



Rising to the Occasion

by Jennaye Derge

Just over the hill and to the west of Durango, a fleet of hot air balloons filled the glorious autumn skies last week for the 11th annual Mancos Valley Balloon Festival. From Friday to Sunday, the bright orbs decorated the morning skies making a peaceful and colorful spectacle for humans and birds alike. The three-day event also featured a street fair, art, BBQ and more.



My, what big balloons you have.



Blowing up a balloon industrial style.



The all-important chase crew lets go.



Fire her up!