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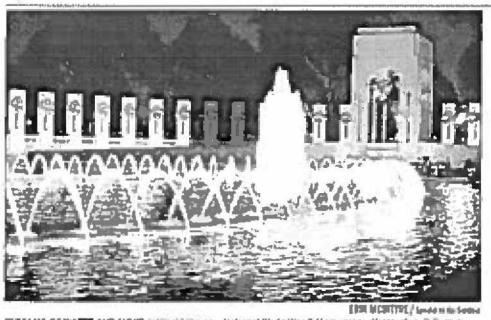

ERIK McCITTRIC / Special to the Sentinel

STREAMS OF WATER AND LIGHT highlight the new National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., in a photo taken last summer. The memorial was built in 2004.

FLIGHT: Groups trying to raise at least $80,000

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Wellinger said his group needs area businesses and individuals to donate $5,000 to $10,000 by the end of March to make the trip possible. He has spread the word in the community so that as many World War II veterans as possible apply for the free trips.

Wellinger estimates there are 2,000,000 World War II vets in Garfield, Mesa, Montrose and Delta counties. Veterans groups in Rifle, Craig, and Meeker areas also want some spots on the plane, he said.

Will he fire crew, fire service, Wellinger said, and at least 50 people already have asked to go on the one-day trip in May. World War II veterans from Montrose, Delta, Craig, Rifle and Meeker are welcome. They will need to be able to walk or have some sort of assist. Those with severe dementia or partial or total immobility are not eligible for the trip.

Volunteer guardians will be on the trip to provide any sort of special needs that aging vets might have. Family members, such sons and daughters of veterans, can apply to go, but will have to pay their own way.

The trip will be a lot of a whirlwind. Wellinger said. Vets will travel and check into a D.C.-area hotel on a Friday and have dinner that night. Then Saturday they'll have breakfast before riding a luxury passenger to the National World War II Memorial. When the flames are lit, they'll be joined by one of Colorado's legislators, or Bob Dole, or John McCain, who have covered veterans in the program in the past.

After lunch, the group will head to Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Marine Corps War Memorial and the Vietnam and Korean war memorials if there is time. The group will be back in Grand Junction on Saturday night.

"Apparently when these vets get there, and tear up, and start to open up and talk about it, it's a cathartic experience," Wellinger said. "This gives us a chance to put an exclamation point somewhere toward the end of their lives."

HOW TO GIVE TO HELP VETS GET TO D.C.

- Western Slope Honor Flight, c/o American Legion Post 200, Attn: Randy Kirschbaum, Vectra Bank, 429 28 1/4 Road, Grand Junction 81501.
- A fundraising flap shooting sun, auto event is set for 9 a.m. Jan. 31 at Grand Junction Motor Speedway, 3030 N. I-70 Frontage Road.
- Kent Wellinger can be reached at 623-5500 or by e-mail at kent.wellinger@ymail.com.
- Information about the national group, Honor Flight Network, can be found at www.HonorFlight.org.

DRILLER: Other companies hesitate on Roan

► Continued from Page One

Barrett Corp. and Berry Petroleum have trimmed back their drilling plans in northwest Colorado's Piceance Basin, citing falling natural gas prices and other regulatory factors.

The companies that purchased leases for natural gas in the Roan Plateau area, however, are not planning to immediately develop their parcels.

Stacey Crews, spokeswoman for Occidental Petroleum Corp., said everything is up in the air in light of the economy.

"With oil and gas prices and costs rapidly changing, Dry's plans for Roan Creek are a work in progress," she said.

Jenny Crews, a spokeswoman for Williams Energy, said the company has not moved forward at even the "drawing board" level with plans to develop its leases around the plateau.

"We are opportunistic there, but it's nothing that you can say is at the drilling level," she said.

FEE: Revenue generated in state $3 million

► Continued from Page One

budget resolution that runs out March 6, and Tom Gorey, a BLM spokesman in Washington.

Williams Production RMT spokesman Simon Ahuller said probably about half of the 250 wells Williams normally drills per year in the Piceance Basin are under BLM jurisdiction.

"That's a pretty, pretty pretty," she said.

For 250 wells, it would amount to $1 million.

The fee has generated $28 million nationally and almost $1 million in Colorado, including $26 million in northwest Colorado.

Ahuller said Williams always has favored fees that expedite permits processing by ensuring enough BLM staff are in place. But it hasn't been clear whether locally generated fee revenue comes back to the local BLM office, she said.

The BLM says the fee revenue is reimbursement to the U.S. Treasury for the overtaxed cost of processing drilling permits.

Ahuller questioned the justification for charging $4,000 per well in cases in which Williams drills 22 wells on one pad, all with similar permit conditions.

Eric Wormser, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. John Salazar, D-Colorado, said the fee problem will be discussed in the congressional budget process in February, with significant administrative input.

Bill Hall, president fish Elder Ken, a BLM permit and member of the Colorado Mule Deer Association, said he supports the fee as a way of helping cover BLM costs in proper public lands drilling drilling.

"It costs a lot of money to do this environmental analysis and come up with ways that the companies can recover the natural gas while at the same time having minimal impact on the surface resources," he said.

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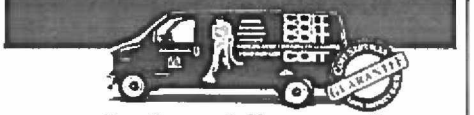

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NOTICE

MUNICIPAL ELECTION - APRIL 7, 2009

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

NOMINATION PETITIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE

JANUARY 6, 2009

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, there will be held in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, the General Municipal Election. No person shall be permitted to vote in the election without having been registered to vote. Registration books are open in the Office of the Mesa County Clerk & Recorder, Old Mesa County Courthouse, 544 Rood Ave., through the close of business at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2009 for the registration of municipal electors. Registration may also be accomplished by picking up the appropriate form in the City Clerk's Office, 250 North 5th Street Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Qualifications of Electors

Every person who has attained the age of eighteen years possessing the following qualifications is entitled to register to vote at all municipal elections:

(1) Citizen of the United States

(2) Resident of that state for thirty days and in the municipal election district for thirty days immediately preceding the election

Elective Offices Open

District A – Four-Year Term

District D – Four-Year Term

District E – Four-Year Term

City At Large – Four-Year Term

Qualifications of Candidates

Every qualified elector eighteen (18) years of age or older on the date of the election may be a candidate and hold office if he/she has resided in the City and the District, as the case may be, from which he/she is to be elected for a period of at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the date of election. In case of an at-large election, one has resided within the territory comprising the City for the period set forth above, shall be eligible to be elected to the City and the district in which the candidate is elected.

Nominating petitions may be picked up from the City Clerk's Office, 250 N. 5th Street, starting January 6, 2009 to be completed and signed by registered electors. The completed nomination petitions shall be returned and filed with the City Clerk in the room of the council on January 28, 2009.

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
Stephanie Tuin, MMC
City Clerk

Grand Junction

Published January 5, 2009
January 8, 2009

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