

## ***June 2009 Monthly Economic Snapshot***

### **Employment Services of Weld County**

*The total civilian labor force in Weld County for April 2009 was 120,501, of which 110,757 were employed and 9,744 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 8.1 percent.*

*Dental Assistant Training Academy will have an open house from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 30 at the dental office at 1640 25th Ave., Suite C. Classes are held on Saturdays, and they are limited to 10 students. The summer session starts June 13. For more information, call (303) 652-2092.*

*IBMC Greeley celebrated its first year in Greeley in February and has already built up to 175 students from its initial class of 30. Call (970) 356-4733 for more information.*

*The Academy of Natural Therapy, 625 8th Ave., has been in downtown Greeley for four years, and last year received approval for a two-year associate's degree program in massage therapy. The school was nationally accredited in 2006. Call (970) 352-1181.*

*Greeley-Evans housing prices have sunk lower than any other market in northern Colorado in the past year and grown the least in the past decade, according to a report released Tuesday by Colorado State University's Everitt Real Estate Center. The Greeley-Evans area was one of only two markets in northern Colorado where single family home sales volume increased in 2008, Gerhard said. The Greeley-Evans area registered 2 percent more single family home sales from 2007-2008, while Fort Collins sales dipped 15.6 percent and Loveland sales fell 13.9 percent in that time.*

***Secretary of Agriculture promises loans for NFB customers.** Vilsack said \$110 million in direct operating loans and \$143 million in unsubsidized guaranteed operating loan funds will be made available in the form of increased funding for the U.S. Farm Service Agency. The action was authorized as of April 27 and would help up to 1,900 family farmers with direct operating loan assistance and 602 family farmers with guaranteed operating loans.*

#### *Sexual Harassment Workshop*

*10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon*

*Employment 101*

*1 p.m.- 3:00 p.m*

*July 20, 2009 (Monday)*

*1104 H Street*

*Greeley, CO*

*Call to RSVP: 353-3800 ext. 3371*

## **Employment Services of Weld County (continued)**

*The Colorado Department of Local Affairs will divvy out \$23.3 million for projects across the state. The funding comes from severance tax and federal mineral lease revenues. In Weld County, the projects include \$350,000 for the Carbon Valley Park & Recreation Senior Center & Gym; \$630,000 for water system upgrades in Gilcrest; \$646,642 toward a new police station in Windsor; \$500,000 for county road maintenance equipment; and \$330,304 for gym construction at an elementary school in Weld County School District RE-4. Weld County's unemployment rate dropped a half a percentage point in April, but it now shares the highest unemployment rate in the state among major employment areas. Weld County, also known as the Greeley Metropolitan Statistical Area, registered an 8.1 percent unemployment rate in April, compared to 8.6 percent in March, according to a report released Tuesday by the Colorado Department of Unemployment. Weld's rate still dwarfs April 2009's unemployment rate of 4.5 percent, however. "Employment is picking up just because of the season," said John Green, a regional economist. "It's still a lot worse than last year at this time. We usually do get a pickup in spring. ... We're bumping along the bottom now, and soon as we can get rid of this huge overhang of unsold homes, the construction industry will pick up and things will look better, but it will take a long time. We're probably looking at next year."*

## **Workforce Boulder County**

*The total civilian labor force in Boulder County for April 2009 was 178,729, of which 168,456 were employed and 10,273 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 5.7 percent.*

*Mod Market, a new type of fast-casual restaurant at Twenty Ninth Street will debut in July. The new restaurant will feature brick-oven flatbread pizzas, salads and other fresh foods with no artificial ingredients and preservatives prepared quickly in front of the customer in an open kitchen.*

*An Ohio-based nonprofit group that distributes adaptive clothing for injured service members is moving its distribution center to Boulder. Sew Much Comfort founded in December 2004 works with 1,600 volunteers and 143 military hospitals in the U.S., Europe and Canada to adapt clothing for injured service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. To date, Sew Much Comfort has delivered more than 75,000 items.*

*Lillians, The Hippest Shoppe in Town, held a grand opening on May 7-10. The store is at 1240 Ken Pratt Blvd., No.1A. Lillians, based in Plymouth, Minn., has 28 stores in the U.S. and this is the first one in Colorado.*

## **Workforce Boulder County (continued)**

*Crocs Inc. laid off 38 employees at its Niwot the last week of April. The cuts account for nearly 10 percent of the work force at the local site and affected a variety of positions. About 390 people were employed at the Niwot operations prior to the latest cuts.*

*Flatiron Construction Corp. has been awarded \$4.3 million in transportation contracts to repair and construct new bridges in Larimer and Douglas counties.*

*A Boulder County company is moving forward toward a future initial public offering. Longmont-based DigitalGlobe Inc. hopes to raise between \$235 million and nearly \$265 million through an IPO. Their shares are scheduled to begin trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "DGI on May 14. DigitalGlobe provides satellite images to government and defense agencies and companies such as Google and Microsoft. The company plans to launch its WorldView2 satellite later this year.*

*Agilent Technologies Inc. has finished construction on the expansion of its campus in Boulder. Since Agilent bought SynPro Corp. in 2006 to acquire the nucleic acid division, the Boulder campus staff has expanded from about 20 to 65, and there are plans to hire more manufacturing chemists.*

*The city of Longmont hopes to make a job offer to its first economic development director by the end of the month and have the person start by the middle of June.*

*The city of Longmont has earmarked \$60,000 for a matching grant program to help local businesses pay for energy- and water-efficiency improvements in commercial buildings and equipment.*

*King Auto Group in Longmont will be one of 789 franchises and 13 stores across Colorado to close its Chrysler dealership by June 9.*

## **Larimer County Workforce Center**

*The total civilian labor force in Larimer County for April 2009 was 177,637, of which 166,725 were employed and 10,912 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 6.1 percent.*

*Front Range Property Services, owned by Jim Edwards, is a new Loveland company offering a variety of cleanup and repair services.*

*The company provides both exterior and interior cleanup and repairs, replacement, painting and other services necessary to get a property in tip-top shape.*

## **Larimer County Workforce Center (continued)**

*Hach, which manufactures water-analysis systems and hydro lab instruments, is currently hiring: Assembly operators, Service technicians, Material handlers, Technicians, and Manufacturing engineers.*

*Woodward Governor on Tuesday laid off several workers in its engine systems segment, citing a declining demand amid the global recession. The company said 57 jobs were in the machine shop in Fort Collins and the assembly and test areas in Fort Collins and Loveland. With the layoffs, Woodward has about 1,000 workers in the two Northern Colorado facilities.*

*The Fort Collins Now weekly newspaper is ceasing publication in late May, a victim of the slumping economy, according to its publisher.*

*BMC West will have an even smaller presence in Fort Collins with the sale of its property on Timberline Road. BMC used the site for design, manufacturing and displays. BMC will maintain a contractor supply sales showroom at 2416 Donella Court in Fort Collins.*

*The Colorado Department of Transportation announced it is adding Action Staffing Solutions in Loveland to be a training provider for its On-the-Job-Training program that aims to help people find work in the construction field. Action Staffing Solutions, along with The Matthews Center in Denver, will join Aims Community College in Greeley in helping train and place people in highway construction jobs. "The six-week training program, free of charge, allows trainees to gain the skills and knowledge needed to find a highway construction job and will assist with the placement of eligible recruits into entry-level positions," said Celina Benavidez, CDOT director of human resources and administration.*

*Colorado State University's marketing and business law programs were ranked in the top 10 in the nation by BusinessWeek. As part of its ongoing "The Best of the Best" look at the nation's business colleges, BusinessWeek ranked the undergraduate specialties at the schools it already chose among the top tier. In February, the magazine ranked CSU's College of Business 67th on the list of the top 100 programs. The college's marketing program was ranked second, and the business law program came in at No. 9.*

*Northern Colorado Rehabilitation Hospital in Johnstown has been ranked among the top 10 percent of inpatient rehabilitation facilities in the U.S. for the third consecutive year, according to data compiled by the Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation.*

