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ART & SOL

RIVER ECOSYSTEM HEALTH HIGHLIGHTED/FEATURED AT FLY FISHING FILM NIGHT

Special to Montrose Mirror

RIDGWAY-An adventurous mission in pursuit of a giant predatory fish.

An inspiring expedition to a tiny island to help protect an over-exploited fishery.

An exploration of how to save a wilderness area from rampant poaching and ecosystem collapse.

These stories are the foundations for the exciting short films that will be shown at the Sherbino Theater in Ridgway, Colorado on Saturday, March 18, during A Benefit for the Uncompahgre River. As part of the national Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T), local audiences will be treated to a hand-picked selection of fish tales on the big screen and hear about improvements planned for the Uncompahgre River.

The film night and benefit are hosted by RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service, a Ridgway business and river guiding company since 2001. Co-sponsors are the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP), a Ouray-County-based nonprofit that exists to help protect the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed, and Trout Unlimited (TU), a conservation organization with the primary objective of protecting, reconnecting, restoring and sustaining America's cold-water fisheries. The Gunnison Gorge An-

glers is the local TU chapter serving the Uncompahgre valley.

During the benefit, UWP will also be showing a four-minute film about the importance of the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries. TU Gunnison Basin Project Coordinator Cary Denison will share information about the state of the river, known for a popular fishery below the Ridgway reservoir but devoid of fish above the reservoir due to heavy metals in the water.

"There are two problems in our watershed," explained UWP Board Member and retired miner Michael Johnson. "One is the natural concentration of heavy metals in the Uncompahgre. There is not much we can do about that. Second, men and women came here to mine the rich silver veins, when the government decided to step off of the silver standard it created a depression that most miners and mining companies could not survive. The depression combined with a lack of knowledge resulted in many mining sites that were abandoned with no reclamation work. It is now up to us to do what we can to clean things up."

Johnson also pointed out that "The Uncompahgre valley is running out of water. The population has more than doubled in the past 20 years, with no end of growth



A scene from the short film, *Odd Man Out*, shows fly fisherwoman Camille Egdorf in Alaska. Photo by Matt McCormick.

in sight. We owe it to future generations to do what we can to clean up what we have."

Gary Roberts, another UWP board member who ranches in Ouray County, added, "Maintaining or improving the water quality for this section of the river is critical, particularly for livestock water as livestock and other animals including elk and deer will not drink water that becomes excessively loaded with mineral contaminants. The cleaner the water; the better for the animals."

"All of the ranchers in this area of the valley that utilize the Uncompahgre River water would be hard pressed if the river would be further contaminated with

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Orange creek water filled with heavy metals peeks out from the snow up Red Mountain Pass. Heavy metal is most concentrated in the water at high elevations closest to the legacy mines, and is diluted as flows come together into the Uncompahgre River near Ouray. Courtesy photo.

with heavy metals,” Roberts said. “More aquatic life in the river including fish would definitely indicate cleaner water

that would enhance livestock and crop operations and also wildlife.” The original and preeminent exhibition of fly fishing cinema, the F3T is popular with fishy folk of all ages, who gather to soak up stories from around the world, spin a few yarns amongst friends and dream about casts still unmade. In addition to showcasing world-class fly fishing films, the F3T is dedicated to supporting the local fly shops and conservation groups, which take the lead on the educational and environmental efforts that benefit the sport and its participants. All event proceeds will be dedicated to a project at the Humboldt Mine above Ouray, that will improve water quality by decreasing heavy metal acid drainage in Sneffels Creek and downstream flows in the Uncompahgre River

and beyond. The Fly Fishing Film Tour makes its stop at A Benefit for the Uncompahgre River at the Sherbino Theater, 604 Clinton Street, Ridgway, Colorado on Saturday, March 18.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 with advance online purchase or \$20 at the door.

For information and tickets go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/411791825833357> or <https://shop.fishrigs.com/rigs-fly-fishing-film-tour-ticket-march-18th.html>

For more information about the event organizers, go to <http://fishrigs.com>, <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org>, and <http://coloradotu.org>.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS: ARTS & CULTURE

TOURING NONSTOP SINCE 2012, YOU KNEW ME WHEN BRING THEIR CRAFT BREWED COMPOSITIONS TO STEPS TAVERN IN RIDGWAY MARCH 25

Special to Art & Sol

RIDGWAY – After uprooting from their Nashville home and full-time jobs in June of 2012, the husband and wife indie folk-rock duo You Knew Me When set plans to tour the nation for a full year...however, they never stopped. Since that time they have been serving up their craft brewed compositions, a term coined from their over 150 craft brewery performances, coast to coast throughout the USA and into Canada. Aside from an occasional pause to record new music, the duo have no intention of slowing down anytime soon. Currently touring in support of their third studio album and upcoming 2017 release “Into the Looking Glass”, You Knew Me When will perform at:

STEPS Tavern (630 Sherman St Lower Level #802, Ridgway, CO) on Saturday, March 25 at 8:00 p.m. No cover.

Outfitted with an array of instruments, You Knew Me When is a duo that presents a full band sound. While blending their vocals, Karisa, who previously served as a

tenured Nashville public school music teacher, provides the piano, ukulele, glockenspiel, and percussive elements, as Cie, who spent several years as the Global Events Manager for Gibson Guitar, supplies the guitar and other rhythmic nuances. The cumulative result is a musical style and live show that blends a singer-songwriter soul with a rock n roll mentality.

You Knew Me When’s upcoming 2017 release “Into The Looking Glass” is the duo’s third studio album and is available for pre-preorder at www.youknewmewhen.com/pre-order. At times upbeat and folksy, at times brooding and introspective, the album aims at introspection for the couple’s continued journey while sharing experiences gained from over four years of non-stop touring. Keep up to date with the latest album information by following You Knew Me When on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and by joining their email list at www.youknewmewhen.com/contact.



You Knew Me When courtesy photo by Kendra Bowmar.

Physical and digital copies of You Knew Me When’s albums are available at www.youknewmewhen.com. The albums are also available on iTunes, Amazon, and other online retailers. Listen to You Knew Me When online via Pandora, Spotify, iTunes, and other online radio sources.

For more information on You Knew Me When, please visit www.youknewmewhen.com