



City Hall centennial

• Building's cornerstone was laid 100 years ago today

By **Kristen Salamon**
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It is not hard to imagine Sheridan as it was 100 years ago. Throughout the city, now outfitted with modern amenities, are reminders of its past.

Murals depict some of the city's founders, streets are named after its former residents, and buildings remain standing where they once were just being erected.

One such building, City Hall, will celebrate a milestone today. The cornerstone of the government building was laid 100 years ago today.

"With nature smiling her fairest benedictions, and attended by impressive ceremonies the corner stone of the new city hall swung into place at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and was pronounced laid by Hon. J.J. O'Marr, mayor of the city," The Daily Enterprise from March 21, 1910, read. "Several hundred people witnessed the ceremonies."

At the time, Sheridan's population was approximately 12,000.

Since that time, many more buildings were built and the city added only 5,000 people to its roster. According to the latest population estimates released last summer, Sheridan has just over 17,000 residents.

"It's funny how you can work in a place for five years and every morning walk through the door that says above it '1910' and think nothing of it," Mayor Dave Kinsley said earlier this week. "That is until Mike Cole, our former utilities director, called from Gillette to say, 'Hey, you guys, it's the centennial of City Hall!'"



The Sheridan Press/Blaine McCartney
Sheridan County Historical Society board member Mary Ellen McWilliams and Sheridan County Museum Director and Curator Dana Prater stand next to the cornerstone of Sheridan City Hall on Thursday afternoon. The cornerstone was laid 100 years ago today.

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A sketch of Sheridan in 1910

Historical information and photographs for this article were provided by Sheridan County Museum Director and Curator Dana Prater and Sheridan County Historical Society board member Mary Ellen McWilliams.

Population: 12,000
Cost of new City Hall: \$50,000
Newspapers: The Daily Enterprise and The Sheridan Post
Mayor: James J. O'Marr
Clerk: J.J. Withrow
Treasurer: Dr. Earl Whedon
Schools: Six public schools and a boarding school for young ladies
Churches: 11
Doctors: 13
Dentists: 4
Banks: 5
Businesses still in existence today: Palace Cafe, Sheridan Commercial Co.



Photo courtesy Sheridan County Historical Society
This historical photo shows Sheridan City Hall as soldiers from Fort Mackenzie march down Grinnell Avenue during a parade to honor a visit by President William Howard Taft in 1912.

Former astronaut visits Gillette

• Herrington reflects on NASA career, bicycle trip

GILLETTE (AP) — John Herrington has done at least two things only a handful of people have done, let alone both. He rode a bicycle from the state of Washington to Florida and he worked outside of the International Space Station.

Herrington, 51, is a former NASA astronaut who went to grade school and junior high in Riverton.

He was in Gillette as the guest speaker for the Challenger Learning Center of Wyoming's annual banquet Friday. While in town, he spoke to a couple of groups about his career at NASA and why his retirement included a solo bike trip across the country.



John Herrington
Former NASA Astronaut

Herrington never thought he could be an astronaut, even though it was a childhood dream of his. He wasn't sure what to do for a career after graduating from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs with a degree in applied mathematics, but he was encouraged to join the U.S. Navy as a pilot by a former professor. As a test pilot for the Navy, Herrington realized he might be able to be an astronaut.

The goal was a lofty one, but in 2002 Herrington was on the International Space Station, where he completed three space walks to attach a new piece to the station.

Herrington's goal was to go back to the space station, but the next mission was the space shuttle Columbia, which was destroyed on re-entry in 2003, killing all seven astronauts on board. The shuttle program was shut down for several years and Herrington had several more setbacks that kept him from flying again.

The final straw was when he was diagnosed with osteoporosis, which NASA said could be a problem on re-entry.

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State superintendent: State will scrutinize PAWS data

• McBride tours facilities at Normative Services and Wyoming Girls School

By **Michael Pearlman**
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Superintendent of Public Instruction Jim McBride said Friday that the state will scrutinize data collected during the first week of Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students testing that may have been affected by technical glitches.

McBride was in Sheridan on Friday to visit with Sheridan County School District No. 2 administrators, to tour new dormitories at the Wyoming Girls School and to visit with officials from Normative Services Inc. During an interview with the Sheridan Press Friday, McBride said that the bugs in online software that caused problems for school districts statewide when PAWS testing began last week may have affected the accuracy of the testing data.

"I will probably hire an independent statistician to analyze the first five days of data (from PAWS testing) and compare that to the rest of the data,"

McBride said. "Then we might argue that the validity and reliability of the data and the results are highly questionable. PAWS is actually an excellent assessment, the problem was with this new technology platform."

McBride noted that the future of PAWS could be affected by the Wyoming Legislature as well as changes the federal government may make to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The Wyoming Legislature is currently conducting an audit of the PAWS testing to help identify any changes that may need to be made. House Bill 120, which would eliminate the writing portion of the exam, never made it to the State Senate floor, but will be reintroduced next year.

"With all of those things occurring, there will certainly be some changes," McBride said. "Next year, its possible we could be in the final year that we use PAWS as it currently exists."



The Sheridan Press/Blaine McCartney
Wyoming Girls School Superintendent Clark Fairbanks, right, gives a tour to Dr. Jim McBride, State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Wyoming Department of Education, of new dormitories at the school Friday afternoon in Sheridan. The school built two new dormitories for students and a third one is currently under construction.

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Final health bill omits some of Obama's promises

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a bold response to skyrocketing health insurance premiums. President Barack Obama would give federal authorities the power to block unreasonable rate hikes.

Yet when Democrats unveiled the final, incarnation of their health care bill this week, the proposal was nowhere to be found.

Ditto with several Republican ideas that Obama had said he wanted to include after a televised bipartisan summit last month, including a plan by Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma to send investigators disguised as patients to hospitals in search of waste, fraud and abuse.

And those "special deals" that Obama railed against and said he wanted to eliminate? With the exception of two of the most notorious — extra Medicaid money for Nebraska and a carve-out for Florida seniors faced with losing certain extra Medicare benefits — they are all still there.

For the White House, these were the latest unfulfilled commitments related to Obama's health care proposal, starting with his campaign promise to let C-SPAN cameras film negotiations over the bill. Obama also backed down with little apparent regret on his support for a new government-run insurance plan as part of the legislation, a liberal priority.



Barack Obama
President of the United States

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