

## McGovern Honored By S. Falls School

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A new middle school in Sioux Falls named after the late South Dakota Sen. George McGovern is starting to take shape.

KELO-TV reports construction should be done by June 2014 and the school will be open that fall.

It's located in the northwest part of the city and will have a similar layout to Memorial Middle School, which is in southwest Sioux Falls.

But George McGovern Middle School will have some unique features, including a separate auditorium for student performances or meetings, a large gymnasium and a new security system.

The school naming committee cited McGovern's advocacy against world hunger in choosing it.

## SFSD Bond Sale A Record For District

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The Sioux Falls School District has sold \$54 million in bonds to fund the construction of three elementary schools — the largest such sale in the district's history.

The bonds were sold competitively, a process in which the issuer sells its bonds to the bank offering the lowest interest rate. That's a rarity in South Dakota. Cities, counties and school districts in the state typically choose a buyer first and negotiate later when borrowing money.

Board President Doug Morrison said the board opted to sell the bonds competitively to make the process more transparent.

Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc. won the bond issue with an interest rate of 4.06 percent. The school district will make \$4 million annual payments for the next 20 years.

## Neb. Teen Dies When Car Roles

WAVERLY, Neb. (AP) — A 15-year-old boy has been killed in the crash of a car full of teenagers in southeast Nebraska.

Lancaster County Sheriff's Capt. Ben Houchin says the accident occurred a little after 7 p.m. Tuesday on a county road just north of Waverly. Houchin says six teenagers were in the car driven by a 15-year-old girl. He says she lost control of it on the gravel road. The car rolled at least twice and landed on its wheels in a ditch next to a cornfield.

# S.D. Looks To Coordinated Care To Cut Medical Costs

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota's Medicaid program is launching a new effort to trim spending by using teams of doctors and other health care workers to coordinate care of chronically ill people in the program that pays medical costs for low-income people.

Called a Health Home, a team typically will be led by a primary care doctor and will include health coaches, nutritionists and others to manage care for people with chronic health problems. The initiative, a part of the national health care overhaul, is aimed at keeping patients healthier while avoiding trips to hospital emergency rooms and other expensive care.

"It's targeted. This is really getting at folks who use a high level of health care services," said Kim Malsam-Rysdon, secretary of the state Department of Social Services, which manages the Medicaid program.

For patients with private insurance and others outside the Medicaid program, hospitals and clinics also are stressing coordination among doctors and others to improve care and tackle the rising costs of health care. Curbing health care costs, which have been rising faster than general inflation, will be a key to the success of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

"We know that care that's not coordinated tends to be more expensive. Things get repeated, things are missed if they're not coordinated," said Dr. Daniel Heinemann, president of the South Dakota State Medical Association.

From 1991 to 2009, per capita health care spending in South Dakota grew an average of 6.9 percent a year, slightly higher than the 6.5 percent national rate. Cost increases nationally slowed to 3.9 percent a year from 2009 to 2011. In 2009, health care spending per capita in South Dakota was \$7,056, again slightly higher than the national average of \$6,815 per person.

The Affordable Care Act is intended to provide coverage to people who lack insurance by expanding Medicaid, the state-federal program for poor people, and requiring most others to purchase insurance.

South Dakota's Medicaid program now

covers about 116,000 people, and state officials have not yet decided whether to expand it to include an additional 48,500.

Malsam-Rysdon said an analysis of current Medicaid patients found about 35,000 would qualify for the coordinated care of the Health Home program, but 21,000 are managing their care effectively now and will have the option of deciding whether to take part. About 1,300 have been identified as top priorities because of their history of costly medical care.

Health care providers will get extra monthly payments, ranging from about \$9 up to \$300 depending on patient needs, to take part. The effort will cover patients with heart disease, diabetes, asthma, mental health problems and other chronic conditions. Services will include health coaching, education on disease management and transportation to medical appointments to make sure people get regular treatment.

The federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost of the initiative, which will be analyzed after two years to determine if it's effective in improving health care and cutting costs. Malsam-Rysdon said 105 providers have signed up for the program.

Dave Hewett, president of the South Dakota Association of Health Care Organizations, said the Affordable Care Act itself has helped slow the rise in medical costs by reducing Medicare reimbursements to hospitals and other providers. Hospitals also are working to reduce errors, infections acquired in hospitals and patient readmissions. Family doctors, specialists and others are increasingly sharing information as part of an effort to keep people well instead of just treating them when they are sick, he said.

Heinemann said doctors also are learning more about the cost of different services so they and their patients can choose appropriate treatments. Doctors are working with patients to make sure they follow instructions to take medications, get follow-up treatment and change their lifestyles, he said.

Heinemann, who was a primary care doctor before becoming chief medical officer for the Sanford Health Network, said the Affordable Care Act should provide insurance coverage that will allow people to get checkups and early treatment.

# I-90 Bridge Damaged For A Second Time

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

OKATON — An insurance company paid \$40,000 for repairs after an over-height load smashed into a bridge crossing over Interstate 90 between Okaton and Belvidere.

Now the same bridge at mile post 177 has been hit again. The damage is much more severe.

And state Department of Transportation officials say they don't have a suspect — other than it was a vehicle or load at least 16 feet in height traveling westbound in the right lane.

The estimated cost is \$270,000 to fix the damage.

They will need to straighten two steel beams that were bent; reinforce or replace other steel members that were broken or bent; and remove and replace the damaged sections of concrete deck up top.

The main steel beam distortions can be fixed in-place by a technique called heat-flame straightening, said Kevin Goeden, DOT's chief bridge engineer.

The bottom flanges of the beams in the impact zone are one and one-eighths inch thick and 14 inches wide.

The state Transportation Commission received a briefing last week from Joel Jundt, DOT's director for planning and engineering. He said no one reported the incident.

"Sometimes we don't find them at all. The taxpayers wind up with the cost," Jundt said.

Commissioner Ralph Marquardt of Yankton, who runs a trucking company, said that bumping can cause hydraulic cylinders to fill on equipment that's being hauled. In turn the load gets taller.

"The truck driver doesn't even know it," Marquardt said.

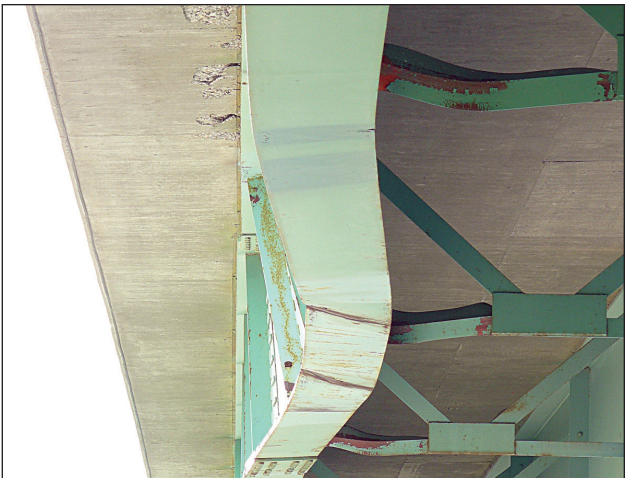


PHOTO: BOB MERCER  
Two of the four steel beams over the westbound right lane on the bridge crossing Interstate 90 west of Okaton in western South Dakota at mile post 177 were severely damaged by an over-height load. A suspect hasn't been identified.

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