



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

## WHA Calendar:

- Christmas Holiday 12/25  
WHA Office  
Closed
- WHA Region 3 1/7  
Meeting—  
Location TBD
- WHA Legislative 1/8  
Committee Meet-  
ing  
Conference Call
- WHA Board 1/20  
Meeting  
Cheyenne
- WCAHN Meeting 1/20  
Cheyenne

## Other Events:

- 2009 General 1/13  
Session of the  
Legislature Begins  
Cheyenne

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## Parties Elect Leadership, Complete Committee Assignments

Both parties have selected their leadership in the House and the Senate in anticipation of the 2009 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature.

At their caucuses earlier this year, Democrat and Republican legislators elected to two-year terms the leaders who will set the agenda for the upcoming session. Legislative committees and committee chairs have been named as well.

Sen. John Hines, R-Gillette, was elected Senate president. Additionally, Republican senators elected Sen. Jim Anderson, R-Glenrock, as majority floor leader and Sen. Tony Ross, R-Cheyenne, as Senate vice president.

Senate Democrats elected Sen. Kathryn Sessions, D-Cheyenne, as minority floor leader. Sen. Mike Massie, D-Laramie, was elected minority whip, and Sen. John Hastert, D-Green River, was elected minority caucus chairman.

Sen. Hines told the Casper Star-Tribune that he expects the Legislature to scrutinize spending, particularly in light of the national economic situation.

In the House of Representatives, Republicans have also elected their leadership, including incoming Speaker

of the House Colin Simpson, R-Cody, majority floor leader Edward Buchanan, R-Torrington, speaker pro tempore Frank Philp, R-Shoshoni, and majority whip Lorraine Quarberg, R-Thermopolis.

Rep. Simpson echoed Sen. Hines' fiscal concerns, but said enhanced clean coal research and development should also be priorities for the Legislature.

House Democrats elected Rep. Sandra Meyer, D-Evanston, as minority floor leader, Rep. Patrick Goggles, D-Ethete, as minority whip, and Rep. Lori Millin, D-Cheyenne, as minority caucus chairman.

Although the composition of the House and Senate Labor, Health, and Social Services Committees changed somewhat, the chairmen remain unchanged from the 2008 session. Rep. Jack Landon, R-Sheridan, and Sen. Charlie Scott, R-Casper, will once again lead the primary health-related committees in their respective houses.

On the Senate side, Sen. John Schiffer, R-Kaycee, joins the committee as a new member. Four new members will join the com-

mittee on the House side: Rep. Dave Bonner, R-Powell, Rep. Kathy Davison, R-Kemmerer, Rep. Lisa Shepperson, R-Casper, and Rep. Goggles.

For background information on these and other legislators, to review full committee assignments, or to review bills that have been filed, visit <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.

## Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee Members

### Senate

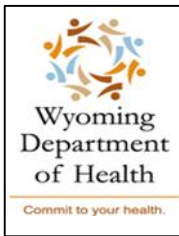
Charles Scott	R-Casper
Robert Fecht	R-Cheyenne
John Hastert	D-Green River
Bill Landen	R-Casper
John Schiffer	R-Kaycee

### House

Jack Landon	R-Sheridan
Dave Bonner	R-Powell
Kathy Davison	R-Kemmerer
Ken Esquibel	D-Cheyenne
Patrick Goggles	D-Ethete
Timothy Hallinan	R-Gillette
Elaine Harvey	R-Lovell
Lori Millin	D-Cheyenne
Lisa Shepperson	R-Casper



Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight section!



Wyoming Hospital Association
2005 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82003
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WPH Program Mentors Youth to Independence

Community benefit takes many forms and has many definitions. At West Park Hospital (WPH) in Cody, it extends all the way to young adults who need support as they learn to live independently.

WPH's Independent Living Program (ILP) offers education and mentoring to provide young adults with the skills they need to live productively and independently in the community.

WPH's program serves 16- to 20-year-olds in Park, Big Horn, Washakie, and

Hot Springs counties.

Program participants receive individual instruction and training, and they participate in community events and group meetings.

Not only does ILP give youth a chance to learn valu-



able skills, but offers youth a supportive network they can trust in. ILP coordinator Abby Resch told the Cody Enterprise. Success through the program leads to an increased ability for

young adults to manage life events and the transition to be on their own.

Financial assistance for the program is available in many forms as well, including employment, housing, transportation, and education.

Other practical forms of assistance are also available, including car maintenance, as well as money for graduation, senior pictures, apartment supplies and deposits, groceries, college tuition, and books.

Tele-stroke Session to Discuss Rural Stroke Care

The first three hours after the onset of stroke symptoms can make all the difference. An educational session scheduled for January will offer a forum for discussing acute care of stroke patients in rural settings.

Delivered via the statewide telehealth network, the session will describe the benefits of using tele-stroke

approaches in rural hospitals.

Additionally, the session will review best practices for acute care of stroke patients, as well as the advantages of using Get With The Guidelines in managing stroke patients.

The session will be broadcast from Auditorium A at Cheyenne Regional

Medical Center and will be accessible via hospital telehealth systems. It will feature David B. Wheeler, M.D., Ph.D., of Wyoming Neurologic Associates. Dr. Wheeler is also director of the stroke program at Wyoming Medical Center.

The program is sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Health and Genentec.

HPP Hires Emergency Preparedness Consultant

The Wyoming Department of Health's Hospital Preparedness Program has hired a consultant to assist hospitals and ambulance services with emergency preparedness.

Marty Thone, Ph.D., most recently served with the Natrona County Health Department as the Director of Special Operations, the Director of the Natrona County Medical Reserve

Corps, and the Departmental Public Information Officer.

In his new role, Dr. Thone will provide on-site instruction at each hospital regarding the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS). Additionally, he will conduct a functional all-hazard exercise with each hospital, and he will conduct a review of and provide technical assistance for each hospital's emergency re-

sponse plan.

More broadly, Dr. Thone will be the department's subject-matter expert for all hospitals in their efforts to comply with the National Incident Management System.

Dr. Thone earned his Ph.D. from the School of Health and Human Services at Columbia Pacific University in San Raphael, Calif.