

April 10, 2008

Editor
The Daily Sentinel

Having attended the meeting on the plans for the Mesa County Fairgrounds, and been a resident for some 64 years I have the following observations

1. The Mesa County Fairgrounds (Veterans Memorial Park, Uranium Downs) is a historical part of our community. One which must be preserved! This park was donated to Mesa County to honor the veterans who fought for our country! Do you really want to show such disrespect as to sell off any part of it to satisfy the "developers'" need for more profit?

2. When you take away our open grounds on Orchard Mesa (which are becoming limited now because of a "need for expansion," you are truly diminishing our way of life. Please consider the people (4H, horse shows, county fair, monster trucks, among many others) who use these facilities and those who live here, our desire is to preserve our way of life and honor our veterans while preserving our park.

Veterans Memorial Park should be preserved for our community. Mesa County, although not "into parks" should budget funds for maintenance. Where did the profit from the events go? Evidently not to park maintenance.

Constance D. Murphy
2863 1/2 A³/₄ Road
Grand Junction, Co



Sender: "robin taber" <taberfamily@bresnan.net>

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Date: Tue, 25 Mar 2008 15:31:22 -0600

To: Tom.Fiisher@mesacounty.us

Cc: taberfamily@bresnan.net

265 - 32 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503
Tuesday March 25, 2008

My name is Sam Taber, and I'm a senior 4-H member. 4-H is a big part of the Grand Valley, and we need to realize the extent to which 4-H uses the fairgrounds. My concerns with the possible moving of the facilities and relocating the Mesa County fair and other auxiliary events held at the current fairgrounds are:

- 1) Lack of necessary facilities. If the grounds are moved, we need to have at least the same facilities for the loading/unloading, showing, and keeping of livestock as we do now. If we don't have these, 4-h'ers wouldn't be able to show and sell their animals at the fair like we do now. Also, for the sake of the animals, and for safety, they need to be a reasonable distance from major sources of noise and commotion, such as sports arenas.
- 2) Cost for usage of facilities. 4-H currently uses the existing grounds for many purposes in addition to than the Mesa County Fair, and we are able to do so at practically no cost. With the installation of a privately owned facility, 4-H may not be able to afford to hold these events.
- 3) Transportation to the grounds. Currently, access to and from the fairgrounds is easy, even for large trucks and trailers like the ones used by livestock-showing families. If new grounds are installed, easy access is a must.

I'm supportive of new facilities only if the above concerns are met, simply because 4-H cannot function well otherwise.

Please contact me with any comments or questions. My phone number is 434-7104 and email is Taberfamily@bresnan.net

Sam Taber