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Join Arapahoe County as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary *Festivities include a birthday hat party Aug. 20 and the Historical Hunt contest*

Littleton, CO --- Join Arapahoe County as they celebrate their 150th anniversary at the Western Welcome Week parade and festivities Saturday, Aug. 20 in Littleton. Stop by the Arapahoe County booth at Bega Park and build a one-of-a-kind birthday hat made out of recycled materials from Noon – 4 p.m. A cake-cutting ceremony will take place at Noon.

In addition, there's still time to participate in Arapahoe County's *Historical Hunt*, which invites modern-day explorers to grab a Pioneer Passport for a tour through history that may win them some fun prizes.

"This year, Arapahoe County celebrates our sesquicentennial, which is our 150th anniversary," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who serves as Board Chair. "Throughout the year, citizens will be able to participate in a series of events and activities, including a scavenger hunt that will lead them to visit some of the County's most beautiful, historic and intriguing treasured landmarks."

With the Historical Hunt, participants can grab a Pioneer Passport and travel throughout the County to answer 10 to 15 fun trivia questions. The first 150 people to submit a completed passport will receive a 150th Anniversary Commemorative Coin. So far Arapahoe County has received close to 100 entries, so there are still coins available.

In addition, all participants who turn in a completed passport by Oct. 1, 2011 will be entered to win numerous prizes, including a \$150 VISA gift card and a foursome at the Broken Tee Englewood Golf Course. Winners will be announced Nov. 1, 2011 – Arapahoe County's official 150th birthday.

Pioneer Passports are available in lobby displays at Arapahoe County buildings as well as various city offices, libraries and recreation centers. For a full list of locations, more information or to download a copy, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us and click on the 150th anniversary logo.

As Colorado's first county, its history dates back 156 years to 1855 when Arapahoe County was part of the Kansas Territory. In 1861, Congress created the Colorado Territory, and Arapahoe County, which stretched to the Kansas border, was divided up into 17 counties. Denver was the county seat until 1902, when it became a separate city and county. After a local election to determine the new county seat, voters selected Littleton, where it remains the county seat of Arapahoe County today.

Visit the Arapahoe County web site for more sesquicentennial events taking place throughout the year.

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To download photos click on the link: ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/150_Anniversary/

Birthdāyhat – Stop by the Arapahoe County booth during Western Welcome Week in Littleton on Saturday, Aug. 20 and build a one-of-a-kind birthday hat made out of recycled materials from noon – 5 p.m.

RoyBartee – Join Roy Bartee of Littleton who was the 4th person to receive one of the 150 Anniversary Commemorative Coins from Arapahoe County. Hurry – coins are limited to the first 150 people to complete their Pioneer Passport.