3330 S. Rio Grande Ave. Appointments will be scheduled in 15-minute intervals, with four athletes seen during each time slot.

“Sports physicals are essential because they give us a baseline of an athlete’s strength, mobility, and overall health before the season begins,” said Scott Baadte, physical therapist and head of MVT at River Landing. “Sports physicals aren’t just about clearance to play. They’re about keeping athletes safe, performing at their best, and staying in the game all season long. We are excited about this community partnership.”

Each exam will take about one hour. Students will be evaluated by a primary care physician, an orthopaedic surgeon, and a physical therapist or athletic trainer at different stages of the assessment. The cost is \$25 per exam, with proceeds benefiting the MCSD sports medicine program.

To schedule a physical, call MVT River Landing at 970-497-5978. Appointments may also be scheduled through Olathe High School by contacting Felicia Avila, RN, at 970-249-7725, ext. 5600. Appointments are first-come, first-served.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## 3RD ANNUAL CORNHOLE FOR A CAUSE TOURNAMENT

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-Join Mrs. Claus and her crew for the 3rd Annual Cornhole for a Cause Tournament where all proceeds support Mrs. Claus for a Cause. This event will be on Sunday May 3rd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Montrose Elks Lodge (801 South Hillcrest). Spaces are limited to 30 teams with an entry fee of \$100 for each team of 2, which includes lunch. A fan favorite, the wiener dog races, will be at 1 p.m., with a \$10 entry fee. There will be tunes, food, vendors, and prizes – join us for a great event to support a fantastic cause. For team entry, sponsorships, and vendor information contact [info@mrsclausforacause.org](mailto:info@mrsclausforacause.org) or scan the QR code to register. About Mrs. Claus for a Cause: Mrs. Claus for a Cause is a non-profit that annually provides a free Christmas event for children of Montrose and its surrounding communities. The 2026 event will be at Friendship Hall in Montrose on December 18th & 19th for all children with December 20th as an event day reserved for children with special needs. For more information on the event or to donate or volunteer, please visit [mrsclausforacause.org](http://mrsclausforacause.org).



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# NEW LEADERSHIP TAKES THE REINS AT CITY HALL From pg 1

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council approved the [minutes of the April 6, 2026](#), regular City Council meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS TO OUTGOING MAYOR AND COUNCILORS**

Mayor Pro Tem Judy Ann Files acknowledged Mayor Dave Frank for his contributions as Mayor of the City of Montrose from April 2025 through April 2026, and Mayor Dave Frank recognized Doug Glaspell and Judy Ann Files for their contributions to the City of Montrose.

**SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Incoming City Councilors Michael J. Badagliacco, Ed Ulibarri, and Adam Woodden were sworn into office by City Clerk Lisa Del Piccolo.

**SELECTION OF MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM**

Council voted to select Badagliacco as Mayor and Ulibarri as Mayor Pro Tem for the 2026-2027 mayoral term.

**BRIEF RECESS**

Council took a brief recess for photos and for staff to rearrange the seating arrangements.

As Council resumed, Mayor Badagliacco thanked the outgoing Council members for their service and thanked the public for attending. "...You are the heart and soul of the community, and we are grateful to be your voice."

**ORDINANCE 2710 - SECOND READING**

Council voted unanimously to approve [Ordinance 2710 on second reading](#), vacating portions of right of way within the City of Montrose.

**ORDINANCE 2711 - SECOND READING**

Council voted unanimously to approve [Ordinance 2711](#) on Second Reading, for the annexation of Matteo's Addition.

**ORDINANCE 2712 - SECOND READING**

Council unanimously voted to approve [Ordinance 2712](#) on Second Reading, for the zoning of the Matteo's Addition as an R-2, Low Density District.

**THE BRIDGES AT BLACK CANYON FILING NO. 11 FINAL PLAT**

Council voted unanimously to approve [The Bridges at Black Canyon Filing No. 11 Final Plat](#) to create 14 residential lots and associated easements and rights-of-way.

**MOVING MONTROSE FORWARD 2026**

**CONTRACTED STREET MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

Also approved was a [contract award to Oldcastle SW Group, Inc.](#) (dba United Companies) in the amount of \$2,600,000 for completion of the Moving Montrose Forward 2026 Contracted Street Maintenance Project.

**2026 MOVEMO SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION**

Council authorized [\\$240,000 in expenditures](#) for sidewalk improvements and trip hazard mitigation as part of the 2026 Moving Montrose Forward Street Maintenance Initiative.

**MIAMI ROAD AC WATERLINE REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORIZATION**

City Council authorized of [\\$229,200.00 in reimbursements](#) to replace approximately 1,200 linear feet of 16-inch diameter AC waterline along Miami Road immediately west of the 6700 Road.

**MONTROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT AXON TASER 10 PURCHASE**

Also authorized was the [purchase of an Axon Taser 10 Certification Bundle](#) (65 Tasers) by the Montrose Police Department, for the total purchase price of \$59,147.40.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Sales Tax Manager Leeanne Whittaker presented the Sales, Use and Excise Tax Report for February, which is included in the packet by [Collections](#) and [by Area](#).

Deputy Police Chief Tim Cox thanked those who attended the Citizens' Police Academy.

**YOUTH CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

Youth Councilor Jordyn Simo discussed recent Youth Council activities, such as the Non-Profit Showcase and the annual Street Cleanup

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Ulibarri asked about an activity planned by Ed's Fly Shop; Michelle Wingfield from the City's DART Program responded. She discussed the new Fly Fishing Film as well as the City's Public Art Program. Councilor J. David Reed spoke about the Citizens Police Academy, and thanked the public for their participation. Mayor Michael Badagliacco thanked the public for their engagement, and Mayor Pro Tem Ulibarri thanked voters for their confidence in re-electing him.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.





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MAY 8-10, 2026

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## PROJECT 7 TAG: "DON'T BUILD A PROJECT ON OPTIMISM" From pg 1

(financial); Deputy Project Manager Miles Graham, and Jessica Johnson, a Garver employee.

### April 23, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vicki Ripp. All board members or alternates were present in person. Two dozen attendees included the board, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and interested citizens. The TAG group consists of experts from all six member entities.

In attendance on Zoom were Attorney James Silvestro, D.A. Davidson Representative Greg Swartz, and newly hired CFO Amanda (unavailable for the March meeting). Noticeably absent were contracted Program Manager Engineer Rick Huggins and Deputy Project Manager Miles Graham.

The board approved the minutes of the March 23, 2026 meeting. There were no changes to the agenda, and no Public Comment.

### Manager's Report – Adam Turner

#### Consumption Report for March

Turner said, "Really close to the previous year. Seven million [gallons] up over last year. In tracking, it's what we expected for this time of year."

Reading the report David Bries said, "In March 2025 there is a calculation error on the water purchased records." Turner acknowledged that the data came from the historical record and that he would check it out.

#### Cash Flow Report

Turner said, "Water treated is running a little ahead of March 2025. Interest income is double what it was in March 2025."

Matt Miles said, "That's because we borrowed and a lot of money is in the bank."

Turner said, "Expense wise, everything is tracking well. The deposit and check register is in the packet."

#### Process Control

Turner said, "We're trending up with all previous seven March years. Good numbers on the Process Control."

#### Updates CFO introduction

Turner introduced Amanda as having been hired two weeks ago, a CPA Advisor who will work with Turner and Swartz. Amanda said, "I just want to introduce myself."

Turner's update included water supply,

snowpack, reservoir levels, the South Canal online, and ongoing discussions with lending and grant funding institutions.

**Legal Update** – Attorney James Silvestro (Zoom).

Silvestro said, "Not much of an update. Relatively quiet the last few months. We are a resource for Adam [Turner]. What the RFPs might look like and general pre-meeting preparation."

#### Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

**Background:** *During the January 2026 board meeting, board members acknowledged their lack of expertise and the need for a Technical Advisory Board (TAG) was determined. TAG is made up of experts from all six member entities.*

**Process Update and Work To-Date:** TAG has held four meetings, the most recent on April 2, 2026. City of Montrose Engineer Scott Murphy, spokesperson for TAG, said, "We looked at where we are and where we go from here. We want to zoom out. What are we trying to accomplish and how can we do it. The bigger picture, we are not a decision-making group, but all the entities are represented. We are an extension of [entities'] staff for you guys to consider things."

Murphy gave insight into comradery in TAG. He said, "Our meetings are two to three hours apiece. They are awesome. They are the funnest I've ever had!"

The current water treatment plant is rated at 27.6 million gallons per day (MGD). Murphy said, "The practical limit is 20 to 21 MGD that we can comfortably produce. The 27.6 MGD could not go longer than a month."

Evaluating the current Plant Operations Murphy said, "There is a fair amount of vulnerability. It is well maintained. Without redundancy you are vulnerable. It creates a challenge for maintenance. Major maintenance would have to be done in the winter. The treatment technology is somewhat older."

TAG revisited the resiliency risk assessment. Murphy said, "With an eye toward this plant, keep the plant robust. What can be done here at the existing plant to mitigate some of the risks? Capacity of the current structure, what is available at this location? Rather than a new plant [located South], lower [your] costs here. You can

have your cake and eat it too. Full production, at a lower risk."

Referring to conceptional partners Murphy said, "These things are viable. Motives will be part of the solution. We are all in this together. They all want to be in this together in a major emergency."

Expanding the current facility would require more property. Murphy said, "You could purchase land toward the east. The property recently sold for development, but the new owner is willing to talk."

In the area of financials Murphy said, "The takeaways are developing realistic solutions. Don't build a project on optimism. Don't depend on grants that might not come through."

TAG recommended long term planning, focusing on existing emergency operations, (immediate risks today), and cost recovery. Murphy said, "Having a formalized policy in place in case there is a major interruption. Have it in writing. Good stuff could happen without a lot of cost right now."

The Facility Master Plan is about 10 years old. TAG recommended a 50-year plan, and a near-term emergency operations plan should be formalized and adopted. Murphy said, "Procurement. Risk reduction is not risk-elimination. What they do for us and what is the cost. There is no silver bullet. TAG and P7 can launch an RFP [Request for Proposal], a public bid that existing management teams could bid and then bring it to the board as a recommendation. We want to solve problems, not do a lot of studies. It could take us about seven weeks to put together, advertise for five weeks, and three weeks to review. Three months' time would be reasonable. Don't hang on fancy things, just look at solutions. In the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range."

Organizational structure has been an ongoing topic. Murphy said, "Work with consultants and TAG [to] where the board is comfortable. The TAG group can provide value. We like each other, so we could maybe continue to meet quarterly. Long range, what is achievable, equitable. Make informed decisions. The [proposed] South plant can stay in the discussion, but the buy-in first must be realistic."

New board member Ron White asked

## PROJECT 7 TAG: "DON'T BUILD A PROJECT ON OPTIMISM" From previous pg

how much the TAG group is costing Project 7 and there were chuckles in the room when someone said, "They're a volunteer group."

Ripp touched briefly on the difficulty in getting funding [grants] and the need to raise rates to "bulk the coffers up". She said, "That's how we make money back by charging for water."

Matt Miles said, "One of the things coming up against us is the intergovernmental agreement between all of us."

Recognizing the need to modernize the existing funding contract, Ripp suggested a board workshop or possible executive session to discuss some of the challenges.

Matt Miles said, "I applaud the TAG group and the clarity they brought to the board."

### Old Business

**Background:** The *Montrose Mirror* reported on the March 26, 2026 board meeting under new business: *Chipeta Proposal for Additional Audit – Matt Miles*

*Matt Miles said, "We're proposing a forensic audit on the Resiliency Project. We've spent an unknown amount, \$17 to \$20 million to date. We need previous invoices. I'd like to know where the money has gone; reconstruct where the money went. Give the board a crystal-clear picture of where money has been spent to date."*

*Bries said, "Maybe not an audit, but an accounting."*

### Status of Detailed and Categorized Resiliency Program Financials

Financial advisor Greg Swartz (on Zoom) said "We hired additional financial support for day-to-day financial reporting. We [D.A. Davidson] will go back to 2019 and compile data. There will be a spread sheet on how much was used for design, land acquisition... The goal is to present to the board at the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting." Multiple times Swartz stressed that everything

done by the Management Team had three levels of reviews and board authorization on the Resiliency Project.

Matt Miles said, "How did Greg Swartz get mixed up in the audit that I asked for? The CFO was to spell some things out. Greg just spelled it out for her. My request is how was that money spent? I feel blindsided here."

CFO Amanda (Zoom) said, "Greg can add the historical data into the discussion, the bulk of the data."

Swartz said, "I'm sensitive about my role here, within the role as municipal advisors...I'm hypersensitive. I'm not doing this for Adam, Graham, or Rick Huggins."

Matt Miles said, "All we hear from you guys is it has board approval on this, or board approval on that. That's my concern. Yes, we may have approved it, but it was under the guidance of those [we] contracted with."

Ripp said, "When we see the documents [spread sheets presented on May 28] we'll understand."

Matt Miles said, "Remember, we approved those!"

Ripp said, "We'll get a different format to disseminate information."

Matt Miles also questioned the perception that there is one shared attorney representing all the interested parties. Attorney Silvestro assured the board that he only represents the board.

**Peer Rate Study Update:** The study compares Project 7 with the rates of 57 other water suppliers in the State of Colorado. Swartz said, "This is a draft and a recommendation on our part on how you should approve projects and any projects in the future."

**New Business:** No new business

### Future Agenda Items:

Matt Miles suggested an agenda item should be expansion of the current facility.

### Adjourned

#### Project 7 Background:

Established on September 29, 1977, the Project 7 Water Authority is a cooperative among seven water entities that provide domestic water to the municipalities and rural areas of the Uncompahgre River Valley.

The seven entities that represent the Project 7 Water Authority are:

[The City of Montrose](#)

[The City of Delta](#)

[The Town of Olathe](#)

[The Tri-County Water Conservancy District](#)

[The Chipeta Water District](#)

[The Menoken Water District](#)

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).

**Project 7 Board meetings**, which are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, begin at 4:30pm. Meetings are open to the public and are available on Zoom.

Board packet materials, which are unavailable to the public, are circulated to board members prior to the meeting.

#### Project 7 Contact Information:

The seven entities that represent the Project 7 Water Authority are:

[The City of Montrose](#) David Bries 970-240-1484 [dbries@cityofmontrose.org](mailto:dbries@cityofmontrose.org)

[The City of Delta](#) Ron White [ronwhite@cityofdeltatn.com](mailto:ronwhite@cityofdeltatn.com)

[The Town of Olathe](#) Mayor Jake Foreman 970 323- 5601 [ja-cob.foreman@geocities.com](mailto:ja-cob.foreman@geocities.com)

[The Tri-County Water Conservancy District](#) Vicki Ripp 970 874-5127 [info@tricomtywater.org](mailto:info@tricomtywater.org)

[The Chipeta Water District](#) Matt Miles [matt@leadershipcirclellc.com](mailto:matt@leadershipcirclellc.com) 970-249-3398

[The Menoken Water District](#) Randy Meaker 970 249-5118

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (non-voting member).



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## PLEASE JOIN US AT THE MONTROSE VETERANS MEMORIAL SITE MAY 15!

*Dear Editor:*

Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition board member Lance Bach outlined the contributions that Stryker Co. has made to the Memorial at the City of Montrose Colorado Government city council work session Monday, April 20, 2026,. Sitting alongside director of public works Jim Scheid, he made a compelling argument.

Bach explained that Stryker's team has contributed many hours to organizing the in-kind effort of Montrose city and county citizens, small businesses and corporations. All of this, along with the huge contributions of the Colorado Army National Guard and Stryker's ability to work with them, make this memorial a reality.

NEXT STEP: Plans are underway for a ground-breaking ceremony Friday, May 15. People will gather at the 1800 Pavilion Dr site at 9 a.m. where the City of Montrose, Montrose County, Colorado Army National Guard and the Montrose Veterans Memorial Coalition will celebrate this momentous, historic beginning.

Following the ceremony, the National Guard will get to work!!!

Please join us, and consider donating at [www.montrosemvc.org](http://www.montrosemvc.org)

And purchase your veteran/tribute brick by MAY 1 to be part of the first brick-laying ceremony this fall. Call Amy Eifling at 970-765-2210 for information. The second ceremony will be held next year--TBD. All information will be announced through emails to our donor list and the media.

-----

Scott Stryker has been pivotal in this memorial effort, and Michael Hearn and Mark Clutts also have played very important roles in getting this project underway. Some of Stryker's crew working with the National Guard April 10, 2026, are pictured here, including (in no particular order) Jack Yarnell, Logan Oakley, Jake Anderson, Clutts, Hearn and others.

*On behalf of the MVMC BOD,*

*Les Williams, President*

*J. Bob Brueske, Chairman*



**Stryker crew at work site. Courtesy photo.**

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## THE UNDERMINING OF THE REPUBLIC

### *The Scheme to effectively eliminate the Electoral College*

*Editor:*

Democrats are once again doing everything within their power to **undermine our Republic**. Once again they use the term “democracy” as though it is the core of our governmental structure. The FACT is, It never has been and hopefully never will be. WHY?

#### **Republic Versus Democracy: The Founders' Clear Distinction**

The United States was founded as a Republic rooted in the rule of law. Article IV Section 4 of the Constitution guarantees to every state in this Union a republican form of government. In contrast a democracy amounts to mob rule. James Madison warned in Federalist No. 10 that “democracies are spectacles of turbulence and contention incompatible with personal security or the rights of property”.

#### **The Electoral College: Protecting Smaller States and Federalism**

The Electoral College was established to prevent urban areas from undercutting and disenfranchising rural ones. It ensures that less populous states retain a voice in presidential elections. Alexander Hamilton explained in Federalist No. 68 that “the system balances interests across the nation”.

This mechanism reflects the federalist compromise at the Constitutional Convention. Smaller states insisted on protections against domination by larger ones.

#### **The Stealth Strategy: The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**

The Democrat Party has played the long game relying on incrementalism. By contrast Republicans have often sought all or nothing outcomes and lost ground as a result. Rush Limbaugh repeatedly warned conservatives about this danger.

The most stealthy scheme Democrats have advanced is the **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**. Under this agreement participating states would

award all their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote **regardless of how voters in their own state cast ballots**. This would effectively eliminate the Electoral College without a constitutional amendment.

#### **Constitutional Violations: Breaching the Compact Clause and Article II**

The scheme itself is **unconstitutional**. Article I Section 10 Clause 3 of the Constitution states that “no state shall without the consent of Congress enter into any agreement or compact with another state.”

Legal scholars argue that the compact requires congressional approval because it alters the balance of power among states and affects non-compacting states. It changes the horizontal balance of power. Without congressional consent it violates the Compact Clause.

Moreover the compact conflicts with Article II Section 1 which provides that “each state shall appoint electors in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct”. No state has ever appointed presidential electors based on votes cast outside its borders. Norman R. Williams in his 2012 BYU Law Review article concludes that **this approach exceeds state authority** under the Presidential Elections Clause and that the proper mechanism for change remains a federal constitutional amendment.

#### **Current Status: 222 Electoral Votes and the Growing Threat**

As of April 2026 the compact has been enacted into law in 19 states (all “Blue” states), possessing 222 electoral votes. These include 18 states and the District of Columbia. It requires 270 electoral votes to activate. Four states still have active legislation that would add to the 222. Once that threshold is reached the next presidential election would award all participating states electoral votes to the national popular vote winner. Candidates would no longer need to court flyover

country. Campaigns would focus exclusively on heavily populated urban centers such as Chicago, New York and Los Angeles.

#### **Consequences: Mob Rule and National Division**

This transformation would convert the republic into a democracy in practice. The will of the most populous areas would prevail while smaller states lose their voice. Such a shift could literally cause a second civil war by alienating vast regions of the country and eroding trust in the electoral process.

This is typical Democrat behavior. When they cannot achieve their goals at the ballot box they change the rules. They frame it as the will of the people but it actually asserts the will of the most populous areas thwarting the balanced will of the entire nation.

#### **A Call to Preserve the Republic**

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact represents a direct assault on the constitutional design chosen by the founders. It undermines the republic one state at a time through an unconstitutional compact that bypasses the amendment process.

Americans must recognize this incremental strategy for what it is: an effort to dismantle the protections that have preserved liberty for more than two centuries. Defending the Electoral College is essential to preserving the republic rooted in the rule of law rather than surrendering to the turbulence of unchecked majority rule. The time to act is now before the threshold is crossed and the republic is fundamentally altered.

**Michael J. Badagliacco, “MJB”**

**Michael is a father of five, grandfather of three, Mayor of Montrose Colorado, editor-in-chief of USALibertyReport.com and remains enamored by the genius of the founders and the Constitution.**

**Because your voice carries a lot of weight.**

# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

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# OPINION EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY



CITY OF  
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*Mayor's  
Minute*

## RESTORING OUR CHARTER'S ORIGINAL STRUCTURE

MONTROSE—During the campaign, I spoke with many residents across Montrose. One message stood out clearly: the people of Montrose want change. Not in a radical direction, but a return to our roots where trust and accountability come first.

In response to this directive from the people of Montrose, I will be proposing to the council a series of charter amendments to restore the original structure of the charter. Once these items are voted on by the council, if approved to move forward, the citizens of Montrose will have the opportunity and responsibility to vote on the Charter Amendments and decide on what is adopted or not this November.

To help you, the citizens of Montrose understand what is proposed, over the next six months, we will unveil all proposed charter changes. These practical, common-sense measures are designed to return power to your elected representatives rather than bureaucrats.

Please attend the work sessions are held the first and third Mondays of each month at 10:00 a.m., and the City Council meetings, held on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. Both are held in the City Council chambers on the second floor of the old BPOE civic building at 107 S. Cascade.

We want your input so your voice is heard. You can sign up for email alerts with the agenda before each work session and council meeting by clicking [here](#).

We value your opinions. While we may not agree on everything, as a community we can find common ground to make Montrose its best. Let your voice be heard!

*Thank you,*

*Michael J. Badagliacco, "MJB"*

*Mayor, Montrose, CO*

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  - **A rare and distinctive mountain property blending comfort, craftsmanship, and connection to nature**



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**830 Tiyoweh Trail**



*Peg Evansika*

BROKER ASSOCIATE  
SRES,CRS,MRP  
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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE-In Colorado, and throughout the United States, Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to learn more about how we can help keep kids safe. Prevention starts with supporting families and everyone paying attention to the needs of children in our communities. Knowing some of the warning signs of abuse or neglect are key factors to keeping our children safe.

Look for sudden behavior changes, unexplained injuries, or lack of basic care, this can help people step in before a situation gets worse. Even just checking in on a

family, or offering support, or speaking up when something doesn't seem right can make a difference. Keeping kids safe is something we all have a role in, and working together helps build stronger and safer communities for children to grow up in.

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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## VEHICLE STRIKES BUILDING IN SECURITY-WIDEFIELD

*Colorado State Patrol*

EL PASO COUNTY— On April 25, 2026, at approximately 9:40 p.m., Colorado State Patrol Troopers responded to a serious injury crash on Main St, South of Norman Dr, in Security-Widefield, CO. Troopers determined that a Subaru WRX was traveling southbound on Main St when it failed to navigate a right turn, going off the road. The WRX struck a landscape boulder, causing it to go airborne, before colliding its front into the second story of a church. The WRX then landed on the ground near the structure.

The driver, an 18-year-old male from Colorado Springs, was transported to an area hospital with life-threatening injuries. The passenger, a 14-year-old male from Colorado Springs, was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries.

This crash is being investigated by the Colorado State Patrol Vehicular Crimes Unit. If you witnessed the crash or have any information and have not spoken to investigators, please contact Colorado State Patrol Dispatch at (719) 544-2424 and reference case number VC260123. Be prepared to leave your contact information for an investigator to return your call.



*Photo courtesy of the Security Fire Department.*



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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## CALL TO PRAYER, PROCLAMATION BY THE POTUS

*Editor:*

May 7th is the National day of Prayer. Check with your Pastor to find out if your church will be praying on May 7th. The AMC IS planning a service ay Montrose Christian Church. I will post the details later. I will also contact the AMC to see if they are planning anything on May 17th since this is new. This proclamation just came out so we will see. Stay tuned.

May 17th stands before us as a defining moment—one that could shape the spiritual trajectory of our nation for generations. On this day, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, has called on Americans to rededicate ourselves as “One Nation Under God.” This is more than a symbolic gesture; it is an invitation to return to the very foundation upon which our nation was built. This call is not without precedent. Nearly 250 years ago, on May 17, 1776, as the young colonies faced grave uncertainty, the Continental Congress issued a proclamation urging the people to set aside a day for “fasting, humiliation, and prayer.” They recognized that when “the liberties of America are imminently endangered,” the proper response is not merely political action, but spiritual surrender—seeking God’s favor, wisdom, and intervention. Even George Washington instructed his troops to fast and pray, acknowledging that victory ultimately comes from the hand of God. To-


day, we stand in a moment that echoes that same urgency. Our nation faces a spiritual battle against biblical values, moral confusion, and unprecedented challenges. Yet, just as in 1776, we are being given an opportunity—not to react in fear, but to respond in faith. May 17th carries extraordinary potential. It is a chance for Americans from every church and every background to unite in humility, confession, and prayer.

Scripture makes clear that when people humble themselves and seek God, He responds with mercy. This is not about politics—it is about posture. It is about turning our hearts back to God and asking Him to heal what is broken. This event in DC will be marked by influential spiritual voices who will help set the tone for the day. Leaders such as Samuel Rodriguez, Franklin Graham, Jack Graham, Eric Metaxas, Jentezen Franklin, Ben Carson, Timothy Dolan, and worship leaders such as Chris Tomlin and Matthew West will guide this gathering through prayer, worship, and a call to repentance. A national moment of rededication will be led by Mike Johnson, whose unique understanding of both constitutional principles and spiritual truth brings clarity to the intersection of faith and public life. This vision has been carried for years by Donald Trump, who has declared 2026 a “Year of Celebration and Rededication.” This day is not a coinci-

dence—it is a window of opportunity. Now the question is simple: This is your moment to engage. Take May 17th seriously. Set aside time—personally, with your family, or within your church—to pray and seek God. Consider fasting, as our forefathers did. Gather others. Lead where you are. Don’t assume someone else will carry the burden of prayer for the nation—step into it yourself. Consider coming to our Rededicate 250 in Washington DC or watch the live stream.

History is not only shaped by leaders on a stage, but by individuals who respond in obedience. Let May 17th not pass as just another date on the calendar. Let it be marked by your participation, your prayer, and your willingness to humble yourself before God. If ever there were a time for America to return to Him—it is now. David Kubal CEO/President Intercessors for America, Dutch Sheets Dutch Sheets Ministries & Give Him 15, Lou Engle Lou Engle Ministries & The Call Cindy and Mike Jacobs Founders, Generals International Matt Lockett Executive Director, Justice House of Prayer DC Kathy Branzell President, National Day of Prayer Task Force Geoff Eckart Chairman, National Prayer Committee Cyril & Jemina Rayan Co-Founders, The Potter's Ministries Join us in interceding for this event. Download 7 Days of Prayer for Rededicate 250.



*John Brown, Montrose*



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## COLORADO STATE SENATOR JULIE GONZALES SPOKE AT LOCAL EVENT IN MONTROSE CONDEMNING ICE WAREHOUSE DETENTION

*Indivisible News Release*

MONTROSE— On Saturday April 25, 2026, Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible brought people from across the Western Slope together on the footsteps of the Montrose County government building for a rally to denounce immigration detention expansion. This action was part of the “Communities Not Cages National Day of Action to Stop ICE Warehouse Detention”, a coordinated nationwide mobilization against Trump’s mass detention and deportation agenda.

Featured rally speaker, Colorado State Senator Julie Gonzales, said “we have been fighting (here in Colorado) to ensure that ICE abides by the Constitution because the constitution protects us all.” The event also included immigration rights activists, a visual art display of shoes to represent the humans that died while in ICE custody since January 21, 2025, poetry, and an interactive art project. ICE is scouting, purchasing, and retrofitting warehouses and closed prisons nationwide for immigration detention, which are expected to detain between 1,500-10,000 people each.

Arguments against detention warehouses in small communities are that they also divert critical resources such as water and electricity away from local communities and could cut off tax revenue and foreclose economic opportunities.

“Local communities are making it clear from coast to coast, Utah, Oklahoma, Virginia – that they don’t want detention centers or warehouse detention facilities in ANY community. We will fight to block ICE and work to ensure all people are protected and safe. Instead, communities want our local, state and federal leaders to champion projects that bring investment to support all families like education, healthcare and housing for everyone to thrive,” said Holly Speaks, group leader of Montrose and Ouray Counties Indivisible. “Jailing people in large-scale, makeshift detention warehouses will exponentially increase the likelihood for abuse and death in ICE custody, subjecting people to conditions that are not meant for humans to live in - toilets overflowing with feces, no clean water to drink, malnutrition and medical neglect. These warehouses are like World War II concentration and Japanese internment camps that were wrong then and are wrong now” said Speaks.

“Detention is deadly. People in immigration detention are describing it as ‘hell on earth’ because it is. What we’re seeing now is heightened cruelty under the Trump administration,” said Nanci Palacios, Organizing and Membership Director at Detention Watch Network. “People are not commodities to be shipped, discarded, and profited off of in detention warehouses or any detention facility — full stop. We demand an end to Trump’s cruel mass detention expansion and that detention facilities be shut down for good.” Indivisible is a movement driven by a vision of a real democracy of, by, and for the people.

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

## HOW MANY DEMOCRATS ARE IN HOCK TO FOREIGN MONEYMEN?

*Editor:*

The post-WWII decades brought racial healing to this country. Several generations of Americans took Martin Luther King, Jr.'s exhortation to heart, when he dreamed that his children would "one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Barack Obama had the opportunity to allow this nation to fully heal by recognizing his election as the culmination of a century of real progress for Americans of every race. Instead, he chose to exacerbate racial tensions. Obama did a lot of damage as president and thereafter, not the least of which was deliberately wrecking Trump's first term by masterminding the Russian collusion hoax. There's a difference between governing poorly and actively sabotaging your successor. A bad president can pursue bad policies, but those actions, however misguided, at least come from an electoral mandate. What Obama did went far beyond that. It is very sad that our first black president will be judged historically as subversive and corrupt, but worse yet, he will rightly be viewed as the divisive president who deliberately sabotaged racial healing.

Nearly sixty years after MLK's assassination, Obama and Democrats want us to go back to judging Americans by the color of their skin. They need conflict, hate, and division to survive. As race relations improved and overt examples of racism became more difficult to identify, Democrats conjured up terms like "systemic racism" and tried very hard to make us think there were "white supremacists" groups everywhere. Democrats realized that if the boogeyman of "white supremacy" disappeared, so did their power. Joe Biden repeatedly called white supremacy the most dangerous terrorist threat to America. To understand Democrats and racial tensions, we have to talk about the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which was founded in the '70's with good intentions: fighting for civil rights. Unfortunately, they soon corrupted their mission and focused

on condemning and destroying any organization on the right. They started targeting pro-life and pro-family groups in the 1990's. After 9/11, organizations concerned about Islamic terrorism were targeted. Immigration policy groups and religious freedom organizations all became targets. The SPLC has spent decades falsely labeling anyone who disagrees with Democrats as an "extremist," "racist," or "domestic terrorist." They even put Turning Point USA on their hate map, and just 4 months later Charlie Kirk was assassinated. Here's the problem SPLC ran up against. Over the years, it became almost impossible to find those "white supremacist" groups that Democrat media pretended were lurking around every Republican neighborhood. If you go to a MAGA rally, you just find the nicest and most considerate Americans one could imagine – a lot of them minorities. SPLC's solution? Actively fund white supremacy groups, including the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, Aryan Nation, and Unite the Right, in order to manufacture some real incidents of racism, hate, and "right wing" violence.

The SPLC had a problem. People just weren't being racist enough to keep them in business, so they decided to throw gasoline on the coals of racism and then profit from pretending to oppose those evil white supremacists. You can't make this stuff up. The SPLC is manufacturing racism to justify their existence. A grand jury located in the Middle District of Alabama just indicted the SPLC for wire fraud, money laundering, and false statements. Per FBI Director Kash Patel: "The SPLC allegedly engaged in a massive fraud operation to deceive their donors, enrich themselves, and hide their deceptive operations from the public. They lied to their donors, vowing to dismantle violent extremist groups, and actually turned around and paid the leaders of these very extremist groups – even utilizing the funds to have these groups facilitate the commission of state and federal crimes." The SPLC used scores of illegal fake bank ac-

counts and fake companies to generously fund "informants" in a variety of racist hate groups. The indictment calls that money laundering. It turns out that, during Biden's presidency, one of the banks investigated the SPLC's accounts, discovered they were made up, closed them, and advised the feds. Biden promptly shut down any investigation into the SPLC.

The SPLC using the term "informants" is laughable because that suggests they meant well and used the "informants" to help shut down hate groups. They helped put zero bad guys behind bars, There were no prosecutions and no convictions. The SPLC's hate money never helped catch anybody. Regardless, it is illegal for citizens or companies to fund criminals – not even as informants. And you definitely can't pay neo-Nazis to organize violent rallies.

The Southern Poverty Law Center was so good at manufacturing hate that they amassed a donor-fueled endowment of \$800 million dollars, conveniently parked in offshore accounts. To add insult to injury, \$27 million of those donations have been traced to federal taxpayer money laundered to the SPLC through USAID. If you want more evidence that the Democrat party is little more than a big crime syndicate, read up about the Democrats' giant fundraising machine ActBlue, which was caught in a massive foreign cash scandal. Democrats knowingly used their ActBlue vehicle as an illegal foreign funding conduit. Democrats acted untouchable while flooding their machine with dirty foreign money. ActBlue's own legal and compliance team bailed en masse after the 2024 election because they knew the operation was knowingly breaking the law on foreign contributions.

A reasonable question is "How many Democrats are in hock to foreign moneymen? How many are doing China's bidding? Or Iran's? Or Mexico's?

And isn't it odd that foreign funding in numbers such as these went only to Democrats?

*Ed Henrie, Montrose*



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## LIBERTARIAN SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES TO BE IN PRIMARY ELECTION

*Special to the Mirror*

DENVER – The Libertarian Party of Colorado nominated candidates at their recent state convention and candidates filed paperwork this week with the Secretary of State Office to be on the 2026 ballot. The Libertarian candidate for Secretary of State will be decided in the June primary between Sean Vadney of Highlands Ranch and Alex Astley of Holyoke. Both candidates earned more than 30% of the delegate vote which takes the nomination to a primary election per Colorado statute. Only voters registered Libertarian by June 8th will be able to vote in the Libertarian primary election.

Libertarians nominated Eric Mulder of Aurora for Governor and Blake Huber of Denver for U.S. Senate. Mulder is a U.S. Army veteran and a small business owner who has previously served on the City of Aurora’s Veterans Affairs and Civic Engagement Commission. Huber is a longtime political activist and an advocate for election reform, being a strong supporter of Approval Voting. Huber served in the Kansas National Guard and U.S. Navy Reserve.

The delegates nominated a candidate for each U.S. House of Representative District: Chad Humphrey (District 1), Gaylon Kent (District 2), Cory Robertson (District 3), Douglas Mangeris (District 4), Mark Elworth (District 5), Patty McMahon (District 6), Dan Sallis (District 7), and David Wood (District 8).

These Congressional candidates bring a wealth of knowledge to the ticket. Humphrey is a retired U.S. Marine Corps Officer, Kent served in the U.S. Navy, Mangeris is an affordable housing contractor and Vice President of the Board for the Loveland Habitat for Humanity, and McMahon worked several decades for the U.S. Equal Employment Office Commission (EEOC), acting as congressional liaison.

Libertarian candidates are also running for many State Senate and State House district seats. One of the races to watch is House District 23, where Libertarian Ross Metler is running in a race without a Republican challenger.

House District 23 consists of Lakewood and Wheat Ridge. The Libertarian Party of Colorado reaffirmed its commitment to running and supporting Libertarian candidates and providing voters with a genuine alternative to the two-party system.

If you would like more information about this article, you may email Keith Laube at [statechair@lpcolorado.org](mailto:statechair@lpcolorado.org). More information about the Libertarian Party of Colorado can be found at <https://lpcolorado.org/>.

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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## DELTA HEALTH ANNOUNCES CAREPOINT AS CONTRACTED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PROVIDER

*Special to the Mirror*

DELTA— Delta Health announced today that CarePoint will serve as the contracted provider organization for Emergency Department (ED) services, effective May 1, 2026.

CarePoint has served as the Emergency Department provider group at Delta Health since July 2025, delivering consistent, high-quality care to patients in the community. This new agreement formalizes CarePoint’s role as the contracted organization responsible for ED provider services.

As part of this transition, patients who receive care in the Delta Health Emergency Department on or after May 1, 2026, will receive separate billing statements. Facility-related services will continue to be billed by Delta Health, while professional services provided by Emergency Department clinicians will be billed directly by CarePoint.

Patients can expect no changes to the care they receive. The same experienced providers and clinical teams will continue to deliver the high standard of emergency care that the community has come to expect.

“We are pleased to continue our partnership with CarePoint,” said Nick Collieran, Delta Health Interim Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Operating Officer. “This agreement ensures continuity in our Emergency Department services while aligning our billing practices with industry standards.”

Patients with questions about a billing statement received from CarePoint should contact them directly, via the information provided on the statement. Patients with questions about a Delta Health billing statement can contact us at 970-874-7681.



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# REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORT EARNS STATE HONOR, STRENGTHENS RURAL COMMUNITY IDENTITY

*Special to the Mirror*

MONTROSE — In small rural communities, history is often more than a record of the past; it is a living, shared identity. This idea was celebrated across the state of Colorado as The Association, located within the historic Montrose Potato Growers Building, was honored with a prestigious Hart Award from History Colorado for its commitment to historic preservation and community revitalization.

The award, part of the annual Stephen H. Hart Awards for Historic Preservation ceremony held on April 8, recognizes exceptional efforts to protect Colorado's cultural and architectural heritage. For the owners of The Association, the recognition reflects something deeper than preservation alone; it underscores the vital role historic places play in sustaining rural communities.

In towns where populations are smaller and resources can be limited, historic buildings often serve as anchors, reminders of shared roots and gathering places that connect generations. The Association's work to restore and maintain a historic site has helped ensure that connection remains intact.

When the building's owners, David and Greg Fishing, unlocked the derelict Montrose Potato Growers Association building in 2019, they found handprints and notes written by warehouse workers from a century earlier.

Rather than allowing the structure to fade into disrepair, the Fisherings transformed it into a functional community asset; a place where residents can gather, events can be held, and local history can continue to be told. The project demonstrates how preservation can serve both cultural and economic purposes, breathing new life into rural spaces without losing their character.

"We couldn't be happier about the Stephen H. Hart Award," said David Fishing. "It is a testament to the work that we have done and, more importantly, the way in which we have gone about it, with preservation and rehabilitation top of mind. Not only is it proof that our family has done some great work, but it is a huge win for our community as Montrose continues to be recognized at the state level as a leader in historic preservation and downtown revitalization. We have a great team at the city, and the town has a handful of dedicated and engaged developers. This award is just another in what I expect to be a continued run of successes downtown."

Leaders with History Colorado have increasingly emphasized the importance of "people-driven preservation," particularly in rural areas where historic landmarks often carry outsized significance.

In these communities, preserving a single building can mean preserving a sense of place.

The mission to restore The Association building highlights how historic preservation can foster pride, support local economies, and maintain continuity in places that might otherwise face decline. By investing in the past, the organization has helped secure a future where community identity remains visible and vibrant.

As rural towns across Colorado navigate growth and change, projects like this serve as a model, proving that preservation is not just about saving old structures, but about sustaining the heart of a community.

For The Association, the Hart Award is more than recognition. It is a testament to the idea that even in the smallest communities, history matters, and preserving it can shape the path forward for generations to come.

For more information about the City of Montrose's historic preservation program, [visit the historic preservation webpage](#).



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# UNITED STATES NEWS RELEASES

## FEDERAL GRAND JURY CHARGES SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER FOR WIRE FRAUD, FALSE STATEMENTS, AND CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MONEY LAUNDERING

### US Attorney's Office

UNITED STATES-Between 2014 and 2023, the SPLC secretly funneled more than \$3 million in donated funds to individuals who were associated with various violent extremist groups including the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations, and National Socialist Party of America

A Grand Jury in Montgomery, Alabama, today returned an [indictment](#) charging the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) with 11 counts of wire fraud, false statements to a federally insured bank, and conspiracy to commit concealment money laundering. The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama Northern Division filed two forfeiture actions to recover alleged proceeds of the organization's fraud scheme. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigated this case with assistance from the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI).

"The SPLC is manufacturing racism to justify its existence," said Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche. "Using donor money to allegedly profit off Klansmen cannot go unchecked. This Department of Justice will hold the SPLC and every other fraudulent organization operating with the same deceptive playbook accountable. No entity is above the law."

"The SPLC allegedly engaged in a massive fraud operation to deceive their donors, enrich themselves, and hide their deceptive operations from the public," said FBI Director Kash Patel. "They lied to their donors, vowing to dismantle violent extremist groups, and actually turned

around and paid the leaders of these very extremist groups - even utilizing the funds to have these groups facilitate the commission of state and federal crimes. That is illegal - and this is an ongoing investigation against all individuals involved."

The SPLC is a non-profit organization headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama, whose mission, according to its website during the relevant time period, was to be a "catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people."

According to the indictment starting in the 1980s, the SPLC began operating a covert network of individuals who were either associated with violent and extremist groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan, or who had infiltrated violent extremist groups at the SPLC's direction. Unbeknownst to donors, some of their donated money was being used to fund the leaders and organizers of racist groups at the same time that the SPLC was denouncing the same groups on its website.

"Donors gave their money believing they were supporting the fight against violent extremism," said Acting United States Attorney Kevin Davidson. "As alleged, the SPLC instead diverted a portion of those funds to benefit individuals and groups they claimed to oppose. That kind of deception undermines public trust and social cohesion."

Between 2014 and 2023, the SPLC secretly funneled more than \$3 million in donat-

ed funds to individuals who were associated with various violent extremist groups including:

- Ku Klux Klan
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- Unite the Right
- National Alliance
- National Socialist Movement
- Aryan Nations affiliated Sadistic Souls Motorcycle Club
- National Socialist Party of America (American Nazi Party)
- American Front

According to the indictment, the objective of the scheme and artifice was to obtain money via donations through materially false representations and omissions about what the donated funds would be used for.

In order to covertly pay the individuals, the SPLC opened bank accounts connected to a series of fictitious entities. The covert nature of the accounts allowed the SPLC to disguise the true nature, source, ownership, and control of the fraudulently obtained donated money the SPLC paid the individuals. In order to keep the scheme going, the SPLC made a series of false statements related to the operation of the accounts.

A conviction will result in the forfeiture of financial gains from the alleged illegal activities.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and FBI Director Kash Patel made the announcement in Washington.

The details contained in the civil forfeiture complaint are allegations only.

Updated April 21, 2026



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# ABBY SIEGEL EARNS SOFTBALL SCHOLARSHIP



By Cliff Dodge

MONTROSE- In front of a crowd of family and friends, Montrose High School Senior Abby Siegel signed her scholarship papers and accepted an offer to play softball at the collegiate level at Monterey Peninsula College, a two-year school on the Monterey Peninsula in California.

Abby has been playing organized softball for 13 years, beginning at the age of four years old. Her parents, Jon Siegel a therapist and Amanda Siegel a software engineer, have supported their daughter from

the get go, making it possible for Abby to participate fully in her sport-- driving Abby to practice, to games, and to multiple teams in addition to Montrose High School. Abby has two brothers, Jakob age 28 and Zach age 26.

Abby is a well-traveled softball player. She played varsity softball all four years in high school as a catcher/third baseman. She has played for Team Israel, the Epic Rocky Mountain Team and is currently playing for the Colorado Divas. Abby also played varsity lacrosse for three years and

participated in competitive snowboarding. She is undecided as to what she will major in at the next level, but will have plenty of time to make this important decision.

The classes Abby enjoyed most in high school were Theater and Psychology. While at Montrose High she volunteered her time at Pomona Elementary School to continue helping young people to grow and prosper.

Congratulations to Abby Siegel on her noteworthy achievement and we wish her much success as she enters the next



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# MAGGIE LEGG/LILLY NELSON EARN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

By Cliff Dodge

## MAGGIE LEGG:

MONTROSE-Senior Maggie Legg, an outstanding two-sport athlete, has accepted a scholarship to Western Colorado University to play volleyball at the college level. Legg was one of the driving forces who saw both the volleyball team and the basketball team qualify and make deep runs into the state championship tournaments in both sports. Legg was an outstanding outside hitter on the volleyball team and a deadly shooter for the basketball team. Maggie Legg is the daughter of Mike and Amy Legg. The Leggs are in the real estate appraisal business, and also have a son, Jake.

Maggie Legg began her volleyball career at age six when she and Lilly Nelson started playing competitive volleyball. Maggie explained that she quit gymnastics to devote full time to volleyball and basketball. Legg said she enjoyed classes in American Government and Weightlifting while at Montrose High School.

Legg was a powerful outside hitter while at Montrose High School and seems destined to play that same position at Western Colorado University. She plans to major in Business Administration. Legg described her interaction with the coaches at Western as a really good relationship, and felt that it would be a good fit for continuing her academic and athletic career.

## LILLY NELSON:

Senior Lilly Nelson, also an outstanding two-sport athlete, has accepted a scholarship to Gillette Community College located in Gillette, Wyoming. Nelson was also a driving force in both volleyball and basketball, which allowed the Red Hawks to make deep runs into the CHSAA championship tournaments in both sports. Lilly is the daughter of Jesse and Beth Nelson, and has one sibling, Reese. Lilly enjoyed her Art classes and also has been a weightlifter.

Lilly started playing volleyball at age five with family and friends and became hooked on the sport. She began playing competitively at age six. Lilly was the Red Hawks' "setter" throughout her high school career, and in all likelihood will play the same position in college. She is planning to major in Exercise Science. Lilly was the Red Hawks rebounding leader on the basketball court. Her hobbies include boating, skiing and hiking.

Gillette Community came to call this year, and Lilly made a visit to the campus. As soon as she saw the campus and facilities she knew she wanted to attend and play for their coach.

# RED HAWKS SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Cliff Dodge

## PALISADE BULLDOGS 12, RED HAWKS 2

MONTROSE-The Montrose Red Hawks Baseball Team ran into a buzz saw last week as they dropped a pair of games to the Palisade Bulldogs, once on the road and once at home.

The Tuesday game saw the Bulldogs dominate the scoreboard and score 16 runs at the expense of the Red Hawks.

Things started slowly as the Bull Dogs plated runs in their first four innings to establish a 6 to 1 lead.

The Dogs scored a single run in the first, second, and third innings and then broke open the contest as they scored three runs in the fourth inning. The Bull Dogs added six additional runs in the final two

at bats. The Red Hawks were limited to a single run in the third and fifth innings to account for their two tallies.

The Red Hawks scored their two runs on four singles, one base on balls and 11 strikeouts. Cade Saunders led the Red Hawks with two base knocks, while Brennen Barnett and Conner Jennings each had a base hit. Red Hawks hurlers were touched for 12 runs on 11 base hits.

## PALISADE BULLDOGS 10, RED HAWKS 3

Things got little better for the Red Hawks last Friday as the team traveled to Palisade for the second of two back-to-back games with the Bull Dogs. The Red Hawks pushed across two runs in the top of the first inning but were unable to hold the lead as the Bull Dogs scored three runs in

their half of the inning.

The Bull Dogs scored seven times in the next three innings to cement the victory. The Dogs' pitching walked no one, struck out seven, and stranded three runners on the basepaths, winning by the score of 10-3.

Chazz Miller and Jayce England led the Red Hawks with two base hits each. Brenan Barnett and Cade Saunders each had a base knock as the Red Hawks struggled to score against Bulldog pitching.

Next up for the Red Hawks will be a visit to Glenwood Springs on Saturday.

The Red Hawks overall record stands at seven wins against 11 losses.

Their league mark stands at one win against five losses.

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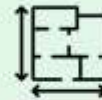
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# OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

## BACK TO REALITY FOR PROJECT 7? IS OUR WATER TREATMENT CONSORTIUM BACK ON TRACK WITH ITS PLANS?

By David White

Almost one year to the date when Project 7 (the consortium that processes and treats our drinking water) decided to shelve (for the time being) a backup water treatment plant (a key part Project 7's Resiliency Plan) that was estimated to cost \$200,000,000, they are finally coming to terms with that decision and discussed it in their most recent Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

As some of you reading this might recall, a multimillion-dollar price difference from what had been "internally" estimated vs. what a "design-build" contractor was coming up with dealt the death blow to the plans for constructing a backup water treatment plant near Colona. This plant was envisioned by Project 7 for years but as time passed, the numbers to build such as facility saw the project costs balloon to almost \$200 million dollars in overall outlays for a plant that would produce less than 25% of what our current treatment plant produces.

While redundancy is an admirable goal, getting there was fraught with enormous financial, logistical and regulatory challenges. Taking several steps back, the Project 7 Board held a "retreat" on April 17, 2025, to discuss where they'd been and where they should go especially in light of the difference of opinions facing them from their respective agencies and an alarmed public. Thankfully, they came out of the retreat with a new vision and direction.

Rather than taking this project on as one giant undertaking, a new plan emerged from that retreat. Their new plan was and is driven by affordability as plans for a new future water treatment plant will focus on phasing the construction process over time as well as working to take advantage of grants and other funding opportunities that place an emphasis on components of a project such as the design and construction of raw waterlines, finished waterlines, treatment plant components, etc.

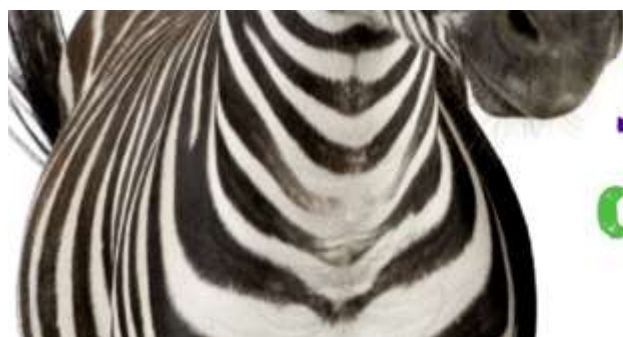
As was discussed in last week's meeting, dealing with an aging treatment plant as well as the reality that the plant is only truly capable of processing roughly 19 million gallons of treated water per day versus the 27 million gallons that has been in used in past discussions, an expansion and updating of the existing plant should be a first step in securing the needed treated water for our valley's citizens.

The Project 7 Board has, I believe, begun to recognize that they are no longer able to operate as they have for the last almost 50 years and need to reorganize Project 7 from a "Mom and Pop" operation into that of a professional mid-size corporation. They have hired a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to take over the books of the organization and develop a comprehensive picture of where the organization is in terms of debt and income as well as painting a valid financial picture of what the organization can afford to do. In addition, the Board is working to take steps to develop a facilities master plan and an emergency operations plan – both are long overdue and reflect the need for sound business practices to be followed.

Also in need of a revamp is the operating agreement between the members of Project 7. A review and rewrite of the agreement is long overdue. To that end as well as determining the facility needs, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) led by Scott Murphy, City of Montrose Engineer, has made excellent progress in defining the needs and practical priorities that need to be put in place to address the fundamental issues facing our only source of drinking water.

All in all, it appears that Project 7 has turned a corner and faced the realities of what practical needs must be addressed and to save the "pie in the sky" plans for another day. Their next Board meeting is on May 28, 2026. If you're interested, please attend as they will be discussing the financial plans being developed to move the organization forward.

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



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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## TORNADO SEASON IS COMING: RED CROSS REMINDS COLORADANS TO BE PREPARED

*Special to the Mirror*

REGIONAL-While wildfire danger is expected to be high over the coming months, other disaster risks remain, including tornadoes. The American Red Cross of Colorado and Wyoming reminds Coloradans to be prepared in case a tornado happens in their community.

Historically, May is the start of tornado season across Colorado and Wyoming. Colorado averages more than 50 tornadoes per year, according to the National Weather Service, with Wyoming averaging between 10 and 12 tornadoes per year.

While many tornadoes happen in the open plains in counties east of Interstate 25, tornadoes can happen almost anywhere in the state:

- Urban areas have been affected by tornadoes, like Windsor, Colo., in 2008; Highlands Ranch and Lone Tree, Colo., in 2023; and in both Cheyenne and Colorado Springs during the summer of 1979.

- Tornadoes can also happen at higher elevations; a tornado touched down at 7,000 feet of elevation in Albany County, Wyo., in 2019 and in 2025, a tornado was spotted at over 9,000 feet of elevation near Divide, Colo.

### Preparing for Tornadoes

One of the most important things you can do to be ready for a tornado is to know where you will shelter and to have a plan. The Red Cross and National Weather Service recommend the following:

- Find a safe room built to withstand high winds. This can be a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room with no windows on the lowest level of a sturdy building.

- If you live in an apartment and cannot move to a lower floor, shelter in an enclosed hallway in the center of a building.

- If you are at work or school, follow your

- tornado drill and proceed to your tornado shelter location quickly and calmly.

- Stay away from windows and do not go to large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums or auditoriums.

- Mobile, manufactured, trailer homes and recreational vehicles are not safe in high wind events. Plan ahead by finding a sturdy building to shelter in before a tornado watch or warning; sheds and storage facilities are not safe.

- Being in a vehicle during a tornado is not safe. The best course of action is to drive to the closest shelter. If you are unable to make it to a safe shelter, either get down in your car and cover your head, or abandon your car and seek shelter in a low lying area such as a ditch or ravine.

With your entire household, practice moving quickly to the safe locations that you identified. If your shelter is outside of your home, practice evacuating there. Make sure your emergency plan also includes an emergency meeting place and related information.

Additionally:

- Make sure you are signed up for local emergency alerts and know how to receive updates, whether from local news, a weather radio, or the Red Cross Emergency App.

- Know how your community will alert you in case of a tornado. Some may use outdoor sirens, while others may use text messaging. Have multiple ways to receive an alert.

- Have a backup battery or a way to charge your cell phone, and in case of a power outage, have a battery-powered radio. Plan for extra electrical needs, such as medical equipment.

- Have an emergency kit, including food, water, medicine and copies of any personal, financial and medical records (either as a digital backup or a secure hard copy).

- Learn emergency skills, such as first aid or CPR. The Red Cross offers training on these topics; visit <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class> to register.

### What to Do During a Watch or Warning

Know the difference between a tornado watch, warning and emergency:

- A **tornado watch** is issued when tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area.

- A **tornado warning** is issued when a tornado is indicated by radar or has been spotted.

- A **tornado emergency** is issued when a large and/or violent tornado has been observed in a highly populated area, with a severe threat to human life and the possibility of catastrophic damage.

You may not always receive a tornado warning, as a tornado may quickly form, be obscured by heavy rainfall or come at nighttime. Know the signs of a tornado and take shelter if you feel you are in danger. If a tornado watch is issued for your area:

- Closely monitor weather conditions. Tune in to radio, TV or other trusted news sources for the latest information.

If a tornado warning or emergency is issued, or if you suspect a tornado is imminent:

- Seek safe shelter right away. After getting to shelter, use your arms to protect your head and neck.

- If you are outdoors, do not take shelter under an overpass. Overpasses do not provide protection from tornadic winds or debris. Taking shelter under an overpass can also block the road for traffic and emergency first responders, imperiling others.

More tips on how to be prepared for tornadoes can be found on the [Red Cross website](#).



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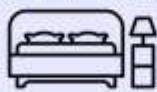
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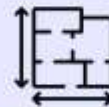
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# COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

## TROOPERS SEE DISTRACTED DRIVING CRASHES MOST OFTEN DURING RUSH HOURS



Colorado State Patrol courtesy image.

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO – Complacent driving, born from routine and familiarity, can lead drivers to be tempted into a variety of distractions behind the wheel.

Taking a familiar, repetitive route to work, school, or other activities can lead motorists to reduce their attention, miss potential hazards, and reduce their reaction time.

Looking at Colorado State Patrol crash data over a five-year period (2021-2025), the top roadways with the most distracted-driving crashes were also the ones with the highest traffic volume.

- 1.I-25 (2,910)
- 2.I-70 (994)
- 3.I-76 (645)
- 4.H-470 (645)
- 5.H-50 (522)

These same crashes occurred most often Monday through Friday, indicating a relationship with everyday commuting. In addition, the morning (7 – 9 a.m.) and evening (3 – 6 p.m.) commutes had the highest incidence of inattentive driving crashes.

“Being too comfortable behind the wheel can cause a driver to go on an ‘autopilot’ state, risking their safety and everyone else who shares the road,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol.

“Break the monotony of your routine by listening to different music or podcasts, actively scanning the road, and even varying your route.”

Seasoned drivers and those driving the same route should proactively combat complacency. When complacency shows up, this is when drivers feel they can send a quick text, eat a burger, and groom themselves.

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## COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

### **ARLA JOAN KESSLER** *August 9, 1940 – April 16, 2026*



Long time local resident, Arla Joan Kessler of Delta, passed away at her home at Willow Tree Care Center on April 16, 2026. Born on August 9, 1940, she was the second child of Joseph and Arla Schmalz who raised eight children in their loving home on Ash Mesa. Although she had no children of her own, she was deeply loved by her 16 nieces and nephews. She attended elementary school at the Delta Catholic School and graduated from Olathe High School in 1958. She worked at the Delta Credit Bureau several years before marrying Ed Kessler on June 20, 1976. They spent several years in Everett, Washington before returning to their small farm near Montrose where they raised a few sheep and a few puppies, while exploring the surrounding countryside and mountains which they both loved. Health issues intervened; Joan lost Ed on June 5, 1998. She had become a skilled care-giver, so naturally moved into the roll of helping her mother and others, as well as continuing working for the American Family Insurance Agency. She dearly loved children, so later joined the Foster Grandparents Organization out of Grand Junction, dedicating at least ten years of her life to volunteering with them. Kids loved her back, filling the void she was experiencing.

Joan also loved to cook. When one walked into her home, it emanated wonderful, inviting smells!

She also loved to keep her hands busy—and they always were. She knitted countless baby items such as quilts, blankets, hats and booties, keeping many a child warm and cozy. Of course, she always found outlets in order to donate those items! Because of her own disabilities, Joan could relate and be very compassionate to others. In the nursing homes where she became a permanent resident, her company was always in demand at the gaming tables. She was a great conversationalist and could tell interesting stories! Joan is survived by her two brothers, Chad Schmalz and Ray Schmalz of Olathe; sisters Marlene Abbott, Ft. Collins, CO; Rebecca Borg, San Diego, CA; Ramona Wall, Cedaredge; and Julie Fitzgerald, Kayenta, AZ. Joan was preceded in death by her husband, Ed, as well as her parents Joe and Arla Schmalz, a baby brother, Mathew Lashley Schmalz and her brother Art Schmalz.

### **PHYLLIS ANN VALDEZ** *December 21, 1962-April 19, 2026*

PHYLLIS VALDEZ, a Delta resident passed away early in the morning of April 19, peacefully in her sleep. She was 63 years old.

Phyllis Ann Valdez was born December 21, 1962, at Beckley West Virginia to Abner Sheridan Lester and mother, Vera Louise Mullins. She spent a lot of her childhood moving from place to place as her father was a mine inspector. She later settled in Delta, Colorado where she met her husband Charles in high school.

Phyllis was a devoted wife of more than 40 years and a wonderfully mother of two, Misty and Andrew. She enjoyed camping and going out riding four-wheelers and loved collecting her teddy bears. She was a devoted CNA for more than 20 years. Her kindness and smile always made the residents' day better.

Phyllis is survived by her husband Charles Valdez of Delta, Colorado and son Andrew Valdez, with his wife Kimberly, and son Nate, of Olathe, as well as three brothers and one sister.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her daughter Misty Valdez, and by her Parents.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Crippin Funeral Home.



# ISSUE 570 April 27, 2026

# ART & SOL

## MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS PRESENT: SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET!

By Lisa Rediger

Book by Hugh Wheeler; Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Michelle Terry

Assistant Directors Allyson Crosby & Dalyn Pearson

Music Director Rich Burt

MONTROSE-Welcome to the bloodiest corner of Fleet Street.

Attend the dark and witty tale of love, murder, and revenge set against the shadowy streets of 19th-century London. Winner of eight Tony Awards, *Sweeney Todd* has delighted audiences across the world with equal parts gothic horror, biting satire, and musical brilliance.

Unjustly exiled for years, barber Benjamin Barker returns to London under the name Sweeney Todd (Kenny Easton), consumed by grief and a lust for vengeance against the corrupt Judge Turpin (Peter Ambrose) who destroyed his family. Reuniting with the ever-resourceful Mrs. Lovett (Wendy Bodwell), proprietress of a struggling meat-pie shop, Todd reopens his barber practice above her bakery. What begins as

a quest for personal revenge quickly spirals into something far darker, as a shocking solution to Mrs. Lovett's business troubles sends all of London lining up -- and seals the fate of the unsuspecting.

With a haunting, operatic score by Stephen Sondheim and a razor-sharp book by Hugh Wheeler, *Sweeney Todd* is widely regarded as one of the greatest musicals ever written.

Featuring unforgettable characters, darkly comic twists, and some of the most chilling music ever composed for the stage, this production blends visceral horror with surprising humor and emotional depth. Directed by Michelle Terry, with an assist from Dalyn Pearson and Allyson Crosby, and Music Director Rich Burt leading a stellar cast -- including Josiah Austin, Michaela Bishop, Max Terry, Spencer Crosby, Dustin Glass, Chris Walsh and George Crosby -- MCP's telling of this gruesome and wickedly entertaining tale is a must-see for audiences who crave theatre that dares to go to the edge...and dares you to follow.

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS  
The Magic of Live Theatre Since 1939  
A MUSICAL THRILLER  
**SWEENEY TODD**  
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET  
Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDEHEIM Book by HUGH WHEELER  
From an Adaptation by CHRISTOPHER BOND  
Originally Directed On Broadway by HAROLD PRINCE  
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick. Originally Produced on Broadway by Richard Bar, Charles Woodward, Robert Fryer, Mary Lou Johnson, Martin Richards in Association with Dean and Judy Mann  
Directed By Michelle Terry  
Assistant Directors Allyson Crosby & Dalyn Pearson  
**OPENS MAY 8, 2026**  
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS MAY 8 - MAY 30 @ 7:30PM  
SUNDAY MATINEES MAY 10 & 25 @ 2PM  
RATED R for Violence and Mature Themes, Parental Discretion Advised  
COME Play WITH US  
Sponsors: David & Goretto, MIZE, Nick & Ginny, Alpine Bank, Montrose Valley, Scott's, DLG, scott's, MagicCirclePlayers.com • 420 S. 12th • Montrose, CO • 970-249-7838 • mcp@montrose.net

**\*\*CONTENT ADVISORY:\*\*** This production contains violence, stylized gore, gun use, and depictions of death. Though presented theatrically, some scenes may be intense for younger audiences. Parental discretion is strongly advised. Children under 12 should attend only with a parent



# BALANCED REPORTING WITH A FLAIR FOR SOMETHING FUN.

# #THEMIRROR

# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## SILVERTON CREATIVE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EARNS ARTS LEADERSHIP AWARD Lisa Branner named 2026 Next Wave Leadership Award winner by the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts

*Special to Art & Sol*

SILVERTON— Lisa Branner, Executive Director of the Silverton Creative District (SCD), has been named the 2026 Next Wave Leadership Award winner by the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA).

Branner received the award on April 21 at CBCA's annual Business for the Arts Awards Luncheon in Denver, an event that drew more than 600 corporate, cultural, and civic leaders from across Colorado.

Founded in 1985, CBCA advances Colorado's creative economy by connecting business and the arts, and its annual awards are the only statewide recognition of their kind. The Next Wave Leadership Award honors rising professionals who are shaping the future of Colorado's creative landscape through new initiatives and innovative approaches.

"I'm truly honored to be recognized alongside so many inspiring leaders from across the state," Branner said. "This award celebrates people who are doing extraordinary work for their communities, and to be counted among them is humbling."

Branner is a founding board member of SCD and has served as its Executive Director since 2024, leading the organization alongside her other professional roles as co-founder of Venture Snowboards, VP of Marketing and Development at Community Connections, and principal fundraiser for the Baker's Park Trail System.

Under her leadership, SCD has grown into a year-round presence in the community, engaging more than 3,000 participants annually through concerts, festivals, markets, workshops, and artist support, with local businesses, government, the school, and nonprofits each collaborating and playing a part.

"From the start, my goal was to transform how Silverton views creativity – not

as a luxury or seasonal attraction, but as infrastructure for year-round vitality," Branner said. "I don't think of myself as a leader in the conventional sense. I see myself more as a cheerleader, a convenor, and a facilitator. What motivates me is a desire to see Silverton thrive." (A video interview with Branner, produced by CBCA, is available at <https://youtu.be/bXoOJ097hVU?si=8QfOy2xRpVr01XvN>)

In addition to programming and fundraising, Branner led the development of SCD's first five-year strategic plan, shaped through a community engagement process that brought residents, businesses, and artists together around a shared vision for the future of the arts in Silverton. As the organization's only paid employee, she also writes grants, hauls tents, hangs banners, and staffs events – taking a hands-on role at every level of the organization's work.

In October 2025, Silverton received official certification as a Colorado Creative District, a process Branner spearheaded. The program is managed by Colorado Creative Industries, part of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. The designation puts Silverton on the map as a recognized creative destination, opening doors to statewide funding opportunities, technical support, and marketing resources, and connecting the town to a network of 37 certified creative districts across Colorado, including five others in the southwest Colorado region.

Branner's nomination drew support from several Silverton community members. Among them was Phil Antonelli, who sits on the boards of both the Silverton Powerhouse Collective and SCD. "Under her leadership, Silverton's creative economy has become both a cultural cornerstone and a catalyst for sustainable rural revitalization," Antonelli wrote. "Lisa's work exemplifies the spirit of the Next Wave



*Lisa Branner, Executive Director of the Silverton Creative District (SCD), and SCD Board Member Phil Antonelli at the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) awards in Denver. Courtesy photo.*

Leadership Award: innovative, collaborative, and deeply rooted in community."

For more information about the Silverton Creative District and upcoming programming, visit [www.silvertoncreativedistrict.org](http://www.silvertoncreativedistrict.org).

The Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) is a statewide nonprofit organization that advances Colorado's creative economy by connecting business and the arts through engagement, advocacy, and leadership development. More information is available at [www.cbca.org](http://www.cbca.org).

The Silverton Creative District strengthens the community through year-round cultural programming, creative placemaking, and support for local artists and makers.

Silverton was certified as a Colorado Creative District by Colorado Creative Industries in October 2025. Learn more at [www.silvertoncreativedistrict.org](http://www.silvertoncreativedistrict.org).

LESLIE GORE WITH CENTURY 21 ELEVATED PROUDLY PRESENTS



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS SWEENEY TODD

Magic Circle Players: Sweeney Todd

May 8 –30

An infamous tale, Sweeney Todd, an unjustly exiled barber, returns to nineteenth century London, seeking vengeance against the lecherous judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. The road to revenge leads Todd to Mrs. Lovett, a resourceful proprietress of a failing pie shop, above which, he opens a new barber practice. Mrs. Lovett's luck sharply shifts when Todd's thirst for blood inspires the integration of an ingredient into her meat pies that has the people of London lining up... and the carnage has only just begun! Book by Hugh Wheeler, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Directed by Michelle Terry, Assistant Director Allyson Crosby. Tickets at [magiccircleplayers.com](http://magiccircleplayers.com). Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838. Family discounts available through the box office!

Friday, May 8, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, May 9, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Sunday, May 10, 2026 - 02:00 PM MDT

Friday, May 15, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, May 16, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Friday, May 22, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, May 23, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Sunday, May 24, 2026 - 02:00 PM MDT

Friday, May 29, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT

Saturday, May 30, 2026 - 07:30 PM MDT



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# The Satisfied Self

## THE SATISFIED SELF: WHY YOGA WAS NEVER JUST ABOUT MOVEMENT



By Gia Pirelli

In our country, yoga often feels like a performance. A sequence to follow. A pose to achieve. A standard to measure yourself against. Flexible enough. Strong enough. Balanced enough. And for many people, that shift — from practice to performance — totally

changed the experience.

Instead of feeling better, they felt pressure. Instead of leaving calm, they left comparing. Instead of regulating the body, they added another layer of stress. Which misses the point entirely. Because yoga was never intended to be just movement.

**When yoga is reduced to a physical “workout,” it not only robs it of its rich history and spiritual significance, it gets placed into the same category as everything else that demands output: push harder, hold longer, get it “right,” improve faster...**

And while there’s nothing wrong with strength or challenge, without the other elements of yoga to create internal balance, the nervous system often interprets this as more stress. Not less. This is why some people leave a class feeling: overstimulated instead of calm; self-critical instead of centered; physically worked, but not mentally settled. I actually see this a lot in “Power Flow” classes. The body moved. The mind did not. The pose was achieved, the state didn’t change. Swing and a miss. (Frankly.)

At its core, yoga is a system designed to influence how you feel and function under pressure. Not by removing stress. It’s not magic. But by changing how you respond to it. It does this through three primary entry points:

- breath
- attention
- movement

When these are integrated, something shifts. You’re no longer just moving your body. You’re training your nervous system. You are able to, as they say, “drop in.” And that state is the goal. The full connection to yourself through your practice. It’s the difference between a workout and a moving meditation. And breath is the bridge.

As we explored last week, breath is the fastest way to influence your state. In yoga, breath isn’t an afterthought. It’s the driver. It sets the pace. It signals safety. It anchors attention. The space between the breath is the space between the thoughts.

When breath is steady, the nervous system has a reference point. When it’s not, the system destabilizes — no matter how “correct” the movement is. This is why two people can do the exact same sequence and have completely different outcomes. One leaves grounded. The other leaves depleted. The difference is not the pose - or the expression of it. It’s the state.

Where attention goes, energy flows. Learning to focus our attention is a skill many of us would benefit from in every area of our lives. And yoga trains that attention. Our current culture rewards short attention and massive input. Think doom scrolling, coffee, text messaging, speed dating apps...

In a typical day, attention is pulled in dozens of directions. Constant pinging notifications, simultaneous text conversations, never-ending task lists, buzzing internal dialogue - often critical or comparative in nature. No wonder we’re all fried.

The nervous system stays externally focused and constantly stimulated. Yoga reverses that. You don’t have to be able to touch your toes, or even belong to a studio. You don’t have to buy a Life Form mat or a \$300 outfit. You just have to tune in and tune out. And that’s available anywhere, any time.

You start by placing your attention delib-

erately: on your breath, on felt sensations (sight, sound, touch, scent); you focus on the present moment. Or, as my Aunt Janie always said, “Be where your butt is.”

It’s not about zoning out. It’s about stabilizing your focus. And when attention stabilizes, the nervous system follows. They say anxiety is living in the future, while depression is living in the past. Think about that for a moment. How often do we do that? A lot. It accounts for the current opioid crisis and the over prescribing of SSRIs. And while that may be absolutely necessary for a lot of people, I’m not discounting that, I’m just saying there is a place for added support and personal practices that may provide additional or better solutions. And the most convenient on ramp is generally physical.

Movement is simply the most accessible way in. It gives the mind something to follow. It gives the body something to organize around. But the movement itself is not the goal. It’s the entry point. The goal is:

- how you move
- how you breathe while you move
- how you respond when it becomes uncomfortable

The mat isn’t a stage, it’s a mirror. It will show you a lot about yourself. Do you tighten? Do you rush? Do you hold your breath? Do you judge yourself? Do you silently want to quit? Or do you stay steady? That’s the practice. And that’s what matters.

What happens on the mat spills into your life. If you learn to hold steady in a posture while breathing, you’re more likely to apply that same sense of calm and control in your life. You find yourself staying calm in a difficult conversation. Or thinking clearly under pressure. You learn to respond instead of react. You move through stress without escalating it.

This is not theoretical. This is personal growth. It is absolutely essential. And it’s 100 percent transferable from a physical space. Which is why it’s been around

## THE SATISFIED SELF: WHY YOGA WAS NEVER JUST ABOUT MOVEMENT

From previous pg

thousands of years, and why it was developed in the first place. It's also why yoga is no longer confined to studios or specific gate-keeping spiritual communities.

It's being integrated into healthcare environments, corporate settings, leadership development, high-performance teams. Not because it's trendy. Well, maybe partly because it's trendy. But mostly because it works.

So many misconceptions exist, but yoga does not require: flexibility, spirituality in a religious sense, performance, perfection. In fact, that's the whole point. It requires, and improves, awareness.

The "spiritual" aspect of yoga is often deeply misunderstood. Especially among religious communities. It isn't about adopting beliefs or following doctrine.

At its simplest, it's about internal awareness: noticing your patterns, observing your reactions; developing a relationship with your own mind and body. It's developing a relationship with a higher power, meaning reaching outside of your own ego for wisdom and accountability.

It's behaving in a way that offers respect to yourself, others, and the world around you. The bees, the trees, and even your

asshole neighbor. And, actually, isn't that what every spiritual text, including the Bible, literally teaches us? In pretty specific terms, too.

In a culture that constantly pulls attention outward, this becomes essential. Not only for basic sanity, but for functionality and personal growth.

Modern life is not slowing down. Demands are increasing. Information is constant. Expectations are high. What's missing is not more productivity tools. It's personal accountability, self-awareness, and the ability to regulate under pressure.

Yoga, when practiced as it was intended, trains exactly that.

It teaches you how to stay steady in discomfort, maintain clarity under stress, move without adding unnecessary tension, recover more efficiently. It's actually elegant in its simplicity and powerful in its complexity.

It's not about stretching. It's about functioning better.

When yoga is approached as movement alone, it becomes another task. Or another "workout." When it is practiced as a *system*, it becomes a tool. And shifting from performance to awareness isn't the-

oretical, it's practical. On every level. And when you reach that place in your life, through work, through relationships, through care-giving, parenting, just the daily process of "adulting," it becomes essential. At that point, the way you move, breathe, and recover has to change entirely to avoid collapse and maintain equilibrium.

In the next article, we'll explore how to build resilience versus strength — and why that distinction is critical not just for your body, but for how you handle pressure, responsibility, and challenge.

Because the goal isn't just to become more capable at managing stress.

Ideally, it's to stop creating unnecessary stress in the first place. And when confronted with it, to gracefully navigate it without onboarding it.

**Gia Pirelli is a yoga teacher and sound healing practitioner specializing in nervous system regulation and applied mind-body practices for self-leadership in modern life. She works with individuals and organizations to improve resilience, focus, and sustainable performance through breath, movement, and sensory-based regulation. Learn more at <https://www.giapirelli.com>**



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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## CINDERELLA ~ A WEEHAWKEN DANCE PRODUCTION

*Special to Art & Sol*

MONTROSE-Envision colorful birds assisting with your house cleaning and mice making dress alterations so that you can attend a dance last minute. Don't we all need an occasional escape from reality?!

That's just one of the fascinating and creative dance scenes in Weehawken's production of Cinderella.

This dazzling full-scale production features nearly 400 Weehawken dancers across six performances and six different casts at the Montrose Pavilion May 6-10.

Under the artistic direction of Natasha Pyeatte, and brought to life by Weehawken's extraordinary teaching team, Cinderella weaves together dancers of all ages and levels into a richly layered story filled with heart, humor, and magic. The production showcases a wide range of dance styles—including ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, aerial, and more—creating a dynamic and joyful theatrical experience.

**This is not a recital—it's a true performance designed for the public to enjoy, whether or not you know a dancer in the show.** Weehawken productions are intentionally crafted to give students a real, professional-style performance experience, complete with gorgeous sets, imaginative staging, stunning costumes, high-quality dancing, and a playful, engaging soundtrack with delightful surprises throughout.

As if stepping into the pages of a beloved storybook, Cinderella conjures enchantment from this timeless fairy tale—bringing to life silly stepsisters, tiny dancing pumpkins, a charming prince, and the unforgettable magic of transformation. When the pumpkin carriage arrives at the golden ballroom, and Cinderella takes her first shy steps into the swirl of dancers, hearts of all ages follow her into this dream come true.

Matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday feature more of Weehawken's youngest dancers and are perfect for audiences who love watching the "littles" shine. The Thursday evening performance also includes several younger performers, while the remaining evening shows highlight the full breadth and scale of the production. Shows on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday night will primarily feature mid-to-upper-level dancers.

*Weehawken Dance & Aerial presents CINDERELLA, May 6-10 2026*

*TICKETED Live stream link will be on the Weehawken home page at [www.weehawkenarts.org](http://www.weehawkenarts.org)*

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MONTROSE ELKS LODGE

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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/> Rec-  
 tor: The Rev Preston Gordon, [pgor-  
 don@allsaintsmontrose.org](mailto:pgor-<br/>
  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  
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**Vision:** We see Jesus Christ restoring  
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## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist  
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Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021  
[www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com](http://www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com)  
 Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

## CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

**affiliation:** Evangelical Free

**Address:** 222 South Townsend Montrose,  
 CO 81401

**Office Hours:** 10am-2pm Tuesday- Friday

**Contact:** 970-252-1163

[ccc@cccmontrose.org](mailto:ccc@cccmontrose.org)

**Pastor:** Curt Mudgett

**Sunday worship:**

**worship Service:** September-May at  
 10:15am **Discipleship Hour** at 9am

**Worship Service:** June-August at 9:30am  
 Nursery available for 0-4 during worship  
 service

**Wednesday Prayer:** 5:30-6:15pm

Cedar Creek Church is a welcoming and  
 friendly group of people that takes God  
 seriously, but not ourselves.

We enjoy gathering for encouragement,  
 meals, prayer and having fun!

Our mission is to exalt Jesus Christ by  
 being a Word-centered community of  
 believers who are equipped for a life of  
 worship, prayer and service, and to reach  
 our neighbors for Christ.

Please make plans to come check us out  
 soon!

## CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** (970) 497-4925

**Email:** [celebrationmontrose@gmail.com](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com)

Website: [ccvmontrose.org](http://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](http://www.montroselutheran.org)

**Email:** [montroselutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

**Address:** 504 N. 1st Street (HAP Building)  
**Office hours:** Call or text for appointment  
 Phone: 970-765-7070  
**Email:** [spirit@communityspiritucc.org](mailto:spirit@communityspiritucc.org)

## COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

**Denomination affiliation.** No affiliation  
**Address Office hours** N/A  
**Contact:** 720-951-9941,  
[office@ccfmontrose.net](mailto:office@ccfmontrose.net),  
[www.ccfmontrose.net](http://www.ccfmontrose.net)

## 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](mailto:mncfirst@gmail.com),  
[www.montrosenazarenechurch.org](http://www.montrosenazarenechurch.org)  
**Pastor:** Pastor Ian Hyde

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

**Affiliation:** Presbyterian  
**Address:** 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO. 81401 **Office Hours:** M-Thu 9AM - 12PM

## 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:**

## 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](mailto:office@montroseumc.org), [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

## 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](http://www.RosemontBaptist.org)  
[youtube.com/@rosemontbaptistchurch](https://youtube.com/@rosemontbaptistchurch)  
[facebook.com/RosemontBaptist](https://facebook.com/RosemontBaptist)

**Website:** [communityspiritucc.org](http://communityspiritucc.org)  
**Current Pastor:** Rev. Wendy Kidd  
**Worship service: Sundays at 11:30 am**  
**Mission:** Our commitment to a more inclusive and accepting world is steadfast, and we will continue to work towards a

**Name of current Senior Pastor.** Led by elders  
**Worship service times.** Noon on Saturdays. Children's Church will be offered as needed.  
 Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

**Services Sunday:** Worship 10:30 AM, Discipleship Hour: 9:30 AM. Discipleship Hour has classes across all age groups. Nursery for children UNDER 3 is available during Worship and Discipleship Hour. Youth Night (6-12th grade): Tuesdays, 6:30 PM. Weeknight Bible Study: Wednesdays, 6:30 PM. Mission Statement: Montrose First

**Contact:** 970-249-4732, [in-form@fpcmontrose.com](mailto:in-form@fpcmontrose.com),  
[www.fpcmontrose.com](http://www.fpcmontrose.com)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo  
**Worship Service times:** 9:30AM,  
*We strive to encourage, challenge and*

Phone number: (970) 249-9047  
 Email address: [office@montroseucc.org](mailto:office@montroseucc.org)  
 Website: [montroseucc.org](http://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

[roseumc.org](http://roseumc.org)  
**Current Senior Pastor:** Rev. Kevin Young  
**Worship service times:**  
**9:15 AM to 10:15 AM:** Children's, Youth, and Adult Sunday School; Christian Education & Fellowship.  
**10:30 AM:** Sanctuary & Virtual Worship  
 Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

email: [office@rosemontbaptist.org](mailto:office@rosemontbaptist.org)  
**Senior Pastor:** Rolland Kenneson  
**Worship Service Time:** Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at 10:45 AM.  
 We also have small groups we call L.I.F.E. Groups for all ages on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.  
 We strive to have each of our small groups live L.I.F.E. together.

future where everyone can live freely and authentically.

**Demographics:** We are a small congregation of mostly adults and seniors, however, we are always ready to welcome families and children.

that studies the Torah as well as the rest of Scripture. We learn about the Hebrew roots of the language and believe that the Lord's feasts are for today. We are predominantly made up of older folks, but have some young blood, too.

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.

*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.*

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.

*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's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.  
 We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable.  
 We love meeting new people no matter where they are at in life .

# MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

## ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

[rose@yahoo.com](mailto:rose@yahoo.com)  
[www.ststephensmontrose.com](http://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](mailto:info@vbcmontrose.org); website: [vbcmontrose.org](http://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?

**Premier Sponsor:**  
 Montrose Farmers Market  
 970-249-0705

Horsefly Brewing  
 970-249-6889

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

Fiesta Guadalajara  
 Re-Opening 2026  
 970-249-2460

El Jimador  
 970-249-8990

Busy Corner White Kitchen  
 970-323-6215

Delta: CB's Tavern  
 970-399-3570



Lighthouse Eatery  
 970-964-7570

Ray's Corner Cafe  
 970-417-4340

Rib City  
 970-249-7427

Stone House  
 970-240-8899

Sidelines Sports Bar  
 970-765-0129

Delta: Pour Ernie's  
 970-546-0074



Alpen Confections  
 970-648-0609

Crash Burger  
 970-249-0825

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

Tacos & Beer  
 970-964-4448

Tacos & Beer on Main  
 970-964-4999

Pahgre's  
 970-249-6442





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**MUSEUM OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST'S 21ST**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026**

**8:30AM - 4:30PM**

**68169 MIAMI RD.**

**MONTROSE, CO**

**(970) 240-8385**



# SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## ONGOING-

**ALTRUSA INT'L** believes in "Leading to a Better Community" and is always looking for new members. We meet in Montrose on the first three Tuesdays a month at the Field House: 25 Colorado Ave, 12-Noon. Pick a day that works for you & please join us! Through our local Altrusa Club, members unite their varied talents in service to others, achieving as a group what individuals cannot do alone." <https://www.altrusamontrose.org/> P: 970-765-7666 E: [Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com](mailto:Altrusa.Montrose@gmail.com)

**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](http://blackcanyonaudubon.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET** (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401 [www.valleyfoodpartnership.org](http://www.valleyfoodpartnership.org). Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

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

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

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

## MONTHLY

**April 28**-Tasty Tuesday at Cimarron Creek Community Center-901 6530 Rd, 11am to 4pm.

**May 2**-May 2, 9 am Columbine Quilters will meet at Welcome Home Alliance Warrior Resource **4 Hillcrest Plaza Way**, Montrose. Social time is at 9am, Business Meeting at 9:30am, followed by Show-and-tell, refreshments and a program. Sally Nichols will be demonstrating cutting bias binding and ways to use the bias binding. For more information: Paula [millsappscoui@gmail.com](mailto:millsappscoui@gmail.com) or Cheryl 970-462-3849 Visitors are always welcome.

**May 7**-The next meeting for the Women's Giving Club will be on Thursday, May 7 at 5:30 PM at the Bridges Golf and Country Club. All women are welcome to attend, whether you're a returning member or joining us for the first time. New attendees always encouraged. We hope to see you there. For more information, please contact: [Givingclubofmontrose@gmail.com](mailto:Givingclubofmontrose@gmail.com).

**May 8**-Friday, May 8 - LIVE MUSIC: Alpine Jam plays rock and blues 5 - 8 pm at the Colorado Boy Depot, 687 North Cora St, Ridgway.

**May 23**-Montrose Elks Lodge Charity Golf Tournament. Sign up ends May 19. Send payment to Montrose Elks Lodge 801 South Hillcrest.

**May 24**-Erik Stucky Bag of Bones release party at Blue Corn Mercantile (1842 South Townsend). 6:30pm. \$20 Advance \$25 Day of show.

**June 5**-8th Annual Boot Stomp, 5:30 to 10:30pm Storm King Mountain Ranch. For tickets and information visit [bootstomp.org](http://bootstomp.org).

**June 27**-Sharing Ministries presents the Back to the Future Festival-Food, Shelter, Hope. 8:30am to 4:30pm. Museum of the Mt. West 68169 Miami Road.

# ALPINE JAM BAND TO PERFORM LIVE IN RIDGWAY MAY 8



*Special to the Mirror*  
RIDGWAY-Ridgway Colorado based Alpine Jam plays an eclectic, high energy mix of real rock and roll, down home blues and upbeat country music. Their dynamic vocals, wailing saxophone, guitar leads, and instrumental jams are sure to get you up and moving!

Catch them at Colorado Boy Depot, 687 North Cora Street in Ridgway May 8 from 5 to 8pm.



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