

Local generosity boosts sheriff's posse

By MARK RACKAY
SPECIAL TO THE MONTROSE DAILY PRESS

The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse recently received a generous donation from local community member Marcia Bailey, made in memory of her daughter Robin. The donation allowed the posse to purchase a new pump, water tank, and hose assembly to be used on a brush truck for wildfires. The brush truck is used in the suppression of wildfires in our area when the posse is deployed for support by the Montrose County sheriff. Posse President Lewis Wengert said, "On behalf of the entire posse, I would like to express my

gratitude to Ms. Bailey for her support," said Lewis Wengert, posse president. "This new slide-in unit will help our members to efficiently and safely perform fire suppression operations. The posse also would like to express thanks to all the members of our community for their continued support, because without community support and generous donation, our posse could not operate." The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse is an entirely volunteer organization, conducting search and rescue, recovery operations, traffic control, security and, wildland fire suppression for all of Montrose County. The posse

relies on donations from the community to fund operations, equipment, and training. The posse has been serving Montrose County since 1964. For more information on the posse, visit www.mcspi.org Mark Rackay is a columnist for the Montrose Daily Press and avid hunter who travels across North and South America in search of adventure and serves as a director for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. For information about the posse, call 970-252-4033 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org. For outdoors or survival related questions or comments, feel free to contact him directly at his email elkhunter77@icloud.com.



Marcia Bailey recently donated enough to the Montrose County Sheriff's Office Posse that it was able to purchase more firefighting equipment. From left, posse member Paul Gottlieb; Sheriff Gene Lillard; Bailey and posse member Paul Martin. (Courtesy photo/Mark Rackay)



The Montrose County Sheriff's Office Posse fire suppression unit. (Courtesy photo/Mark Rackay)

Correction

Youth Services librarian Elizabeth Cook's first name was incorrect on her byline for the library column, "The power of children's books," in the Aug. 12 Montrose Daily Press. The Daily Press regrets the error.

Around The State

Editor's note: The following is being republished with permission from The Denver Post. Read the full stories on denver-post.com.

Gov. Jared Polis wants to pay Colorado students to get regularly tested for COVID-19

Colorado K-12 students might soon have a little more incentive to get tested regularly for COVID-19. Gov. Jared Polis told Denver7 the state is working on a plan to pay students a cash incentive if they participate in surveillance testing. The goal is to regularly test asymptomatic students for COVID-19, in hopes of reducing the spread of the virus in schools. Polis said surveillance testing would be one piece of a plan to keep schools safe and open. "So, it's not like you just do regular testing and forget about everything else, but along with ventilation and mask wearing and symptom screening, testing can be part of making schools among the safest places to be," Polis said. Unlike many colleges which have mandated vaccines, K-12 schools in Colorado are not requiring students to be vaccinated, and students under 12 are not yet eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. As school resumes this month, and amid rising cases of the delta variant, there's concern that Colorado schools may see outbreaks similar to what's happened in other states.

Colorado's Ken Salazar confirmed as U.S. ambassador to Mexico

Ken Salazar, a former U.S. senator and interior secretary from Colorado, was confirmed early Wednesday to be the American ambassador to Mexico. The U.S. Senate voted unanimously to approve Salazar's nomination. He is the first of President Joe Biden's ambassador nominees to be confirmed. Salazar, 66, was secretary of the interior under President Barack Obama and served as a Democrat in the U.S. Senate for four years before that. His confirmation comes at a time when the Biden administration is trying to deal with a large influx of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, a politically fraught issue that poses humanitarian and logistical

challenges. "Colorado is proud that one of our great statesmen will be representing the United States in Mexico," Gov. Jared Polis said in a statement Wednesday.

Colorado Ped Patrol chases internet child predators along the Front Range as an audience watches online

Tommy Fellows hands shook as he looked at the text message from a man who said he wanted to meet a teenage girl for sex. "What are u going to wear for daddy when I pick u up?" the message said. Fellows handed the phone back to his colleague, Celeste Hilton, who was pretending to be a 13-year-old girl. "Does my makeup look trashy enough?" asked Hilton, who had just applied thick, black eyeliner. She snapped a selfie, then altered the image with Face App so that she appeared 20 years younger than she actually is. Hilton texted the photo, hoping to keep the man interested in meeting her. The two started packing their backpacks inside the garage of Fellows Westminster home, where he runs Colorado Ped Patrol — a YouTube channel established to expose internet predators. "Let's get him. I love it," Fellows said. "These people are all disgusting." Hilton jumped and shouted, "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

Five months ago, Fellows created Colorado Ped Patrol, a loose group of people who set up meetings online with child predators and then livestream their encounters to expose and shame the men who prey on children. Ped Patrol's YouTube channel has more than 19,000 followers and last month the group gained notoriety on the East Coast after Fellows traveled to Atlantic City, N.J., to participate in a sting that ensnared a Pennsylvania police officer. But the group's vigilante stings, which occur in places like parking lots and city parks, are drawing warnings from police and prosecutors, who say Fellows and his crew put themselves and the public in danger. Law enforcement officials also say Fellows' tactics don't follow proper criminal procedure, making it difficult to bring charges against alleged perpetrators.

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