



SPECIAL VISIT
Colorado queen helps Haven House
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Montrose County
Democratic Party

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BOLD VISION

Mayfly Outdoors plans river corridor revamp

By MATT LINDBERG
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS MANAGING EDITOR

Mayfly Outdoors President David Dragoo said his company is ready to grow and forever change Montrose for the better.

Dragoo was calm but excited Thursday at Ross Reels in Montrose as he announced in front of Montrose Daily Press reporters and several city officials his company acquired multiple new properties (about 125 acres) along the Uncompahgre River.

The newly acquired land, which is north of Ninth Street and across from the Montrose County Justice Center, will be home to Colorado Outdoors Recreation/Business Park. The project will be what Dragoo called a “world-renowned business park” aiming to attract outdoor-focused industries to relocate to Montrose and include river restoration and high-end commercial, residential and industrial development.

“One of our goals has always been to own our own property,” said Dragoo about Mayfly, a Colorado-based outdoor industry investment company known for its brand names including Abel Reels and Ross Reels. “The vision was to build our own factory, build it on the river and build it in Montrose, because we have a great relationship with



A sample architectural rendering of the planned Abel and Ross headquarters. (Submitted photo/Mayfly Outdoors)

the city. But we expanded on it — we asked ourselves what we could do to help the local community and bring jobs here?”

Dragoo cited his love for Montrose, noting he doesn’t want people to view it as only a stop on their way to Telluride.

“Part of our vision is to

connect Riverbottom Park and expand down the river through Main Street,” he said. “This is an exciting project because it means building a future for Montrose that will attract great businesses and fly-fishing enthusiasts from all over the world while helping sustain one of our greatest

assets: The Uncompahgre River.”

Dragoo noted the project will sustain and protect fish and wildlife areas along the river for approximately 1.5 miles near Grand Avenue.

The project’s reveal ends months of speculation. The proposed development plans

had not previously been released to the community, sparking much concern and debate among residents during recent Montrose City Council meetings, as previously reported by the Daily Press. **During those meetings,**

See MAYFLY page A3



Hospital ending blood donor program

By KATHARHYN HEIDELBERG
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS SENIOR WRITER

Although Montrose Memorial Hospital is proud of its decades-long in-house blood donor program, changing times are spelling the system’s end.

The hospital will cease collecting donated blood on Nov. 17; instead, it is partnering with St. Mary’s Hospital in Grand Junction to meet its blood supply needs.

People can continue to donate blood locally through St. Mary’s blood mobiles, according to Dr. Michael Benziger, pathologist and MMH laboratory director.

“It will help patients throughout the Western Slope and eastern Utah. People will definitely be able to donate blood locally,” Benziger said.

“The Montrose community should be very proud of its long-term efforts in terms of supplying blood for patients in our hospital and our town. They can continue to be supportive by working with our new system, which will be in collaboration with St. Mary’s.”

See BLOOD page A5

Old building gains new purpose

By RICHARD REEDER
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS EDUCATION WRITER

A partnership of health providers and a school district is giving new life to an empty building off Townsend Avenue in Montrose.

The old Harley-Davidson building at the intersection of San Juan and Townsend avenues will soon house facilities for Community Dental Clinic, the Center for Mental Health, Delta County School District and a soon-to-be-announced health provider.

There was a lunch on Thursday at the building for donors and partners to celebrate the building’s new beginnings.

“We are about to finish our design work and will start the

remodel soon,” Community Dental Clinic CEO Melanie Hall said. “Today we are giving people a tour and taking pictures.”

Hall said the partnership of the PIC (Partnership In Care) Place will provide all the services anyone might need.

“This will change the health care landscape in Montrose for people in need,” she said. “We are trying to have all the health care services people might need under one roof. We have a good advisory committee that is ensuring we are meeting the needs of the public.”

Kurt Clay of Delta County School District said the new facility will change the outcomes for patients and students.

“Our goal is to integrate the

classroom into the clinic. We want our students working in programs in the health care field,” he said. “If we can get the students the education they need, then they can find jobs with higher wages. Plus, we are providing needed health care services.”

Clay said the program is geared toward secondary students attending Delta-Montrose Technical College.

“This is for students taking different classes through DMTC,” he said. “We do have some programs for high school students to gain college credits.”

Janey Sorenson, marketing director for the Center for Mental Health, said the partnership will provide many benefits to patients.

See BUILDING page A6

Drug problem spurs community meeting

By KATHARHYN HEIDELBERG
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS SENIOR WRITER

Kenneth Vail doesn’t just see Montrose’s drug problem — he sees it as something the community can tackle together.

The art gallery owner is on Monday hosting a community meeting about drug use in Montrose County. The meeting is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Healthy Rhythm Community Art Gallery, 68 S. Grand

Ave, second floor.

Vail, who has been in recovery from methamphetamine and heroin use for more than 32 years, said he recently began noticing social media posts about Montrose’s heroin problem. The drug has so far this year claimed four lives, according to the Montrose County coroner.

After a particularly moving post from a former resident, Vail decided to provide a space for community

members to meet and discuss the issue.

“The more that I thought about it, I thought, maybe there’s a reason I’m here and it’s not just the art gallery,” Vail said.

“It’s something no city or county wants to do. But the longer you look the other way, the worse it gets. I’ve seen the same scenario — small cities to millions of people. It’s always the same: If you keep sweeping it under the rug, the rug gets high

and the stuff starts floating back out.”

Monday’s meeting is intended to connect people. Drug use has in some way touched most families, Vail said.

“It’s like an initial meeting, so people can meet each other and go, ‘You’re not alone. It’s not in your head. It’s not just your problem. It’s a community issue,’” he said.

The meeting is also a starting point for discussing the issues

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Published for the Uncompahgre Valley and Ireta Ross of Montrose



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Drago said he understood people's concerns, but stressed there were reasons why his company couldn't come out with the plans until now. "We've been wanting to do it for months, but we didn't because it wasn't the right time, and we had contracts that required non-disclosure," he said of the recently acquired land. "But we have nothing to hide. "Call us — especially people in our area. They need to know."

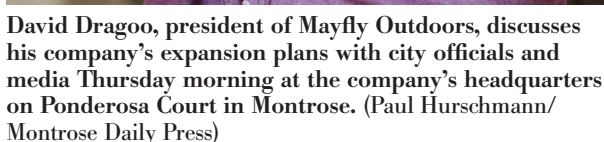
Dragoo and Renfrow said the company commissioned an independent economist (Mike Anderson of Anderson Analytics) to study the



See this story on our website, montrosepress.com, to view a tentative master-plan for the Colorado Outdoors project

According to the preliminary study, over a 10-year development period, estimates show an additional 1,266 ongoing jobs would be created within the project. In addition, 593 indirect and induced jobs in the local economy would result, bringing the total ongoing annual economic impact to 1,859 jobs. The total annual payroll impact is estimated at \$81 million and total annual ongoing economic impact (output) is \$297 million, according to Anderson's preliminary study.

“Let’s do that right and get the project going,” Dragoo said, noting he expected to break ground on the new site in 2017. “We plan to move our entire production facility into this new building ... The facility will be eye-catching, but built



Dragoo said he's happy to see government and private businesses working together to make

"All parties are actively collaborating, and it's good to see," he said.

Dragoo reiterated he welcomed phone calls with questions about the project.

"We're excited to tell them," Dragoo said.

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