

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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May 20, 2016

WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf Tournament	9/6
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WHA/LAW Annual Meeting & Convention Cheyenne	9/7- 9/8
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Other Events:

Joint Labor Health and Social Services Committee	8/25- 8/26
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Hospital Celebrates Opening

It takes a village to expand a local hospital. That was clear when community members, local, state and government officials gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at South Big Horn County Hospital. All of them played a role in making the expansion happen.

Gov. Matt Mead, representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wyoming legislators, local government officials and community members huddled together in the ambulance bay of the new emergency room to escape the harsh winds and smoke blowing down from the wildfires in Canada to celebrate, meet those who made the expansion possible and tour the facility.

The ribbon cutting was unique with the multiple ribbons presented and cut by different people who had a role in making the expansion possible, from community, to state and federal officials—all took turns cutting a different stand of red ribbon.

“This is great partnership; it is local partnership, a state partnership and a federal partnership. All of which were critical in getting this done,” said Mead. “But none of this matters without the grit and determination of this community and of the board and so today we are celebrating this

facility, but we are also celebrating what it takes to get a facility up like this and that is that never-say-die, Wyoming attitude to never give up.”

With the completion of the new expansion that includes inpatient services, an emergency room, kitchen and storage, the hospital finished phase two of its renovations which began in 2010 with the laboratory and radiology.



The second phase of the project cost close to \$10 million and was paid through more than \$2 million in hospital funds, a 3.9 million loan from the USDA, a 2.9 million grant from the State Loan and Investment Board and \$150,000 from the Big Horn County consensus block grant.

“This phase here was made possible by money from the district which comes from revenue generated by patient services, also some tax money and money we also got from the state of Wyoming,” said South Big Horn County Hospital board chairman Jeff Grant. “But the big thing that

closed the gap was the money we received from the USDA. So it was a partnership that made this occur and that really is a pretty amazing thing.”

Grant also took time to recognize former CEO Jackie Claudson who remains in a Colorado facility recovering from what was described as a medical event that occurred in late December. Hospital staff filmed the ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to send to Claudson.

Sen. Gerald Geis, R-Worland, added the importance of community healthcare and hospitals while on a tour of the new expansion. “Why go anywhere else when you have this here?” said Geis. “You can’t beat it. And I know you will get better service here than in a big hospital.”

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, South Big Horn County Hospital staff revealed a statue of “The Lady with the Lamp,” which depicts Florence Nightingale. Dr. David Fairbanks, whose grandfather was the sculptor of the piece, and his wife donated the statue to the hospital.

During the Crimean War she walked the halls checking on her patients at night she carried a lamp and that is how she became known as the lady with the lamp.



Black-footed Ferret Ambulance Unveiled at WMC

For years, Wyoming Medical Center has wrapped their ambulance fleet with photos of Wyoming's iconic animals.

They've garnered attention from as far away as Belgium and a German toy maker made an unauthorized model of one.

There are 10 ambulances and WMC needs to replace one about every year. Each bus stays on the road for almost a decade, driving hard miles as they race to and from emergencies

around Natrona County.

Forming the strangest of Wyoming animal herds, the black-footed ferret joins the cutthroat trout (winner of last year's contest), grizzly bear, bald eagle, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, moose, mountain lion and bison.

Mills Elementary fourth-grader Aspen Scherck unveiled the new ambulance at a surprise pizza party at her school on Tuesday. Her classmates were the first in Casper to see it.

"I was really excited when I found out I won. I started freaking out a little bit," said Aspen, winner of the 2016 ambulance animal contest.

Aspen's black-footed ferret was one of 170 entries submitted by Natrona County students. A panel of paramedics, hospital staff and school personnel culled those down to 10 finalists, and the public picked the black-footed ferret by popular vote.

DOL Finalizes White Collar Overtime Rule

The Department of Labor (DOL) released its final so-called white collar overtime rule, which will take effect on Dec. 1, 2016.

As a result of the final rule, the Obama administration estimates that 4.2 million salaried employees who presently qualify for the "white collar" exemption (Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales and Computer Employees) from the Fair Labor Stand-

ards Act (FLSA) will soon be eligible for overtime protection or, in the alternative, more time off should employers elect to limit their hours to restrict overtime pay.

The sudden, marked increase occasioned by the final rule likely will force many either to place strict limits on their employees' ability to earn overtime pay or adjust down their base rate with the expectation that

they will work a certain amount of overtime to net the same salary they were making previously

Everyone is urged to consult with their employment counsel to determine exactly how the final rule will affect them and their employees.

The final rule will be published in the May 23rd edition of the Federal Register.

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

CMS Pauses QIO Two-Midnight Reviews

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has temporarily paused two-midnight patient status reviews to improve standardization across the program, the agency last week told the Quality Improvement Organizations conducting the reviews.

CMS plans to work with the QIOs during the pause to ensure the two-midnight

policy is consistently applied in the reviews.

AHA staff recently shared with CMS hospitals' concerns about the QIO review process.

These include insufficient time to implement education and improvement activities between a first-round audit and second audit request; and delayed receipt of review results and educa-

tion, which could prevent the hospital from rebilling denied claims under Part B due to the one-year filing limit.

CMS told AHA it plans to provide additional information on process improvements and educational tools for the two-midnight policy in the coming weeks.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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