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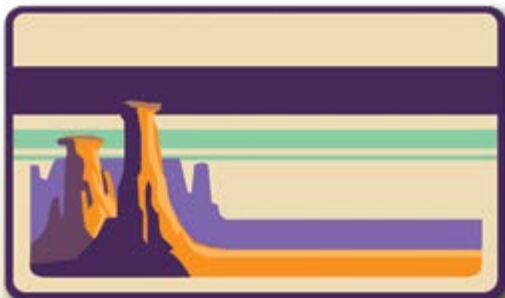


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December 2022

EVENTS CONNECTION P.16



VETERAN'S DAY PARADE P. 8



VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY FRUITA P. 9



TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY P. 13

Mesa County Connection
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MESA COUNTY MINI MARKET P.18



SKI DAY WITH GRAND MESA NORDIC COUNCIL P. 21

Lets take a moment and continue appreciation of our Veteran's. We wouldn't have the freedoms there are today without them. It's an honor to cover events dedicated to the men and women who have served this country selflessly. They deserve continued respect and celebration throughout the year.

Veteran's are a vital part of our community and Mesa County Connection loves the opportunity to connect with them. If you have suggestions about spotlighting individuals that deserve continued gratitude, please let us know. We would love to hear their story and share it.

One story in particular hits home. He went to great lengths to make sure his brother and the Veteran's of the Vietnam War were never forgotten. Mr. Jim Doody explains how Fruita's Vietnam Veteran's Memorial came into existence.

Acknowledgments

CONTACT
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Sales@MesaConnection.com



PUBLISHING & DESIGN JESSE FORNWALT

It's a wonderful time of the year; the snow is piling up, people are out connecting and winter recreation is just getting started. From all over the valley we honor our Veteran's, and Mesa County Connection is continuing this into December. From the young Boy Scouts who show their support by participating in the parade, to the actual members who serve and represent their particular branch, the show of support was outstanding!

Main Street is a busy place this time of year. From the Tree Lighting Ceremony to parades that seem to be every other week, the excitement doesn't stop. As Santa takes his position after dusting the tree with his sparkling tree lighting dust, children can barely contain their enthusiastic smiles.

For the first time Mesa County Connection gets to connect with Grand Mesa Nordic Council, who, with the support of volunteers and outside contributions keeps the trails accessible to the general public for cross country skiing. This is not all they do though, as we learn in this



issue. They support local clubs and partner with organization to bring free events that anyone is allow to participate in. We look forward to their unique events, in which heavy winter apparel may be required.

The content of this publication is accurate to the best of our knowledge. Published by Mesa County Connection 2022 All rights reserved.

EDITED BY PAM DAVISON
Editor@MesaConnection.com



Alley Katz



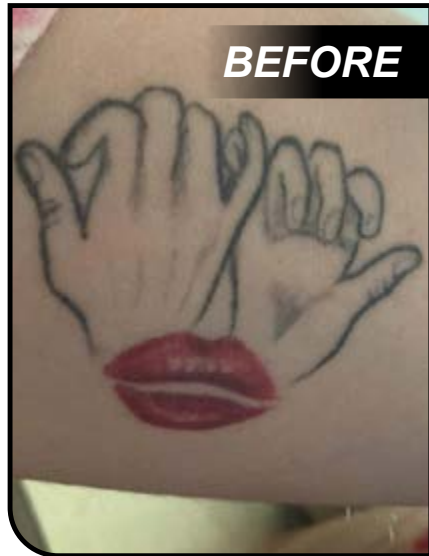
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JUNCTION *Connection*

The Grand Junction Veteran's Day parade is a continued celebration of Vets across the county. The ceremonies held the day before in Fruita and Grand Junction commence the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour, explaining the significance.

Everyone came out to celebrate; from the young, quiet Boy Scouts of pack 318, to loud motorcycles and marching bands stepping in cadence with their salute to our Armed Forces. Shown just below to the right, was one of the last participants in this year's parade, but the first to be mentioned. A small pack with big intentions, Boy Scout pack 318 who could very well be

the youngest members of the community to show support. As they follow, braving the cold with smiles and red faces, it's a reminder that everyone should take the time and effort to honor those who serve.

The deep rumble coming down Main Street was from motorcycles of the Patriot Guard Riders seen at the top right in Fruita.

Steve Goebel, speaker for the group, says they "stand the flag line everyday in Grand Junction to remember those who died serv-



ing.

The Marching Bands of Palisade, Fruita and Grand Junction high schools played exquisitely, showing off skills they must have fine tuned all year, it would seem, just for this occasion.

Jim Doody, seen to the bottom right on Veteran's Day in Fruita, reminds everyone why November 11th at 11am is historically significant; because it marked the end of one of the bloodiest wars the world had ever seen, World War 1. Known as Armistice Day until 1954, the name was officially changed to incorporate all Veteran's since we had faced WW2 and the Korean War.

(“The Connection Between Veteran's Day and the Number 11”. Dictionary.com, November 10th 2022.)

For Jim, this day and the memorial behind him located in Fruita, holds the most significance. As the founder of the Vietnam Veteran's War Memorial in Fruita, Jim gathered the donations from organizations listed on the foundation's website,

<http://www.field-of-dreams.org>

Jim introduced the Memorial on July 4th, 2003 in remembrance of his Brother, Tom Doody, who piloted a helicopter just like the one behind Jim. He was shot down in February 8th, 1971. Jim has been hosting the event since it's founding in 2003. He is an inspiration to the honor of Veteran's Day, giving us a prime example of how this day should be treated whether you are a civilian, Boy Scout or the Marching Band.



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DAY

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Grand Junction TREE LIGHTING Ceremony

As daylight fades and Main Street fills with what looks like an enormous turnout to greet Santa, Mesa Outloud warms our hearts and bodies with a stunning musical performance. The annual event, which shuts down the intersection of Main and 4th street downtown Grand Junction, has been a tradition for years. As some parts of the tradition are left behind, new aspects start appearing.

Known as a Cappella Group, Mesa Outloud is an audition based singing group that has started becoming a tradition for the Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony. Each voice brings a unique element to the singsong performance, which is done without musical instruments. Delighted to do what they love and share it with everyone, their smiles and passion electrify the crowd, who are eager to see where the beautiful melody is coming from. The singers are mostly seasoned from the previous year, but a couple of new faces have made their way to the spotlight, which has grown tremendously. Formed in 2014 for a specific performance, *Taste of CMU* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, President Foster and the Board of Trustees decided to create a permanent community outreach and touring group, Mesa Outloud. Under the direction of CMU's director of Music and Theatre Arts and Head of the department, Mo LaMee, Mesa Outloud is a show ensemble that focuses on contemporary commercial music from the American Songbook and the Broadway stage to current chart-topping favorites. Kylie Carroll, Marge Brophy, Siana Gutierrez (student director), Isa Sanchez, Nic Rhodes, Hao Tran, Donovan Kriskowski,

Jake Lende, and Ryan Heinshaimer make up the cast list for the 2022 season. They have performed for the Grand Junction Farmer's Market, CMU's Donors and Scholars Event, a dinner hosted by Bob and Louise Sammons for contestants at Porks 'n' Hops, and for Community Hospital's Annual Gala.

"Mesa Outloud". www.colorado-mesa.edu/theatre/mesa-outloud.html

As people flock the area searching for a good spot, one thing is clear, this event's popularity is overwhelming! The lack of masks, compared to last year, suggests people are ready to reconnect with the community. Joy can actually be seen on faces!

Cold and red, they all look to the building top as KOOL 107.9 announces the arrival of Santa. He tosses his sparkling dust over the tree, lighting it and the rest of Main Street up. The dazzling display, which is a hallmark of holiday magic in Mesa County, will continue lighting up our nights through the rest of the year.

We did not get to see Santa descend from the Wells Fargo building, which was a fun element of the tradition; however, none of the kids seemed to care. Their main priority, talking with Santa. Some have been patiently waiting for a longtime, revealed by the length of the line. Their excitement is contagious as anticipation elevates with the arrival of Santa at his place in front of the tree. Merry Christmas!





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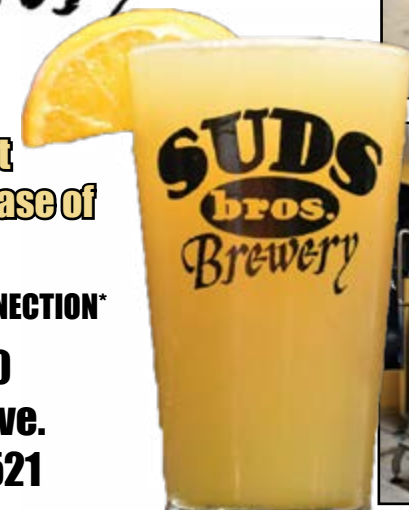
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Grand Junction
Next to Play It Again Sports

Grand Junction

December 3

Best of the West Final Concert
 3pm
 Moss Performing Arts Center
 1221 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO

December 3

CCGJ's 11th Annual Christmas Bazaar
 Calvary Chapel
 492 Morning Glory Ln, Grand Junction, CO
 Get all your Holiday Shopping done at Calvary Chapel Grand Junction's 11th Annual Christmas Bazaar! We will have 4 huge rooms full of awesome vendors (60 booths total!).

December 3

WSHOG 43rd Annual Toy Run
 9am
 Grand Junction Harley-Davidson
 2747 Crossroads Blvd, Grand Junction, CO
 Join us for the 43rd Annual Western Slope Toy Run presented by Western Slope HOG. Registration at Grand Junction Harley Davidson.

December 3

13th Annual Lavender & Artisan Christmas Fair
 10am - 4pm
 Mesa County Fairgrounds
 2785 US-50, Grand Junction, CO

December 3

Parade of Lights
 5 - 7:30pm
 Downtown Grand Junction
 101 S 3rd St Suite 100, Grand Junction, CO
 The Parade of Lights is the biggest parade of the year! Thousands line Main Street as more than 100 lighted entries enchant viewers.

December 6

December 2022:
Silent Auction
Writer's Night
 6 - 7:30pm
 The Art Center
 1803 N 7th St, Grand Junction, CO

December 7

Holiday Choral Concert
 7:30pm
 Moss Performing Arts Center
 1221 N 12th St, Grand Junction, CO
 \$15 adults

December 8

COLLIN RAYE
 7 - 10pm
 Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar
 2565 American Way, Grand Junction
 Country SUPER STAR and hit maker COLLIN RAYE is set to make his Warehouse debut.
 \$30 - \$75

December 9

The OXYMORONS
 8:30 - 11:30pm
 Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar
 2565 American Way, Grand Junction
 WELL...THIS IS GOING TO BE A PARTY!!!
 FREE SHOW

December 10

Photos With Santa at Harley-Davidson
 11am - 3pm
 Grand Junction Harley-Davidson
 2747 Crossroads Blvd, Grand Junction, CO

December 10

Santa Cause Run
 10:15am
 Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park
 925 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO

December 15

A Christmas Classic
 7:30pm
 The Avalon Theatre
 645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
 A traditional holiday concert performed by the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, featuring the Grand Junction Symphony

December 16

The Harp Twins
 6:30 - 10:30pm
 Mesa Theater
 538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
 \$35

December 16, 17

LONDON JAMES
 8 :30 - 11pm
 Warehouse25sixty-five Kitchen + Bar
 2565 American Way, Grand Junction
 GJ y'all ready to COWBOY UP.... LONDON AND THE BOYS are ready to TONK!
 FREE SHOW

December 17

Dead Horses
 8 - 11pm
 Mesa Theater
 538 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
 \$13 - \$15

December 31

Nunsense - High Desert Opera
 7:30 - 11:30pm
 The Avalon Theatre
 645 Main St, Grand Junction, CO
 \$15- \$40

Man Candy Connection

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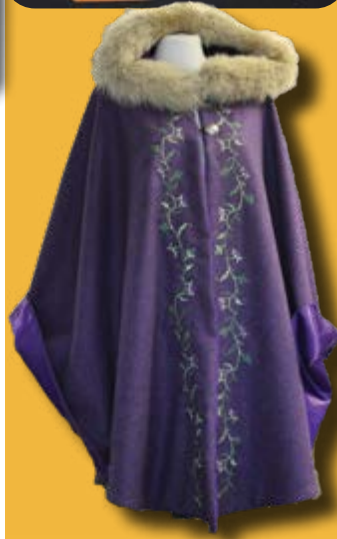
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Palisade

December 2, 3

Olde Fashioned Christmas

Friday 5pm
Saturday 4pm
Downtown Palisade
Tree lighting Ceremony on Friday followed by the Parade of Lights. Meet Santa Saturday at Breakfast with Ginger bread making contest after.

December 3

Saturday wild crafting

9 - 11 am
Riverbend Park
451 Pendleton St, Palisade, CO
Identify and collect wild plants for use in tinctures and crafts.

December 3

Wreath Making Workshop

9 - 11 am
Riverbend Park
451 Pendleton St, Palisade, CO
Identify and collect wild plants for use in tinctures and crafts.
\$65

December 4

Holiday Make & Take Charcuterie Workshop

2 - 5pm
The Ordinary Fellow
202 Peach Ave, Palisade, CO
Sold out

December 14

Business After Hours- Grand Valley Bank

5:30 - 7pm
Orchard River View
3926 HWY 6 &, 24, Palisade, CO

Fruita

December 3

Casting Member Event

10am - 12pm
Dinosaur Journey Museum, Museums of Western Colorado
550 Jurassic Ct, Fruita, CO
Join us to make your own festive dinosaur cast ornament! This event is free for Museums of Western Colorado Members.

December 5

Historic Preservation Board Meeting

11 am
325 E Aspen Ave, Fruita, CO

December 10

Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair

10am - 3pm
324 N Coulson St, Fruita, CO
City of Fruita will be hosting its Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. There will be over 60 vendors with a variety of handmade goods such as soap, knitted and crocheted goods, woodwork, jewelry, fabric crafts, and more!

December 15

Cookies & Claus

6 - 7:30pm
Fruita Community Center
324 N Coulson St, Fruita, CO
Visit Santa Claus, enjoy cookies and cocoa, and write a letter to Santa.

December 17

Cavalcade's Monthly Variety Show!

6 - 7:30pm
Cavalcade
201 E Aspen Ave, Fruita, CO
For a hip, cool, quirky, funky, home-grown, genuine experience come to Cavalcade's Monthly Variety Show.

SKI DAY



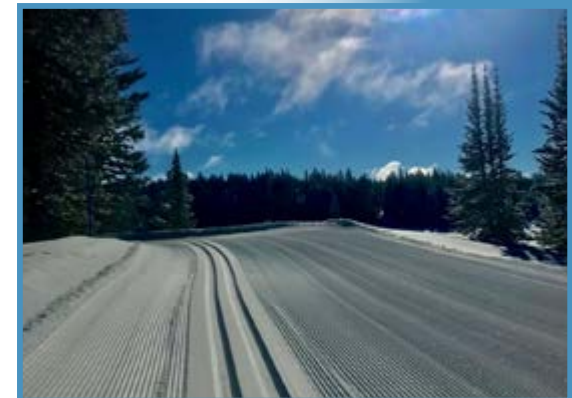
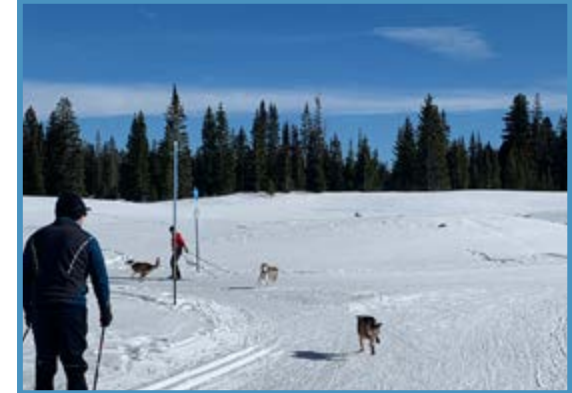
The Mesa is a great way to connect. Not only with people, but nature and the very reason why Mesa County is a great place to live; Recreation! We should be very thankful each season gives us a plethora of activities. Some wouldn't be available without the assistance of people and organizations dedicated to preserving these areas.

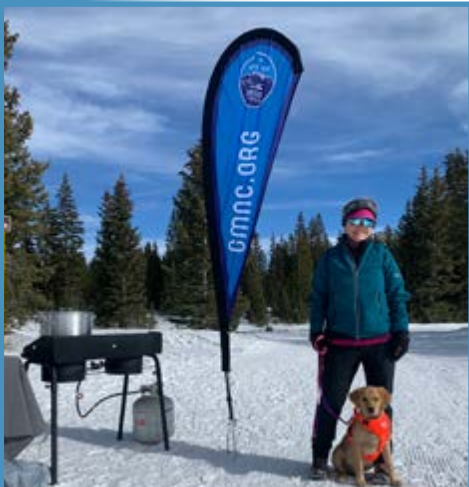
The Grand Mesa Nordic Council has a long history of making winter recreation accessible to the general public. For 30 years the Nordic Council, a nonprofit supporting Cross Country Skiers, has been promoting a safe and fun area for skiers of all ages and abilities.

Working through the summer, volunteers do trail work cleanup, clearing debris and replacing signs in preparation for winter. More recently they also started excavating stumps and boulders to make grooming easier for years with less snow pack says Melissa Newell, Events & Volunteer Coordinator for the Nordic Council.

This year the Grand Mesa Nordic Council has a number of free events the community might be interested in. Their free ski clinic is available for beginner and first time skiers, but they will continue to offer skate and classic ski clinics throughout the sea-

Continued p.22 →





son. Women's Wednesday ski clinics are held throughout the season and they also offer paid Ski Clinics starting in mid December.

The Grand Mesa Nordic Council is also hosting a Full Moon Ski & Bon Fire party social Sunday December 4th at 5:30 - 7:30pm at County Line Trail head. There is a "Family Fun" Day coming up on December 17th from 10am - 2pm where free ski rentals will be available for the whole family brought to us by one of their partner organization, The Nature Connection.

Other groups they work with are the Grand Valley Nordic Ski Club, which is geared toward adolescence and Colorado Discover Ability whose mission is "to increase the independence, self confidence, self worth and education of people with disabilities through out door recreation".

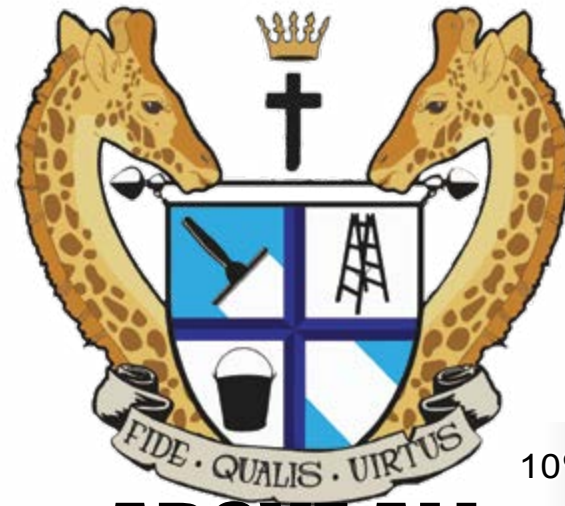
("Colorado Discover Ability". <https://cdagj.org>) Grand Mesa Nordic Council operates under a special use permit with U.S. Forest Service, part of the Department of Agriculture and relies completely on voluntary and grant contributions to pay for trail grooming, maintenance operations, the warming hut, ski clinics and events.

They suggest a \$75 per year contribution to ensure continued world class skiing and grooming in one of the best Nordic areas, the wilderness of Grand Mesa National Forrest.

("We Depend on Your Support". <https://gmnc.org/about/>)

Thanks to Melissa Newell and Karen Cornell for posing and providing some pictures that only Grand Mesa Nordic Council could. It's great to connect with people in even the most remote places in our county. To see all of Grand Mesa Nordic Council's events and ski clinics go to:

<https://gmnc.org>



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