



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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### PRESS RELEASE

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### COUNTY FLAG NOW FLIES OVER FORT VASQUEZ

WELD COUNTY, CO – When the commuter parking lot at Fort Vasquez was renovated in 2004, three flag poles were installed west of the majestic Prince of the Prairie statue marking the north entrance to the fort. The American flag and the State of Colorado flag flew proudly above one of Weld County’s original



four fur trading forts. The third flag pole, however, stood bare until William Crowley, Operations Coordinator for History Colorado – Fort Vasquez Museum, reached out to the county commissioners and proposed that the Weld County flag fly on that third flag pole at the fort.

“This is the first Weld County flag that will actually fly above a non-Weld County government building,” said Commissioner Sean Conway. “We think it is very important to highlight our history and our culture, and we are very proud today to present this flag to Fort Vasquez and the Town of Platteville.”

*Left: Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer, Platteville Mayor Bonnie Dunston and Fort Vasquez Operations Coordinator Bill Crowley raise the Weld County flag at Fort Vasquez on Thursday, April 3, 2014.*



The five county commissioners were joined by Crowley, Platteville Mayor Bonnie Dunston, Platteville Town Manager Troy Renken, members of the historical society and Michael Wren from History Colorado for the raising of the county flag.

“We are proud to be here,” said Commissioner Chairman Douglas Rademacher. “We are here with a lot of our friends from the

Town of Platteville, the historical society, and the mayor to raise the county flag over one of the four forts along the South Platte River.”

Built in 1835 under the direction of Louis Vasquez and Andrew Sublette, Fort Vasquez was the first licensed business in Weld County. “This was the first fort along the South Platte River,” said Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer. “At one point, over \$1 million worth of trade annually occurred at this fort.”

Weld County had four fur trading forts in the mid-1800s: Fort Vasquez, Fort Lupton, Fort St. Vrain and Fort Jackson. Today, visitors can tour both Fort Vasquez and Fort Lupton, as well as visit the site of Fort St. Vrain. Fort Jackson, unfortunately, is lost to history.

“On behalf of History Colorado,” said Crowley, “I do accept this flag to be flown with pride over Fort Vasquez.”

To learn more about the fur trading forts in Weld County, please visit [www.discoverweld.com](http://www.discoverweld.com).

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