

## **CBIA Member Roaring Fork Business Resource Center Awarded a Grant to Grow its Virtual Incubator**

A Virtual Incubator at Roaring Fork Business Resource Center was recently awarded a three-year matching grant from the state of Colorado, Office of Economic Development & International Trade/Economic Development Commission. The grant is intended to implement technology-based resources and technology solutions for entrepreneurs, and will be distributed in portions of \$75,000 the first year, \$50,000 the second year, and \$25,000 the third year.

Additionally, the resource center recently received generous sponsorships from KMTS Radio 99.1 FM and from Comcast. The resource center is both a business incubator that nurtures start-up enterprises from Parachute to Aspen, as well as a resource center that helps existing businesses. To serve aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners, the resource center promotes existing business resources, creates new learning opportunities, and identifies ways for small businesses to access capital.

“We are looking for business owners and entrepreneurs interested in becoming

advisors and mentors, and of course we are looking for clients and sponsors,” said Randi Lowenthal, CEO and the former Carbondale Chamber of Commerce director.

The resource center also sells virtual technology, including VoIP phone service, conferencing solutions, and online faxing, Lowenthal said.

Advisors and mentors volunteer their time to provide some counseling at no charge and offer clients discounts on their services. Lowenthal has also enlisted the help of Colorado Mountain College, which will offer a variety of programs and services at its campuses between Rifle and Aspen.

To get information about the resource center visit its website at [www.rfbrc.org](http://www.rfbrc.org), and click on the “Comcast Newsmakers Interview.” There is also a 30-minute radio interview with KMTS Connections, and the resource center’s quarterly newsletters. For questions call 945-5158, or send an e-mail to [info@rfbrc.org](mailto:info@rfbrc.org).