

## **Council approves another wood carver with conditions**

**By Anthony Welch**

As long as artist David Gonzales can keep the noise down, he has Manitou Springs City Council's permission to operate his wood carving business at 419 Manitou Ave.

Council approved a conditional use permit for Gonzales at its regular meeting Tuesday night. The motion passed 5-1 with Councilman Rick Barry opposing.

Gonzales' original request was for outdoor wood carving, however, in accordance with Manitou Springs Planning Commission recommendations, the conditional use permit was approved with the stipulation that he do all carving indoors.

Gonzales plans to build a shed on the property that will include some sort of soundproofing as well, to mitigate noise, Planning Director Dan Folke said. The fact that he's using electric saws, rather than gas-powered chain saws, helps a bit.

Gonzales will be allowed to work during the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No operation of chainsaws is permitted on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Operation of the equipment may not exceed 55 decibels, Folke said.

Noise is a concern because there are duplexes in close proximity to the business, and the Eagle Motel is nearby as well.

Barry was still concerned about the noise issue. He worries the business would still impact residents and businesses in the area.

"I can't imagine sitting on my rear deck or sitting outside the Eagle Motel and hearing the whining of a grinder and trying to enjoy a summer afternoon," he said.

### **Manitou Chair Project**

Manitou Chair Project creator Sean O'Meallie was on hand to show Council a film of the Oct. 9 event.

O'Meallie credited the Business of Art Center (BAG), saying the project wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the BAC. Approximately \$30,000 was raised for the project to cover expenses, O'Meallie said. Eighty-five percent of that came from outside of the community.

The event included 100 performers and 80 chair wranglers, O'Meallie said. Approximately 53 businesses were involved and all the chairs came from around 200 people.

"I'm really proud of the piece. We didn't lose any chairs. We didn't break any chairs. It's been a very positive thing," O'Meallie said.

Carpenter applauded O'Meallie for raising all the funds himself. Too often people present project ideas to Council and ask for City money to help, Carpenter said.

O'Meallie mentioned there will be commemorative items for purchase from the event including posters and calendars. He added he is providing photos for the event to iManitou to use in the marketing of Manitou Springs.

"The value to the community will be seen for years and years and years," iManitou's Roger Miller said. "This has been a huge springboard and puts us in the spotlight. There has been a lot of bang for the buck that's come from this."

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## **Council hopes ordinances help discourage youth tobacco use**

**By Anthony Welch**

Manitou Springs City Council is doing its part to join Manitou Springs High School students in rallying against teenage tobacco use.

Council approved two ordinances related to the matter Tuesday at its meeting. One establishes licensing and regulating procedures for businesses selling non-cigarette tobacco products, which includes chewing tobacco, spitless tobacco, tobacco strips, orbs, sticks, hookah and electronic cigarettes.

Businesses selling tobacco products would have to pay a fee for licensing. The amount of the fee would be decided on by Council at a later date. The ordinance goes into effect Jan. 1, 2012.

The second ordinance establishes procedures for preventing youth access to tobacco products. It prohibits the sale of tobacco products from a vending machine and provides for fines to be issued for violations, according to City Attorney Jeff Parker. Both ordinances would apply to seven businesses currently selling tobacco products in Manitou Springs.

Laurie Wood and Justin Armour, of Partners for Healthy Choices, were on hand with a group of students who have been working on an anti-tobacco campaign with the El Paso County Public Health's Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership.

"I'm so proud of this particular group, who worked over a year and stepped up voluntarily because they wanted to do something about tobacco use and their peers," Wood said.

Council viewed a short film created by MSHS students, where they endorsed not using tobacco products. Joy Clark, with the Tobacco Education Program, said studies found that 28 percent of MSHS seniors use tobacco products. Nine percent are heavy users, Clark added.

Fountain City Council passed a similar ordinance in early October, becoming one of the first communities in Colorado to pass a tobacco licensing ordinance, Clark said. Tobacco retailer licensing is an effective method to help reduce youth access to tobacco products and hold retailers accountable for selling tobacco products to minors, she added.

"Colorado is one of only eight states that do not require retailers of tobacco products to be licensed. Currently, it is difficult to know who how is actually selling tobacco products and where," Clark said. "In most communities, the retailers who are selling tobacco products are fairly clear."

A 2008 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey found that six out of 10 Colorado high school students attempting to purchase cigarettes were successful, according to Clark.

"I realized that I complained about tobacco use every single day to my friends," student Rebecca Triplett said to Council. "I thought about everyday how I didn't have a say in these issues. I support this ordinance, because if tobacco isn't worth my time to complain, why should it be yours?"

Mayor Marc Snyder was impressed with the students' efforts and felt it was good to attack the issue of tobacco use at that particular age groups.

"What I've seen is addictions that are acquired when you're a teenager carry on when you're an adult," he said.