

Dear Mesa County Fair Board,


I must first express my great disappointment in our Mesa County Commissioners for their continued, blatant lack of support for our youth, their education (both moral and academic), and agriculture in the Grand Valley. Shame on you for wanting to make a buck so badly you would turn your back on the Mesa County 4-H program by selling off the fairgrounds! You and your fellow commissioners must have a burning desire to be voted out of office and run out of town to even consider something like this. This is not Denver to spite all of your efforts to make it so. There are many of us who were born and raised here and many more who were attracted here by the rural community and a chance to raise our kids in a rural environment where agriculture was as much a part of life as an historic downtown. We take care to try to vote for politicians to support our children and our community, something you have obviously overlooked in favor of the dollar.

There are many smaller communities right here on the Western Slope with much bigger, much nicer fairground than Mesa County because their commissioners care about sustaining our Western Colorado lifestyle. Many of these facilities were paid for all or in part with oil and gas money allotted to counties or with money from GOCO. Keeping, maintaining, or even improving our fairgrounds would be a much more attractive proposition if Mesa County would put some effort into some higher profile events. Large, regional barrel races, ropings, reining and other such events, held in the grand stand could be a great start.

If there are no livestock barns or maintenance of the fairgrounds, there will be no County Fair, which in turn means there will be no more 4-H in our county. Have you ever heard of a county in Colorado, a state that has been sustained largely by agriculture for hundreds of years, not having a County Fair, much less fairgrounds? Of the 350 events held at the fairgrounds 171 of them are 4-H events, with hundreds of families participating. The loss of 4-H would not just affect the kids and families with agriculture/livestock related projects. It would also affect families with children that have 4-H projects ranging from cake decorating to leather work, shooting sports, and wildlife. What a shame it would be to deprive our community and our country of the wonderful people that come from 4-H.

The county bought this property from many proud veterans with the understanding that it would be an everlasting memorial to veterans past, present and future, and would be there to educate the youth of today and tomorrow through 4-H and other service organizations. This property should continue to be a memorial to them and also, now, a memorial to the lost agriculture of this valley, lest both be forgotten, trodden on or traded for the fastest, highest dollar offered.

Sincerely,

  
Michelle, Cecil, and Morgan Cameron  
A proud Mesa County 4-H family



Fairgrounds

SA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tom Fisher

Sue Gormley

Marsha Kosteva

MAY 07 2008

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Jon

In all of the glowing discussion of selling and moving the fairgrounds to the Jarvis property, no one has mentioned the "elephant" in the room, the hot oil plant right across the road.

The odors from this facility can be nearly toxic. Just crossing the 5th st. bridge and viaduct when they are operating gives me an instant headache. Even with the windows rolled up it penetrates. There is no heating or air conditioning equipment made to overcome that smell, not to mention having outdoor activities.

As I understand the city was given a figure of about 10 million to move that operation a couple of years ago when they were planning the parkway. I can foresee building this facility with some city and county assistance, and having a failure of the facility because of the fumes. Then guess who will pay the price to move the oil plant to save the investment? It won't be the developer, he will be bankrupt and long gone.

There needs to be more study on this whole problem in the making.

Thank you for your consideration.

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