

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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November 2, 2012

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of Directors Meeting
Casper 12/12

Other Events:

Joint Labor Health and Social Services 11/12-11/13

Wilderness Medicine Campus to Open in November

From wyofile.com

Since 1990 the Wilderness Medicine Institute has trained more than 130,000 people how to treat injuries and illness in the backcountry through various courses ranging from two-day basic wilderness first aid, up to month-long Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT) training, said Shana Tarter, assistant director.

The institute, which the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) purchased in 1999, relies on public land and rented buildings for most of its 645 courses taught around the world.

But in November the program opens the doors to the Wyss Wilderness Medicine Campus. The \$6.5 million campus includes seven buildings and had to fit into the school's carbon reduction plan.

The campus will be used primarily for the bulk of the institute's WEMT classes. The institute usually offers 15 WEMT classes each year, with 10 of them held in Lander at the Sinks Canyon Center, owned by Central Wyoming College, Tarter said.

But demand for the classes has outgrown the facility. The campus can house 30 students and has two classrooms for a total of 60 students.

A WEMT course provides the same training as an urban EMT course. It's about stabilizing a sick or injured person until they can get to a hospital, Tarter said. The difference is, in the wilderness it could be hours, or days, be-

percent of that time is lecture and 50 percent scenarios. Students also spend time in the hospital.

Students range from those hoping to work on ambulances, to ski patrollers and outdoor leaders, as well as members of the military and firefighters. There are some college students because they get nine hours of credit, and some retired folks participate, too.

Students not only learn life-



saving skills, but also preventative measures, like how to treat minor injuries so

they don't turn into larger problems. They also learn logistics, like setting up an incident command and delegating responsibilities.

The core of the class is the scenarios where students are dropped into staged situations and must treat pretend patients from assessment to evacuation.

The 243-acre campus has enough topographic variations, such as the Little Popo Agie River and the Red Rock Cliffs, to allow for various training scenarios to be conducted on-site.

A WEMT class takes 200 hours of training. About 50

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



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South Big Horn Named to Nation's Top 20 CAHs

South Big Horn Hospital was recently named one of the top 20 critical access hospitals in the country for financial performance by the National Rural Health Association.

The top 20 critical access hospitals scored highest among critical access hospitals on the iVantage Health Analytics Hospital Strength

Index.

The list was announced Sept. 28 at the NRHA's Critical Access Hospital Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

"We are working very hard to protect the money the people entrust in the board," said SBHH CEO Jackie Claduson. "Our main goal is to improve

healthcare."

Board Chairman Dana Elliot praised Claduson for her management of the hospital's financial performance.

"We should all be very proud of Jackie," Elliot said. "We do not have a management company, we have Jackie."

WHA Launches Social Media Presence on Facebook

The Wyoming Hospital Association launched a social networking presence last week when it posted a page to Facebook.

The WHA page is located at www.facebook.com/wyohospitals. Visit the page and 'like' it to receive updates and information on Wyoming hospital and healthcare issues.

Photos from the 2012 WHA Annual Meeting and Convention have been posted to the site, and addi-

tional pictures and information will be posted each week.

The WHA Facebook page is part of a communications strategy intended to help tell the story of Wyoming hospitals to a broad audience of concerned citizens across the state.

"Wyoming's hospitals provide high-quality care and deliver real value for the citizens of the state," said WHA President Dan Perdue. "Facebook is one channel

the WHA will use help the people of Wyoming more fully understand the role their hospitals play as leaders in delivering quality care, and as economic engines in their communities."

The WHA's enhanced communications efforts will include an active social media presence, as well as proactive engagement of traditional media outlets, scheduled events, speaking engagements with service clubs, and other components.

Mission: Lifeline Wyoming Holds Initial Statewide Meeting

As was announced back in June, the American Heart Association has announced an aggressive, well-funded project intended to improve heart care in Wyoming.

"Mission: Lifeline Wyoming" advances a community based approach to improving the delivery of heart care patients throughout the state by closing gaps that separate heart attack patients from timely access to care.

As a statewide effort, Heart Association staff held an initial stakeholder meeting this past week in Casper.

The meeting was well attended by over 70 participants, representing 20+ Wyoming communities. The collaborative effort involves physicians, hospitals, EMS providers and community first responder.

Several Wyoming practicing physicians led much of the agenda. The physician messaging is clear in providing focus to the desired outcomes for improved care for heart attack patients, including key elements:

- Timely assessment by EMS personnel

- Early and accurate transmission of EKG
- Efficient transport of the patient
- Prompt treatment in the hospital ER

The program is intent to provide comprehensive analysis of emergency cardiovascular care and system level performance across the state. In addition to the physician leadership – Ginny Mahoney will be serving as AHA's hospital liaison, and Ben Leonard will provide the EMS liaison and communication role.