

May 2022

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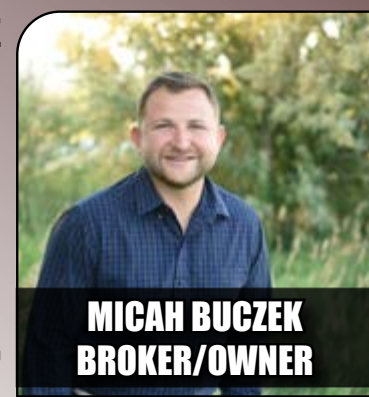
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# CONNECTING COMMUNITY

**MAY 2022**

EVENTS CONNECTION P.10



MESAS TO MONUMENTS  
QUILT SHOW P. 8



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VOLUNTEER EVENT



STEP UP FOR P. 16  
DOWN SYNDROME



INTERNATIONAL P. 24  
HONEYBEE FESTIVAL



SOUTHWEST P. 28  
ARBOR FESTIVAL



LISA "MOOSE" LEVY KRAL  
DANCING IN MY HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

## Acknowledgments

*It is my duty to identify any errors in this publication and apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused my audience or contributors. I owe Lisa "Moose" Levy Kral a debt of gratitude for supplying last month's pictures of Business After Hours at Adrenaline Driven Adventures. The photos were courtesy of the Palisade Chamber of Commerce and hopefully both Lisa and the Chamber can forgive the oversight. Lisa takes great photos and should be recognized for her contribution. She is the owner off Dancing In My Head Photography serving the Grand Valley and beyond. There was also a mistake in the Mesas to Monuments listing in the events calendar, which was at the Two Rivers Convention Center, not the Avalon Theater.*

**CONTACT**

**970-260-2781**

**Sales@MesaConnection.com**



## PUBLISHING & DESIGN JESSE FORNWALT

If May is anything like last month, we will be in for a real treat. The Valley was really brought together in this issue by a wide range of activities that allow us to sample Mesa County's variety.

There is fun in the most unexpected places. This magazine starts with 3 events on the same day! Step Up For Down Syndrome, Mesas to Monuments Quilt Show & the International Honey Bee Festival, which were all on Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Following that we helped volunteer at earth day and would like to spot light those volunteers, as well as the Forestry Department for their work at the Southwest Arbor Day Festival. They gave plenty of trees away and had fun doing it. Music and face painting made the occasion great for every age.

We hope to see you around the valley participating in what Mesa County has to offer! We want to hear what you would like us to cover! Please reach out to us!



**Edited By Pam Davison**

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

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**Editor@MesaConnection.com**



# PICK US UP AROUND THE VALLEY



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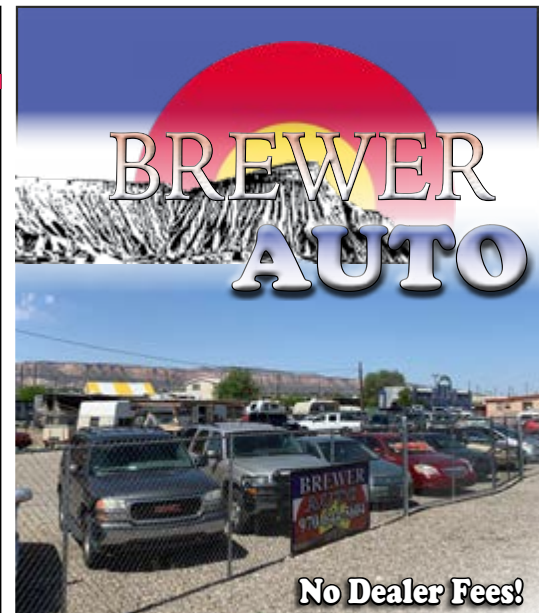


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# Quilt Show!

You may not believe quilting is the most exciting entertainment. As a matter of fact the first thing you think about quilting might be *Grandma by the fire in a rocking chair*. However when a competition is afoot, the talent comes out and people bring the excitement.

The Mesas to Monuments Quilt Show held at the Two River's Convention Center gave us a wonderful display of people's hard work. The detail and intricateness of these quilts go beyond the traditional realms of this art to a magical display of texture with elements that are unique for each piece.

Judy Allerheilgen, coordinator for the event says the show is only every two years with the next one April 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> 2024. The last quilting show was held at the Mesa Mall, and the ones previous to that were held at Lincoln Park barn. The size and attendance of the event shows that it is growing rapidly.

The attendees were mostly older; however, they know good art when it is presented, and the Mesas to Monuments Quilt Show definitely has some talented artist attending.. For \$5 bucks it was worth walking around and looking at the end result all the time and effort that was put into each of these lovely pieces.

If you don't think you will get the opportunity to see or

purchase these quilts, don't worry. Judy says all the vendors have an on-line presence and can be found on the Sunset Slope Quilter's website.

There were 6 total awards given out 1<sup>st</sup> place also won a \$150 gift card to Hi Fashion sewing and Quilting, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$100 gift card to Owl's Nest of Quilters, 3<sup>rd</sup> a \$50 gift card to Quilter's Inspiration. There were also 3 honorable mention awards.

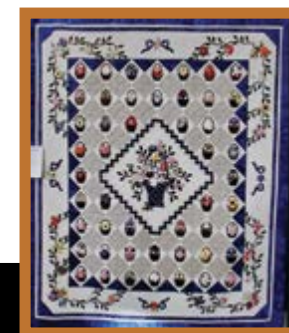
There is excitement, even in some of the most unexpected places. The quilting art itself might seem boring, but the final product proves to be worth showing a smile for. It's wonderful to see how creative people can be. Their excitement is contagious. Letting our preconceived notions go will allow us to enjoy something we wouldn't normally recognize. To become a vendor or look the vendors that attended this year's Mesas to Monuments Quilt Show go to :

[www.SunsetSlopeQuilters.com](http://www.SunsetSlopeQuilters.com) or Mesas to Monuments Facebook page.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place *American Beauty* by Sonia Sanderson



*Bountiful Baskets* by Mary Ross



*The Arrangement 2* by Jackie Aguilar Quilt with Texture!



1<sup>st</sup> Place *Pandora* by Daleeta Toft



2<sup>nd</sup> Place *Judy & Me* by Sharon Braunangel



**May 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>**

Sat. 9am - 10pm Sun. 9am - 5pm

**MESA COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS**



Purchase tickets early

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**Grand Junction**

**May 5**

**Western Slope Networking**

3:00 - 5 pm

Downtown Grand Junction  
101 S 3rd St Suite 100, Grand Junction,  
CO

Join us for an informal networking and discussion about trends on the Western Slope to connect champions, public sector staff + elected, and private sector partners. Register at [www.BeaconSeniorNews.com](http://www.BeaconSeniorNews.com)

**May 5**

**The BREWERY COMEDY TOUR at  
EDGEWATER**

7:00 - 8:30pm

Edgewater Brewery  
905 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO  
Standupcomedians from New York to L.A. are currently on the road, sampling the local fare, local drinks and providing the finest and funniest in comedy entertainment.

\$14

**May 6**

**Humanity w/ Hillbilly Riot**

9 - 11:45pm

Orchard Mesa Cruisers  
2692 Hwy. 50, Grand Junction, CO  
Hillbilly Riot is a hard hitting three piece from Cedaredge, CO. Utilizing various styles and genres. Blending rock, outlaw country, punk, metal ect ....Hillbilly Riot keeps the audience entertained and captivated with their explosive energy.

**May 6**

**The Marcus King Band**

8 - 10pm

The Avalon Theatre  
645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO  
A 25-year-old guitar phenom and innovative songwriter, Marcus King can simultaneously switch from swaggering rock to supersonic soul, having written songs and performing onstage for half his lifetime.

\$27, \$37, \$47, \$67 +fees

**May 6**

**Napalm Death**

8 - 11pm

Mesa Theater  
538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO  
English Extreme Metal Pioneers NA-PALM DEATH Live at Mesa Theater  
\$16 - \$19

**May 6**

**Ryan Chrys & The Rough Cuts**

10 - 11pm

Warehouse 2565  
2565 American Way  
Grand Junction  
**FREE SHOW!!**

At a glance, Ryan Chrys & The Rough Cuts are a 4-piece touring band that shares male and female leads in a mix of old school country and rock n roll. Call it western outlaw, modern outlaw country, or just plain outlaw.

**May 7**

**Community Concerts: Crocodile  
Rockin'**

7:30 - 9:30pm

The Avalon Theatre  
645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO  
Ready! Steady! Go! for this rollicking romp through the wonders of Elton John and Bernie Taupin's incredible music making! Audiences will see for themselves why Elton is one of the world's most beloved icons.

**May 8**

**Powerglove with Immortal  
Guardian**

8 - 11pm0pm

Mesa Theater  
538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO  
Powerglove is an American instrumental power metal cover band. They are known to play metal cover versions of classic video game themes.  
\$15

**May 8**

**TIM MONTANA**

7 - 10pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar  
2565 American Way,  
Grand Junction, CO  
GJ get ready for the rockin Tim Montana and the Shrednecks as they take over the Warehouse for a can't miss night of COUNTRY ROCKIN ROLL!  
\$20

**May 8**

**Mayhem Tour**

3 - 5pm

Grand Junction Motor Speedway  
3002 N I 70 Frontage Rd, Grand Junction, CO

prepare to have your mind blown away. We have the biggest, maddest and wildest event you will ever witness. This adrenaline filled show features the most massive Monster Truckz destroying cars, flying over mind boggling jump pushing drivers and trucks to the brink of destruction. The Nitro Motocross Team will amaze and astonish as the soar 80 feet above your head doing things that shouldn't be possible.

ONE Free Kid's Ticket is valid PER PAID ADULT. This is for General Admission seating.  
\$16.50 Adult, free kid with first 100 ticket

**May 8**

**Henry Rollins:**

**Good To See You 2022**

8:30 - 10 pm

The Avalon Theatre  
645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO  
\$25, \$30 +fees



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**CONTINUED P. 21**

*Calendar*

# Earth Day Volunteer Event



On a warm Friday morning we joined River's Edge West, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping find solutions for river fronts across the Southwest. Reoccurring droughts are not the only cause for water shortage.

Cara Kukuraitis, Communications and Education Director of River's Edge West says, foreign plants brought around the dust bowl era were used for dirt erosion. Since then we have learned that natural erosion is best and that these invaders not only overtake the native plants, they also use tremendous amounts of water because of how dense they get.

The two most problematic Cara says, are the Tamarisk and Cocklebur. Salt Cedar (aka Tamarisk) introduced from Asia has taken over River Bend Park's river front and many other river fronts across the Southwest. This foreign plant has a deep root system, spreads quickly and also burns worse than the native species.

The Cocklebur are ugly first of all, second they stick to everything. If you've lived here long, you've gotten them stuck in your shoes or had to remove



them from your dog's hair. There is a reason why the first part of the pesky plant's name is what it is. If you get them stuck all over you that's the first thing you scream!

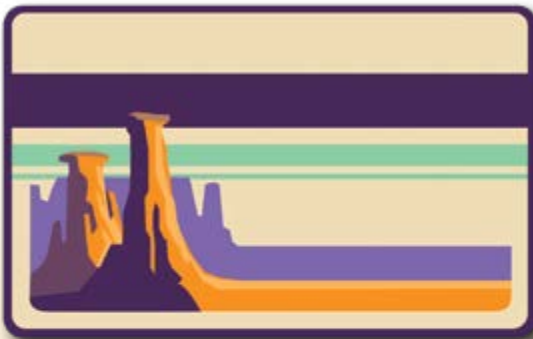
As volunteers for the cause we not only got to help, but were educated on the difference between native plants and invaders.

You never know when you'll learn something new, Cucklebur also kills livestock if 1% or more of body weight is consumed (information from the Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program).

Taking the time to learn about the river that most of us use all the time is not only vital to keeping the area beautiful, but also saving native species and conserving water. Don't be afraid to pull a few next time you're watching your kids at the Lazy River.

**Grand Valley River Fest & Rubber Ducky Race**  
**May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 5pm**  
**go to [www.RiversEdgeWest.org](http://www.RiversEdgeWest.org) for more info**





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# 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STEP UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME

On a wonderful Saturday afternoon with warm air springing up around us, we joined the Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Step Up For Down Syndrome walk for awareness. 22 teams with a total of 338 walkers bound passed their goal with exceptional pace! Smiles are all around as the event starts with Boyscout Troop 328 leading our beloved flag to it's tribute. Hannah Howe sings the National Anthem with passion to grace our Country with her rendition.

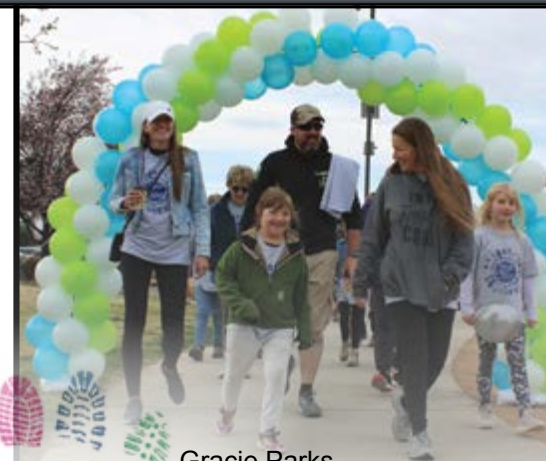
As the crowd's cheers slow down, everyone gears up for their walk towards a goal of \$25,000. The first to start out the walk is Gracie Parks and Gracie's Dream Team. Although all teams were important to reach the goal, Gracie's Dream Team is in the top 5 of donations earned!

Laura Graham, Program Coordinator for RMDSA Western Slope says she and Stephanie Bonnie have done all 5 walks and this was the first time they exceeded their goal. The first couple of years they didn't quite reach their target; however, with everyone coming out of the Co vid coma, people are ready to walk and support a great cause. Totaling \$34,223 the largest crowd yet help surpass the goal.

The main mission of the Rocky

Mountain Down Syndrome Association is "To assure inclusion and enhance independence of people with Down Syndrome by providing education, resources, and support in partnership with individuals, families, professionals, and the community." The annual event has grown tremendously every year and will continue to with the overwhelming support of the community.

You can visit [www.RMDSA.org](http://www.RMDSA.org) or their Facebook page for next year's schedule or to make contributions.



Gracie Parks  
Gracie's Dream Team



Concurring CHD Mascot

Megan Richards

Julie Fornwalt

Laura Graham

Stephanie Bonnie



Alli Gelwick  
Mary Ann Barwick





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# CALENDAR

CONTINUED

## **Grand Junction**

**May 10**

### **Chaos and Carnage Tour**

4:30 - 11:30pm

Mesa Theater

538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

Suicide Silence & Carnifex Lorna Shore

Upon A Burning Body Angelmaker

Distant Special Guest TBA

\$27 - \$30

**May 11**

### **KYLIE FREY**

7 - 10pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar

2565 American Way,

Grand Junction, CO

In today's country, it's not uncommon for artists to veer from one "lane" to another, adopting a new sound and style as trends change. But there's a growing movement within the genre suffering no such identity crisis, and there you'll find Kylie Frey.

**May 11**

### **Escape The Fate**

6:30 - 11:30pm

Mesa Theater

538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO

Escape the Fate performing their "Self titled" Album from front to back + other Hits!

\$25-\$29

**May 11**

### **Wind Symphony**

6:30 - 11:30pm

Moss Performing Arts Center

1221 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO

\$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors, kids and students free.

**May 12**

**AARON WATSON with special  
guest Jeremy McComb**

7 - 11pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar  
2565 American Way, Grand Junction

Aaron Watson is set to bring that TEXAS heat to the W stage for a can't miss night of LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC! TICKETS on sale NOW and won't last long so ya better hit the BUY button quick our good buddy Jeremy McComb is bringing the full band to kick start this dance.

**May 13**

### **2022 Western Colorado Hero Classic Golf Tournament**

8am - 2:30pm

Redlands Mesa Golf Course

2325 W Ridges Blvd, Grand Junction

Join us at the 2022 Western Colorado Hero Classic Golf Tournament to help say THANK YOU to our local Heroes.

Tickets \$135 - \$1,500

**May 13**

### **River Valley Rangers**

7 - 10pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar

2565 American Way, Grand Junction

come out & listen to some great live music that will have ya foot stompin, hand clappin, swing dancin kind of LIVE MUSIC! \*\* FREE SHOW \*\*

**May 13**

### **JASON ABBOTT**

**\*\* FREE SHOW \*\***

7 - 10pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar

2565 American Way, Grand Junction

**May 14 & 15**

### **Grand Valley Highland Games**

Sat. 9am - 10pm

Sunday 9am - 5pm

Mesa Count Fairgrounds

Don't wait in line! Purchase tickets early at Taylor's Craft

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# CALENDAR CONTINUED

**May 8**

## Grand Junction

**May 14**

**RODNEY ATKINS**

7 - 10pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar  
2565 American Way, Grand Junction  
With Caught Up in the Country, one of  
country music's biggest stars is start-  
ing his next chapter...

\$40 - \$85

**May 14**

**Eve 6 at Wüffstock Music Festival**

2 - 4pm

Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park  
925 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO  
6th Annual Wüffstock Music Festival  
An event to celebrate the human-can-  
ine bond with live music, food and  
drink, and, of course, dogs!

**May 21**

**BUCKIN' BULLS: THE STORY OF  
TY RINALDO**

6 - 10pm

The Avalon Theatre  
645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO  
Put on your cowboy best and walk The  
Avalon's red carpet on the way meet the  
local filmmakers of this award winning  
documentary at the hometown pre-  
miere of Buckin' Bulls: The Story of Ty  
Rinaldo.

\$18, Students \$8

**May 27**

**COREY KENT**

8 - 11:30pm

Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar  
2565 American Way, Grand Junction  
Corey Kent is quickly becoming an  
add on everyones playlist and is set to  
light up the Warehouse.

\$15 - \$20

**Palisade** →

**Mother's Day Brunch with Red  
Barn Catering**

10am

Restoration Vineyards  
3594 E 1/2 Road  
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**FREE EVENT!!**

Join us Sunday May 8th for a fabulous  
brunch with Red Barn Catering. Drink  
specials and outdoor seating available  
for moms to relax with us.

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**May 14**

**Brews & Shoes Festival**

12 - 5pm

Veterans' Memorial Park  
120 W 8th St, Palisade, CO

Brews & Shoes Festival presented by  
Grand Valley Bank celebrates over 30  
craft brews and hard ciders. Sampling,  
live music, food, and fun in the beauti-  
ful heart of downtown Palisade!

Palisade Chamber 970-4647458

**May 18**

**Business After Hours- Palisade Ba-  
secamp RV Resort**

11:30 - 1pm

Palisade Basecamp RV Resort  
985 N River Rd, Palisade, CO  
PBusiness After Hours socials are a  
great opportunity to network.

**May 18**

**Bella Notte**

12 - 4pm

3857 N River Rd, Palisade, CO  
Join us for a beautiful night! Appetizers  
& Music, Wine & Dinner  
\$75 - \$525

**May 28**

**Palisade Plunge**

7am

Palisade

This is an invitation only ride as VetEx  
leaders ride the new Palisade Plunge to  
get their eyes on it for future trips. This  
ride is very advanced and is over 30  
miles long.



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Through May 2022**

# International

# Honeybee



Adjusting to all the events around the valley has been challenging. The International Honeybee Festival was held on the same day as other events. It's not intentional by any means; however, going to 3 events in one day was only possible because of where we live. The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual event held in the beginning of April had been delayed for reasons we are all aware of;

the word really tastes bad coming out of the mouth these days. People were out enjoying the wonderful day and celebrating the little insects that provide as much as they do for the planet.

According to the festivals website, "The Festival was founded by a group of local business owners who wanted to rally the community to celebrate its agricultural heritage and to draw attention to the documented crisis that exists worldwide with honeybee population decline".

<https://palisadehoneybeefest.org/press/>

# Festival

The event featured demonstrations and educational elements such as Breean Fiihr from Mt. Garfield Greenhouse discussing "Buzzworthy Gardening" and Dan Bean from the Palisade Insectary discussing "Using Bugs for Good, Not Evil".

People were also shown how to cook with Honey by Dixie Burmeister and Chad Griffith, Executive Chef at Wine Country Inn. Ethan Noah from KREX also hosted a Spelling Bee. As people gather around street vendors and interact without prejudice, its clear we are all prepared to be mask free and get on with our lives. Thanks to the diligent work of all the coordinators for these events we are looking forward to a wonderful summer filled with all kinds of festivals.



# CALENDAR FRUITA

## May 4

### Bike to Work Day

1pm

325 E Aspen Ave, Fruita, CO

Join us on May the 4th to celebrate Bike to Work day in Fruita! FREE Breakfast will be provided by Family Health West

## May 6

### 18 Hours of Fruita

12pm

Fruita

Highline Lake State Park

1800 11 8/10 Rd, Loma, CO

One of the most beloved endurance events on the western slope.

## May 6, 7, 8

### Fat Tire Festival 2022

Fri & Sat 11am

Sunday 10am

Downtown Fruita

Downtown Fruita will host the afternoon and evening events as well as Mountain Bike Accessory, Apparel and other related Outdoor Recreation vendors.

## May 7

### Joyfully Triumphant Fruita Dance & Art Youth End of Year Showcase!

9am

Fruita Parks & Recreation Department  
324 N Coulson St, Fruita, CO

Come out and support the youth's enrollment in the arts on May 7th, 6pm at the Fruita Community Center.

## May 7

### Fruita End-of-Season 5K Celebration

10am

Fruita Community Center

324 N Coulson St, Fruita, CO

Join us for our first 5K event in Fruita

since 2019!

[www.pinwheel.us/register/index/GOTR-Western-Colorado-Spring-2022-5K-Event](http://www.pinwheel.us/register/index/GOTR-Western-Colorado-Spring-2022-5K-Event)  
Register Today!

## May 14

### Adventure Fest at 18 Road

11:30am

18 Rd, Colorado

The Adventure Fest at 18 Road weekend features the Fruita Trail Half, the Sarlacc Attack 50K mtb race, free events for spectators at the start/finish area, free camping, music, food, and microbrews.

[www.GeminiAdventures.com](http://www.GeminiAdventures.com)

## May 14

### Hi Five Robotics Golf Tournament

9am

Adobe Creek National Golf Course  
876 18 1/2 Rd, Fruita, CO

## May 15

### Fruita Trail Half Marathon

8:30am - 12pm

North Fruita Desert

18 Road Trailhead, Fruita, CO

This exciting half marathon course is a fun loop on the beautiful flowy single track in Fruita, CO.

## May 20

### BetterRide w/Gene Hamilton, MTB Skills Course

8:45am

Fruita

Take your skills to the next level (guaranteed) by investing in yourself. Learn the skills to greatly improve your riding and drills to master those skills in Fruita, Colorado!

[admin@betterride.net](mailto:admin@betterride.net)

[MesaConnection.com](http://MesaConnection.com)

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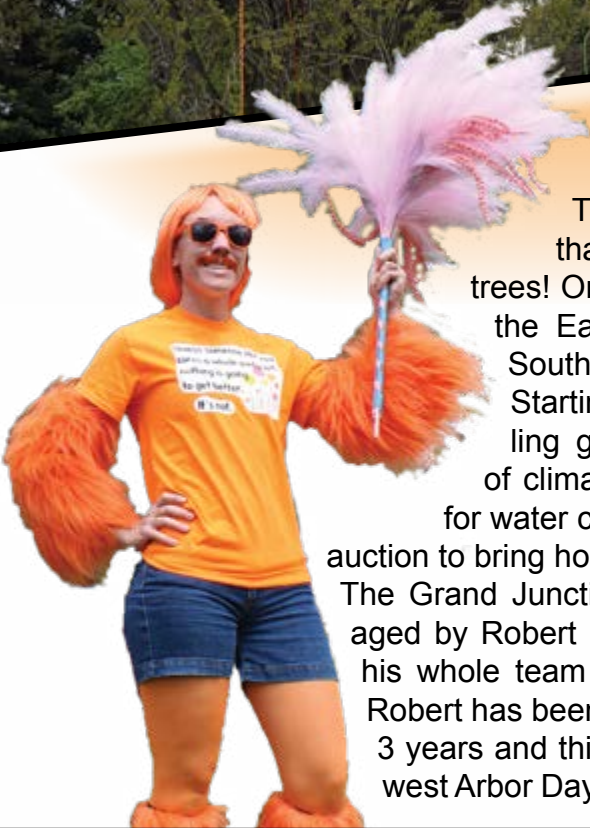
# Southwest

# Arbor Day



## Festival

## 2022



There's no better way to start spring than celebrating nature, growth and trees! On Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022, following the Earth Day Volunteer Event, was the Southwest Arbor Day Festival 2022.

Starting at 9am, there was a free seedling give away to help endorse the use of climate appropriate trees that are better for water conservation. There was also a silent auction to bring home a large containerized tree.

The Grand Junction City Forestry department, managed by Robert Davis, City Forester, came out with his whole team to spread trees to the community. Robert has been with Grand Junction City Forest for 3 years and this is his first year hosting the Southwest Arbor Day Festival for the city. Davis has been

City Forester in other areas around Colorado for 20 years. His team of Arborists, Plant Health Care Specialist, Forestry Crew Leader and Administrative staff played a key roll in making the tree giveaway and silent auction a success. Robert says, "We delivered 444 seedlings to the doorsteps of Grand Junction residents through the help of Forestry Board members and Master Gardener volunteers. We gave away ~620 seedlings at Arbor Day Saturday. Roughly 1,000 seedlings distributed for Arbor Day." He also says the silent auction was a success with 50 Large trees going to homes. On May 7<sup>th</sup> the Forestry Crew is teaming up with the Grand Junction Rotary Club to put their \$10,000 donation to good use with a larger tree planting down at Las Colonias west of the butterfly pond.

Robert also wanted to state, "Our urban tree canopy works hard to improve air quality, lower our carbon foot print through large scale carbon sequestration, and cools the valley reducing energy use (AC units running). The whole of our tree canopy provides \$30 million



**CONTINUED P. 30**  
**Connecting Community**

# Arbor Day Festival

## CONTINUED



in annual savings and has an appraised value of \$1.1 billion”.

The career center also had a spot selling various plants for educational funding and the Tri-River Master Gardeners were giving out information to the public. Susan Carter of the Tri-River Horticulture & National Resources a Colorado State University extension office, says they work with the Forestry department to provide volunteer support and informational classes in horticulture. After watching Ramses Vallejo rappel a tree, it was time to meander over to the live music, beer and food. Over 50 vendors rallied to show their enthusiasm for finally getting into a busier season. Face painters Rikku and Annite of Toadstool Face Painting had a line around their tent!

Two live bands played with great energy. First up was Tim and Richard bands, local artists in a two man band



using every limb they had to make music; very talented! The band after them was called Lincoln Pants Band. Matt Lincoln and Nick Pants put the band together 8 years ago and are both from Mesa County. Their unique sound had undertones that are reminiscent of rock n roll, blues and reggae. Find them later in the Summer at some upcoming festivals.

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