

March 2022

Mesa County

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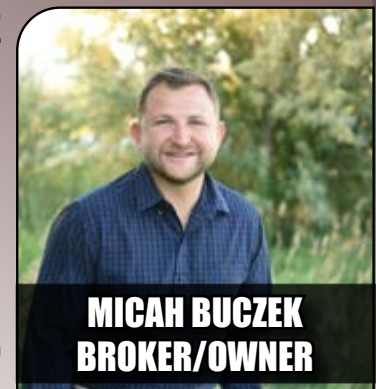


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CONNECTING

COMMUNITY

MARCH 2022

What a month! We are bringing you events from all over the valley, well mainly Palisade; however, they haven't had any coverage by Mesa County Connection for quite sometime. So let's see what we have in store. This was really a fun issue to produce. There is a brilliant combination of Artists, Musicians and Volunteers that made Mesa County Connection's March issue wonderfully diverse! From line dancing with Rick Mancuso and the FYVE STAR band, to Belly Dancers and a bon fire at Sing Up The Sun, there is something for everyone in this issue!

Editor@MesaConnection.com

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As we march into spring lets bring the love of February to breathe life in our lives. We witness nothing but strife in the media with annotations of political pollution and dysfunction populating our time. Some whine and others divert attention; it's a lesson. Feel blessed we live somewhere we have a voice. Even if it's sometimes distorted by people who don't say exactly what we want to hear. There is always fear of some overwhelming catastrophe; at least locally, we have our neighbors in the valley.

J.O. Fornwalt

MesaConnection.com

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Jesse Fornwalt



Sales

970-260-2781

Sales@MesaConnection.com

Edited By

Pam Davison



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The content of this publication
is accurate to the best of our
knowledge.

MesaConnection.com

PICK US UP AROUND THE VALLEY



GRAND JUNCTION

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When this bus is on the move, strong feelings are rolling with it. We have seen the rolling advertisement across The Valley. Much like a circus, the bus was designed to be eye catching and visually loud just like the campaign associated with it.

Regardless of your stance on the vaccination, it is quite obvious that we should be protesting the color scheme of this bus! Look at how awkward it is in such a beautiful place! The advertisements are getting old, and there is no option; you have to look at this damn thing if it's with in a football field of your vision. Especially if it's coming at you!

We are being hammered by mandates and rules changing every other week; you can't turn on your TV without seeing something to do with the Corona virus. If anything we should come together as a nation and pick-et mother nature for throwing such a radical curve ball at us. Mutations? What? Forced vaccinations? It's almost sounding like an X-men saga. Whether you like to build immunity on your own, or partake in scientific medical advise, it should be your decision. We all know there will be adverse side effects from both.

For the love of everything that's grand, can we come together as a community and agree that the only mandate there should be is martial law curfew on anything Corona related from the hours of 1am to 5am? This is highly recommended for the mental health of anyone human. Can we make a petition for that?





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Palisade

March 16

Palisade Chamber of
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Business After Hours

5:30 - 7:00pm

Adrenaline Driven Adventure Company

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Grand Junction

\$5/member in advance/ \$6 at the door

\$8/nonmember/ \$10 at the door

Business After Hours socials are a great
opportunity to network with other busi-
ness representatives, be introduced to
new products, and build business rela-
tionships in your community.

Contact Heather Portenier

heatherp@palisadecoc.com

for more info.

March 31

Women in Business

9am -3pm

Cameo Shooting and Education Com-
plex, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

3934 I 9/10 Rd, Palisade, CO

The annual Conference in The Country spon-
sored by Timberline Bank and hosted by
the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce
Women in Business is back for year two!

Grand Junction

March 3

The SpongeBob Musical

7:30

Moss Performing Arts Center

1221 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO

As SpongeBob and all of Bikini Bottom
face the total annihilation of their under-
sea world, chaos erupts and the power of
optimism struggles to prevail.

March 4

**Grand Junction Area Chamber of
Commerce 2022 Annual Banquet**

6 - 11:30pm

Grand Junction Convention Center

159 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

After careful evaluation, including guid-
ance from Mesa County Public Health,
our leadership has made the difficult de-
cision to postpone our Annual Banquet
which was scheduled for January 28th to
a new date of March 4th.

Events

CONNECTION

March 5

Spring Rev Up

10am - 5pm

750 1/4 Horizon Dr.

Grand Junction

Sign up for a free Polaris RZR ride in
the Grand Valley OHV

Playground. UTV show, Raffle, Music,
Snacks & Drinks

Call 970-623-3888 for more informa-
tion.

March 6

**Clone of Classics Series 4: Finlandia
& Violin**

3pm

The Avalon Theatre

645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

Jean Sibelius' Finlandia, Aram Khacha-
turian's Violin Concerto featuring GJSO
Concertmaster Brian Krinke on violin,
and Alexander Borodin's Symphony No
2

\$10-\$45

March 8

March Luncheon

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Grand
Junction

743 Horizon Dr, Grand Junction, CO

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month we
provide quality speakers, informative
topics and a delicious meal allowing
you the opportunity to grow your pro-
fessional skills and develop friendships.

March 10

**ROBERT EARL KEEN WITH SPE-
CIAL GUEST**

ROGER CLYNE

7:30 - 11:30pm

Doors open at 6:30pm

The Avalon Theatre

645 Main St, Grand Junc-

tion, CO

It's not always easy to sum
up a career - let alone a

Connecting Community

life's ambition - so succinctly, but those
five words from Robert Earl Keen's call-
ing-card anthem do just that.

\$29/\$39/\$49 +fees

March 12

**Grand Junction Cinderella Spring
Pageant**

3pm

Crossroads United Methodist Church
599 30 Rd, Grand Junction, CO

Meaningful Friendships. Unforgetta-
ble Experience! Colorado Cinderella is
a youth development, family-oriented
program; we use pageantry as our base
with a focus on poise, personality, talent,
communication skills, and community
service. Cinderella is open to all young
ladies ages newborn-17 years

March 13

Bow Wow Film Festival 2022

1pm

The Avalon Theatre

645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

Bow Wow is a traveling film festival
that celebrates, educates and inspires
all things doggie, through the art of short
film. Bow Wow Film Fest features some
of the years best pooch themed short
films all wrapped up in one beautiful,
fun loving package! We are proud to
present the 5th Annual Bow Wow Film
Festival! Come join us for this fun event
to celebrate our beloved canine compan-
ions! We are so excited about the movies
we have chosen for our Tour this year!
Come laugh and cheer and maybe even
tear up a bit as we marvel in all the ways
these beloved furry creatures touch our
lives! All proceeds will benefit the Ro-
ice-Hurst Humane Society.

CONTINUED P. 22

Calendar

Sing Up The Sun

Colton Mahoney,
Kara Griffith &
Dog - Milo



On a frozen February 5th 2022, we gathered in an uncommon place for the season. With wild costumes meandering their way to the live music from the bon fire, we were introduced to a brand new event in Palisade.

Sing Up The Sun made us all gather a little closer at River Bend Park. With the temperature quickly dropping, people soaked up as much heat as they could before returning to the festivities. The belly dancers valiantly braved the frigid temperatures to provide us with a performance worthy of enduring the cold. Fortunately most of their work is done while the sun caresses the horizon.

The guitar player's fingers

might not be so fortunate. A seasoned player usually has callouses; however, this cold temperature was felt to the bone. No amount of callousing could prepare you for strumming in cold like this. People just don't care. We are here to have fun and nothing will stop it!

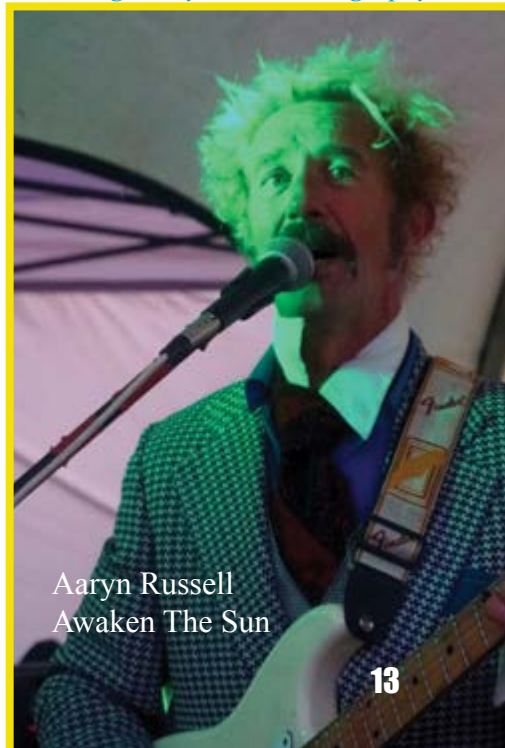
As kids play around the fire, parents watch closely while hearkening the music coming from 50 feet away. The bands such as *Awaken The Sun*, and solo artists Derrek Stephens played through the night.

The community is socializing without electronic media, there are smiles everywhere you turn and an all around feeling of joy is emanating from the crowd. To say the event is successful understates the enthusiasm of the participants!

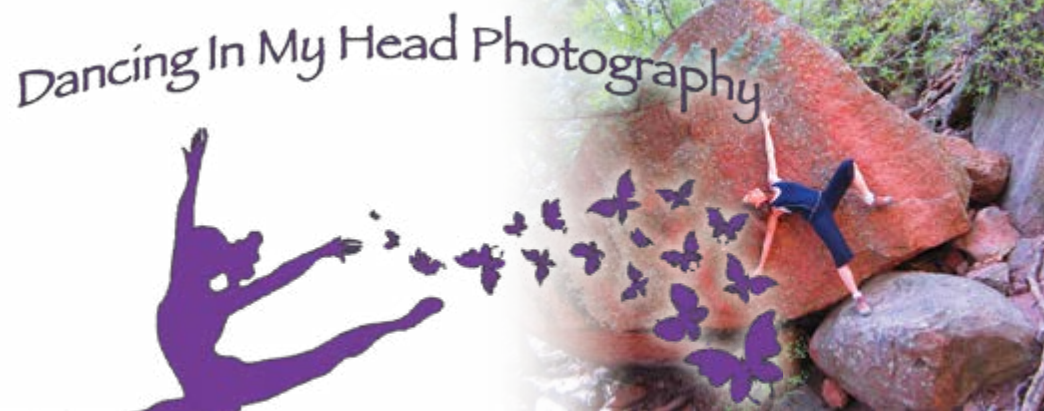
Because we are locals, the weather wasn't an issue. There is one common goal that was triumphantly surpassed. To have fun at the best rate around, FREE! We can only assume that the next Sing Up The Sun will be even better than the first.

Continued on page 16

This photo and the one above taken by Lisa "Moose" Levy Kral of Dancing In My Head Photography



Aaryn Russell
Awaken The Sun



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Alice Dussart, Kate Blackburn,
Happy Guy between two women &
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Kendra Clark, Gail Matthiessen, Kathleen
Oleary, Krissy Mays, Theresa Jasper &
Christine Moore



Eve Schaefer, Mike Kennedy,
Kris Smock, Riley & Jane Parker



Janet & Yvette

Sing Up The Sun

Sing Up The Sun was the first event brought to you by a longtime resident of Palisade, Alice Dussart. Also a Special Education teacher for K-5, she is very active in the community and wants to bring more unique events like Sing Up The Sun to the Palisade area.

Because the focus is usually on tourist, Alice says, "I wanted to do something for the locals. We all came together with the Town of Palisade to create something for the off season. We plan on doing it next year, but maybe a little later in the month." Regardless of the temperature, people turned out to make Sing Up The Sun a successful event.

This was the biggest event she has put together; she says, "the event reminds me of old Desert Parties". Alice Dussart has helped put together events such as Earth First. All the artists such as the Belly Dancers, personal crafts and costumes were created at weekly workshops Alice and other volunteers held up until the time of the event.

Volunteer Christine Moore, who helped the Belly Dancers says, "We put on 3 workshops before this event." She was part of a group in Boulder called The Figure 8's, and would like to start doing it here on The Western Slope this year. "Women feel so empowered, and this type of dancing really helps them build confidence. My intention is to help create something that they feel confident performing at any level."

If you would like to find out about future dance workshops go to ChristineMooreShimmYogini.com and email Alice to get on next year's Sing Up The Sun Mailing list SingUpTheSunInfo@gmail.com

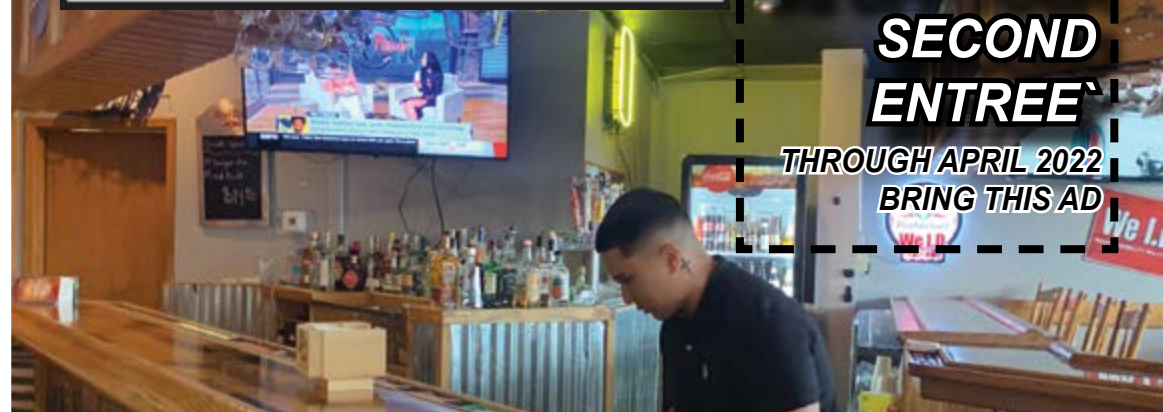
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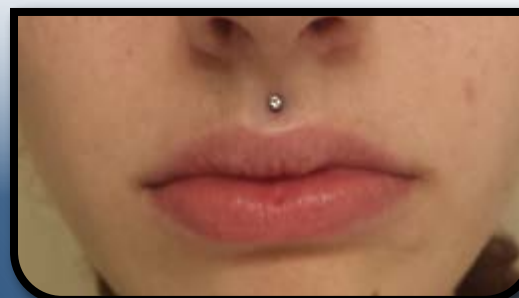


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Rick Mancuso & THE FYVE STAR BAND



*Playing again at
the Moose Lodge
on May 13th 2022*



Ken Wans

Kevin Wans

Rick Mancuso

Gary Schwart

Line Dance or Slow?



Dancing is only fun if you have good music to make you move. With Rick Mancuso & The FYVE Star band, you get a combination of experience and talent that knows their crowd and keeps them on the dance floor.

Coming from completely different backgrounds, Rick Mancuso, Gary Schwark, Ken and Kevin Wans have been playing for years. Rick is a Grand Junction native and went to Central High school in 1985 and has 40 years strumming guitars. Playing Hair Metal Bands throughout the 80's, Rick says a lot of his influence comes from Ace Frehley, Yngwie Malmsteen and George Lynch. He also plays the harmonica and steel guitar with as much expertise as his main instrument.

Mr. Gary Schwark was born in Milwaukee Wisconsin and started playing drums when he was 5 years old. In his first band at the age of 13, he has been Rockin' on for 50 years! He has lived in The Valley for 42 years and likes a lot of different bands which teaches him to be flexible in his musical abilities. His favorite bands range from Buddy Rich and John Bonham to Keith Moon and Neil Peart.

The twins, Ken and Kevin grew up in Seattle and started playing in the 80s as well. Winning talent shows in high school, the two found their passion

and played in a classic rock band that won a tour over seas. Playing all over Asia and the South Pacific, they came back to the states where they played in a Country Road Band. After that they ended up in Grand Junction with Rick and Gary.

Rick Mancuso and THE FYVE STAR band have been together for 3 years playing at different locations around the valley and on The Western Slope. On this night at the Moose Lodge, the four played well into the evening with enthusiastic line dancers and couples floating about the dance floor.

The smiles were wide as the people only allowed themselves a few seconds of rest before going back for more. The crowd was all ages, however the most experienced dancers were the older couples and they weren't shy! One gentleman in a light blue and white checkered shirt made sure every women got a chance to dance. He was very chivalrous; the women probably would have had a hard time saying no if he asked, though he did not. He quietly approached the table and offered his hand to each, who bashfully obliged.

With a combined musical experience of over 150 years, these four gentlemen brought us entertainment that had boots stomping and the dance floor shaking at one of the largest dance floors on The Western Slope, The Moose Lodge.

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The Need Has Grown

There has been an undeniable increase in need in many smaller and rural Colorado communities, especially now. Our Western Slope services have gone from receiving two trucks of food products per week to upwards of 11, some of which are directly provided by the USDA.

COVID-19 and the 2020 Western Slope wildfires have heightened the need for food in the region since March 2020, and we have met this increased demand head-on. Figuring out how to double down on our distribution efforts during the pandemic was a challenge, but with community support, we have charted a new course.

Evergreen Boxes - A program of Everyday Eats (Older Adults 60+)
(970) 464-1138

Mobile Food Panties
FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES
(970) 464-1138

We have several locations around the Valley to help feed Mesa County all month long. Visit

FoodBankRockies.org/ws
For dates and Locations!



*Volunteers from
the Rotary Club Palisade*



CALENDAR CONTINUED

March 12

Kids' Winter Games

11am - 1pm
Powderhorn Mountain Resort
48338 Powderhorn Rd, Mesa, CO
970-268-5700
For more information.

March 13

Elton Dan & The Rocket Band - A Tribute To The Great Elton John

8 - 11pm
Mesa Theater
538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

March 15

Women in Business: Axe Throwing @ Kodiaxe

12pm
Kodiaxe
115 W Grand Ave, Grand Junction, CO
Unleash Your inner Lumberjill and swing some axes with the Fruita Chamber's Women's group. Relax, meet female leaders in our community and axe some targets!

March 16

Wind Symphony

7:30pm
Moss Performing Arts Center
1221 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO

March 16

Between The Buried and Me

7 - 10pm
Mesa Theater
538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
with special guests CAR BOMB Live at Mesa Theater
\$25

March 18

Martin Sexton

8 - 11:30pm
Mesa Theater
538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
An experience you will share with other fellow fans and one you will never forget. Sit in the audience, feel the energy and witness your favorite entertainment live

March 18

Spring Choral Concert

7:30pm
Moss Performing Arts Center
1221 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO
\$12 Adults \$10 seniors Call Moss Performing Arts Center for more information.

March 19

Dominguez Canyon Hike with Matt Darling

8am - 5pm
Museum of the West, Museums of Western Colorado
462 Ute Ave, Grand Junction, CO
Join railroad historian and Cross Orchards curator, Matt Darling on a 5 mile hike exploring Dominguez Canyon. Discover the route of the first main line of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad

March 21

Spring Break Camp!

2:30pm
2460 Patterson Rd, Grand Junction, CO
Join us March 21st-25th for our Spring Break Camp! At Spring Break Camp we play games, do crafts, have daily dance class to do a small routine that we showcase to parents at the end of the week, activities, and much more! The camp is \$35/day with pre-registration, \$40 without pre-registration, and \$150 for the week. To register go to <https://www.absolutedancegj.com/spring-break-camp> or give us a call at (970)255-8322. We hope to see you there!

March 25

Night Club with Holy Wars

8 - 11pm
Mesa Theater
538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
Night Club is Emily Kavanaugh and Mark Brooks: a dark, electro-goth duo from Los Angeles, CA.

Desert Highlights Trail Running Camp

9am

North Fruita Desert

18 Road Trailhead, Fruita, CO
Join us for a long weekend in the colorful desert landscape of Western Colorado!

Over 4 days and 3 nights join local trail and ultra running coaches as we guide you through special clinics and challenging runs, exploring trails through vast canyons, beneath towering monoliths, hidden arches and a sweeping landscape that goes on for miles.

The best part? Our base camp is located at the best resort in the heart of Colorado wine country!

\$400 entry fee
lifes2shortfitness@gmail.com

March 26

Mtn Dew Base Bash

Powderhorn Mountain Resort
48338 Powderhorn Rd, Mesa, CO
9am - 6pm
Call Powder Horn Mountain Resort for more information on this event and others.

970-268-5700

March 27

Curtis Grimes

8pm - 1am
Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar
2565 American Way, Grand Junction, CO

March 28

Candlebox - Wolves Tour 2022

10pm
The Avalon Theatre
645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

Candlebox were formed in Seattle in December 1991 by singer/guitarist Kevin Martin, a native of Elgin, Illinois who'd grown up partly in San Antonio, and drummer Scott Mercado. Initially calling the band Uncle Duke, they added lead guitarist Peter Klett and bassist Bardi Martin (no relation to Kevin) and changed the group's name to Candlebox, after a line in a Midnight Oil song.
\$29/\$39/\$49 +fees

March 29

Coffee with the City Manager

10am
Kiln Coffee Bar
326 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
Join City Manager Greg Caton and Parks & Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou at Kiln Coffee Bar on March 29th at 10 a.m. for a discussion on current and upcoming parks projects. Rescheduled event from January 27.

March 30

Faculty Jazz Quintet

7:30pm
Moss Performing Arts Center
1221 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO
Faculty Jazz Quintet Hosted By Colorado Mesa University Department of Music. Event starts at Wed Mar 30 2022 at 06:30 pm and happening at Grand Junction., \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, free for students

March 31

Faculty Jazz Quintet

9am - 3pm
Cameo Shooting and Education Complex, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
3934 I 9/10 Rd, Palisade, CO
The annual Conference in The Country sponsored by Timberline Bank and hosted by the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Women in Business is back for year two! Connect with other strong women

Fruita

March 16

Safe Driving Strategies

1 - 4pm
900 Kiefer Ave, Fruita, CO
Safe Driving Strategies: A Focus on Distracted and Defensive Driving – This three-hour basic defensive driving course covers the most common forms of distracted and defensive driving. Michael Spector for more information on this event.
michaels@cirsa.org

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