DELTA MEN ARRESTED **ON GUN CHARGES**

Page A3



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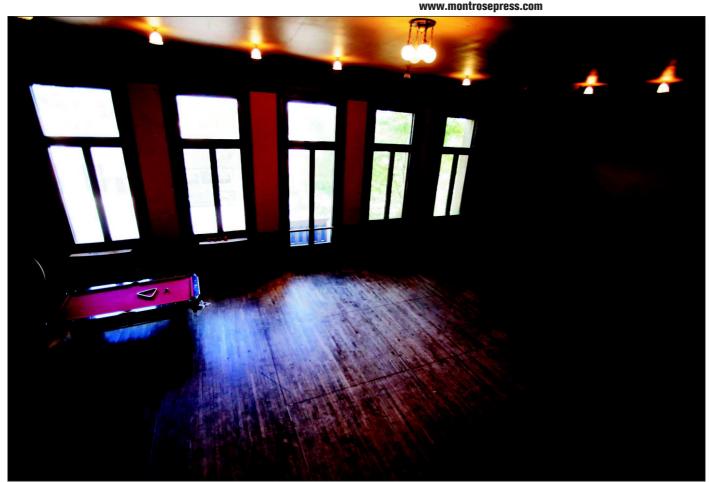
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The smaller of two spaces on the upper level, Meek envisions this room as a library-style intimate venue or event hosting

Music venue

Musicians connect for unique, historic Montrose project

DAILY PRESS STAFF WRITER A familiar face in Montrose's music scene is one step closer to creating her dream performance venue.

Yvonne Meek, a professional musician based in Montrose, and her husband Harris, on Tuesday closed a deal to purchase a building in the historic downtown district at 509, 511 and 513 E. Main St.

The building, constructed around 1911 as a Masonic lodge, currently houses Adams Vacuum and Montrose Sewing, and A+Y Design Gallery on the street level and The Journey church on the upper level.

Meek plans to repurpose the upper level of the building, about 3,000 square feet, as a music performance venue when the church relocates this fall. She hopes to open in December, in time for holiday events.

After completing the purchase on July 29, Meek said she was "absolutely ecstatic" to have acquired the SEE **VENUE**, PAGE A3



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Yvonne Meek stands in the upper level of the Main Street building she and her husband, Harris Meek, purchased this week. The space will be converted to a music venue.

Fleet of felony charges for man shot by police

Defendant allegedly pointed shotgun at sergeant

BY KATHARHYNN HEIDELBERG DAILY PRESS SENIOR WRITER

The Montrose man shot by police after allegedly threatening an officer last month was on Thursday charged formally with several felonies.

Michael Leroy Yates, 19, appeared in black-and-white striped jail clothing for the brief hearing, during which his attorney waived the formal reading of charges and requested a preliminary hearing.

That hearing, which will weigh probable cause, was slated for Oct. 1.

Yates is charged with first-degree assault; two counts of felony menacing; two counts of first-degree trespass and possession of a weapon by a previous offender, according to Montrose Combined Court records.

Yates is not accused of physically harming another, but is charged with first-degree assault under a section of statute pertaining to threats against peace officers:

"A person commits the crime of assault in the first degree if ... with intent to cause serious bodily injury upon the person of a peace officer or firefighter, he or she threatens with a deadly weapon a peace officer or firefighter engaged in the performance of his or her duties, and the offender knows or reasonably should know that the victim is a peace officer or firefighter acting in the performance of his or

Yates sustained a gunshot wound to the buttocks after allegedly racking a shell into the chamber of a shotgun and aiming it at Montrose Police Sgt. Tim Cox on July 14.

Cox had responded to a mobile home community on Hillcrest Drive on reports that a man was trespassing vehicles and stealing from them.

SEE **CHARGES**, PAGE A3

Godfrey looks forward to supporting Centennial staff, students

New assistant principal teams up with Simo to lead middle school

BY NATHAN MEACHAM

DAILY PRESS STAFF WRITER

Thomas Godfrey has a clear view of what role an assistant principal plays at a middle school. "An assistant principal's job is

to help build systems that support student learning, that support professional growth," he said. That's how Godfrey is approaching

his first year as assistant principal at Centennial Middle School, which is the first administrative job of his career. Godfrey spent the last five years teaching social studies and coaching at Olathe High School, and was in the

Delta School District 11 years before

that, teaching a variety of subjects. The idea of becoming an administrator has been on his mind for a few years, and Godfrey said the Centennial position immediately looked like a good fit once it opened up. He is joining incoming principal Joe Simo, who was the assistant principal at Centennial

Godfrey said having Simo's experience with Centennial has already been

for five years before moving to Pomona

Elementary three years ago.

New administrators

The Montrose County School District has hired six new administrators, with several moving from other positions in the district, for the start of the 2014-15 school year. Each new administrator will be introduced throughout this week in the Montrose Press.

"invaluable."

"He's done a lot of good things here and he has a lot of great ideas," Godfrey said. "It really helps having somebody that's been in the exact same position. He's able to direct and lead me where I need to go without trying to reinvent the whole process.'

Centennial starts the year with two new faces leading the school, but Simo's experience at the school and Godfrey's experience in the district minimize and reduce some of those early challenges.

"It's not like were both starting from scratch," Simo said

INSIDE THE DAILY PRESS

SEE **CENTENNIAL**, PAGE A3



New Centennial Middle School Assistant Principal Thomas Godfrey poses for a picture inside his office Tuesday.



Published for the Uncompange Valley and Don Wicburg of Delta

LENDAR A2	1
CAL	(

OUTDOORS A6-7,10

COMICS..... A8 WEATHER A9 CLASSIFIEDSB1-4

News:

Guilty plea in illegal cat-hunt scheme Page A3

Today's Weather

Scattered thunderstorms today with highs around 82. Tonight, clear skies with lows around 56. See details, A9.



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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.

Nicholaus 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 Mackarea 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

Cook is accused of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Bovd 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 poach-

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

FROM PAGE 1

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

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-

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

and setting up strong support

systems.

excited to start working with them

Godfrey even talked with a few

"They felt their teachers cared

Centennial students about what

they liked about the school.

"That impressed me."

about them and they felt their

teachers did a good job," he said.

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

"I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO WORK HERE,"

THOMAS GODFREY, CENTENNIAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

said.

CENTENNIAL: Godfrey moves from Olathe High School

The assistant principal position

includes the title of athletic direc-

Godfrey was an assistant coach

on both the Olathe football and

wrestling teams, so supporting

"I'm looking forward to the

and students, trying to help them

succeed at that level as well," he

aspect of dealing with coaches

coaches and athletes isn't new for

tor at Centennial.

him.

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.

Godfrey is already settling into

his office, but he is excited about

the chance to support teachers

and student learning in his new

"I'm looking forward to getting to work here," he said. "I think

There's been some great things at

Friday 8/1

this school and I think there will

there are great things to come.

role as assistant principal.

VENUE: Design will preserve historic character

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

"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

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

the help of Harris and his connections through

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

The sale price of the building was listed at \$275,000 by realtor John Renfrow.



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