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Register Today for
Free Forum on
Health Care Reform

REGISTER TODAY FOR FREE FORUM ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

City, District 51 to
Present Ballot
Proposals to
Chamber Board of
Directors

Bolstering the performance of the U.S. health care system is one of the biggest challenges facing the country, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday. Also this week, a industry report by PriceWaterhouseCoopers shows that employer health care costs are poised to rise almost 10 percent in 2008 and nearly that much again in 2009.

Four Growth
Scenarios Proposed
for GJ

Source: Associated Press

Gov Extends Life of
Transportation
Panel

With this in mind, Join the Chamber, along with Rocky Mountain Health Plans and the Business Health Forum for a presentation Tuesday, **June 24**, to update employers on health care reform efforts and capture their responses to proposed changes. Ralph Pollock and Amy Fletcher of the Business Health Forum will lead the discussion.

Join us to review recommendations from a blue ribbon commission on health care and legislative proposals, and give us your feedback to take back to the Capitol. The latest survey technology will capture your opinions – and those of your peers – for on-the-spot sharing and discussion. The meeting will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 AM in the Kresy/Zeigel Room of the Mesa State College Student Center. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Register for the event online at www.gjchamber.org or by calling 242.3214.

UPCOMING CHAMBER ACTIVITY:

June 24 - Health
Care Forum for
Businesses, Mesa
State College

CITY, DISTRICT 51 TO PRESENT BALLOT PROPOSALS TO CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 24 -
Business After
Hours, United
Companies

At its June meeting, the Chamber Board of Directors will listen to presentations from representatives of both the city and District 51 on their proposed ballot questions for the November election. The City of Grand Junction will likely be asking voters for a 1/4 percent increase in the sales tax to help fund a [public safety initiative](#). The city estimates the initiative would cost the average Grand Junction household an additional \$39 a year in additional sales tax. The last time the city asked for a sales tax increase was in 1987.

The District 51 School Board has two bond-measure scenarios, one for \$185 million and another for \$211 million. Both proposals address the district's immediate needs for existing schools while providing for a number of new schools and land purchases within

the district boundaries. The \$211 million option would add another new school in the Pear Park area.

The Chamber Board of Directors is expected to give feedback to the city and school district and may consider formal positions should the proposals move forward.

FOUR GROWTH SCENARIOS PROPOSED FOR GJ

The Grand Junction City Council and Mesa County Commissioners were presented with four scenarios for how Grand Junction should grow Tuesday by Winston Associates. The scenarios were: maintain the status quo; develop village centers; create town centers; and emphasize the city center concept, which would put all the emphasis on promoting downtown, complete with a plan to add high-rise buildings. The city will begin rolling out the four new options for feedback from residents July 16 and anticipates finalizing the plan by October.

Source: GJ Sentinel

Have you missed out on attending our latest energy briefings? Check out our "Energy Fact Sheets" on the Chamber Web site.

- [Click Here](#)

GOV EXTENDS LIFE OF TRANSPORTATION PANEL

Gov. Ritter recently announced that he will extend the life of his Blue Ribbon Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel, directing the bipartisan, statewide committee to undertake a broad public-awareness campaign about the state's transportation funding crisis and crafting specific legislative solutions. Gov. Ritter established the panel last year. The panel was scheduled to sunset June 30, but Gov. Ritter has directed the panel to shift into a new phase – embarking on a public awareness program about the state's dire transportation funding situation, and crafting specific proposals to be considered during the 2009 legislative session. At its first meeting Tuesday, the panel through a few funding options on the table including increases in fuel, sales and use, property and income taxes; tolls and fees on such services as vehicle registration.

[Click here for more information about the Transportation Panel.](#)

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