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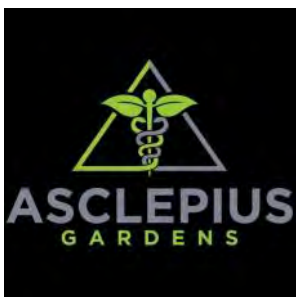


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the Montrose Mirror

Issue No. 461 Dec. 27 2021

Fresh news for busy people!

LIKE REST OF THE NATION, MONTROSE SEES ONGOING SHORTAGE OF RENTAL CARS



Enterprise Rental Car listed their Montrose store as a "sold out" location last week. "Supply and demand for these vehicles is really high right now," a customer service representative told the Mirror.

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-When one Montrose area visitor arrived in town from out of state last week, she told the *Mirror* that it took her several days to locate a rental car for use while here.

She was lucky.

Nationwide, an ongoing rental car shortage has been reported throughout 2021. On Christmas Eve, a *Wall Street Journal* article advised rental car customers to expect "higher prices, long waits, and slim pickings."

According to the travel company *Kayak's* blog, when 2021 prices are compared to the same time frame in 2019, rental car rates have jumped by 116 percent. *Kayak* notes that travelers

Continued pg 3

CHECK MAILBOX DAILY TO DISCOURAGE PACKAGE THEFT

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Did you know that 46 percent of the world's mail volume is processed and delivered by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS)?

That the USPS employs more than 7.3 million people?

That the USPS both competes and collaborates with private sector businesses--private carriers UPS and FedEx pay the Postal Service to deliver hundreds of millions of their ground packages, and USPS pays UPS and FedEx for air transportation?

That for 55 cents, anyone can send a letter, regardless of geographic location, to anywhere in the United States?

According the *USPS Top Facts* page, the United States Postal Service is the only organization in the country that has the resources, network infrastructure, and logistical capability to regularly deliver to every residential and business address in the nation. Still, the postal service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Here in Montrose, Postal Service customers are in good hands, despite competition from online and private carriers.



The Montrose Post Office postal annex. Mirror file photo.

Continued pg 6

in this
issue

*Ring in the New Year
with Montrose Flair!*

*Local events calendar!
Church Directory!*

*Regional News briefs!
Letters to the Editor!*

*Elks Lodge Bingo
Jackpot Dec. 28!*

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**MONTROSE COUNTY
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*Local In-Person Disaster
Action Team Academy*



Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The American Red Cross of Western Colorado is hosting an in-person Disaster Action Team Training Academy from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022 at the Montrose County Library Community Room 320 South 2nd Street.

This training is designed to help build volunteer capacity to respond to local individual disasters like home fires, providing comfort kits and financial assistance to displaced families.

For more information on how to get signed up for this opportunity to help your neighbors, please contact joshua.stewart@redcross.org.

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

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MONTROSE SEES ONGOING SHORTAGE OF RENTAL CARS

From pg 1



Avis Rental car lot at Montrose Regional Airport. Mirror file photo.

are now targeting destinations where they can safely socially distance and get out in nature—and Western Colorado fits the bill. With an influx of seasonal tourists arriving in Montrose by the day, higher prices and scarcer availability are the rule when it comes to renting a car. For those flying into Montrose Regional Airport, both on and off-airport [shuttle services](#) are listed on the airport's web site. Rental car agencies are listed as well, and available vehicles can be viewed, but some contact phone numbers for car agencies have been changed or disconnected, and vehicle options are limited and pricey. At least one major company, Enterprise, listed Montrose as a "sold out" location when the *Mirror* called last week. "We are sold out in Montrose. Supply and demand for these vehicles is really high right now," an Enterprise spokesperson told the *Mirror*. "Especially in the Colorado area." The company has also experienced a higher than usual rate of rental cars not being returned at all, she said.



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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

WOLF DEPREDATION INCIDENT IN NORTH PARK

Special to the Mirror

WALDEN - After an initial investigation, CPW wildlife officers are confident in confirming a wolf depredation incident has occurred on a domestic calf in North Park. Just after 9 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19, a CPW District Wildlife Manager (DWM) received a report of a calf carcass on a ranch in Jackson County.

The DWM responded and conducted a field investigation and necropsy on the carcass of the calf to look for evidence of pre-mortem wounds.

"The results of this investigation indicated wolf tracks in the immediate vicinity of the carcass and wounds on the calf consistent with wolf depredation," said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Kris Middendorf.

CPW will handle reimbursement of the incident under its current game damage process as if the depredation occurred by mountain lions or bears. CPW is in the process of formalizing an official process for damage by wolves.

"CPW is working on draft regulations for the Commission's consideration on hazing for these naturally migrating wolves in the state," said CPW Director Dan Prenzlöw. "Our goal is to provide producers with

resources to minimize the likelihood of conflict or depredation as we work to create a statewide wolf restoration and management program as directed under Proposition 114."

Depredation compensation is required by statute, and the final Colorado compensation plan will be part of the overall Gray Wolf planning process. Recent Stakeholder Advisory Group and Technical Working Group meetings have focused on the topic

of depredation compensation; meeting summaries are available at <https://www.wolfengagementco.org/advisory-groups>.

Gray Wolves remain a state endangered species, and wolves may not be taken for any reason other than self-defense. Illegal take of a wolf may result in a combination of penalties, including fines of up to \$100,000, a year of jail time, and a lifetime loss of hunting license privileges.



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THE MONTROSE MIRROR
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CHECK MAILBOX DAILY TO DISCOURAGE PACKAGE THEFT

From pg 1

"Our plants are totally clean," Montrose Postmaster Mike Miller said, noting that all local mail coming through Denver and Colorado Springs is delivered to Montrose customers each day. "We are the most trusted service in the United States according to the public."

Still, the holidays always see an increase

in package deliveries and related concerns.

Recent comments on the NextDoor app in some Montrose neighborhoods indicate that USPS customers worry that their packages could be delivered to neighbors by mistake, or about packages and mail being stolen.

Postmaster Miller's advice for all postal service customers is simple—be proactive.

"Make sure to check your mail daily," he said, noting that prompt mail pickup discourages theft. As of this writing, the USPS had accepted more than 9,185,947,230 pieces of mail and packages for delivery since Thanksgiving.



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- We have a small variety of seedlings for sale, however due to construction delays it will be next year before we will have large inventory of vegetable plants available for retail or sales of 4-pack seedlings and mature vegetable plants for sale to the home gardener.
- There is a large variety of direct sown veggies in our massive garden.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SOUTHWEST COLORADO SEES RECORD YEAR FOR KOKANEE SALMON SPAWNING



Kokanee salmon swim in a holding tank before being spawned. Courtesy photo Sarah Gump/CPW.

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO — A record year of kokanee salmon spawning on the Dolores River paired with exceptional numbers at Lake Nighthorse in Durango will allow Colorado Parks and Wildlife aquatic biologists to fully stock waters in the spring of 2022.

It was a surprising year for the southwest corner of the state and will help offset some below average spawn takes elsewhere in Colorado.

"We will have enough eggs to stock all over our broodstock lakes and some of our recreation waters," said CPW Senior Aquatic Biologist John Alves. "We were able to get a surprisingly big spawn this year from the Dolores and a great year from Nighthorse, and some of those eggs were sent to other hatcheries to help out in other areas."

Fall is the season for spawning kokanee salmon. The landlocked Pacific sockeye salmon do well in Colorado's lakes and reservoirs but lack natural spawning areas. As the fish make their way upstream out of the reservoirs to seek spawning areas, CPW is able to capture the fish and recov-

er and fertilize the eggs.

Statewide, CPW collected an estimated 8.5 million kokanee salmon eggs this season. Lake Nighthorse contributed 2.8 million eggs to that total, while the Dolores River produced its record year of 1.2 million eggs. That more than filled the Durango Fish Hatchery, which allowed for more eggs to be sent to the Pitkin and Roaring Judy hatcheries.

"We really had a banner year," said Jim White, CPW aquatic biologist in the Durango area. "It was not a year we were expecting, as we've typically been around 1 to 1.5 million eggs at Nighthorse. With the water level so low in the Dolores River and McPhee Reservoir, we really weren't expecting many fish to make it upstream there, either. But there was a nice, single-thread channel they were able to make it up from, and it turned out to be a great year there with close to 2,000 females spawned."

LISTEN TO THE COLORADO OUTDOORS PODCAST EPISODE ON KOKANEE SALMON SPAWNING

Also in the Southwest Region, the East River at Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery above

Blue Mesa produced 2.3 million eggs, and another 34,000 eggs were taken from Ridgway Reservoir.

The Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery in Almont normally boasts the largest kokanee salmon run in the U.S. and has previously averaged a take of 7.2 million eggs per year. But for the second consecutive year, that number was less than 3 million.

CPW aquatic biologist Dan Brauch in the Gunnison area said the run was late this year, and he was able to maximize the egg take by using a merwin trap net in Blue Mesa Reservoir to capture kokanee and continue spawning through the Thanksgiving holiday week. That yielded an additional 300,000 eggs, Brauch said.

"We were dealing with reduced habitat for kokanee due to the drought," Brauch said. "In past years, we've been in a situation where we can provide eggs for other waters from Blue Mesa, but this year we will depend on other waters, primarily Nighthorse, to help us cover what we need next year. There is year to year variability in egg take numbers, and we hope to see our numbers here rebound in the near future to where we have extra eggs to support other waters again."

VIDEO: COLORADO'S KOKANEE SALMON SPAWN

For White, the opportunity to send eggs out to additional hatcheries made the weeks of hard work even more valuable. His team's previous record at Lake Nighthorse was 1,161 female spawns in a single day. This year, his crew had multiple days of more than 1,500 spawns.

"There are years we rely on other parts of the state when we are down on egg takes, so it's awesome in a year like this to turn around and be able to help other biologists and bodies of water that traditionally have more kokanee in them," White said. "It was surprising for us down here this year, but we were fortunate to have a lot of fish."

Each year, 26 lakes and reservoirs are stocked with kokanee salmon. Anglers

Your Source for Local Business News and Information

U.S. NEWS BRIEFS

HOBBY LOBBY RAISES MINIMUM WAGE TO \$18.50

Special to the Mirror

OKLAHOMA CITY— Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., today announced that it is raising its minimum full-time hourly wage to \$18.50 effective January 1, 2022.

In 2009, Hobby Lobby was one of the first retailers to establish a nationwide mini-

mum hourly wage well above the federal minimum wage, and has since raised its minimum wage twelve times over the last thirteen years. In 2014, Hobby Lobby raised its full-time minimum hourly wage to \$15, well before it became a trend with other retailers.

"We have a long track record of taking care of our employees," said Hobby Lobby founder and CEO, David Green. "In 1998, we made the decision to close our stores on Sundays, and at 8:00 p.m. the rest of the week, to provide employees time for rest, family, and worship. We've also worked hard over the years to provide the best pay and benefits in retail, which has allowed us to attract and retain an outstanding group of associates to serve our devoted customers."

"We are thankful for our success as a company and thrilled to begin the new year by sharing that success with thousands of our employees," said Green.

In addition to providing industry leading pay, Hobby Lobby also provides great benefits to eligible employees, including an outstanding medical, prescription, and dental plan, 401(k) with generous company match, flexible spending plan, long-term disability benefits, life insurance, vacation pay, personal paid time off benefits with annual buyback, holiday pay, chaplain services, and an employee discount.

Hobby Lobby was founded in 1972 and currently operates 956 retail stores stocked with a treasure trove of over 80,000 arts, crafts, hobbies, home accent, seasonal, and custom framing products catering to those who seek to Live a Creative Life®

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AVALANCHE DANGER HIGH: CAIC WARNS TO USE EXTRA CAUTION IN THE BACKCOUNTRY, CHECK AVALANCHE FORECAST

Special to the Mirror

DENVER—After a dry fall, the snowpack in Colorado is quite weak. Storms in December produced an uptick in avalanche activity. Avalanches are easy to trigger, and many are breaking wider than usual. Over the past two weeks backcountry travelers have triggered avalanches from low-angle slopes below, next to, and above steeper slopes.

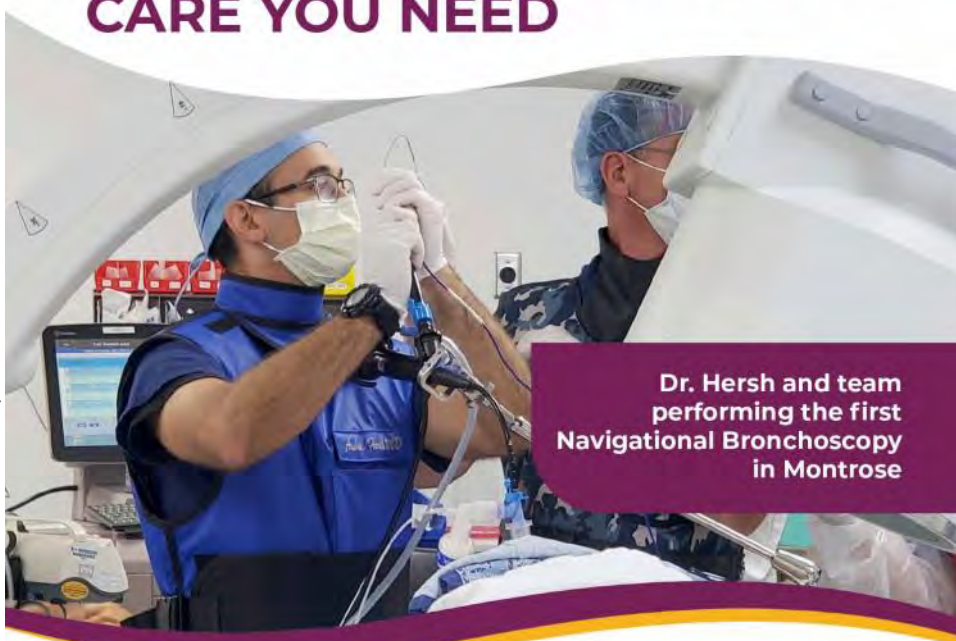
The Colorado Avalanche Information Center CAIC has warned that people headed into the mountains or backcountry for recreation should check the avalanche forecast before the trip at www.colorado.gov/avalanche. “We recommend people avoid traveling on or under steep snow-covered slopes during periods of high avalanche danger,” said CAIC Director Ethan Greene. “We want to make sure people get out, have some fun, but get home safe to spend time with their families.”

To check the avalanche forecast, go to www.colorado.gov/avalanche or get the Friends of CAIC’s mobile app. Look at the current avalanche conditions and plan backcountry travel accordingly. Make sure you and every member of your group car-

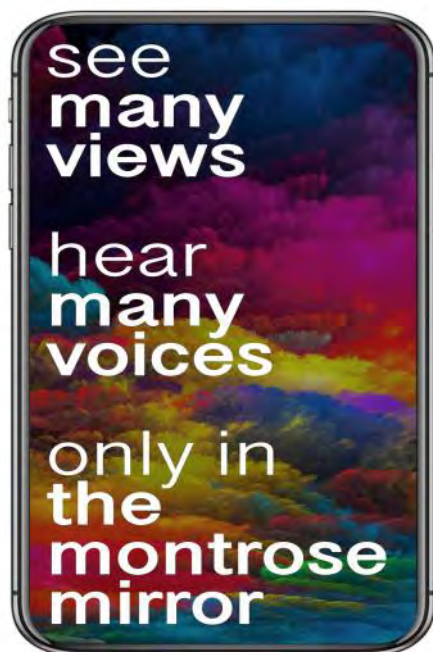
ry an avalanche-rescue transceiver, a probe pole, and a shovel - and know how to use this equipment. If you’re unsure

about the conditions, stay on slopes less than 30 degrees steep that are not connected to steeper terrain.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

REMOVE THAT LETTER AND GIVE AN APOLOGY TO THE PUBLIC

Editor:

Hello, I am a member of the community for over 40 years. Today I woke up and read your paper, and was absolutely appalled at the letter to the editor that you

allowed to be printed.

Whoever this man is, is disgusting!!!! The whole letter is from the type of person we need to now be afraid of because they are crazy! So i suggest you remove that letter

and give an apology to the public. I mean really read it, and you will see what I mean. I will be trying to find out who he is, and make a mockery of the letter. You can do better Montrose Mirror. shame on you!

Annette Quintana, Montrose

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

CAUTION URGED FOLLOWING FRIDAY AVALANCHE ON MONARCH PASS

Special to the Mirror

REGIONAL-With an avalanche reported on Monarch Pass early Friday, Dec. 24 resulting in a brief closure of Hwy 50, Colorado's mountain drivers are urged to take extra precautions.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center has announced an Avalanche Warning in effect for the Steamboat and Flat Tops, Front Range, Vail and Summit County, Aspen, Sawatch Range, Gunnison, North and South San Juan Mountains zones (Issued Dec. 26 through 8 am Dec. 27). According to the CAIC, heavy snow and strong winds have created very dangerous avalanche conditions this past weekend, "Expect natural and human-triggered wide -breaking avalanches that will run long distances.

"You can trigger ones large enough to bury you, even from flat areas and low-angled slopes below or adjacent to steeper slopes. Travel in backcountry avalanche terrain is not recommended."

Also, a Special Avalanche Advisory is in effect for the Grand Mesa zone. Heavy snow and strong winds have created very dangerous avalanche conditions near treeline. "Although the danger is higher

near treeline, at all elevations expect wide -breaking, far-running avalanches. You can trigger avalanches large enough to bury

you from flat areas and low-angle slopes that are below and adjacent to steeper slopes."

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

US 160 EAST OF MONTE VISTA CREWS TO CONTINUE CRACK SEAL OPERATIONS NEXT WEEK

Special to the Mirror

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Colorado Department of Transportation will continue to perform crack sealing operations on US Highway 160 just east of Monte Vista, mile points 217-222. Travelers should allow for extra travel time as intermittent closures will be enforced to allow crews to work on the highway. Work will take place next week, Monday through Thursday (Dec. 27-31), from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Traffic Impacts

Drivers will encounter full stops. Flagging

personnel will guide traffic through the work zone. Up to 15 minute delays are anticipated. A speed reduction of 40 MPH will be in place and drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and driving through the work zone

Motorists are urged to be aware of crews and heavy equipment.

Know Before You Go

Travelers are urged to “know before you go.” Gather information about weather forecasts, anticipated travel impacts, and

current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include:

Travel webpage: [COtrip.org](https://cotrip.org)

Mobile app: [COtrip Planner](https://cotrip.org)

Phone hotlines for road and weather conditions: 511 or 303-639-1111

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WINTER SHUTDOWN FOR US 160 MCCABE CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN PAGOSA SPRINGS



CDOT courtesy photo.

Special to the Mirror

ARCHULETA COUNTY — A planned winter shutdown is now in place for the McCabe Creek culvert replacement project on US 160 in the town of Pagosa Springs.

The planned shutdown is necessary to keep the traveling public and crews safe

during winter weather conditions.

During the 2021 construction season, crews worked on the replacement of aged metal culverts with new pre-cast concrete box culverts under US 160 at San Juan/Main Street and S. 6th Street.

Additionally, riprap lined drainage improvements were worked on to help establish a new downstream channel, allowing for better drainage along the road.

Approximately 30 percent of the work was completed during this first phase of work.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND TRAVEL IMPACTS DURING SHUTDOWN

All lanes (two westbound, two eastbound) will be open to free flowing traffic on US 160 at the project site.

All traffic control devices (cones and barrels) have been picked up for the winter season. 6th St. will remain closed for one

block from US 160 to S. 5th St. during the winter shutdown and for the duration of the project

PROJECT ACTIVITY NEXT SEASON

Work will start back up in the spring of 2022 and is expected to be completed by September 2022. When work starts back up in the spring of 2022, crews will complete the north half of the box culvert. Other work will include concrete work, lighting, guardrail and erosion control including seeding, mulching, and tree/bush planting.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Hotline – 970-507-3740

Project email – US160PagosaCulverts@gmail.com

Project website – www.codot.gov/projects/us160-mccabe-creek-culverts-pagosa/about

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Tracie Bearden | wanderlustslp

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

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CO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE TO CLOSE ON DEC. 31

DENVER— In observance of the New Year holiday, the Colorado Secretary of State's office will be closed Dec. 31. Due to yearly maintenance, online services will be unavailable from 11:30 p.m. on Friday, December 31 until noon on Saturday, January 1 and services like filing and searching will be affected.

Mergers or other paper documents must be received in the office no later than December 30. Do not wait until late afternoon on December 30 to submit your paper filings as circumstances beyond our control (weather, illness, etc.) may prohibit our ability to process your filing in the timeline you are attempting to achieve. Filings not received during scheduled business hours will be processed the next working business day.

You should plan ahead and file earlier by using a delayed effective date, and time if necessary, for filings that must be effective on Dec. 31.

Filing deadlines will not be extended.

For more information on merger/paper filings and COVID, [click here](#). Email business@coloradosos.gov or call (303) 894-2200 with any questions.

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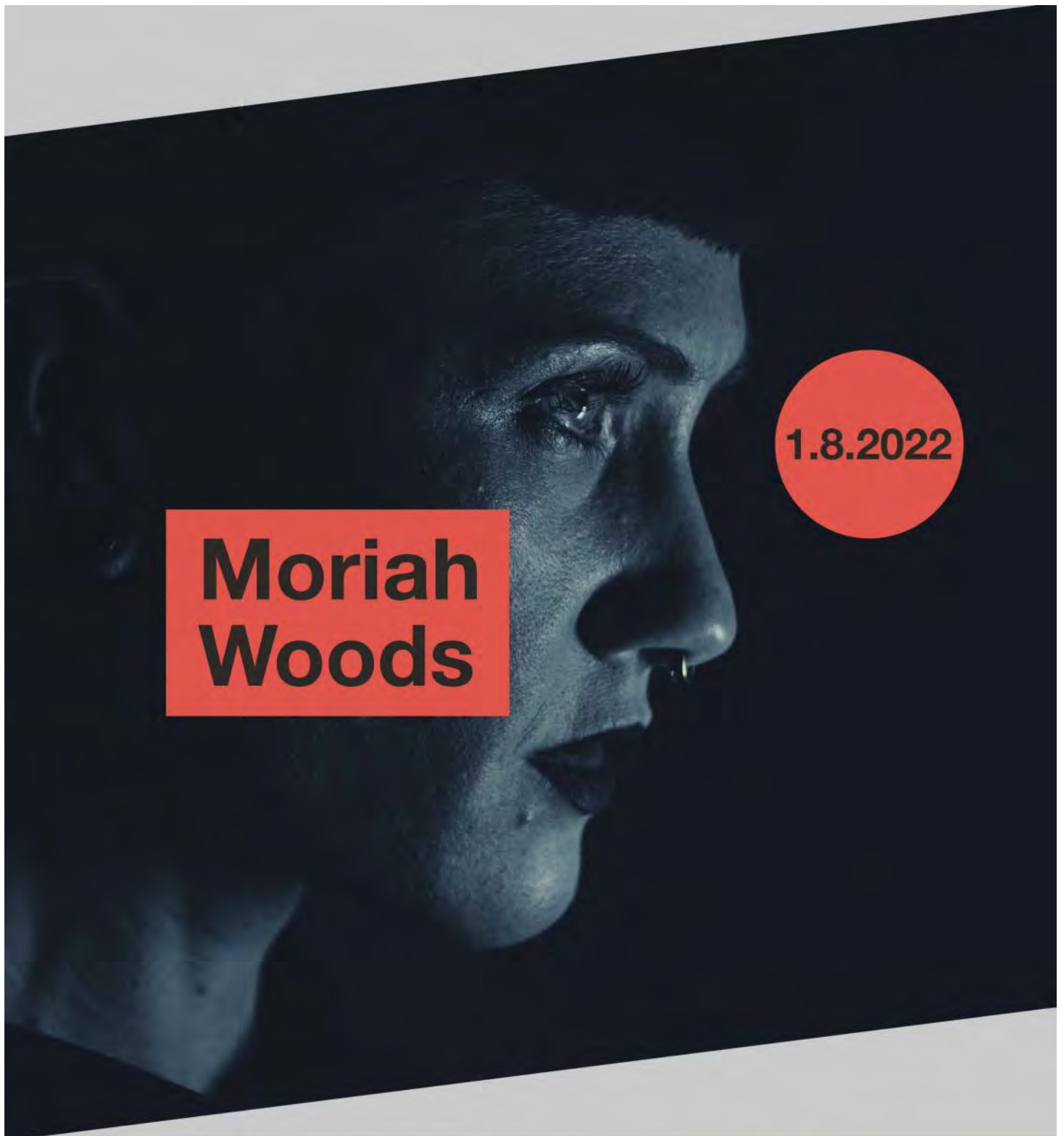
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Moriah Woods

1.8.2022

Solo acoustic concert
Healthy Rhythm Art Gallery
Montrose, CO

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ART GALLERY



Doors: 6:30 pm Show: 7:00 pm
Tickets: \$17 advance - \$20 day of show

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

COLORADO WORK-RELATED FATALITIES DECREASED IN 2020

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO-The CFOI program conducted by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Office of Labor Market Information (LMI), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), reveals Colorado had 78 work-related fatalities in 2020.

Nationally, a total of 4,764 workers died from a work-related injury in the U.S. in 2020, a 10.7 percent decrease from the 5,333 workers in 2019.

The figures, available on the [Bureau of Labor Statistics website](#), indicate work injuries involving transportation remained the most common cause of work-related deaths in Colorado in 2020. Falls, slips or trips were the second-most prevalent cause of work-related deaths. Some numbers below are not included in totals, because some data do not meet the BLS publication criteria.

2020 Census Profile

Major findings of the Census include: The 78 fatal occupational injuries in 2020 were 7.0 percent lower than the total of 84 recorded in 2019.

There were 63 deaths in 2020 involving wage and salary workers, down from 66 in 2019.

Self-employed worker fatalities decreased from 18 in 2019 to 15 in 2020.

Transportation incidents were the leading cause of fatalities but down from the prior year by 22.0 percent. Transportation incidents decreased from 37 to 29 in 2020, and continues to lead all fatality events for at least the last 10 years.

Falls, slips, or trips incidents were up 83.3

percent over 2019. In 2020 there were 22 incidents and 2019 had 12 reported incidents.

Worker Demographics

Men accounted for 72 (92.3 percent) of the fatal work injuries, while women accounted for six (7.7 percent).

White (non-Hispanic) workers accounted for 43 (55.1 percent) of the fatalities. Hispanic or Latino workers accounted for 26 (33.3 percent) of the fatalities. Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) and American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic) accounted for 6 total incidents (3 each) which represents 7.6 percent of the fatalities

Industry Profile

Fatal injuries in Trade, transportation and utilities (32) lead in total deaths by industry, followed by Construction (18) and Professional and business services (6).

Leisure and hospitality shows a 57.1 percent decrease over the year. In 2020, there were 3 fatalities, a decrease from 7 in 2019.

Regarding exposure to harmful substances or environments, the private industry saw fatalities increase from 6 to 9, an increase of 50.0 percent.

Occupation Profile

Transportation incidents continue to be the leading cause of fatalities in the Transportation and material moving occupation.

Falls, slips or trips are the leading cause of fatalities in Construction and extraction occupations.

Program Background

In an effort to compile data that is as

complete as possible, the CFOI program uses diverse sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. Source documents, such as death certificates, coroners' reports, workers' compensation claims, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports, and other records are cross-referenced to gather key information about each workplace fatality, such as the particular occupation and industry in which the fatality occurred, worker demographics, equipment or machinery involved, and circumstances of the event.

The CFOI program compiles the most complete, verifiable count of fatal occupational injuries in the U.S.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment took over the responsibility of collecting these data in October of 2020 from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. 2021 data will be publicly available in December 2022.

Important note: The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program reports fatal workplace injuries only. These may include fatal workplace injuries complicated by an illness such as COVID-19. Fatal workplace illnesses not precipitated by an injury are not in scope for CFOI. CFOI does not report any illness related information, including COVID-19. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-on-workplace-injuries-and-illnesses-compensation-and-occupational-requirements.htm. For additional information, please visit www.bls.gov/iif/ or www.colmigateway.com

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FEATURED LISTING



63169 Percheron Court

This lovely custom built home with recent improvements at every turn. Get cozy in the library/den with beautifully stained custom bookcase and storage. Archways surround the formal dining room now used as an office with beautiful hardwood flooring. Vaulted ceilings crown the spacious living room, and kitchen. Custom cabinetry and granite counter tops show off an efficiently designed kitchen with pantry. The split floor plan with three bedrooms, one on-suite and two that share a full bath are on one end of the house, and the stunning owner's suite is on the other. Columns show off the spa-like bathroom with double sinks, trayed ceiling, mirror with hidden tv, and double sided fireplace for viewing from the relaxing bath or the bedroom. Downstairs is perfect for large gatherings and entertaining. There is a wet-bar, large theater room, a workout room or make it an additional sleeping area, and STORAGE everywhere. A separate door is off the large family room. The 3 car garage is complete with 220 and 230 in the single bay. Fresh paint throughout the home and garage, new carpet, new LVT flooring and new Geo-Thermal heating system with a 10 year warranty, new appliances, and on the outside freshly painted stucco is accented with timber trimmed window sills. There is a beautiful pond in back yard with pump. \$1,250,000 MLS#788949



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES RECEIVES REDI GRANT *\$195,628 in Grant Funds Awarded for New Construction Trades Certification Courses*

Special to the Mirror

DELTA-Technical College of the Rockies (TCR), in partnership with the Delta and Montrose Habitat for Humanity affiliates, has received a \$195,628 REDI grant for their Delta-Montrose Building Affordable Homes and a Skilled Workforce program. This program also recently received \$50,000 in support from the Western Colorado Community Foundation to help launch.

The program will offer new construction trades certification courses as well as an opportunity for students to receive hands-on experience at Habitat for Humanity affordable housing build sites. "We are excited for TCR to have received the grant and strengthen our working relationship with Habitat for Humanity while teaching students valuable skills and trades," said Delta County School District Superintendent Caryn Gibson. "The grant will benefit many; it is a great opportunity for the Delta County-Montrose Building Affordable Homes & Skilled Workforce project."

This program addresses a regional need for more trained workforce in construction trades and more workforce housing. Once established, TCR students can earn short-term certifications in the residential construction process from the early stages of pre-construction through passing final inspections and earning a certificate of occupancy. TCR recently established an electrical program to initiate this practical

program concept, as well as CAD and HVAC certifications. With the REDI grant award, this program concept will expand to include: excavation, framing, drywall, paint/finish work and landscaping. Each certification will require practical experience, to be achieved at Habitat worksites. "I am excited about receiving this grant and the opportunities it will help us launch. The focus of this project is to meet two goals; one is to help provide local folks with the skills, knowledge, and training to earn short-term credentials and be able to enter the high-demand, high-wage construction industry," said Allen Golden, Director of TCR. "The second goal is to do so while helping solve the growing issue of a shortage of affordable housing in our service area. I look forward to using this grant to launch this partnership with Habitat For Humanity, in an effort that I believe will be replicable for other areas around the state as well!"

The program coordinator will work with Habitat's teams to schedule onsite training. Habitat's construction management team will work with state and local building code enforcement and inspection teams to ensure all construction meets code requirements. "Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans is excited to work with the Technical College of the Rockies and the entire partner team to launch this program," said Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans Erica Madison. "We believe the program will

offer the community a central service to link employers in the construction industry with employees who will have hands on learning experience in a unique way that directly supports two extremely critical needs in today's economy—workforce housing and workforce development."

The program coordinator will also work with high schools in Delta and Montrose counties to determine whether non-college bound high school students can enroll prior to graduation, work with the Western Colorado Community College (WCCC) staff to possibly create a pathway toward accomplishing higher levels of credentialing in the construction industry, work with the Colorado Workforce Centers (CWC) to match newly trained and certified students with employers. Additionally, the program coordinator will work with regional employers to create partnerships that incentivize employers to hire through TCR's programs, and will work with regional employers to facilitate job placement and to ensure the program is effectively accomplishing its goal of producing a trained workforce.

"It is exciting for the Technical College of the Rockies and Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans to join together for this partnership" said Joe Mock, Coordinator of Federal Programs/Grants at Delta County School District 50J. "This DOLA grant will provide great opportunities for both entities, but more importantly, for our communities."

The Mirror:
Coverage with vision for the future.



COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

KEITH WAYNE RUSK

October 15, 1947- December 19, 2021



KEITH WAYNE RUSK, 74 of Montrose, CO

passed away peacefully on December 19, 2021 with his family by his side.

Keith was born in Willmar, Minnesota on October 15, 1947 to Joe Rusk and Elaine (Fahlberg) Rusk.

He attended school in Minneapolis, MN to become a Court Reporter. He worked in Greeley, CO, Grand Junction, CO and eventually settling in Montrose, CO. Keith was a member of the Montrose Elks. Keith enjoyed a competitive round of golf, bowling and softball. He loved coaching his children and others in the Montrose Rec Football and basketball leagues. And no boys, you still can't have his playbook.

Keith is survived by his life partner San-

dra Scruggs of Montrose, CO, Stacey (Todd) Harris of Fort Collins, Michael (Kala) Rusk and Sarah (Danny) Taylor of Montrose. Brother Joe Rusk and sister Jolane Clark, Step-children Andrea Saltzman, Cody Ladner, Millie Ladner and Candy Ladner. Grandchildren Taylor Harris, Katie Harris, Brailee Taylor, Haiden Taylor, Blake Taylor, Payton Rusk, Teagan Rusk and many step-grandchildren in Colorado and Mississippi.

Keith will always be remembered for his smile and positive attitude. We will miss him dearly. There are no services planned and cremation has taken place. There will be a party at a later date to celebrate his life.

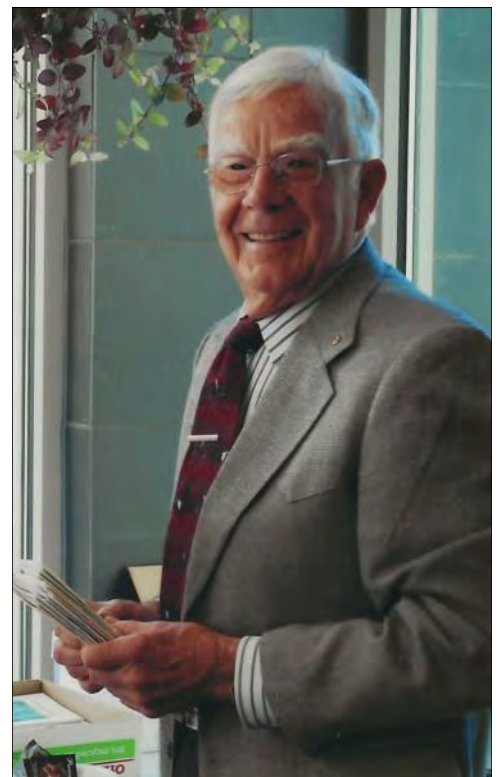
DELMAR LAWRENCE LEGER

DELMAR LAWRENCE LEGER was born July 1, 1929 to Charles N. and Stanley Mabel (Reece) Leger in Franklin, Ohio. He spent his childhood in Denver, Colorado and graduated from West Denver High School he then furthered his education at Texas Tech University in Lubbock Tx. On March 12, 1954 at the age of 21 he enlisted in the United States Air Force and entered at the Amarillo Airforce Base in Amarillo, TX where he was an A&E Mechanic Instructor. He was honorably discharged March 13, 1954. Del married his wife Louise on May 16, 1959 in Lubbock Tx. They moved from Texas to Fort Collins then to Montrose which was home for the past 50 years. Del started his real estate career in 1971 and was broker/owner of Real Estate Exchange until his retirement. He was co-founder and co-pastor of the Christian Church of God in Grand Junction and was a member of the Montrose Visual Arts Guild. Being a man of exceptionally strong faith, one of his greatest passions was sharing his love of God with others, he wrote many book-

lets for the church which have been distributed as far away as South Africa. Del's many other interests included painting, music, woodworking, gardening, reading, writing and studying the bible. He loved spending time with family and friends and was always ready for a good game of Uno.

Surviving family members include his beloved wife, Louise Leger, daughter and son-in-law Tracy and Kirk Baldwin of Montrose, three grand-children Jason, Jeffrey and Jessica Baldwin, honorary grand-daughters Charessa Kibler and Destiny Shetter, four great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Delmar was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, brother, Robert Leger, sisters, Myrneath Souza and Jean Jones and great granddaughter Caroline Baldwin.

A Funeral service will be held Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 11 am at Cripin Funeral Home. A graveside service with Military Honors will follow the funeral at Cedar Cemetery east of Mont-



rose.

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ISSUE 349 Dec. 27

ART & SOL

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH MONTROSE FLAIR!



Courtesy photo Precedence Productions.

Mirror staff report

MONTROSE-Looking for a way to ring in the New Year? Whether you prefer ball gowns or boots, Montrose offers a fun variety of events for anyone hoping to spend the last few hours of 2021 in good company.

Local band *Crazy like a Fox* will play a New Year's Eve Show at the **Montrose Elks Lodge** (801 South Hillcrest Drive) with *Koree Christina Wilde* on Dec. 31. The music starts at 8pm and the cover charge is \$10. The event notice on the Elks Facebook states, "Roarin' Cajun will be provid-

ing the chow again at \$8 a bowl starting at 7pm. Let's come together and ring in the New Year with great music, food and fellowship!"

At 511 East Main Street, **Upstairs at Precedence** welcomes *Swing City Express* and *DJ Kato*. Indulge in craft cocktails and take a dance class if you prefer. The music begins at 7:30pm, entry is \$20. Precedence Productions owner Jordan Carls said, "We are throwing a family-friendly Roaring 20's New Year's Eve Bash, not holding back in any way. Kids under 18 are always free and we want this event to give Montrose a place for the whole family to celebrate together. We have new appetizers, new drinks, a brand new mocktail menu, dance classes, a champagne toast and so much more. There will be a New Year's toast at 10 pm with New York for those that don't want to stay until midnight, and of course our midnight celebration with *Swing City Express* ringing in the New Year. We want to thank the community for a wonderful first year and kick off another year of events and music on Main Street."

San Juan Brews (512 East Main Street) will combine the New Year with a 1st Anniversary celebration, Boots & Brews, from 8pm to 1am. Music will be by Cousin Curtiss, food provided by Greens 'n Grill, and a champagne toast at midnight. Tickets are limited, non-refundable \$50.

And while the Montrose Pavilion Senior Center (1800 Pavilion Drive) is officially closed through Jan. 3, the doors will be open from 7 to 11pm for a New Year's Eve dance with New Vision.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

MONDAY MORNING CLOSURE ANNOUNCED ON VAIL PASS

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—CDOT has announced that there will be a closure on I-70 Vail Pass on Monday morning, Dec. 27, at 9am. The closure is for both directions of traffic and is anticipated to last an hour. The closure point for eastbound traffic will be at Exit 176 (Vail), with a CMV closure at Exit 180 (East Vail). The closure point for westbound traffic will be at Exit 195 (Copper Mountain/Leadville/CO 91). All real-time updates



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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

PALM ARTS PRESENTS CINDERELLA (MASSENET) - ABRIDGED ENGLISH VERSION

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-Continuing a treasured holiday tradition, the Met presents a new installment in its series of abridged opera adaptations for family audiences. Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's Cendrillon, a hit of the 2017-18 season, is presented with an all-new English translation in an abridged 90 minutes, with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as its

rags-to-riches princess. Maestro Emmanuel Villaume leads a delightful cast, which includes mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo as Cinderella's Prince Charming, soprano Jessica Pratt as her Fairy Godmother, and mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and bass-baritone Laurent Naouri as her feuding guardians. Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022 at 11am, Tickets: \$20 at the door, 721 W. Colorado Ave., telluridepalm.com. For information

call 970.369.5669

2021-22 Transmission Schedule

We look forward to welcoming our opera patrons back to the Palm Theatre. As we prioritize SAFE events, please present proof of vaccination (or a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the event), wear a mask when in the lobby and theatre and maintain distance between parties. Thank you for your cooperation.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations

On **December 22, 2021**, the total number of patients hospitalized with a COVID-19 illness was **9**.



Unvaccinated



Fully vaccinated

9 Hospitalized

- 8 unvaccinated
- 1 vaccinated



4 in the ICU

- 4 unvaccinated
- 0 vaccinated



0 on Ventilators

- 0 unvaccinated
- 0 vaccinated

Total hospitalized with COVID during the timeframe 10-1-21 through 12-15-21 was **211**.

27.49% Vaccinated • 0.47% Partially Vaccinated
62.09% Not Vaccinated • 9.95% Unknown Vaccine Status



MONTROSE
REGIONAL HEALTH

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COVID-19 Testing Sites in Montrose County



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Please reach out to one of the providers listed to schedule a COVID-19 test.

For additional regional testing sites, please visit www.montrosecountyjic.com
updated 11/8/21

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene
Address: 705 South 12th Street
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am- Noon and by Appointment
Contact Information: Office Phone 970 249-9213, mncfirst@gmail.com, www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastor: Buddy Cook
Services Sunday: Worship 10 AM, Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship includes age-appropriate children's ministry during adult worship.
 Wednesday: Prayer Boot Camp - 7 PM
 Mission Statement: *Montrose First Church of the Nazarene exists to make Christlike*

disciples in Montrose Colorado and around the world.

Demographics: Our church consists of older and younger people. We have younger families with children and young teens and older adults as well. We also support the work of Calvary Ranch Colorado and its addiction recovery ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTROSE

Affiliation: Presbyterian
Address: 1840 E Niagara Rd. Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu 9AM - 12PM
Contact Information: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com

www.fpcmontrose.com
In Transition-Currently: Howard Davidson
 Merle Bierma
Worship Service times: 9:30AM, Student Worship at 6PM

We strive to encourage, challenge and support one another through spiritual growth, worship, and service in our community, country, and world. We also encourage children and youth to grow their relationship with Christ through our children and student ministries

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist
Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401
Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org

montroseumc.org
Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Lisa Petty
Worship service times: 9:30 a.m. Casual Contemporary Worship & 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship
 10:30 - Social/Devotional Time
Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully

inclusive, loving and just servants of Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with and without children, from diapers to dentures. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come and discover hope, joy, peace and purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist
Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm
Contact information: Phone: 970.249.4887
 website: www.RosemontBaptist.org
 email: office@rosemontbaptist.org
Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

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

matter what stage of life they are in.
Children's services: We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.
We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

www.spiritaware.org
Name of current pastor: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Macdonald, Senior Minister; Rev. Catharine Gates, Associate Minister. Spiritual counseling available.
Worship service times: Unity Service at 11 a.m., Adult Discussion at 9:30 a.m., Quiet Meditation at 10:30 a.m.

The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects, including the Great Community Giveaway and Wellness Fair.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation:

Southern Baptist

Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403

Office hours: Varies

Contact information:

phone number: 970-275-7026

email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com

website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: John De-Sario

Worship service times: 9 AM for Sunday Worship, Monday Night Bible Study 6:30-8pm Summit Church Montrose preaches the Word of God, reaches the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equips Christians to serve the Lord. Summit Church is a group of diverse people, (widows, retired couples, families with adult children, fami-

lies with young and school aged children, and recent high school and college graduates). Our services are in English, but many in our congregation also speak Spanish, as we partner with Verdad Y Vida (a Spanish congregation meeting in the same building).

We have a children's area we call "Base Camp" for children ages birth to Kindergarten during the Sunday Service.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTROSE

Denomination Affiliation: Independent Baptist

Address: 2890 N Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-12pm

Contact Information: Phone (970) 249-

6874; email at info@vbcmontrose.org;

website: vbcmontrose.org

Current Pastor: Roland Kassales

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

Victory Baptist Church exists to exalt God, edify saints, and evangelize the lost.

Demographics: Victory Baptist serves everyone with age-appropriate classes, groups, and activities. Families with children make up the majority of VBC with young adults, singles, middle-aged couples, and seniors comprising the rest.

Church Directory

Mirror Editorial Staff

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

formation to the Montrose Mirror:

Name of church

Denomination affiliation

Address Office hours

Contact information (phone number, email address, website)

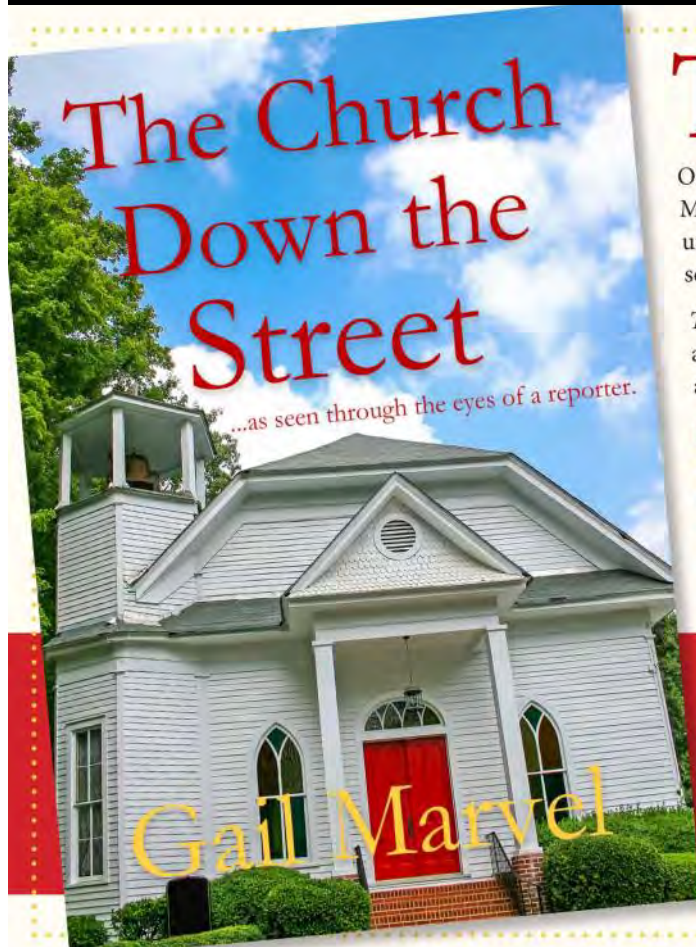
Name of current Senior Pastor

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?



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

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

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

Readers will:

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

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

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

GIFFORD NAMED TO MSOE HONORS LIST FOR FALL QUARTER 2021

Special to Art & Sol

MILWAUKEE, WI-- Kenneth Gifford, from Montrose, was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Honors List for the 2021 Fall Quarter. Gifford is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering.

Undergraduate students who have earned a GPA of 3.20 or higher (out of 4.0) for this quarter are on the Honors List.

Milwaukee School of Engineering (www.msoe.edu) is the university of choice for those seeking an inclusive community of experiential learners driven to solve the complex challenges of today and tomorrow. The independent, non-profit university has about 2,700 students and was founded in 1903. MSOE offers bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, business and nursing. Faculty are student-focused experts who bring real-world experience into the classroom. This approach to learning makes students ready

now as well as prepared for the future. Longstanding partnerships with business and industry leaders enable students to learn alongside professional mentors, and

challenge them to go beyond what's possible. MSOE graduates are leaders of character, responsible professionals, passionate learners and value creators.

DineOutMontrose.com

Holiday Catering Options:



Jimmer's Steak & BBQ
970-252-1227

Fiesta Guadalajara
970-249-2460

Alpen Confections
970-648-0609

Remington's at the Bridges
970-252-1119

Lighthouse Eatery
970-964-4424

Pahgre's
970-249-6442

My Favorite Muffin
970-765-0076

Heidi's Brooklyn Deli
970-240-1605

Rib City
970-249-7427

Stone House
970-240-8899

Mimo's
970-249-0616

Camp Robber
970-240-1590

Liquor:

Beer Barn II
970-249-5550

House of Spirits
970-240-4799



\$12,400

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in 53 numbers or fewer***

\$9,362 CLEAR

**Progressive
Game #2
\$500
Must Go**



**Progressive
Game #4
\$890**

***Win this Jackpot by reaching
Bingo in 37 #s or fewer***

Elks Bingo

Tuesday Dec 28, 2021

6:30 PM Potato Bar

**Doors Open at 4:30 PM, Early Bird starts at
6:30 PM. Main Bingo Session starts at 7:00 PM**

*Montrose Elks Lodge #1053
801 So. Hillcrest, Montrose CO 81401*

SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

FREETHINKERS meet 1st Sunday of the month at 1pm. more info at 970-708-8333.

NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS welcomes adults who are new to Montrose or have been here awhile, who would enjoy learning more about the area and participate in social activities. 2021-22 meeting info. Meetings will be on the 1st Wednesday of each month (January – May). 10am-11:30am in the downstairs meeting hall of Cedar Creek Church, 222 S. Townsend and S. 3rd. enter through the side door on S. 3rd St. Hope to meet you there! Contact Patti 951-544-6289 if you have questions.

THE MONTROSE GENEALOGY CENTER at 700 E. Main St. is now open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. or call for an appointment: 970-240-1755. Free help and resources for your family history research."

(The center is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society.)

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP will be held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the PIC Place 5:30-7pm. Please call Kathy at 520-282-9060 for more information.

MONTROSE FARMERS' MARKET -Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm.. **Location:** Montrose Centennial Plaza . 81401 **Cost:** Free to attend.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY-Registration now open for Sept 2021 - Apr 2022 **COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY**, an international non-denominational Bible study. Studying Revelation Sep 2021-Jan 2022 and Christian Living (1,2,3 John, Jude & Philemon) Feb-Apr 2022. In person for women and children of all ages on Wednesday mornings 9-11. Virtual/Zoom for women Thursday evenings 6-7:15. Contact 720-635-0091 to register of for more information. Or come to our first meeting Wed., Sep. 8, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1840 E. Niagara St., Montrose, at 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 Hampton Inn conference room at Noon.

MONTHLY

Dec.31-511 East Main Street, Upstairs at Precedence welcomes *Swing City Express* and *DJ Kato*. Indulge in craft cocktails and take a dance class if you prefer. The music begins at 7:30pm, entry is \$20

Dec. 31-*Crazy like a Fox* will play a New Year's Eve Show at the Montrose Elks Lodge (801 South Hillcrest Drive) with *Koree Christina Wilde* on Dec. 31. The music starts at 8pm and the cover charge is \$10.

Jan. 8-Moriah Woods, Solo Accoustic concert at Healthy Rhythm Gallery. Tickets \$17 advance, \$20 day of show.. Doors 6:30pm. www.healthyrhythm.net

Jan.13-The American Red Cross of Western Colorado is hosting an in-person Disaster Action Team Training Academy from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022 at the Montrose County Library Community Room 320 South 2nd Street. For more information on how to get signed up for this opportunity to help your neighbors, please contact joshua.stewart@redcross.org.

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970-275-0646

Editor@montrosemirror.com
www.montrosemirror.com

MIRROR IMAGES....OUT & ABOUT



With plans to open the company's new location at River Landing Shopping center in Montrose (pictured above and left) in 2022, Hobby Lobby announced Dec. 14 that it will raise its minimum wage to \$18.50 per hour effective Jan. 1, 2022.

A large advertisement featuring a black bear standing upright and holding a tablet computer. The bear is positioned on the left side of the frame. In the bottom left corner, a person's hands are visible, holding the tablet. The background is a scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and green slopes. The text "Save a tree - Read the Mirror!" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the center. Below this, the logo for "THE MONTROSE MIRROR" is displayed, followed by the tagline "Your Source for Local Business News and Information". At the bottom right, the text "Call For Ad Rates: 970-275-0646" is written in a white, cursive font.