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ART & SOL

RANDALL WHITE WARNS OF SKI INJURIES: ***Safety workshop sounds alarm on 600,000 annual ski injuries***

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Montrose Feature Writer

MONTROSE- Ski Safety Advocates founder Randy White of Montrose delivered a workshop on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse, sounding the alarm on mostly hidden industry-kept injury figures.

The workshop, sponsored by the Montrose Recreation Center, was the latest in White's efforts to inform families on how to have safer ski experiences. Alarming, there are more than 600,000 ski injury accidents requiring ski patrol attention and rides on what White calls "the orange meat wagons."

White is a former ski instructor at Telluride Ski Area and has mounted a campaign to change the game on ski safety. He describes himself as a "whistle blower."

Several years ago, Olathe youth Luis Olide was killed in a school-sponsored ski club event at Crested Butte Ski Area. White says it was a "totally avoidable accident," where Olide became separated from his group, after a half day lesson, and struck a tree on a ski run much above his skiing ability. The Olathe student was wearing what White calls "a defective" ski

helmet rented from Crested Butte Ski Company. White said, "...all of this was completely avoidable..."

Saturday White warned that the ski industry has a dismal safety record even for its own employees, third worst in the nation of more than 1,000 OSHA industry categories.

The problem, says White, is that "...the families know nearly nothing about this..." Saturday White said his efforts last year to engage local school ski clubs via principals and ski club sponsors were either ignored or politely dismissed. Efforts via school boards and superintendents this year have been similar.

White noted exceptions to the disinterest are local school board member Phoebe Benziger, Peak Academy and Olathe Middle School (OMS). Principal Scot Brown last year told White that "...not a single morning goes by that I don't wake up thinking about Luis Olide." Last December Brown invited White to OMS to deliver a workshop to a group of students. That



Ski Safety Advocates founder Randy White of Montrose delivered a workshop on Saturday, Dec. 1 .

story was carried in the *Montrose Mirror*. Benziger has campaigned her colleagues, but the reaction seems to be complacency.

Saturday, Montrose Memorial Hospital's Sherman Mathieu asked White why "there appears to be little interest in ski safety," noting, "we have to do something."

White replied that although there is a current Ski Safety Act passed by the State Legislator, "no one appears to want to

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want to take responsibility for enforcing the law.” White’s efforts to improve ski safety have led him on an investigative trail involving area ski area operators, Colorado ski patrol personnel, the National Ski Area Association (NSAA), Colorado law enforcement, the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado Fish and Wildlife Board.

White even went so far in November as to travel approximately 200 miles to Burlington, CO., to attend the monthly meeting of the State Fish and Wildlife Board, where he was allowed to make a

presentation.

His efforts began about two years ago after learning of the death of five-year-old Elise Johnston from Wyoming in a ski accident that claimed her life.

The ski-boarder (later found to be high on Marijuana) who collided with the child also died; her mother Kelli Johnston, suffered a severe traumatic brain injury from which she’s recovered to champion ski safety.

White said he saw a video put out on the loss of the child by the NSAA, partially

funded by the Johnston’s, that actually ended up downplaying the ski area’s responsibility in the accident.

White described crying when he first saw the video, realizing the beautiful child died unnecessarily.

The video is available on-line through YouTube, but viewing has gone down since the first year.

White stated he will have more presentations on ski safety in the future, provided he can get the local school ski clubs to attend. <https://youtu.be/BDg19asqud8>

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

CORY HENRY & THE FUNK APOSTLES RETURN TO TELLURIDE AT CLUB RED

Special to Art & Sol

TELLURIDE- Cory Henry & The Funk Apostles return to Colorado after packing Town Park this summer during their debut performance at the 2018 Telluride Jazz Festival weekend. The band is slated to return to Telluride on Thursday, Dec. 27, for a highly anticipated follow-up performance at Club Red.

The three-time Grammy-winning pianist, singer, and composer has toured with the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Diddy and The Roots. Since debuting at the tender age of six on the hallowed Apollo Theater stage, this profoundly talented keyboardist has an array of Grammys on his mantel for his work with Snarky Puppy.

With his new group of handpicked musicians, The Funk Apostles, Cory stretches the boundaries of what funk should sound like and where it should take the listener. The band unleashes driving grooves as a platform for inventive but in the pocket improvisations. Their fresh takes on classics like Marvin Gaye’s “What’s Going On,” stud their set list.

Cory Henry and The Funk Apostles is his newest passion and project, comprised of

five of the world’s best musicians, hand-picked to bring his musical concepts to life. Cory is currently on tour with The Funk Apostles and has been featured on “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon,” BBC’s Proms Quincy Jones Tribute, National Public Radio, and The New York Times Facebook Live with Erykah Badu, among other media outlets.

His solo wizardry and charismatic nature have garnered millions of views via YouTube and other social platforms, giving birth to a rabid fan base excited for what’s to come. The upcoming self-titled Cory Henry and The Funk Apostles album exhibits his vocal talents and emphasizes the new sound and vibes he wants to innovate for the world to sing along with. “We are on our way. Tell Everybody. How many bodies? Everybody!”

The show is open to all ages, with doors opening at 8 p.m. and the show starting at 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$35 for general admission with preferred seating tickets available at \$50, \$60 and \$79 for an exclusive VIP Meet & Greet Experience featuring early entry, a photo opportunity with Cory, a masterclass led by Cory focusing



Cory Henry. Courtesy photo.

on soloing, writing, and finding your voice as a musician, signed journal and a commemorative laminate.

Limited tickets are available to purchase online at clubredtelluride.com and locally at Telluride Music, located at 333 West Colorado Ave.