

News Briefs

October 2, 2026

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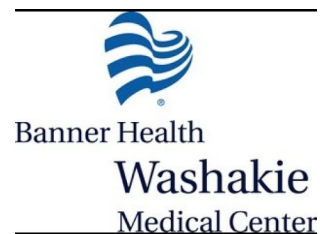
- Witt Named CEO at Banner Washakie Medical Center
- WHA Joins Coalition Opposing Property Tax Ballot Measure
- Cody Launches CNA Career Pathway
- Resources from AHA on Public Health Emergencies
- Wyoming HFMA Fall Conference
- 2026 WHA PAC Goal

Banner Washakie Medical Center Welcomes Sarah Witt as New CEO

Sarah Witt has been named the new CEO of Banner Washakie Medical Center. Effective September 13, Sarah stepped into her new role with more than two decades of leadership experience, including nearly 15 years in health care leadership.

Sarah has been part of the Banner Wyoming team since relocating to Worland in 2017. Most recently, she served as Senior Director of Human Resources for Banner's four Wyoming hospitals, where she partnered with leaders across the region on workforce strategy, operational performance, culture and leadership development.

Her experience also includes serving as interim CEO at both Banner Platte County Hospital and Banner Washakie Medical Center, giving her a firsthand understanding of rural health care and the communities Banner serves. She also serves as a Banner Executive Coach, supporting executive leaders as they navigate complex organizational challenges.



Hospitals Join Coalition Opposing

Property Tax Ballot Measure

The Wyoming Hospital Association has joined a statewide coalition — including the Wyoming Education Association, Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees, Wyoming Taxpayers Association, and Wyoming Realtors — opposing a November ballot measure that would cut residential property taxes by 50%.

The measure, which qualified after a citizen petition drew more than 30,000 signatures, would apply to any Wyoming homeowner of at least one year, with no income or age restriction. If passed, it's projected to cost the state \$92.6–\$124.7 million annually, not counting impacts to local taxing districts that fund fire, ambulance, and hospital services.

Supporters, led by the BCR Initiatives campaign, argue the cut offers relief to homeowners — especially in high-growth areas like Teton County, where the median property tax bill now tops \$6,300 a year. Critics counter that many counties have already returned to 2018 revenue levels thanks to existing relief measures, including a 4% annual cap on tax increases and a 50% exemption for qualifying seniors.

WHA will continue working with coalition partners to educate voters on the measure's potential impact to hospital districts and emergency services ahead of the November vote.



Cody High School and Cody Regional Health Launch CNA Career Pathway Program

Cody High School and Cody Regional Health are launching the CNA Career Pathway Program to prepare students for healthcare careers. Starting in the 2026-27 school year, five juniors will undergo Certified Nursing Assistant education and gain hands-on clinical experience at Cody Regional Health's Long-Term Care Center. The program integrates classroom education with clinical training, requiring completion of at least 75 classroom hours and 36 clinical hours leading to CNA certification. Certified costs will be covered by Cody Regional Health, assisting in reducing financial barriers for students. The initiative aims to create pathways for local employment opportunities and inspire future healthcare professionals.

New Resources on Supply Chain Resilience and Hospital Capacity Management During Public Health Emergencies



Two new American Hospital Association briefs outline field-tested strategies on strengthening supply chain resilience and hospital capacity readiness to maintain quality of care during public health emergencies. Part of the AHA's Convening Leaders for Emergency and Response (CLEAR) initiative, the briefs were developed from focused discussions with healthcare leaders with expertise in supply chain and group purchasing and distribution, along with public health officials, emergency management professionals and other stakeholders across the field. [LEARN MORE](#)

Wednesday, October 14 2026

TBD

Thursday, October 15 2026

8:00 AM - 8:25 AM

BREAKFAST

8:25 AM - 8:30 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

General Session

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Jeff Johnson, Keynote Speaker
The Magic and Power of Perfecting Personal Connections

General Session

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Emily McAvoy, 340B Account Manager ACI
340B Drug Pricing Program in 2026: Manufacturer Restrictions, Litigation and the Path to Reform

General Session

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Morning Break - Time to visit the Business Partners!

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

USI
AI in Cyber Security

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch

General Session

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Franz Fuchs, Wyo Dept of Health
Rural Health Transformation

General Session

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Cheri Benander, HealthTech
Swing Bed Compliance and Billing

General Session

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Greg Brickner, CFO
Beyond the Hype: Putting AI to Work in Hospital Finance

Friday, October 16th 2026

8:00AM - 8:30 AM

Breakfast

General Session

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Bart Shea, Region 10 Executive
HFMA updates

General Session

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Eric Boley, WHA President
Wyoming Legislative Updates

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Morning Break - Time to visit the Business Partners!

General Session

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Logan Trautwein, Director of Provider Affairs and Payment Integrity
BCBS

General Session

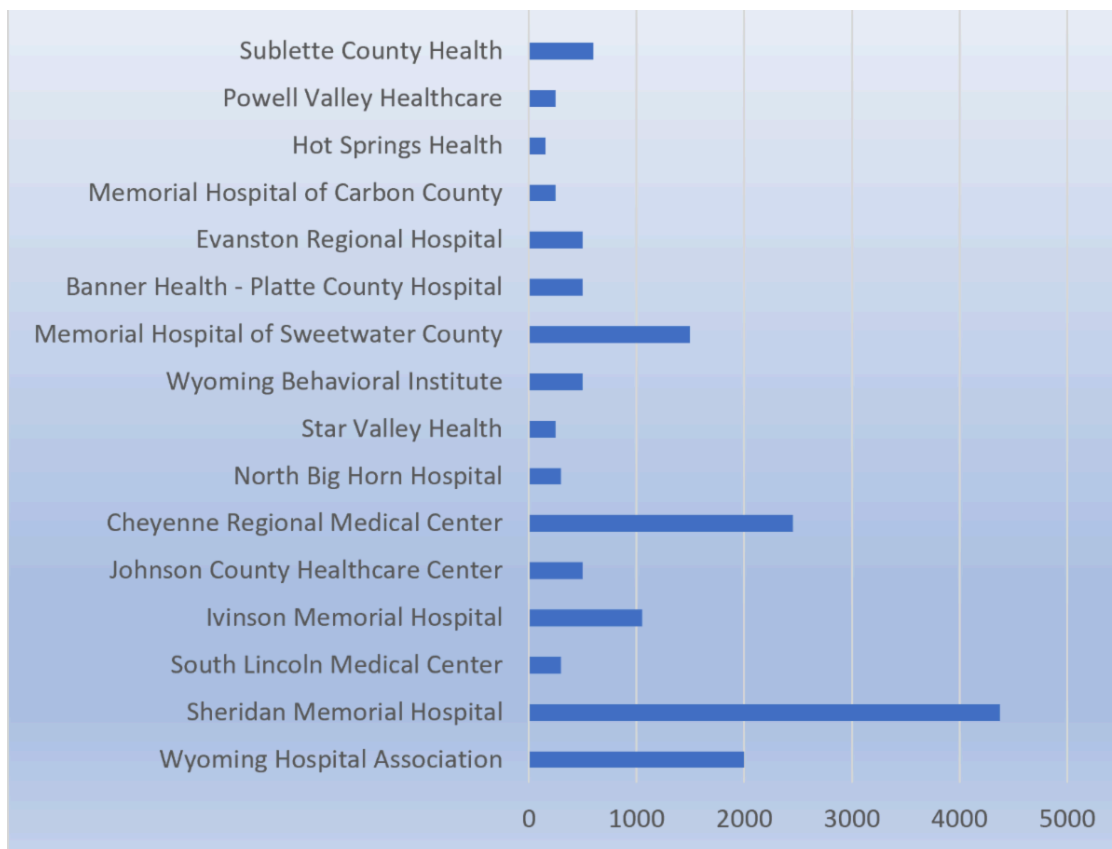
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Jesse Springer, Elizabeth Lovell-Pryor, Jennifer Conrick, Medicaid Provider Benefits
Medicaid Updates

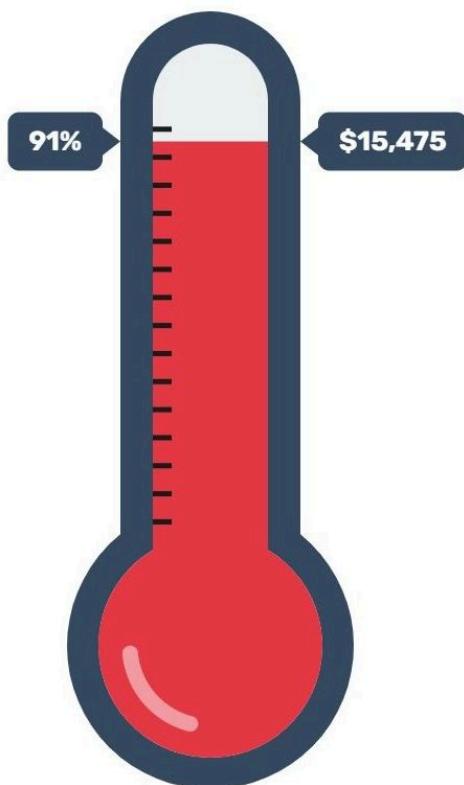
12:00 PM

Closing Remarks and Business Partner Drawings - Must Be Present To Win!

WHA PAC Goal for 2026
Contributors



GOAL: \$17,000



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Irene Richardson
Sandy Dugger
Mark Drumhiller
Ron Mischke
Brady Shoemaker
Tommi Ritterbusch



WHA PAC

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Liz Dearcorn
Bryan Opitz
Kelly Lieb
Sierra Gross, MD
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