

# Mesa County

## CONNECTION

**OUR COUNTY'S BIGGEST PROBLEMS**

**housing  
affordable alternatives**

**Featuring**



*Big Air Give Away!*

*Droughts & Fires  
with Chief Frank Cavaliere  
Lower Valley Fire District*



*Alley Katz  
Tattoo Gallery*



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for details &  
entry info!*

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# COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

August 2021

Mesa County Connection is a community magazine covering events and providing an outlook on the upcoming month. Though this is the first issue, it will be developed into something we hope the community will appreciate and give us feedback on. We would like to know what concerns our neighbors and County. Email questions, comments & what concerns you most. Engaging the community is our directive. As working members of Mesa County, we plan to see you and hope to meet a spectrum of people and personalities that reminds us that there really isn't another place like Mesa County. Our unique mixture of mostly laid back people offer a variety of personal entertainment and face to face conversation. The multitude of places to go, things to do and unique mixture of friendly people make our Grand Valley a place worthy calling home!

**Editor@MesaConnection.com**

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*A special thanks to our advertisers for making this possible. Sometimes one person believing is all it takes to spark the inspiration to succeed! This journey has only started and it's exciting to see where it will lead.*

*J.O. Fornwalt*

**MesaConnection.com**

Community Collective



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Community Collective

# Palisade CONNECTION

Colorado water rights are an issue all of us should be concerned with. However, this especially affects our farmers, the closest source of fresh produce.

Recent news that Federal Government is going to deplete our Reservoirs lower than the crucial point they already are for powering Hydro-electric plants is heart breaking.

The Gazette reported "Additional releases are needed after 2.5 million acre-feet of expected water did not flow into Lake Powell between January and July."

Is the approach always to count the snowfall before it hits the ground? With the winters getting worse, the reservoirs surely won't fill to a normal capacity, if ever again. We can no longer count on historic snow falls to fill our reservoirs. If thirst was the problem the solution might be viable, but we are talking about solving the problem of hydro-electric plants that cannot maintain enough water flow to power them.

The ecological system of Lake Powell and Lake Mead are already suffering. So the big solution for the multi-state power issue and suffering wild life around Lake Powell and Mead is make Colorado the same way. The logic seems rather inconsistent.

With 40 million people in California we know where the majority of that power is going. Now the fear maybe watching our fire seasons get worse as a domino effect knocks down every water source in the West, as well as wildlife habitats, and agriculture.

Our problems are starting to parallel California's. Fires are getting worse and starting earlier;

droughts persist and snow fall totals are diminishing.

How long will it take before Mesa County's agricultural situation looks similar?

Drought, fires and the disbursement of our water rights over the next few years is going to determine what kind of conservation efforts can contribute to a positive impact for these major issues our children will inherit.



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# Clifton CONNECTION

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As Clifton slowly develops into an affordable alternative to some of the absurd rental rates in the Grand Valley, it's important to remember the good about your surroundings. Clifton is a great place. You only have to re-



*Tweaker Tree-house  
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lease your deep inhibitions of all the rumors about malicious meth-heads.

Lets face it, they are everywhere anyway. Might as well treat them like human beings and maybe vandalism will escape your particular neighborhood. The major attraction in Clifton is floating the river of course. Who doesn't want easy access to the Colorado River? It brings people together from all over Mesa County.

The closer you are the better. Clifton is a desirable place to live just because of the river and Corn Lake. There is easy access to the desert, you can almost shoot out your back door. Some people might, but our trusty Sheriff is always quick to respond to those.

With easy access to the South and East, you can quickly be on your way to all your favorite spots in Colorado.



## Mesa County Events

June 24<sup>th</sup> - September 9

Market on Main

The Market on Main is summertime's signature weekly event in Grand Junction, Between 3rd and 7th on Main 970-255-4923

August - October 9

CROSS ORCHARDS MARKET

3073 F Road

Grand Junction, CO 81504

Admission: Free!, Hours: 8:00am-12:00pm

August 13

MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

16400 DS Road

Glade Park, CO 81523

Concession Stand open at 6:00

Questions?

970-256-4052

August 14

5TH ANNUAL WUFFSTOCK MUSIC EVENT

925 Struthers Avenue

Grand Junction, CO 81501

An event to celebrate the human-canine bond 3:00pm - 9:00pm

August 17

MUSIC IN THE GRAPEVINES

Two Rivers Winery & Chateau

2087 Broadway

Grand Junction, CO 81507

\$15 advance tickets; \$20 at the gate, Hours: 7 pm - 9 pm

Questions?

970-985-1015

August 28

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# Junction CONNECTION

## Sullen Skies

The best part of living in the Valley is being able to appreciate the gorgeous views on crisp, clear days. When you have to start dealing with smoke on a daily basis mixed with an oppressive heat that makes your eyelids sweat, appreciation can waver.

As the stinging in your eyes subsides becoming a minor irritant, the only thing that is clear, is July has been one of the smokiest Months we have had. You can see in the top picture, early July gave us a Valley full of stale smoke which loomed over us all month. A constant reminder that the fire season is getting worse.

If California's droughts and fire season are any indicator of where Colorado's are going, the outlook is grim. Our reservoirs are barely at a level to maintain a proper ecosystem for our wildlife. What will we do when our water sources start looking like California's?

The precursors are already here. A big smoke signal in the sky!

We can not count on historic snowfall totals to guide what we do with our water supply anymore.

The intense fire seasons we are having suggests that we are in a drought. It may not be as bad as California's, but when will it be identical? From one side of the Valley to the other has been filled with noxious smoke that incites mass headaches, irritated eyes and slight empathy for fellow Americans who know too well the harsh realities of a severe fire season.

### SMOKEY OLD POWDER



### Project Cover-up

Walking the River Front Trail of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, it's hard not to appreciate the nameless volunteers who put in the tremendous effort to clean 100 years of trash. Since there was all this inspiration to make the place a family oriented destination, why didn't the city put in the effort to remove some of the jagged concrete, rusty old cable and fifty gallon drums buried with who knows what in them? Those are hazardous for sure. It isn't like they didn't see the spilt. It

stands between the most beautiful feature, THE RIVER!

Of course it has been cleaned up quite well since some of us were kids here. However, if the citizens are taking the time to make the River Front not such an eyesore, one might contemplate why the City of Grand Junction couldn't break out some heavy equipment and help. Is there something there they didn't want to dig up? The rusty old drums give cause for concern. It's a continual reminder of someone sweeping something under the rug; or in this case the dirt around the riv-



er.

Until they decide, if ever, to clean the rest up, it might be best to keep your kids close and your dogs on the side walk. Heaven forbid if you loose your Frisbee down there. The maze of concrete and random, hazardous debris will give you entertainment you didn't quite expect.



# Alley Katz Tattoo Gallery



## TATTOO GIVE AWAY

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Go to [www.MesaConnection.com](http://www.MesaConnection.com)

enter your information and picture of the tattoo, an online "blind" poll will be taken of who needs the cover-up most! The winner will be announced in Mesa County Connection's September 2021 issue.

The first 5 people to enter receive a \$50 Tattoo gift certificate for a tattoo or piercing (jewelry included) of their choice.

ACCEPTING APPOINTMENT'S & WALK-INS

761 Rood Ave

970-589-4204

## Help Wanted!

It's no secret there is a serious need for employees around the Grand Valley. Everywhere we look there is a sign. That's not all; people flying signs has increased tremendously as well. What is the problem? Is Grand Junction just a mecca for drifters? It could very well be a domino effect caused by the surge in housing prices. If you're a single parent and need a three bedroom house, the rent is either unbearably more than some families can afford, or the landlord can be picky about the simplest things. Many are forced to hunker down with their family or live in a car. If you have bad credit or felonies; for-

get it! At least you can get a shower at Homeward Bound. We all know that option.

There are those capable of working, but don't want to. We might have a work force, but you can't force them to work. Is there a motivational factor that we haven't considered? Let's unwrap and rationalize this. Flying signs is obviously lucrative. They don't have to answer to anyone, they can go whenever they need it, dress however they want. Is there something we could do that will allow the same parameters?

How about circulating magazines for donations right to them?

Tell us what you think. Email

[Editor@MesaConnection.com](mailto:Editor@MesaConnection.com)



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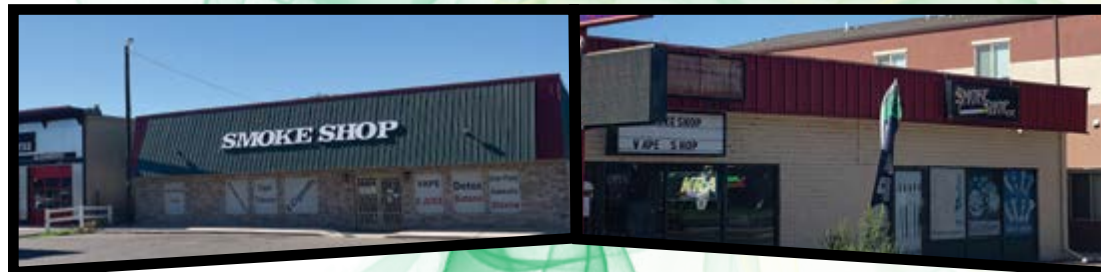
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**2 JUNCTION LOCATIONS**

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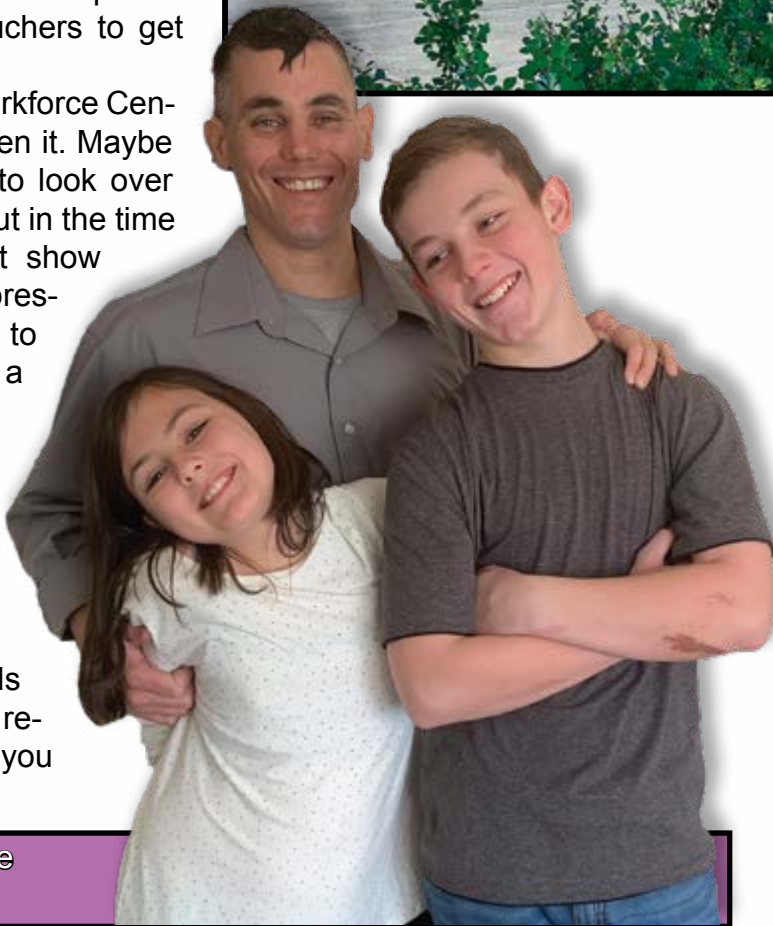
# Working CONNECTION

Coming from a single Dad who has collaborated with the Workforce Center hand in hand, they were able to put opportunities and tools at my disposal that couldn't be acquired anywhere else. The individuals that advocate for you from start to finish are also a key component to utilizing the Workforce Center to your benefit.

What good are tools if you don't know about them or how to use them? The staff at the Workforce Center not only talked with me in depth to understand exactly what was hindering me, they made me feel comfortable, and helped me outline a plan of success. Even if you need a place to start, make an appointment and if you're a single parent like so many of us, they could provide you with bus or gas vouchers to get you on the road.

If you have a plan, the Workforce Center can help you strengthen it. Maybe you just need someone to look over your resumé? They will put in the time to not only tell you, but show you. If you have outside pressures, they might be able to help you come up with a long term solution.

No matter what situation you are in, the Workforce Center has programs and services to support you. Their friendly staff can not only connect you with job leads and education, but also resources to help you until you get on your feet.



Jesse, James & Julianne  
Fornwalt

You can finish up your G.E.D. and get paid, or participate in one of the many workshops specific to your needs. The Workforce Center has hiring events, and can even show you the way to get certificates to help improve your employment.

Take it from a Dad that now has an understanding of the possibilities to succeed.

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## introduction

Fruita has come so far from the rinky-dink town it was in the 90's. You may have associated it with banjos. However, over a thirty year period, Fruita has become a haven for escaping the monotony of cities and enjoying life's outdoor pleasures. Fruita's seclusion offers peace you can't quite find anywhere else. There is a particular feeling associated with being free to do what you want, and with desert all around, people can choose whether they want to associate with anyone on any particular day. Of course development is taking place. Some locals might be weary of it; however, if the growth is presented to them as an opportunity, personal growth and tolerance will also be a positive side effect.

It's inspiring to watch these magnificent houses and buildings pop up. The hospital has grown tremendously, and the fire station is large enough to handle calls all over the county. Fire Chief Frank Cavaliere says they help the BLM all the time. Frank's personality is the quintessential charm that radiates from Fruita. It's an absolute pleasure to talk with him and most members of the community.

When discussing fires and the smoke choking the Valley, Frank brushes on the use of helicopters and water pumpkins to gather water from local reservoirs.

The concern is small, but grows when contemplating other facets of the local and national drought. Will receding reservoirs hinder fire fighting operations for the Valley? Frank says, "Yes Air Resources dip into those reservoirs, so if there's no water it will hinder operations."

# Fruita Connection

When you start thinking about the relation between elements such as fire and water, and how the lack of one is the direct cause of the other, the connection between previous articles starts appearing.

In Frank's opinion the fire seasons have begun to start earlier. This means it's dryer and our escalated water use is starting sooner.

Two Recent articles give cause for concern. One from the Colorado Sun explains Ute Water's need to let Colorado River water into Mesa County's drinking water, which hasn't been done in 65 years; and The Gazette's report of the Federal Government forcing the release of Colorado's reservoirs to power Flaming Gorge Dam and Glen dam.

Colorado only has a small say in what happens to water that powers Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nebraska, and Nevada. It doesn't matter if draining our reservoirs could potentially hurt our local ecosystem or hinder local fire fighting operations. We must make sure there is power before water.

If Lake Powell and Lake Mead are drastically low and any indicator for what is in store, then the Mesa's outlook is grim.

Frank agrees that moisture has been an issue. When they go to fires a strong response is necessary because of how dry it is. The intensity and potential for them to spread fast is their main problem.

**Chief Frank Cavaliere of the Lower Valley Fire District has been with Fruita Fire for 16 years!**

**Of course Droughts are not the Chief's area of expertise; however, he provides another side to the issue that has a clear Mesa County Connection.**



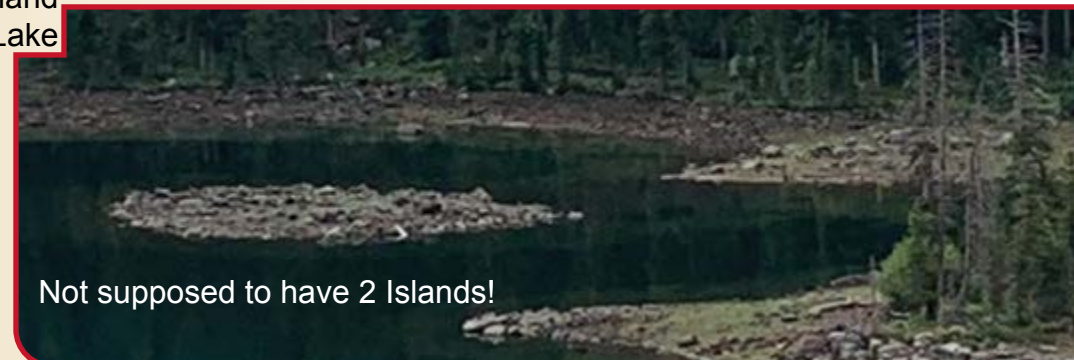
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Barren Lake



Island Lake



Not supposed to have 2 Islands!

# Today's Image



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Post on Mesa County Connection



By:  
8/25/21

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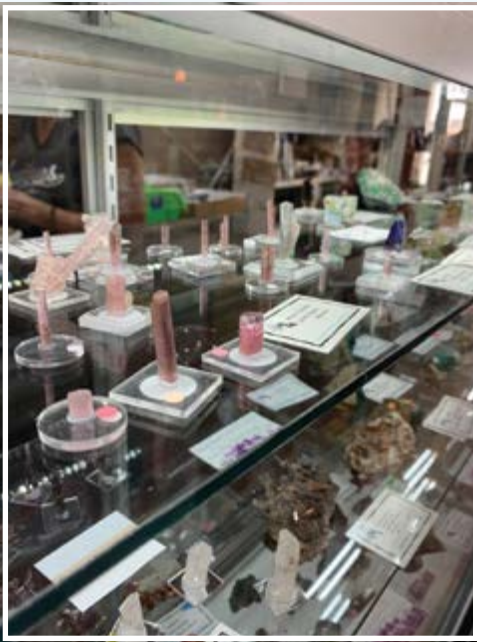
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