



Commissioner Hap Channell

### RUMORS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Typically in our Newsletter space we commissioners refer to the season at hand, give a few perspectives on county matters and praise staff for all you do. (We can never give enough of that!) This time though, I would like to write about some of the challenges we're facing as a county.

Let's start by putting to rest the rumor going around that our assisted living center known as The Willows will close. To be sure, Gunnison Valley Health and the county are exploring possible different management arrangements for the future, but there is no intent whatsoever to close the facility and the important services it provides.

Not the least of the challenges we are facing is the state budget cuts that are affecting our Health and Human Services Department. The department is creatively looking for help from grants and from the non-profit and faith-based communities, trying to avoid cutting staff while continuing to provide services to our most vulnerable citizens.

Many of you have no doubt heard about the lawsuit that's been filed against the county. One of our natural gas producers has sued, primarily claiming that our oil and gas regulations are largely pre-empted by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Rules. The outcome of the case could have far reaching effects on local government authority. Our County Attorney's Office with input from the Community Development Department is hard at work on preparing our defense.

We usually cheer when we have above average snowfall in the high country for a variety of reasons, but that assurance of a good water year presents particular challenges to our Public Works Department, especially in the "Year of the Bike" in Gunnison County. That department has been working overtime getting passes open and roads prepared for bike races and tours, staffing road closures, and fixing a collapsed culvert.

Of course I could go on and on writing about challenges that you all face in your work serving our citizens, and oh by the way, keeping up with all of your normal duties and expectations at the same time. It is said that challenges can be turned into opportunities depending on how one looks at them. Sometimes that can be difficult, but it's exactly what I hope for the challenges we all face. Best wishes meeting your "opportunities".

— Hap Channell

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### COUNTY PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE

Come join us for fun in the sun! There will be games, food, fun and sign-up sheets for future events and the formation of extracurricular clubs!



- When: August 20th (Mark your calendars)
- Where: Legion Park
- Time: 12 pm until the fun stops!
- What: Potluck Picnic

More details will follow to County employees via email.

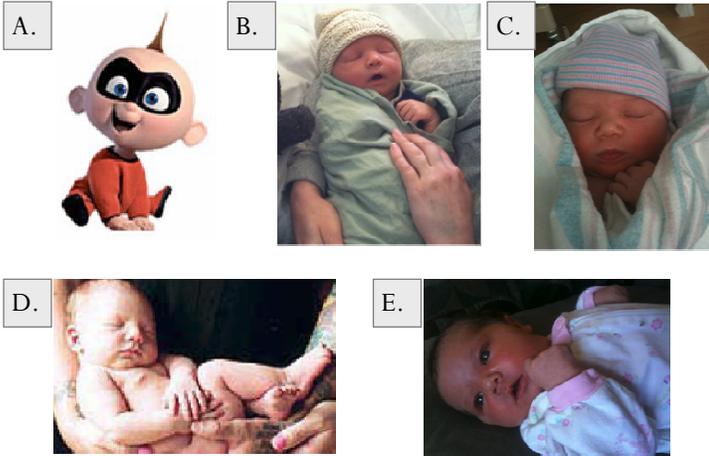
### FACILITIES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER & PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY PROJECT RAPIDLY TAKING SHAPE

By: Molly Mugglestone, Gunnison County Communications Consultant

On 6/24/2011, the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners saw progress being quickly made toward completion of both a new Public Safety Center (which will include the County Detention Center, County Sheriff's Office and County Emergency Operations Center), and a new Public Works Maintenance Facility. The tour was given by the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC)- GE Johnson Construction Company. Construction of both developments began in late 2010 after funding by the sale of Certificates of Participation (COP's) which enabled the projects to proceed without any new taxes. During the tour, Chairperson Hap Channell summarized both the necessity for and the planned longevity of the structures by saying, "These projects satisfy a desperate need and they will take care of us for a long time." (Continued on page 6.)

## COUNTY SCOOP - BABY SWAP

Gunnison County staff recently welcomed newborns into the world. Can you match these babies with their parents? (See answers below.)



## GUNNISON COUNTY ROAD CLOSURES AND SCHEDULED CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE

Gunnison County will be applying magnesium chloride on Cottonwood Pass (CR# 209) on June 28th and June 29th.

Gunnison County will be applying magnesium chloride on Kebler Pass (CR #12) on June 29th and June 30th.

Gunnison County will be applying magnesium chloride in the Taylor Park/Cottonwood Pass area on Wednesday, June 22nd, Thursday, June 23rd, Tuesday, June 28th, Wednesday, June 29th and Thursday June 30th.

Ohio Creek Pass is open, wet and icy in some spots (as of 6/28/11 at 6:07 am).

For information on road closures and construction/maintenance, please visit the Gunnison County website at [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/public\\_works\\_road\\_bridge.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/public_works_road_bridge.html).

## RELAY FOR LIFE – WALKING FOR CANCER RESEARCH

The weather was perfect for Relay for Life, which was held June 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who participated in supporting this event. Seen here are some of the Gunnison County team members that raised \$1,730.78 toward cancer research. Overall, the Gunnison community raised \$24,624.70.



Picture in photo from left to right, top row: Ben Cowan, Hap Channell, Debbie Moore, Linda Nienhueser & Katherine Haase. Bottom row: Paula Swenson & Narcissa Channell.

Team members not pictured: Becky Miles, Kelly Weak, Sally Wilcox & Jane Wyman.



## UPCOMING 2011 COUNTY HOLIDAYS

- Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day
- Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day
- Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day
- Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans’ Day
- Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Day after Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – Christmas (next business day after)



## BABY SWAP ANSWERS:

(A) Jack Jack, from the Disney film The Incredibles; (B) Noah, son of Liz Thurmond, RN in Public Health was born May 12<sup>th</sup>. Weight: 7 lbs 8 oz. Length: 21.5"; (C) Mattelyn, daughter of Shannon Sprott, in GIS Mapping was born June 18<sup>th</sup>. Weight: 7lbs 3 oz. Length: 19.25"; (D) Willow Sage Hart, son of punk rock singer Pink; (E) Lauren, daughter of Ben Cowan, Assistant Finance Director was born May 26<sup>th</sup>. Weight: 9lbs 5oz, Length: 21".

## EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By: Rick Besecker, Gunnison County Sheriff

When “Sam” was introduced to the Gunnison County Detention Center on November 1, 2009, his first focal point was a warm, sincere smile from a stranger wearing a seven-point star and a “Coleman” name tag on a freshly pressed uniform. Sam soon bore witness that the gentle lady with an obviously large heart possessed a stern posture and iron resolve in the presence of disrespect.

Soon Sam was granted the liberty of addressing Officer Kathy Coleman as “Cookie”, but only because the title was one of admiration and respect. He became accustomed to the aroma from the kitchen, which would normally suggest white linen table cloths and a “please wait to be seated” sign if it were not for the decorative bars on the windows.

By the time Sam had served 30 days, he learned that Kathy Colman had turned in her “Cookie” reference for sergeant’s stripes and a new level of responsibilities.

On November 1, 2010, a year to the day that he was given an inmate number, Sam was released with time served. His own sense of respect persuaded him to extend his hand and congratulate the newly ordained Captain Kathy Coleman. Such a title is universally recognized as the highest rung on the Detention Center ladder. Such distinction brings an awareness of the possessor that the person now lives in a glass dome where the glass is clearer, as well as much thinner.

The main attribute that has propelled Kathy through such rapid succession is courage; courage in the face of great adversity, courage to develop expertise in extremely unfamiliar forums, and courage to expect great things from those under her charge. She can no longer celebrate the luxury of embracing all tasks to spare others. She must be strong in her convictions to instill honor, discipline and expectations of excellence in those who are privileged to work with her.

Kathy, your passionate approach to every day is infectious. Your intentions are pure and your desires suggest that you want everyone to strive to enjoy their association with Gunnison County as do you. You understand that courage is an acquired characteristic that one develops through daily discipline. Such a mindset guarantees 24 karat gratification. Thank you for your hard work, your undeniably positive attitude and, most of all, your genuine concern for those you are responsible for -- fellow officers, as well as residents. You make us proud.



Detention Center Captain Kathy Coleman

## EMPLOYEE IN THE SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS

If you would like to nominate a Gunnison County employee for this honor, tell the Personnel Board in 100 words or less why you think the person you are nominating deserves for the spotlight to be on them. Email your nomination to: [dmoore@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:dmoore@gunnisoncounty.org) or put it in the Courthouse mailbox for Human Resources. Along with an article in the next County newsletter, the employee chosen by the Personnel Board will receive \$50 in Gunnison Greenbacks.

## FIREWORK SAFETY & WILDFIRES

By: Scott Morrill, [Gunnison County Emergency Manager](#)

The wildfire danger is moderate throughout most of the Gunnison Basin, though it is high in some areas. There are currently no special fire restrictions in place. As a reminder, most fireworks are illegal in unincorporated Gunnison County – the only permissible fireworks are those that don't explode and/or leave the ground. Also, if you plan to burn slash-piles, leaves, ditch banks, etc., you must first call Gunnison Dispatch at 641-8200.

## HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE CLEANUP



The next Hazardous Household Waste Cleanup event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 3 pm. Paint, paint products, oil, antifreeze and batteries can be dropped off at either of these locations for a cost of \$1.00 per gallon.

- City of Gunnison Shop located at 1100 W. Tomichi.
- The Gunnison County Public Works Shop in Crested Butte, just south of town on HWY 135.

## COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The Gunnison County Board of Equalization will meet on Monday, July 11, 2011 in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Gunnison County Courthouse to review the assessment roll of all taxable real & personal property located in the County.

Beginning also in July of 2011, the County Board of Equalization will hear appeals from determinations of the County Assessor with respect to the valuation of all taxable property. Thereafter at such times as may be necessary, until the closing of business on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2011, the County Board of Equalization will hear appeals from determinations of the County Assessor with respect to real and personal property.

Persons wishing to appear before the County Board of Equalization must send the proper appeal form, located on the back of the Notice of Determination, to the County Administration Office, 200 East Virginia Avenue, Gunnison CO 81230 postmarked or hand delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for real property and no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 20, 2011 for personal property.

## LOOK FOR THE NEW “GOT IDEAS?” BUTTON!

It can be found on the Gunnison County HR webpage and on emails you receive from the HR Director Debbie Moore. If you have an innovative idea on how to make your department, another department or local government as a whole more efficient and/or more effective, click on the “got ideas?” button.



The County Manager is listening!

## CRESTED BUTTE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

The online appointment schedule for the Crested Butte Community Blood Drive is up and running! The Crested Butte Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20th. Please mark your calendars and spread the word. The drive will be held in the Parish Hall at the Queen of All Saints Catholic Church.

To schedule your appointment, please follow this link: <https://donors.bonfils.org/> and follow these steps:

1. Type in Crested Butte’s zipcode, 81224
2. Change the ‘To’ date-range to 7/20/11
3. Click ‘Search’
4. Scroll down in the search results to ‘Blood Drives’, ‘Choose’ Crested Butte Community
5. Answer pre-screening questions
6. Schedule your preferred time on July 20

Please note that it takes about one hour to donate a unit of whole blood. The donation itself takes less than 10 minutes, but plan extra time to complete your donor questionnaire, conduct a health screening and make a post-donation visit to our canteen.

## HIGH WATER

By: *Scott Morrill, Gunnison County Emergency Manager*

Based on projections from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center and the National Weather Service, rivers and creeks in the Gunnison Basin have likely already peaked. Their models show area rivers and creeks remaining high and fast through the first-to-middle of July. It is possible that rivers will rise again, but they are not expected to reach the levels experienced in early June. Heavy rains could greatly change the levels at any time, so citizens are encouraged to use caution when near rivers and creeks. For more information, contact Emergency Manager Scott Morrill at (970) 641-2481 or [smorrill@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:smorrill@gunnisoncounty.org).

## BOCC ADOPTS GUNNISON COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

The following is a partial list of the County resolutions that have been passed by the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners since the printing of the last newsletter. For information on these or any other adopted resolutions, please visit [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners\\_resolutions.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners_resolutions.html) or contact Gunnison County Administration at (970) 641-0248.

5/03	18	A Resolution Amending Certain Charges and Fees for Integrated Solid Waste Services Effective April 1, 2011
5/03	19	A Resolution Reapproving the Final Plan of Land Use Change Application No. 2005-73 A Land Use Change Permit for Verzuh Ranch Inc. for the Shady Island Subdivision
5/17	20	A Resolution Approving the RU Subdivision Batch Plant Relocation Construction of Access Road, Part of Lot 1; All Lots 2, 3, 4; Part of SE1/4NW1/4; (Less 18.68a in S1/2NW1/4) E1/2SW1/4. 33.93 Ac in SW1/4SE1/4. 0.41 Ac in SE1/4SE1/4. Section 18; All Lot 1, E1/2NW1/4. 3.514a in W2NW4NE4 Section 19, Township 14 South, Range 85 West 6 <sup>th</sup> P.M., Gunnison County, Colorado, LUC-2010-32
5/17	21	A Resolution Approving Land Use Change Permit No. 2008-05, a Land Use Change Permit for the Crested Butte Land Trust for the Subdivision of a 36.77-Acre Parcel into Two Lots
5/17	22	A Resolution Approving Road Name Changes in the Marble Area, Gunnison County, Colorado
6/21	23	Resolution Approving Mail Ballot for the November 1, 2011 Coordinated Election

## BOCC MEETING SCHEDULE AND AGENDAS

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners customarily meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month for Regular Meetings. Work Sessions are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Public Hearings and Special Meetings may be scheduled at any time. Meeting agendas and approved meeting minutes are posted on the County’s website at [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners\\_meetings.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/commissioners_meetings.html). For more information, contact Gunnison County Administration at (970) 641-7601 or by email to [khaase@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:khaase@gunnisoncounty.org).

## GREEN CHALLENGES PROGRAM

Each month during 2011, the Green Team announces an environmental challenge for County employees on which to focus.



These challenges will be designed to encourage environmentally friendly practices that reduce the County's carbon footprint as well as save the County money in the long term by increasing efficiency - something that all employees can support in some fashion.

In order to foster participation, the Green Team is pleased to announce that, each month, one lucky employee will be rewarded with a \$50 incentive by participating in that month's challenge.

Monthly Challenge Themes (click on any title to download the monthly challenge (PDF format) with details on how to win the challenge):

- January: [Audio/Web Conferencing](#)
- February: [Windows/Heating Systems](#)
- March: [Computer/Electronic Equipment](#)
- April: [Lighting](#)
- May: [Bike/Walk/Carpool to Work](#)
- June: [Reduce](#)
- July: Reuse
- August: Recycle
- September: Paper
- October: Environmentally Friendly Purchasing
- November: Outreach
- December: Employee Choice

For more information, please visit the Green Team's webpage at [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/environmental\\_initiatives.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/environmental_initiatives.html).

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

For more information on these and other events, please visit [www.GunnisonCrestedButte.com](http://www.GunnisonCrestedButte.com)

### JULY 2011

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1                         | Gallery Crawl & Music  |
| 1,2,8,9,15,16,22,23,29,30 | Gunnison Valley Observatory  |
| 1, 2, 5, 7                | "Oklahoma!" CB Mountain Theatre  |
| 1, 8, 15, 22, 29          | Fridays @ 5pm - Art Center Live Music on the Courtyard                     |
| 1, 15, 29                 | Pinnacle Series Bike Races, CBMR   |
| 1 – 30                    | Heart of the West & Tierney Miller Exhibitions, Gunnison Arts Center       |
| 2, 9, 16, 23, 30          | Gunnison Farmers' Market, Virginia Ave & Main Street                       |
| 2-9, 15-27, &             | Marble/marble XXIII – A Marble Sculpting Symposium                         |
| 3 – Aug. 14               | Crested Butte Music Festival   |
| 3, 10, 17, 24             | CB Farmers' Market, Elk Ave & First Street                                 |
| 3, 10, 17, 24,            | Sundays @ 6 (Free Concerts) Presented by Gunnison Arts Center, Legion Park |

## FINANCE OFFICE IS NOW ACCEPTING ONLINE PAYMENTS

By: Ben Cowan, Assistant Finance Director

Gunnison County is now accepting credit card payments at select offices both over-the-counter as well as via the County's website. While this doesn't sound like much of a feat, current State law makes it extremely difficult for state and county governments to accept forms of electronic payments due to the inability to absorb the transaction fees.

[We now accept online payments](#)



Credit card companies charge a fee to merchants for processing credit card payments. In most business, this is considered a cost of doing business, and the credit card charges are figured into the cost of merchandise. However, Colorado State law dictates that County Treasurers collect the entire amount due, so we are not allowed to deduct the payment processing fees from the payments being made. To satisfy this requirement, transactions are subject to Portal Administration Fee of \$0.75 plus 2.25% of total transaction amount. If the payment method is e-check (or electronic debit from a bank account), the fee is a flat \$1.00. The County receives no portion of this fee. Gunnison County is proud to be one of very few counties in the State of Colorado that accept both over-the-counter and online payments. The online interface is located on the County's website: [http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/online\\_payments.html](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/online_payments.html). Contact Ben Cowan in Finance [bcowan@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:bcowan@gunnisoncounty.org) to find out if this is a service that would be helpful to your department's customers.



For customers that still prefer to pay in person, a new payment box (*seen at right*) has been mounted outside the North Courthouse door to allow customers to drop off payments at any time.

## FACILITIES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: *(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)*

**ON TIME:** From an early construction start, and after the establishment of the project Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of slightly less than \$15 million budgeted for construction, the work on both job-sites has progressed to the point where the County Commissioners on Friday viewed both facilities that are close to completion. The Public Works facility is on track to be completed in early August 2011, and the Public Safety Center is on track to be completed early December 2011.

Completion of the exterior façade on the north and east sides of the new building by the time of the 2011 Cattlemen's Days celebration this July was a particularly important deadline and will be met. "The GE Johnson team very worked hard to get the building looking less like a construction site and more like a finished office building in time for the carnival which will, as in years past, soon be setting up for Cattlemen's Days. This was a high-priority, interim goal for the project" said Mike Mismash of Project One Integrated Services, the Owner's Representative who is assisting the County in the overall planning and management of the development of the capital improvements.

**ON BUDGET:** Due to the fact that the projects are developing within budget and the GMP the development team led by County Manager Matthew Birnie were able to trigger additional construction of certain highly desired but potentially budget exceeding "add alternates" that are projected to be completed entirely within the original budget. In the case of the Public Works Maintenance facility, the fully enclosed Vehicle Wash Bay,

located on the south end of the building is now nearly complete. At the Public Safety Center, nearly the entire second floor of the facility will house the new Sheriff's Department and an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

**SUSTAINABLE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT:** The development team has also been committed to making sure the buildings have high efficiency and sustainability features. Energy saving factors include use of integrated daylight and passive solar gain, native plant and low water usage plants used in landscape, roof insulation that is significantly higher than required to lower heating energy, use of low-emitting materials for interior finishes and insulation, condensed boilers to lower natural gas consumption and energy use and use of energy efficient lighting and electrical. Both buildings were targeted for achievement of what would be a LEED designation but no formal certification process will be undertaken because of the relatively high cost involved. Still, the County was able to have the designs and specifications of both facilities reviewed by a green building consultant in conjunction with a grant from the Governor's Energy Office which set forth specific potential recommendations, many of which were incorporated into the work and will continue to be incorporated into the future. "We felt that instead of spending the thousands of dollars needed to gain LEED certification we would instead invest those dollars in reaching the sustainability and efficiency goals provided to us by the Governor's Energy Office," said Matthew Birnie, County Manager.



**Public Works Maintenance Facility.** *Seen here are Commissioners Paula Swenson and Hap Channell in front of the facility on 6/24/2011.*



**Public Safety Center.** *Seen here are Commissioner Paula Swenson, County Manager Birnie and Gunnison Times Editor Will Shoemaker touring the facility on 6/24/2011.*

**DOLLARS SPENT LOCALLY:** Another important goal for the project, particularly driven by current economic conditions, was to optimize local participation of subcontractor and vendor firms on a competitive bidding basis while keeping with the overall goals of the project which include an on-time completion of both separate buildings, staying within the overall intended project cost and GMP, gaining the intended level of finish quality, and maintaining a safe jobsite. In fact, given the relative complexities of the types of commercial/industrial facilities involved, vs. the relatively residential construction orientation of the majority of local construction concerns, a good amount was spent on local and regional subcontractors with 19% bid to local subcontractors and an additional 37% bid to regional western slope subcontractors. Additionally, approximately \$700,000 was spent locally on hotels and restaurants by the out-of-town contractors. "This project represents by far the best local results that we have ever achieved on a mountain project of this magnitude and complexity of type. I would say Gunnison County's rate of local subcontractor bids is the best I have seen in a mountain project," GE Johnson's Project Executive, Todd Seawell explains.

For more details on either project please visit the County website at [www.gunnisoncounty.org](http://www.gunnisoncounty.org) or contact County Manager Matthew Birnie at 641-0248, [mbirnie@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:mbirnie@gunnisoncounty.org). For additional photos or site plans please contact Molly Mugglestone at [molly@mdmpublicaffairs.com](mailto:molly@mdmpublicaffairs.com) or 970-275-8909.