







JOSEPH HAROLD/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY PRESS

## Highway flip injures motorist

**A Dodge pick-up truck rests upside down after colliding with a sport utility vehicle Thursday morning near Olathe. Preliminary information from the Colorado State Patrol indicates that at least one of the four people involved was injured and taken to Montrose Memorial Hospital. The Dodge's driver was crossing U.S. 50 from Carnation Road, but allegedly failed to yield to the westbound SUV. The Dodge's driver was cited, the CSP said.**

# Guilty plea in illegal cat-hunt scheme

**STAFF REPORT**  
Another defendant indicted in January for wildlife offenses related to a big cat hunting scheme has pleaded guilty to a federal conspiracy charge, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced on Wednesday. Nicholas Rodgers, 31, of Oregon, on Wednesday pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the Lacey Act, a federal law that makes it illegal to

knowingly transport or sell in interstate commerce wildlife that was taken in violation of state laws or regulations. Rodgers faces up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines at his Nov. 7 sentencing. Prosecutors have not agreed on the term of imprisonment. Rodgers was indicted Jan. 7 along with Mack-area outfitter Christopher Loncarich. Rodgers

was one of his guides. The men were accused under the federal indictment of illegally capturing and maiming mountain lions and bobcats in order to make hunting the cats easier for their clients. The indictment alleged they schemed to trap the cats in cages and release them when clients approached. Per the USAO, Rodgers admitted he guided several hunters who lacked

proper licenses during Utah hunts. Loncarich, based in Mack, about 5 miles from the Utah-Colorado border, sold mountain lion hunts for thousands of dollars and bobcat hunts for up to \$1,500, splitting proceeds with Rodgers, the USAO said Wednesday. Three of Loncarich's assistant guides had previously pleaded guilty to Lacey Act violations, according to the USAO.

# Delta men arrested on gun charges

**STAFF REPORT**  
Federal agents on Thursday arrested Delta residents Brandon C. Cook and Jonathan M. Boyd on allegations Boyd provided Cook with a rifle, despite knowing Cook's felony conviction precludes him from possessing firearms. Cook is accused of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Boyd is accused of unlawfully transferring a firearm to a known felon.

Boyd and Cook were indicted on May 27. Boyd, 29, allegedly purchased and gave a .270 caliber rifle to Cook, even though he knew Cook had been convicted of a felony punishable by at least one year in prison. Cook, 30, allegedly possessed the rifle despite his felony, in violation of federal law, and further allegedly used the rifle for poaching. Cook has pleaded guilty to state

charges of willful destruction of wildlife on a trophy-class bull elk, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a Thursday news release. Both men were arrested without incidence in Delta on the federal charges. They are free on bond and due back in U.S. District Court in Grand Junction at 4 p.m. Monday. Each faces up to 10 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines if convicted.

# CHARGES: Yates requests preliminary hearing

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As Cox proceeded through the area on foot, he saw a man coming toward him with a "long gun," and then heard the pump-action shotgun being racked. The individual was running past him and failed to respond as Cox identified himself "multiple times" as a police officer, Yates' affidavit states. The man ran past Cox, then turned to the left while running forward and manipulating the gun, which he allegedly pointed toward Cox. The sergeant fired four shots, striking the man, later identified as Yates, and stopping him. Another officer re-

moved Yates' 20-gauge shotgun, as well as a live shell from its chamber. Yates was also found with a backpack and, allegedly, a sheathed fixed-blade knife. The shotgun came back as having been reported stolen from a vehicle on July 11 or 12. On or about the morning of the shooting, vehicles in the Hillcrest mobile home community were allegedly breached and items, including two knives, were removed from at least one of them. One of the knives was found on the street near where Yates was shot, the affidavit says. A witness told police that on July 14, he had seen a man opening car doors in the mobile

home community. The man reportedly told the witness he needed his own car battery "jumped," but then walked away. The witness thought the man had a gun with him, so he called police. Per the affidavit, the witness later told critical incident team member and Ouray County Undersheriff Joel "BB" Burk that the man had pointed the firearm at him and ordered him to "back off." Yates later reportedly told a nurse at Montrose Memorial Hospital that someone had pulled a gun on him when he asked for help jumping his car, and shot him. The witness is not accused of pulling a gun on

anyone, or of shooting anyone. When Detective Michelle Berry interviewed Yates at the hospital to determine what had happened, Yates told her to ask "the dude who shot me in my a-," then showed her the wound. Per the affidavit, Yates said his car had died and he asked a man at the mobile home park for a jump, but the man, possibly startled by the presence of a gun, told him to go away. He began jogging off, but heard a command to stop, turned around to look, then was shot as he began to run, he reportedly told investigators. Yates remained jailed Thursday in lieu of a \$50,000 cash-only bond.

# CENTENNIAL: Godfrey moves from Olathe High School

**FROM PAGE 1**  
One big selling point for Godfrey was the staff at Centennial. He said the teachers are the greatest strength of the school, and he is excited to start working with them and setting up strong support systems. Godfrey even talked with a few Centennial students about what they liked about the school. "They felt their teachers cared about them and they felt their teachers did a good job," he said. "That impressed me."

**"I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO WORK HERE," THOMAS GODFREY, CENTENNIAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**  
The assistant principal position includes the title of athletic director at Centennial. Godfrey was an assistant coach on both the Olathe football and wrestling teams, so supporting coaches and athletes isn't new for him. "I'm looking forward to the aspect of dealing with coaches and students, trying to help them succeed at that level as well," he said. Godfrey is already settling into his office, but he is excited about the chance to support teachers and student learning in his new role as assistant principal. "I'm looking forward to getting to work here," he said. "I think there are great things to come. There's been some great things at this school and I think there will be even more."

# VENUE: Design will preserve historic character

**FROM PAGE 1**  
space and be moving forward on a dream project. It is a project she and her husband have been hoping to begin almost since moving to Montrose about 18 years ago. "I'm a professional musician," Meek said. "I've been performing in the area, as well, and all along hoping that there would be someplace we could have a really cool venue to bring some live music." After walking through the building about 15 or 16 years ago and keeping an eye on it since then, Meek knew there was something special about the historic building that would lend itself to her vision. "Over the years I've kind of eyeballed the building ... knowing the acoustics in there and the building, I just thought it would be a perfect place to do live music," she said. To help bring her vision to life, Meek is counting the help of Harris and his connections through Snowy Ridge Builders in Ridgway and the input of Thomas Chamberlain, a Montrose architect. Chamberlain brings another musician's eye to the project — like Meek, Chamberlain is a local musician looking for the perfect venue. "This is the kind of project that excites me not only as an architect but as a musician, because I can't wait to have an opportunity to perform on that stage," Chamberlain said. The design of the venue will seek to preserve the historic qualities of the building, while adding a few required functionalities. "For the most part, we're trying not to change anything. We're trying to do the minimal amount of changes to the building because we want to keep the historical character," Chamberlain said. The building is on the National Historic Register, which is both a benefit and a challenge in updating the venue space, Meek said. Meek's vision is for something reminiscent of the prohibition-era 1920s and encompassing of the 30s and 40s, as well. The style will suit her tastes in music, which fall outside country western. "I like blues and I like jazz and I like ethnic music; I like things that are a little bit different, that I think our community would appreciate. There really isn't a venue for those things," she said. The project, while still in the planning stages, has Meek, Chamberlain and others excited for the possibilities. "I have never, never seen a room as amazing as this room for a performance space. From a historic point of view, it's just gorgeous," Chamberlain said. **The sale price of the building was listed at \$275,000 by realtor John Renfrow.**

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