

Greeley Tribune  
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# A history<sup>238</sup> lesson all can enjoy

## Chautauqua event a unique experience; this year no exception

**G**reeley's annual Chautauqua event starts Tuesday, offering northern Colorado residents superb — and unique — history lessons for the entire family to enjoy.

In fact, we'd venture to say that you won't realize you're learning at all — which is the best form of education.

This year, featured scholars at the High Plains Chautauqua will present to audiences each evening under the Big Tent at Aims Community College the practical dreamers of the American spirit.

This week, in fact, is chock full of Chautauqua fun for all ages, and everything is free.

Chautauqua is modeled after those of the early part of the 20th century, which brought to rural America the entertainment, history and culture usually only available to city folk. The circuit Chautauquas were modeled after the Chautauqua Institution in southwestern New York state, a community with summer-long programs by politicians, writers, theologians and musicians, according to Chautauqua Web site.

Today's Chautauqua features scholars young and old portraying famous historical figures as if they were beamed up from yesteryear via a Star

Trek teleporter. Scholars have spent countless hours studying biographies, letters and essays to re-create them down to the hitched steps and muffled coughs and awkward pauses. They bring audiences laughter and tears, and what's more, a greater understanding of how America came to be as they help people experience their character's reality.

This year's characters, some known, some not so known, all helped shape modern-day America in thought, politics and culture: PT Barnum, Frances E.W. Harper, Horace Greeley, Henry David Thoreau, Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Alva Edison, Zitkala-Sa and Mark Twain.

Where else could Greeley residents hear from the man who is our town's namesake? At Chautauqua, maybe they'll learn the meaning of the phrase, "Go West, young man," instead of only knowing it as a line in a song.

Residents can attend morning coffee chats with the scholars, lectures in the classroom, and the nightly fun under the big tent. Children get their own taste of Chautauqua history with hands-on activities and lessons. Again, all of this is free.

This year's Chautauqua also brings "Family Day," packed with activities, including a Wild West show with Buffalo Bill and sharpshooting by "Annie Oakley." Residents can meet fur traders, mountain men, a scout and Buffalo Soldiers. Young Chautauqua performers have prepared all summer to portray some of their favorite characters, and even some local attorneys will help put Mark Twain on trial for "racist" remarks in his novel, "Huckleberry Finn."

This entire week, all of this will be right here, in our backyard. No history books, no stiff lecture halls, just pure fun and entertainment to bring history alive.

Chautauqua truly is top-notch entertainment, put on by some dedicated volunteers. We should take pride in this event, which is easily one of a kind in Colorado.

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**To Go**

« For a complete schedule of Chautauqua events, go to [www.highplainschautauqua.org](http://www.highplainschautauqua.org). Chautauqua kicks off at 7 p.m. Tuesday with a presentation by P.T. Barnum, played by Doug Mishler. Day and nighttime events last through Saturday.

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« **DAILY PLANNER**

**TODAY**

« **WELD COUNTY FAIR**, Family Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Island Grove Regional Park, North 14th Avenue, Greeley. 3 p.m. announcement of All Around Showman at Sale Ring, Junior Livestock Sale, Evenbt Center. Details, (970) 356-4000, Ext. 2065, or [www.weldcountyfair.com](http://www.weldcountyfair.com).

« **GREELEY NOON LIONS**, noon, Greeley Recreation Center, 651 10th Ave. Visitors welcome.

« **BUS ROUTE RIBBON CUTTING**, 7:50 a.m., South GET Transfer Center at the Greeley Mall near 23rd Avenue and the Cinemark movie theater. Official opening of the Greeley-Loveland bus route. Officials also will cut a ribbon at the East Loveland Transfer Center, Loveland Visitor Center, 5400 Stone Creek Circle, Suite 200. Greeley-Evans Transit will operate

the route between Greeley and Loveland from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturdays. Details, (970) 350-9287 or [www.greeleygov.com/theBus](http://www.greeleygov.com/theBus).

**TUESDAY**

« **HIGH PLAINS CHAUTAUQUA**, "American Spirit: Practical Dreamers," today through Saturday, under the big tent at Aims Community College. Details, [www.highplainschautauqua.org](http://www.highplainschautauqua.org) or (970) 339-6365.

« **BREWNION COLONY**, home brew club, beer, mead (honey wine), wine, cyser, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pitchers Brewery & Sports Shack, 2501 11th Ave., Greeley. Details, (970) 339-5921.

« **BINGO**, sponsored by Los Alegres Ancianos Mexicanos, LAAM, 12:30

p.m. Tuesday and Fridays, Lucky Queen Bingo Hall, 298 6th Ave., Greeley. Details, (970) 352-4644.

« **8-MINUTE DATING**, Island Grill, 801 9th St., Greeley. Advance registration required. Sign up and get details at [www.8minutedating.com](http://www.8minutedating.com). Gift certificates, raffle.

**WEDNESDAY**

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« **AMERICAN LEGION BINGO**, 6:30 p.m., games at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Lucky Queen Bingo Hall, 298 6th Ave., Greeley. Details, (970) 356-0180.

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« **QUICK  
GLANCE**

**MONDAY**

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Family Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,  
Island Grove Regional Park,  
North 14th Avenue, Greeley.  
3 p.m. announcement of  
All Around Showman at  
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Details, (970) 339-5921.

**WEDNESDAY**

« **FAMILY CHESS CLUB,**

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
Wednesdays through Aug. 6,  
Farr Regional Library, 1939  
61st Ave., Greeley. Play  
chess with people of all  
ages who enjoy the game as  
much as you do. All levels  
welcome. Details, Nicky  
Quinby, (970) 506-8356 or  
[www.MyLibrary.us](http://www.MyLibrary.us).  
Sponsored by the High  
Plains Library District.

« **SIMPLY SINGLES,** 6 p.m.

Wednesdays, Randy's Grill,  
U.S. 85 and 31st Street,  
Evans. Weekend activities  
including cards, barbecues,  
picnics, camping, potlucks,  
dinner theater, movies and  
dancing. Details, (970) 339-  
3187 or (970) 396-2536.