

## Memorandum

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Tom Baker, Town Administrator

**Date:** December 16, 2014

**Re:** Review Proofs – Flat Tops Bridge Signs

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this item is to review the proofs for the Flat Tops Bridge signs. These signs use the same template that were used for the Grand River Park interpretative signs.

**Discussion:** As you can see, we have a graphic that shows the Flat Top Bridge signs and the Jolley Trail signs. For this item let's focus on the Flat Top Bridge signs. The Jolley family is still reviewing the Jolley Trail signs and changes will be made.

Councilor Leland has reviewed the sign language (Greg Russi wrote the original) and may have some questions. Dave Gray wants to put a New Castle logo on the dedication sign (it may be a smaller size) Additionally, Councilor Breslin suggests using quotes from Mayor Gordon, Commissioner Samson, and Greg Russi, to include on the bridge signs(" we are building bridges of friendship and communication..."). The Sunday's PI newspaper article is attached to this memo. In all sincerity, both John Wenzel and I feel our names are optional for the dedication sign (Greg Russi included them) and if removed will give ample space for the Town's logo and additional quotes.

**Request:** Staff requests Council give staff direction.

**Heidi Rice**  
**Citizen Telegram Editor**

December 6, 2014

## Woods cuts ribbon for Flat Tops Bridge



(Left to right) Gregg Rippey with Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District, which helped to fund New Castle's new bridge, Garfield County Commissioner John Martin, Apple Tree Park resident Glenn Woods and Mark Gould, president of Gould Construction and contractor on the bridge project, cut the ribbon and officially opened the Flat Tops Bridge and the Talbott Trail on Saturday afternoon. The trail now connects the north and south ends of town and provides increased safety for pedestrians.

**NEW CASTLE** — For nearly 18 years, Glenn Woods has been walking from his home in the Apple Tree Mobile Home Park along County Road 335 and crossing the bridge over the Colorado River and Interstate 70 to get to his job at City Market.

So it was only fitting that Woods lead the charge Saturday afternoon for the official ribbon cutting and dedication ceremonies of the new Flat Tops Bridge and Talbott Trail.

"This is a joyous date. Today will be the first day I walk across the new bridge," Woods said. "Sometimes I get a ride, but if not, it can take me an hour to get from my house to work and then from work back home."

But he wasn't complaining.

"The one good thing about it is that it's good exercise for your legs and for cardio," he said with a smile.

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But he does think the new bridge and trail will make his trek safe.

Mayor Bob Gordon kicked off the ceremony, thanking the numerous people — from the Garfield County Commissioners to the Federal Mineral Lease District, town council and many others who were involved in helping to bring the project to fruition. There were more than 200 people at the event.

“This is a great event for the town and for the safety of the people of our community,” Gordon said. “Over 1,800 people cross this bridge and it’s going to be a great connection.”

The bridge, which was built by Gould Construction, is named “Flat Tops Bridge” after the area’s most prominent geological feature and the trail name is “Talbot Trail,” honoring the Talbot family who owns Apple Tree Mobile Home Park. The Talbot family have made significant contributions to the community, including letting a portion of the trail cross their property.

Greg Russi, a former longtime town councilor was instrumental in organizing the bridge project, as was former mayor and now town councilor, Frank Breslin.

“What is a bridge?” said Commissioner Mike Samson. “It’s more than something that gets people from point A to point B. It’s friendship, communication and understanding. There are a lot of people who came together to make this happen.”

Russi thanked everyone who contributed funding for the more than \$2 million project and joked about asking all the different agencies for money.

“You must have felt like we thought you were Santa Claus,” he said with a laugh. “We did think you were Santa Claus. But this bridge is a way for us to meet that other side half way. We are all bridge builders. Some of these connections that we will make are just as strong as the cement that was poured.”

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2'

2'



# GATEWAY to the FLAT TOPS

Rising to over 11,000 feet just north of New Castle are the magnificent Flat Tops Mountains. This easily accessible area features a resilient volcanic lava cap, giving the region its tabletop appearance. Part of the White River Plateau, the area is the product of geologic uplift beginning more than fifty million years ago. More recently, ice age glaciers melted off, leaving craggy cliffs and amazing ravines. In the northern realm of the Flat Tops lies the Flat Tops Wilderness, a 235,214 acre undeveloped area open to hiking, backpacking and fishing. The Wilderness Area alone features over 100 lakes, and dozens more lie south of the Wilderness, closer to New Castle.

New Castle, as Gateway to the Flat Tops, welcomes visitors from everywhere to enjoy the clean air, stunning views, and blazing sunsets. Whether camping, biking, fishing, hunting, backpacking, rock climbing, bird watching, plain air painting, or photography is your passion, New Castle is your jumping off point for high elevation adventure. We advise taking a map, water, and sunscreen, and following 243 (Main Elk) or 245 (Buford) roads from the northwest edge of town.



# JOLLEY TRAIL

The Jolley Trail is named after a longtime New Castle family that ran sheep and lived on the land this trail traverses today.

In 1919 the Jolley Brothers – Herb, Malcolm (Mack), Henry and Lee, who were some of the first sheeppmen in the New Castle area, came from Kanab, Utah and formed the Jolley Brothers Sheep Company running as many as 20,000 sheep at one time.

Malcolm (Mack) Jolley settled on a ranch on Elk Creek at the north edge of New Castle. This ranch is still owned by descendants of Malcolm's family.

Henry Jolley settled on a ranch in the Glenwood Springs area and this ranch is still owned by descendants of Henry Jolley. Lee Jolley returned to Utah.

Herb Jolley built his home on the ranch property extending from the then East end of New Castle to the new business district that includes City Market, Kum & Go and McDonalds and south to the Colorado River. In 1998, the original ranch house was moved, from its original location above the McDonalds and Kum & Go, to South E Avenue in New Castle.

The Jolley Family has been and continues to be an important part of New Castle and Garfield County. Malcolm (Mack) Jolley is the grandfather of New Castle residents Kent and Brett Jolley. Herb Jolley is the grandfather of Rifle residents Terri Jolley Potter and Garfield County Commissioner Mike Samson.



1.5'

2'

# FLAT TOPS PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Dedicated December 6, 2014

New Castle's Flat Tops Pedestrian Bridge  
resulted from the generous contributions of

**Garfield County Board of Commissioners**  
**Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District**  
**State of Colorado**  
**The Town of New Castle**

**Jeff Simonson, SGM, Project Engineer**  
**Gould Construction, General Contractor**

**2014 Town Council:**

**Bob Gordon, Mayor - Frank Breslin, Mayor (2006-14)**

**Bruce Leland - Art Riddle**

**Patrick Stuckey - Mary Metzger - Merle Means**

**Greg Russi, Project Lead**

**Tom Baker, Town Administrator**

**John Wentzel, Public Works Director**



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