**NEWS**

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**CMU Hosts Evening with John Wesley Powell on May 7**

Grand Junction – On Thursday, May 7, the community is invited to spend an evening at Colorado Mesa University with the 19th century explorer John Wesley Powell, the leader of the first expedition on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in 1869. Powell will be portrayed by the noted historical performer and humanities scholar Clay Jenkinson.

The event begins with a reception at 6 pm in the lounge on the second floor of the Colorado Mesa University Center. Jenkinson’s performance will begin at 7 pm in the South Ballroom, adjacent to the lounge, and will be followed by a book-signing.

Light refreshments and beer donated by the Palisade Brewing Company will be available free of charge at the reception for those who pre-register with the CMU Water Center. There will also be a cash bar. Registration details can be found at [www.coloradomesa.edu/WaterCenter](http://www.coloradomesa.edu/WaterCenter) or by calling 970.248.1968.

Powell made dozens of journeys into the most obscure regions of the

American West in the course of his distinguished career as a geologist, ethnographer and social planner. Powell directed the United States Geological Survey, advocated for the systematic irrigation of the arid lands of the American West and for granting homesteads in the west based on access to water.

Jenkinson has dedicated much of his life to researching the historical characters he portrays and to bringing back and defining the “living theatre” of Chautauqua, which emphasizes education with audience participation to enhance the learning and entertainment experience. He is the recipient of one of the first five Charles Frankel prizes, the National Endowment for the Humanities’ highest award (now called the National Humanities Medal). He was also the first public humanities scholar to present a program at a White House-sponsored event when he portrayed Thomas Jefferson for a gathering hosted by President and Mrs. Bill Clinton.

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A comprehensive university located in the center of western Colorado, Colorado Mesa University provides exceptional educational opportunities on a state-of-the-art campus. As western Colorado’s largest university, Colorado Mesa serves students on its main campus in Grand Junction, its satellite campus in Montrose, its community college, Western Colorado Community College, and via online offerings.