

# Progressive 15

Providing A Voice for Northeast Colorado



## The Briefing

November 3, 2010

### Board of Directors

Adams: Barry Gore

Arapahoe: Chuck Rech

Cheyenne: Open

Douglas: Steve Board

Elbert: Open

Kit Carson: Danyel Brenner,  
Secretary

Larimer: Open

Lincoln: Del Beattie

Logan: Judy Giacomini, Chair

Morgan: Kari Linker, Treasurer

Phillips: Nancy Berges

Sedgwick: Lisa Ault

Washington: David Foy, Vice  
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Weld: Perry Buck

Yuma: Carol Boden

Executive Director: Cathy Shull

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Northeast Colorado Voice

## From Progressive 15

- Member Caucus
  - Adams County Members Caucus - elected to Board—Barry Gore, Adams County Economic Development; alternate: Michael Ellsberry
  - Arapahoe County Members Caucus—November 18
  - Yuma County Members Caucus—TBD
  - Washington County Members Caucus—TBD
  - Lincoln County Members Caucus—TBD
  - Douglas County Members Caucus—TBD
- Presentations on 60, 61 and 101
  - Greeley (2)
  - Julesburg
  - Burlington
  - Fort Morgan (2)
  - Brush (2)
  - Wray
  - Akron
  - Haxtun
- Meetings with
  - Meg Corwin, Senator Bennet's office
  - Colorado's Future
  - Green Jobs Council
  - Heartland Express Association
- Appointments
  - Kari Linker, Morgan County Economic Development to the Colorado Workforce Development Council
  - Cathy Shull, Progressive 15, Green Jobs Advisory Council



### 2010 Alumni of the Plains

*Left to Right*

Sheila Gartrell Stewart—Idalia High School  
Rol Hudler—Burlington High School  
Joan Gartin—Yuma High School  
Don Marostica—Roosevelt High School,  
Johnstown

More Information on these individuals will soon be  
on our website at [www.progressive15.org](http://www.progressive15.org)

# *In The News*

## **Governor Ritter Announces Disaster Assistance for Northeastern Plains**

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack approved Governor Ritter's request for a disaster declaration for Yuma County following damage to soybean production from a severe storm in June. Bordering counties of Kit Carson, Logan, Phillips, and Washington have also been named as contiguous disaster counties. With today's approval, qualifying farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties are eligible for assistance from the USDA's Farm Service Agency, including emergency loans and assistance payments. Producers should call the local Farm Service Agency office at 720.544.2876 or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

## **Massive Support for Increasing Economic Development Incentives. Economic Development Council of Colorado Releases Results of Statewide Survey**

The Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) recently conducted a survey of 500 likely voters throughout the state. The survey found that 76 percent of respondents favor increasing state incentives, such as tax credits and job training to enable Colorado to better compete with other states in the attraction of primary employers. By a large margin, survey respondents believe Colorado remains mired in a recession and support economic development efforts to help the unemployed in Colorado get back to work. For more information, contact:

- Clarke Becker, Board Chair, EDCC (719) 641-1159, [clarke.becker@state.co.us](mailto:clarke.becker@state.co.us)
- Preston Gibson, Survey Committee Chair, EDCC (303) 882-8552, [pegibsoniii@gmail.com](mailto:pegibsoniii@gmail.com)
- Danny Tomlinson, Tomlinson and Associates, EDCC Lobbyist (303) 638-6509, [dtomlinson@msn.com](mailto:dtomlinson@msn.com)

## **Colorado Uninsured Rate Slightly Higher than National Rate**

The latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that 15.8 percent of Coloradans--778,000--lacked health insurance in 2009, compared to 15.1 percent for the nation. The Colorado Health Institute (CHI) compares the two Census rates to those derived from the 2008-09 Colorado Household Survey in its publication, [\*How Do The U.S. Census Bureau's New Uninsured Numbers Stack Up Against Other Estimates?\*](#) For more information on Colorado's uninsured rate, contact Jeff Bontrager, CHI senior research analyst, at [BontragerJ@ColoradoHealthInstitute.org](mailto:BontragerJ@ColoradoHealthInstitute.org) or 720.382.7075.

## **Colorado Gets \$1M to Help Build Competitive Health Insurance Marketplace—Affordable Care Act Will Help Colorado Plan for State-Based Health Insurance Exchanges**

This grant of nearly \$1 million will give Colorado the resources to conduct the research and planning needed to build a better health insurance marketplace and determine how their exchanges will be operated and governed, including:

- Assessing current information technology systems and infrastructure and determining new requirements.
- Developing partnerships with community organizations to gain public input into the exchange planning process.
- Hiring key staff and determining ongoing staffing needs.
- Planning the coordination of eligibility and enrollment systems across Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the exchanges.
- Developing performance metrics, milestones and ongoing evaluation.

For more information:

Evan Dreyer, 720.350.8370 [evan.dreyer@state.co.us](mailto:evan.dreyer@state.co.us)

Lorez Meinhold, 303.866.5856, [lorenz.meinhold@state.co.us](mailto:lorenz.meinhold@state.co.us)

## **Congress Passes Small Business Bill**

The Senate passed the measure last week, and the 237-187 House vote Thursday sent the bill to the president to sign. The bill is designed to help struggling small businesses with easier credit and other incentives to expand and hire new workers.

For the entire story and more information:

[www.thedenverchannel.com/politics/25126122/detail.html?treets=den&tmi=den\\_natlbreak&ts=T&tmi=den\\_natlbreak\\_1\\_02240109232010](http://www.thedenverchannel.com/politics/25126122/detail.html?treets=den&tmi=den_natlbreak&ts=T&tmi=den_natlbreak_1_02240109232010)

## Colorado Economic & Employment Update

- Colorado's unemployment rate edged up in August to 8.2 percent after holding steady at 8.0 percent for four straight months.
- The national rate, now at 9.6 percent, also went up last month, indicating that Colorado and the country are in for several more months of instability.
- As challenging as today's numbers are, Colorado remains in relatively strong shape. Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have higher unemployment rates, and we are seeing positive signs of economic activity, including:
  - Businesses continue to expand and add jobs in Colorado, including financial service firms like CNA, which is adding 300 jobs in Englewood, and two Fort Collins information technology communications companies, Otter Box and Constant Contact, which combined are adding 250 new jobs.
  - For the second year in a row, [CNBC has named Colorado the No. 3 state](#) in which to do business, and Forbes.com says we are No. 4.
  - According to a recent study by the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#), [Colorado's economic outlook](#) ranks 2nd best of all 50 states.

For more information contact:

Morgan County Economic Development Corporation 970.542.3527

## Governor Ritter Applauds \$15.4 Million for Adams County Emergency Responders and State

### Broadband Mapping

Gov. Bill Ritter Jr. today congratulated the Adams County Communications Center and the Governor's Office of Information Technology for securing \$15.4 million in broadband grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Adams County Communications Center won \$12.1 million to provide wireless high-speed Internet access to 2,000 first responders, including police officers, firemen and paramedics in Adams County, the Denver International Airport and neighboring towns. The Governor's Office of Information Technology won \$3.3 million to continue broadband mapping and planning activities throughout Colorado.

"These are the latest of a series of significant grants that will accelerate the expansion of the state's high-speed Internet network, which is critical to reaching our educational and economic goals," Said Governor Ritter.

More information is available at [www.colorado.gov/recovery](http://www.colorado.gov/recovery).

## Recovery Act Helps Build Resident Services Facility for Maplewood Apartments in Jefferson County

### New Energy Efficient Facility Will Provide Job Training, After School Programs for Residents

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) has awarded Metro West Housing Solutions over \$900,000 in Recovery Act funds to help build a new resident services facility at Maplewood Apartments, an affordable housing community in Lakewood, Colo. The facility will provide Maplewood's more than 300 low and moderate income residents access to:

- Job training,
- Adult education classes,
- After school programs,
- A computer lab, and
- Fitness center.

"The Recovery Act is all about creating jobs and investing in our communities. Construction of this facility will create jobs now that can't be outsourced and will be a model of energy efficiency. In addition to saving money on utility costs this facility will help provide new opportunities for residents and strengthen our community," stated U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO-07).

For more information about Maplewood Apartments, contact Metro West Housing Solutions at 303.987.7580.

## **Backseat Budgeter Releases New Version**

Engaged Public, has just released a new version of *Backseat Budgeter*, a simulation of the Colorado State Budget, which can be found at [www.backseatbudgeter.com](http://www.backseatbudgeter.com). The new version has new options and figures (updated with numbers just released yesterday).

One of the features they are most proud of is the ability to demonstrate the effects of Amendments 60, 61 and Proposition 101. Try it out and see if you think these ideas are good for Colorado, or not.

## **Lieutenant Governor O'Brien Names New Early Childhood Commission Director**

Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien today announced that Jennifer Stedron has been named the new Executive Director of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, a new organization that is working to align services for health, mental health, early learning and family support for young children.

For More Information

[www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/LeftLtGov/LLG/Page/1190796318656/1251573580422](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/LeftLtGov/LLG/Page/1190796318656/1251573580422)

## **Governor Ritter Applauds \$450,000 Grant to Boost Public Access Hunting Program**

Gov. Bill Ritter praised a new \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a state program that leases land from eastern Colorado farm and ranch owners who provide hunters access to private wildlife habitat. Gov. Ritter said the grant will help the Colorado Division of Wildlife expand and improve the popular Small Game Walk-In Access Program, which this year will provide pheasant and small game hunters access to more than 330 square miles of leased private lands across 22 eastern Colorado counties this year. "Colorado's rural landowners are the proud stewards of some of our state's best wildlife habitat," Ritter said. "I applaud the USDA's strong support for a Colorado program that has been a win-win for landowners and hunters alike."

More information on the DOW's Small Game Walk-In Access Program, as well as an electronic copy of the Walk-In Access Atlas can be found at: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/SmallGame/WalkInAccess/>

## **Governor Ritter Praises New Lending Program to Support Small Businesses**

Gov. Bill Ritter today praised the Obama administration's new State Small Business Credit Initiative, which will support \$172 million in new small business lending in Colorado, helping local entrepreneurs expand their businesses and create new jobs. The initiative is a critical component of the Small Business Jobs Act that President Obama signed last week to help unlock credit and provide targeted tax cuts for small businesses.

"Small businesses are the job-creating engine of our economy," Gov. Ritter said. "This new lending program – coupled with the Colorado Credit Reserve Program – will help drive our economy forward and give small businesses the kind of support they need to survive and thrive."

For more information on the Small Business Jobs Act, please visit

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/27/background-small-business-bill-signing-today>

## **New Marketing Director for Colorado Department of Agriculture**

Tim Burleigh of Denver, Colorado has been named Markets Division Director for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The Markets Division plays a vital role in Colorado's agriculture and Tim's experience and leadership can help companies expand their current operations on a local, regional, national, and international level," said Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Stulp.

The main purpose of the Markets Division is to promote the sale of Colorado products. The Division offers assistance in promotion, research, exporting, business start-up and expansion. The Markets Division also publishes numerous directories and resource materials to help market Colorado products effectively.

Whether companies are looking for domestic or international assistance or need to have produce inspected, the Markets Division is available to help. For more information, visit [www.coloradoagriculture.com](http://www.coloradoagriculture.com).

## **Colorado Competitive Council (C3) Announces 2011 Chairman**

The Colorado Competitive Council (C3) today announced Bob Moody of NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, as the 2010-2011 chairman of the statewide business advocacy organization.

The Colorado Competitive Council (C3) provides direct lobbying and advocacy at the Colorado State Capitol and supports like-minded organizations that are dedicated to the mission of enhancing Colorado's economy. C3 focuses on legislation that will encourage job growth and a strong economy, especially in key industry clusters. C3 also engages in

# Calendar

Also See Website: [www.progressive15.org](http://www.progressive15.org)

Personal Note from your Executive Director:

Thanks to all of you who reached out to me while I was in the hospital sharing your good wishes and prayers. The recovery took a little longer than I planned! Who knew pneumonia could be so harsh. I hope I did not miss any phone calls or e mails, but it happened so fast, went to doctor and ended up in hospital immediately, I'm afraid I might have missed something. So if you called or sent an e mail and did not hear from me, please contact me again. *Cathy*

## Membership

### Re-Investing:

Lincoln County Economic  
Development  
Centennial Mental Health  
Northern Colorado Water  
Kindra Mulch  
SourceGas  
Northeast Colorado Broadcasting  
Poudre Valley REA  
Intermountain REA  
Ron Swehla  
Colorado Cattlemen's Association  
Sam Mamet  
Bernie Buescher  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Anadarko  
Carol Boden  
Chuck Rech  
City of Aurora  
Yuma County Economic  
Development  
Sage Strategies  
Highline Electric  
Robin Wiley  
Plains Cooperative Telephone  
CenturyLink  
AngloGold Ashanti, North America,

Bank of Colorado - Sterling  
Bank of Colorado - Brush  
Bank of Colorado - Fort Morgan  
Bank of Colorado - Akron  
Bank of Colorado - Yuma  
Bank of Colorado - Holyoke

### New:

Robin VanAusdall - Larimer County  
Danny Tomlinson - Arapahoe County  
Clint Cresawn - Arapahoe County  
Colorado Oil & Gas Association Statewide



Governor's Debate at Fall Conference in Partnership with Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance