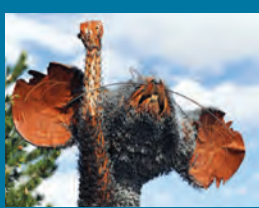




‘THE BORED’
Longtime Montrose group revealed
Page A7



OF MICE & MEN
A look back at the
Montrose Mouse Page B1



Colorado West Christian School Color Run 5K participants toss bags of colored powder into the air after the race Saturday at Cerise Park. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

Montrose father and son team up to open distillery

• **Distillery to open later this year or early 2018**
• **Business is welcome addition to West Main Street, city manager says**
• **Owners have had idea for distillery for years**

By MATT LINDBERG
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS
MANAGING EDITOR

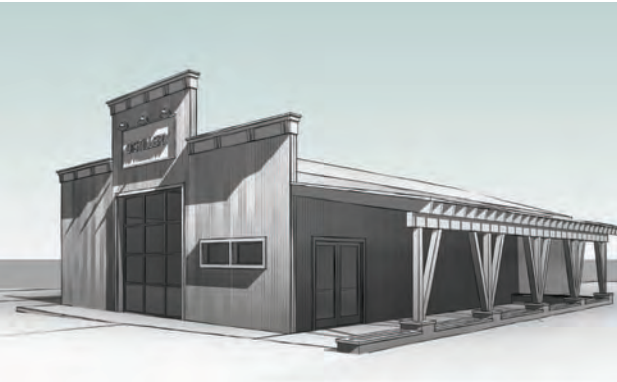
David Fisherling didn't know that when he and his wife took a vacation in 2012 that it would inspire his professional dream. The couple decided to spend their first vacation in years by tackling the Kentucky Bourbon Trail tour, which features seven signature distilleries in the state. "We had a great time," David said of checking out places where liquor is manufactured. "I was into the home brewing stuff in the past, and this trip gave me the idea of why not a distillery?" But they were living in D.C. then, and David said it wasn't a good place or time to pursue that idea. That changed in 2014, though,

when the Fisherings decided to move back to Montrose to start a family. It was then David had a heart-to-heart conversation with his father, Greg. The two are co-owners of High Mesa Communications in Montrose, but David didn't want to let his dream die. ***'We definitely don't want to be the only town between Grand Junction and the San Juan Mountains that doesn't have a distillery.'***

David Fisherling
Co-owner

"My dad is the kind of guy who has to have something to do," said David, who is vice president of High Mesa Communications and a Montrose native. "So he provided the environment to follow

See DISTILLERY page A3



An architect's rendering of what the distillery will look like once complete. (Submitted photo/David Fisherling)



Heather Vincent, left, and Andrea Johnson await the start of the Colorado West Christian School Color Run 5K Saturday at Cerise Park. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

School holds first color run

• **Organizer pleased with success of first event**
• **School relies on fundraising, donations**
• **Participants enjoyed getting covered in colors**

By PAUL HURSCHMANN
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS PHOTOJOURNALIST

Despite the late season snowfall, the first Colorado West Christian School Color 5K Run went off without a hitch Saturday at Cerise Park. "We had about 165 runners today," said Stacy Brown, main organizer and board member of the school. "We are doing the run as a fundraiser. We rely on fundraising and donations to keep the doors open and to pay the faculty. We wanted to spice things up a little bit with the color run." Brown said they got a good mix of families with children enrolled in the school and the community at large. A good number of the participants were children, along with some of their teachers from Colorado West. "There's a nice spot in the course ... so if the kids get tired, they can just flip a u-e-y and turn around and come back," she said.

See RUN page A12

'Big gamble' for farmers in labor crunch

• **Local fieldworkers finding other jobs**
• **Visa process for foreign workers sees delays**
• **Growers have to plant before they can line up pickers**

By KATHARHYNN HEIDELBERG
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS SENIOR WRITER

If you plant it, will the laborers come? For John Harold and other growers in the Uncompahgre Valley, it's a serious question, representing the "gamble" they must take: Harold needs workers to harvest his "Olathe Sweet" sweet corn and is facing a labor crunch as his usual pickers have moved to other jobs. On top of that, the process for bringing in the foreign workers he hires under the H2A visa program is seeing delays. "I have no approved visas as of today, but I've got over 1,000 acres of corn in the ground," Harold said Wednesday. "Me and a bunch of growers are taking a real gamble that we can make it work. So, we'll see." The H2A visa is for temporary agricultural workers. Regulations mean farmers like Harold can only request visas 45 days before the workers will be needed. But it takes corn 70 to 80 days to mature, which means growers have to plan before they are able to request visas. "I have to plant a month or a month and a half before I can even apply for the labor. We all gamble that the system will work," Harold said. "The gamble is that we've already done the planting, but because of the law of the H2A program, we can't ahead of time make sure we have the labor." Farmers apply to the U.S. Department of Labor for a certain number of visas. The applications then proceed to the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department and then to the consulate in Denver, which conducts interviews. "All those (people) out there who say we don't bring in vetted (employees) — they go through three or four federal agencies; they are fingerprinted and passported, then vetted at the consulate," Harold said. Harold pays to bring in the farm laborers from the point of recruitment to the consulate and then to the job site. The visa fees and the workers' return trip home are also his responsibility; last year costs were \$60,000 and he brought in fewer than the 24 people he's requested through the H2A process this year. The consulate interview process is taking a day or so longer than it has in the past — and time is money.

See GAMBLE page A12

INDEX

CALENDAR A2
LOCAL A3,10,12
OBITUARIES A4-5

WEATHER A5
OPINION A6-7
COMICS A8

MEETINGS A9
SPORTS A11
FOCUS B1-2,7-8

CLASSIFIEDS B3-6
SUNDAY COM. C1-4



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Board of County Commissioners Meeting

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161 South Townsend Avenue

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