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JANUARY 2022

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County In The Morning!**
**Christmas On The
Mountain**
Parades & Ballets



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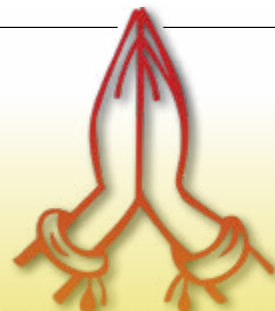
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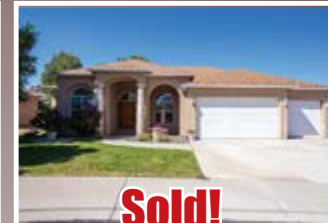
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Connecting Community

January 2022!

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays are over, we can focus on what's really important: Taking advantage of the brilliant scenery around our County. When shows crumble as potential article avenues due to photo restrictions and cancellations, Mesa County Connection is incumbent upon our beautiful surroundings. As we observe the breathtaking views so close to us, remember to appreciate the best reason to be right here. Not so long ago we were choking from the fires of multiple states. It's nice to go smell the fresh air of a crisp, clear morning after is snows. Some were lucky enough to ski the day after our first really good snow, which also happened to be Christmas Day.

Editor@MesaConnection.com

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The first few months of this publication's existence brought a roller coaster of emotions with it. There have been good reviews and bad ones. Times where hands were thrown in the air with exasperation, and others that sent loads of endorphins percolating through me like love might the very first time it's found.

*Every effort is being made to insure accuracy in this publication! However, when the public helps me identify opportunities to make the magazine better the input is taken wholeheartedly. *J.O. Fornwalt**

MesaConnection.com
 Community Collective

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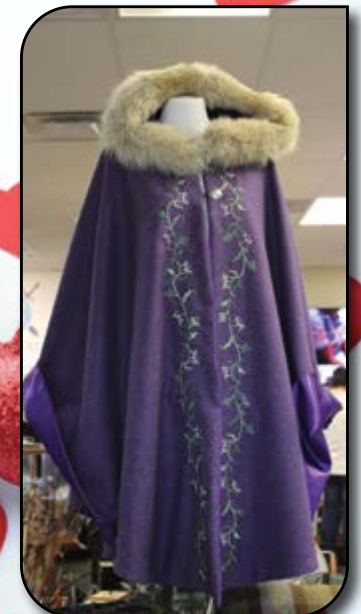


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Love the Smell of Mesa County in the Morning!

From the highest corners of Mesa County comes the tale of one man's search for glorious photos to share with our neighbors who might not be able to enjoy the majesty of our surroundings.

The pull of fresh powder on the Mesa was too much to endure. It was necessary to venture the icy roads for an opportunity to capture some imagery that can't be dismissed.

Because Christmas Eve was drenched with a steady drizzle that turned into wet heavy snow flakes, the perilous roads Christmas morning made hands tighten with adrenaline. Consciously loosening the grip on the steering wheel as the ability to navigate on the sparkling roads seeps in with slippery confidence.

Yes this arrogant confident feeling flees just as quickly as it settles in. Suspending fear and excitement is a fine balancing act. It's felt in the gut when you breath to release the ball of tension and the slickness of moist sweat on the palms and fingertips.

As the search continues to areas usually allocated for stopping to view the magnificent scenery, it becomes clear that the drifts of snow are high enough to get lost in. Being a sole vehicle on the treacherous road now turned ice packed allows for a slow ascent with periodic stops in places not normally permitted.

It's unfortunate all of the really good viewing spots, clear of trees and snow, are where you get directed not to stop.

Going as far as Mesa Lodge before realizing the unobstructed silence could mean being stuck for numerous hours on Christmas Morning the adventurous side starts to fade to thoughts of hot coffee and the warmth of cheerful children opening presents.

There really isn't another reason for being on the road Christmas morning unless you're skiing or doing something you absolutely love. It's an absolute pleasure to share this photography with the community!



There is an opportunity for everyone to share their pictures with Mesa County. We encourage you to send us your pictures to be printed. Mesa County Connection is printed every month and we would like to spotlight our neighbors remarkable photos.

Feel free to email us your pictures anonymously or with your info. We would love to feature your pictures from around the County!

Editor@MesaConnection.com

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Palisade

January 7

Colorado Mountain Winefest Art Contest Deadline!

9 AM – 5 PM

CAVE

124 W 3rd St, Palisade, CO

The Colorado Association for Viticulture & Enology (CAVE) invites artists to submit their original artwork for the Colorado Mountain Winefest Art Contest!

See their Facebook page for more details.

January 7

CJ's Retirement Party!

Wine Country Inn
777 Grande River Drive, 777 Stub Ditch Rd, Palisade, CO

4-7pm

(970) 464-5777

January 7

Union of None

9pm

At the Livery
215 S. Main St.
Palisade

Come join us to welcome a Valley favorite. Our Incredible Home Town Bar is Under New Ownership and We're Excited for what the Future Holds. We Offer Free WiFi & Popcorn - Sunday Bloody Mary Bar/Mimosas - Big Screen TV's & Drink Specials.

Events CONNECTION

January 14

Colorado Mountain Winefest Art Contest — Craig Gallery

10am

970-216-0213

128 E 3rd St, Palisade, CO

January 15

LDG

10pm

At the Livery
215 S. Main St.
Palisade

Los Dos Gatos, AKA, the 2 cats, performing all your favorites from the 90's

January 15

Palisade Grocery Boxes for Older Adults

1-3pm

Western Slope - Food Bank of the Rockies

120 North River Rd
Palisade Hunger is a very real issue on the Western Slope.

1 in 7 Coloradans struggle with hunger. Together with nearly 100 hunger relief agency partners in our area, the Western Slope Food Bank of the Rockies is working to fight hunger and feed hope.

January 23

Paint & Sip

Join us for a night of sipping wine and painting in our Tasting Room! \$40 includes all supplies and a glass of wine!

Call 970-464-2185 to reserve your spot!

Grand Junction

January 4

Grand Junction Rapids Swim Club Open House - Grand Junction, CO 2022

4:30 - 7pm

Orchard Mesa Community Center Pool
2736 Unaweep Ave,
Grand Junction, CO
Ages 5-18 · Co-Ed
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Dana Schmidt

January 5

Grand Valley TableTop Networking January 2022

8 - 10 AM

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Grand Junction
Downtown/Historic Main Street

236 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

Join us for professional networking!

January 7

Mavelanche

Meet Referee - Debbie Schmidt 2022 MAValanche

CONTINUED P. 22

Calendar

Christmas on the Mountain



ing makes a place more desirable to live than the people who dwell there. Of course we all have our inclinations about Snowmass. Norm can pretty much confirm all of our suspicions without having to get deep into details. Snowmass is major destination for New Yorker's, and lets face it, they don't

There couldn't be a better way to spend Christmas than at Powderhorn. An aura of overwhelming elation and gratitude greet you at the door. The contagious feeling of joy is promptly absorbed helping to melt away the stiffening cold the storm left in it's wake.

It's really unexpected to find so many employees happy to be working on Christmas Day. Some even volunteer. Mr. Norm Malinski lives close enough to be on call anytime the Resort needs him. He says he volunteers at Snowmass as well, "but Powderhorn is so much better because of the people". Which is a common agreement with this publication. Nothing

even have time for a regular minute, let alone time to be kind and courteous. We shouldn't profile all New Yorker's under the same umbrella; however, they have given themselves the defining characteristics that have become their trademark.

Fortunately the Valley hasn't arrived at such an apathetic attitude. For the most part around the Valley you'll be greeted with warmth and kindness. Like the kind emanating from the doors of Powderhorn.

Donald Wyman (top left) and Norm Malinski (top right) are genuinely glad to be here. They are the quintessential personality that make Mesa County home, and not just some destination people use for vacationing. We thrive off one another. One person's attitude can set the course for everyone's day around them.

The mixture of snow the night before, a weekend and holiday made perfect ingredients for a blissful Christmas season. Sprinkled with skiing and snowboarding you have a delightful treat not for eating or opening.

As a 7 year veteran at Powderhorn Mountain resort, Teanna Clark graciously provided details about the holidays at Powderhorn. She says, "It's hard to compare the last couple years because of CO-VID, but with all the conditions just right, we should have a pretty good turnout. People start coming slowly for half days, but mostly people who have passes turn up on Christmas".

Who wants to go when it's elbow to elbow anyway? No examples come to mind. It was probably pretty busy at the major resorts, such as Snowmass.

With kids suited up and Santa ready to ride, the gates filled as opening time slowly made it's way to the skiers and snowboarders waiting to make fresh tracks. The energy anticipation created was electric and could be felt from a distance. Patiently waiting for their turn while saving what heat they could for the ride up, the riders crowded as close to each other as they could, maybe they were hoping for the backdraft of someone's hot breath, or maybe the anticipation was killing them. Whatever the case, they all deserve to be commended for suffering through the cold to be the first one on the mountain. Some of us haven't been skiing for so long we forget what fresh powder even feels like.

Nothing is more inspiring then seeing the pure joy portrayed on these folks faces!

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**Snowboarding Santa -
Brandon Arndt**



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Christmas on the Mountain

If everyone had a job they loved this much, they would all want to be working on Christmas too. Besides, Powderhorn's incentive plan is unmatched; a ski pass on top of your wages! Work doesn't seem to fully encompass the task Mrs. and Mr. Claus were assigned on this day.

Teanna Clark, Marketing Director of Powderhorn Mountain resort came to work fully prepared for a day of carving lines in the fresh powder.

She says, "I don't get to wear my snowboarding boots everyday, but we are allowed to take boarding breaks. One of the *perks* of the job" so to speak.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus played by Teanna Clark and Brandon Arndt just wanted to bring a little more Holiday cheer to the mountain. Who wouldn't want to snap a picture snowboarding with Mr. & Mrs. Claus?

Even if you weren't on the mountain to ski or snowboard, it's hard not share the love and joy that came from all the people that made it to Powderhorn on Christmas Morning. Regardless of the treacherous conditions of the road, our last snowstorm delighted many with a Merry Christmas.

The reminiscence of a storm and fresh powder on everything was also inspiring to see.

Some times a traditional holiday is the only thing stuck in people's head, but Christmas on the Mountain gave us some new perspective on what to do for Christmas in the future.

Dec. 25th 2021



Teanna Clark



Continued

Parades & Ballets

December brought a whole month of different *Art* based entertainment. From a Tree Lighting Ceremony to parades and ballets, it was not a dull month. If you have kids participating in extracurricular activities, chances are you were busier than ever. Hopefully you were blessed with the opportunity to see some of your practicing artists. They put all of their heart into it and they should be applauded for giving us shows to remember.

If you were trying to catch multiple events, it was a difficult juggling act to assume. There were opportunities to attend shows all across the Valley. Some may have even intersected with each other. Who would have thought Fruita's Christmas Parade would be the same night as An Enchanted Evening? Fruita's detouring problem was exponentiated by an onslaught of ballet seekers. If you are from Grand Junction you don't really get announcements about other city's planned entertainment. Finding the information seems to be a little difficult as well. Hopefully as the word spreads about Mesa County Connection and we can bring you all the events so everyone can plan



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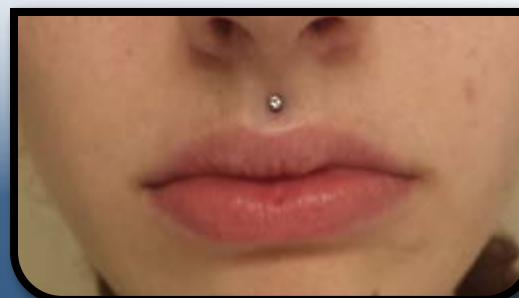


Loki Jacket Winner Charles Wallis



Alley Katz
Tattoo Gallery

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Grand Junction CONNECTION



2021 Parade of Lights

Over 100 participants

Background Photo by Devon Balet,
Downtown Grand Junction

As the skies slowly turn dark, the judges are left chattering among themselves in anticipation for the upcoming event. Families have been filling the streets for quite sometime, but they keep meandering in for the festivities about to begin.

This is the 39th Annual Parade of Lights, which had an amazing turnout. People must have started showing up hours prior to the actual start. You might even say you were lucky to catch some an unobstructed photos. The judges had there work cutout for them. There were multiple categories and 3 winners for each.

Best **Business- Barney Brothers Off-road**, Best **Performance- Dance Works**, Best **Organization - GJ Elks Lodge & Best Youth - Cub Scout Pack 353**.



Even the Nutcracker seemed difficult to plan ahead. Mesa County Connection did have an error in Absolute Dance's listing of the Ballet, which made us have to come back because the show was sold out. Our sincerest apologies if the listing threw you off. We try to be very careful; however, we are human.

The Nutcracker show was great! To bring a practicing artist to an actual live performance gives them inspiration. If it was a girl who dances, they were delighted the whole time. If it was a 14 year old teenage boy, the agony was painted on the face in solemn looks of despair and sadness. Time was a torturing mechanism where every second hurt his existence.

December 24th was the last showing of the Ballet. The performers had already performed five times in 3 days. Some might have thought they would be tired. They were not. They gave every ounce of effort they could. And it only added when people applauded them. You could feel them feeding off the energy the crowd supplied.

It was almost too much clapping though. Apparently people don't know when and where to clap, so when the director gave us a hint at the beginning of the show, it confused some and they ended up clapping until their hands hurt. It isn't necessary to clap everytime someone comes on the stage, only if something amazing is done, like our director suggested.

Of course there were photo restrictions! It's nice to be able to snap them when needed. Because of the combination of being close to Christmas and 6

shows of the Nutcracker, unique photos for the publication weren't available; however, what better person to have on the red carpet than a Fornwalt daughter. Because all these events are better with company, she was our little model of the month.

Hopefully next year Mesa County Connection can feature some of the actual artists in the article.



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Grand Junction

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January 8

Life Unbound Meetup

9:30 – 11:00 AM
Four Winds Coffee and Tea
1235 Bookcliff Ave, Grand Junction, CO
Monthly meet-up for anyone with autoimmune or chronic disease. Free and open to the public

January 8

Discover Hawaii

6 – 7 PM
571 25 Rd, Grand Junction, CO
Whether you are just dreaming about a trip to Hawaii, or if you are dead serious about booking, join independent travel agent Heidi Kitchen for an in-depth travel presentation

January 8

Awaiting Eternity w/ Drift Away Dreamer

8-11PM
538 Main ST, Grand Junction
Tickets · \$10

January 9

Crash Course

7:45 PM
Canyon View-Church
736 24 1/2 Rd, Grand Junction, CO
Welcome to the

Family! Enjoy a meal and learn about the Vineyard, CVVC, and opportunities to get into the community through group life, volunteering, etc

January 9

The Lonely Ones (formerly Bobaflex)

7-10pm
Mesa Theater
538 Main ST, Grand Junction
Tickets · \$16

Western Colorado/Utah Sub district Ice Skating Family Event

9-11PM
2515 Riverside Pkwy, Grand Junction, CO
Explore all upcoming ice rink events in Grand Junction, find information & tickets for upcoming

January 9

Big Head Todd and The Monsters

8-11PM
Mesa Theater
538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
Tickets · \$29 - \$35

12th Annual VinCO Conference & Trade Show

11AM
January 20th
1:30pm
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Grand Junction
743 Horizon Dr, Grand Junction, CO
The 12th Annual VinCO Conference returns to Grand Junction for three

days of industry learning and networking on a complete, holistic approach to the wine-making craft.

January 20

Frankie Ballard

7-10:30pm
The Warehouse
2565 American Way, Grand Junction
country-blues-rock-er Frankie Ballard released his latest album El Rio to critical acclaim and was selected by Rolling Stone as one of the 25 Best Country and Americana albums of 2016 and The Tennessean as one of the best 16 Nashville albums of 2016.
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January 22

Rockestra 2022

7pm
Avalon Theatre
645 Main St. Grand Junction
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The GJ Rockestra exists to provide a unique and exciting musical experience for the Grand Valley. We are a professional Rock and Roll Orchestra performing rock and roll, with a symphonic twist.

January 22

Mitchell Tenpenny

6:30-11pm
The Warehouse
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