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Production Manager

The *Telluride Daily Planet & Watch* are currently accepting applications for Production Manager.

Candidates must have proven graphic design expertise, with skills in Adobe Creative Suite CS5.5 or higher. Pre-press knowledge and web design experience a plus. Must be comfortable working in a fast-paced, team environment and meeting daily deadlines. Job duties include; ad building, page layout, website management, pre-press management, and supervision of one full-time graphic designer, contract graphic designers and seasonal design interns. Work week is Monday to Friday with occasional longer hours during high season. This is a full-time salary position with benefits.

Please email cover letter, resume and portfolio to publisher@telluridedailyplanet.com & dusty@telluridedailyplanet.com

TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET
the
WATCH



Captains of the Uncompahgre

Matt Hepp and Jonah Hepp (on shoulders) were announced as the first place winners of the Junk of the Unc race on their homemade watercraft named the "Spoon of Doom" during the 2016 Ridgway RiverFest. Jonah also received special recognition as "toughest kid in Ridgway" for his performance in the races on the Uncompahgre River. More RiverFest race results can be found at <https://ridgwayriverfest.org/2016/06/25/race-winners/>. [Photo by Tanya Ishikawa]

TRANSPORTATION

Allegiant Airlines to start nonstop service between Denver, Montrose

Flights hailed as only low-cost option to Colorado ski towns

By ANDRE SALVAIL
Associate Editor

Las Vegas-based Allegiant Airlines, a low-cost airline primarily serving leisure travelers, will start service between Denver and Montrose on Dec. 17.

Colorado Flights Alliance, a regional partnership that works to bring more flights to Montrose and Telluride, announced the new service on Tuesday. The winter service, with flights running mostly on Wednesdays and Saturdays, will run through March 25. A few Sundays also appear on the airline's Denver-Montrose schedule.

Matt Skinner, chief operating officer for the alliance, called the new service a "game-changer" in that Allegiant will provide low-cost, nonstop service between the two cities. No other low-cost carriers offer direct service between Denver and the state's ski resort areas.

"We've been hearing from the region about the need for a second option, and a low-cost option, to and from Denver," he said.

Not only will skiers from the Denver area have an option for cheaper flights to Montrose in order to access slopes in Telluride, but Western Slope residents will now have a less-expensive alternative in traveling to Denver, Skinner said.

United Airlines serves the route daily, but the roundtrip cost fluctuates between \$400 and \$800, depending on the time of year, Skinner said.

An online check of airline fares on specific dates — departing Montrose on Jan. 4 and returning on Jan. 11 — revealed a round-trip cost of \$109 on Allegiant. Using

those same dates on the Expedia.com website, the lowest rate for United's service is \$627 roundtrip.

Skinner said United's service is aimed toward business travelers while Allegiant's focus is on leisure passengers. He also pointed out that United provides more flight options between Denver and Montrose, with service multiple times daily, seven days a week.

"I think we will get all types of passengers on the Allegiant flights, but the schedule is set up for the leisure traveler," he said.

The low-cost flights, along with a new commuter rail line between the city of Denver and Denver International Airport, provide "a fast, easy option for Denver skiers to get to the legendary slopes of Telluride," Skinner said.

Skinner added that he expects Allegiant to continue its service between the two cities in the winter of 2017-18. Summer service in 2017 may be a possibility. The airline will be flying 160-seat Airbus 319 jet planes along the route.

In a news release, Allegiant COO Jude Bricker said the company is excited to provide the new service.

"We look forward to bringing more travelers into the area to enjoy one of Colorado's most popular ski destinations," Bricker said.

Allegiant is promoting a "Christmas in July" sweepstakes as part of its promotion of the flights. Twelve winners will receive two free seats on the inaugural flight between Montrose and Denver on Dec. 17. To enter the contest, visit Allegiant's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/allegiant.

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