



Published for the
Uncompahgre Valley
and Roland Hatch of
Olathe

OUTSIDE

COLD

Tonight:
Cold
Low 4

Friday:
Mostly Cloudy
High 38, Low 12

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NBC 11 News for the
Montrose Daily Press
Report nightly at 5:30
and 10 p.m.

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INFO

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Olathe officials: Corn fest nearly in the black

Famous event not in danger, Sale says

KATHARHYNN HEIDELBERG
DAILY PRESS NEWS EDITOR

OLATHE — Olathe has been rocked in recent weeks with news that its famous cash cow, the Olathe Sweet Corn Festival, is running dry and owes the town's sewer fund \$191,000. There's also

been speculation that the town might pull the festival. And there's one more problem: According to Bobbi Sale, corn fest director, it simply isn't true.

"It's not a fact," she said Monday. "Over the last nine years, it has cost the town money to put on

the corn festival. But the \$191,000 comes from the corn fest, the activities department and the community center. That's all together. The dollar amount is correct, but where the money was spent is not."

Sale said \$26,000 of the transferred funds was for the corn festival, which turned a \$30,000 profit in 2004. In 2005, it made \$40,000.

"Another year like that and the corn fest will be totally in the black," Sale said. "The other two (the activities department and center), by design, are not. It's a service you offer your town and it just doesn't make enough money to cover the cost of providing it."

She said previous boards decided to fund the activities department and community center.

"That is the majority of that money. It's over \$166,000 that it takes to provide those services. It's not the corn festival. It's not a debt. It's just a service that the town provides."

Though he had heard the \$191,000 figure, Trustee Dan Kelso said the town had no intention of

SEE CORN FEST, PAGE A2

Building the future



BARTON GLASSER / DAILY PRESS

From left, teacher Pam Stuckey, Principal Tom Hill, teacher Jessica Blacker, Neenan Company architect David Kurtz, and head custodian Kim Evink discuss the upcoming addition to Pomona Elementary School during a collaborative design meeting at the Montrose School District administrative office Tuesday. The planning meeting included input from Pomona faculty and staff, Pomona parents and architects and designers from the Neenan Design Company.

Design created for Pomona reconstruction

KATI O'HARE
DAILY PRESS WRITER

MONTROSE — The ball got rolling for the reconstruction of Pomona Elementary School during a "design team" meeting Tuesday at the Re-IJ school district's office.

More than 30 people attended the meeting, including school staff, parents, contractors, engineers, ar-

chitects and interior designers, said Linda Gann, district spokeswoman.

The goal was to come up with a draft plan for a 10-classroom addition that would also include administration and teacher facilities — and keep it within a \$1.8 million budget.

"Students' needs were the biggest thing," said Betty Golle, Pomona secretary.

"The new design is going to allow us to move people around to give them bigger areas and put quads together."

After a day of looking at all options and drawing different models, the committee came up with a design that attaches to the northeast corner of the north building and would expand north into the current play-

ONLINE VIDEO

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ground.
The 13,248 square-foot building would have an east-facing main entrance and include a reception area, principal's office, teachers' workroom and lounge.

SEE POMONA, PAGE A2

Businesses say live music important to Montrose

KATI O'HARE
DAILY PRESS WRITER

MONTROSE — The summer event, "Main in Motion," that brought people to the downtown area to relax and listen to live music has since passed, but a few participating businesses are keeping the feeling alive this winter.

"It's important to keep life on Main Street," said Kendra Gallegos, owner of Canyon Creek Bed & Breakfast in Montrose.

Gallegos returned to Montrose in 2005 after managing a bed and breakfast on Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass. She opened Canyon Creek Bed & Breakfast in July 2005.

"I miss going out and being able to hear music," she said.

Gallegos said she wanted to have a place in Montrose for people to know that when they go out, they can hear live music.

Every Thursday her bed and breakfast hosts a different musician. Saturday, after the Parade of Lights, Donny Morales will play. On Thursday Dec. 7, Danny Hernandez and Friends will entertain at the business, where a bar is also available.

Gallegos said there is no cover charge unless the band requests it.

"It's important to have a place to go and have conversations and enjoy the atmosphere," she said.

Though not on Main Street, Smuggler's Brew Pub and Grill is also trying to give area residents a place to enjoy live music this winter.

Smuggler's manager Zona Crump, a musician and Montrose resident since 1991, said she started a "showcase" on Tuesday nights, because she wants more live music to be available in Montrose.

The showcase, Crump said, is a "mini jam session" for local artists. Each Tuesday night a different musician or band host the three-hour event and invite other artists to come and play.

SEE MUSIC, PAGE A2

BLM report surveys available gas resources

Company says restrictions not a hindrance

MATT HILDNER
DAILY PRESS WRITER

MONTROSE — The U.S. Bureau of Land Management issued a report Tuesday detailing the amount of acreage open to on-shore natural gas and oil development.

The study inventoried natural gas reserves in 11 areas around the country, including the Paradox Basin, which sits under the West End of Montrose County and extends to Utah and southwestern Colorado. In the Paradox Basin 49 percent of its natural gas is inaccessible for leasing, 11 percent is accessible with restrictions and 40 percent is open un-

der standard lease terms.

While the bulk of the Paradox Basin's inaccessible gas sits in Utah, two of the BLM's wilderness study areas — Sewemup Mesa and the Dolores River Canyon — in the West End of Montrose County do not allow leasing. Leasing is also not allowed in the Tabeguache Special Management Area on the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Nationally, the study found that 13 percent of onshore gas managed by the federal government is accessible under standard lease terms, 60 percent may be developed with restrictions, and 27 percent closed to leasing.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed the BLM to conduct the study, which followed on the heels of a 2003 inventory that only considered restrictions on actual leases.

"This is a more complete and accurate picture than our previous inventory,"

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JOEL BLOCKER / DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTO
Natural gas drilling pads dot the landscape in western San Miguel County in an aerial photo taken this fall. A new study by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management surveyed lease restrictions across the country, including those in the Paradox Basin, which sits underneath the county.



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