



YOUR LINK TO BUSINESS

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Employers and Health Care Focus of Healthcare Summit March 8th

As small business owners, we are concerned about our employees. It isn't just the fact that these employees are essential to our business success. These are people that work side by side with us building the company, servicing customers and more. Oftentimes we wish we could do more for these special individuals, especially as group health insurance policies has risen along with deductibles and co-pays. Yet the economy has not been good and the margins may not have allowed us to match the benefits we were able to provide a few short years ago.

Will Obamacare be repealed? If so, how will that change the landscape of health care for my employees? Are there more things I could be doing right now...while Washington debates the issue, to help my workforce get and stay healthy?

Health care and how to provide it had been an ongoing topic even prior to the election as members of the Chamber attended networking events and scheduled one-on-one interviews with our Business Retention/Expansion Specialist, CJ Rhyne. In response to those various conversations the Grand Junction Area Chamber is hosting a Health Care Summit, Wednesday, March 8th, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the DoubleTree Hotel. Sponsors of the event include Colorado Canyons Hospital and Medical Center, Community Hospital, Primary Care Partners, St. Mary's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Monument Health, Crossroads Fitness, AlphaGraphics and Trailhead Clinics.

Jeff Lundgren, Chief Health Care and Immigration Lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce based in Washington, D.C. and John Gonzales, Director of the South/Southwest Region, U.S. Chamber will keynote the event with a presentation on current discussions inside the beltway within the walls of Congress and the White House.

That presentation will be followed by breakout sessions for small businesses on how to better fit their needs to the products currently available in the marketplace in order to provide insurance. Breakouts will feature employers who are utilizing the various options being discussed.

A luncheon panel presentation will outline the Mesa County Health Department 221 system and how business owners and Human Resource professionals can help employees fully utilize the services that are available in this community through government and non-profits to assist them in managing their health needs.

Throughout the day there will be an opportunity to visit with health care providers and others that can assist small businesses in navigating the health care landscape. We urge Business Owners and Managers along with Human Resource Managers to attend this important event.

Registration is open and available online at www.gjchamber.org.

Follow the Grand Junction Chamber on



and on gjchamber.org

Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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CORE COMPETENCIES

- Creating a Strong Local Economy
- Representing the Interests of Business with Government
- Promoting the Community
- Providing Networking Opportunities to Build Business Relationships
- Political Action

Chairman’s Column



“Just because you don’t take interest in politics doesn’t mean that politics won’t take an interest in you.”

This observation, sometimes attributed to the Greek statesman Pericles, rings true: Whether we’re paying

attention or not, government has a say in many of our business and non-business affairs.

One way to exercise some control is at the ballot box, and there are some important elections on the horizon. I know what you’re thinking: “But I feel like we just got through a big election!” I definitely sympathize. But April is fast approaching, and it brings with it races for both the Grand Junction City Council and the school board. These may not be high-profile national elections, but they’re just as important when it comes to the quality of life and economic development issues that matter to us in the Grand Valley.

The Chamber has always taken its role as the “voice of business” seriously, and that includes speaking up in elections and on public policy issues. For more than a decade, the Chamber has interviewed candidates and endorsed those individuals who we feel are best positioned to move economic development forward. These aren’t always easy decisions (and they’re sometimes controversial), but they’re important. You can see this spring’s endorsements and candidate questionnaires—along with our issues endorsements—in the enclosed voter guide. The Chamber is also hosting its 2017 Candidate Forum on March 20th, 12:00 PM at the Mesa County Workforce Center. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. I encourage all of our members to read the guide, attend our candidate forum, consider the Chamber’s endorsements, and vote for those candidates you feel will best represent our community.

The Chamber has also just completed its annual Legislative Trip to the

Capitol in Denver. Our delegation of 45 Western Colorado business leaders had the opportunity to meet with and pose questions to the state’s top decision makers: Governor John Hickenlooper, Attorney General Cynthia Coffman, Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Bob Randall, Department of Local Affairs Executive Director Irv Halter, CDOT Executive Director Shailen Bhatt, and Tom Lipetzky with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. We also hosted numerous Front Range and Western Colorado legislators for dinner, reconnecting with many lawmakers and meeting new ones. A special thanks to our local legislative delegation—Representatives Dan Thurlow and Yeulin Willet, and Senator Ray Scott—for their assistance in organizing the trip and hosting us.

And speaking of laws that affect us whether we’re familiar with them or not, health care is front and center with the change in presidential administrations and a Republican-controlled Congress. Wondering what to expect in the coming months and years? Call the Chamber and register for our 2017 Health Care Summit on March 8th, 8:00 AM at the DoubleTree Hotel. Title sponsors are Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center, Primary Care Partners, Community Hospital, Monument Health, St. Mary’s Medical Center, Alphagraphics, Crossroads Fitness and Trailhead Clinics we have a prominent slate of health care policy experts presenting and answering your questions, including Keynote Speaker Jeff Lungren, Chief Health Care Lobbyist For the US Chamber of Commerce.

We know that busy businesspeople don’t always have the time to stay on top of elections and laws that affect them. And that’s one of the reasons we at the Chamber have spoken out—and will continue to speak out—on issues impacting both our business community and our overall quality of life.

Jeffrey S. Hurd
2017 Chairman of the Board

Chamber Takes Action on State Bills

During the last week of February close to 50 members of the Grand Junction Chamber Board of Directors, Governmental Affairs Committee and Mesa County Leadership Class spent two days at the State Capitol learning about issues facing the state from members of the General Assembly and the Governor's Cabinet. But long before that, the Chamber was active taking positions on bills as they were introduced through our Governmental Affairs Committee structure. This committee meets about every two weeks with lawmakers to learn what is going on under the dome and take positions on bills that affect our job creators. Shown below are a few of the bills that the Chamber has officially weighed in on so far, this session.

BILLS SUPPORTED:

- **HB17-1037** - Concerning the use of deadly physical force against a person who has made an illegal entry into a place of business. This bill allows local small business owners and managers the same protections from prosecution as currently afforded to homeowners.
- **SB-035** - Concerning tampering with oil and gas equipment would make it a felony to tamper with and cause damage to this expensive equipment.
- **HB17-1090** - (Kraft-Tharp (D) & Wilson (R)|Gardner(R) & Kefalas (D)) - Concerning the Advanced Industry Investment Tax Credit. This bill extends for five (5) years the advanced industry tax credit which we supported when it passed in 2014. The credit of up to \$50,000 is available to investors who invest in qualifying small businesses in advanced industries.
- **HB17-1070** - (Wilson) Concerning the use of unmanned aircraft systems to perform government functions relating to public safety and in connection therewith requiring the Center for Excellence Within the Department of Public Safety to perform a study and operate a pilot program.
- **HB17-1113** - (Willett (R) & Ardent (D)) Allow Electronic Committee Participation During Interim. This bill simply allows the executive committee of the legislative council to allow members of the general assembly to participate in interim committees electronically. In our efforts to ensure rural Colorado is heard in the legislative process we see this bill as a logical tool to allow our rural legislative partners easier and more economical access to the legislative interim committee process.
- **HB17-1124 - (Buck (R)|Neville (R))** Local Government Liable Fracking Ban Oil and Gas Moratorium. This bill holds the local government that enacts a moratorium on or bans hydraulic fracturing of oil & gas wells liable for the costs, damages, and

losses of fair market value and must compensate operators, mineral lessees, and royalty owners accordingly.

- **HB 17-1152** - (Willett and Mitch-Bush) Concerning the authority of a federal mineral lease district to manage and invest a portion of the direct disbursement of money from the local government mineral impact fund to counties for the benefit of impacted areas.
- **SB-17-001** - (Neville and Neville) Concerning methods to alleviate the fiscal impact of state regulations on small businesses.

BILLS OPPOSED:

- **HB-1001** - Concerning the ability of an employee of an employer, who employs at least fifty employees, to take up to 18 hours of leave from work for purposes of attending his or her child's academic activities. While a laudable goal, this bill hinders the ability of businesses to manage their employees.
- **HB-1068** - Concerning a requirement that the Department of Transportation consider only proposals for public-private initiatives that will pay prevailing wages for construction labor.
- **SB17-088** - (Holbert (R) & Williams(D)|Van Winkle (R) & Hooten (D)) - Concerning Provider Network Selection Criteria. This bill requires health plans to make available the criteria used to select and remove providers from its networks. Requires health plans that use quality metrics to narrow networks to use nationally recognized quality standards and make them at least 50% of the total standard for narrowing a network.



2017 Legislative Trip Participants

Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce

ANNUAL

Healthcare Summit

Exploring the relationship of Healthcare and the Business Community

March 8, 2017

The DoubleTree by Hilton

Join us as we discuss the current state of healthcare and the impact it has on our business community, options for employee coverage, and the state of health on the Western Slope.

*For more information or to register, contact:
970-263-2919 or candace@gjchamber.org*

- 8:00am - Registration Begins/ Exhibits Open
- 9:00am - Welcome
- 9:15am - Keynote Speaker - Jeff Lungren
Chief Health Care Lobbyist for the US Chamber of Commerce
"The Future of the Affordable Care Act & the Impact on Business"
- 10:30am - Break/ Exhibits Open
- 10:45am - Concurrent Breakout Sessions
"Types of Coverages Available and the Best Fit for YOUR Business"
- 11:45am - Lunch with Panel Discussion
"Population Health = Workplace Health"
- 1:30pm - Wrap Up and Closing
- 2:00pm - Exhibits Close

Registration Fees

\$55 Area Chamber
Members &
Club 20 Members

\$75 Future Member
Admission

Corporate Sponsors



MONUMENT
HEALTH



Featured Sponsors



Mark Your Calendar ~ Details & Registration online at gjchamber.org

MAR 7 | 7:00 AM
Legislative
Videoconference
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration
 Requested. No cost for GJACC

MAR 8 | 8:00 AM
Healthcare Summit
DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton
 \$55/GJACC or Club 20 Mbrs
 \$75 Future Members

MAR 9 | 7:00 AM
YPN Before Hours
Egg & I
 Register online at
ypnmesacounty.org

MAR 15 | 12:00 Noon
Networking@Noon
Flavors Grille at Dinosaur
Journey Museum
 Advance Registration
 Required: \$18 for GJACC members.

MAR 15 | 7:00 AM
YPN Conversation:
Factory/LAUNCHWestCo
 Register online at
ypnmesacounty.org

MAR 15 | 2 - 4 PM
Mesa County Libraries
Business Connect
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration
 Requested. No cost for GJACC members.

MAR 20 | 12:00 Noon
Quarter Membership
Luncheon / Candidate
Forum
Mesa County Workforce
Center
 Advance Registration
 Required: \$18 for GJACC members.

MAR 21 | 7:00 AM
Legislative
Videoconference
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration
 Requested. No cost for GJACC

MAR 28 | 5:30 PM
Business After Hours
Martin's Mortuary
 Advance Registration:
 \$10 for GJACC members.

APR 4 | 7:00 AM
Legislative
Videoconference
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration
 Requested. No cost for GJACC

APR 5 | 6:30 am
YPN Before Hours
Einstein Bros Bagels
 Register online at
ypnmesacounty.org

APR 5 | 7:30 AM
Sunrise Seminar
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration

Requested. No cost for GJACC members.

APR 12 | 12:00 PM
Energy Briefing
Location: TBD
 Advance Registration
 Requested. \$15 for GJACC members.

APR 18 | 7:00 AM
Legislative
Videoconference
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration
 Requested. No cost for GJACC members.

APR 19 | 12:00 Noon
Networking@Noon
Boston's Gourmet Pizza
 Advance Registration
 Required: \$18 for GJACC members.

APR 19 | 2 - 4 PM
Mesa County Libraries
Business Connect
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration
 Requested.

APR 25 | 5:30 PM
Business After Hours
Discovery Kids Learning
Center II
 Advance Registration:
 \$10 for GJACC members.

MAY 2 | 7:00 AM
Legislative
Videoconference
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration
 Requested. No cost for GJACC members.

MAY 17| 12:00 Noon
Networking@Noon
Golden Corral
 Advance Registration
 Required: \$18 for GJACC members.

MAY 17 | 2 - 4 PM
Mesa County Libraries
Business Connect
GJACC Conference Room
 Advance Registration
 Requested. No cost for GJACC

MAY 23 | 5:30 PM
Legislative Wrap-up
Breakfast
Location To Be Determined
 Advance Registration:
 \$15 for GJACC members.

MAY 23 | 5:30 PM
Business After Hours
Colorado E Bikes
 Advance Registration:
 \$10 for GJACC members.

GJACC Events Registration Form: March, April & May 2017

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Videoconference - 3/7/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Videoconference - 4/4/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Videoconference - 5/2/17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Summit - 3/8/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunrise Seminar - 4/5/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business After Hours - 5/17/17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Networking@Noon - 3/15/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Briefing - 4/12/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking@Noon - 5/17/17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Connect - 3/15/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Videoconference - 4/18/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Connect - 5/17/17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate Forum - 3/20/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking@Noon - 4/19/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Wrap-up - 5/23/17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Videoconference - 3/21/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Connect - 4/19/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business After Hours - 5/23/17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business After Hours - 3/28/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business After Hours - 4/25/17 | |

Company Name: _____ Contact Person: _____

Attending (Names): _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Payment Method: Bill my Chamber Account Check Enclosed

Charge my MC/VISA/Discover/AMEX # _____ Exp Date _____

Security Code _____ Authorized Signature: _____

All events require pre-registration and pre-payment. Registration fees are non-refundable four business days prior to the event. If special assistance is needed, you must notify the Chamber four days prior to the event. Photos will be taken at Chamber events and used for marketing purposes.

Leadership Mesa County—Why You Should Apply!

Ashley Sroufe, Branch Supervisor for ANB Bank's Patterson location had lived in the Grand Valley and was already involved in her community through service on the Board of Child and Migrant Services and as a member of the Palisade Chamber. What value did she see in committing to over 60 hours of training through the Mesa County Leadership Program in 2015-2016? Her application said it all. **"I am in a leadership role but I am always looking to better myself and the company I work for."**

"If there is one thing we have learned in our years of offering the Mesa County Leadership class to over 340 individuals it is that each person is unique in where they are in life, in their careers and in their civic involvement," noted Diane Schwenke, President and CEO of the Chamber. She went on to explain that everyone without exception learns something new. That was true of Ashley who noted that not being from the Western Slope it was a huge eye opener for her to learn about the different programs and companies in the Valley and what they do for the community.

Outside of class there were additional benefits. Sroufe noted that being able to build relationships with her fellow classmates was also something she valued from her experience. She also feels more involved and engaged in her community.

Applications for the next Mesa County Leadership Program will be accepted through May 31, 2017 with classes beginning in the fall and concluding in May, 2018. For more information or to receive an application, contact Diane Schwenke at the Chamber (diane@gjchamber.org or 970-263-2915).

For those that are considering this step, Ashley Sroufe has a piece of advice. **"I highly recommend this class especially if you are not from Mesa County it will truly give you a different picture of the community you live and serve in."**



Chamber Luncheon Features City Council Candidates

The Chamber's first Quarterly Membership Luncheon of 2017, scheduled for March 20th, will feature a candidate forum with the seven Grand Junction City Council Candidates, sponsored by Beckner & Hurd, LLC and Conquest Development. The luncheon will also feature awards to expanding businesses. If you are a business that has grown in the past 12 months and we have not yet acknowledged that achievement, please contact Diane (diane@gjchamber.org) so we can do so at this meeting.

While there is a published voters' guide that profiles the candidates and their answers on business related questions in this issue of the newsletter, this is YOUR chance to ask the candidates questions to help guide you in making your selections in the upcoming city election. Ballots will be mailed the week of March 13th and must be returned by election day, April 4th. To make your reservation for this important luncheon, register online at www.gjchamber.org or call 970-242-3214.



Display Your Membership Proudly!

Our many volunteers are already out on the streets hand delivering the 2017 Business Directory and membership materials to our almost 1,000 members. These include a new window sticker, insert for the membership plaque and the 2017 business directory. Please welcome them to your business and share your thoughts on how the Chamber can better serve you this year. When you talk, we listen!

If you do not receive a visit and your membership materials by March 15th please call Trisha (970-263-2912) and we will get those to you.



Grand Junction Area
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

VOTER GUIDE 2017

As the voice of business for the Grand Junction area, the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce has worked to represent business and promote economic growth since 1884. The election will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Below please find the positions of the candidates and positions of the Chamber.

CITY BALLOT MEASURES

BALLOT MEASURE 2A:

Will allow for an increase in sales tax by ¼ cent, to generate revenues to fund the construction and operation of a downtown event center, as well as making improvements to the Two Rivers Convention Center.

Chamber Position: Vote **YES**. The event center will provide numerous economic benefits for the City of Grand Junction, including: increase in school funding, an additional 200-400 jobs, 80,000 new visitors, and around \$300 million in new spending.

BALLOT MEASURE 2B:

Will allow for the City to use the Riverside Parkways TABOR excess to pay for City street maintenance projects, without an increase in taxes.

Chamber Position: Vote **YES**. The road ballot question will benefit businesses, and residents throughout the City by making the roads safer, while enhancing the overall appearance of Grand Junction without raising taxes.



CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

- 1. If elected what are your top priorities for the next four years?**
- 2. Roads throughout the city of Grand Junction have fallen deeply into disrepair. What would you do to avoid a similar situation in the future?**
- 3. How, in your opinion, should the city fund major projects?**
- 4. What is local governments role in building a strong business climate?**

DISTRICT A



PHYLLIS NORRIS

1. My priority for the next four years is to continue working on public safety; we have made progress but still have a lot to do to

keep citizens safe. Infrastructure; street maintenance has fallen behind since 2008, we have continued to add funding but have a long way to go. Economic Development; the partners have provided

plans to help businesses grow and attract new, we need to continue to fund their efforts.

2. We need \$4 million per year to maintain. This must continue to be a priority for city funding.
3. We need to continue to focus on the priority projects that are needed and budget to complete the urban view, but County Commissioners do so much more.
4. Local government is responsible to keep the public safe, maintain and expand our road and utility system and work with the Economic Partners to support their mission for growing and recruiting businesses.

The Chamber endorses Phyllis Norris.



JESSE DANIELS

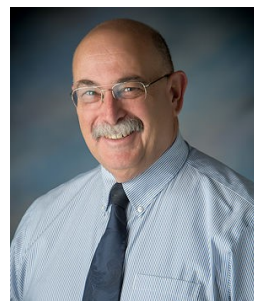
1. Community, Connectivity, Prosperity
2. Allowing industries such as cannabis

would greatly increase tax revenue to infrastructure, police, & District 51 projects. Coupled with wise investments in future street projects to decrease the need for full rebuild of streets.

3. The city boundaries are quite large, creating a fast track system for people already receiving city water and sewer services to be assimilated into the city limits. Produces increased tax revenue for the city, endowing voting privileges to disenfranchised citizens, and providing a greater sense of community in the greater Grand Junction area by funding large city projects.
4. GJEP, Downtown Development Authority

(DDA), The Business Incubator, and the Visitor & Convention Bureau has made huge strides in the past several years in attracting new businesses, developing healthy business practices for local startups, creating uplift grants for existing buildings, and attracting events/conventions. I'd like to empower them to make an even larger impact.

DISTRICT D



MARTIN CHAZEN

1. Top priorities are Public Safety, Infrastructure and Economic Growth. I believe government

must protect citizens with the best police and fire service affordable. I support high professional standards, appropriate staffing and insuring first responders are well equipped. A well-maintained system of roads and essential utilities are critical. I have been a tireless voice to end the deferred maintenance, draining of reserves and diversion of dollars to less-important projects. A strong and well diversified economy provides meaningful jobs for our citizens and the funding for public services. I support low taxes, regulatory restraint and incentives that grow business and create jobs.

2. My concerns about deferred street maintenance are well documented, frequently expressed and validated by independent study. Currently, the City is playing catch-up on years of deferred maintenance. One option is Ballot Issue 2B, a plan to use Parkway debt-retirement funds to fix our streets before they get worse. A pay-as-you-go plan requires much higher annual repair budgets. Both are bitter options for

taxpayers who expect maintained streets from their City. Whatever voters chose, I will advocate that our streets are a high priority, adequately funded and maintained to a high standard -- even if that means making hard budget choices.

3. My basic premise is that voters are not unreasonable and willing to consider compelling projects that have a specific objective, period and cost. I strongly support TABOR and promise to guard against attempts to end-run TABOR with financing arrangements designed to sidestep voters. Major long-term capital projects need long-term financing solutions. It might be tempting to use sales tax as the go-to solution, but property, use or lodging tax may be a better fit. Before asking voters to increase taxes, the City has a duty to first exhaust all internal funding sources. Tax increases should be a last-resort financing option.
4. Low taxes, regulatory restraint, incentives, flexible zoning, infrastructure maintenance and streamlined processes all facilitate commerce. I strongly advocate these policies. Limited, targeted incentives are appropriate when used to promote meaningful jobs and development. A small investment here can yield significant results. The City has a major role in coordinating policy and funding with our economic partners; the Chamber, GJEP, CMU, Incubator and others. We have a great story to tell! A great lifestyle, trained workforce, university, business-friendly policies, incentives, recreation and amenities. Help me spread the word that Grand Junction is a great place to live, work and play!

The Chamber Endorses Martin Chazen.



DUKE WORTMANN

1. Following the Economic Development Plan adopted by the current city council in May of 2014 is really vital to moving Grand Junction forward towards our stated goal to "become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025". My goal over the next four years would be to work with fellow council members and city staff to advance the goals in that plan. We don't need a new road map, what we need is a council that can cooperatively follow a map. One thing I will stress is that the city must support our communities' strongest job generators. We need to assist with funding for organizations like GJEP, the Business Incubator, and Colorado Mesa University, that bring dollars and jobs to our city. I will also be a strong supporter of public amenities- all those things that make a community an inviting, safe, and vital place. Certainly, public safety will be highest on the list, but so will parks and recreation spaces and art and cultural spaces. We have too many projects in the public amenity and community quality category that we have left half-done. We need to build on these strong starts.
2. As to the immediate situation, I certainly support the ballot question to defer retiring the Riverside Parkway bonds until the original 2024 maturity date and using the funds that this will make available as a source of funds to catch-up on some of the deferred maintenance that we had to put off during recent lean years. I suggest everyone read council member McArthur's recent commentary on this issue in the 2/26 issue of the Daily Sentinel for a clear picture of the benefits of a yes vote. Over the long term, there is no solution to "not having enough money" if you don't have jobs. Yes, it depends on making good allocation decisions on where to spend resources, but if our community isn't growing and developing jobs and more jobs, some key

public services will always get the short end of the stick.

3. First, it is worth remembering here that many of the best projects in our community have been financed within the levels of our current tax structure because as a community we have been very good at leveraging other governmental dollars from the federal, state, and county sources with private grants and contributions. But if your definition of "major" means a project so large that additional tax revenue must be used, then first you ask people if they want the project. Is it seen as something of sufficient benefit to all of us together as a community that we would each be willing to share in the financial cost? If the answer is yes, then there are many ways to arrange the financing. That choice should always be aimed at making the additional cost most manageable for the most people.
4. Today in Grand Junction the roles of our city in developing a climate that supports businesses-small businesses, large businesses, established businesses, new entrepreneurial businesses-are to ensure a safe community, to providing strong infrastructure and access to the utilities businesses require, and to provide a quality of place that will hold and attract job seekers. Those roles don't change much over time, we just need a different level of commitment from leadership in partnering, listening, cooperating, and leading to make it happen.



DISTRICT E



DUNCAN MCARTHUR

1. After the election, my priorities will continue to be supporting public safety, infrastructure, and economic development. That is a large scale of issues so I will try and narrow that down.
 - Public safety – we have a big problem with the funding of the 911 call center. All the entities involved have strapped budgets but know we have an absolute need to provide this service. The county and the cities need to find a permanent source of funding and not try to pass the buck to someone else. I believe we should consider establishing a special district with a designated tax to fund the operation so that the 911 service would no longer be subject to arguments between the various entities over their ability to contribute their fair share.
 - As far as infrastructure, I continue to believe that the Grand Valley would be best served by one entity providing drainage services. I started the fight over GVDD vs. 5-2-1 Drainage Authority and I would strongly desire to bring that issue to closure.
 - Economic development is also a broad subject but the priority for the City, in my view, is to make it easier to do business in Grand Junction and to facilitate the needs of new or expanding businesses

without crossing the line between incentives and subsidies.

2. I believe we have already put the solution in place by establishing the amount needed for ongoing maintenance as a line item in the budget. The goal is catching up which I believe Amendment 2B on the April ballot will go a long way to accomplishing.
3. The definition of "major projects" is the question. The city should consider providing projects that do not compete with private markets but will incentivize economic development.
4. As mentioned above, the primary role of the city is to make doing business here easier. We need to approve projects that comply with our Comprehensive Plan, even when there is opposition from local land owners. If you have a plan, you must stick to it. If we continue to deny projects that meet all of the requirements because of some opposition, we are sending a message to the business/development community that we are closed for business. This has been our reputation in the past and continues to be the reputation of our neighbors.

The Chamber Endorses Duncan McArthur.

AT LARGE 2-YEAR



RICK TAGGART

1. I want to continue my focus on economic development for existing businesses, relocating businesses and entrepreneurial

ventures. To do this we have to find sustainable funds to invest in the activities of our economic partners.

Investing in our infrastructure is vital to the growth of the community, this would include roads, transportation multi-modal trails and broadband. I will be pressing for a more integrated approach to prioritizing capital projects within the community. At present the city, the county and the school district all have pressing capital projects. All of these needs have tax implications and we place citizens in a very difficult position which could result in either/or decisions. We have to come out of our silos and find a better way to prioritize the projects and then effectively communicate the short and long-term benefits to our citizens. I am committed to continually strive for efficiency within our city government. The needs of our citizens are growing while our funds are limited. Can we deliver services in a more effective way, are there service sectors that we are in that the private sector could do better? These questions have to be top of mind continually and we need to be committed to continuous improvement.

2. Road upgrades and repair require a consistent budgetary commitment. In the years, immediately after the downturn of the local economy the yearly investment dropped to a dangerously low level. We are now paying the price for this. I sincerely hope that our citizens will support the ballot issue to utilize the reserve funds of the Riverside project to bring our roads up to a more reasonable condition. We cannot depend on this approach, however in the future, we as council members have to make certain the budget each year for roads is adequate so as not to have this deterioration in the future.
3. How to fund major capital projects is a very difficult question. The simple answer is by way of cash. Unfortunately, after years of a struggling local economy the cash is not there in reserve. We can ignore the quality of life needs of the

community and say no to the requests of our citizens, but this is not the answer. I have already stated that we have to find a better way to prioritize projects. At the same time, we as council members have to be creative, we have to be continually looking for grant money and potential partnerships to lessen our risk. We should do everything we can to avoid further debt or increased taxes.

4. I believe we have multiple roles as government in building a strong business climate. First, we need to keep things simple with as few regulations as possible. We need to be customer service oriented to help our businesses when they are looking at further development. We need to invest in quality infrastructure. We need to support our education partners for workforce development. We need to adequately fund economic development to enable our business base to diversify and expand. We need to keep taxes down.

The Chamber Endorses Rick Taggart.



LINCOLN PIERCE

1. I am retired from District 51, as the Child Nutrition and Purchasing Administrator.

My primary goal is to make a difference, by thoughtful reflection on issues and budgets, which will provide positive direction for the future of our city. The issues I see are road maintenance, high speed broadband, coordination and cooperation between governmental entities (city, county, schools, airport, etc.), creating a recreation center that serves all our residents and promoting an environment that brings jobs, services and increased revenue to our area. Grand Junction is such a great place to live and work. We must continue to promote ourselves and the area.

2. We need to prioritize certain services regardless of the fiscal situation. Roads need continual maintenance and therefore a predictable source of income. We need to find a revenue source that is based on usage and is predictable. Our current downturn in sales tax revenue has created part of this fiscal problem. We, as city government, residents and businesses must find a way to offset this and promote our local businesses vs. online sales.
3. Funding major projects is difficult when revenues are flat and there are services we must provide. I would not propose a solution until I become more familiar with all options. Obviously, our current council feels a sales tax increase is the way. Our residents will either show support or not on April 4th. We need to create partnerships with the county and school district to coordinate our requests for funding rather than disrupt.
4. Our responsibility as a city government is to promote an environment in which businesses see our city/area as a prime place to invest in and bring jobs. We need more than just energy jobs, that come and go. We need manufacturing, retail, art shops and hospitality jobs. Our location, climate, low property taxes, and accessibility to outdoor recreational opportunities make us an incredible place to live and work. We, as a city and the hub of our area, need to give incentives for business to come and invest.





WHO WILL YOU VOTE FOR?

**JOIN THE CHAMBER AS WE HOST THE
QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
FEATURING 2017 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM**

**MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017
12:00 NOON
MESA COUNTY WORKFORCE CENTER
512 29½ RD, GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81504**

**ALL CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND, INTRODUCE THEIR RESPECTIVE
PLATFORMS, AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER ONLINE, GO TO www.gjchamber.org.

THANK YOU TO QUARTERLY LUNCHEON SPONSORS:

**BECKNER & HURD, LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**





Grand Junction Area
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

PRESENTED BY

Beckner & Hurd LLC



Candidate Forum

The Chamber's March 2017 Quarterly Luncheon, sponsored by Beckner & Hurd, LLC and Conquest Developments on March 20th, at 12:00 PM at the Mesa County Workforce Center will focus on the upcoming Grand Junction City election and feature the local candidates who are running for office.

Four of the seven seats on the Grand Junction City Council are up for grabs.

The Chamber will limit the forum to those candidates that have opponents.

Additionally, a brief overview of the ballot issues will be presented as time allows.

March 20, 2017, 12:00 Noon

Mesa County Workforce Center

512 29 1/2 Rd, Grand Junction, CO 81504

\$18/person GJACC Members in Advance, \$23/person General Admission

Quarterly Membership Luncheon/Candidate Forum - March 20, 2017

Company Name: _____

Attending (Names): _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Method of Payment: Bill My Chamber Account: Check Enclosed

Charge my MC/VISA/Discover/AMEX # _____ Exp. Date _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Four convenient ways to register: (Space is limited so register early)

Mail: GJ Area Chamber, 360 Grand Ave., GJ, CO 81501
 Phone: (970) 242-3214
 Fax: (970) 242-3694
 On-line: www.gjchamber.org

All events require pre-registration and pre-payment. Registration fees are non-refundable two business days prior to event. Substitutions may be made at any time. If special assistance is needed, you must notify the Chamber four days prior to the event.

Watch a "Shark Tank" in Grand Junction!

Chamber members and the members of the public are invited to attend the Investor Panel Presentations of this year's budding CEOs on **Tuesday, April 4th, 6:00 PM at the Marriott Courtyard**. For the first time these middle and high school students will be publicly pitching their companies to a panel of investors composed of this year's program sponsors. Up to \$7,000 will be available to provide seed funding for the startup companies. In addition, one of the students will be selected as the Saunders Scholar and will compete regionally for up to \$50,000 in scholarship funding. This year that regional competition will take place in Rochester, NY in May.



There is no cost to attend this event and we urge the public to show their support for fostering free enterprise in today's youth by attending the Investor Panel and cheering on the community's youngest business owners. This is also an excellent opportunity for middle and high school students interested in applying for the program in the future to view what YEA! has provided the current class in terms of tools and skills.

Applications for the next Young Entrepreneurs Academy, slated to start in September, will be available at the event, but those wishing more information can also go to the Chamber page, www.gjchamber.org.

We want to especially thank our sponsors: City of Grand Junction, Home Loan, Mesa County Workforce Center, Capco, Mesa County Business Education Foundation, US Bank, Chick-fil-A, Alpine Bank, Bank of Colorado, Community Banks of Colorado, JGMS, School District 51, OBJ Group, StarTek, and VanWinkle Enterprises.

What Will Your Kids Do Over Summer Vacation?

Time spent learning translates into a better prepared workforce and the Mesa County Business Education Foundation (MCBEF) is committed to helping identify and support community initiatives that offer opportunities for learning outside the classroom and/or on the job. With that in mind, the Foundation has teamed with other community organizations to offer a unique opportunity for parents to learn about summer options for younger aged students and summer employment opportunities for high schoolers at one location at one time.

The event, dubbed the Summer Youth Employment and Enrichment Fair will take place on **Thursday, March 16th, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Grand Junction High School Gym**. Booths from a variety of organizations will offer timely information and opportunities for one-on-one dialogue. If an organization would like to be a part of the Fair, they are urged to contact Terri Smatla at the Chamber (970-263-2916). There is no cost for non-profit organizations to exhibit and a small fee is assessed on for profit entities.

There is no cost to attend for parents and students interested in exploring options for maximizing their summer time experiences. So mark your calendars now!

Thank you to this year's title sponsor: Western Rockies Federal Credit Union.



FEATURED
Caterer of the Month



BUFFALO WILD WINGS
GRILL & BAR

Our featured caterer will provide meals for all committees and our Chamber 101 session in the month of March!

Interested in finding out how YOU can be a "Featured Caterer"?
Contact us at 970-242-3214 or email candace@gjchamber.org

Join Us For
Chamber Day

at

Powderhorn Mountain Resort

Friday, March 10th



Join your fellow Chamber Members for a day of fun and networking on the slopes!

Enjoy:

20% off Lift Tickets

10% off Lessons, Rentals, and Lodging

(Just Mention Your Chamber Affiliation!)



For more information, talk to your Chamber Organizer or visit www.powerhorn.com

We Applaud Our Caterers of the Month!

Any of our committee members who have been fortunate to have a meeting over the lunch hour for the past couple of months have been the beneficiaries of a new program the Chamber is using to showcase our catering companies to potential customers.

Our January caterer, Fisher's Market Premium Natural Meats included salmon pate as just one of the delicacies served to fellow Chamber Members. Our February caterer, Cowboy and the Rose Catering, LLC delivered chocolate covered strawberries and a fresh flower bouquet for a Valentine's Day luncheon meeting of our Emerging Workforce Committee.

We can't wait to see what our March caterer, Buffalo Wild Wings serves up. The Chamber would like to publicly thank these outstanding companies and urges our members to utilize them and fellow member caterers for personal and business functions in the future.



Academy Mortgage

1114 N 1st St Ste 101
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Mary Jane Douma - (970) 208-1301
www.academymortgage.com/grandjunction
Mortgages & Contracts

Crossroads United Methodist

599 30 Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81504
Reverend Alane C. Griggs - (970) 242-0577
<http://crossroadsgj.org>
Churches

Grand Junction Stand Up Paddle

Elizabeth Fortushniak - (970) 433-4760
www.gjsup.com
Outdoor Retail

Inter-West Sales & Mktg. Inc.

Russ W. Eckardt - (970) 243-7900
Manufacturer Representative

Maid 2 Impress

591 25 Rd Ste A4
Grand Junction, CO 81505
Jessica Morris - (970) 985-9449
www.maid2impress.net
Janitorial: Equipment/Supplies/Services

The Pet Spa

2509 Industrial Ct
Grand Junction, CO 81505
Johnnie Farmer - (970) 241-8499
Pet: Boarding & Grooming

Summit Aire Inc

573 S Commercial Dr Ste 4
Grand Junction, CO 81505
Patrick Smith - (970) 263-8199
www.summit-aire.com
Gas: Compressed



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT NETWORKING@NOON
Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Hosted by:
Flavors Grille



Event Location:
Dinosaur Journey, 550 Jurassic Court

\$18 for GJACC Members
Advanced Reservations Required (Space is Limited)

**Contact Trisha today for more information
or to reserve your seat!**

Trisha@gjchamber.org or 970-263-2912



WESTERN ROCKIES

Federal Credit Union

presents

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & ENRICHMENT FAIR

Thursday

March 16, 2017

Grand Junction
High School Gym
1400 N 5th St

4PM - 6PM

Mesa County Business Education Foundation in partnership with Mesa County Valley School District 51 and Mesa County Workforce Center have come together to bring students and parents the annual Summer Youth Employment and Enrichment Fair! Over 40 local vendors will be present with ideas and information on how to keep students busy, active, and engaged this summer! Students will have the opportunity to meet with local companies hiring for summer volunteer and paid positions.



**Mesa County
LIBRARIES**

This is an Open House-style event with booths and no RSVP is required to attend.
Questions? Contact Terri Smatla at 970.263.2916



Business Barometer

January 2017

A gauge of Grand Junction's economic indicators published by the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce.

info@gjchamber.org 970-242-3214

Sales Tax Revenue Collections			
January	2017	2016	% Change
City of Grand Junction	\$4,534,155	\$4,498,185	0.8%
Total YTD	\$4,534,155	\$4,498,185	0.8%

Source: City of Grand Junction

MESA COUNTY Building Permits Issued				
January	2017	Total Value	2016	Total Value
New Single Family Residence	36	\$8,787,834	10	\$2,356,820
New Commercial	1	\$219,469	1	\$3,229,827
Other	190	\$7,485,335	173	\$2,705,140
Totals	227	\$16,492,638	184	\$8,291,788
YTD Totals	227	\$16,492,638	184	\$8,291,788

Source: Mesa County Building Department

MLS Statistics - Quarterly		
4th Quarter	2016	2015
Total Sold	*	1055
Dollar Volume	*	\$231,204,945
Total Sold YTD	*	3418
Dollar Volume YTD	*	\$742,947,444

Source: Grand Junction Area Realtor Association

Hotel/Motel Occupancy		
January	2017	2016
Occupancy Rate	36.6%	43.2%
Average Daily Room Rate	\$68.84	\$71.77

Source: Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau

*Please Note: Starting January 2017, the Hotel/ Motel Occupancy statistics are calculated using a larger sample of the market and will compare differently to previous years

YTD Mesa County Foreclosures			
Year	2017	2016	2015
Foreclosure Filings	35	53	17
Foreclosure Sales	23	33	30

Source: Mesa County Public Trustee

G J Regional Airport		
January	2017	2016
Enplaned Passengers	*	17,735
Deplaned Airfreight	*	598,844
Enplaned YTD Passengers	*	15,735
Deplaned YTD Airfreight	*	598,844

Source: Grand Junction Regional Airport

Labor Market Statistics		
January	2017	2016
Civilian Labor Force	*	72,066
Total Employment	*	68,211
Total Unemployment	*	3,855
Unemployment Rate	*	5.3%

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

* Statistics Were Not Available at Time of Print

2017 Chairman Circle Members

Alpine Bank

ANB Bank

Bank of Colorado

Community Hospital

FCI Constructors, Inc.

Grand Junction City
Government

Holiday Inn & Suites -
Grand Junction Airport

Rocky Mountain Health
Plans

St. Mary's Hospital &
Regional Medical Center,
Inc.

US Bank

Wells Fargo Bank

gjchamber.org

YOUR LINK TO BUSINESS

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Grand Junction Area
Chamber of Commerce
360 Grand Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

970-242-3214, Fax: 242-3694
info@gjchamber.org



Grand Junction Area
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION:

"The Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce will represent business and promote economic growth."

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- A Healthy Business Climate Creates a Sustainable Community
- Representing and Advocating for Business is a Member Expectation
- Professional Connections and Networking Opportunities Build Business
- Quality of Life is Integral to our Economic Vitality
- Being Proactive & Innovative Improves our Effectiveness

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