

1861-2011

150 WELD COUNTY

**Celebrating 150 Years
of Business**

SPONSORED BY:



Banner Health
North Colorado
Medical Center®



**GROW STRATEGICALLY.
GROW SMART.
GROW FOR THE FUTURE.**

The demand is there. The capital is ready. The time is right. With thousands of industrial parks in thousands of locations, the decision about where to go can be difficult. How do you choose the right place to spread your company's wings? While others may offer one piece of what you want – *location, infrastructure, cost savings, workforce, great neighbors, quality of life* – there's **only one industrial park that offers it all**, built around a modern railway service to bring materials to you and deliver your products to the world.



CENTRAL
THRIVING LOCATION

RAIL-SERVED
INDUSTRIAL PARK

CUSTOMIZABLE LOT SIZES
& CONFIGURATIONS

SKILLED, AVAILABLE
WORKFORCE.

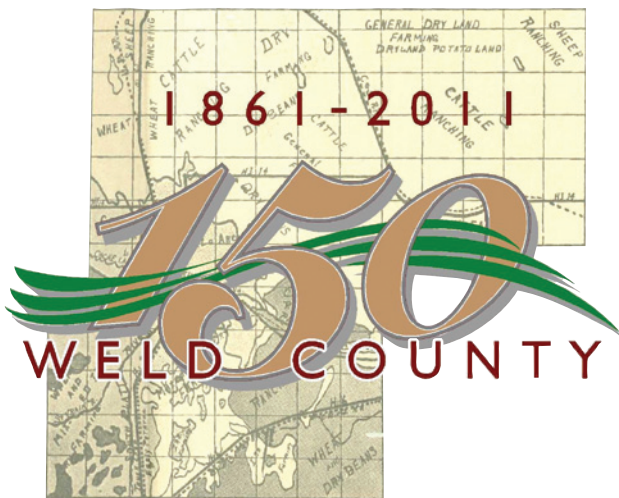
SOLID INFRASTRUCTURE
for HEAVY INDUSTRY.

IMPECCABLE QUALITY
of LIFE.



THE GREAT WESTERN
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

For more details, please call 970.686.8831



Publication Credits

Editor
Kay Rios

Writers
Victoria Lee
Michelle Venus

Graphic Designer
Carmen
Ruyle Hardy

Northern Colorado
**BUSINESS
REPORT**

Publisher
Jeff Nuttall

*Custom Publishing
Manager*
Sandy Powell

Senior Account Executive
Lindsay Gilliland

Account Executive
Julie Constance

BIZWEST LLC
MEDIA

The entire contents of this publication are copyrighted by BizWest Media, LLC and Weld County with all rights reserved. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited without permission.

Cover images clockwise from top left:

Circa 1902 – Irrigation on Abe Mumper farm, north of Greeley
City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

Fort Lupton
Fort Lupton Chamber of Commerce

Weld County Farm
Greeley Chamber of Commerce

Train stopped in Kersey, steam locomotive numbered 5015 used on local and thru trains. Two cars can be seen parked on the side of the train, and a large grain building is to the left of the cars.
City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection

Wind turbine farm
thebroker / istockphoto

Circa 1916 – a farm with dugout, sod house, horses, cattle, a buggy, windmill, and a group of people standing on the edge of an arroyo.
City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

Circa 1959 – Greeley Postcard, Downtown
8th Avenue looking north from 10th Street
City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

Table of Contents

From the County Commissioners..... 5

Weld County’s Cities and Towns
and Demographics..... 6

Weld County’s Roots in Agriculture 12

Great Western Rooted in Agriculture 14

Weld County’s Thriving Agri-Industry 16

Weld County’s Energy Resources..... 18

Great Western Oil & Gas Company.....22

Economic Growth and
Future Jobs in Weld County.....23

Weld County’s Water24

Weld County’s Economic Development26

Economic Development Organizations28

Weld County’s Commercial Icons29

Healthcare in Weld County30

Education in Weld County.....32

Weld County Rich in Arts and Culture.....34

Water Valley38





Check Out Our Listings Online
www.SearsRealEstate.com
 Office 970-330-7700
 Fax 970-330-4766

 facebook.com/searsre

Larry Dolgin,
Owner / President
The Feet



Driving business
growth for over
50 years.

Guaranty Bank and Trust is a Colorado-based community bank that helps businesses like The Feet reach maximum speed every day. Practical advice, personalized solutions and local decision making from a Northern Colorado banker. For business or personal banking needs, we're here to help you reach your financial goals.

GuarantyBankCO.com
970.454.4220 | 303.293.5500

 **GUARANTY BANK
AND TRUST COMPANY™**
Member FDIC



Energizing the World, Bettering People's Lives.

Noble Energy combines sophisticated technology with innovative teams of talented, goal-oriented people to achieve best-in-class execution as we discover new energy resources. Recognizing that success depends on the quality of our people, we hire talented professionals who share our commitment to excellence. You only become best in class when you dedicate yourself to everyone who has a stake in you—community, policymakers, investors and employees.

 **noble
energy**



From the County Commissioners

As one of Colorado’s original 17 counties, Weld County holds a proud place in our state’s history. Throughout 2011, we have celebrated that history by remembering the people and the events that helped shape Weld County into what it is today – a growing and thriving community that is home to agriculture, industry, institutes of higher learning and recreational opportunities.

Built on a solid foundation of hard-work and self-reliance, a foundation laid by the homesteaders, coal miners, farmers and ranchers who first settled here, Weld County has grown into one of the strongest counties in the state. We are the only county in Colorado without long-term debt. We are the top-producing agricultural county in the state; one of the top in the country. And we have been named one of the fastest growing counties in the nation during the past 10 years.

The future of Weld County is bright. The oil and gas industry, along with the renewable energy industry, continue to focus on Weld as an epicenter of energy production. Agri-business continues to expand and strengthen, and companies continue to relocate to Weld County in order to capitalize on both productivity and opportunity.

When we look back at the past 150 years, we look back at a proud heritage full of strength and ambition. When we look forward to the next 150 years, we can expect to see the same.

Happy anniversary Weld County!

Barbara Kirkmeyer
Barbara Kirkmeyer
Chair & District 3

David E. Long
David E. Long
District 1

Douglas Rademacher
Douglas Rademacher
District 2

Sean P. Conway
Sean P. Conway
Pro-Tem & At-Large

William "Bill" Garcia
William "Bill" Garcia
At-Large



While Fort Lupton was originally established as a fur trading post that was abandoned in the 1840s, the town of Fort Lupton continued to grow with settlers from the Colorado gold rush.

Weld County's Cities and Towns

Weld County covers an area of 3,999 square miles in north central Colorado. It is bordered on the north by Wyoming and Nebraska and on the south by the Denver metropolitan area. The third largest county in Colorado, Weld County has an area greater than that of Rhode Island, Delaware and the District of Columbia combined.

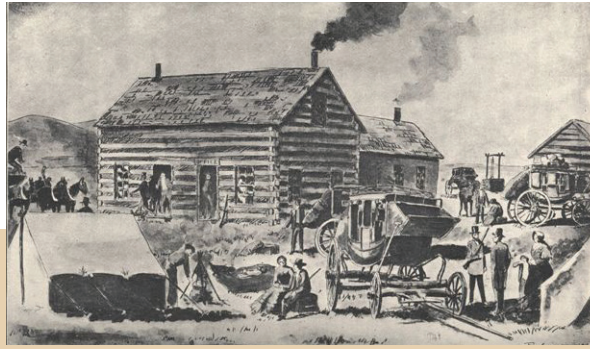
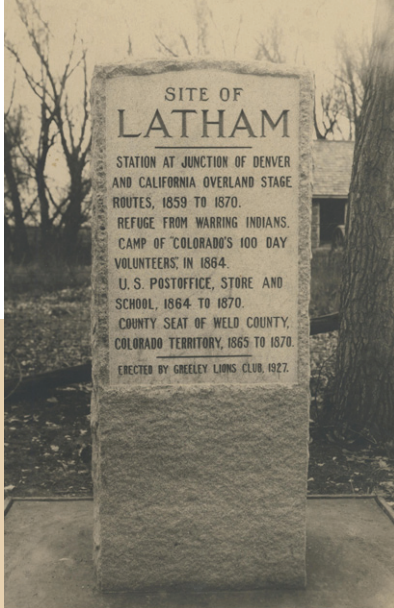
The climate is dry and generally mild with warm summers, mild winters and a growing season of approximately 138 days. The land surface is fairly level in the east, with rolling prairies and low hills near the western border. Elevations in the county range from 4,400 to 5,000 feet. The South Platte River and its tributaries, the Cache la Poudre, Big Thompson, Little Thompson, Boulder, St. Vrain, and other smaller streams, flow into Weld County from the south and west, leaving the county on the east. There are 31 incorporated towns in Weld County.

Weld's recorded history began in 1821 when Major Stephen H. Long made an expedition to the area. He reportedly said that the region would never be fit for human habitation and should remain forever the unmolested haunt of the native hunter, bison and jackal. Others did not share that view and, in 1835, a government expedition came through the area and a member of that party, Lt. Lancaster Lupton, returned in 1836 to establish a trading post just north of the present day Fort Lupton, the county's earliest settlement. In 1837, Colonel Ceran St. Vrain established Fort St. Vrain; in 1840, Fort Vasquez was built south of Platteville.

While Fort Lupton was originally established as a fur trading post that was abandoned in the 1840s, the town of Fort Lupton continued to grow with settlers from the Colorado gold rush.

In 1861, the U.S. Congress took parts of the Territories of Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico and Utah to create the Territory of Colorado. Weld County, named for the first territorial secretary, Lewis Ledyard Weld, was one of the 17 original counties established. All parts of Colorado east of Larimer County and north of the present Adams County were in the original Weld County. St. Vrain became the first county seat. Many of Weld County's cities and towns were established around rivers, stage stops and rail lines.

Greeley, a Home Rule municipality, has the largest population of any city in Weld County and it has one of the region's most compelling histories. Greeley is located three miles from the area previously occupied by the Overland Trail station of Latham. The Latham station, also known as Fort Latham, was built in 1862 and named after Milton S. Latham, one of California's early senators. The stagecoach station was at the union point of the South Platte River and the Cache la Poudre River. Because it was a river crossing and a junction for the trail south to Denver, it was likely the most important and busiest facility on the Overland Trail. Some historians have written that it was the birthplace of the first white child born in Colorado. Fort Latham was the headquarters for government troops during the Indian conflicts of 1860-64.



Fort Latham

Latham Station

Image from "The Overland Stage to California" by Frank A. Root, book reprinted by Long's College Book Co., Columbus, Ohio 1950

Latham Marker installed by the Greeley Lions Club in 1927 still stands. It is located at the original site of Latham trading center on the south bank of the South Platte River between modern Greeley and Kersey.

Image courtesy the Greeley Museums' Hazel E. Johnson Collection

The actual town of Greeley was founded in 1870 by New York Tribune agricultural editor Nathan Meeker, who wanted to start a utopian Western colony with guiding principles of temperance, cooperation, agriculture, education, faith, home and family. Originally named Union Colony, the community was renamed Greeley after New York Tribune publisher Horace Greeley, who was Meeker's editor at the Tribune. Greeley is credited with coining the phrase, "Go West, young man."

During the first 16 years of Weld County's history, the county seat was moved from St. Vrain to Latham (three miles east of the present Greeley) to Evans, to Greeley, to Evans again, and finally in 1877, returned to Greeley.

The city of Evans was established in 1867 and was named for the second Territorial Governor of Colorado, John Evans. Opposite of Greeley's foundation of temperance, Evans was known for its saloons. It also became Weld County's seat of government. That honor changed hands going to Greeley and then back to Evans. The two cities had definite personality clashes and, adding fuel to the fire, both vied for the county seat. The final decision came from Weld County Commissioners in 1877 establishing the county seat in Greeley. Legend holds that, at one point in the heated exchange, the county records were stolen by night-riders from Greeley, who also allegedly burned the courthouse.

North of Greeley, the towns of Eaton, Ault, Nunn, Pierce, Grover, grew up around Denver Pacific Railroad lines and have their roots in farming and ranching. South of Greeley, LaSalle, Gilcrest and Platteville were also established along rail lines.

The Cache La Poudre River and rail lines spurred the development of Johnstown and Milliken, south and west

of Greeley and Windsor, to the north of Greeley. Rail stations serving the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad (formerly Colorado & Southern) were established in Keenesburg and Kersey. Roggen and Hudson were water stops for the railroad while a spur of the CB&Q also ran to Prospect Valley to pick-up livestock. In the southwestern part of the county, coal-mining camps established in the 1870s were the foundation of Erie, Dacono, Firestone and Frederick.

A large segment of the Weld County region was settled by people of German descent who migrated from Russia in the early 1900's. Originally railroad workers, many later worked in the productive beet fields and eventually became prosperous landowners. Weld County's Spanish-surname population began to arrive during the mid 1920's as laborers for the sugar beet industry.

As it did in the early days, life still revolves around rivers and rail lines. The Cache La Poudre River is now a major recreation area with the 21-mile-long Poudre Trail that goes from Greeley to the Weld/Larimer county line. The rail lines are still there as well and provide needed product distribution for many of the county's major companies.

We make home an alternative.

To learn more about home care services, call Banner Home Care.

Loveland: 970-669-4435
Greeley: 970-350-6222
www.bannerhealth.com

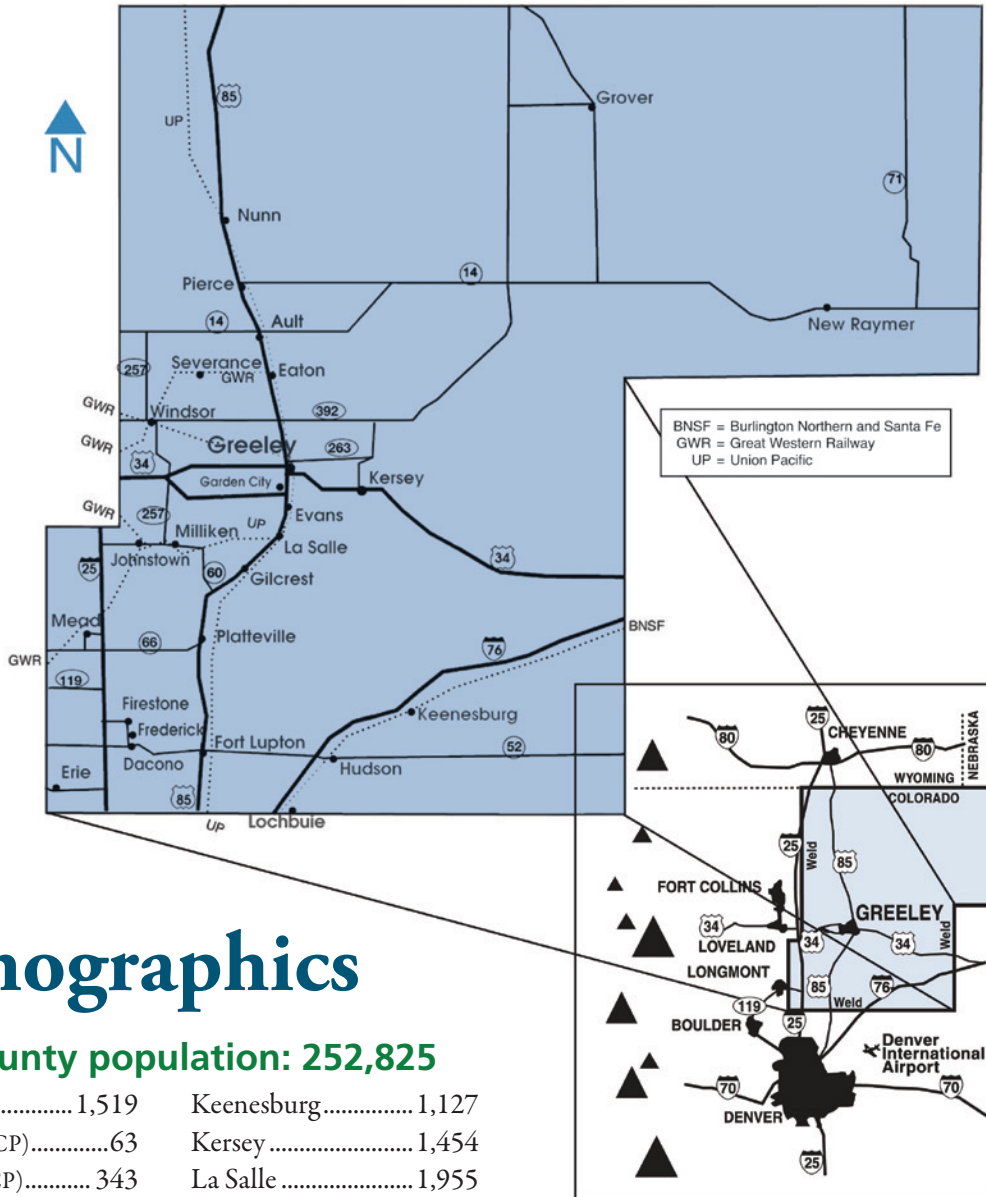


Banner Home Care



Weld County

3,992 square miles



Demographics

Weld County population: 252,825

Ault.....	1,519	Keenesburg.....	1,127
Berthoud (MCP).....	63	Kersey.....	1,454
Brighton (MCP).....	343	La Salle.....	1,955
Dacono.....	4,152	Lochbuie.....	4,726
Eaton.....	4,365	Longmont (MCP).....	30
Erie (MCP).....	18,135	Mead.....	3,405
Evans.....	18,537	Milliken.....	5,610
Firestone.....	10,147	Northglenn (MCP).....	12
Fort Lupton.....	7,377	Nunn.....	416
Frederick.....	8,679	Pierce.....	834
Garden City.....	234	Platteville.....	2,485
Gilcrest.....	1,034	Raymer.....	96
Greeley.....	92,899	Severance.....	3,165
Grover.....	137	Windsor (MCP).....	18,644
Hudson.....	2,356	Unincorporated.....	44,361
Johnstown (MCP).....	9,887		

MCP = Multi County Place

Upstate Colorado Economic Development

Average household income
\$66,004

High school graduate or higher
82.8 percent

Key industry sectors
Agriculture/food processing, oil and gas,
alternative energy manufacturing

2010 Census, Upstate Colorado Economic Development

*Source: 2010 Census / Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Horace Greeley



Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, championed the causes of women, slaves, temperance and workers and helped to promote the Union Colony that initiated the town named for him, Greeley, Colorado. Though unable to win his 1872 presidential campaign, he did win generations of loyal readers with his writing style and adopted slogan, "Go West, young man." City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

North of Greeley, the towns of Eaton, Ault, Nunn, Pierce and Grover grew up around Denver Pacific Railroad lines and have their roots in farming and ranching.

Circa 1940s Prairie View area northeast of Ault and east of Nunn – Elmer Diehl, dryland farmer and rancher Diehl Family Collection



A large segment of the Weld County region was settled by people of German descent who migrated from Russia in the early 1900's.



Circa 1900 – German-Russian sugar beet harvesters, women & babies, on the Elizabeth Kern Farm City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

40 of the 150 Years!

Columbine Cares for Seniors

www.columbinehealth.com 970-488-3777

South of Greeley, LaSalle, Gilcrest and Platteville were established along rail lines.



Left: 1870 – *First train into Greeley* City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection

Center: *LaSalle Depot and (“Double Bug”) motor coach express car on Greeley to Briggsdale electric train*
City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection

Deeply rooted in Weld County since 1968.

Congratulations on
150 Years!

ANDERSON & WHITNEY

Honesty
Integrity
Trust

Tax Services • Audit and Review • Small Business Support
Business Valuations • Litigation Support • Trusts & Estates
(970) 352-7990 www.awhitney.com

Loyally serving Northern Colorado for more than 40 years

Every small business needs a dream...

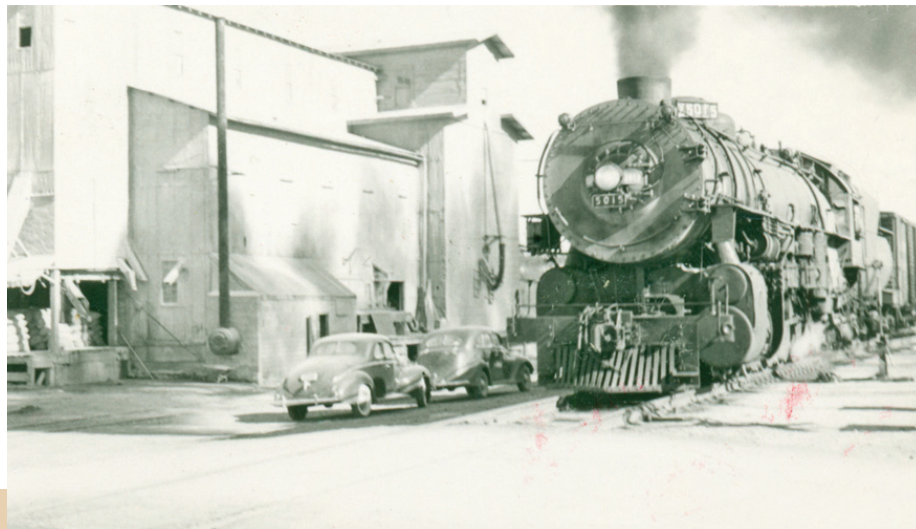
We can help make that dream come true.

At Points West Community Bank, we have the strength and stability to help make your business dreams a reality. We work with you to give you the opportunity to keep Northern Colorado great and growing. Please visit or call any of our five locations. Locally Owned & Operated.

www.pwcbank.com

1291 Main St. Windsor, CO 80550 (970) 686-0878	8100 6th St. Wellington, CO 80549 (970) 568-3250	 POINTSWEST Community Bank
355 Eastman Park Dr. Windsor, CO 80550 (970) 674-3600	805 Compassion Dr. Windsor, CO 80550 (970) 674-5502	A New Direction in Banking
6801 West 20th St. Greeley, CO 80634 (970) 330-1200		

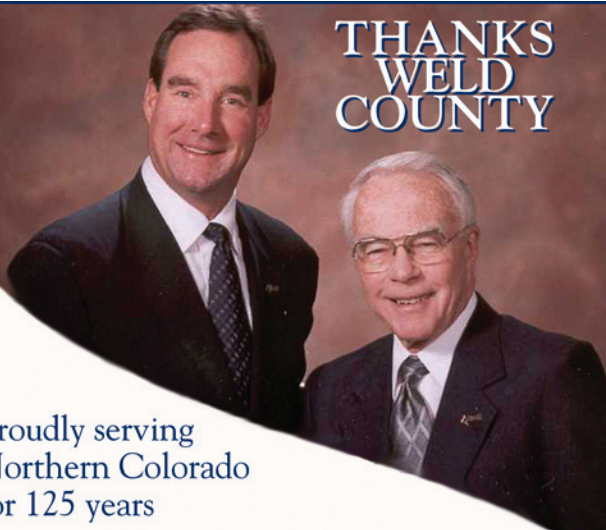
Rail stations were also established in Keenesburg, Kersey, Roggen, Hudson and Prospect Valley.



Above: Steam locomotive numbered 5015 (used on local and thru trains) stopped in Kersey

City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection

**THANKS
WELD
COUNTY**



Proudly serving Northern Colorado for 125 years


Rick and Bill Allnutt

"After five generations, and over a century, not much has changed in our philosophy of caring for people. Our sincere interest in people is a family trait of which we are proud, and one that we inherited from our forefathers. It is essential in the service we provide, and caring for others will carry us into the next generation."

Allnutt Funerals • Cremation
Pre-Planning • Reception:
Serving Northern Colorado for 125 years.

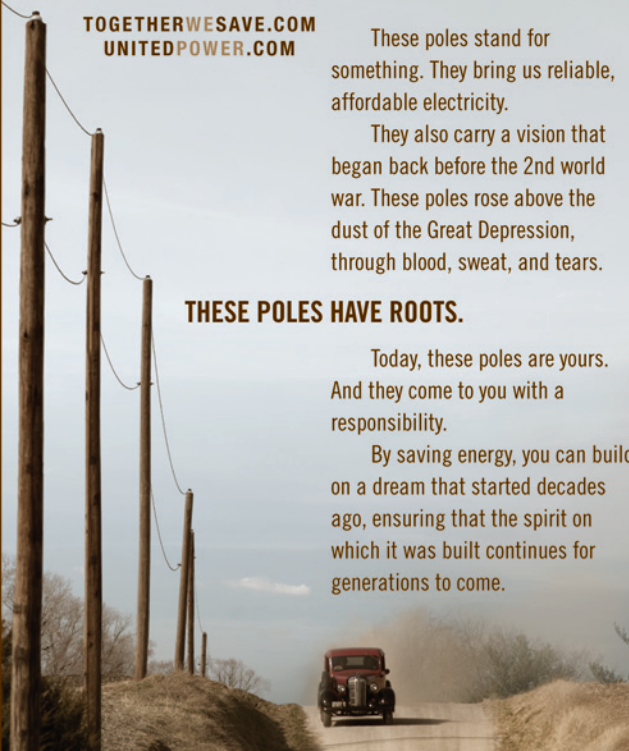
Estes Park 970-586-3101	Greeley 970-352-3366	Fort Collins 970-482-3208	Loveland 970-667-1121
----------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------

www.allnutt.com



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM
UNITEDPOWER.COM



These poles stand for something. They bring us reliable, affordable electricity.

They also carry a vision that began back before the 2nd world war. These poles rose above the dust of the Great Depression, through blood, sweat, and tears.

THESE POLES HAVE ROOTS.

Today, these poles are yours. And they come to you with a responsibility.

By saving energy, you can build on a dream that started decades ago, ensuring that the spirit on which it was built continues for generations to come.



Weld County's Roots in Agriculture

Settlers first crossing the plains of Weld County regarded the land as unacceptable for farming because of its aridity. That, however, proved to be a faulty assumption as agriculture became the foundation of the area's fertile development.

Cattlemen were the first to realize the potential of the land, bringing their herds to pasture on the open range to fatten them for resale. Sheep were introduced to the area in the 1890s for the same purpose. Until wired fencing was introduced, heated debate cropped up between the cattlemen and the sheepherders over the free-range grasses.

The federal Homestead Act of 1862 allocated parcels of Indian land to tax-paying newcomers. A “booster” movement in the 1870s promoted the area by making low-cost land available. Clusters of pioneers arrived to settle in agriculture-based settlements, the most notable of which was Horace Greeley’s Union Colony.

The first work toward irrigating the land began immediately. Reservoirs, wells and groundwater pumps were constructed. Steam-powered tractors increased farming production, and newly built railroads encouraged the exportation of agricultural products.

The first major crops of the late 1800s were sugar beets and potatoes, which were well-suited to the arid climate. Sugar beet factories were built at Eaton and Greeley in 1902; Windsor in 1903; and, Fort Lupton and Johnstown in the 1920s.

Alfalfa was added as a sugar beet rotation crop to supplement the feed of livestock and dairy herds. In 1939, the first alfalfa dehydrating plant was built in Johnstown. Fields of wheat, corn and oats were also cultivated and mills were constructed to process the products.

The newcomers invariably experienced times of strife. Some years, grasshopper plagues consumed the crops. There were drought-induced agricultural panics in 1873 and 1893. Summer dust storms blew away the fields in some years and, in others, winter blizzards proved detrimental to livestock. The market boomed and crashed periodically influenced by outside factors such as The Depression, WWI and WWII.

Immigrants and Agriculture

Weld County’s agricultural roots relied heavily on the labor of immigrant workers. Despite the fact that the settlers, themselves, were not native to the area, the people who arrived to work the fields of Weld County were idiosyncratically termed immigrants. In 1883, German-Russians began to settle in the area, bringing their particular skill-set of farming arid climates. As sugar beets thrived, these “Stoopers,” as they were called, were recruited to farm the land and labor in the processing factories. Communities such as Windsor, which was initially a German-Russian town, housed the workers.

Greeley sugar beet factory with water tower on left

City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection

*Circa 1902 –
Irrigation on Abe Mumper
farm, north of Greeley*

City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection



Escaping from west-coast discrimination, Japanese-Americans arrived in the early 1900s to work the fields. Most were subsequently taken to internment camps during WWII.

In 1910, homesteaders enticed Mexican migrant workers from revolutionary war conditions. Transient shacks sheltered them seasonally and a Spanish Colony was constructed in 1924. The employment of Mexicans increased with the onset of WWI as did the related prejudice toward

German-Russians. Today, workers from a variety of countries including Somalia and Burma are working at the Swift Plant and are not only contributing to the agricultural industry in Weld County, but also adding to the cultural diversity of the community.

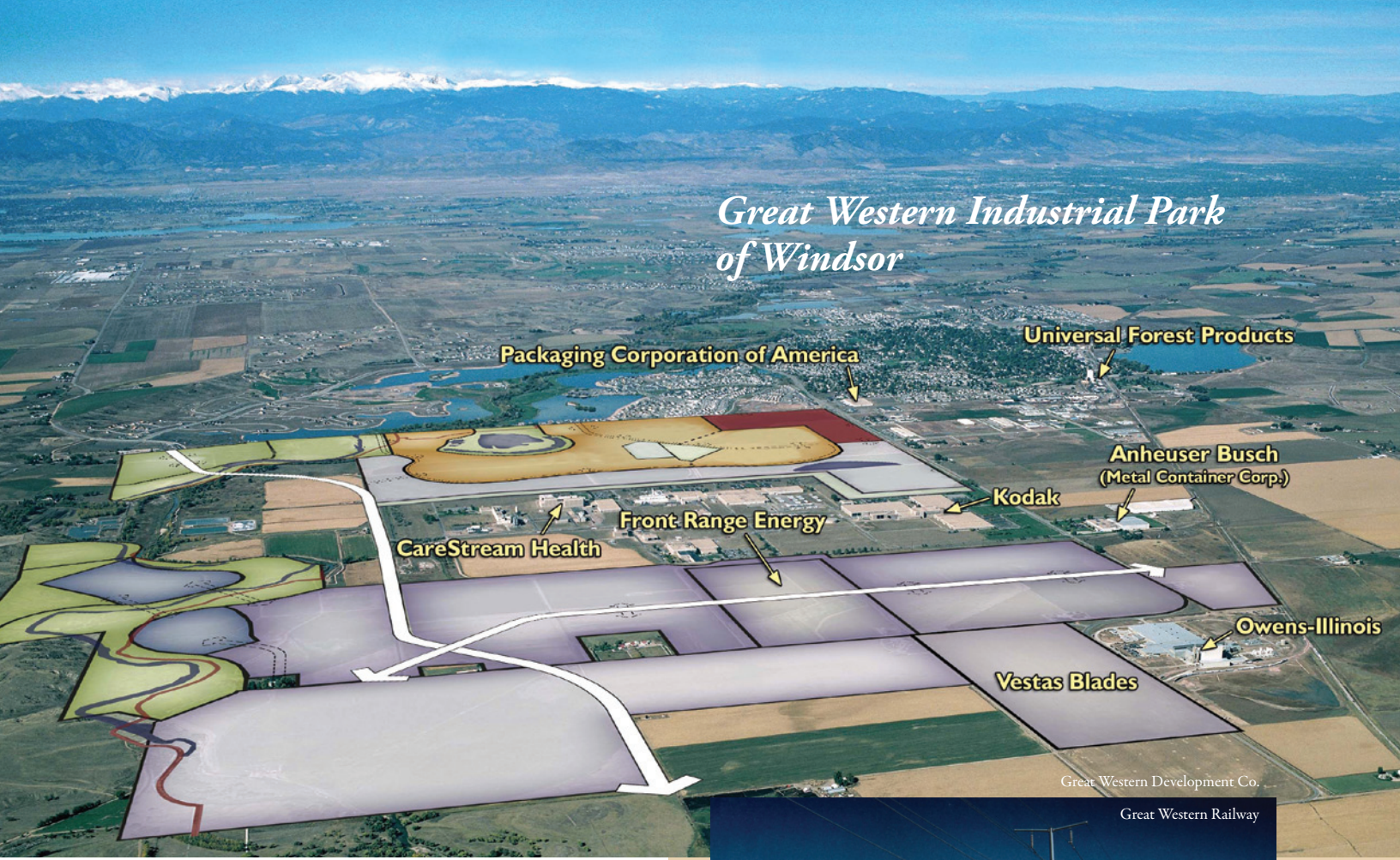
Agriculture in Weld County remains viable as an economic industry, providing jobs and products for northern Colorado.



*Dairy farmers nourishing people
and planet with world-class care.*

**Western Dairy Association and local dairy farm families
would like to congratulate Weld County for 150 years.
Thank you to Weld County for many years of building a
strong business environment and a thriving community.**





Great Western Growing with Weld County

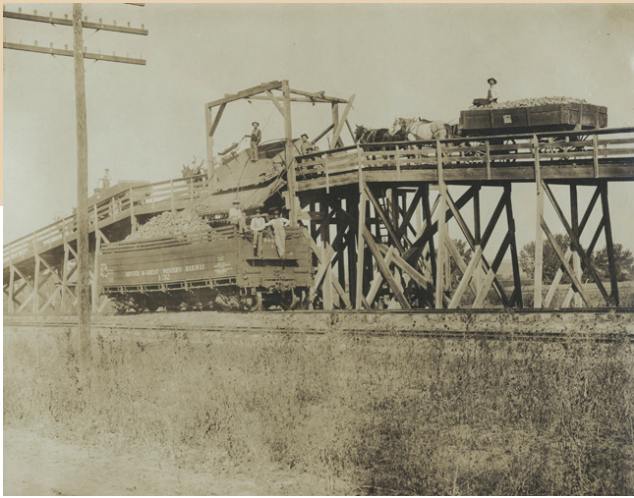


Great Western is one of the oldest companies operating in Weld County. The company was originally grounded in sugar beets and immediately expanded to include the local railroad as a major asset to the business.

The Great Western Sugar Company (GWS) was founded in 1903 when it built factories in Greeley and Windsor. The Great Western Railway (GWR), built between 1901 and 1906, predominately served GWS as a matter of self-sufficiency. The railroad system transported sugar beets to the factories and the refined products to points of distribution. The railroad also shipped lime rock, which aided in the sugar refinery process, and coal to the factories.

Today, the commercial arm of Great Western operates under the Broe Group with a three-tiered commercial focus in Weld County: real estate, transportation and energy. One of the most recent real estate projects is the Great Western Industrial Park of Windsor, which has been launched as a production and manufacturing epicenter. Other real estate endeavors include the acquisition of additional acreage for the energy side of the business.

GWR, now a subsidiary of OmniTRAX, fulfills transportation needs by connecting northern Colorado locations, including those of the industrial park, to one another and to other railway interchanges. GWR continues



Load of beets hauled by horse teams being dumped into a freight train-car at the Johnstown sugar beet dump to be taken to the sugar factory

City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection

***The Great Western Railway,
built between 1901 and 1906,
predominately served
The Great Western Sugar Company
as a matter of self-sufficiency.***

to ship agricultural products including brewing grains and beer for Anheuser-Busch along with several other regionally manufactured goods for companies such as CareStream Health, and Owens-Illinois, Inc. (O-I).

Great Western Oil & Gas Company, LLC (GWOG) is focused on the mining exploration and development of energy resources, predominantly in the areas of coal, oil and

gas. In 2005, GWOG began production with its first test-drilling site in the outlying area of Windsor's Wattenberg Field. Further drilling programs are being aggressively sited with wells at the Niobrara Play, a shale formation in the Denver-Julesburg (D-J) Basin.

Great Western has a Windsor-based field operation and is headquartered in Denver.

**We put our
energy into keeping
you safe.**

ATMOS
energy®
Your natural gas company

ACM
Anton Collins Mitchell LLP
Accountants & Consultants

ACM CELEBRATES A 33 YEAR HISTORY
SERVING NORTHERN COLORADO.

IN OCTOBER 2010 WATKINS & SCHOMMER, INC.
COMBINED THEIR PRACTICE WITH ACM.

Some People.
Some Place.
Greater Depth.

Northern Colorado
970.352.1700

An Independent Member of
**BDO
SEIDMAN
ALLIANCE**
www.acmlp.com

Denver
303.830.1120



Weld County's Thriving Agri-Industry

Weld County's agri-industry is strong, leading the state of Colorado and ranking third in the nation. Current day primary agri-products in Weld are beef and dairy cattle, alfalfa, grain and sugar beets.

The Agriculture Industry

Since the 1870s, farmers of Weld County have grown corn, wheat and alfalfa for livestock feed. In the 1930s, a surplus of corn caused by the advent of steam tractors promoted the growth of the local beef industry. Today, Weld County is second largest corn producer in Colorado.

Sugar beets were the first "cash" crop in Weld County with production dating back to the 1800s. The Great Western Sugar Company built its Greeley and Eaton factories in 1902. Plants were added in Windsor (1903), Fort Lupton (1920) and Johnstown (1926). In 1985, the company

was sold and later repurchased by the Western Sugar Cooperative in 2002. In 2008, the Greeley site was sold to Leprino Foods.

By 1919, potatoes were doing well in "Spudville." The first Spud Rodeo was held in 1922 in honor of the potato crop (today it is the Greeley Independence Stampede – the world's largest 4th of July rodeo). Spud Chips, later Clover Club, was built in 1937 and operated until 1963.

Cucumbers also fared well: the Kuner pickle factory opened in 1889. In 1950, Kuner began canning produce and harvesting corn, which was then sold to Monfort. Kuner closed in 1962.

We haven't been around for 150 Years yet but we plan to be!

Congratulations!

NORCO

CPAs

- Tax Planning/Preparation
- CFO Consulting
- Reviews - Compilations
- Strategic Business Planning
- Internal Controls
- Bank Financing
- Cash Flow Management
- New Business Formation
- Small Business Accounting
- QuickBooks Services

970 351-7480

6500 29th St., Suite 260 • Greeley, CO, 80634

J-9

Crop Insurance

SPECIALIZING IN ALL OF YOUR CROP INSURANCE NEEDS

SUPPORTING LOCAL AG SINCE 1997

Mike & Janine Freeman

217 1st Street, Ault • 970-834-1160

Congratulations to Weld County on 150 Great Years!

*July 4, 1942 – Greeley Spud
Rodeo Bucking Bronco*

City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection

Greeley Independence Stampede

Greeley Independence Stampede



The Livestock Industry

Beef cattle top Weld County's livestock industry. In 1930, Warren Monfort began with 18 heads of cattle. He began to develop feedlots so that the market would be well stocked, and he added to the feedlot herd based on corn surplus over the years. He later added herds of sheep and pigs. In 1950, the first meat packing factories were built in Pierce and Windsor; Monfort's opened in 1960 and a second Monfort packing factory opened in 1970. JBS USA

now operates the Monfort properties with feedlots near Gilcrest/LaSalle and Kuner/Kersey and a processing plant in Greeley.

By 1946, Weld County held several dairies including Beatrice Foods, Goldsmith's and Quality. While the dairy industry has suffered recently, Weld expects an upturn. As an example, Great Western Dairy is expanding in response to the future needs of Greeley's newcomer, cheese producer Leprino Foods.

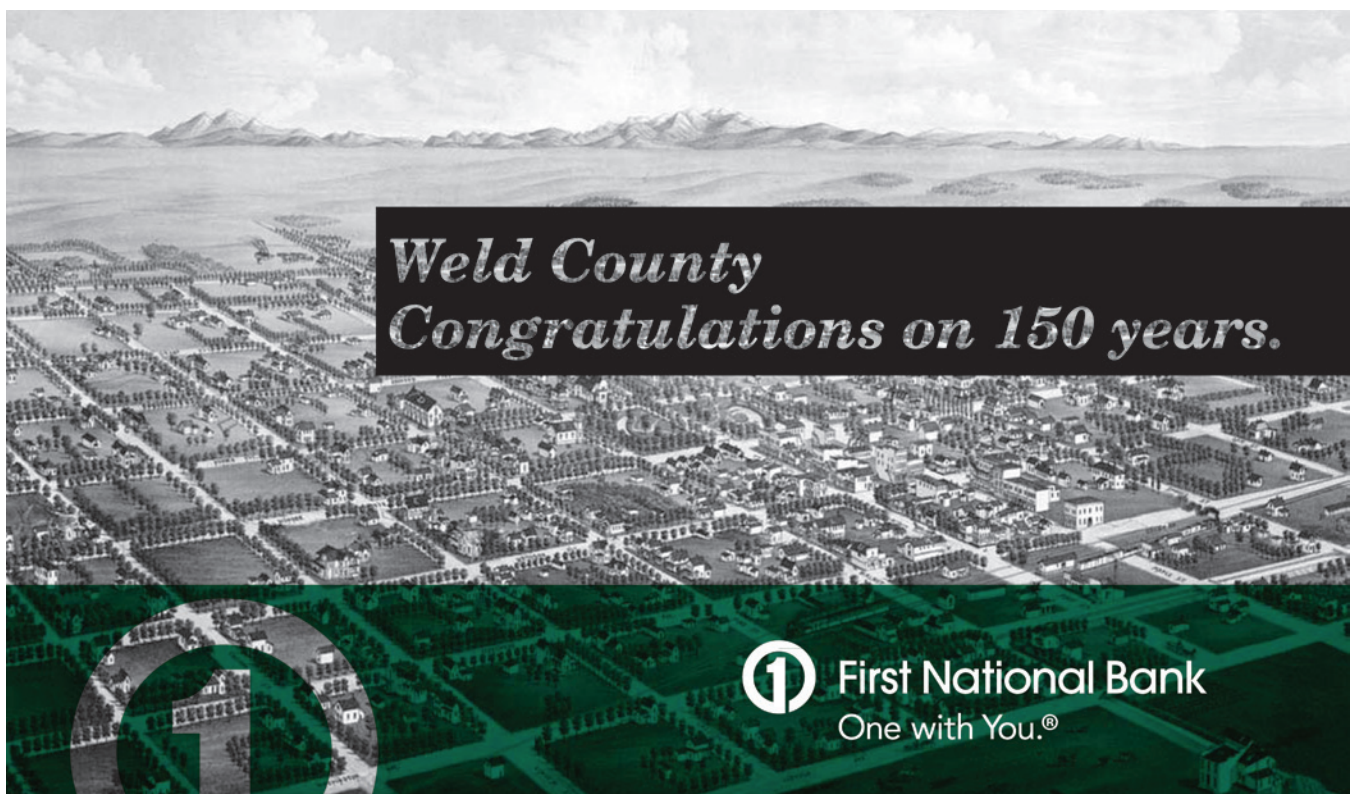


Photo printed with permission: ©Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.

First National Bank is a division of First National Bank of Omaha.





The world's largest wind turbine manufacturer made Windsor the home of its newest production site.

Ponnequin Wind Farm / Xcel Energy

Weld County's Energy Resources

Coal

The first coal mines in Weld County were already operative in the early 1870s. Mining continued through the years to varying degrees and, by 1950, Weld County was the second largest coal producer in the state.

Electricity

In 1939, the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association (REA), a member-owned cooperative, was established in Severance. Prior to that time, farmers and ranchers living in rural locations did so without electricity. With new commercial customers such as Vestas, REA continues to grow and respond to changing electricity needs in the rural sector.

Oil and Natural Gas

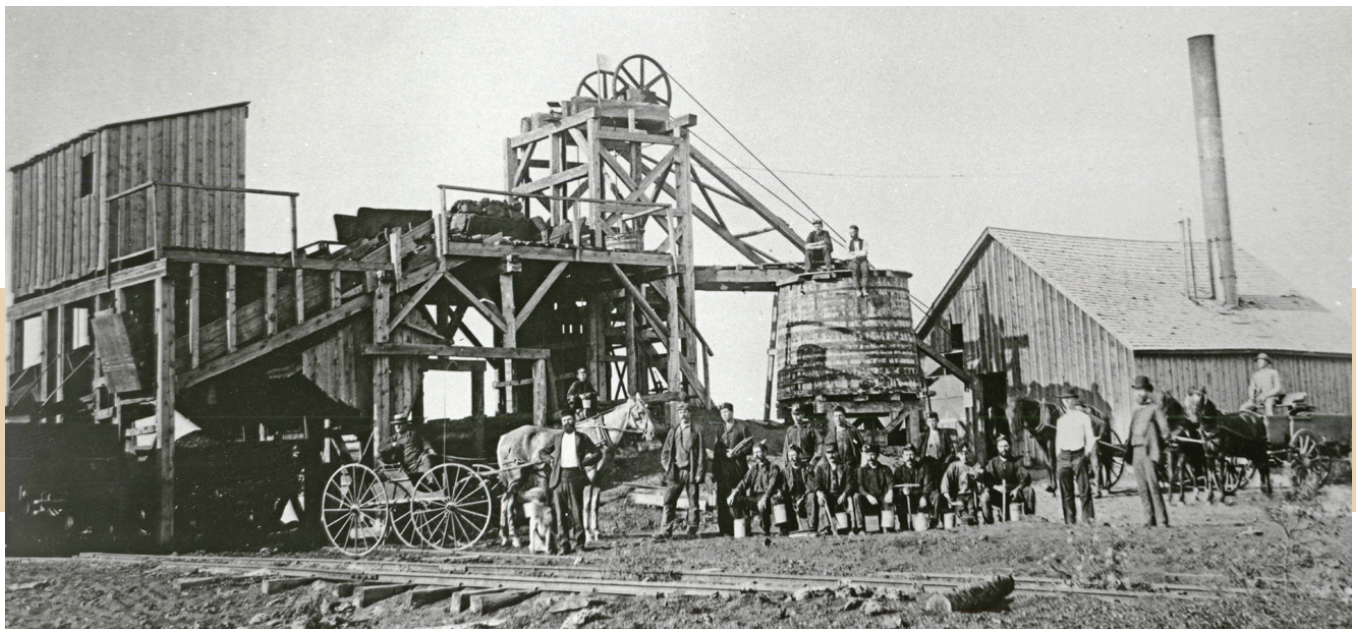
In 1950, oil was found west of Fort Morgan, which was, at that time, in Weld County. This naturally led to further exploration in various locations, although none were overly notable. However, the 2009 discovery of the Niobrara Shale Play, much of it located in Weld across the Denver-Julesburg (D-J) Basin, is changing the landscape of the County's oil.

Oil and natural gas companies are staking their claims at Niobrara and retaining central and field offices locally to support the work: Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in Evans; EOG Resources at Hereford Ranch; Halliburton in Fort Lupton; Noble Energy, Inc. in Greeley; and Synergy Resource Corporation in Platteville. Other companies drilling at Niobrara in Weld County include: Bill Barrett & Corporation, Carrizo Oil & Gas, Chesapeake Energy, Encana Natural Gas, Voyager Oil & Gas, and Whiting Petroleum Company. Weld County now leads the state in oil production.

The relevance of the Niobrara activity to Weld County jobs is obvious. Although many drill-sites will be front-end employee-intensive, ongoing transportation jobs will be created and processing plants will quickly follow as with DCP Midstream in LaSalle and UQM Technologies near Frederick. Rural roads are being paved and upgraded, quickly transforming the face of Weld County's countryside.

Alternative Energies

Vestas leads in wind power production in the area. The world's largest wind turbine manufacturer made Windsor



the home of its newest production site adding to Weld County's attractive energy portfolio and its employment opportunities. BP Wind Energy and Xcel Energy also have projects in Weld County.

Front Range Energy, an ethanol plant, is located in Windsor. Heartland Renewable Energy plans to build its first facility near Gilcrest. This will be a plant that converts organic material (cattle manure, for the most part) into bio-gas fuel.

When you're ready to grow,
we're ready to help.

At First FarmBank, we offer a full range of banking services for the businesses that make Weld County a great place to live and work. Whether you need a loan, Remote Deposit services or Merchant Card, we're here for you.



www.firstfarmbank.com
127 22nd St., just off Hwy. 85
970-346-7900
Greeley, CO



When it comes to bringing you reliable power,
we go the extra mile

In every corner of our 2,000 square mile service territory, from suburban neighborhoods to distant ranches and even to thriving businesses like Vestas, Poudre Valley REA delivers the electricity that powers Northern Colorado.

So, whether you're building your dream home or a new manufacturing plant there is one thing you can count on. We'll be there when you need us.

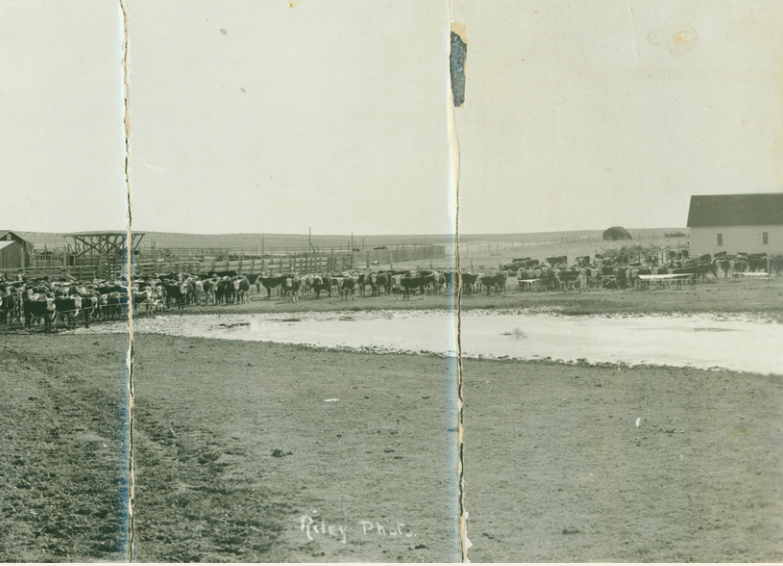




150 WELD COUNTY



Clockwise from top left:
Klug Ranch with windmill & cows
 City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection
Circa 1902, Briggsdale area
– Pool roundup camp at the forks of Little Crow Creek
 City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection



Colorized photograph of Japanese workers harvesting an onion field in Weld County City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection

Circa 1916 – A farm with dugout, sod house, horses, cattle, a buggy, windmill, and a group of people standing on the edge of an arroyo City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

A two-horse & two-mule team pulling a wagon loaded with sugar beets City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

Circa 1900 – Germans from Russia working as sugar beet harvesters on the Kern farm with the Windsor Great Western Sugar Factory in the background

City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

1910 Briggsdale – Likely Arthur Henry Nelson digging a well on his ranch City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

Great Western Oil & Gas Company

Great Western Oil & Gas Company, LLC (GWOG), an independent Denver-based fossil fuel exploration and production enterprise, was founded in 2005 by The Broe Group, an investment firm of Denver. That year it embarked on its initial test drilling operation on a 1,500-acre parcel of land called Wattenberg Field near Windsor, CO.

GWOG began its examination of the Denver-Julesburg (D-J) Basin portion of the Niobrara Play in 2006. Using the newer technique and technology of hydraulic fracturing of horizontal drilling at that location, Great Western has since quadrupled its number of wells and its oil production. GWOG continues to expand within the D-J Basin.

Citing its aggressive property and lease acquisitions and its strong drilling programs as key factors in the company's success there and elsewhere, GWOG also looks toward the further development of the area through its tactical joint-venture affiliate partnerships. GWOG touts its technical and financial capabilities as major company assets.

It is estimated that for every successful well drilled 100 new jobs are created.

Great Western's focus is on the development of areas having low-to-moderate risk, strong economics and a fundamental focus on oil. Despite Colorado's somewhat strict industry regulations, the D-J Basin is not as affected as other areas of the state because of the largely rural nature of its land use. Weld County is a prime market for Great Western's future exploration and development plans because the residents seem to perceive the economic value of such measures to the community.

Weld County boasts the greatest number of active wells in the state, and it is estimated that for every successful well drilled 100 new jobs are created. Additionally, roughly 42% of the County's general fund revenue is currently derived from the property taxes of the oil and gas industry.

Small Business is OUR BUSINESS

CONGRATULATIONS to Brenda and Richard Lucio on the opening of a delicious "Hot" new

PALOMINO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

located at 6190 E. Crossroads Blvd., Loveland. Their original Palomino restaurant is located at 3390 23rd Ave. in Greeley. Check them out!

NEW WEST BANK is honored to be your financial partner.

NEW WEST BANK

3459 West 20th St., Greeley, 970.378.1800

55 South Elm Avenue, Eaton, 970.454.1800

Local decisions. Service. Local ownership.



Economic Growth and Future Jobs in Weld County

“Weld County accounts for nearly 40% of the oil and gas wells in Colorado... this sector is expected to continue at a steady pace for years to come.”

Arina Habich / veer

Weld County Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer is optimistic about economic and job growth. With the arrival of Leprino Foods, growth is anticipated in both the agricultural and dairy industry, she says.

In addition, she explains, “Weld County accounts for nearly 40% of the oil and gas wells in Colorado. With the Wattenberg Field and the Niobrara Play, job growth in this sector is expected to continue at a steady pace for years to come.”

Weld is the “energy county” of the state, Kirkmeyer says. “With one of the largest wind farms in the country, several other renewable energy companies are also looking to locate here.”

There’s another reason, she adds. “Our open-for-business attitude, along with our lack of sales- or use-tax, makes Weld County a very attractive place to live and work.”

CONNECTING TO OUR COMMUNITY

Connecting Point of Greeley congratulates Weld County on its 150th anniversary.

Supporting the community that supports us as a family and as a business is important to us.

Staying ahead of the ever changing technology curve

We Specialize In

MANAGED SERVICES • NETWORKING • VOIP • CLOUD • PRODUCTS

Connecting Point 
 The Technology Professionals

www.cpgreeley.com

GREELEY

970-356-7224

LARAMIE

307-745-8966

DENVER

720-354-4070

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Colorado Takes Off!

New Aerospace Exhibit



Greeley History Museum Opens Saturday, December 10

Sit in an actual World War I biplane, watch and listen to Colorado astronauts and pilots, see intriguing aerospace artifacts and photos!

www.greeleymuseums.com • 970-350-9220

714 8th St. Greeley, CO



Weld County's Water

In 1869, Horace Greeley, the editor of the New York Tribune, journeyed through Colorado and saw possibility at the confluence of two rivers: the South Platte and the Cache la Poudre. Even though the bottomland was dusty and dry, Greeley envisioned verdant and fertile farmlands stretching across the vast plains.

"The Cache-a-la-Poudre River comes down from the Rocky Mountains clear as crystal, and with little labor ice-cold water can be brought into the houses of every family, for there is sufficient head to force it up the highest building. The cost of irrigation will be much less than anticipated."

Based on this proclamation in a New York Tribune article and with stories about untold opportunities in the West, pioneers came across the Great Plains and settled the agrarian Union Colony, at the meeting of these two great rivers in the spring of 1870. Nathan Cook Meeker, agricultural editor at Greeley's publication and a founder of the colony, said the colonists were "bound by kindred ties; each with a past checkered by sad experiences and glad mementoes, yet each looking forward to a future full of promise."

Fulfilling this promise meant bringing water to the desolate flatlands. And that meant building a system of canals and ditches so that the water could flow away from the rivers and into the fields. One of the colonists, Benjamin H. Eaton, who later went on to become a governor of Colorado, guaranteed his commitment to building ditches thus ensuring the success of the Union Colony. In fact, B.H. Eaton dug the first ditch in Weld County by hand with his own pick and shovel in 1874. Over the next 60 years, an extensive water system was built and included

canals, ditches and reservoirs that culminated in the Colorado-Big Thompson water project (C-BT).

Authorized by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1937 and headed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the C-BT was a large and technically demanding trans-mountain diversion project. It would bring water from the headwaters of the Colorado River on the Western Slope through a 13.2-mile tunnel drilled underneath the Continental Divide. Today, waters from the C-BT fill twelve reservoirs and provide 33 communities along the Front Range with supplemental water. William D. (W.D.) Farr, a third-generation Coloradoan and Weld County rancher, was dedicated to improving agriculture and water development. Farr was instrumental in the development of the C-BT and later served on the Board of Directors of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District in Berthoud. In 1995, Farr was inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Formed in 1965, Greeley-based Central Colorado Water Conservancy District (CCWCD) is one of more than 20 water conservancy districts throughout the state. It functions to develop, manage and protect northeastern Colorado's water resources across parts of three counties. In Weld County alone, the CCWCD oversees nearly 200 reservoirs. These reservoirs collect snowmelt and rainwater for use during the drier summer months.

The CCWCD provides guidelines for residents and business to conserve water. "We recommend the use of low-flow toilets and high efficiency washers," says Kathy Parker, Information/Education at the CCWCD. "We also work with businesses and homeowners during building renovations so that they are being as efficient as possible."



West Greeley Conservation District

The West Greeley Conservation District (WGCD) was established in Weld County in 1948. A total of 1,650,000 acres is covered by the district, of which 1,390,000 acres are private and 260,000 are federal and state land. Its primary goal is to fully support conservation planning that promotes the preservation of prime agricultural land and water quality through wise land use. WGCD is also a leader in natural resources education and outreach.

The WGCD combines education and landowner support to encourage conservation planning that promotes local, agronomic and economic sustainability through wise land use. It helps implement the mechanisms associated with natural resource systems through cost share and educational programming and provides outreach to citizens and stakeholders. As it investigates, records and disseminates information about WGCD's natural resources, it also promotes a comprehensive conservation ethic for the effective and appropriate management and sustainable use of natural resources. It has a variety of programs and efforts in the areas of water quality and quantity, soil erosion, range management and noxious weeds.

Left: *Circa 1954 – Columbine Ditch, part of the City of Greeley Water Supply System.*

City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

Center: *Adams Tunnel construction workers, part of Colorado-Big Thompson Project*

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Above: *July 5, 1938 – Directors and Officers of Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District at signing of repayment contract with United States for Construction of Colorado-Big Thompson Project*

City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

“Your compassion and strength are a needed “rock” in times of bewilderment ...”

For 33 years, Hospice of Northern Colorado has provided the highest level of physical, spiritual and emotional care to Weld County patients and their families. With superior medical care and genuine compassion, we treat patients with the respect, kindness and focus on quality of life.

Whether care is in-home or inpatient, Hospice of Northern Colorado provides nursing care and assistance, pain management, emotional and spiritual support and more.

Hospice, it's how you live.

 **HOSPICE**
OF NORTHERN COLORADO

To learn more, call 970-352-8487 or visit us at www.hospiceofnortherncolorado.org

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS!

At Farmers Bank, all deposits and money stay here to support and fund other local businesses. These people are your customers, your neighbors and your friends.



**Farmers
BANK**

119 First St., Ault CO • 970.834.2121 • 800.241.4440
713 S. Lemay Ave., • Ft. Collins CO • 970.221.2020

www.farmersbank-weld.com



Member FDIC



Weld County's Economic Development

When State Farm Insurance was looking for places to open regional offices in the early 1960s, the company chose Evans for three reasons.

“It was the quality of the workforce, the proximity to Denver and the quality of the community that convinced the company Weld County was a great place,” said Alan Miller, Assistant Public Affairs Manager at State Farm’s Great Western Zone Operations Center, which has called Weld County home since June 1963. It outgrew its Evans location and moved to Greeley a decade ago.

The same factors have influenced other companies to locate in Weld County through the years, including Kodak in Windsor, call center StarTek, which started in Greeley in 1987, and more recently Vestas, Hexcel, Abound Solar and Leprino Foods.

While Weld County’s business roots have been in agriculture and oil and gas production, the county has also attracted a myriad of other companies – from call centers to food processing plants – because of its many attributes.

JBS Swift, the world’s largest protein processor, most recently added a trucking division and acquired Pilgrim’s Pride Poultry in 2010, bringing 200+ executive-level jobs to Greeley.

In response to the recent explosion of oil/gas drilling activity, Noble Energy, Halliburton and Anadarko Petroleum have each expanded Weld County operations; collectively adding

over 500 new jobs and 250,000+ square feet of facility space. “The community and the quality of the workforce continue to be driving influences in companies locating here,” said Eric Berglund, interim President and CEO of Upstate Colorado Economic Development.

In the past few years, the county has become a hotbed for clean-energy companies. Danish wind energy giant Vestas looked at more than 70 communities in North America before choosing Windsor for its first blade production facility in North America, which opened in 2008 with 650 employees. A nacelle plant and second blade manufacturing facility opened in 2010-11 which will bring total company employment to about 1,350.

“The character of the workforce was very important to them,” Berglund said. “Their target was to have less than a 10 percent annual turnover. In their first year here, they had a 3 percent turnover. That’s reflective of the quality workforce that exists in this county.”

Along with Vestas came Hexcel, a company that produces the carbon fiber used in Vestas blades and Bach Composites, a nacelle component manufacturer. Also in 2009, Abound Solar opened a production facility in southern Weld County and in 2010 UQM began large scale manufacturing of electric vehicle propulsion systems.

Weld County is also home to beef processor Colorado Premium, the country’s largest producer of corned beef.



Circa 1959 – Greeley Postcard, Downtown 8th Avenue looking north from 10th Street

City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection

Early 1900s – Greeley City Hall and bell tower

City of Greeley Museums, Hazel E. Johnson Collection



And this year, Denver-based Leprino Foods opened phase 1 of a new 800,000-square-foot flagship cheese processing facility in Greeley that will eventually employ 500. The company was also looking at a Kansas community and chose Weld County because of its quality workforce and the work of city leaders who offered the company tax incentives to locate on the site of the former Great Western Sugar plant in east Greeley, Berglund said.

Berglund said Weld County’s future is bright for economic development. Along with growth in existing companies, which typically create 70 percent of new jobs, Berglund also sees room for expansion in the business services sector.

“We have a diverse economic base that continues to grow,” he said.

Congratulations Weld County Residents on 150 Years of Successful Collaborations

Greeley leads the way in Weld County:

- Job Creation
- Water Resource Management
- Higher Education
- Business Services
- Health Services
- Ag & Energy Business Development

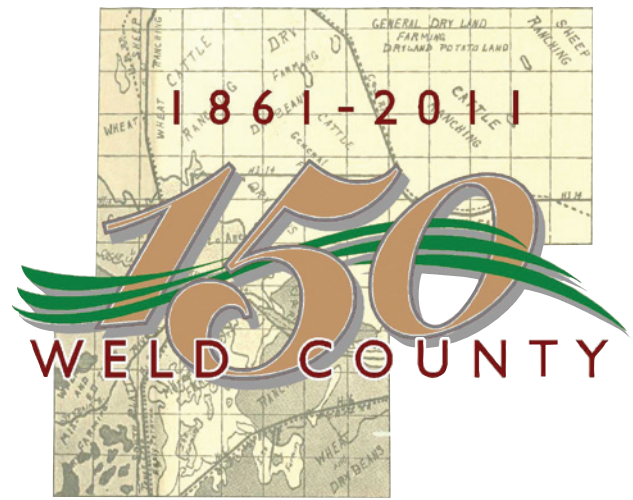
Greeley ensures a secure water supply:

- Improving Water Efficiency
- Strengthening Infrastructure
- Continuing Water Supply Acquisition
- Expanding Water Storage
- Partnerships with the Ag Community
- Fiscal & Environmental Stewardship



www.greeleygov.com

From Greeley’s Mayor and City Council



Economic Development Organizations

The county's economic development organization and local chambers of commerce act as champions for Weld County businesses.

"We call ourselves facilitators," said Eric Berglund, Interim President/CEO of Upstate Colorado Economic Development, which serves all of Weld County. "Our purpose is to connect employers with what they need to be successful here – anything from real estate to loans to economic incentives."

Upstate Colorado serves as a point of contact for primary sector employers, which derive the majority of their revenue from selling a product or service outside the county. Although many of the county's largest employers fit this description, such employers aren't just large companies.

"They tend to be manufacturers," Berglund said. "But it could be anyone from an individual software developer to a large-scale factory."

Upstate Colorado works to attract primary sector employers through its relationships with the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and a lead-generation company that does work for Upstate.

Most directly, Upstate Colorado connects with employers through its GIS-enabled website, which has all the commercial and industrial real estate listings in the county as well as demographic information of interest to employers.

The work of the Upstate staff has paid off in recent years. Weld County is the North American headquarters for Vestas, a Danish company that is the world's wind industry leader. In 2009, Weld County also welcomed Hexcel,

the company that produces the carbon fiber material for Vestas blades and Bach Composites who manufactures components for the Vestas nacelle.

And this year, phase 1 of Leprino Foods' new 800,000-square-foot flagship cheese processing facility opened in Greeley and will ultimately employ 500 employees.

The county's various chambers of commerce, meanwhile, offer opportunities for businesses to network with each other. Many Weld County communities have their own chambers of commerce, including Fort Lupton, Evans, Windsor and Johnstown/Milliken.

"We act as community cheerleaders," said Sarah MacQuiddy, president of the Greeley Chamber of Commerce.

Besides offering networking opportunities, the Greeley Chamber has a Convention and Visitors Bureau that focuses on bringing visitors to Weld County through tourism and large events. It also offers a nine-month leadership development program that is now in its 27th year.

The Greeley Chamber partners with the Chambers of Commerce in Loveland and Fort Collins to hire a lobbyist to advocate for businesses in Northern Colorado at the state legislature. During the past few years, that advocacy has meant speaking out against the removal of state tax exemptions that in turn help businesses.

"As budgets get tighter, governments often look to business to fill the gaps," said MacQuiddy. "But that can hurt the business community." Advocacy is the future of a Chamber of Commerce's role in a community she said. "This idea of being a business advocate is one of the things we should be best known for."

Weld County's Commercial Icons

Weld County wouldn't be what it is without the retailers, restaurants and banks that have been mainstays in the community for years.

"There are so many companies in Greeley and Weld County that have celebrated or will soon celebrate the century mark," said Sarah MacQuiddy, president of the Greeley Chamber of Commerce. "They keep the community grounded, because people know they can count on them."

Many of these companies started in Weld County and continue to be family-owned. Take Johnson's Corner, a truck stop off Interstate 25, that has such famous cinnamon rolls people from miles away make a special trip to get one. Then there's the Double Tree in Platteville, a classic diner best known for its pies. Fat Albert's in Greeley is also best known for its pies and its annual St. Patrick's Day celebration. Pizza and canolis make Roma, with its original location near the University of Northern Colorado campus, one of Greeley's most loved college hangouts.

Mexican food abounds in Weld County, with Alberto's in Greeley and Farmer's Inn in La Salle among the favorites. The Pepper Pod in Hudson has been serving up home cooking since it started in 1913. Greeley has a steakhouse appropriately named Kenny's after the late Ken Monfort. And who could forget Bruce's Bar, a mainstay in Severance known the world over for its Rocky Mountain oysters.

Beyond restaurants, Weld County has a host of banks that have been around for a long time, such as College Credit Union, Cache Bank and New West Bank.

Farmers and ranchers in Weld County depend on retailers like Big R in Greeley and Agland in Eaton. Garretson's and Gojo's are the county's local experts in sporting goods. And among the county's oldest retailers are Greeley Hat Works, which has been making custom cowboy hats since 1909, and Weiss Jewelers, which started in 1915.

"Family-owned businesses are the crux of the success of a community," MacQuiddy said. "They are the ones you can reflect on that have participated in community events like the Greeley Stampede since day one. They are the businesses that add character to Weld County."

Originally dubbed Greeley Shining Parlors, Greeley Hat Works has been around since 1909 and has built hats for former presidents, foreign dignitaries, movies such as "The Legend of Bagger Vance" and the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Greeley Hat Works



"Advantage Bank is as passionate about a win for their customers as I am about a win for the Bears"

UNC Men's Basketball Coach B.J. Hill
2011 Big Sky Conference Champions

Advantage Bank knows how important it is to support your local community.

We proudly show our continued support of the University of Northern Colorado.

Partner with Advantage and find out how passionate we are about your ambitions.

 **Advantage Bank**

Greeley

1801 59th Avenue

970-353-0047

www.advantagebanks.com



North Colorado Medical Center



Healthcare in Weld County

The pioneer spirit that shaped Weld County also influenced the development of its healthcare. The county's first physician, Dr. Gulielmus Law (b. 1838), landed in Greeley in 1870 after serving time as a Civil War surgeon and being detained in a POW camp. When he arrived, there were only nine residents at the Union Colony.

Women, especially, factor greatly into this rich history. Dr. Ella Mead was one of the first female physicians, not just in Colorado, but also in the United States. In 1885, at age 11, she was gifted a medical book by none other than Dr. Law. The young girl was determined to become a doctor and financed her own medical degree as a small town teacher in Colorado and Wyoming. Despite great odds and resistance, Dr. Mead went on to graduate and complete her residency at Denver General Hospital. She returned to Greeley in the early 1900's and launched a practice that lasted until her retirement in 1957. Dr. Mead's role in healthcare set a path

for other women to become physicians and high-ranking hospital administrators at Weld County Hospitals.

Records indicate that the first hospital was established in 1885. At that time, hospitals were known as "poor houses," and primarily cared for the indigent and contagiously ill. In 1942, a group of doctors, local businessmen and county officials came together to create Weld County Public Hospital in order to meet the growing healthcare needs of the community. Weld County purchased 15.8 acres on the western outskirts of Greeley for \$12,000. In 1982, the hospital's name was changed to North Colorado Medical Center (NCMC), and today, it is part of the Banner Health System. NCMC reaches a community far wider than Weld County, serving patients as far as 300 miles away.

Weld County currently has health care facilities that rival those in much larger communities. Greeley Medical Clinic, established in 1933 has been providing health care in Weld



Doctor Ella Mead made Greeley house calls via bicycle and rural calls in her family's Phaeton carriage, then in her own Maxwell automobile with electric lights.

She was a Weld County Public Health Officer, and developed the city's first milk inspection while a Health Officer.

She developed a child guidance clinic in 1928. She supported birth control for women in the 1920s. Image courtesy of the Greeley Museums Hazel E. Johnson Collection

County for 77 years and is now associated with Poudre Valley Medical Group. The staff includes specialists in general and family practice, oncology, gastroenterology, and women's services, among others. The clinic offers outreach facilities on the Eastern Plains and western Nebraska, serving smaller, rural communities.

Bonnell Community, a Good Samaritan Society facility is Weld County's only continuing care retirement facility. For nearly 70 years, Bonnell Community has been meeting the changing needs of senior citizens, with 170 senior apartments, a 55-bed assisted living community, and 210 rehabilitation and skilled care beds. It is one of the largest rehabilitation and skilled care centers in the state with specialized units for Alzheimer patients and dementia care.

Faced with the challenges of serving both urban and rural communities, physicians, clinics and hospitals continue to demonstrate the original pioneer spirit of the region. NCMC opened Western States Burn Center in 1975, one of two burn centers in the entire state. Prior to that, burn patients had to travel to Salt Lake City, Utah or Lincoln, Nebraska to be treated. In 1982, the hospital started Med Evac, an air transport service that flies over 1,500 missions each year, bringing critically ill and wounded patients from all over northern Colorado, southern Wyoming and western Nebraska to NCMC for treatment.

Yes, the pioneer spirit is alive and well in Weld's healthcare field.

North Colorado Medical Center

It's been 117 years since North Colorado Medical Center (NCMC) got its start as Weld County Territory's first "poorhouse," known as County Hospital. Since then, NCMC has seen many changes from its name to its physical plant, now an expansive, state-of-the-art facility. As a part of Banner Health Systems (which owns or leases the operations of four Colorado hospitals), NCMC is northern Colorado's largest regional referral healthcare facility. It is a fully accredited, private, non-profit facility licensed to operate 398 beds and employs 258 active staff physicians including primary care and specialty physicians.

In 1945, the 15.8-acre property where NCMC stands today was purchased for \$12,000. On November 9, 1952, Weld County General Hospital opened as a new 220-bed facility. In 1982, the name was changed to North Colorado Medical Center and was incorporated in 1985 as a non-profit hospital. NCMC leased its operation to Lutheran Health Systems in 1994. In 1999, NCMC was acquired by Samaritan Health Systems, which became Banner Health Systems in early 2000.

With world-class services that include the Cancer Institute and Western States Burn Center, NCMC provides patients in three states with quality medical care often found only in much larger communities.



Happy 150th Weld County
Proud to be part of the celebration!



Banner Health

North Colorado Medical Center*

1801 16th Street, Greeley

www.BannerHealth.com/NCMC

Where Experts Work Best!



Education in Weld County

The first schools in Weld County were built at the rural hubs that later became platted towns. While informal instruction most likely occurred earlier, the first formal schools were erected in the 1870s. The Brush and Smith schools of Johnstown and Milliken were the first. The next was built in 1870 for the predominantly German-Russian immigrant community of Windsor and Severance. Greeley's Meeker School and a school in Fort Lupton followed in 1873.

The first buildings were often one-room schoolhouses warmed by wood-burning stoves. Additions were made as student numbers grew. Female teachers taught a small group of children of varying ages the basics: reading, writing and arithmetic. Having schools was a source of pride and was viewed as a sign of community prosperity.

Today, there are twelve school districts in Weld County: Gilcrest, Eaton, Keenesburg, Windsor, Johnstown/Milliken, Greeley/Evans, Platte Valley/Kersey; Fort Lupton, Ault, Briggsdale, Prairie (between New Raymer and Stoneham), and Pawnee (Grover). Most districts have one elementary, one middle school and one high school, each serving the children of the outlying rural areas.

The exception is District 6, which serves Greeley and Evans. The largest school district in the county, it touts twenty-five schools (one preschool, two K-8, fourteen elementary, four middle, and four high schools). There are also three charter schools and a GAP (Greeley-Evans Alternative Program) school. All Weld County schools operate under the regulations of the Colorado Department of Education.

Interested in Purchasing a Farm or Ranch?

- Great investment potential
- Great lifestyle opportunity

Offering First Hand Help with 30 Years of Real Estate Experience.



LIVINGSTON
REAL ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT LLC
Commercial Real Estate Services Tom@TomLRD.com
970-266-0333



Tom Livingston



*Snyder Hall
(1936-1957)
women's dorms at
the Colorado State
College of Education
(now University of
Northern Colorado)*

City of Greeley Museums,
Permanent Collection



*Ball players at Colorado State Normal School (today's
University of Northern Colorado) at Cranford Hall in 1895*

City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection



Aims Community College

In 1967, the first community college classes were offered at Aims in Greeley. The concept of the school was that it would “Aim” toward “high and worthy goals.”

Initially, classes were held at a retired elementary school building in Greeley and, in 1969, a permanent site was procured. Buildings were added to support supplementary school emphases as the campus grew, the first being Trades and Industries in 1971. The next additions were: Office Occupations, 1973; Skills Center (now Emergency Medical Services), 1975; Physical Education, 1976 and Welding Technology, 1983. In 1984, the South Campus opened near Fort Lupton and the Loveland Campus was added in 1987. The West Campus groundbreaking was held in 1990.

Today, more than thirty academic programs and several traditional areas of study are available at Aims.



University of Northern Colorado

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) was established in 1890 as the State Normal School. Initially, the sole purpose of the school was to train and certify teachers for public school instruction through two years of education-based coursework. The school went through several name changes as additional goals and courses developed, eventually becoming a four-year university in 1911 when it was known as the Colorado State Teachers College. The name of the school was changed to the University of Northern Colorado in 1970.

One alum in particular, author James A. Michener, holds a special place in UNC's history: Michener received his masters degree from and subsequently taught at the then Colorado State Teachers College. The UNC library is named for Michener and houses more than thirty-seven linear feet of his papers, including works from his Colorado history-based book, Centennial.

UNC is also well-known and highly acclaimed for its School of Music and for the Kenneth W. Monfort College of Business. In fact, the Monfort College of Business received the 2004 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest honor for quality and performance excellence. This marked the first time a college of business received the Baldrige Award.

Tointon Gallery at the Union Colony Civic Center



Weld County Rich in Arts and Culture

Weld County boasts a variety of class acts: the oldest symphonic orchestra in the Rocky Mountain region, Broadway touring companies, a tradition-rich celebration of western culture, and a renowned blues festival.

Add a strong university and community theater presence along with an array of art galleries and you start to get a picture of what Weld County has to offer to arts and culture enthusiasts.

“The arts scene in Weld County is vibrant and active,” says Andy Segal, Marketing Director at the Union Colony Civic Center. “Here at the UCCC we’re going gangbusters. In fact, last year was incredible for us, and we expect this year to be even better.” In this rural and wide spread county dotted with small towns, Greeley is the hub of the arts and culture community. However, more and more activity is moving into other communities as evidenced by the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse in Johnstown.

Smack dab in the middle between Denver and Cheyenne, just south of Johnson’s Corner is the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse. The 280-seat theater hosts well loved classics such as Oklahoma! and The King and I and was built in 2008 with a construction budget of \$6 million. Not too far away in downtown Greeley is the Union Colony Dinner Theater. Located on the second floor of a renovated brick building, the eight-year-old theater can seat 110 audience members.

The University of Northern Colorado is well known for its arts department. Since 1934, it has produced Broadway-style shows through Little Theater of the Rockies, the school’s summer theater program. Concerts Under the Stars began entertaining audiences in 1931, hosting guest artists such as the 101st Army National Guard Band. The Mariana Gallery and the Oak Room are operated and maintained by UNC’s School of Art and Design. The gallery’s exhibitions expose students, as well as area residents, to a variety of artists ranging from student work to collections on loan from museums and galleries around the country.

Segal points to the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, celebrating its centennial this year, as an institution in northern Colorado. J.C. Kendall, the first resident conductor, led fifteen musicians through rehearsals in his home. That very first orchestra had neither woodwind nor percussion sections. Now, 100 years later and 58 musicians strong, the GPO was recognized by Governor John Hickenlooper in May of this year for reaching such a remarkable milestone. In his congratulatory letter, Hickenlooper wrote, “The relationship between the GPO and the Greeley community



High Plains Chataqua

Greeley Chamber of Commerce

serves an important purpose, enhancing the lives of Greeley citizens through culture, music education and appreciation.”

The Greeley Stampede tips its cowboy hat to Weld County’s western heritage. In the late 1800’s, the Stampede was conceived to honor local potato farmers. It was dubbed the “Greeley Spud Rodeo” in 1922 and drew crowds of 2,500 to its pie-eating contests, bucking bronco riding and a two-mile Model T car race. Now more than 250,000 people visit each year to enjoy a carnival midway and see rodeos, a 4th of July Parade, and concerts with acclaimed country and classic rock stars.

High Plains Chautauqua pitches a tent on the Aims Community College campus each August. The four-day-long event blends theater, history and humanities to recreate early 20th century tent chautauquas: a time when literary and modern scientific thought were prevalent throughout the United States and Europe. This year’s educational summer camp format was themed Visionaries at Home and Abroad. Local actors portrayed notable characters from the era, such as Emily Dickinson, Charles Darwin, the Unsinkable Molly Brown and Abraham Lincoln.

The Kress Cinema & Lounge is Greeley’s first independent art film theater. Located in the renovated Kress Building downtown, the theater has a full service bar that serves cinema-themed hors d’oeuvres like the Leonardo Di Capresé and the Mushroom: Impossible.

Summer just isn’t complete without a music festival. The Greeley Blues Jam fills two days and two stages with world-class blues artists. Last June’s line up included Coco Montoya, The Nighthawks and The North Mississippi Allstars. But playing great music isn’t just what this festival is all about. Dan Treanor, a self-taught musician invited children from the audience on stage to learn how to become harmonica players. The youngster who was brave enough to get onstage jammed with Treanor and his band, proving that the arts are ageless.

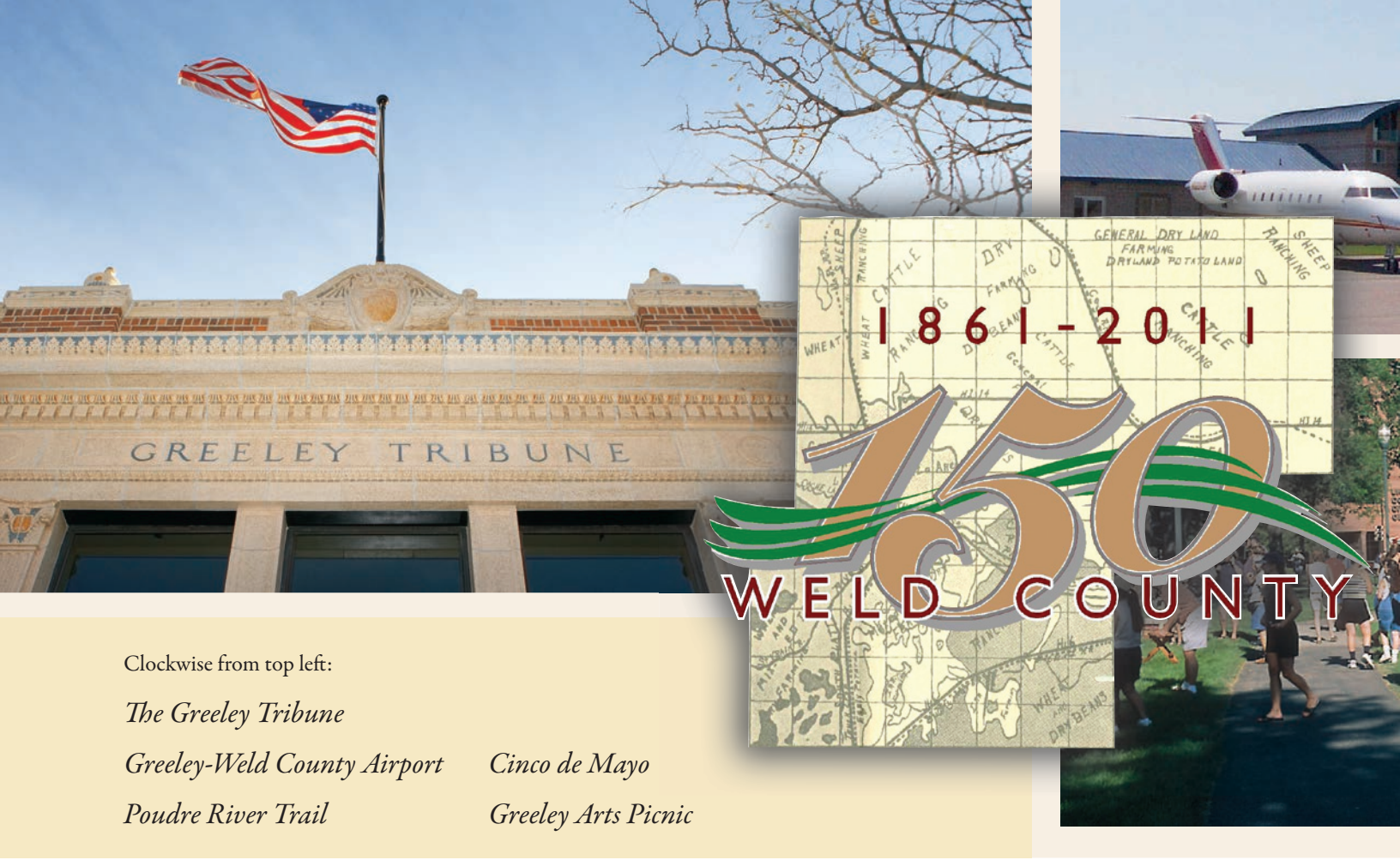


Union Colony Civic Center

With 1700 seats, Greeley’s Union Colony Civic Center (UCCC) is the largest performing arts center in Northern Colorado. For 23 seasons, the UCCC has been entertaining audiences with Broadway road shows, internationally acclaimed dance companies, orchestral performances and musicians as varied as the Vienna Boys Choir, Willie Nelson and Doc Severinsen.

Jill Rosentrater, former Cultural Affairs Director for the City of Greeley, recalls when the UCCC was built. Fundraising started in 1967, but it was a slow go. Groundbreaking on the performing arts center didn’t happen until 1985. “Hensel Phelps agreed that a performing arts center was important to the community, so much so that they donated all their construction management fees back to the project,” remembers Rosentrater. “They really got on board to make it happen and were very committed to the project. In addition to donating their fees, which were approximately \$500,000, they put personal dollars toward the building. Bob Tointon, president of Hensel Phelps was a huge supporter of the UCCC.”

In recognition of Bob Tointon’s efforts, the Tointon Gallery was built within the UCCC. The Gallery works to promote a deeper understanding and open dialogue through visual art. Work by local, regional and nationally recognized artists is presented in the gallery during twelve exhibitions throughout the year.



Clockwise from top left:

The Greeley Tribune

Greeley-Weld County Airport *Cinco de Mayo*

Poudre River Trail *Greeley Arts Picnic*



In times like these, it pays to know what your options are.

Maybe you had plans to sell your house, move to a senior community and start getting more out of life. What now? Do you have to put your life on hold? Not an easy decision. Perhaps it's time to give the Good Samaritan Society - Communities of Northern Colorado a call. We've helped seniors weather storms like this for more than 85 years. We'll be happy to help you understand your options, at no cost or obligation. Getting good advice can make all the difference.

For more information or to find a community near you, call 1-888-877-1058.



Estes Park | Fort Collins | Greeley
Loveland | Simla | Water Valley



UNITED WAY
ROOTED
IN WELD COUNTY

**WHEN ONE AREA THRIVES, WE ALL THRIVE.
 YOUR DONATION WILL HELP PEOPLE IN WELD COUNTY.**
www.unitedway-weld.org



Benjamin Eaton homesteaded the area in the 1860s and saw the value of northern Colorado soil when water was applied to it.

*Circa 1885 – Benjamin Harrison Eaton
Governor Benjamin Eaton*

City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection



Water Valley

When Martin Lind proposed his vision to create the Water Valley development in Windsor, people asked him, “How long will this take?”

“I told them I thought it would take 20 years,” Lind said. “But it’s been 20 years, and I think we have another 20 years to go. To do this kind of land development with this kind of creativity, you have to have a long vision.”

Windsor native Lind seems to have inherited that long vision from the first owner of the land that has become Water Valley, a 1,500 acre resort-style development of homes, businesses, open space, trails and a golf course.

Benjamin Eaton, who would become Colorado’s fourth governor, homesteaded the area in the 1860s and saw the value of northern Colorado soil when water was applied to it. He built a system of irrigation ditches and spent years traveling back and forth to Denver filing water rights. Eaton’s vision laid the foundation for Weld County’s agricultural economy.

The land was later corporately owned first by Great Western Sugar Co., then by Kodak. Lind acquired the land from Kodak in 1989.

“I wanted to hold onto the fabric of what the land was originally used for,” he said. “The vision was to use the historical irrigation water to develop the golf course and lakes.”

Much of the property had become a gravel mining operation. Lind had the vision to dig out the pits to create five lakes, use the gravel and sand for beaches along the lakes and relocate the topsoil to raise the elevation of home sites above the flood plain. The irrigation ditches that were once used to grow corn now grow grass for the 27-hole Pelican Lakes Golf Course. Even the golf course clubhouse has a log theme, another effort to hold onto the fabric of the past.

“Water Valley is a thousand times more beautiful than I ever envisioned,” Lind said. “When you can see something from Google Earth and it’s the prettiest thing in a 50-mile radius, maybe I’m a little biased, but that’s a cool deal.”

Congratulations Weld County on

150 *years*

We are proud to be a part
of Weld County's history.

Our experienced and knowledgeable
sales staff is eager to serve you.


Ehrlich
Family of Dealerships



Serving Northern Colorado Since 1946

ehrllichmotors.com • ehrllichsubaru.com • ehrllichscion.com
ehrllichtoyota.com • clickonnissan.com • clickonvw.com

Raising the bar *on excellence*



At Poudre Valley Health System, we redefine the patient experience everyday. Through quality care with measurable outcomes, performance excellence and best practices that exceed industry standards, we are making a difference in the lives of the patients we serve.

From our outpatient medical clinics, partnerships and outreach services to our world-class hospital care at Medical Center of the Rockies and Poudre Valley Hospital,

we're here for you.



POUDRE VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM

pvhs.org





National recognition. Local address.

There are 4,873 hospitals in America. But only a few get recognized for excellence. Only a handful are distinguished for patient care that's above and beyond. Wouldn't it be great if you had access to one of these special places? You do. North Colorado Medical Center and McKee Medical Center have received the 2011 Emergency Medicine Excellence Award™ and the 2011 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ by HealthGrades®. And both have received the Best of the Best award for excellence in patient satisfaction, safety and care, a distinction Banner Health grants to top hospitals in its system. Now you can feel good knowing a top hospital is right in your own backyard. There's no question where to go for great healthcare. **Go where experts work best.**

 **Banner Health®** | **McKee Medical Center**
North Colorado Medical Center
www.BannerHealth.com/McKee • www.BannerHealth.com/NCMC

Connect with us: 