



Platte County Celebrates Its Centennial Year During 2011

Let's go back in time to just over one hundred years ago. Wyoming, just 20 years old at the time, had already experienced considerable growth; the original five counties, Laramie, Albany, Carbon, Sweetwater (originally Carter), and Uinta, had been further divided into thirteen counties by 1890 when Wyoming was admitted into the Union as the 44th state. Those 8 new counties include Johnson (1881), Fremont (1884), Crook (1885), Big Horn (1887), Converse (1888), Sheridan (1888), Natrona (1890) and Weston (1890).

Wyoming's population had grown from just over 9,000 in its early territorial days to over 62,500 by statehood, and by 1910 its population had more than doubled to over 145,000! The desire to create still more counties was on the minds of many, and in 1809 Park County was formed from the western part of Big Horn County.

The big push for more counties came in 1911 when seven new counties were established, including Niobrara, Campbell, Goshen, Platte, Hot Springs, Washakie and Lincoln counties. (Teton and Sublette counties would be created in 1923 from Lincoln and Fremont counties).

Platte and Goshen counties were created from what was the northern section of Laramie County, and the need for their creation had been felt for some time as residents living in this part of the county felt isolated and powerless in dealing



County Clerk Chris Kanwisher, Wheatland Mayor Skrinny Dixon, Commissioners Tim Milliken, Steve Shockley and Terry Stevenson, and Guernsey Mayor Ed Delgado pose with plaques at the Platte County Centennial Dedication Ceremony held February 1.

with Cheyenne politicians.

Today Platte County, with an area of 2,111 square miles and a population of 8,667, struggles as do many rural areas around the country with falling populations and decreasing revenues. With new interest in oil, gas, wind and waste-to-energy development in the county, that could soon change drastically.

Meanwhile, 2011 is going to be a year to celebrate our successes and our quality of life. You can read about upcoming centennial festivals and other events on page 5.

INDEX

Platte County Centennial	Page 1	Festivals Celebrate Centennial	Page 5
Spring is in the Air	Page 2	Oil Companies Set up Shop	Page 6
Meet Daphanie Taylor	Page 3	Calendar of Events	Page 7
Courthouse Facelift	Page 4	Membership	Page 8

Spring (and Some Big Changes) is in the Air

As another spring slowly makes its way into our lives, it's easy to get frustrated by the weather "setbacks" we experience every few days as Mother Nature takes us on one roller coaster ride after another through the spring months of March, April and May. It can be 65 degrees with blue skies and no wind one day and bone-chilling cold with 65 mile per hour winds and snow the next. However, the lengthening sunlight hours give us hope that soon the world around us will turn green and the fields on the Wheatland flats and the prairies around the county will become verdant and alive with the sounds of migrating birds.

The signs of spring are all around us. The ice has disappeared from the majority of lakes and streams in the county, and the robins have returned from their winter migration. Crocuses, tulips and asparagus plants are beginning to push their way through the garden soil. Campers, boats and RV's are coming out of garages and storage units, and dozens of people can be seen walking, jogging and bicycling along pathways and country roads with the earthy smells of plowed farm ground and manure in the air.

This will be my last newsletter as the Director of Platte County Economic Development. A replacement will soon take the controls, and I'm going to "retire" to the cabin west of Wheatland and see if I can avoid hailstorms and stave off grasshopper infestations to grow the biggest and best truck garden I've ever attempted. Oh, and I'll also have to work in some quality time with my 2-year old granddaughter on occasion.

My two years as director of Platte County Economic Development (PCED) have been a real learning curve for this retired middle school teacher, and the rewards have been tremendous. Being able to work with communities, organizations and individuals from around the county and state has given me (Cont'd. on p. 5)



Board of Directors

Jeff Brown—Chairman
First State Bank

Alan Madsen—Vice Chairman
Premier Title

Thane Ashenhurst—Secretary
Drube Supply

Chuck Ruwart —Treasurer
Laramie Peak Motors

Dan Paulsen
Wells Fargo Bank

Terry Stevenson
Platte County Commissioner

Cindy Kahler
Town of Wheatland

Chuck Witte
Wheatland R.E.A.

Kent Smith
Smith Broadcasting

Eric McVicker
Platte County Memorial Hospital

Keith Geis
Platte Valley Bank

Stuart Nelson
Platte County School District #1

Bob Ruwart
Bob Ruwart Motors

Tom Johnson
Wyoming Business Council

Col. Harold Walker—Ex-Officio
Claudia Teeters — Ex-Officio
Bruce Heimback—Ex-Officio
Anja Bendel—Ex-Officio
Dan Brecht, Executive Director
Daphanie Taylor, Ex. Assistant

Mission Statement

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

Daphanie Taylor Selected to Be New PCED Executive Assistant



Daphanie Taylor was recently selected to fill the position of Executive Assistant to Director Dan Brecht at Platte County Economic Development. Daphanie began training with Cindy Shafer, former executive assistant, in February after Ronda Stumbough accepted a full time position at the County Clerk's office. Daphanie will be in our office at 1560 Johnston Street (behind Sherard Realty) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Daphanie was born in McMinnville, Tennessee, but was raised in Battle Creek, Michigan. She and her husband, Larry Taylor, along with their son, Nicholas, moved to Wheatland in 1993 and have called Wheatland their home ever since. Daphanie graduated from Harper Creek High School in Battle Creek and holds an Associates Degree in applied Science from Kellogg Community College. She worked as a Medical Laboratory Technician in Michigan before moving to Wheatland. After the move, Daphanie homeschooled Nicholas through graduation and then re-entered the workforce. Since that time she has done many things with the most recent being a Rehab Technician with North Platte Physical Therapy in Wheatland.

Larry has been a delivery driver with UPS for two years and worked as a mechanic for Bob Ruwart Motors for many years before that. Nicholas was married to Mira Halle in July of 2010 and is now employed with (Cont'd. p. 4)

Niobrara Shale, Wyoming Wind, Green Energy Technology and a Clean Coal-fired Power Plant Contribute to U.S. Energy Independence And Jobs for Platte County Residents

The Friday, March 11 Japanese earthquake and tsunami and the resulting damage to the Fukushima nuclear power plant will undoubtedly cast a dark shadow on future nuclear power plant construction worldwide. The political turmoil in the Mideast, including the countries of Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Syria, Bahrain and elsewhere is certainly having an effect on the global price of crude oil in recent months.

Those two events may do more to promote domestic energy independence here in the United States than any federal program could have done. We've already seen a reverse in the downward spiral of domestic oil production here in the United States the past two years as oil companies realize the great potential of shale oil production in the Bakken Shale Formation of eastern North Dakota and western Montana as well as the Eagle Ford Shale Formation in south Texas.

A third oil play that is drawing a lot of attention, not only locally but nationwide as well, is the Niobrara Shale Formation in Weld, Yuma, Adams and Morgan counties of northeastern Colorado and Laramie, Goshen, Platte, Converse and Niobrara counties in southeastern Wyoming. Production numbers are still vague but optimism is high for Platte County.

In addition to the role Platte County might play in boosting domestic oil production, we are also anticipating that the Pathfinder Renewable Wind Energy project will begin in early 2014. If successful, 3,000 megawatts of power will be exported from Platte County. Backing that wind power up with natural gas generating plants, also called peaking plants, will do a great deal toward developing energy independence in the U. S. and the meeting the demand in many states for green energy.

A third project that isn't a huge energy producer, but will be another piece of the renewable energy "pie" is the AREA waste-to-energy project west of Guernsey. (Cont'd p. 7)

Platte County Residents Raise Money for New Courthouse Christmas Decorations



A computer generated photo shows what the Platte County Courthouse will look like with the new decorations that will adorn the west façade and the front lawn this coming Christmas season in celebration of the Platte County Centennial

A group of dedicated Platte County Residents representing Platte County Economic Development, Platte County Main Street, and the Festival of Lights Committee are working to raise \$15,000 to give the Platte County Courthouse a total make-over for this coming Christmas season.

The group met late this winter to begin developing plans for additional decorations as part of the 2011 Platte County Centennial Celebration.

After a fire destroyed many of the Christmas lights years ago, a group of residents led by Blinky Byers raised the funds needed to purchase the lawn decorations that have graced the courthouse lawn in recent years. However, wind and the elements have gradually taken their toll on these decorations, and that has been the impetus behind this most recent project.

The decorations, including wreathes, swags, candles, a horse and buggy and a steam locomotive and train are being purchased from Wayne Manufacturing, an Iowa based firm. The decorations are made entirely in the U.S.A. and are built to withstand high winds and harsh winters.

The group spearheading the effort hopes to have fundraising completed by early July and the decorations delivered by October in time for the Festival of Lights on Friday, December 2. To make a donation, please call Ruth Herdt at 322.2141 or Daphanie with PCED at 322.4232.

Meet Daphanie Taylor (From P. 3)

Basin Electric. Daphanie feels very blessed that her family has had good job opportunities in Wheatland.

Daphanie is very excited about the opportunities ahead of her with Platte County Economic Development and intends to give quality and integrity to every project open to her.

Wyoming Entrepreneur To Offer Seminar on How To Prepare Proposals for Government Contracts on April 12 in Casper

Wyoming Entrepreneur is sponsoring a free one day workshop through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in conjunction with the Wyoming Procurement Technical Assistance Center and Stover & Associates, Inc.

The workshop will begin at 8:00 a.m. and run until 4:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Workforce Development Center Conference Room at 851 Werner Court, Suite 120 in Casper.

The focus of the workshop will be proposal preparation for government contracts, and the day will be packed with information that is critical to successfully developing a business relationship with the federal government.

Topics included in the workshop will be Source Selection Process, Proposal Preparation Process, Key Document in a Competition, Technical and Cost Proposals, Request for Proposal (RFP) and the Proposal Review Process.

This workshop is designed specifically to meet the needs of small business people who want to gather a lot of information in a short amount of time and then get back to your business. The curriculum will cover the key aspects of competitive proposal preparation combined with some real world experience.

To register for this workshop, log on to www.stoverteam.com and click on the SBA logo at the bottom right hand side of the screen to choose the workshop you would like to register for or you can email Deb Farris at debra.farris@sba.gov.

For additional information, or if you have difficulty registering on line, you can call Deb Farris at 307.261.6510.

Festivals Abound in 2011 to Celebrate Platte County's Centennial Spring Is In the Air (From p. 2)

Platte County will be the scene of several festivals and other events being held to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Platte County. Originally part of Laramie County, Goshen and Platte County's became separate governmental entities in 1911 following a great deal of hard work, research, and not a small amount of debate about where the county seat would be located.

2011 marks the Centennial year for Platte County, and there are dozens of festivals, shows, exhibits and other events planned for the entire year. Below is just a few of the events being held throughout Platte County this year. Events in red are community/county sanctioned Centennial Events.

APRIL

29 Total Spring Show; Wheatland

MAY

15 Dance Wyoming Spring Fling; Wheatland

JUNE

18 Glendo Days; Glendo

19 Chugwater Chili Cook-off; Chugwater

JULY

4 Guernsey 4th of July Celebration; Guernsey

4 Jaycees Fireworks Display; Wheatland

AUGUST

1-6 Platte County Fair & Rodeo; Wheatland

6 Platte County Fair & Rodeo Parade

16-20 Centennial Quilt Show; Wheatland

17-20 Green Harvest Festival; Wheatland

SEPTEMBER

29 Oktoberfest; Wheatland

OCTOBER

30 Tour of Tables; Wheatland

DECEMBER

2 Festival of Lights; Wheatland

If you would like an event included in our July, August & September newsletter please call our office at 322.4232 by June 20th.

ideas about how we can do some things differently here in our county. On the other hand, I have come to realize how very fortunate we are to have the many opportunities, privileges and human resources that we have.

Our rural lifestyle enables us to connect with the natural things around us, it forces us to develop a strong work ethic, and it gives us the opportunity to learn the value and importance of volunteerism and working together. Platte County Economic Development embraces those ideas and strives to help residents of Platte County improve their quality of life.

Working closely with individuals and companies to expand or start new businesses in Platte County is what we're about, and we've played a major role in helping companies both large and small put down roots here and capitalize on our quality workforce, a friendly business climate and what appears to be a major oil play in the Niobrara Shale Formation in southeastern Wyoming.

With all the new business activity developing throughout the county, PCED is poised to go father and reach higher than I am able to take it, and so in the very near future a new person will be sitting at this desk and reaching out to the membership for support to take our organization and all of Platte County into new, uncharted territory. It will take all of us (I plan on keeping my membership in Platte County Economic Development) to help PCED continue to be the vibrant, influential and respected organization that it is, and I know we will succeed beyond anyone's expectations.

May you all have a great spring and summer, and I hope to see you at the many great events happening around Platte County over the next several months as we celebrate our history, our communities and our way of life.

The New and Unfamiliar Are Becoming Commonplace in the Wheatland Area as the Oil and Gas Industry Begins to Ramp up Operations Here in Platte County



Several oil-related companies have already set up shop in the Wheatland area over the last 6 months including (clockwise from top left) Basin Transload, a company based in Billings, Montana, which has purchased and is totally renovating the “Old Sugar Beet Factory” northeast of town into what will ultimately handle fracking sand and possibly oil using the rail spur that is on site; John Bunning Transfer Company, Inc., a company based in Rock Springs Wyoming , which will also utilize space at the Basin Transload facility for bringing in large quantities of pipe and other oil rig materials; R & R Rig Service from Riverton, Wyoming, purchased the Wheatland Fire Equipment Building on South Road west of town and provides a variety of services to the oil rigs; Stallion Oil-field Services, based in Houston, Texas, has over 1,700 employees nationwide and has set up an office east of town on Gilchrist; and R & M Welding, Inc. located on 8th Street behind H & H Concrete Construction offering welding and other oil rig services. These are but a few of the companies currently doing work in the area, and several more companies are planning to move to the Platte County area in the next several months as activity seems to be picking up in the Niobrara.



Calendar of Events for April 1–June 30, 2011

April

- 1 April Fools Day
- 4 Chugwater Town Council
- 5 Guernsey Town Council
- 5 Platte County Commissioners
- 6 Glendo Town Council
- 7 Wheatland Planning & Zoning
- 11 Wheatland Town Council
- 11 Platte Co. Sch. Dist. #2
- 12 Guernsey Economic Dev.
- 13 Hartville Town Council
- 13 County Planning & Zoning
- 17 Chamber of Commerce
- 17 Palm Sunday
- 18 Platte Co. Sch. Dist. #1
- 18 Chamber of Commerce
- 19 Platte County Commissioners
- 19 Guernsey Town Council
- 19 Passover Begins
- 20 PCED Board Meeting
- 21 Chugwater Economic Dev.
- 22 Good Friday
- 24 Easter Sunday
- 29 Arbor Day
- 30 Total Spring Show

- 22 Guernsey H.S. Graduation
- 22 Chugwater H.S. Graduation
- 22 Wheatland H.S. Graduation
- 30 Memorial Day

June

- 1 Glendo Town Council
- 6 Chugwater Town Council
- 7 Guernsey Town Council
- 7 County Commissioners
- 8 Hartville Town Council
- 9 Wheatland Planning & Zoning
- 13 Wheatland Town Council
- 13 Platte County Sch. Dist. #2
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 PCED Board Meeting
- 15 County Planning & Zoning
- 16 PCHS 4th Annual Ranch Tour
- 18 Chugwater Chili Cook-off
- 19 Fathers Day
- 20 Platte Co. Sch. Dist. #1
- 20 Chamber of Commerce
- 21 Platte County Commissioners
- 21 Guernsey Town Council



Energy Independence (Continued from Page 3)

May

- 1 May Day
- 2 Chugwater Town Council
- 3 Guernsey Town Council
- 3 Platte County Commissioners
- 4 Glendo Town Council
- 5 Wheatland Planning & Zoning
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 8 Mothers Day
- 9 Platte County Sch. Dist. #2
- 9 Wheatland Town Council
- 10 Guernsey Economic Dev.
- 11 Hartville Town Council
- 11 County Planning & Zoning
- 16 Platte County Sch. Dist. #1
- 16 Chamber of Commerce
- 17 Guernsey Town Council
- 17 Platte County Commissioners
- 18 PCED Board Meeting
- 19 Chugwater Economic Dev.
- 21 Chamber of Commerce
- 21 Glendo H.S. Graduation

This project will create approximately 60 jobs here in Platte County. The mission of AREA is as much about helping Wyoming with its landfill issues over the next several years as it is about creating domestic energy. This project will likely produce about 30 megawatts of power (minute in comparison to the 1,600 megawatts produced at the Laramie River Station northeast of Wheatland) but will handle roughly 300 tons of trash per day...enough to solve the landfill crisis for many of the communities in southeastern Wyoming. If all goes well, construction on the AREA plant is scheduled to begin perhaps as early as November of 2011 and operation at the facility could begin by December of 2012.

Platte County already has one of the cleanest coal fired power plants in the nation, and the Laramie River Station has invested in excess of \$350 million in environmental control equipment to ensure the plant meets or exceeds all existing environmental rules and regulations. This plant was constructed in the late 1970's and early 1980's, and today the Laramie River Station serves 3.2 million customers in a 9 state region. It is unique in that it serves customers in both the eastern and western grid. Platte County is certainly poised to become a leader in domestic energy production.

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
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
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
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 January through March, 2011!
Wheatland Automotive
Simply Creative



PLATTE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Platte County Economic Development
P.O. Box 988—1560 Johnston Street
Wheatland, WY 82201

Helping Business Ideas Become Reality