

# County Pages

The Garfield County Employee Newsletter

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## **COMMISSIONER'S CORNER**



By: John Martin

### **It's the law**

There is a state law on the books in Colorado that makes it illegal for a shepherd to abandon his sheep without notice.

## **This Month**

### **New County Administration Building – Rifle, CO**

I am happy to announce that the new Garfield County Administration Building - Rifle is officially open for business. A ribbon cutting ceremony to officially dedicate the building will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 10th at the new building. It is a beautiful facility.

In May, various county departments and elected officials began moving into the offices at the new County Administration Building - Rifle, located at 195 West 14th Street, Building D, Rifle CO 81650. I am happy to report that the building was finished on schedule and under budget, even though we are working through the typical punch list with a new building. The building was completed by the CMC Group under a design/build contract awarded in April 2015 and the budget for the entire project was \$4.6 million.

The new office building, officially known as the Garfield County Administration Building – Rifle, is three stories and approximately 22,000 sq. ft. of office space, including the basement. The basement floor includes space for storage, a fitness room and a mechanical room. The first floor is primarily space for the Clerk and Recorder's office and includes public meeting space and Commissioner Mike Samson's office. On the second floor, there is office space for the Department of Human Services, a training room for the DHS/State human service programs, and office space for Information Technology and Community Development. On the 3rd Floor, there is office space for Facilities, Engineering, Finance, Communications and Oil & Gas, plus some flex office space, two conference rooms and

A good law, really, since herders are often left alone on isolated ranges with their entrusted band. The owners, or boss, usually check on the herder once a week and brings supplies. So, it would certainly create serious consequences if the sheep were to be deserted or unattended for any length of time.

But, to the uninformed non-sheep people, this law might seem a little unclear. It could be interpreted to mean that the herder must notify his sheep before leaving them, to prevent emotional trauma, possibly social breakdown, or obscure ovine behavioral disorders. To comply with the law, he might line them up and give a "going away" speech. It might go something like this.

"My fellow ewes, lambs, and bucks. I have called you together to make an announcement. At approximately noon today, I intend to abandon you. It has not been an easy decision. I lay in my camp pondering the effect it would have on the herd. I have agonized over leaving something we've both worked so hard to establish. The caring and sincere bond we've formed that has made my job such a pleasure. The chuckles we've had and the times we've cried.

I've asked a lot of you. At lambing, marking, and shearing - not to mention the time you all got footrot. Tough times. But you all gave it your best effort and survived. And, I think, y'all are better sheep for the experience.

But people, just like sheep, grow and change. My needs are different and my horizons have expanded. I hope to enroll in a welding course at community college. I'm leaving you in good hands or hooves. Paulita, I

a break room.

In addition to the office building, the County is constructing a new parking lot along Howard Avenue, immediately to the west of the new office building, with approximately 65 parking spaces. This parking lot is expected to be finished in July.

This new office building will serve the County's growing office space needs in western Garfield County and allows us to free up space at the Airport for the Center of Excellence in Aerial Firefighting.

I would like to thank Randy Withee, County Engineer, who served as Project Manager, Dave Ebeler, Facilities Superintendent, Tim Qualls, Facilities Maintenance, and Janet Krasnoff, Administrative Assistant for all their efforts with the project and the coordination of moving and occupying the building. The entire IT staff deserves recognition for the installation of telephone, internet and computer services. Jack Haroutunian and Holly Hopple, Criminal Justice Services, coordinated the Workenders who assisted with the move-in. I'd like to recognize the Departments of Public Health and Human Services for their patience during the construction process. Thank you to everyone in each department that assisted with the physical task of moving in to the new space. The City of Rifle deserves mention for their assistance with plan reviews, building permits, water and sewer connections, and inspections. Last, but not least, I would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners for their foresight, planning and commitment to the new Garfield County Administration Building – Rifle.

Kevin Batchelder  
Garfield County Manager

## **ELECTED O's**

### **What is the Public Trustee's office anyway?**

Many of us are familiar with the word "foreclosure," but not too many people know how foreclosures are handled in Colorado. In the State of Colorado, each county has a Public Trustee. In the 54 smaller counties they are also the County Treasurer, and in the 10 largest counties, they are political appointments made by the governor. This system has been in place since the late 1800's. We are the only state in the country that uses a Public Trustee system. What that means, is

expect you to take over. You've been a strong example to the other ewes. Always first to water, first to new grass, and always willing to listen to the baa's and bleatings of others. Leadership is not an easy mantel to wear. And followers, you too must blindly trust your leader and follow her like, well, like sheep. You must work as a cohesive unit, sticking to the instinctive survival traits of prey, always remembering, just like in any bureaucracy, the group is more important than the individual. It is your strength that will prevent you from becoming another fractionated, dysfunctional herd.

In conclusion, it was my job to protect you from predators like coyotes, the BLM, deer hunters, and others. But gratitude is humbling. That gratitude is what I will carry with me from this day forward. Words cannot express my thanks for your overwhelming display of affection. After all, how many of us can claim to have six hundred ram lambs named Juan in their honor."

Be safe out there, I'm pulling for you.



**The superstars for this month are:**

**Maria Reyez  
Public Health**

Maria is always willing to help her coworkers and goes above and beyond to assist with projects. She is always professional, well organized, and proactive. Her laughter and positive attitude make her a joy to work with!

that most foreclosures are processed at the county level by the Public Trustee's office (although a number of foreclosures must go through the courts and the Sheriff's office is responsible for those judicial foreclosures).

Here's a simple breakdown of the way a foreclosure is handled by our office:

- The Public Trustee's office receives a foreclosure packet from an attorney for the lender. The packet states that the property owner is in default and what the default is.
- The packet is reviewed for completeness, accuracy, and verification that statutory requirements are met.
- A foreclosure sale date is set and notices are sent to all interested parties.
- A notice is published in the newspaper approximately three months after the start of the foreclosure.
- The foreclosure sale is either held or postponed. Sales may be postponed up to 12 months from the original sale date.
- If the foreclosure sale is held, title is transferred to a new owner.

The foreclosure sale itself is held by our office in the courthouse. It works just like a public auction, although since we are the auctioneers, it probably moves a little slower! Each investor that would like to participate registers with our office and receives a bidder number and bidding card. The beginning bid comes from the foreclosing lender and the bidding goes up from there with as many as 10+ investors competing for the same property. Foreclosure sales are held each Wednesday at 10:00 am and are open to the public. If you're interested in seeing the process in action, you're welcome to come and watch. We're also happy to answer any questions you have about the foreclosure process. We can be reached via phone at 945-3451 or via email at [publictrustee@garfield-county.com](mailto:publictrustee@garfield-county.com).



— Karla Bagley  
Garfield County Treasurer and  
Public Trustee

**Bi-weekly pay cycle**

On May 9, the Board of County Commissioners

**Jackee Bowler**  
**Sheriff's Office**

We work so well together. Jackee comes to work with such a positive attitude and creates such a pleasant work environment.

**Kappe Stutsman**  
**Human Services**

Kappe has been instrumental with engaging community partners and taking a leadership role in coordinating the Child Safety Fair (which acknowledges Child Abuse Prevention Month). She is an amazing worker and is very organized. Kappe is dedicated to providing families and community partners with the best Child Safety Fair possibly to ensure child safety in Garfield County.

~ Susan M. Garcia

**Holly Hopple and**  
**Jack Haroutunian**  
**Criminal Justice**

I would like to recognize Holly Hopple and Jack Haroutunian with the Criminal Justice Services Workenders Program. Holly and Jack are both great individuals who provide exceptional service to County departments in a timely and efficient manner.

- Procurment Department

**Rob Hykys**  
**Information Technology**

Rob came to work for the county almost 23 years ago as a member of the then Building and Planning Department. He essentially "hand built" the Geographic Information System (GIS) from scratch during a time when there was virtually zero digital mapping resources on the western slope and GIS was still a new concept. If you ask Rob, he'd probably tell you that he was flying the airplane as he built it.

approved moving employees from a monthly pay cycle, to bi-weekly pay cycle, beginning in January 2017.

Employees will receive their first bi-weekly paycheck on January 13 and will be paid every other Friday thereafter. This will put all employees on the same pay cycle, with the same pay day. Further information and trainings will be coming soon, from the Finance and Human Resources departments.

**HEALTH TIP**  
**Mental Health**

In a given year, one in four adults in our country has a mental health problem. Which is why you don't have to be in a crisis to seek help. Even if you aren't sure that you would benefit from help, it can't hurt to explore the possibility. A mental health professional can help you:

- Come up with plans for solving problems
- Feel stronger in the face of challenges
- Change behaviors that hold you back
- Look at ways of thinking that affect how you feel
- Heal pains from your past
- Figure out your goals
- Build self-confidence



Most people who seek help, feel better. More than 80 percent of people improve when treated for depression. Treatment for panic disorders have a 90 percent success rate. As an employee, you too can get help through the county's Employment Assistance Program (EAP) program. The program gives you access to three free confidential counseling sessions. For more information on mental health, go to

Rob's mapping expertise became an immediate need/resource for a wide variety of departments and elected officials on an array of topics including wildfire, elections, floodplain, land use planning, county road system, etc.

While Rob is commonly known as the county's map guy and works now under the supervision of the IT director, Rob's expertise, thoughtful, and contemplative nature are the real assets behind the pretty paper map that is produced at the end for wide ranging customers.

Rob's mapping efforts have provided critical and timely information that have guided some of the most heavy-weight decisions made by our elected officials and administration for the past two decades.

Because of this, Rob is widely respected in our county, region, and state. Little did we all know, Rob's system would grow and develop into the extremely robust and sophisticated system it is today. Thank you, Rob!

**Nominate next  
month's Superstar!**

**IT TIP  
Passphrases**

Passwords are something you use almost every day, from accessing your email and banking online, to purchasing goods or accessing your smartphone. However, passwords are also one of your weakest points; if someone learns your password, they can steal your identity, transfer your money or access your personal information. Strong passwords are essential to protecting yourself. In this article, you will learn how to create strong passwords that are

[www.mentalhealthamerica.net](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net)

Provided by Garfield County Public Health.

**Safety tip of the month**

The dangers of slips, trips, and falls.

Slips, trips, and falls are one the leading causes of unintentional injuries in the United States, accounting for approximately 8.9 million emergency room visits annually. To help prevent these injuries follow some of these tips:

- Clean up spills immediately
- Secure electrical and phone cords out of traffic areas
- Keep frequently used items in easily reachable areas
- Always use appropriate ladders to reach items out of reach
- Keep drawers and cabinet doors closed at all times

Provided by the Safety Committee

**BENEFIT BITS  
When can I retire?**

Have you thought about how, and when, you will retire? If you're like most people, it's probably crossed your mind. Your retirement benefit through Garfield County can help you prepare for the future. At Garfield County, there are two different retirement plans. The 401(a) plan, which is mandatory. And the 457(b), which is voluntary.

Garfield County's retirement plans are provided through the Colorado County Officials and Employees Retirement Association (CCOERA). Lots of great information about financial planning is available on CCOERA's website. CCOERA's website also offers instructions on how to read your statement, account management options, an informative newsletter, current investment options, and retirement planning estimates. Furthermore, if you want to set up your online account, review your balances, and make changes you can do it here as well.

Individual Counseling is also available from CCOERA Client Services representatives for any employee who wants assistance in regards to planning and investing for retirement. Feel free to contact our personal CCOERA representatives:  
Tom Krushensky, 720-493-6504 or  
Francisco Chacon, 720-493-6518

easy to remember by using a type of password called passphrases.

The challenge we all face is that cyber attackers have developed sophisticated methods to guess or brute force passwords, and they are constantly getting better at it. This means they can compromise your passwords if they are weak or easy to guess. An important step to protecting yourself is to use strong passwords. The more characters your password has, the stronger it is and the harder it is for an attacker to guess. However, long, complex passwords can be difficult to remember. So instead, we recommend you use passphrases. These are simple phrases or sentences that are easy to remember, but hard to hack. Here is an example:

Where is King Julian?

What makes this passphrase so strong is that, not only is it 21 characters long, but it also uses capital letters and symbols. (Remember, spaces are nothing more than another symbol.) You can make your passphrase even stronger if you replace letters with numbers or symbols, such as replacing the letter 'a' with the '@' symbol or the letter 'o' with the number zero. If a website or program limits the number of characters you can use in a password, use the maximum number of characters allowed.

Provided by Garfield County Information Technology.

Visit the CCOERA website at <http://www.ccoera.org/>  
Detailed plan outlines regarding retirement at Garfield County are available on the intranet:  
<http://intranet.garfield-county.com>.

Provided by Garfield County Human Resources

## **DATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Broadband Community Meetings**

Friday, June 3

Glenwood Springs Branch Library

Friday, June 10  
Rifle Branch Library

Wednesday, June 15  
Carbondale Branch Library

Thursday, June 16  
New Castle Branch Library

**Friday, June 10**  
**Rifle Administration Building**  
**Ribbon Cutting**  
Come and join us for the ribbon cutting celebration at 9 am!

**Saturday, June 14**  
**Flag Day**  
Commemorate the adoption of the flag of the United States of America.

**Sunday, June 19**  
**Father's Day**  
Celebrate fathers, fatherhood, fatherly bonds, and the influence of fathers in society.

**Monday, June 20**  
**Summer Solstice**  
Enjoy the longest day of the year!

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## **EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES**

### **May**

In the month of May, we celebrate a total of **375** years of experience and dedication to Garfield County. Whether you are celebrating your one-year or 39-year anniversary, you are all important to making Garfield County successful. Thank you for all that you do!

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Anniversary</b>	<b>Years</b>
Joy Davis	Human Services	6/01	39

Fred Jarman	County Manager	6/01	14
James Brassfield	Sheriff	6/01	12
<b>Sharon Longhurst Pritt</b>	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>6/01</b>	<b>10</b>
David Bartholomew	Community Development	6/01	6
Jeremy Bullock	Road & Bridge	6/01	6
Renee Horton	Human Services	6/01	6
Patricia Ulloa	Human Services	6/01	6
Cyntia Hermsillo	Human Services	6/01	1
James Williams	Criminal Justice	6/01	1
Erin Winton	Sheriff	6/01	1
Vicki Riley	Assessor	6/02	8
<b>Jackie Harmon</b>	<b>Clerk &amp; Recorder</b>	<b>6/04</b>	<b>15</b>
Gregory J Wetzel	Assessor	6/05	16
Teresa McGuire	Human Services	6/06	9
Vicki Ruechel	Sheriff	6/08	14
Brian Sutton	Sheriff	6/08	12
Lori Goodwin	Human Resources	6/09	8
Jennifer Dorr	Human Services	6/09	2
Brooke Epling	Human Services	6/09	2
Stephanie Harlan	Assessor	6/10	6
Kristie Brashear	Clerk & Recorder	6/10	3
Travis Mitchell	Human Services	6/10	2
Maribel Diaz	Human Resources	6/11	9
Lily Segovia	Human Services	6/11	9
Kerry Leonard	Human Services	6/12	2
Chasity Gonzales	Sheriff	6/13	4
Cathleen Van Roekel	Finance	6/14	12
Joyce Murphy	Human Services	6/15	1
Connie Copen	Sheriff	6/16	7
Clover Rayne	Clerk & Recorder	6/16	2
Christopher Bornholdt	Sheriff	6/18	9
Wyatt Keesbery	Road & Bridge	6/18	9
Kenneth Seidel	Public Works & Facilities	6/20	11
Maira Lujan Rodriguez	Sheriff	6/21	5
Patricia Hampton	Clerk & Recorder	6/23	18
Scott Collins	Road & Bridge	6/24	3
Lisa Gurule	Clerk & Recorder	6/24	3
Brent Baker	Sheriff	6/26	14
<b>Kelicia Costello</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>6/26</b>	<b>10</b>
Edward Satterfield	Sheriff	6/26	1
Jenny Langhorst	Finance	6/28	6
Kevin Erpestad	Sheriff	6/30	18
Valorie Lee	Sheriff	6/30	13
<b>Catherine Craig</b>	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>6/30</b>	<b>10</b>

Anniversaries of ten years or more are highlighted in five-year increments.

[Garfield County Website](#)