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## TOUGH LOSS

Lady Indians fall short. Page A9



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## Big 5 to arrive

*Sporting goods chain opening*

*Montrose location*

- Opening date pending
- Corp. purchases former Hastings location
- Economic boost anticipated

By KATHARHYN HEIDELBERG

MONTROSE DAILY PRESS SENIOR WRITER

The former Hastings building won't be empty much longer.

Big 5 Sporting Goods, a national retailer founded in California, purchased the space at 2201 S. Townsend Ave. formerly occupied by the now defunct bookstore, music and novelty shop. **The City of Montrose and real estate agent John Renfrow confirmed the sale Thursday. Renfrow said renovations are to begin in April, though a projected opening date hasn't been made available.**

Representatives from Big 5 did not immediately return calls for comment Thursday.

Big 5 will be another anchor store between southern Montrose shopping and downtown businesses,



## Spring playtime

These horses, seen in a corral along Chipeta Road Thursday afternoon, were getting a little feisty as they played together in the warm sun. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

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Scott Belsha, left, Josh Moreau, Jon Bon Jovi, Natalie Gelman and Nathan McEuen after the latter helped open a Bon Jovi concert recently. (Submitted photo/Nathan McEuen)

## MUSIC

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conversation. His father is John McEuen, of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, so he was raised in the music world.

“My whole life has been music,” the Colorado native said. “I grew up meeting everyone my dad met and worked with.”

He collaborated with his father and brother on a highly praised joint album, “For All The Good,” released in 2012 as The McEuen Sessions.

But he isn’t living off the family name. Nathan McEuen launched his solo career in 2005 and has had quite a bit of success since then. In addition to his solo albums, he’s played thousands of shows and worked or performed with several notable art-

the map for me,” he said.

Ken Vail, owner/curator of the gallery and owner/lead consultant for Healthy Rhythm Music Services, said he was happy to have McEuen perform on his stage.

McEuen has plenty of projects and shows in the works, but noted he’s focused on having a good time in Montrose. Regardless of what happens next, he’ll always appreciate what he has experienced thus far.

“Hey, I can say I have Mickey Mouse’s banjo,” he said. “I have this instrument that represents a real-life American love story and goes back generations. It’s a real-life gift Minnie Mouse gave to her husband, Mickey Mouse. That’s special.”

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## BIG 5

FROM PAGE A1

said Montrose Director of Business Innovation Chelsea Rosty, who also oversees the Montrose Chamber of Commerce.

“We’re developing South Townsend and working on downtown, and we want to work on the middle part, too. ... It helps us focus on that area and make sure things are looking nice and being updated,” Rosty said.

**Negotiations for purchasing the 18,001 square-foot building were more than a year in the making, Renfrow said.** Talks began when the Hastings chain declared bankruptcy.

**“Hastings was on the way out and we were trying to find other options,”**



The former Hastings location on South Townsend will soon be home to Big 5 Sporting Goods. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

**Renfrow said. “Montrose needs a sporting goods retailer.”**

Montrose has speciality and niche retailers serving the outdoor and athletically minded, but lost its largest retailer dedicated to sports and athletics when Sports Authority met the same fate as Hastings — bankruptcy, which led to the closure of the Montrose location.

“There is definitely a hole the community has felt with Sports Authority going out of business and having that ready access to specific brands of clothing and what’s available right now,” Rosty said. “What we’re talking about are the sporting brands, like Nike, that are tougher for smaller stores to carry, and sports equipment. (Local shops) are meeting the needs of hikers, bikers and campers very well, but when it comes to the sports side, there is a hole.”

Big 5 had been considering Montrose for some time, Rosty said.

**“John Renfrow was very good at having his eye on the market and sites becoming available. Hastings (building) came up with the filing nationally to close, and it opened up an opportunity for Big 5,” she said.** “Obviously, they are identifying needs in communities. With Sports Authority closing, and without us having a major sporting goods store, they’re a perfect solution for us.”

Rosty did not have information as to the number of positions Big 5 expects to fill locally, but said the business’ arrival would create jobs.

“It sounds like they’re a very big supporter in communities. They have a good local focus for being a larger brand,” Rosty said.

Big 5 Sporting Goods Corp., now with more than 400 stores nationwide, was founded in 1955. In 2016, the chain reported \$1.02 billion in sales/revenue and a gross income of \$324.46 million, according to the annual financials reported on Market Watch.

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