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121st Year, No. 148 Serving Sheridan County, Wyoming

**WEEKEND**

Saturday - Sunday, November 10 - 11, 2007

50¢

## Remains identified as MIA from Korean War

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon announced Friday that human remains provided to U.S. authorities by the North Korean government have been identified as a soldier missing from the Korean War.

It was the first set of war remains among six turned over by the North Koreans last April to be officially identified. And it marks the latest in a string of positive developments in the U.S.-North Korean relationship, which has been dominated for years by tension over North Korea's nuclear program.

Earlier this week, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed satisfaction with the scope and pace of North Korea's cooperation in disabling major facilities at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex.

And on Thursday the government in Pyongyang expressed rare gratitude for U.S. help in ending a high-seas standoff with Somali pirates. The Navy came to the aid of the North Korean cargo ship Dai Hong Dan, whose crew overpowered the pirates in a bloody battle. After the crew regained control, U.S. sailors boarded it at the North Koreans' invitation to treat wounded sailors and hijackers.

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Clockwise from above: Highland Park Elementary School kindergartner Travon McGuire stands for the Pledge of Allegiance during a Veterans Day assembly at the school Friday. Spc. Greg Kerr (holding Wyoming state flag) and Sgt. Allen Price of the U.S. Army National Guard stationed in Sheridan present the colors during the assembly. Sheridan Senior Center Administrative Assistant Shelly Araas (left) stands with Director of Volunteers Nancy McKenzie in front of a display they helped create that recognizes Sheridan County veterans. Veterans are encouraged to stop by the Senior Center to contribute to the display. Also contributing to the display but not pictured are Activities Director Jane Perkins and volunteer Dr. Margaret Pilch.

The Sheridan Press/Michael Sullivan



## Honoring Veterans

• Sheridan VA, Senior Center events Sunday

**By Pat Blair**

*Special contributor to The Press*

Debra L. Hirschman, new director of the Sheridan VA Medical Center, will serve as master of ceremonies during the VAMC's annual Veterans Day observance Sunday.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. in the VAMC Auditorium — Building 61 — in keeping with the original intent of the observance to commemorate the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" in 1918, which is considered the effective end of World War I.

Students from the Wright Place and Fort Mackenzie High School in Sheridan will also participate in the event, which is open to the public.

Also commemorating Veterans Day this year is Sheridan's Senior Citizens Center, where 58 photographs and 60 names of veterans are posted on a Veterans' Wall of Honor.

The exhibit will be up through the end of this month and is open to the public during the Senior Center's regular hours.

Senior Center Executive Director Carmen Rideout said the exhibit is "a team effort" of volunteer Margaret Pilch, who interviewed veterans for the exhibit, and Senior Center staff members Shelly Araas, Nancy McKenzie and Jane Perkins.

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# Veterans

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Rideout said the Senior Center is still taking names and accepting photos of veterans for the Wall of Honor.

World War I officially ended June 28, 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, but the guns had been silent for seven months before then.

Originally called Armistice Day, Nov. 11 officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926. The name was changed June 1, 1954, to honor all U.S. veterans.

Congress attempted to make the day a Monday holiday in 1968, changing the national commemora-

tion to the fourth Monday in October, but after 10 years of protests, Congress returned the observance to its original date in 1978.

National ceremonies for Veterans Day have traditionally centered around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C., where an Army honor guard, the 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

At 11 a.m. Nov. 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb, a presidential wreath is laid, and "Taps" is played.

The first tomb was of a soldier who died in World War I. In 1958,

two more unidentified American war dead, one from World War II and one from the Korean War, were buried next to the World War I soldier.

A 1973 law provided for burial of an unknown American who died in Vietnam, but because of improved technology in identifying the dead, the first Vietnam unknown veteran wasn't buried in the tomb until 1984.

In 1998, the Vietnam soldier was identified through DNA tests as Michael Blassie, 24, an Air Force pilot who was shot down in May 1972 near the Cambodian border.

His body was disinterred and reburied by his family in St. Louis.