

News Briefs

May 29, 2026

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Wyoming Hospital Association

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Governor Gordon's Wy We Care Initiative Launches Survivors Campaign

Governor Mark Gordon (R-WY) has announced the launch of the **WY We Care Survivors campaign**. This new effort features four powerful, firsthand stories of Wyomingite suicide survivors, all with unique backgrounds—mental health advocate, mother, veteran, master electrician—determined to destigmatize mental health struggles and highlight the life-saving power of connection.

Leading the debut is Carrie Bollock, the reigning Mrs. Wyoming America and a dedicated mental health advocate. Through her platform, "Restored by Faith," Bollock shares her personal journey from a moment of total crisis to a life of purpose and restoration.

In a recent podcast discussion regarding the state's wellness efforts, Governor Gordon emphasized the importance of shifting the narrative around mental health.

"Why I'm so encouraged is it changes the tenor of the conversation away from, 'We shouldn't talk about this, it'll give bad ideas,' to, 'Wait just a minute. We're getting stronger, we're getting healthier, we're doing that preventative maintenance that is so key,'" said Governor Mark Gordon. In her featured narrative, Bollock recounts a pivotal chapter of her life that began in an emergency room and led to a mental health ward. She describes the profound impact of seeing her community—from her parents and friends to local first responders—step in to provide a lifeline.

The WY We Care Survivors campaign encourages residents to check in on neighbors, friends, and themselves. It serves as a central pillar of the Governor's broader WY We Care initiative, which aims to streamline resources and foster a culture of wellness across the state. The Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) is also partnering in the WY We Care Survivors Campaign, by supporting the power in talking through what can sometimes be tough situations and conversations.

If you or someone you know is struggling, help is available. Please reach out to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988 to connect with free, confidential support 24/7. Hope, help, and healing are within reach.

Generic Drug Pilot Program

The Civica Rural Hospital Program is a new pilot program that may provide participating rural and independent hospitals with more stable access to generic medications at wholesale pricing.

The program is being funded through the Helmsley Charitable Trust in partnership with Civica Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Civica, a nonprofit generic drug company. According to the announcement, eligible hospitals would have a more consistent supply of generic medications without the need to purchase in bulk. The initiative is intended to address ongoing concerns related to drug shortages and pricing volatility. More information can be found [here](#).

Wyoming is one of the pilot states, with 23 eligible hospitals who can opt in to participate.



Memorial Hospital
of Carbon County

Mobile Healthcare Training in Rawlins

Simulation in Motion Montana, SIM-MT, will bring its mobile simulation program to Memorial Hospital of Carbon County in Rawlins on June 10 and 11. The visit will provide hands-on training for critical access hospital and EMS professionals in a realistic learning setting.

The training is designed to help local healthcare teams strengthen communication, teamwork, decision-making, and readiness before real emergencies happen. By offering this education close to home, the program supports the people and families of Carbon County by helping prepare the professionals who care for them every day.

“Opportunities like this help rural healthcare teams strengthen skills, build confidence, and work together more effectively before real emergencies happen,” said Sara Kaull with SIM-MT. “When teams can practice in lifelike settings, they are better prepared to care for their communities with confidence and compassion.”

High-fidelity simulation training uses lifelike equipment and realistic patient care scenarios so healthcare professionals can practice complex situations in a safe environment. This approach gives teams the chance to learn, improve, and build confidence without risk to patients, while strengthening the coordination that matters during real medical events.

SIM MT brings this work directly to rural communities through training in the mobile lab plus local environments, helping reduce travel time for healthcare professionals and expanding access to high-quality education. That means local providers can sharpen their skills while staying connected to the communities they serve.

Cheyenne VA Medical Center Receives Top Marks in 2026 CMS Report

Cheyenne VA Medical Center officials announced that the facility and its staff received a five-star rating in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ annual Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating report.

Cheyenne VA



Cheyenne VA Medical Center maintained the achievement of a five-star rating from last year. CMS' Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings are based on five categories: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience and timely and effective care. A higher star rating, out of five, indicates better performance in these quality measures.

“Receiving a five-star rating from CMS is a reflection of the dedication our entire team brings to caring for veterans every day,” said Paul Roberts, director of Cheyenne VA Medical Center, in a news release. “This rating underscores our commitment to delivering safe, timely and high-quality care, and we are proud to contribute to VA’s continued nationwide excellence.”

Nationwide, 78% of VA hospitals that received a rating received an Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating of four or five stars in 2026.

House Introduces Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Extension Bill

Rep. Randy Feenstra, R-Iowa, introduced a House version of the **Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Program Reauthorization Act**, a bill that would extend the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration for five years. The Senate passed their version of the **bill** May 20. The RCHD provides cost-based Medicare reimbursement for hospitals with fewer than 51 beds that do not qualify as critical access hospitals. The House bill was co-introduced by Reps. Jared Golden, D-Maine, Mike Flood, R-Neb., and Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Ore.

“Many rural hospitals face financial uncertainty from low patient volumes, sicker patient populations, a challenging payer mix, geographic isolation, and shifts in care delivery,” **said** Lisa Kidder Hrobsky, AHA senior vice president for advocacy and political affairs. “The Rural Community Hospital (RCH) Demonstration Reauthorization Act allows hospitals to continue providing essential care in their communities by supporting the financial stability of participating rural hospitals. Hospitals with 50 beds or less are some of the most vulnerable to closure and the RCH demo offers an important model to maintain access in rural communities around the country. The AHA thanks Rep. Feenstra, Rep. Golden, Rep. Flood and Rep. Bynum for their strong leadership to support America’s rural hospitals.”

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR • 2026

Sep 8, 2026

WHA Golf Tournament

Cheyenne Country Club

Golf

Sep 9–10, 2026

WHA Annual Meeting

Little America, Cheyenne

Annual

June 12, 2026

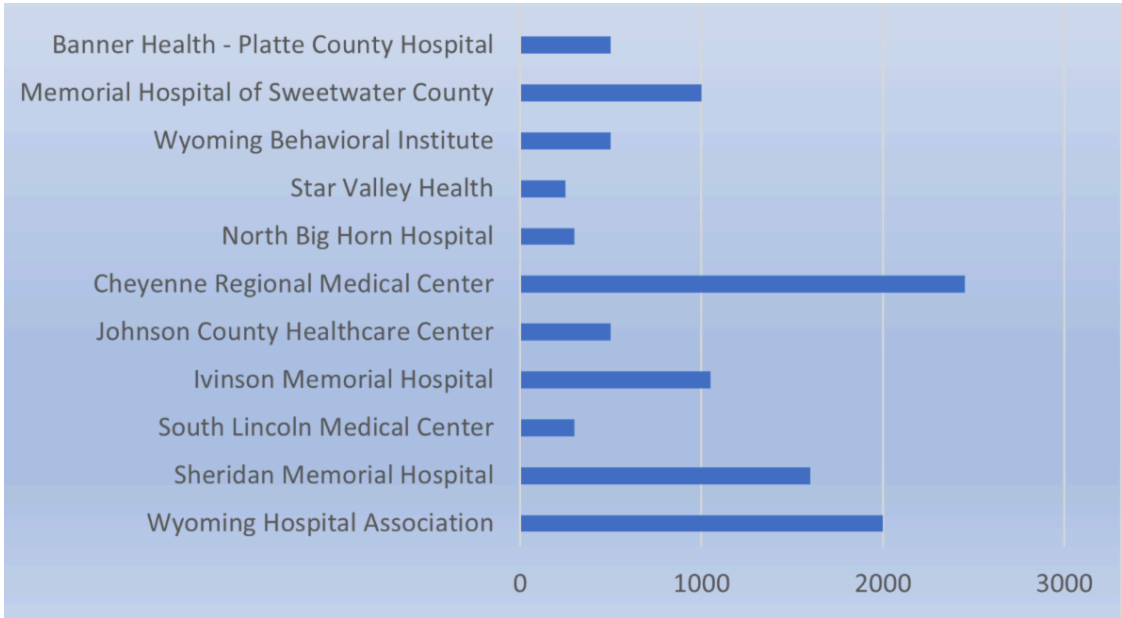
Healthcare Policy Summit

Laramie, WY

Summit

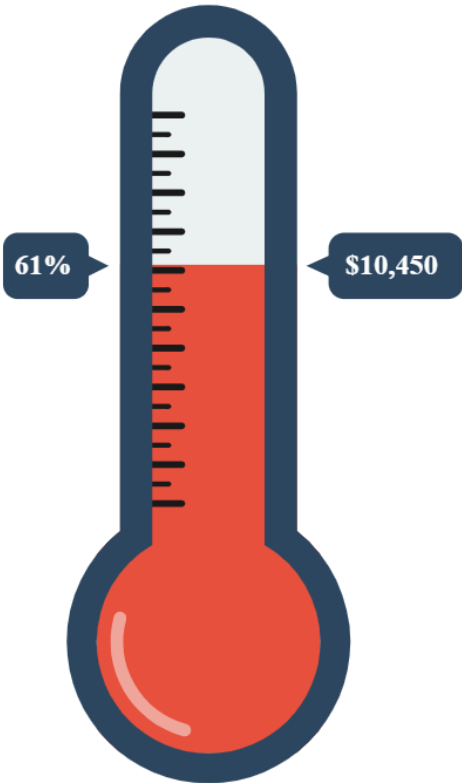
Healthcare Policy Summit

WHA PAC Goal for 2026 Contributors



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



- Barry Burkart**
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- Shelli Shelton**
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- Darcy Robertson**
- Mike Hunsaker**
- Mike Phillips**
- Steven Leafgreen**
- Brad Jackson**
- Irene Richardson**
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