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WEDNESDAY

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CMYK

100 days: How's he doing?



ALAN GARFIELD • Special to the TH

Here's a look at his promises in key areas, and his performance

BY CALVIN WOODWARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has not yet achieved the big campaign promises he'll be judged on years from now, on health care, war, the economy and so much more. It's early, it's a colossal load and Rome wasn't built in 100 days.

He has delivered, though, on the work ethic he promised.

Obama has moved ahead on the towering problem of health coverage, succeeding on the first baby steps, and has taken on other big-ticket items.

On foreign policy, energy and the environment, Obama the president is trying to do what Obama the candidate promised. But he'll be judged on results, not effort.

He's broken some promises:

- Obama's pledge to change the way Washington works is turning out to be a mix of gimmick, reform and sidelined ambition.

- He promised not to raise taxes on anyone but the rich, then did, approving a tobacco tax hike that disproportionately hits the poor.

His broad directions, though, are rooted in the rhetoric of his change-is-coming campaign.

He's winding down the Iraq war, though a little more slowly than promised. He's reached out to adversaries as he said he would.

A look at Obama's progress on a sampling of his promises:

THE DEFICIT

The promise: "Every dollar I've proposed, I've proposed an additional cut that it matches." — Presidential debate, Oct. 15, 2008.

The performance: Obama's contention that his programs would not deepen the deficit was treated with great skepticism in the campaign, even before the financial crisis was in full fury. The nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimated his policy

See PROMISES, PAGE 2A

Tri-staters weigh in on Obama's opening days

BY MARY RAE BRAGG
TH staff writer • mbragg@wcinet.com

No surprise here.

People inclined to support Barack Obama in last November's election have a more generous view of his first 100 days in office, which falls today.

That was the finding of an informal Telegraph Herald survey of 34 people taken Monday and Tuesday at Kennedy Mall and along Main Street.

There was just one exception among those responding. A woman describing herself as "fiscally, a Republican" said she didn't vote for Obama, but gave him credit: "Considering the magnitude of the job, I think he's doing very well."

Here's a sampling of the comments, pro and con, about President Obama's performance. **MORE, 2A**



"In 100 days, I don't know what you expect to get done... It's too early to tell." — **Robert Martens, Dubuque**

"I think he's taken a very proactive approach to our problems. His approach may not affect us immediately, but it's going to put lots of people to work ... I think he's getting a bad rap from the right wing." — **Jason Poi, Platteville, Wis.**



"I haven't seen a lot that he's done that will help us ... He made it seem like he could change everything right away ... I hope he proves me wrong." — **Linda Soat, Dubuque**

"He's shaking a lot of hands and that's about it ... He's making a lot of promises, but is he going to be able to keep them?" — **Alfons Wick, Darlington, Wis.**



today's TH



GM will force at least 1,000 dealerships to close 5B

corrections

- A story on Page 1A Tuesday incorrectly stated that a same-sex couple from North Carolina applied for a marriage license in Dubuque County. The couple was a man and a woman. Incorrect information was provided to the TH.

- Jan McAuliffe and her partner do not plan to get married this year. An article on Page 1A Monday said they would marry in 2009.

The TH regrets the errors.

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Illinois 4C	Wisconsin 6C



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173rd year, No. 119



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