



Wheatland REA Has Served Rural Families Since 1937

Imagine a world without electricity. Hard to do? As we reflect back on the last 100 years of Platte County's history, it's certainly not out of line to give a great deal of credit for the continued growth and the vast improvement in our quality of life here in Platte County to the Wheatland Rural Electric Association (WREA).

Starting in 1937 and running on the premise that hard work, good leadership and quality employees can accomplish a lot, the Wheatland REA began the long, backbreaking job of electrifying a good part of southeastern Wyoming.

As the WREA grew to include service not only to rural areas of Platte, Goshen, Albany and Laramie counties but also service to the Town of Chugwater in 1948, it was obvious that more office storage and work space were needed. In 1949 WREA moved into the Ringsby Building on 10th Street (see photo at right).

In the 1950's several large projects were completed, including WREA providing electricity to the Platte Pipeline Pumping Station in 1951 and the installation of nearly 60 miles of 69 KV transmission lines in 1958. In 1952 the WREA joined Tri-State Generation & Transmission.

In 1966 another major goal was reached when the current home of WREA was finished. In the fall of that year the WREA moved into its new building, giving the Wheatland REA not only more office space, but a great deal more space for maintenance, storage and parking as well.



This photo from about 1964 shows Herb Merbach, Ralph Goodrich and Ward Goodrich in front of the newly purchased digger derrick. The building in the background housed the REA home offices from about 1949 until 1966 and was located on 10th Street where Frank and Eric Jones currently have their law offices. A fire consumed the structure in 1981.

As agriculture has developed a need for more power (pivot sprinklers, larger electric pumps for irrigation wells, etc.) the Wheatland Rural Electric Association has been there to supply the electricity needed.

In addition to providing more electricity to more customers, the Wheatland REA has also been a leader in adopting new technology. In 2001 they automated their meters (See page 5)

INDEX

Wheatland REA	Page 1	Wheatland REA (continued)	Page 5
Director's Comments	Page 2	Basin Transload facility	Page 6
Oil Permits/Open House	Page 3	Calendar of Events	Page 7
Membership Drive	Page 4	Membership	Page 8

Enjoying Our Many Recreational Opportunities Here in Platte County

Summer has arrived, and the cool, damp spring is already just a distant memory. Now, with the hotter weather our attention is drawn toward the outdoors, whether it be mowing the lawn, weeding the garden, cutting the hay crop, harvesting the early garden crops such as lettuce, radishes and spinach, spending a weekend at the lake, or taking a drive to the mountains.

With all the work there is to get done in the short three months of summer, it's easy to forget all the many opportunities we have in Platte County to get outside. In addition to our 3 large lakes, Guernsey, Glendo and Grayrocks, there are many more things to do without driving more than an hour from home.

For those of us who don't really care for the weekend crowds at the bigger lakes, there are always those out-of-the-way places that, even on weekends, aren't crowded. One of my favorites is the trail that runs south of Grayrocks Lake through Cottonwood Draw to one of the prettiest falls in this part of Wyoming. The hike is about an hour in and an hour out. There isn't a trail, as such, but just follow the drainage south until you come to one of the most unexpected views anywhere in the state. The chances are slim you'll run into anyone else on the trail, and the surprise at the end of the box canyon is absolutely breathtaking. I first learned of the trail to the falls about 5 years ago, and I've done the hike every season of the year. Without a doubt the falls are most splendid in the middle of winter when they freeze over and what you see is a horseshoe shaped canyon wall of ice stalactites. Behind the frozen ice formations the small creek continues to spill a trickle of water in several small cascades to the rubble of ice and rock at the bottom of the falls where, even in the dead of winter, can be seen signs of life...small aquatic plants that seem to thrive in the near freezing water.

I encourage everyone to try this trail sometime this year.



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Mission Statement

Platte County Economic Development Corporation promotes and facilitates business and industry endeavors for current and future generations

Oil Permits in Southeastern Wyoming Increase In June, 2011

After a slow month in May the number of new permits submitted to the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission for oil and gas wells was up considerably this month. During June there were a total of 17 new permits in Platte County alone. Those oil well permits were submitted by two companies, Bill Barrett and EOG. Sixteen of the permits were submitted by Bill Barrett and one was submitted by EOG. All 17 permits were located in the Chugwater area, with all but two of them being in Township 20 North, just south of Chugwater. Of the remaining two one was in Township 21 Range 66 just northeast of Chugwater and one was in Township 21 Range 68 west of Chugwater.

Goshen County saw a similar spike in the number of permits in June. There were 16 new permits in June compared to 4 in May. In Laramie County there were 17 permits for June, and in Converse County, which has become the new hotspot for oil and gas exploration, there were 27 new permits issued during the month of June.

The table below shows numbers of permits in Platte, Goshen, Laramie and Converse counties for the last three months in 2011.

Permits to Drill in Southeastern Wyoming 2011

Converse County

January.....12	April.....12
February.....29	May.....13
March.....29	June.....27

Goshen County

January.....0	April.....5
February.....1	May.....4
March.....2	June.....16

Laramie County

January.....19	April.....27
February.....39	May.....13
March.....14	June.....17

Platte County

January.....0	April.....12
February.....3	May.....1
March.....6	June.....17

Platte County Economic Development Will Hold Open House

Platte County Economic Development would like to invite the public to attend our Open House on Friday, July 22, from 11 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at our newly remodeled offices at 1560 Johnston Street. We are located in the back of the Sherard Realty building, in the alley behind Century 21 Real Estate offices and the Big A.

We will have refreshments and door prizes, so you won't want to miss coming by to take a look at our remodeled office space and enjoy a chance to find out what PCED is all about if you haven't done that yet.



Platte County Farmers' Market Announces 2011 Schedule

The Platte County Farmers Market will be holding Saturday morning farmers' markets at the Pocket Park in downtown Wheatland from 8:30 a.m. until noon beginning July 23. There will be markets every Saturday, weather permitting, on Saturday, July 30 as well as Saturday mornings during the months of August and September. The number of vendors has grown considerably this year, so don't miss out on the fun and the opportunity to buy locally fresh produce as well as baked goods, arts and crafts, etc.

Platte County Economic Development's Annual Membership Drive is Under Way

Platte County businesses and individuals will have the opportunity to renew their membership in Platte County Economic Development or become a new member in our organization during the month of July. Those already members in PCED have received mailings requesting continued support of what this office does, and we encourage members to return their membership form, along with a check, to our office at P.O. Box 988 in Wheatland by the end of July.

We are also continually looking for new members to join our vibrant, hard-working organization, and have been successful in welcoming six new members since January 1 of this year. We invite you to stop in our office at 1560 Johnston Street (in the back of the Sherard Realty building) or call us at 322.4232.

We will also be holding an open house on Friday, July 22 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (See page 3 for details), and we would be glad to discuss how PCED works with businesses, communities and individuals to make Platte County a better place to live.

Come in and meet our PCED Director, Dan Brecht and our Executive Assistant, Daphanie Taylor, and share your ideas about Platte County, community development or how to promote a strong business climate in the county.

Our offices are open 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

You Can Now List Your Business with the Wyoming Travel and Tourism Website

If you are interested in listing your business on the Wyoming Travel and Tourism Website, the PCED office just received word that you can go to www.wyomingtourism.org/Public/Login to sign up.

The information received at this office offers several benefits to doing this; namely creating articles and submitting tips to contribute to the "My Wyoming Community," planning and organizing itineraries for upcoming Wyoming trips, and to sign-up and manage your newsletter/interest topics.

LinkWYOMING Working to Improve Broadband in the State of Wyoming

Over the past several months a group of Wyoming residents has been working with the State of Wyoming Office of the CIO and the Wyoming Business Council to administer a statewide Broadband Mapping and Planning grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Agency. The project is designed to identify key factors that will drive the adoption and sustainable use for broadband in Wyoming.

The focus of this project will be the Torrington area which is somewhat off the beaten path as far as accessibility to broadband is concerned. Torrington also has a great need for improved broadband given the medical facilities, schools, community college, regional governmental offices, the correctional institution and the livestock sales arena.

Currently the group is focusing on gathering data from organizations in the area to learn more about their unmet broadband demand needs. In addition, they will also generate an awareness about how broadband can be used. Many Wyoming residents don't fully understand the cost savings and opportunities that higher speed broadband can provide.

Once the group has identified the broadband needs in the Torrington area, they will begin the process of outreaching to the multiple providers to help develop strategies to bridge gaps.

For additional information about LinkWYOMING visit their website at www.linkwyoming.org.

Wyoming Entrepreneur Will Host Webinar on Economic Gardening

Wyoming Entrepreneur, the Wyoming version of SBA, will hold a webinar on Economic Gardening on Thursday, July 7th from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m.

To register for the webinar, go to their website at wyomingentrepreneur.biz, click on "classes." You can learn how to do government procurement and more as well.

Wheatland REA (From P. 1)

so that customers no longer had to read the meter and mail in the postcards. Wheatland REA is currently in the process of putting their entire system on GIS which will be a great tool and will, among other things, provide more precise information for planning future service to WREA customers.

Of course, improvements in service, increases in the cost of power, labor and materials, added federal regulations, etc. have caused an increase in the cost of power to WREA's customers, but the board has done a great job of keeping the price they charge their customers for electrical energy as low as possible while continuing to modernize WREA's technology and also striving to become more efficient.

Miles of Line	Number of Members
1938.....62 miles	1938.....150
1946.....112 miles	1946.....301
1956.....1029 miles	1956.....1094
1966.....1353 miles	1966.....937
1976.....1642 miles	1976.....1111
1981.....1739 miles	1981.....1439
1986.....1746 miles	1986.....1548
2011.....1879 miles	2011.....1862

The chart above should give you an idea of how much WREA has grown in 74 years. It seems logical that with the positive economic outlook locally along with the potential development of oil, wind and waste-to-energy we will see more families move into the WREA service area over the next 10 to 20 years which could dramatically increase the number of new members relying on WREA for the electrical needs.



Today the Wheatland Rural Electric Association is located in a spacious brick building located at 2154 South Road in Wheatland. Wheatland REA moved into the facility in the fall of 1966. Russ Bovaird was Manger of WREA then.

Work at the Basin Transload Facility Continues at a Fast Pace

Work at the Basin Transload facility northeast of Wheatland in what was originally built as the Great Western Sugar Beet plant in the 1920's is moving along at a furious pace as employees work to get the facility completed in time for what may be a major oil play in southeastern Wyoming and northeastern Colorado. Currently, the oil activity seems to be centered in Laramie and Converse counties in Wyoming, and in Weld County in Colorado, but recent leasing in both Goshen County and Platte County, plus the tremendous amount of seismic work being done by Geokinetics, headquartered in Houston, Texas, is causing a great deal of interest closer to home.

The facility is focusing for the time being on unloading fracking sand from train cars into the large silos and then loading the fracking sand into large semi trucks that then deliver it to the new oil wells being drilled in the region.

Later, this facility could be a key shipping point for Niobrara Shale oil headed to oil refineries in the southern U.S. Although the extent to which the Niobrara Shale oil play will develop is unknown, the seismic work being done presently by Geokinetics and earlier by Dawson should give a much better idea to the dozens of oil companies presently holding leases on mineral rights in the region as to just what lies about 1.5 miles beneath the surface.

Aaron Sheldon, plant manager for the Basin Transload facility at Wheatland, recently told PCED board members that they have hired five local employees at their facility and will be hiring more in the near future.



Photo taken looking east at the Basin Transload facility. Train cars in foreground are bringing fracking sand in which will be stored and sent out in trucks to new oil wells in southeastern Wyoming and northeastern Colorado.



Before and After photos of the Basin Transload Facility quickly taking shape in the old Great Western Sugar Beet Factory (Most recently Imerys rock crushing plant) just northeast of Wheatland. The photo on the left was taken in mid-March when work on the facility was just beginning. Photo on the right shows the massive crane and other equipment in use.

Calendar of Events for July 1—
September 30, 2011

High Plains Initiative Completes Values Study and Community Survey

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Platte County Commissioners
- 5 Guernsey Town Council
- 6 Glendo Town Council
- 7 Wheatland P & Z
- 7 Chugwater Town Council
- 11 Wheatland Town Council
- 13 Platte County P & Z
- 13 Hartville Town Council
- 19 Platte County Commissioners
- 19 Guernsey Town Council
- 20 PCED Board Meeting
- 22 PCED Open House 11-4

August

- 1 Chugwater Town Council
- 2 Platte County Commissioners
- 2 Guernsey Town Council
- 3 Glendo Town Council
- 4 Wheatland P & Z
- 8 Wheatland Town Council
- 10 Platte County P & Z
- 10 Hartville Town Council
- 16 Platte County Commissioners
- 16 Guernsey Town Council

September

- 5 Labor Day
- 5 Chugwater Town Council
- 6 Platte County Commissioners
- 6 Guernsey Town Council
- 7 Glendo Town Council
- 8 Wheatland P & Z
- 11 Grandparent's Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 12 Wheatland Town Council
- 14 Platte County P & Z
- 14 Hartville Town Council
- 20 Platte County Commissioners
- 20 Guernsey Town Council
- 21 PCED Board Meeting
- 21 Round Table
- 23 Autumnal Equinox

After more than a year of public meetings, surveys and data collecting, the High Plains Initiative, a group of residents from Goshen and Platte counties, has completed their final report, a forty-seven page document that explains the process, shares the values that they found to be most prevalent in the two counties, provides data in graphs, tables and charts, and offers ideas that could be taken into consideration by local governments in preparing for growth over the next 30 years. The group stressed several key values that dominated the meetings and surveys. Those values which Platte and Goshen county residents felt were important in maintaining a high quality of life are as follows:

- Caring and safe communities
- Not many people; not crowded and /or a small town feel
- Farm, ranch and agricultural lands
- Senior centers and churches as important community elements
- Low taxes
- Living without intrusive government regulation

For more information on the High Plains Initiative, or for a pdf file of the document, go to the Building the Wyoming We Want website at www.buildingwyoming.com.

Regional Study of Infrastructure Being Undertaken by Economic Development Groups in Southeast Wyoming

An effort is being made to collect data on transmission, rail, fiber optics and transportation in the southeastern counties of Albany, Goshen, Laramie and Platte in an effort to attract industries that provide high paying jobs. The group, comprised of representatives from Cheyenne Leads, Laramie Economic Development, Goshen County Economic Development, Platte County Economic Development and High Plains Economic Development District, will be collecting and compiling data over the next several months. They hope to finish the project by late in 2011.

2010-2011 Membership

Our People Make the Difference

Amazing Monogramming Blue-
Wire
Bob Ruwart Motors
Dan Brecht
Britz, William (Dr.)
Bloedorn Lumber
Brown Company
Burns Insurance
Century 21 Rite Agency
Consolidated Manufacturing Ent.
Crile Carvey Consulting
Dance Wyoming
Double S Livestock
Dr. David Halsey Optometry
Drube Supply
First American Title
First State Bank
Frontier Furniture
Geringer Group
Glendo, Town of
Gorman Funeral Homes, Inc.
H & H Concrete Construction
Harold Reimler Ent, & Restoration
Integrity Cabinets & Millwork

Laramie Peak Motors
Laramie Peak Realty
Lynda Lenz, State Farm Agent
Mader, Tschacher, Peterson & Co.
McBrayer Insurance Company
Mike's Printing & Office Supply
Norb Olind Construction
Notch Peak Ranch
Noyce's Friendly Shop
Peak Wellness Center
Platte Co. Chamber of Commerce
Platte County Commissioners
Platte County Hospital District
Platte County Memorial Hospital
Platte County Record Times
Platte County School District #1
Platte Valley Bank
Premier Title Company
Qwest
Reichardt, Stacey
Reliable Equipment Rental
Seidel Construction
Shepard Farms
Sherard Realty

Sherard, Sherard & Johnson
Simply Creative
Smith Broadcasting
Source Gas
Stoll Brothers, LLC
Super 8 Motel
TDS Trash Service
Tom Bramlet Farmer's Union Ins.
Tillman Tacos LLC/dba Taco Johns
Turf Master LLC
Weaver, Cathy (CPA)
Weaver, Doug (Attorney)
Wells Fargo Bank
West Winds Motel
Wheatland Automotive, Inc.
Wheatland Coop Association
Wheatland Golf Club
Wheatland REA
Wheatland, Town of
Wheatland Workforce Center
Wilhelm, Jeff
Wyoming Business Council
Wyoming Pure Natural Beef, LLC

*Please visit our Platte County Economic Development website at
www.pcedwyo.org*

Welcome, New Members of PCED, for April Through June, 2011!

Reliable Equipment Rental, Inc.
West Winds Motel
Harold Reimler Enterprises & Restoration



PLATTE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Platte County Economic Development
P.O. Box 988—1560 Johnston Street
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www.pcedwyo.org
307.322.4232

Helping Business Ideas Become Reality