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### **Weld Sheriff's Office warns residents about uptick in random thefts**

The Weld County Sheriff's Office is warning the public about an uptick in thefts.

For the last several weeks, deputies have been busy taking reports about all types of thefts at locations throughout the county. The thefts are occurring in both residential and non-residential areas.

The thefts appear to be random crimes of opportunity. The stolen items run the gamut including pigeons (yes, the bird), copper wire, cash, prescription drugs and everything in between. Most of the items aren't high dollar and there's nothing significant about the stolen property to link one incident to another.

In addition to random thefts, motor vehicle thefts are on the rise as well. In the last four weeks, 10 vehicles have been stolen, including two puffers and six that were unlocked with the keys inside the car. Two more were locked at the time of the theft, which tells deputies car thieves are becoming more sophisticated.

A concerning number of firearms have also been stolen from parked or unattended vehicles. In most cases, the vehicles were unlocked when the firearms and/or the cars were stolen. Several victims didn't know the serial number for their firearms.

The sheriff's office is asking the public to be vigilant and to report all suspicious activity. Be sure to collect actionable information such as a suspicious person's height, weight, type of clothing and sex, and/or the make, model, color and license plate of a suspicious vehicle.

If you drive with a firearm in your vehicle, be sure to bring it into the house and secure it at the end of the day. Write down the manufacturer, model, caliber and serial number so you have it in case it is stolen.

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Park your car in a garage or a well-lit area. If outdoor lighting is poor at your home, consider installing motion sensor lighting. Reasonably priced solar or battery powered motion lights can be purchased online or at local hardware stores.

Be sure to lock your doors and don't leave the keys inside your vehicles.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is asked to call the Weld County Sheriff's Office at (970) 356-4015 or Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**. **Tips can also be submitted through the Crime Stoppers website at [www.crimeshurt.com](http://www.crimeshurt.com). Those submitting tips through Crime Stoppers that lead to the arrest and filing of charges on a suspect(s) may be eligible for a cash reward.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Reams'.

Steve Reams – Sheriff