

# News Briefs

December 5, 2025

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## Wyoming Hospital Association

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### Wyoming Hospital Association Announces Kelsey Prestesater as New Vice President

The Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) is pleased to announce that Kelsey Prestesater will join WHA as Vice President, effective January 5, 2026.

In this role, Prestesater will work closely with WHA leadership to advance WHA's mission of supporting healthcare providers across Wyoming and advocating for high-quality patient care throughout the state.

"We are thrilled to welcome Kelsey Prestesater to the Wyoming Hospital Association team," said Eric Boley, WHA President. "Her expertise and dedication to healthcare

excellence make her an ideal addition to our leadership team as we continue to serve Wyoming's hospitals and healthcare community. I have been fortunate to see Kelsey's work firsthand and have been impressed by her professionalism and expertise."

Prestesater brings broad experience in healthcare policy, regulatory strategy, and organizational leadership across the Mountain West. She has contributed to state Medicaid regulatory development, provided legal counsel to healthcare providers and community clinics, and supported initiatives to strengthen care delivery. Kelsey received her Juris Doctor from Gonzaga University School of Law and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Montana. Her career spans leadership roles in healthcare policy, payer operations, and state-level regulatory strategy across both public and private sector organizations.

Her appointment comes at a pivotal time for healthcare in Wyoming, as hospitals across the state continue to adapt to evolving challenges while serving both rural and urban communities.

"I am honored to join the Wyoming Hospital Association and look forward to working with hospital leaders across the state," said Prestesater. "Wyoming's healthcare community plays a vital role in our communities, and I'm excited to contribute to WHA's important work in supporting these essential institutions."

The Wyoming Hospital Association represents hospitals and healthcare systems throughout the state, providing advocacy, education, and resources to support high-quality healthcare delivery for all Wyoming communities.



## MHSC will get PET-CT Scanner Thanks to \$1.9M Helmsley Grant

Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County (MHSC) will add a dual-purpose PET-CT simulator to its imaging fleet with the help of a \$1.9 million grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

“Having a PET-CT scanner on site will improve diagnostic and treatment services and expand access to advanced imaging,” said MHSC CEO Irene Richardson. “It will enhance patient care across multiple specialties.” “We are deeply appreciative of the grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. It will make a remarkable difference in the lives of rural patients,” Richardson said. “We also are thankful for the Memorial Hospital Foundation for reaching out and helping to secure this funding.”

The Helmsley Charitable Trust has invested \$128 million to ensure access and expand chemotherapy and radiation services in rural communities, including a previous grant to MHSC to purchase a linear accelerator. “At Helmsley, we’re committed to bringing cutting-edge tools to rural communities so patients can get the right care at the right time,” said Walter Panzirer, a Trustee of the Helmsley Charitable Trust. “This new PET-CT scanner will strengthen Sweetwater County’s capacity to diagnose and treat cancer locally, improving patient experience and long-term health outcomes.”

Sweetwater Memorial and its Sweetwater Regional Cancer Center will no longer be reliant on mobile PET-CT imaging, which now visits the hospital every other week, said Shellynn Edwards, MHSC Nuclear Medicine Technologist. Onsite services will allow for streamlined diagnostics and support timely, coordinated care for a better patient experience.

“This grant will allow MHSC to increase access to PET-CT imaging, help reduce patient wait times, improve treatment accuracy, and enhance patient satisfaction,” said Tasha Harris, Cancer Center Radiation Oncology Director. “The project will support earlier diagnosis and better care coordination, ultimately improving cancer care outcomes.”

PET-CT imaging is used for cancer detection, staging, and treatment monitoring, Harris explained. Relying on a mobile PET-CT delays diagnosis, complicates treatment planning and at times forces patients to travel hundreds of miles to urban centers for PET-CT studies. These types of barriers disproportionately impact rural residents, while increasing stress, costs, and health disparities. Installing this equipment will strengthen the hospital’s role as a regional healthcare hub.

“This grant represents a powerful investment in community health,” said Kayla Mannikko, Foundation Executive Director. “By bringing together partners across healthcare, we’re building a stronger, more equitable system of care that truly meets people where they are. The generous Helmsley grant will help to ensure timely, accurate, and patient-centered care locally.”

The Cancer Center’s current CT simulator room will be repurposed to house the new piece of equipment. It is possible the new PET-CT could be in place and available to patients by late 2026. “It’s difficult to give a date at this point,” said MHSC Facilities Director Gerry Johnston. “We are in the beginning stages. We’ll have a better idea on a timeline once we have all the pieces of this project in place.”

## Resources Available to Help Detect Malicious AI Schemes



The FBI has public resources available to help prevent exploitation by cybercriminals, who use artificial intelligence for deception. An **infographic** by the FBI and the American Bankers Association Foundation highlights how AI-generated or manipulated media, also known as “deep fakes,” can be used to impersonate trusted individuals. It details signs of a deep fake scam and how such content can depict public figures, friends and family members. An **FBI**

**announcement** further explains how criminals use AI-generated text, images, audio and video for fraud schemes. The alert includes tips to help protect against suspected schemes.

“The information provided by the FBI and the ABA is relevant for health care as criminals are increasingly using AI-generated deep fake audio and video content — often in combination — to deceive health care staff,” said John Riggi, AHA national advisor for cybersecurity and risk. “Deep fakes are used to manipulate unwitting individuals by having them click on phishing emails, provide their credentials, hire malicious remote IT workers or transfer funds to criminal accounts. Constant vigilance and multi-layered human verification processes are needed, especially as AI-synthetic video and audio capabilities continue to advance.”

For more information on this or other cyber and risk issues, contact Riggi at [jriggi@aha.org](mailto:jriggi@aha.org). For the latest cyber and risk resources and threat intelligence, visit [aha.org/cybersecurity](https://aha.org/cybersecurity).

## Exclusive Member Webinar: The Fact and Fiction of International Recruitment

Join us for an exclusive webinar on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 12-1 p.m. CST:

Healthcare organizations nationwide are facing ongoing workforce challenges, making it more important than ever to build sustainable, reliable care teams. Join Ron Hoppe, CEO of WorldWide HealthStaff Solutions, a Medical Solutions company, for an exclusive webinar that cuts through common myths about international recruitment. Drawing on more than 25 years of experience, Ron will share practical, data-driven insights on how international recruitment can be a strategic, long-term approach to strengthening your workforce, enhancing diversity, and improving patient care outcomes.

[Reserve Your Spot Here](#)



**2026 Wyoming Budget Session**  
**February 9, 2026**

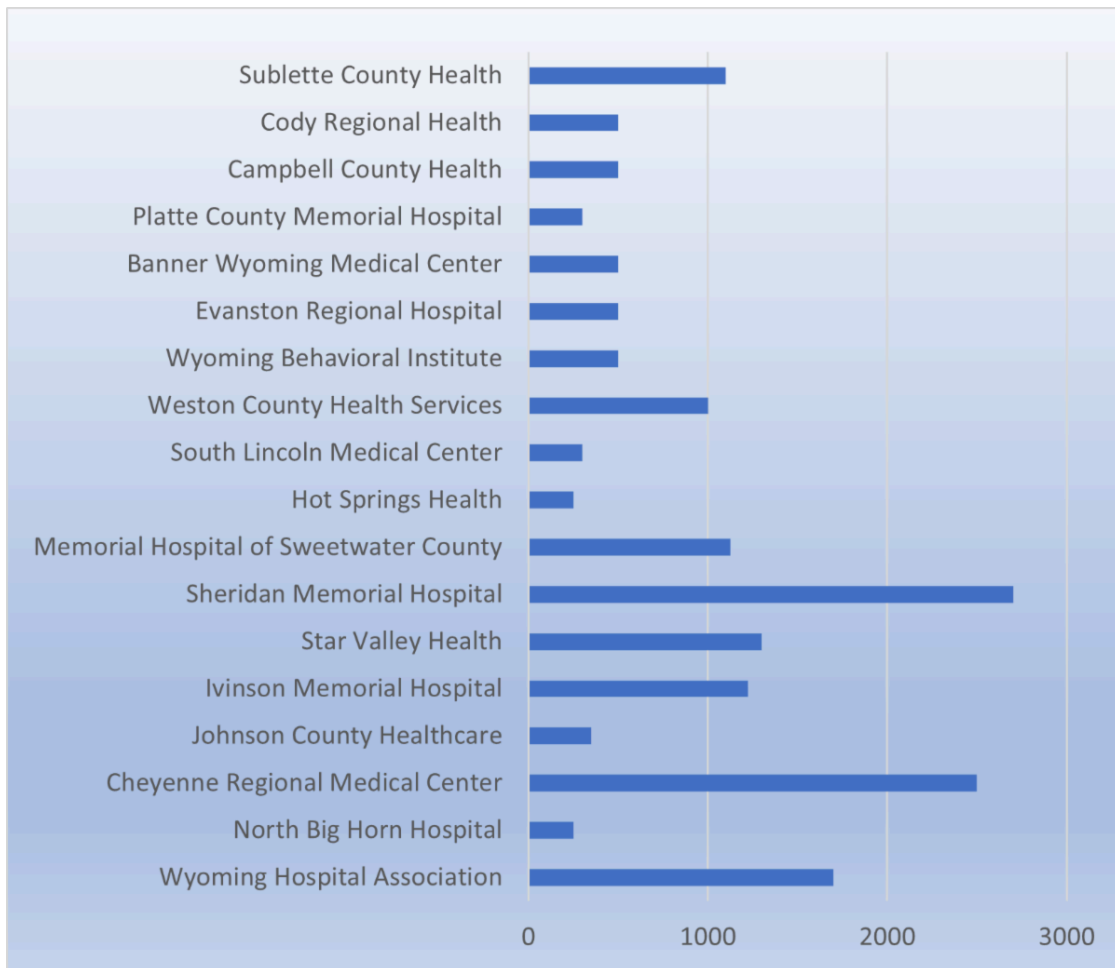
**WHA Trustee/CEO Spring Meeting**  
**May 19, 2026**

**WHA Annual Meeting**  
**September 9-10, 2026**



## WHA PAC Goal for 2025

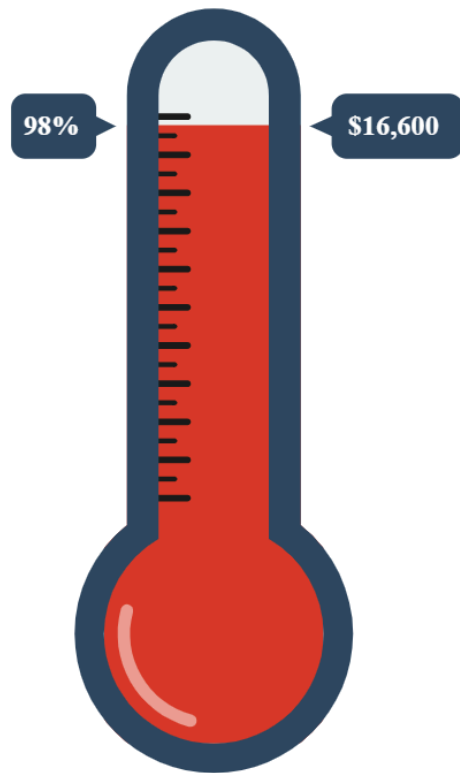
### Contributors



#### WHA PAC

**Barry Burkart**  
**Eric Boley**  
**Eric Connell**  
**Tim Thornell**  
**Shelli Shelton**  
**Doug Faus**  
**Mike Hunsaker**  
**Ron Mischke**  
**Darcy Robertson**  
**Barbara Sowada**

**GOAL: \$17,000**



**WHA PAC**  
WYOMING HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Scott Alwin  
Luke Senden  
Dave Ryerse  
Shirley Coulter  
Gary Crum  
Joseph Steiner  
Kelly Lieb  
Terry Moss  
Irene Richardson  
Joe Wright  
Jenifer Shassetz  
Cathy Harshbarger  
Mike McCafferty  
Dan Ordyna  
Mike Phillips  
Bryan Opitz  
Ada Kirven  
Bob Moore  
Sandy Dugger  
Lance Porter  
Matt Shahan  
Hannah McRae  
Anthony Spiegelberg  
Bill Patten  
David Burnett  
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Kenda Tanner  
Kris Hinton  
Trevor Merritt  
Yvonne Wigington



Wyoming Hospital Association | 2005 Warren Ave | Cheyenne, WY 82001-3725 US

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