

"If you don't want it printed, don't let it happen."

# Aspen Daily News

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## Fan favorites highlight Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's lone winter show in Aspen



Photo courtesy of Rosalie O'Connor

Sadie Brown and Anthony Tiedeman perform in "1st Flash." The piece, one of three set for tonight, is "very athletic, very powerful and very physical," said Jean-Philippe Malaty, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet executive director.

## Dance company's busy tour comes home for one night only

By **Todd Hartley**  
Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

There's a fairly common misconception about the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet (ASFB) that the es-

### Fantasies of a ski bum

Columnist Lorenzo Semple wonders how many ski bums are out there like him, willing to get up at 4 a.m. to watch Lindsey Vonn's farewell tour. » 8

### Define "emergency"

President Trump declared an emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border in an effort to get more funding for his wall. » 10

### Hey, now, time to watch some All-Stars

With the NBA's All-Star Weekend upon us, it's time for a rundown of the top 10 things to know about the hoops celebration. » 30

teemed dance company's executive director, Jean-Philippe Malaty, would like to clear up.

"People might think that we don't perform a lot, or that we're doing just one performance [this winter]," Malaty said. "They're not always aware that we perform elsewhere, and they should try to catch us at home when they can because we have a very busy touring schedule."

That opportunity to catch ASFB on its home turf comes tonight when the company presents a one-night-only performance of fan favorites from its repertoire at 7:30 p.m. at the Aspen District Theatre. The varied program features the jazz-inspired "Tuplet," Swedish phenom Alexander Ekman's multimedia exploration of rhythm; Fernando Melo's perspective-bending "Dream Play"; and acclaimed dance maker Jorma Elo's electric "1st Flash."

"Every time we put a program together we try to take the audience on a journey, and we try to come up with three ballets that are different in concept or style," Malaty said.

The program begins with "Tuplet," described

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## In murder trial, judge denies defense motion to disqualify himself

**Bid for mistrial also refused after attorneys say judge's stance has 'chilling effect on defense'**

By **Chad Abraham**  
Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

The trial that will decide if a man is convicted of premeditated murder or a lesser homicide charge because of the defendant's drug use and a legal principle involving "the heat of passion" was sidelined awhile Friday after the judge expressed concerns about the defense team's "professional responsibilities" to their client.

Those comments led Garth McCarty, a court-appointed attorney for Gustavo Olivo-Tellez, to file a harshly worded motion and a personal affidavit Thursday that sought a mistrial and requested Judge John Neiley recuse himself. The judge denied both motions Friday while the jury was sequestered. Olivo-Tellez is charged with first-degree murder for shooting his estranged wife, Blanca Salas, four times in her apartment outside Glenwood Springs in 2016.

In their opening statement to the jury on Monday, McCarty and fellow defense attorney Ryan Dawson acknowledged Olivo-Tellez had committed the crime and that they were not asking for mercy or compassion for their client.

Tuesday saw the questioning of Michelle Castillo, the defendant's former girlfriend who is serving 16 years after pleading guilty to being an accomplice to the murder.

The defense wanted to question her about statements she made to police after she and Olivo-Tellez were arrested on Oct. 8, 2016, one day after Salas was killed. The prosecution, led by District Attorney Jeff Cheney, objected, according to the motion for mistrial, and the judge agreed with the prosecutors.

But Judge Neiley then launched into a "monologue" about the defense's opening statement and McCarty and Dawson seeking to designate Castillo as an alternate suspect in Salas' murder, the motion says.

The judge "drew attention to the contradiction

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SUNDAY FEB 17<sup>TH</sup>


THIEVERY CORPORATION

with LATE NIGHT RADIO

MONDAY FEB 18<sup>TH</sup>

POPPY WITH ELDREN

"The Andy Warhol of Youtube."  
- Business Insider





## A TASTE OF DENVER



Craig Turpin/Aspen Daily News

Denver chef and restaurateur Alex Seidel prepares to plate the fourth dish of a five-course dinner during The Little Nell's Guest Chef Dinner Series Tuesday evening at Element 47.

## One goal is to showcase Aspen Santa Fe Ballet dancers' versatility

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by Malaty as "a study of music and rhythm and not so much about movement." The piece uses projections and video to complement the dancers, who are called on to create their own musical rhythms with their bodies.

"It's a very different side of our dancers, for sure, where they almost become instruments," Malaty said.

The innovative "Dream Play," second on the program, also uses video by filming the dancers live as they dance and projecting the image on a giant screen behind them, so that the audience sees "two perspectives of the movement and the dance being created. One is by the

dancers, and one is the image created through the camera."

The nightcap, "1st Flash," which hasn't been seen in Aspen in years, is an ASFB classic that is "more of a traditional dance piece. It's a very athletic, very powerful and very physical piece that has been in our repertoire for many years and is really a favorite."

"Our dancers are very versatile; that's what the company's known for," Malaty said. "So we want to showcase that strength with every program we do and stretch the spectrum of what they're capable of doing."

It's a program of real crowd-pleasers that will only see

BALLET ON PAGE 4

## BLM releases proposed Sutey Ranch management plan

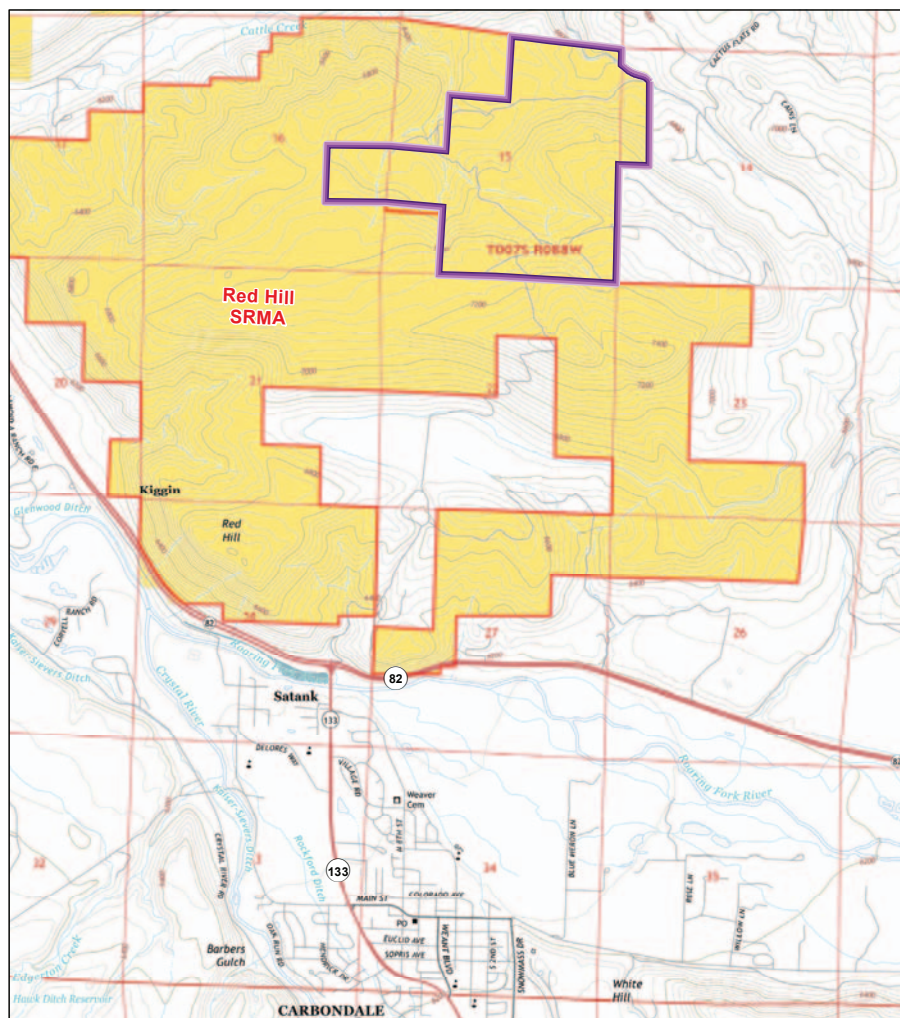
Recreation balanced with habitat protection

Aspen Daily News Staff Report

The Bureau of Land Management has announced its proposed management plan for the Sutey Ranch parcel near Carbondale, a proposal that includes a winter closure and an attempt at balancing the interests of hikers, mountain

SUTEY ON PAGE 4

Sutey Ranch Parcel Acquisition



Courtesy BLM

This map shows the 557-acre Sutey Parcel, outlined in blue, adjacent to the larger Red Hill Special Recreation Management Area outside Carbondale. A proposed management plan includes increased recreation, but also maintenance of irrigated fields and winter closures to protect wildlife.



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## Event Calendar

# February 16

**Sixth Annual Family Hoedown.**

Cozy Point Ranch, 210 Juniper Hill Road, Snowmass. 3-7 p.m. Mechanical bull riding, live music, pony rides, zorbs, eurobungy and dinner are just a few of the fun family activities. Tickets are \$25 for adults and kids 4 and over. Kids under 3 are free. Get your tickets online at familyhoedown.org before they sell out! Information at familyhoedown.org.

**Moonlit Trek.**

Snowmass Club golf course. 5:30-9 p.m. Spend the evening under the stars with a 1.2-mile snowshoe, walk, or cross-country ski with a midway stop for cookies and hot chocolate at Anderson Ranch Arts Center. End with a family-style pasta dinner at Black Saddle Bar and Grille with live music and s'mores around the fire. \$15-\$25 for dinner. Trek around the course is free. Information at gosnowmass.com.

**John McEuen & The String Wizards.**

Wheeler Opera House. 7:30 p.m. American folk musician and founding member of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band in 1966, John McEuen has performed over 10,000 concerts and 300 television shows and traveled more than 3 million miles. Information at wheeleroperahouse.com.

**Aspen Santa Fe Ballet.**

Aspen District Theatre. 235 High School Road, Aspen. 7:30 p.m. A special, one-night-only performance of fan favorites from ASFB's repertoire. Featuring the jazz-inspired "Tuplet," Swedish phenom Alexander Ekman's multi-media exploration of rhythm; Cherice Barton's "Eudaemonia," a touching choreographic search for happiness; and acclaimed dance maker Jorma Elo's electric "1st Flash." Tickets and information at aspensantafeballet.com.

**Corb Lund – No Rest for the West Tour.**

The Temporary. 360 Market Street, Basalt. 8 p.m. Lund is an alt-country singer-songwriter from Alberta, Canada. \$23-\$30. Information at tacaw.org.

**Damian Smith and Dennis Jung.**

Red Onion, Aspen. 4-6 p.m. Live music.

**Saloon Night.**

Two Rivers Cafe, Midland Ave., Basalt. 6-10 p.m. The Basalt High School track and field, girls basketball and girls and boys tennis teams invite you to support them by attending Saloon Night, a night of dining, gaming and entertainment. \$35-\$60. Buy your tickets online at saloonnight.bpt.me (with service charge) or by calling Diana Cordova Elliott at 970-927-4693 (no service charge).

**Ascendigo Blue Aspen Autism Benefit.**

Hotel Jerome, Aspen. A lively, star-studded evening of fundraising, curated cocktails and dinner stations, a live auction, special guests and entertainment. All proceeds benefit Ascendigo Autism Services. Based in Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley, Ascendigo serves local, regional and national populations of youth and adults across the autism spectrum. \$300-\$5,000. Information at ascendigo.org.

**AAM Artist Party.**

Aspen Art Museum. 6 p.m. Guests will enjoy an evening of glamorous cocktails, dinner, premium wines, dancing and festivities. The highlight of the evening will be the live auction featuring one-of-a-kind experiences with the world's most celebrated and visionary artists. Information at aspenartmuseum.org.

**Suzanne Paris & Teddy Jack.**

Heather's Savory Pies & Tapas, 166 Midland Ave, Basalt. 7 p.m. Live music.

**Opening Reception for "Connections."**

Opera Gallery. 501 E. Dean St., Aspen. 4-6 p.m. Featuring art by Olivia Daane and Kinga Czarska. Information at operagallery.com.

**FEBRUARY 16-17****Thievery Corporation.**

Belly Up Aspen. 450 S. Galena St., Aspen. 9 p.m. Live music. All ages. \$98-\$295. Information at bellyupaspen.com.

## Mountain bikers will have more limited access to north side than equestrians

**SUTEY FROM PAGE 3**

bikers and equestrians the rest of the year.

Under the proposed Sutey plan, the BLM would maintain irrigated fields to provide critical forage for big game, and allow public access between April 16 and Nov. 30 to reduce disturbance to wildlife in the winter.

Equestrians and hikers would have access to the north side of the Sutey parcel, via a small parking area off of Garfield County Road 111, outside of the winter closure. Mountain bikers could only access the area from the north side of Sutey between June 1 and Sept. 30, though they could still get in via a strenuous ride from the Mushroom Rock trail network. The proposed plan "reduces conflicts among recreational user groups by designating seasons of use," according to a BLM news release issued Friday. It also "provides important forage for wintering big game by maintaining irrigated fields."

The proposed plan "guides subsequent implementation decisions that will address development of equestrian parking facilities, designated trail locations and a mountain bike access route to the adjacent Red Hill SRMA," the news release says. It also "identifies the Sutey Ranch as a reserve common allotment for livestock grazing (that could be temporarily used under specific circumstances)."

The plan released Friday also deals with the

Haines parcel, which is adjacent to the Prince Creek biking area and the Crown Special Recreation Management Area.

More information about the proposed plan is available at <https://go.usa.gov/xnvM5>. The announcement initiates a 30-day public protest period. Protest submissions need to be received by March 18 and may be e-mailed to [blm\\_co\\_sutey\\_haines\\_rmpa@blm.gov](mailto:blm_co_sutey_haines_rmpa@blm.gov) or mailed to BLM, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652, Attn: Sutey Ranch Management Plan.

The BLM acquired the 557-acre Sutey Parcel in a land swap. The trade privatized more than 1,200 acres on the north flank of Mount Sopris, folding them into the Two Shoes Ranch owned by Ohio billionaire Leslie Wexner.

Though the public could access the Wexner-adjacent land that was traded away under the swap, it was seen to have less recreation potential than Sutey, which also could have been developed into a potential subdivision if not for the land trade. The critical winter game habitat made up of rolling sagebrush will now be protected forever.

"The acquisition of these parcels has expanded outdoor recreation and access in the Roaring Fork Valley, and acquisition of the Sutey Ranch specifically ensures critical habitat for wintering big game," said acting BLM Colorado River Valley field manager Rob Berger in the news release.

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one crowd here in ASFB's home base, and it makes a lot of Aspenites wonder just what the dance company is doing with the rest of its time. Locally, this winter ASFB has staged "The Nutcracker" and hosted guest dance companies during Gay Ski Week, but that's just a fraction of what the globe-trotting trope has been up to.

"What the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet does, really, is touring," Malaty said. "The majority of our performances during the year don't take place here. People always ask us whether we perform more in Aspen or Santa Fe, and the answer is that we perform more in Los Angeles, New York, Dallas, Houston and Tel Aviv than we do at home."

The dancers have just gotten back to Aspen after a trip to L.A. (their second of the winter), and after tonight's performance they're off on a big tour that will include Santa Fe and Scottsdale, Ariz., before a week-long run in New York City and a two-week sojourn to Israel for five shows in Tel Aviv and three others in cities around the country.

Malaty said the ASFB dancers won't get a "well-deserved break" until the beginning of April, after which they'll start gearing up for an equally busy summer. In the meantime, though, they'll be back on their home soil tonight and able to rest their weary bones in their own beds.

Even if it is only for one night.

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**TRIAL FROM PAGE 1**

between the theory of defense outlined in the opening statement and the evidentiary theory (expressed to the judge, not the jury) that Michelle Castillo's designation as an alternate suspect should provide additional latitude on cross examination," McCarty and Dawson wrote.

The motion also says that Judge Neiley "pointedly expressed his 'concern' about defense counsel's 'professional responsibility,' based on the judge's expectation that the theory described in an opening statement must be made in 'good faith,' which appeared inconsistent with the defense's" subsequent argument about Castillo being an alternate suspect.

The motion says the defense "should and must be prepared to adapt" its theory of a case should the prosecution fail to present adequate evidence.

Failure to do so may violate "the attorney's professional responsibility to provide zealous advocacy and competent representation to his client," the motion says. It adds a footnote referencing a colloquialism taught in law school: "It is entirely appropriate and not unethical for an attorney to argue that 'the sky is blue but, in the alternative, the sky is green.'"

McCarty's affidavit says he was so alarmed by the judge's statement about the defense straying from its stance in the opening statement — that is, admitting their client had committed the murder but later deeming Castillo an alternate suspect — that McCarty has sought his own attorney.

"The court's comments indicated to me that it was biased in favor of the prosecution and against my client and me, personally," McCarty wrote. "My sense of freedom in this court to zealously advocate for and make legal arguments in defense of my client was significantly chilled. ... My professional reputation and livelihood are among the worries I associate with this threat ... [and I] have sought legal counsel."

In court Friday, Cheney said the defense's stance "approaches bullying" of Judge Neiley and "the shaming of the judicial process," objecting to the bids for mistrial and recusal. The judge never accused McCarty of professional misconduct, and there is no evidence he is biased toward the prosecution, he said, noting several pretrial rulings that went against him.

Judge Neiley agreed in refusing to take himself off the case. He acknowledged that he was a "little troubled" by

**TRIAL ON NEXT PAGE**