



HOMECOMING WIN
Olathe Pirates host Coal Ridge.
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Saturday, Sept 24, 2016
Free Concert, Baldrige Park
See pg. 3 for more details

AG: Suicide tops kids' concerns

By KATHARHINN HEIDELBERG
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS SENIOR WRITER

Montrose students have some things in common with those in metro areas: They are worried about friends and family members at risk of suicide.

"The No. 1 tip we get is suicide-related. It used to be bullying. Suicide has overtaken it," Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman said Thursday.

Coffman swung through the Western Slope, stopping in Montrose to speak with law enforcement and Montrose County School District officials about the state's Safe2Tell hotline and other issues at a meeting arranged by John W. Nelson, president of the Montrose Regional Crime Stoppers board.

Coffman said she wanted to hear what local officials are dealing with.

"What's happening here is indicative of the patterns happening across the state," she said.

Safe2Tell is a hotline that allows students to anonymously report safety concerns by phone, app, or online (safe2tellco.org).

"We wanted to make sure we had given folks adequate training," Coffman said, adding that a new trainer is soon to present information to schools.

Montrose schools do use Safe2Tell, although students here seem to prefer direct reporting to officials, Montrose Police Officer Trevis Booth said. Booth is the school resource officer stationed at Montrose High School.

"Most of the time, because we have school resource officers, they just approach us, or they go to a counselor,"

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Tow crews work to right a demolished fuel tanker that was struck head-on early Friday by another vehicle and rolled off U.S. 550 between Colona and Ridgway, coming to rest just yards from the Uncompahgre River. Both drivers survived. (Katharhynn Heidelberg/Montrose Daily Press)

Head-on crash rolls tanker, snarls traffic

By KATHARHINN HEIDELBERG
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS SENIOR WRITER

A fuel tanker driver was lucky to walk away from the Friday head-on crash on U.S. 550 that demolished her rig and also destroyed the pick-up truck that collided with her.

The pick-up's driver allegedly left the scene after assisting trucker Denise Deyoung from the wreckage, Colorado State Patrol Trooper C.R. Williams said. He identified the

pick-up driver as Liovarado Gomez of Montrose.

"I haven't seen too many crashes like that, that people have walked away from. I don't think there's any doubt in the world that a seat belt saved her life," Williams said at the scene, as slow-and-go traffic snaked for a few miles in each direction on U.S. 550.

"... It's crazy." Gomez was southbound in a 1990 Ford, towing a car dolly, at about 2:30

Friday morning between Ridgway and Colona. Near mile marker 114, he apparently strayed into the northbound lane by about 3 feet, according to Williams.

The Ford collided with Deyoung's 2015 Freightliner and broke the rig's steering. Its brakes locked up and the vehicle then rolled down a short embankment, crumpling and bending when it landed about 42 feet away

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Planning Commission to hear request

By CAROLE ANN McKEIVY
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS NEWS EDITOR

The proposed annexation and rezoning of 16.13 acres between the Uncompahgre River and the east side of the Palomino Acres subdivision has some residents concerned.

The proposed Colorado Outdoors No. '1 Addition is located next to the Uncompahgre River between Mustang Lane

and Arabian Court.

Alan Matthews of Mustang Lane noted in written correspondence that "the proposed development would have environmental impacts on resident wildlife." Matthews says, "The area is prime day use habitat for a large population of mule deer does and their fawns. Many in the area have left wildlife access corridors when they fence their lots."

Matthews says many of his neighbors along Mustang Lane and Arabian Court will be opposed to the development of the land, noting a "multitude of other species that now live in the proposed development area and consider it a safe haven."

There are some other concerns Matthews says he and his neighbors will bring to the Planning Commission meeting Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 5 p.m. in

City Council chambers at 107 S. Cascade Ave.

At that time the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed R-3A (medium density district) zoning on the 16.65 acres of vacant land along the river between Mustang Lane and N. Grand Avenue.

In its advance packet of information, prior to the first hearing on the zoning of

property to be annexed, it is noted the addition borders the Uncompahgre River.

The packet notes the area is currently under Montrose County Residential Zoning with the following minimum lot sizes:

- 6,500 sq. ft. for manufactured housing;
- 10,000 for a site-built house;

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Death scene under investigation

Officers stand posted outside of a Montrose home where a woman was found dead Friday. Preliminary information indicated the death might be suspicious. Police were summoned to the address on Poplar Street at about 3 p.m. Friday, Montrose Police Chief Tom Chinn said. The matter was being treated as a death-scene investigation, he said. Police were talking to possible witnesses into Friday evening and reported that several pets had to be removed from the scene, with the help of city and county animal control. Further information was not immediately available. (Katharhynn Heidelberg/Montrose Daily Press)

Olathe homecoming royalty crowned

By RICHARD REEDER
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS SPORTS EDITOR

It was Homecoming night in Olathe and the students, parents and alumni were all there to celebrate. The football team took care of business with a 35-7 victory over Coal Ridge.

That was a fitting thing, as one of their own was named to the Royalty court at halftime.

Senior lineman Daniel Alejandro was named Homecoming King. He was joined by Homecoming Queen Brooke Snyder. For Alejandro there wasn't much time to celebrate. He was given his crown, took a few pictures, then had to race off to the locker room to talk second half strategy with his teammates and coaches.

For Snyder it capped an exciting week.

"This has just been a lot of fun," she said. "It has been a full week and this is such an honor."

The King was selected by nominations from the student body, but then the winner was selected by all the fall female athletes. The Queen was nominated by the students and then selected by the fall male athletes.

Snyder was ready for the dance tonight.

"It will be a good time and everyone will be excited," she said. "The parade was a lot of fun. It was chilly but at least the rain stopped and we all had fun."

See page A4 of today's Montrose Daily Press for photos.





Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman listens as José Esquibel, director of community engagement with the Colorado Department of Law, discusses the Safe2Tell hotline and other issues Thursday. Coffman stopped in Montrose to hear from local law enforcement and school officials. (Katharynn Heidelberg/Montrose Daily Press)

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Booth said, estimating that in two years, he's received six tips through Safe2Tell. Delta schools, he said, receive far more, possibly because there are not school resource officers there, Booth said. "I think it just depends on the demographic of your community. I think it's a great program," he added. "Kids are very good here about talking to SROs. That's a great thing. We always encourage kids to go to an adult they trust," Coffman said. Formerly, Booth heard mainly about drugs but, like Coffman reported, he has seen a shift toward suicide as the leading concern. "I've seen a change in those calls. Typically now, they're going to be about a suicidal subject," he said. "We want to know that information so we can try to stop something from happening." Worries about suicide also lead direct reports to SROs. "Suicide is probably the biggest thing we're getting reported in any type of thing," Booth said. Mental health professionals were part of Thursday's meeting, Coffman said. One reported having spoken to a suicidal 11-year-old, she said.

"Kids don't always grasp the finality of their actions. We're seeing much younger kids commit suicide," Coffman said. The Safe2Tell line connects kids with resources and professional help. Many times, though, the caller isn't suicidal, but is concerned about a friend. "That's what we want kids to do, to let us know," the attorney general said. A need is seen for more mental health services across the state, for all ages. Coffman consistently hears about how mental illness plays into homelessness. The mentally ill also wind up in jails. "We have a real need. So often, we end up incarcerating people because there is nowhere to put them," Coffman said. "It's really a lack of resources," said José Esquibel, director of the Office of Community Engagement in the Colorado Department of Law. "So much of what we're seeing in law enforcement is mental health." Coffman wants to carry that message back to the Legislature. Although mental health has good advocacy among lawmakers, funding doesn't really follow. "I feel it's hard to get attention for mental health, and yet, we would resolve other social issues if we would just address mental health," Coffman said. Coffman and meeting attendees

Thursday also discussed drugs, particularly opioid use and overdose. Montrose County has reported three overdose deaths this year; one victim was only 15, Coffman said. "It's tragic when it comes to that," she said. Coffman earlier this week announced the Colorado Naloxone for Life Initiative, which provides opioid-overdose reversal medication kits to law enforcement agencies. Esquibel spearheads that program. Among youth, marijuana appears to be the drug of choice, because kids perceive it as safe and it's easier to access than other drugs, Coffman said. "It's something we're seeing across the state," Esquibel said. "It's not surprising (to see it here). At least it confirms we're seeing the same pattern." As is the case in several communities, the big need on the Western Slope is for more preventative funding, he said. Local drug prevention initiatives have seen their funding dry up, creating a challenging environment, according to Esquibel. Funding preventative efforts adequately makes more sense than throwing just a little in that direction, only to wind up pouring more resources in when the problem becomes acute, he said.

PLANNING

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• and 15,000 sq. ft. for a duplex. The packet notes that the "Comprehensive Plan and River Master Plan identifies the property as potential acquisition for river corridor preservation. Resources don't currently allow for full acquisition of the property to fulfill the Comprehensive Plan guidelines ... The challenge is to pursue these river corridor preservation goals while allowing reasonable development of private property." The subject property is located within Growth Area 1, the area where infrastructure is largely in place to support urban levels of development, according to the packet. The Addition is within the West Montrose Sanitation District and the Tri-County Water Service Area. "Our understanding is that the developer plans



This property, across from the Montrose County Service Center on North Grand Ave. on the east side of the Uncompaghe River where Colorado Outdoors has proposed an addition. The City of Montrose Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 28. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

to access the property across the river via a bridge. This will eliminate traffic impacts to Marine Road and the west side of the river," states the packet. Further, the packet states that the proposed Addition is within the Comprehensive Plan Urban Growth Area. "It is fully compliant with city annexation priorities and policies," states the packet. The staff recommendation to the Planning Commission is "the proposed residential zoning is compatible with future plans for the river corridor ... will not adversely affect the public health, safety and welfare, and is consistent with Municipal Code requirements and adopted land use plans for the area." Staff recommendations

are for approval of the R-3A zoning for the Colorado Outdoors Addition No. '1. Matthews objects to the rezoning and annexation not only due to the impact on animal habitat, but also because of concerns he has for furnishing of service and utilities to the area. He questions how the city can deliver sewer and utilities for a reasonable cost. Montrose Senior City Planner Garry Baker, in an email response to Matthew's inquiry about the proposal, notes that "annexation and zoning is not a concrete development proposal. Zoning merely specifies allowed uses, if a development proposal is actually created." Anyone with questions about the proposed zoning may contact the city planning department staff prior to the hearing with questions or concerns about the proposed zoning. You may contact Baker at (970) 240-1475 or attend the public hearing.

In brief

Bids taken for Montrose City Hall Lobby project

The City of Montrose is accepting contracting bids to provide and install approximately 700 square feet of Conwed New Dimensions acoustical ceiling panels in the Montrose City Hall Lobby as per specifications. All work must be performed after hours or on weekends (Friday through Sunday) with all clean-up completed by normal business hours. Deliver or mail hard copy bids to Montrose City Hall by 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13. Info: www.cityofmontrose.org.

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