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the Montrose Mirror

REAL ESTATE STORE JOINS CENTURY 21 ELEVATED REAL ESTATE

By Caitlin Switzer

MONTROSE-With a store front on Main Street in Montrose, a friendly presence online, and a team of educated professionals with the knowledge, skills, and heart to help you find the home that is just right for you, the Real Estate Store is a hometown success story.

As they have grown, the Real Estate Store has focused on offering sharp real estate professionals who are certified in their areas of expertise, and who are dedicated to making you feel at home.

After buying the store front location at 500 East Main Street in 2013, the firm quickly expanded to fill the entire building. The location is about more than listings, however. Home buyers can also find information on home services here, from housekeeping to excavation.

"Clients of all ages can find the expertise they need when it comes to buying or selling a home," Real Estate Store Broker/Owner Michelle Klippert said, "When people come in looking for nurturing, we can multi-task so they are totally



The Real Estate Store. Photo by B. Switzer.

Continued pg 17

MONTROSE UNITES TO HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

'King's legacy encourages us to carry forward his dream, igniting our passion for justice and pushing us to create a better world for future generations'—Montrose MLK Day Organizer Tonya Maddox



Above, Montrose MLK Day Organizer and community leader Tonya Maddox. Courtesy photo.

By Jack Switzer

MONTROSE-With the New Year come new possibilities for the community of Montrose, especially when it comes to how we will celebrate one important day.

The national holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is fast approaching, and I had the opportunity to speak with community leader Tonya Maddox about some of the upcoming MLK day events being made possible by her organization and by other local entities.

Montrose's first annual MLK community-wide celebration will be held on Monday, Jan. 20. With everything from movie screenings, an art contest, and children's activities, to a community parade/march, there's sure to be something for all families and individuals to do, as we celebrate the life of one man who gave his own life to make millions of dreams possible.

There will also be ways to give back to your community through this event, with community service projects that you can sign up for through the event website mlkdaymontrose.com. It's possible to sign up as an individual, a family, or a business in order to give back to your community and the businesses that help sustain it.

Continued pg 5

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers:

We appreciate your letters! We like reading and hearing opinions from all perspectives. We are sharing herewith our updated guidelines: In the past we have had one rule, to be implemented at the editor's discretion. We are now including two more suggested "Rules" for letter writers.

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Caitlin Switzer,
Montrose Mirror Editor

THE MONTROSE MIRROR

Published every Monday since 2010 in Montrose, Colorado to a readership of over 20,000 residents of Western Colorado.

We encourage contributions and commentary. Submitted content may not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

For additional information and advertising opportunities, please contact:

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHIPETA WATER DISTRICT MEETING JAN. 8

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--Chipeta Water District board meeting January 8 the Montrose Event Center beginning at 5PM.

MONTROSE AARP TAX-AIDE SITE

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE--The Montrose AARP Tax-aide site will be in operation from Feb. 4 through April 11 at the Senior Center in the Montrose Pavilion, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 2pm. Reservations are required and can be made now by calling 970-252-4889.



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MONTROSE UNITES TO HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR From pg 1

It will also be possible to nominate those whom you believe to be worthy of humanitarian awards. These awards will be given out at a special luncheon to members of the community who have gone above and beyond to serve the people around them. Nominees can be anyone from philanthropists to students! Make sure you nominate someone you think deserves the recognition!

The City and County of Montrose have both agreed to issue proclamations at the opening ceremony for the event, where it will be declared that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be observed as a day of service. Not only will this make it possible for the event to be held annually in the future, but will also cement the holiday it-

self as an important day for Montrose to reflect on and appreciate the efforts of Dr. King.

When asked why Montrose needs an annual MLK day of service event, Organizer Tonya Maddox responded:

“Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to the fight for the rights and dignity of every individual, a mission that transcends time and continues to resonate with us today,” said Maddox. *“His vision of a society where everyone is judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character challenges us to rise above our differences. The power of his message lies in its simplicity and profound truth: when we stand together for a noble cause, we can achieve remarkable things. King’s leg-*

acy encourages us to carry forward his dream, igniting our passion for justice and pushing us to create a better world for future generations. His life serves as a powerful reminder that through perseverance, love, and unity, we can indeed transform society for the better.”

The community-wide celebration is being hosted by Our Town Matters, the Greater Montrose Chamber of Commerce, the Montrose Business Times, the Montrose Daily Press, and HAP: Hispanic Affairs Project.

Information can be found on the Our Town Matters Facebook page, and you can reach out to nominate someone or volunteer through the event’s website at mlkdaymontrose.com.



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ERIKA STORY NAMED MONTROSE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE - Montrose County is pleased to announce the appointment of Erika Story as the new Communications Director. Ms. Story has been at Montrose County since 2017 and previously served as the Digital Communications Manager.

"I am looking forward to this new opportunity," Story said. "I am excited to continue building on our long-term communication strategies to ensure that we effectively connect with and serve every resident of Montrose County."

Story was selected after an extensive process, which included a challenging in-person panel interview conducted by a diverse group of Board members from the community. The Board evaluated candidates' leadership qualities, vision, and communication skills, ultimately determining Ms. Story as the ideal candidate for the role.

"We are thrilled to have Erika take on this new role as Communications Director," said Frank Rodriguez, County Manager. "She has been an invaluable member of our team, and in her new position, she will continue to ensure that Montrose County remains accessible and that residents receive accurate, timely, and transparent information."

"We are excited to welcome Erika as our new Communications Director," said Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen. "Her innovative approach and ability to leverage a variety of communication platforms will be instrumental in ensuring that accurate information about our programs and services reaches and informs our community."

In her time at Montrose County, Story has played a pivotal role in expanding the county's digital presence, successfully developing 12 websites and managing more than 18 social media accounts. Her

forward-thinking approach to digital communication has enabled Montrose County to keep residents informed and engaged with County initiatives across multiple outlets.



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TRASH TO RICHES AT DELTA COMPOSTING



Enthusiastic composter Erica Sparhawk explains how some really large refuse gets turned into really fine compost. Photo by Lauren Hall Ruddell.

By Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell, Ph.D

REGIONAL-When is waste a good thing? When it's repurposed into something useful. And that is what Delta Composting is all about!

Thirty million acres of cropland, roughly an area the size of Pennsylvania, is farmed each year for food that is wasted in the United States. Although it would be best for the environment, the nation, and society for food to be consumed rather than wasted in such stunning amounts, recycling plants can help a great deal to safely dispose of this excess. Add yard trimmings into the equation and we find that trimmings plus food residue comprise 34 percent of the waste stream in American landfills. Composting operations certainly have plenty to work with!

The average American produces nearly 5 pounds of waste daily. Some of that is man-made materials. Some comes from our landscaping efforts, and some comes from more 'unmentionable' sources. But just to mention it anyway, the average human poops about 11 tons of compostable 'night soil' in the course of their lifetime. Despite having less than 5 percent of the global population, Americans produce 12 percent of the global waste stream. In 2018 alone, the Municipal Solid Waste generation in the United States stood at 292.4 million tons annually. Of that waste stream, 100 million tons are comprised of compostable material. 25 million tons are indeed compost-

ed, but that leaves 75 tons, or 150,000 pounds, of organic refuse to fester in the sun or underground, annually. That's the equivalent of the carcasses of 12 African elephants every year. Gross. That is why businesses like Delta Compost provide critical services to our Western Slope communities.

On 250 otherwise unproductive acres in Austin, this start-up company is making sure that brown gold is produced by altering the abundant but revolting direct deposits of Montrose and Delta counties. On a surprisingly sunny day in December, I toured this fascinating facility along with Penelope Powell, Executive Director of the Valley Organic Growers Association. Our hostess, owner Erica Sparhawk, gave us a most informative and in-depth introduction to the magic of making waste products live a second life. Established in 2021 and rebranded in 2024, this company takes food waste, tree trimmings, and even pallets at no charge, which they then process into compost through a rather complicated series of steps. And other stuff goes there too. Fellow tourist Penelope Powell exclaimed, "So my poop comes here?" And indeed it does. Tankers bring in the 'gnarly' stuff, as Erica refers to it, in tanker trucks from Montrose, Delta, and other counties for processing. Animal carcasses and supermarket food waste are processed there as well.

In 2023, American food retailers discarded 4.5 million tons of surplus food, nearly 35% of which went to landfills or was incinerated. Most of this came from produce (32.6%), dairy & eggs (13.2%), and fresh meat & seafood (13.6%), and more than half was caused by concerns or confusion over freshness date labels. I reflected on this while on my tour and gazed upon huge piles of gourds and pumpkins unsold during Halloween. Slaughter remains, mostly cattle carcasses, were in evidence in another pile. All of these items, plus the evergreen branches being deposited by the truckload by local landscapers, will eventually be turned into a flaky, rich looking and utterly odorless material that anyone would be happy to

run their hands through. From tree waste to tree and shrub nutrients, this business specializes in a nearly perfect loop that helps to ease the waste burdens for society and the environment. Although not suitable for organic gardens and fields, the end product would make any suburban lawn or landscaping very happy and well-nourished. The finished product can be ordered for \$20 per cubic yard and transported to your site (not counting delivery fees, which will be determined by mileage from the plant).

The flaky, chocolate cake-like finished product gives no hint as to all of the steps taken to get from nasty biosolids to plant-nourishing soil amendment. Even materials such as wooden pallets contribute their share. Yes, wooden pallets are accepted free of charge. A couple of days a week the staff fire up the specialized pallet chomper. The wood is shredded, nails and all, but before being piled high for the next step in decomposition, a magnet system built into the chomper grabs all nails and spits them out into a side container, leaving a pure wood product that can be used as course mulch for garden paths, or undergo further processing. This alone provides a tremendous benefit to local counties. In the United States, there are around two billion pallets in circulation in any given year. The vast majority of these are wooden and are replaced annually. Without processing, it can take 13 years for intact pallets to degrade and during that time they take up a tremendous amount of space in local landfills. So readers, feel free to take your pallets to Delta Compost where they will live a second life in a fraction of the time.

The thermodynamics of producing safe compost are quite intriguing. While there I observed staff 'turning' a pile. The piles are small, steaming mountains that must be moved by front loader. State and federal laws require that composting operations take pile temperatures every day and turn the piles every two weeks. Erica produced a thermometer that looked like a meat thermometer on steroids, with a huge dial and a three-foot spike (sensor).

TRASH TO RICHES AT DELTA COMPOSTING From previous pg



A steaming pile about half-way to the end product of brown gold. Photo by Lauren Hall Ruddell.

She tested several piles and they tended to come in at around 158 degrees F. Regulations require temperatures of between 131 and 165 degrees F for at least 15 consecutive days and turning five times to kill pathogens and ensure thorough breakdown of the components.

Erica commented that this process launches fairly rapidly, generally from a cold start to 110F in 48 hours. At Delta Compost, they go longer than the 15 re-

quired days and turn six to seven times to ensure everything is safe and sanitary. After all piles are turned more than five times, they enter what she called the 'chunky' stage. This second to last stage still has identifiable components such as small branches or veggie skins and is cured for two months at a lower temperature. This is permissible since sterilization through the heat of initial decomposition has already occurred.

More information about the business, their hours of operation, and the sort of materials they can and cannot accept can be found at [Delta Compost](#).

To order a delivery of compost to your site, just give Erica a call at **970.744.6691**. Delivery fees are also listed on the website.

The facility can be a little tricky to find the first time, so take note of directions carefully.

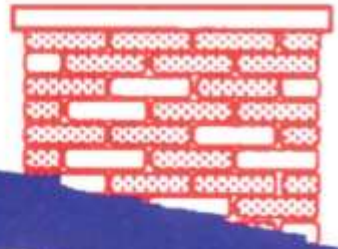
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE CLEANUP TO BEGIN MONDAY, JAN 6

FACTS & FICTION

IS COLORADO OUTDOORS THE SAME AS THE MONTROSE URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY (MURA)?

Sort of... Colorado Outdoors refers to both the private company that owns land and buildings within the project area and the City's overall Urban Renewal Authority project. Please see here for a short recap of the successes seen in CO Outdoors in 2024...



COLORADO OUTDOORS
END-OF-YEAR WRAP UP

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE— The City of Montrose is pleased to announce its annual Christmas tree pickup service, which starts Monday, Jan. 6, and continues through Thursday, Jan. 20.

Residents can schedule tree pickups from Jan. 6 to 9 by contacting the Public Works office at 970.240.1480. Following the request period, Public Works crews will conduct a street-by-street, city wide sweep that will conclude on Jan. 20.

For collection, Christmas trees must be placed behind the curb in front of residences.

Trees that are collected will be mulched or donated to local farmers for animal feed, therefore, artificial trees, as well as natural trees decorated with artificial snow, ornaments, or tinsel, will not be collected.

This service is provided free of charge to City of Montrose residents. For additional information or to schedule your tree pickup, please reach out to Public Works at 970.240.1480.

For information about the City of Montrose visit CityofMontrose.org.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

ACCOUNTABILITY!

Editor:

With the election over, we must recognize that the real work begins now. It doesn't mean everything will be perfect on day one, and we won't magically return to 1986. What it means is that the extensive damage we've endured will need to be assessed, and a comprehensive plan must be devised and implemented. The fix won't happen overnight. I understand DJT claims he'll solve all these issues immediately, but I'm a realist!

I know it will take time. We all need to unite for the common goal. We can't bicker over the methods to achieve it. There are multiple paths to the same destination, and that's not a bad thing. Each path will lead to unique discoveries.

The most crucial thing is for each of us to take a daily look in the mirror and ask ourselves, "Am I doing my part today?" Am I holding myself accountable for the changes I need to make to improve things? Am I holding myself accountable to representatives at every level, from school boards to state legislatures, my US House Representative, and my Senator? If not, we're failing not only our country, state, community, and family but also ourselves!

This is how we've reached this point in our nation's young history. We've believed it was always someone else's responsibility to be accountable. But we must realize that it's our own responsibility! We must set higher expectations for ourselves before we can expect more from others. And the great news is, we're the only ones who can do that for ourselves. No one else can do it for us; it's up to us!

Once we start holding ourselves accountable for our actions or inactions, we'll begin to witness the transformation of the world around us. Do yourself a favor: hold yourself accountable for the changes you want to see today! You'll inspire yourself tomorrow and the next day. And you'll realize that it was you all along who had the power to change your entire perspective. Make America Great Again, one person at a time!

Michael J Badagliacco, Montrose



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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE AARP TAX-AIDE SITE TO OPEN FEBRUARY 4

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose AARP Tax-aid site will be in operation from Feb. 4 through April 11 at the senior center in the Montrose Pavilion. The site will be preparing 2024 Federal and Colorado personal income tax returns on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 2pm. Reservations are now being accepted and should be made by calling 970-252-4889.

The Montrose site has been operating during tax season for more than 20 years. The site offers in-person services. "We are happy to again offer tax preparation three days a week," site coordinator Cheryl said. "It is important that people call for reservations as we do not accept walk-ins."

After making a reservation, people will need to pick up an information packet and fill out the intake sheet before arriving at their appointment. The packet provides a list of all the documents and information they need to bring to the appointment. Taxpayers should open and collect all tax documents they receive beginning in early January. These documents include: W-2s and various 1099s for 2024. Review these documents to be sure names, addresses, social security numbers, etc. are correct. Comparing documents received for tax year 2024 with your copy of the 2023 return will help ensure they have all needed documents.

Cheryl added that Tabor refunds based on your income are available to 2024 Colorado residents through their Colorado income tax returns. "Residents will need to file a Colorado state return for 2024 to receive the refund."

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 or have low to moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year. More information about the AARP Tax-aid program is available at taxaide.aarpfoundation.org.

THE GREATER MONTROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

Special to the Mirror

GRAND JUNCTION—Nina Anderson, long-time owner of Express Employment Professionals in Grand Junction, is excited to ring in the new year with a significant announcement. After nearly 18 years of connecting job seekers with outstanding companies across western Colorado, Nina is stepping back from day-to-day management responsibilities and welcoming Jennifer “Jenny” Hunter as the new General Manager.

Jenny joined the team in July 2023 as Staffing Manager for the Light Industrial

and Skilled Trades divisions. She brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her new role, along with a commitment to continuing Express Employment’s tradition of excellence in workforce solutions. “I am thrilled to pass the torch to Jenny,” Nina said. “Her fresh ideas, dynamic energy, and passion for the local job market make her the perfect leader to guide our team into the future and to support our incredible client companies.”

Jenny is equally enthusiastic about this new chapter. “I’m honored to take on this role and look forward to collaborating

with hiring managers and businesses all over Western Colorado,” Jenny said.

“Together, we’ll continue making a positive impact in our community by connecting people with meaningful work and helping companies thrive by taking on the burden of finding good quality people their businesses need.”

Express Employment Professionals has been a trusted resource for workforce solutions on the Western Slope since 2007, providing exceptional service to businesses and job seekers alike.



Jennifer “Jenny” Hunter. Courtesy photo.

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REAL ESTATE STORE JOINS CENTURY 21 ELEVATED REAL ESTATE *From pg 1*

cared for.”

The Real Estate Store has been a good Downtown neighbor as well, sponsoring fun Halloween activities for children and families for many years, and opening their doors during the annual Montrose Parade of Lights to offer hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies.

Traditionally, many successful real estate companies have been owned and operated by men. The Real Estate Store took an alternative path to success, with mostly female professionals (although there has been one man on the team).

“Women used to be behind the scenes,” Klippert said, noting that women can present a home and understand the needs of clients in a different way. “The industry has changed.”

Now, this smart local startup has joined forces with a major national brand, as they become part of [CENTURY 21 Elevated Real Estate](#).

There will be a meet and greet at 4pm on Thursday to celebrate the new brand at the Association Bar and Event Venue (39 West Main Street) in Montrose, Klippert said.

Buying a home is one of the biggest investments a person will make in their lifetime, she noted, and serving clients in real estate is about building relationships. “I want to be your realtor for life,” Klippert said. “That’s the key—now, we can bring that same feel to Montrose and have a national following as well.”

Said Dan Bishop, Managing Member/Broker of CENTURY 21 Elevated Real Estate, “CENTURY 21 Elevated Real Estate is pleased to announce its acquisition of The Real Estate Store in Montrose! As a western Colorado owned and operated company, CENTURY 21 Elevated is excited to join forces with the incredible team of Real Estate professionals at The Real Estate Store! CENTURY 21 is the most recognized and trusted name in real estate, and our dedicated management team strongly believes that this merger will create new inspiration and opportunities for our Montrose community and the Western Slope of Colorado!

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

KNOW THE SIGNS WHEN YOU'RE TOO TIRED TO DRIVE

Special to the Mirror

COLORADO—Colorado State Troopers saw a concerning jump in lane violation fatal and injury crashes in 2024 that were attributed to driver fatigue and drivers asleep at the wheel. According to State Patrol crash data, there were 39 crashes in 2023 and 56 in 2024 (43.5% increase). While the hard numbers appear to suggest a small annual increase, looking historically, troopers have seen a significant year-over-year increase since 2020, when there were only 27 lane violation crashes due to fatigue or a driver falling asleep. The percentage increase from four years ago is 107%.

According to the [National Sleep Foundation](#), drowsy drivers may find themselves [weaving](#) back and forth between lanes, unable to maintain the right speed and keep an appropriate distance from other vehicles. They also may be unable to react in time to avoid an obstacle.

“We don’t often talk about fatigue and drowsiness, but sleep-related issues aren’t uncommon and there is an impact on a person’s ability to drive safely,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Shift workers and commercial drivers are at extreme risk, but anyone who struggles with getting enough and regular sleep can be impacted.”

If you notice signs of drowsiness, pull over and take a 20-minute nap in a safe place. The [National Sleep Foundation](#) provided some of the top signs of drowsy driving that are similar to signs of drunk driving.

- Heavy eyelids or frequent blinking
- Frequent yawning
- Daydreaming and trouble focusing
- Drifting back and forth between lanes
- Hitting a rumble strip
- Drooping head
- Poor recall of the last few miles
- Missing signs or exits
- Restlessness, irritability, and aggressiveness, including tailgating

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REDISCOVERING DELTA: MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS CHRIS MILLER

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose County Historical Society presents Chris Miller, Board Member of the Delta County Historical Society, who will present the video, "Rediscovering Delta's History, The Movie." The free program addresses the history and growth of the city of Delta. The public is welcome to attend on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

DELTA HEALTH ENGAGES CHARTSPAN FOR CARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Special to the Mirror

DELTA – Delta Health has recently partnered with ChartSpan, an organization that offers care coordination services to Medicare patients. The program provides patients access to healthcare professionals 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Representatives from ChartSpan have already begun contacting patients to discuss enrollment. Please be advised, these phone calls are not a scam. Delta Health has not sold any patient information and any information shared with ChartSpan has been done so in a compliant manner to improve care to patients.

There may be a copay associated with the ChartSpan program, and deductibles do apply. The ChartSpan program offers:

- Personalized care plan focused on achieving patient-guided long-term health goals.
- Help with medications, scheduling appointments, arranging transportation, and even setting up meal services.
- Sending messages to the providers for refills and helping to find discounts for pricy medications.
- Answering any questions patients have about their healthcare.
- Requesting and housing records from other providers to give the patient's provider a better look at his or her overall



Delta Health courtesy photo.

health.

-It is important to note that Delta Health **has not** sold any of its patients' personal information. ChartSpan is working with Delta Health to help keep its patients healthier in between visits. This program is not automatic, and patients do not have

to enroll. For more information, questions, or to enroll, call 855-242-7877 or visit <https://www.chartspan.com/patient/>. Patients can also contact their Delta Health Primary Care Clinic to learn more information about these additional services.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER WAS A SPECIAL MAN, AND HE WILL BE MISSED

Dear Editor:

December 29, 2024, was a sad day. The former 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, at the age of 100, died peacefully at his home in Plains, Georgia.

Whether you like his politics or not, he was kind-hearted and a genuinely a good person. He did more positive things for our country and our world than anyone else in any other post-presidency. He helped soothe disputes between countries, he oversaw elections in countries with a history of fraudulent voting practices, and most notably worked many, many years with Habitat for Humanity literally "hands on".

Most don't know he also had some "ties" (pun intended) with Montrose and Delta counties. He took at least three floatboating fly fishing trips down the Gunnison Gorge below the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. He walked down the Chukar Trail along with wife Rosalynn, and climbed aboard a raft run by river outfitter Hank Hotze. He fished with flies tied specifically to attract the fish, all catch and release, found in this Gold Medal Trout fishery.

His first trip down was in 1988. Working in the Montrose District Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), I worked closely with the Secret Service agents as they did preliminary reconnaissance of these public lands to identify access points, hazards, and possible landing zones if a helicopter was needed. A temporary command post was set up in Hotchkiss.

The lead agent invited me to float down and meet the party. So on the



Photo courtesy Jon Sering.

Carter's last day in the Gunnison Gorge, my then girlfriend Pamela (now wife) and I paddled a two-person inflatable kayak down to their campsite upstream from Ute Park, just in time for lunch.

After snacking, Pamela stood along the bank of the Gunnison River looking out over the tied-up rafts. As she stood there, she flicked at the back of her long dark hair. A couple of seconds went by and she flicked at her hair again. Seconds passed, and as she flicked again for the third time, she quickly turned around. Jimmy Carter was standing behind her, with his trademark smile, flicking her hair with his fly rod.

At the time, BLM had been working with several legislators attempting to gather support for what would finally happen eleven years later in 1999, The

Black Canyon National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999. We floated rafts with many Congressmen and Senators over some 13 years. What always struck me most about those politicians, was that their main focus was talking about themselves. Often bragging about some legislation they sponsored, or how they were able to fund a project dear to their hearts. But former President Jimmy Carter did none of that. He never talked about himself. Sometimes he would just lay down his fly fishing rod as we floated down river, look up at the surrounding cliffs, and say, "It is so beautiful here. This is a very special place".

He was a special man. He will be missed.

*Jon Sering
Clallam County, Washington*

OPINION/EDITORIAL: COMMENTARY

DMEA AND ELECTRIC RATES

By Tony Hoag

Citizens Climate Lobby Montrose

REGIONAL-The cost of electricity has been rising due to many factors, but largely due to energy suppliers requesting rate increases to cover infrastructural and transmission costs. These companies are also increasing their renewable energy profiles for the betterment of Colorado and due to State requirements, but this also comes at a cost. There is also a big difference in 'for profit and non-profit electric companies. As customers of DMEA we are lucky our electrical Co-Op works for us and not for profit. They have had the foresight to pursue renewable energy projects while also keeping rates consistently low relative to our neighbors at a time when the neighboring communities face climbing electrical costs.

Overall, the average rate that Colorado residential customers paid for electricity in August was 15.65 cents per kilowatt-hour, according to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#). The national average was 16.63 per kilowatt-hour.

DMEA has had the same residential electricity rates since 2019 of 10.95 ¢ per kw. They do have the option for users to pay for use. In that rate structure members are charged 6.24¢ per kw from 10 pm to 12 pm (14 hours) and 17.07 ¢ between noon and 10 PM (10 hours).

SMPA in Ouray and San Miguel Counties recently approved a proposal to implement a time-based rate structure, beginning in May of 2025. Under this new structure, a Time-of-Use rate will offer members a discount on energy for 19 hours of the day, 11¢ / kWh instead of 13.5¢ / kWh. During the 5 hour "Peak" period of 4 PM to 9 PM, members will see a higher rate (22¢ /kWh).

Electricity rate per Kwh

Delta	\$0.1011/kwh
DMEA	\$0.1095/Kwh
Gunnison	\$0.13821/kWh
SMPA	\$0.22/ KWh Peak power = 5 hours
	\$0.11/Kwh off peak
Grand Valley	\$0.19697/kwh Peak (5 hours per day)
	\$0.9546/kwh off peak

X-Cel Denver \$0.1621 summer \$0.12.48.Kwh winter

Electricity rates vary around the Western Slope with the City of Delta's the cheapest. Delta is their own utility and they buy electricity from a Co-Op in Nebraska. DMEA buys its energy from Guzman energy (~35% renewable energy) and also generates its own renewable energy (7.5% from hydropower). Once DMEA's partner builds its Garnet Mesa Facility and USDA facility an additional 23% in renewable energy will be generated for a total of 65% renewable energy.

Electrical use everywhere is envisioned to continue to increase as more homes get electrified, cities continue to grow and add electric meters, and data centers pop up across the country demanding vast amounts of electricity. We are fortunate DMEA has held rates steady, has a very high reliability rate, while also planning for a renewable future. Of course there is always more we can ask of DMEA, but I'll be happy to pay one of the lowest electricity rates around.

COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

SECONDARY CRASH INVOLVING TOW TRUCK DRIVER, PATROL VEHICLE ON WESTBOUND I-70

Special to the Mirror

EAGLE COUNTY- Yesterday at 8:09 p.m., the Colorado State Patrol responded to westbound I-70, milepost 158, on a crash involving a tow truck. There have been multiple crashes in the area due to icy road conditions. The tow truck was in the area assisting a motorist stuck in the snow with his lights activated. The tow truck was then struck by a Ford F250.

While the Trooper was on scene investigating the tow truck and Ford F250 crash, the Trooper's patrol vehicle was struck by a Jeep. The tow truck driver was pinned between the tow truck bed and the patrol vehicle. The Trooper was able to move before being struck.

The tow truck driver was transported to an area hospital. The tow truck driver has non life threatening injuries. The Trooper was not injured.

This remains an active investigation, with investigators still on scene. All possible causes for this crash are still under investigation.



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COLORADO INAUGURAL BALL 2025 ANNOUNCED

Special to the Mirror

DENVER-The Lincoln Club of Colorado announces it is hosting the statewide 2025 Colorado Inaugural Ball on Monday, January 20 to celebrate the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance and all Colorado Republican victories.

“This will be a formal event to celebrate Republican victories and look ahead to a bright 2025 with an evening of fine dining, dancing, and camaraderie,” said Drew Bolin, president of the Lincoln Club of Colorado. “We encourage Republicans and conservatives to get tickets now and be part of this historic celebration.”

The Colorado Inaugural Ball is scheduled for Monday January 20, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at the Marriott Denver Tech Center, 4900 S Syracuse Street, Denver, CO 80237.

- The evening celebration includes:
 - 3 course Meal Choice of Chicken, Salmon, or Vegetarian
 - Dancing to the 19-Piece Mile High Big Band
 - Complimentary Champagne Toast
 - Cash Bar with drink specials
 - Free Event Parking
 - Live Feed from Washington D.C. Inaugural Balls
- The Colorado Inaugural Ball is a formal attire event, Black Tie Optional, and the Master of Ceremonies will be Deborah Flora, former radio personality and co-founder of Douglas County Citizenry.

Tickets are limited and available at: <https://secure.anedot.com/lincolnclubofcolorado/2025inaugural>





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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

PROJECT 7 PROPOSED WATER TREATMENT PLANT: WILL WATER BE AFFORDABLE IN THE FUTURE?

Editor:

This would have been written after the most recent meeting of the Project 7 Board on December 19, 2024, but I wanted everyone to enjoy their Christmas and New Years without dwelling on this alarming situation. If the six member Project 7 Board approves a new water treatment plant to be located just north of the Ridgeway Reservoir Dam, water fees for the entire Uncompahgre Valley could possibly quadruple over the next 40-50 years, with the largest portion being paid by Montrose residents because of our town having the largest population base of the six districts. I'm sorry to say you have no voice in this decision. This project, if completed, could cost in excess of \$179,000,000 not including interest. Interest only would be paid the first 11 years without any payment on principal.

The Project 7 Board started considering this project years ago and began working on it in earnest in early 2023 and has already committed to \$10,000,000 in design fees. The final commitment for the entire project may come as early as the end of January 2025 or as late as March 2025. At the December 19 meeting, a board member commented that he did not totally understand the financing of this project. In response, a government fiduciary con-

sultant told the board that he needed the board's approval to speak with each board and staff member so that he could relate back to the board what the total requirements will be to complete the project and what it *might* cost. The aforementioned \$179,000,000 price could just be a starting point.

Property owners in the Montrose area were recently able to vote on the proposal for a new high school, armed with the knowledge of what additional taxes to each property owner would be if passed. However, Project 7's new treatment plant costs have never been explained to the water users who would have to pay for it monthly for decades. We, the water users, are unable to vote on this project, other than the six board members, when it will impact the water bills of 40-50,000 people for years to come. Why? It is also interesting to note that the proposed treatment plant will only produce ¼ of the water that the present plant provides. One reason given for the need for the new plant seemed to be the possibility of damage to the Gunnison Tunnel currently in use, but the tunnel is inspected regularly for any problems and has never been closed since its opening in 1909. Another concern is the possibility of forest fire debris getting into the water source for the

existing treatment plant, but there are already in place three holding areas that would help mitigate any debris problem. If you have concerns about this issue, I would suggest that you express them to the below listed board members. The decision will be made soon by the 6 board member of Project 7. There will be a community meeting about this Project 7 decision at the Montrose Event Center on Wednesday January 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. I hope you will be there with your questions and concerns. For more information, reference David White's articles in the October 7, November 25 and December 9 Montrose Mirror.

Brian White, Montrose CO

Project 7 Board of Directors:

- Montrose: David Bries 970-240-1484 dbries@cityofmontrose.org
- Delta: Mayor Kevin Carlson 970 874-7566 kevin@cityofdeltanet.net
- Olathe: Mayor Jake Foreman 970 323-5601 jacob.foreman@geocities.com
- Tri-County Water District: Vicki Ripp 970 874-5127 info@tricitywater.org
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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

THERE IS AN ELECTION IN 2025 FOR FOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Editor:

Writer Kevin Finn wrote an interesting article titled "The Democrats Get a 12th Step Call." When a person suffering from an addiction reaches rock bottom, sometimes the only intervention that has any chance of success comes from an individual who has successfully recovered from the same addiction. Alcoholics Anonymous call this a "12th Step Call." Finn's basic point was that if Democrats, who are addicted to their own failed narratives, recognize that they've hit rock bottom, there is a possibility they may yet recover. He points out that there are now voices among the left pointing out the need for drastic change. He mentions comedian Bill Maher, who's been criticizing Democrat excesses, and Democrat focus groups that are clearly saying their own constituents no longer believe what their party is telling them. He mentions former Democrats Tulsi Gabbard who left the party because it is "under the complete control of an elitist cabal of warmongers" and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. who left because Democrats are "resorting to censorship, media control, and weaponization of federal agencies." Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY) noted that "the working class is not buying the ivory-towered nonsense that the far left is selling."

I would add former DNC Finance Director Lindy Li, who left the Democrat Party after coming under attack for criticizing the outrageous spending by Kamala's presidential campaign. "My initial disillusionment became clear when I realized they spent, they essentially set \$2.5 billion on fire. there's been no accountability. We still haven't gotten any answers as to why Oprah, Oprah, a billionaire, got \$2.5 million And they spent \$500,000 essentially bribing Al Sharpton before he interviewed her." Americans now associate Dems with high crime, migrant gangs taking over apartment complexes, and biological men taking over women's sports and raping women in women's prisons. Between the obsessive demonization of Trump and his supporters, the rank incompetence and/or deliberate destructive actions of the Biden administration, and the constant push for race-and-gender-war lunacy, Democrats have truly transformed their party. One of Biden's final "screw you" to America was working out a plea deal with 9/11 terrorist mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two other 9/11 terrorists, sparing them the death sentence for the 2,975 innocents they

slaughtered on 9/11. Meanwhile, after the FBI spent four years persecuting dissidents rather than hunting real terrorists, we are now having terrorist attacks in our cities. Perhaps the FBI should have spent more time catching actual terrorists rather than targeting parents, Catholics, and dangerous grandmothers demonstrating near abortion clinics. It is hard to imagine that at least some sane Democrats are not realizing their toxic party needs an overhaul.

Perhaps some of the people in our education system are also getting a "12th Step Call." They certainly need some type of intervention. An article in higher education's flagship magazine indicates some in academia might be recognizing it needs to change. The Chronicle of Higher Education op-ed was brutally honest about the sorry state of their industry, acknowledging that public opinion of the education system has reached an all time low. The article states that many academics have forgotten their original purpose (teaching truth) in favor of political activism. So, rather than teach students how to think and reason or provide them with useful skills, we now have English teachers trying to propagandize their captive audience about the evils of capitalism and how racist their political opposition is. Never mind the fact that the English teacher may know something about his assigned subject matter but probably has no expertise in much else.

Our local school district, in particular Superintendent Stephenson and five of the seven school board members, have shown their community that they are in dire need of intervention. Leah Vandersluis said it best (MM 12/30): "What the majority of the school board forget was that they were voted in by the people and are supposed to represent them." Stephenson and five of the school board members attitudes are not that much different than Biden's Education Secretary Miguel Cardona who said he doesn't have "too much respect" for parents speaking out at school board meetings and that they're "acting like they know what's right for kids!" Our illustrious Superintendent insulted the major segment of those parents when she posted "Not all Trump supporters are racist. But all of them decided that racism isn't a deal breaker." This is the same school superintendent who wants us to believe that critical race theory is some benign idea only taught in upper level university studies. This is the same "leadership" that refuses to ad-

dress the valid questions regarding MCSD administrative staffing levels compared to other area school districts. This is the same school board whose president, Sarah Fisher, is known for scolding and attempting to belittle the two of the school board members doing what they were elected to do – ask questions and ensure that important policy changes are not simply rubber-stamped. They also ineptly attempted to justify a new \$200 million high school.

These are the same people who just denied the application for Montrose Classical Academy by a 5-2 vote, despite overwhelming evidence of support in the community. They ignored the fact that hundreds of Montrose area families representing over 300 children in grades K-6 signed a letter of intent to enroll. They ignored their own District Accountability Committee who voted 10-3 in favor of recommending the MCA application for approval. They also ignored that the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers, who was brought in as an external reviewer, scored the application favorably with recommendations on conditions. They totally ignored the 62% of Montrose County voters who just voted to support school choice in the recent election. Their actions reinforce the idea that the voices of parents, the recommendations of experts, and even the facts do not matter to them. All that matters is maintaining their monopoly, where the academics and the unions that control them have no incentive to improve. They just keep whistling in the dark as if the problems expressed by parents, students, taxpayers, and their fellow teachers do not exist. They eagerly give each other awards (and 34% salary increases) to distract themselves from clear indications that the education they are providing is mediocre at best --- and getting worse. (Linda Gann, MM 12/23, wants us to know the Colorado Association of School Boards just gave Montrose High School a big award.)

It is obvious that the needed intervention in the Montrose County School District will not come from within. Those parents upset at being ignored have at least one clear option. As Leah Vandersluis mentioned, there is an election in 2025 for four school board members. We need more board members like Neisha Balleck and Ted Valerio who are part of the solution and not a major part of the problem.

Ed Henrie, Montrose



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JANUARY 25, 2025

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Jon Sands is a winner of the 2018 National Poetry Series, selected for his second book, *It's Not Magic* (Beacon Press, 2019). He is the facilitator of the Emotional Historians workshop, a series of generative writing classes you can find out more about on IG at @iAmJonSands. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, published in *The Rumpus*, *The Millions*, *Cortland Review*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Muzzle*, and many others, as well as anthologized in *The Best American Poetry*. He is a curator for *SupaDupaFresh*, a monthly reading series at Babel Loft in Brooklyn, and has received residencies and fellowships from the Blue Mountain Center, the Brooklyn Arts Council, the Jerome Foundation, and the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses.

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Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc. and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office are seeking the help of citizens to identify and locate suspects involved in criminal mischief and animal abuse in the area of 25 Mesa Road approximately 1 mile south of the Delta/Montrose County Line. Suspects are believed to have used a firearm to injure and kill cattle in this area on 12/29/2024 between the hours of 0400 and 1000, causing significant damage.

Anyone with information about this crime or the identity of the perpetrator(s) or any other crimes may call Crime Stoppers anonymously at (970)249-8500, use the app P3 Tips, or provide information via P3Tips.com. Crimes Stoppers wants your information, not your identity. If the Tip results in an arrest, the Tipster may receive a cash award. For additional information, please view our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/montroseregionalcrimestoppers.

Crime Prevention and crime solution are everyone's responsibility. MRCS would also like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. MRCS would like to remind everyone that all persons of interest depicted in our Alerts by photo or not, or by any other means, are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CITIZENS WELCOME MONTROSE DOGE IN 2025!

Editor:

Welcome to 2025 and a new way for Montrose Citizens/Residents to connect for improving local government efficiency with your tax dollars and concerns!

We are inviting input via voicemail, text and email to share information and observations potentially useful in shoring up taxpayer expenditures and concerns. We are informal in nature and anticipate providing information and true transparency.

Contact Montrose Citizens DOGE at:

Voice 970-8928638

Text 970-892-8638

Email montrosecitizendoge@gmail.com

John Brown <montrosecitizendoge@gmail.com>

We encourage all residents and citizens to continue to subscribe and read the Montrose Mirror where you can find out what is happening in and around Montrose and our local government. Please be part of the solution and bring light to the darkness.

John Brown, Citizen of Montrose, Colorado

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OPINION/EDITORIAL: CORRECTION

COUNTY MANAGER FRANK RODRIGUEZ: CORRECTIONS TO DAVID WHITE OP/ED

Editor:

In the interest of ensuring that your readers are armed with accurate information, I wanted to highlight some corrections in David White's recent article; "LIVING RENT FREE IN THEIR HEADS."

Mr. White made mention of the following:

"Not content with being in total control of the messages the public receives from not only the Commissioners but also the County's Manager's Office as well as with their justifications for questionable decisions, bad mouthing their detractors, etc., their thin-skinned natures now require more public relations cover in the form of not only a replacement for departed County Comms Director Katie Yergensen (who went over to DMEA as their Marketing and Communications Director) in the form of Ms. Yergensen's assistant, Erika Story, but an expansion of their Public Information/ Communications Office. The office, under

current plans, will grow to a total of three (3) individuals to include a new Community Engagement Specialist with combined salary and benefits packages sure to exceed \$200,000 per year for these 3 employees. Really?"

CORRECTION:

-Erika Story previously served as the Digital Communications Manager for Montrose County and not as Katie Yergensen's assistant.

-Erika Story was recently selected as Montrose County's new Communications Director. Director Story was selected from a field of candidates that included an in-person panel interview from a diversified Board who incorporated challenging questions intended on demonstrating leadership, vision and the communications acumen of candidates. Board members were each given a scoring sheet ensuring impartiality and objectiveness in the selection procedures.


-Referencing the expansion of the Com-

munications Department, the Communications Department already had three existing full-time positions: Director of Communications, Digital Communications Manager, and Digital Accessibility Coordinator.

-The Digital Accessibility Coordinator is a position created in response to CO HB21-1110 Colorado Laws For Persons With Disabilities.

-We recently moved the Accessibility Coordinator to the IT department and the third position in the Communications Department will be the Communications Engagement Specialist. In the spirit of customer service, this role will be to ensure we [Montrose County] are doing everything we can to make ourselves available and pass along accurate and objective information to Montrose County residents.

*Thank you and Happy New Year,
Frank A. Rodriguez,
Montrose County Manager*




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

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GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter

Where Wallflowers Grow is available online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [wingedpublications.com](https://www.wingedpublications.com).



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OPINION/EDITORIAL: LETTERS

CELEBRITIES CAN'T SEEM TO CONTROL THEIR HATRED FOR TRUMP

Editor:

Well here we go again. Another Donald Trump inauguration and in my opinion the

best event in politics in my lifetime, and I am in my 70s.

Now let's see if the insane left celebrities

pull some of their stunts.

You know what stunts I am talking about. 1. Madonna saying she is thinking a lot about blowing up the white house. She was never arrested or charged for publicly inciting an attack on our duly elected government.

2. Snoop dog making a video of himself executing my duly elected President Donald Trump. He was never arrested or charged for threatening an assassination.

3. Kathy Griffin made a video of herself holding a severed bloody head of President Donald Trump. She was never arrested or charged for inciting the beheading of the duly elected President.

4. Pretend mafia tough guy Robert Dinero claimed he wanted to punch Donald Trump in the mouth. He was never arrested or charged for threatening our President. Tough woman Pelosi also said she wanted to punch Trump outshe should be arrested.

5. And the most sickening of all ...Class clown George Lopez urinated on Donald Trump star on Hollywood sidewalk just to remain relevant. That pig was never arrested or charged with public indecency.

6. J-low spewed several filth laced public statements about our President and she was never arrested or charged with indecency or threats.

And that ain't all folks keep your eyes open because I fully expect the crazies to go absolutely nuts this time, and I expect them to infect the country with their uncontrollable hatred.

Bob Stollsteimer, Montrose

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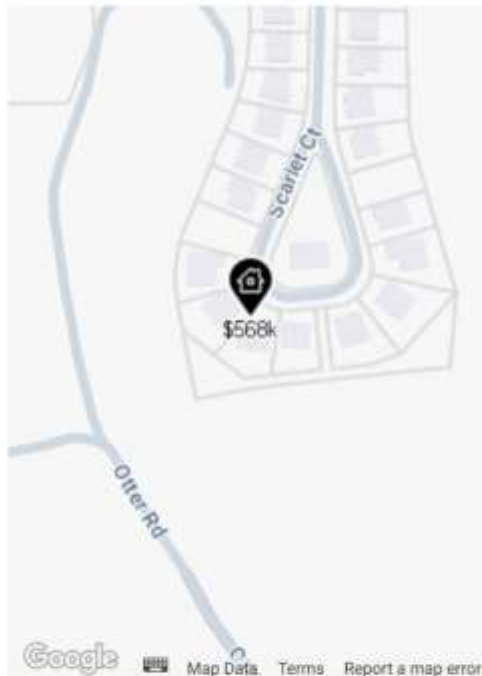
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MONTROSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN AND COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE TRUMP 47 INAUGURATION

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-The Montrose Republican Women are inviting the community to celebrate the Inauguration of Donald J. Trump on Monday, January 20, 2025.

The Trump Victory Gala will be held at the Montrose Elks Lodge #1053 on S Hillcrest Drive beginning at 6pm - 10pm.

Those attending will watch some of the Washington D.C. Inaugural Balls on the big screen, dance along with President Trump and Melania, and champagne toast the 47th President.

The event includes live and silent auctions, appetizers, music, and other fun activities to be enjoyed by revelers. No tickets are required, however, a suggested donation of \$10 at the door is greatly appreciated. We ask that you bring cash or checks (ATM available) for the evening events. All proceeds support the MRW Chapter's educational programs and scholarships for our Montrose County high schools' graduating Seniors.

MIRROR IMAGES: OUT & ABOUT



At left, B. Switzer ntook this photo of an old frame saw beside a cabin.

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COLORADO NEWS BRIEFS

ARREST WARRANTS ISSUED FOR PARK COUNTY MURDER SUSPECTS

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

HARTSEL – The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in partnership with the Park County Sheriff's Office and 11th Judicial District Attorney's Office has obtained arrest warrants for two murder suspects captured in Poplarville, Mississippi for the homicide of a Hartsel man.

The arrest warrants for 46-year-old Johnny Rankin Morris and 43-year-old Hailey Cole list the following counts:

First Degree Murder – Intent/Deliberation (Felony) Aggravated Robbery (Felony) First Degree Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft

(Felony)

Tampering with Evidence of Felony Crime (Felony)

Conspiracy (Felony)

They are accused of killing 65-year-old Timmy Huston sometime on December 19, 2024.

Also on December 19, 2024, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office began investigating the disappearance of 37-year-old Stephen Walker, who resided in a private residence where Johnny Rankin Morris was a housemate. El Paso Sheriff Detectives discovered a large pool of blood in the garage of the home where the two men

lived.

On December 24, 2024 Park County Sheriff Deputies received a Welfare Check request for Timmy Huston. During that investigation a Deputy discovered Walker's car about 1.5 miles away from Huston's home. The Park County Sheriff's Office then contacted the El Paso County Sheriff's Office about its investigation.

The Park County Sheriff's Office discovered Timmy Huston deceased inside his Hartsel, Colorado home later that day on December 24, 2024 and requested assistance from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Law Enforcement put out an alert for Morris and Cole, who were believed to be traveling to their home state of Mississippi in Huston's truck, a Ford F250.

On December 28, 2024, the Lamar County Sheriff's Office [Mississippi] located the Ford F250 truck.

On December 30, 2024, Morris and Cole were arrested by the Pearl River County Sheriff's Office [Mississippi].

Questions about what charges Morris may face in El Paso County related to the homicide of Walker should be directed to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and the 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

The CBI and Park County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the following law enforcement agencies from across the US for their assistance with this case including the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office (LA), Louisiana Fusion Center, Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Real Time Crime Center, Lamar County Sheriff's Office (MS), Pearl River County Sheriff's Office (MS), Picayune Police Department (MS), Hattiesburg Police Department (MS), Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, El Paso County Sheriff's Office (CO), Aurora Police Department (CO), Chaffee County Sheriff's Office (CO), Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (CO), Buena Vista Police Department (CO), Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

Help from these law enforcement agencies and the citizens in local communities across Colorado, Louisiana, and Mississippi were essential to this case.

Any and all charges are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Further information will be shared as it becomes available.



8500

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COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

WILLENE C. DAVIDSON

May 9, 1939 — December 30, 2024

WILLENE C. DAVIDSON our beloved mother and grandmother passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, December 30, 2024 at the age of 85 with her loving family at her bedside.

Willene was born at home on a warm spring day in 1939 in rural Coffee Georgia to Alton Carter and Tetley May Johnson. She was delivered by her grandmother, Ocy Carter who was a very loving and important part of her life especially after her parents' marriage ended in divorce.

Willene spent her early years in rural Georgia attending school and working on the family tobacco and sugar cane farm. There, one of her many chores was to help keep the mule that powered the sugar cane grinder moving. She also earned \$2 a day helping during the tobacco harvest and collected bottles to turn in for cash.

Later, her father remarried and the now blended family including her stepmother Lenora Crews and son Frank moved to Jacksonville Florida for improved economic opportunities; and where her father worked as an optician. Willene graduated from high school in Jacksonville and had plans to attend nursing school when her college savings was called on to help support the family after a financial crisis. Willene then went to work at Prudential Insurance as a secretary. She and her friends would save to rent small beach

houses and it was one weekend at the beach that she was to meet her future husband Lendell (Dave) W. Davidson, a seaman in the United States Navy.

Lendell and Willene were married on March 7, 1959 by Reverend Ware of the Jacksonville Methodist Church. They moved to Colorado residing in the state for the entirety of their 57 years of marriage.

Willene worked as a secretary, nursing assistant, and office manager at San Juan Vet Clinic for Dr. Susan House.

Willene was proud to be a homemaker and mother to her children. She always put the needs of others before herself and was a genuinely kind and gentle soul. Her children were always secure in the knowledge that they were loved.

Her special interests included cooking, growing a large garden with enough to share, crocheting, canning, sewing, reading, and raising finches of all varieties. She was a den mother to cub scouts.



Willene is survived by daughter Sandra (Ed) Walker, son Scott (Gwen) Davidson, five grandchildren Jordan Walker and Amber, Carmen, Olivia, and Lindsey Davidson as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her parents Alton and May Carter, her husband, a son James A. Davidson and her sister Waunell Mann of Baxley, Georgia. At Willene's request a private family graveside service will be held at Grandview Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Crippin Funeral Home and Crematorium. In lieu of flowers, Please donate to HopeWest Hospice 725 S. 4th Street. Montrose, CO

News, if unreported, has no impact.
It might as well have not happened at all.
Thank you for reading The Montrose Mirror.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

BARBARA WARD

August 12, 1940 — December 29, 2024



BARBARA LOUISE SECREST WARD passed away on Sunday, December 29, 2024. Barbara was born August 12, 1940, in Minden, Louisiana. Barbara cherished her family above all else in life. Her grandson was the joy of her life and the reason she moved to Montrose. Barbara was formerly an activity director in Longmont, Colorado at the Bridge Assisted Living helping with the grand opening and remained employed there for ten years. After moving to Montrose, she was active as a volunteer for Region 10 assisting in special projects and events. She was also a certified volunteer ombudsman for Region 10 for two years. She was an active volunteer most of her life, especially after retirement in Montrose, volunteering for several local organizations. Barbara was a published writer, an award-winning photographer, and a freelance writer for several newspapers. She enjoyed playing piano for numerous senior facilities in the Longmont and Montrose areas. Barbara and her precious sweet toy schnauzer loved volunteering with Morning Star Therapy Dogs, visiting any place that was needed. Barbara's faith was an important part of her life. She was an active member of the Church of Christ since age 14. Barbara is survived by her son Jason Ward and his wife Bethany along with her grandson Colton of Montrose, her brother-in-law Don Tate of Vidalia, Louisiana, and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service for Barbara will be arranged at a later date.

OLIVE "MONA" RAMONA KLEIN

December 24, 1934 — December 29, 2024



OLIVE RAMONA KLEIN (WILSON) was born December 24, 1934, in Nucla, Colorado. She went to school in Nucla and finished high school in Ouray, Colo. Mona passed away at home with family December 29, 2024. Mona is survived by her daughters Sandy (Don) Reed, Cheryl (Scott) Taylor, Shelly (Matt) Smith, Carrie (Mike) Getchius and son Keith (Beth) Fellin; 16 grandchildren B.J. Tricia, Matt, Michael, Amber, Hunter, Christopher, Kelly, Katie, Lauren, Caleb, Isaac, Sheena, Cody, Denton and Keedin; nine great grandkids and one new great-great grandson and several nieces and nephews; Sister Nola (Robert) Clark.

She was preceded in death by her first husband Oliver Junior Fellin, who she had six children with, Peter Klein who she was married to for 52 years and helped raise her six kids like they were his own, daughter Cathy Ledford, parents Buford Wilson and Mildred Gibbs, brothers Keith Wilson, Robert Wilson, Junior Gibbs and sister Barbara Chapman.

Mona loved her camping in her shepherd's tent, hunting arrowheads with her kids and grandkids. Even in her last days she talked about going camping and hunting arrowheads. We were able to keep Mom at home with the help of her granddaughters Katie Taylor, Tricia Kuboske, her great granddaughter McKenna Kuboske and Christine Kelley a family friend.

COMMUNITY OBITUARIES

AUTUMN "BING" JEAN PLUME

September 19, 1926 — December 22, 2024

AUTUMN (BING) was born September 19th, 1926, in Wood River, Illinois and was carried by the Angels to the arms of Jesus on December 22, 2024. She spent 98 years helping others and sharing His love.

Bing married Charles Virgil Plume on July 22, 1950, in California and they spent 75 years, five months loving each other. They had three daughters, Robin Barnard (Brian), Janice Bear (Ken) and Bonnie Slack (Dave). Kathy Wilbur (Lee) her loving Caregiver.

Bing sadly was preceded in death by her youngest daughter Bonnie, whom she loved dearly. Her mother and father, Augusta Sewell Parish and John Parish. Her brothers John Parish and Eldon Parish, and sisters Virginia Parish and Dawn Parish Naig.

Bing and Virgil were blessed with nine Grandchildren: Sara Henderson (Shawn),

Amy Crider (Trace), Stefany Gess (Andrew), Daniel Lonow, Ralph Lonow (Stephanie), Bret Lonow, Jack Nichols (Suzie), Amanda Welling (Matt), Aaron Slack (Martha).

Great-grandchildren: Kyler Robinson (Colleen), Mikayla Robinson, Ella Crider, Reece Crider, Emily Crider, Luke Gess, Lydia Gess, Cole Gess, Woodley Gess, Levi Lonow, Maddie Lonow, James Lonow, William Welling, Jack Welling, Henry Welling, Karolina Slack, Genevieve Slack, Juliana Bonnie Jean Slack, Jayden Newman. Great-great-grandchildren: Hunter Robinson, Violet Robinson.

Bing was a Registered Nurse for 37 years, she was instrumental in starting two churches, leading Bible Studies and mentoring women. She loved sewing for her family, bird watching, flowers, chocolate and her husband Virgil.



Bings' devotion to Jesus Christ has been a blessing and example for her family and friends.

MARIE GERALDINA BREZINSKY

April 25, 1946 - December 21, 2024

On December 21, Marie Geraldina Brezinsky, of Berwyn, IL passed away peacefully at her home in Montrose, CO at the age of 78. She was the daughter of Andrew and Lorraine Mikita and the loving wife of George Brezinsky, having been married for 60 years.

She is survived by her husband George, and three children, Matthew, his wife Kristy and their daughter Hailey, Michael and his wife Christine along with their five children, Hannah, Luke, Julia, Patrick, and Catherine, as well as Michelle Khant, her husband Neil and their three children, Caitlyn, Jake, and Isabelle. Along with her nine grandchildren, she was also blessed with two great grandchildren, Sophia and Amelia.

She loved spending time outdoors in the sunshine and valued time with family and friends. She delighted in sharing stories about her childhood and her life experiences. She enjoyed cooking and baking. She was also a pet lover and adored her many dogs over the years, treating them like part of the family. She brought joy to all of those who knew her, and she could always light up a room. She will be dearly missed.

A vigil and rosary will be held on Tuesday, January 7th at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose. Her funeral Mass will be celebrated on January 8th at 10 am at St. Mary's Church.



ISSUE 502 Jan. 6, 2025

ART & SOL

INFRASTRUCTURE - A PROBLEM FROM DAY ONE



A view of Main Street in Montrose around the end of the 19th century, shows the wagon ruts, water and mud that challenged those who patronized the businesses. Photo from the Denver Library Digital Collection.

By Bob Cox

MONTROSE-Towns and cities do not just happen. They spring up to support people who are in pursuit of their dreams, and, in the process, they become supporters of the founders. If they succeed, the town grows and prospers. If they fail, they simply fade into history.

As quickly as the idea of forming a town starts to take shape, the founders are

mandated to address the problems of infrastructure. When that word 'infrastructure' is mentioned, today's citizen will automatically begin the list with streets and water.

When people began settling in the area in and around what is now Montrose, just as in other places, there were people who saw an opportunity and began the process of forming a town that would support

transportation (trains), agriculture, mining, timber harvesting and many other enterprises. The Montrose town plat was no sooner drawn than people began demanding the infrastructure.

In 1883, as the town started to take shape, a new train depot was to be built. The area near the depot began to look like a town, but Main Street was a simple, often muddy, wagon trail. A photo taken that year by Thomas J. Reeves, shows the area from about Townsend Avenue looking west. Main Street is awash with mud and debris, but businesses began to crop up and the founders of the town began looking forward to it becoming a registered town.

When William F. Diehl came to Montrose in the late 1800s to establish a blacksmithing and wagon business, his wife was not impressed with the condition of the main street. A relative of the Diehl's recalled, in a 1934 interview with a representative of the Civil Workers Administration, that Mrs. Diehl once said that she had come from a modern town and could not get used to the idea of water running down the street, causing mud that was so deep that she often lost a shoe while trying to cross the street. Most of the water problem was caused by a poorly kept ditch that diverted water from the Uncompahgre River and the problem was addressed frequently, but other problems persisted. A particularly bothering one

Continued next pg

INFRASTRUCTURE - A PROBLEM FROM DAY ONE From previous pg

was documented in the *Rocky Mountain News* on September 5, 1892:
WORTHLESS LOTS.

No Assessment Made Upon Valueless Property in Montrose. Special to The News. Montrose, Colo., Sept. 4.—The People's party county treasurer has taken a very commendable step in relation to the advertisement of taxes on lots in Montrose park and East Montrose Subdivision. He has secured the best legal advice on the matter, which he will declare these lots "unavailable" and not advertise them. This will be a great saving to the county and also to innocent purchasers of these worthless lots.

The article went on to compare a land fraud in a Denver suburb to those Montrose lots, but fell short of calling any sale of the east Montrose lots a fraud. Still, the use of those lots from just east of Nevada Avenue to San Juan Avenue remained a problem for several years. In early 1910, the problem came to a head and resulted in the city abandoning the streets and alleys in the affected area. Here is an excerpt from the main body to the ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE Vacating Avenues, Streets and Alleys...

Be it ordained by the city council of the City of Montrose: Section 1. Whereas, it appears to the council that Blocks 0 and 7 of said town in the City of Montrose and Blocks «, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 in Lautsenhizer Subdivision No. 2. and Blocks 105, 100 and 115 in Lautsenhizer addition to town and city of Montrose were largely a swamp and impassable and that not being a marsh, was covered with a heavy growth of chico, and other undergrowth...

And, the very wordy ordinance went on to conclude that the street, avenues and alley would be abandoned and the land once again to be used for farming in an attempt to neutralize the high content of alkali and the misuse of water.

In early March of 1898, two men caused

a somewhat ironic move to improve the streets in Montrose. In the mid 1890s, prior to the automobile craze, the chain-driven bicycle was introduced to the American public. It quickly became a transportation option for many, but the wagon roads of the time were not conducive to comfortable bicycle travel. The poor roads resulted in the founding of the League of American Wheelmen. The L.A.W. started the Good Roads Movement. The group had a good following in Montrose, Delta and Grand Junction. They sent representatives and money to Montrose and encouraged the city to improve its streets and roads in order to attract a gathering of the Wheelmen. Their efforts produced results. On March 10, 1898 the following article appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News*:

Good Streets in Montrose.

H. C. Allen and J. E. Berry are in from Montrose. in attendance on the board meeting of the L. A. W. (League of American Wheelmen) 'Mr. Allen says that the activity of the wheelmen in Montrose has made farmers and townsmen their friends and will result in the streets of that little town being better kept than those of any other place in the state. Last year the wheelmen raised a fund, carefully graded four streets of the town and had them rolled. Those streets were in excellent order all summer and were freely ridden over by both wheelmen and vehicle drivers. The result is that the town council will have all the streets put in order within a few weeks and have promised to keep them so all summer. Montrose is after the state meet of the league, and will likely get it, having a good claim. There will be races in Montrose on September 20 and 21 anyway, and a race meet would be held earlier.

Water remained a problem for the main business area of Montrose. The Montrose Ditch, which supplied water to the town, was often a point of contention. Several

times B. L. Osborn was accused of damming the ditch and causing water to run over the streets. On May 7, 1913, Osborn wrote a very lengthy (1,000 words) letter to the *Montrose Daily Press*. The first 120 words set up Osborn's side of the story:
*So the People May Know
 In the council meeting of the 2nd inst., I notice Chairman Posey of the street and alley committee, reported that I had been damming up the city ditch and running water upon my land and he wishes the marshal to have authority to stop this obstruction; also that I had entered into a contract with the city some years ago to come into the city, provided the city would permit me to connect with the sewer and water mains, and that the matter was referred to the city attorney to see what the city's rights were, and that I be ordered to bring my property into the city.*

At about that same time discussion began regarding the paving of Main Street and the lighting of the streets.

The lighting upgrades came quickly, with arc lamps being hung over Main Street. Paving was not decided on as quickly. The big question that frequently arose was who was going to pay for the improvements. Some thought the city should pay all costs, while others opined that the costs should be covered by the businesses that adjoined the paved area.

In mid-June of 1918 the city passed an ordinance designed to get the paving done.

The June 14, 1918 edition of the *Montrose Press* reported, with the lead reading:

Will Pave Main Street

The paving of Main Street will go ahead in spite of the objections of a few well-known citizens.

It was nearly one year later that the project finally came to fruition. There are several reports of businesses beginning to grow and prosper after the paving of Main Street.



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julie@thehiddenlakecommunity.com www.thehiddenlakecommunity.com

THE BAREFOOT LAUREATE: FATHER TIME, MOTHER NATURE AND THE CHILDREN OF EARTH



By Wendy Videlock. Courtesy photo.

PALISADE—My mother’s house is small and charming and contains two grandfather clocks, eleven clocks that hang from the walls and nine table-clocks. I know this because I counted them.

Almost all of these clocks are set to chime every fifteen minutes. (This wreaks havoc on my nervous system).

Clearly my mother has a curious relationship to time. She’s arranged her home so that she is ever reminded of its passage. But she’s not alone. I don’t know anybody who doesn’t have a strange relationship with time.

Some people are notoriously late. They often curse the time under their breath and in public. They wonder why time doesn’t adjust to their busy schedules. Their relationship to time feels strained.

Some people are always early. They arrive at the party 45 minutes early and want to chat. They whisk through the airport a few hours before their flight. These people don’t seem to mind waiting— so long as they know they’ll eventually be on time. I am married to such a person.

Some people are punctual and arrive to work every morning or to Sunday brunch

precisely on time. Such people might have a healthy relationship with time but I suspect they are just smooth operators, disciples of time management or perfectly aligned with their circadian rhythm.

Some people live in the past. We all know these kinds of people. Their relationship with time might be one of arrested development.

Some people live in the future. They know exactly what’s going to happen in five years and ten years and in a hundred years and are greatly excited by it. They are either destined for great reward or certain the end is near.

Still other people are completely oblivious to time. It’s as though time, (one’s own and everyone else’s), is irrelevant to these people. Their relationship to time might be sublime and child-like—or might be tragic and narcissistic.

Still other people seem to live their lives comfortably in the present moment. They don’t appear driven by the clock, but just happen to be where they need to be at the time they need to be there. For these people, time is a friendly companion, neither distressed or perplexing. What I wouldn’t give to be one of those people!

The mystic poet William Blake is philosophical about the nature of time:

*He who binds himself to a joy
Does the winged life destroy;
But he who kisses joy as it flies
Lives in Eternity’s sunrise.*

Edna St Vincent Millay takes issue with a common conception about time:

Time does not bring relief; you all have lied

Who told me time would ease me of my pain!

Lao Tzu tell us a hard truth: To say *I don’t have time* is to say *I don’t want to*.

Ovid called time “the devourer of all things”.

Jeanette Winterson said it much more beautifully: “Time, like a flurry of wild rain,

shall drift across the plains of our lives.”

Some insist time is no more than a human construct while others live and breathe by the clock.

Einstein called time the fourth dimension.

Most physicists today agree that time is not universally linear, and that this non-linearity distorts the 3-dimensional space we observe. It is difficult to wrap one’s head around this, but it makes a strange kind of intuitive sense.

According to the poets, novelists, and sages, time is an active metaphorical force: it heals, steals, flies, flows and occasionally freezes or stands still.

While time is busy doing all that, we are busy making time, taking our time, saving time, keeping time, wasting time, killing time, biding our time and wondering where the time went.

We humans have been gazing toward the heavens and measuring the passage of time for millennia. Ice-age hunters in Europe 20,000 years ago scratched lines and gouged holes in sticks and bones in what appears to be a method of counting the days between phases of the moon.

Many cultures have personified time and made deities of time. We have invented sundials, obelisks, water clocks, alarm clocks, digital clocks, lunar and solar calendars, and spent countless hours trying to understand and accurately measure time. And although we are immersed in time, captured in time, beholden to time and transfixed by time, it remains a mystery to us all.

Wendy Videlock serves as poet laureate of Western Colorado. She directs several literacy programs across the region, advocating for the arts in public spaces. Her books are available wherever books are sold.

Reach her at westernslope-word@gmail.com



MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Office Hours: By appointment.

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

 don@allsaintsmontrose.org)

Worship Service Times: Sundays 9AM,

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

All Saints Anglican Church is an Evangelical
 Anglican Church committed to the minis-
 try of Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. Our
 music is a combination of traditional
 hymns, contemporary, and modern songs.

We invite kids preschool and up to join
 our kids worship time during the 9am Sun-
 day service. We would love to welcome
 you here. Following the service, join us for
 snacks and conversation. On the third Sun-
 day of the month we celebrate a potluck
 meal together.

Vision: We see Jesus Christ restoring
 hope: in us and in our world.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Independent Baptist
 112Main St.
 P.O. Box 262

Olathe, Co 81425

Tuesday-Friday Phone: 970-808-1021
www.biblebaptistchurcholathe.com

Pastor Gabe Skillo

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION CHURCH

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

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (970) 497-4925

Email: celebrationmontrose@gmail.com

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

Worship Service Times: 9am and 10:45am

Senior Pastor:

Pastor Brandon Mathis

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

ture, discipleship, community, service,
 prayer, love, and unity.

Demographics: Multi-generational

Celebration Kids: (age birth to 5th grade)
 programs offered both services.

Student (middle & high school) at 9am.

Adult -Discipleship classes 8am and
 10:45am.

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

Name of Church: Christ's Church of the
 Valley

Denomination Affiliation: Non-
 denominational Christian Church/Church
 of Christ

Address: 10 Hillcrest Plaza Way. Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-
 noon and by appointment.

Contact information:

Phone: 970-249-0530

Email: CCVMontroseCO10@gmail.com

Website: ccvmontrose.org

Name of current Senior Pastor: Ken Law-
 rence

Worship service times: 10:30 a.m.

Mission: Christ's Church of the Valley is a
 loving and welcoming church whose pur-
 pose is to help people to know and grow

in our Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of
 God.

Description: CCV is a multi-generational
 church family. While we are currently pre-
 dominately seniors, we are becoming
 more multi-generational.

Sunday School & Childcare: CCV has
 adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Youth
 Church during the 10:30 a.m. worship
 service.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Denomination: Christ Lutheran Montrose
Affiliation: Lutheran Church Missouri Syn-
 od

Address: 1980 N. Townsend Ave., Mont-
 rose, CO 81401

Contact: 970-633-0226

Website: www.montroselutheran.org

Email: montroselutheran@gmail.com

Pastor: Tim Onnen

Worship: Sundays at 9 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at
 10:15 AM; Women's Bible Study Fridays at
 9 AM. At Christ Lutheran Montrose you will

find friendly people gathered in a welcom-
 ing environment being comforted and en-
 couraged by the forgiveness and love of
 Jesus, and sharing that with one another.

We are a small congregation of seniors
 and middle-aged, sprinkled with young
 children and teenagers.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

Address: 504 N. 1st Street (HAP Building)

Office hours: Call or text for appointment

Phone: 970-765-7070

Email: spirit@communityspiritucc.org

Website: communityspiritucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service: Sundays at 11am

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

where everyone can live freely and au-
 thentically.

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

COVENANT HEBRAIC FELLOWSHIP

Denomination affiliation. No affiliation

Address Office hours N/A

Contact: 720-951-9941,

office@ccfmontrose.net,

www.ccfmontrose.net

Name of current Senior Pastor. Led by
 elders

Worship service times. Noon on Satur-
 days. Children's Church will be offered as
 needed.

Covenant is a Hebraic roots community

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

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY *From previous pg*

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Denomination: Church of the Nazarene

Address: 705 South 12th Street

Office Hours: 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: 970-249-4732, info@fpcmontrose.com, www.fpcmontrose.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

Worship Service times: 9:30AM, *We strive to encourage, challenge and*

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

HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Denomination affiliation: United Church of Christ

Address: 611 South Hillcrest Drive, Montrose, CO 81401

Office hours: By appointment

Contact information:

Phone number: (970) 249-9047

Email address: office@montroseucc.org

Website: montroseucc.org

Current Pastor: Rev. Wendy Kidd

Worship service times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Hillcrest Congregational UCC is a welcoming, open and affirming church, open to all no matter who you are or where you are

on life's journey.

Church demographics: HCUCC welcomes all ages to worship with

us. (predominately family, youth, seniors, singles)

We offer inter-generational worship with a children's "prayer-ground" and activity packets. A cry room is also available.

MONTROSE MISSION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Affiliation: Orthodox

Meets: 2057 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO

81401 and Cimarron Creek Clubhouse.

Worship Services: The Montrose Mission of the Orthodox Church meets every Saturday night at 7 PM at All Saints Anglican

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

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denomination Affiliation: United Methodist

Address: 19 S. Park Avenue Montrose CO. 81401

Office Hours: M-Thu, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Information: 970-249-3716, office@montroseumc.org, [mont-](http://montroseumc.org)

roseumc.org

Current Senior Pastor: Rev. Kevin Young

Worship service times:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Virtual

9:45 a.m. Christian Education & Fellowship

11 a.m. Sanctuary

Montrose UMC is a leader in being fully inclusive, loving, and just servants of

Christ. Our church family welcomes people from various cultural and faith backgrounds: single, married, remarried, with or without children, from diapers to dentures.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to come discover hope, joy, peace, purpose.

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Address: 1598 E. Niagara Road, Montrose, CO 81401

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm

Contact information:

Phone: 970.249.4887

website: www.RosemontBaptist.org

email: office@rosemontbaptist.org

Senior Pastor: Rolland Kenneson

Worship Service Times: Our engaging and relevant Sunday Worship Service is at

10:45 AM. We also have Bible Study for All Ages Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. We provide a professionally-staffed nursery throughout both.

Rosemont Baptist's desire is to passionately bring people face-to-face with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

We are a multigenerational church from different walks of life who love Jesus, love each other, and love our community. Everyone comes dressed in whatever is comfortable. We love meeting new people no

matter what stage of life they are in.

Children's services: *We have a fun Sunday School for children from four years old through youth. We provide Children's Church during the Sunday Worship Services where children four years old through 9 years can learn to be worshippers of Jesus.*

We provide a nursery for children under four years old with paid staff providing excellent care during Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship Service.

MIRROR CHURCH DIRECTORY From previous pg

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

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

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

rose; Everyone is welcome. The Spiritual Awareness Center is an interfaith spiritual community welcoming spiritual seekers and people of all faiths, providing a safe place to explore and nurture the individual's unique connection to the Divine through Unity services, classes, family and community projects. People of all ages are welcome.
 There are currently no Sunday School or nursery services provided but craft supplies are available for youth.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Denomination: Anglican-Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)
Address: 2405 Sunnyside Road, Montrose 970-249-4868
Contact: ststephensmontrose.com

rose@yahoo.com
www.ststephensmontrose.com
Rev. Dec. Garrett Agajanian
 St. Stephen's is a community of caring Christians rooted in the godly traditions of the past, focused on the challenges of the

present, hopeful for the future, continuing in the Faith once delivered to the saints, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
Sunday: Holy Communion 10 am. Fellowship following service.
 Children's nursery available (unstaffed).

SUMMIT CHURCH OF MONTROSE:

Denomination affiliation: Southern Baptist
 Address: 10977 60.75 Rd. Montrose, CO 81403
 Office hours: Varies
 Contact information:
 email: summitchurchmontrose@gmail.com
 website: www.summitchurchmontrose.org

Senior Pastor: Interim Pastor
 Worship service times: Sunday Worship is at 9 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. Beginning Sept. 8 we will have a family Bible study, "Who's in Charge?" following fellowship from 10:45-11:30 a.m. All family members are welcome. During the Sunday sermon we offer teaching for children ages birth to kinder-

garten, in a kid-friendly room called Base Camp. We have communion on the first Sunday of each month and meet following services for a potluck brunch.
 Please visit <https://www.summitchurchmontrose.org/events> for more information.
 Summit Church welcomes people of all ages!

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.

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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?</p>
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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

DANNY ROSEN OF FRUITA'S LITHIC PRESS KICKS OFF BARDIC TRAILS FOR 2025

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE-For more than a decade, Danny Rosen has been publishing regional and national poets from the southwest and both coasts, with a recent focus on Beat writers, dead and alive. His own poetry has been on fire ever since, particularly with the publication of his latest book *Suspending Erosion* (Lithic Press, 2024).

“Danny read at the MycoLicious MycoLuscious MycoLogical Poetry Show at this past year’s Telluride Mushroom Festival,” Talking Gourds Director Art Goodtimes said, “and he knocked folks socks off.”

This coming Tuesday, Jan. 7 Rosen will kick off the Bardic Trails zoom series for 2025 from 7 to 8:30 pm, performing a sampling of his poems, which will be followed by a Gourd Circle reading of those poets attending online.

Graduating from Harvard and the University of Wyoming, Rosen started life as a rock-climber, geologist, amateur astronomer, and a regional teacher of earth and space science. “Lithic means, pertaining to stone,” he explains. But his dad had written poetry. It was something he was familiar with but not focused on.

Then he met up with legendary North Beach bard Jack Mueller who had moved out to Ridgway from San Francisco more than a decade ago. And for Rosen everything changed. “Jack was a fixture in San Francisco in the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s, with Ginsberg, Corso, Doyle, Hirschman, Cherkovski, and the ongoing gang,” says Rosen. “[Jack made] thousands of 3x5 cards and bar napkins with rapidly sketched cartoons, sharpened by fast comment, piled on the dining room table. They captivated me. ‘Let’s make a book of these napkins!’ That became, *Whacking the Punch Line*, and that was the beginning of the Lithic.”

No longer needing to register with the library, participants are encouraged to visit <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar> to get the zoom link each month, if they aren’t already on our mailing list. Thanks to the Cantor Family, the Guttman Family Foundation, CCAASE and our Fischer and Cantor contest participants for supporting our program and projects. Bardic Trails is a project of the Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds Poetry Program in collaboration with the Wilkinson Public Library. For more information, visit the website: <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/western-slope-calendar>.



Poet Danny Rosen. Courtesy photo.



Trump Victory Gala

Inauguration Celebration

January 20, 2025

6pm – 10pm

Montrose Elks Lodge #1053



Community is invited to

Toast to Donald J. Trump our 47th President

Dance to live music from Washington DC Inaugural Celebrations

Purchase Trump memorabilia and patriotic jewelry

Silent and Live Auction Items

Business Attire - Trump Regalia

\$10 donation per person



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Montrose Republican Women

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Thr., Jan. 16th • 5:30-7:30 pm

Send us a picture of your pet. We will create a transfer for you to paint your pet on a canvas. Everything provided plus snack and adult beverage or soft drink. \$45. Welcome Back, \$40. Group rate available.



With Kate Burke
Mosaic, 21 N. Cascade Ave.

Sign up in store or online.

<https://kathrynrburke.com/product/111625m>



COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

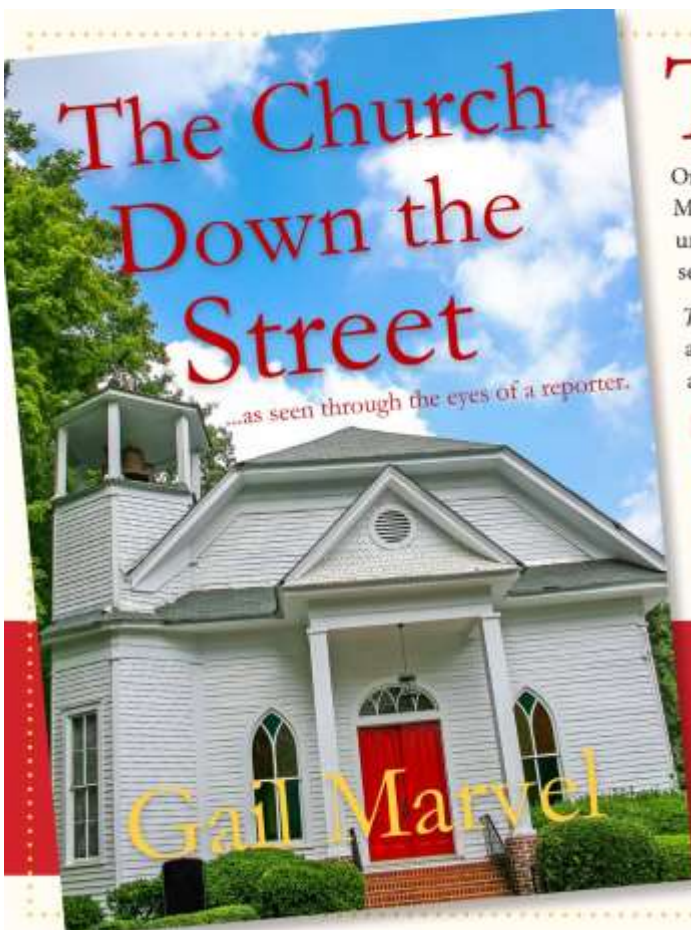
MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS: THE TIN WOMAN

Special to the Mirror

MONTROSE-Instead of relishing life after her heart transplant, Joy enters a downward spiral, unsure whether she truly deserves a second chance. Meanwhile, Alice and Hank mourn the loss of their son, Jack, whose heart was used to save Joy. At a friend's urging, Joy tracks down Jack's family to find closure. But are Alice, Hank, and their daughter Sammy ready to accept Jack's death? Based on a true story, *The Tin Woman* by Sean Grennan, uses humor and pathos to explore loss, family, and what it means to be given new life. Directed by Merrilee F. Robertson, Assistant Director Stasia Allyn. Tickets at magiccircleplayers.com. Magic Circle Players, 420 S 12th St, Montrose. Box office: 970-249-7838.

Performance dates:

- The Tin Woman-Friday, Jan. 10, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Friday, Jan. 17, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman- Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025 - 02:00 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Friday, Jan. 24, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST
- The Tin Woman-Saturday, Jan 25, 2025 - 07:30 PM MST



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 and wingedpublications.com.

GAIL MARVEL
Montrose Author & Reporter



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SAVE THE DATE! LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING-

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

MONTROSE FARMERS MARKET (970) 249 0705 Centennial Plaza, 433 S. 1st St. Montrose, CO 81401

www.valleyfoodpartnership.org. Year-Round Farmers Market, Saturdays 9am-1pm (Summer), every other Saturday 10am-1pm (Winter). Accepts SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.

MONTROSE CENTER FOR ARTS FIRST FRIDAY-New Art Exhibit opening with featured artists.4:30 - 7 pm First Friday of every month. 11 S Park Ave., Montrose. Free Admission. For more information: 970-787-9428 or info@mc4arts.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY

Jan. 7-Tuesday Jan. 7 at 5 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets at Montrose library meeting rm. Progress on recycle building codes with Montrose County Commissioners. Nonpartisan, National, Environmental. All Welcome info 970-765-9095.

Jan. 8--The Montrose County Historical Society presents Chris Miller, Board Member of the Delta County Historical Society, who will present the video, "Rediscovering Delta's History, The Movie." The free program addresses the history and growth of the city of Delta. The public is welcome to attend on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at the Montrose County Events Center, 7 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

Jan. 8-Chipeta Water District board meeting January 8 the Montrose Event Center beginning at 5PM.

Jan. 20-Montrose Republican Women to host Trump Victory Gala Inauguration Celebration, 6-10pm, Montrose Elks Lodge. \$10 donation per person, cash bar.

Feb. 4-April 11--The Montrose AARP Tax-aide site will be in operation from Feb. 4 through April 11 at the Senior Center in the Montrose Pavilion, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 2pm. Reservations are required and can be made now by calling 970-252-4889.

READER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT: DEB REIMANN



Deb snapped this photo this past week, of a striking Blue Mesa rock formation under a colorful sky.



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