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CHILD NUTRITION DAIRY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

YANKTON SCHOOL **DISTRICT - #63-3** Yankton, SD 57078

RFP CLOSES: June 3, 2014 -1:30 p.m. Local Time

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Jason Bietz, Business Manager Yankton School District 63-3

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May 16, 2014 Yankton Press & Dakotan May 23, 2014 -Yankton

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Net Neutrality Rules Move Into Comment Period

BY BREE FOWLER AP Technology Writer

> NEW YORK — The Federal Communications Commission has taken the first step toward adopting new regulations that could create fast lanes for Internet traffic from websites that can afford to pay for the

privilege. Thursday's recommendation, passed by a 3-2, vote, moves the proposed rules governing "net neutrality" into a formal public comment

After the 120-day period ends, the FCC will revise the proposal and vote on a final set of rules. FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has said he wants the rules in place by the end of this year.

Here are some things to know about the proposed rules and net neutrality:

WHAT THE RULES CALL FOR

Under the proposed rules, Internet providers would be able to charge other companies for priority, high-speed, access to their users.

A previous set of rules adopted in

2010 was struck down by an appeals court in January after Verizon challenged them. The FCC says the revised regulations now under consideration follow the blueprint set forth by that court decision.

The commission also will consider the possibility of defining Internet service providers as "common carriers," like telephone companies, which are subject to greater regulation than Internet providers, under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934. If the FCC adopts the common carrier option, then Internet service providers would be required to treat all traffic on their networks equally, iust as telephone companies have had to do on their lines for decades.

WHY SOME OPPOSE THE PROPOSED RULES

Internet companies such as Netflix that do a lot of business online, and use a significant amount of data, don't want to have to pay for reliable and fast delivery of online video, music and other content. They contend that's something consumers are already financing when they pay \$50

to \$80 per month for high-speed Internet service from companies such as Comcast Corp., Time Warner Cable Inc. and Verizon Communications.

Netflix released a statement Thursday saying that it is still concerned that the proposed approach could "legalize discrimination, harming innovation and punishing U.S. consumers with a broadband experience that's worse than they already

Meanwhile, smaller companies say they can't afford to pay. And conservatives don't like the idea of additional regulation over the Internet and the companies that provide it.

Advocates for an open Internet are outraged. Some protested Thursday's hearing, banging drums and holding signs calling for net neutrality. The American Civil Liberties Union released a statement saying that the proposed rules would put individuals at the mercy of Internet providers, who would be able to decide what is seen and how fast.

The ACLU saw one ray of hope in Thursday's developments, endorsing

the FCC's willingness to consider reclassifying Internet providers as common carriers.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

The White House released a statement saying that President Barack Obama strongly supports net neutrality and an open Internet. But it added that the FCC is an independent agency and that it will carefully review its proposal.

George Foote, a partner at the law firm Dorsey & Whitney who works with the FCC, argues that the proposed rules don't threaten the Internet, free speech or capitalism.

"Attempts to say otherwise are merely attempts to force the order into some self-serving narrative of disaster," Foote said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Chris Riley, senior policy engineer at Mozilla, the nonprofit that makes the Firefox browser, said he's glad the FCC is considering the possibility of "real net neutrality," including the Mozillabacked proposal to reclassify Internet providers under Title II.

New Health Cost Controls Get Go-Ahead From Feds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has given the go-ahead for insurers and employers to use a new cost-control strategy that puts a hard dollar limit on what health plans pay for some expensive procedures, such as

knee and hip replacements. Some experts worry that such a move would surprise patients who pick more expensive hospitals. The cost difference would leave them with big medical bills that they'd have to pay themselves.

That could undercut key financial protections in President Barack Obama's health care law that apply not just to the new health insurance exchanges, but to most job-based coverage as well.

Others say it's a valuable tool to reduce costs and help check premiums.

Some federal regulators appear to be concerned. A recent administration policy ruling went to unusual lengths, acknowledging that the cost-control strategy "may be a subterfuge" for "otherwise prohibited limitations on cover-

Nonetheless, the departments of Labor and Health and Human Services said the practice — known as reference

pricing — could continue. Plans must use a "reasonable method" to ensure "adequate access to quality providers." Regulators asked for public comment, saying they may publish additional guidance in

HHS spokeswoman Erin Shields Britt said in a statement that the administration is monitoring the effects of reference pricing on access to quality services and will work to ensure that financial protections for consumers are not undermined.

One way the new approach is different is that it sets a dollar limit on what the health plan will pay for a given procedure. Most insurance now pays a percentage of costs, and those costs themselves can vary from hospital to hospital. Now if you pick a more expensive hospital, the insurance

still pays the same percentage. The new strategy works like

Your health insurance plan slaps a hard limit on what it will pay for certain procedures, for example, hospital charges associated with knee and hip replacement operations. That's called the reference price.

Say the limit is \$30,000. The plan offers you a choice of hospitals. If you pick one that charges \$40,000, you would owe \$10.000 to the hospital plus your regular cost-sharing for the \$30,000 that your plan

And that extra \$10,000 doesn't count toward your plan's annual limit on out-ofpocket costs.

That's crucial because under the health care law, most plans have to pick up the entire cost of care after a patient hits the annual out-ofpocket limit, currently \$6,350 for single coverage and \$12,700 for a family plan. Before the May 2 administration ruling, it was unclear whether reference pricing violated this key financial protection for consumers. Some experts are con-

cerned. "The problem ... from the patient's perspective is that at the end of the day, that is who gets left holding the bag," said Karen Pollitz of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. Previously she was a top consumer protection regulator in the Obama administration.

The new pricing approach is not yet on consumers' radar, but it's gaining ground. The Mercer benefits consulting firm said 12 percent of the largest employers were using reference pricing last year, nearly double the 7 percent who relied on it in 2012.

The approach has been pioneered in California by CalPERS, a giant agency that manages health and retirement benefits for public employees, and is the nation's secondlargest purchaser of health benefits after the federal government.

CalPERS started with knee and hip replacements in 2011, steering patients to hospitals that had been vetted for quality and charged \$30,000 or less.

Ann Boynton, CalPERS' health benefits director, said the program has been a success, with patients able to choose from about 50 hospi-

"People do not feel like we went to bargain-basement hospitals where the quality is not good," she said. "The quality is the same, and in some instances, better.

Economist James C. Robinson of the University of California at Berkeley studied the CalPERS experiment and found not only that many patients shifted to lower-cost hospitals, saving money, but that expensive hospitals responded by cutting their prices.

Although insurers don't ap-

pear to be using reference pricing on the new health exchanges, Robinson said he thinks it's only a matter of

The vast majority of people buying on the exchanges are price sensitive," he said. "People, when they are spending their own money, tend to go for thinner benefits.'

However, the strategy appears to be suitable only for a subset of medical care: procedures and tests that are frequently performed, where the prices charged vary widely, but the quality of results generally does not. In addition to knee and hip replacements, that could include such procedures as MRIs and other imaging tests, cataract surgery and colonoscopies.

Robert Berenson, a physician and health policy expert at the Urban Institute think tank, said he worries that advocates of reference pricing may be overlooking quality differences.

There are differences in MRIs and in how a hip replacement is done," he said. "If you are going to say 'Our judgment is better than your doctor's,' then you've got to meet tests that you are actually assuring quality and safety."

Test

& Dakotan

From Page 1A

Scherschligt said Bon Homme and Yankton counties were the first in the state to receive a new ID system that can track people and equipment during emergencies.

Each individual involved in the operation — from emergency responders to media and volunteers — receives an identification badge.

Also, if officials at the EOC want to know where a truck has been dispatched, for instance, it can track that infor-

mation. The exercise Thursday offered those in the EOC a chance to become familiar with the system.

"People are iust not quite sure where to put the stuff," Scherschligt said. "It's all listed and checked in, but it might not be in the appropriate place. It's just a matter of training.

"It makes it easier for us

and the responders to know what is here and have accountability in case something is missing."

Another new asset for the exercise was a large-scale model of Pierre that was given to Yankton County. Even though it didn't represent Yankton or Utica exactly, participants were able to use the diorama to visualize the path of the tornado and figure out how to direct traffic.

"It's hard to try to think of how bad something is if

you've got to (imagine) it,' Scherschligt said. "I might think it's a little different than you. But what we can do (on these models is), everyone is looking at the same thing.

You get an idea." He said the diorama will eventually be reconstructed by inmates in Springfield as an "Anytown, USA," so it can be used to stand in for any local community.

Thursday marked the

"The flood was a real eyeopener," he said. "We've still got things to learn, but we're that much better now."

Cedar County (Nebraska) Emergency Management Director Kevin Garvin was evaluating the participants during the exercise.

In addition to a "hot wash," or discussion of how things went immediately after the session, the performance will be assessed more in depth during the coming weeks.

Scherschligt said learning

how to communicate better among different agencies is always an outcome of such exercises, but he also wanted to have an improvement in the tracking of all responders Thursday as a result of the new ID system.

"I want to see everybody go home at night," he stated.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Teacher

From Page 1A

two years later. She taught geography for eight years at Yankton Middle School, after which she transferred to

Woodward said she got into teaching because of the teachers she had in Hurley, along with the coaches she had while playing basketball,

volleyball and track. 'I think it's just something I always wanted to do," she said. "I had a lot of good teachers and coaches while being a part of the Hurley School District for my K-12 education. I was impressed with the impact that they had on me and other younger people. The thought of being able to have that same impact on students and athletes is what led me into the profession.'

Johnke said the award re-

flects the high level of education offered by YHS.

"It's a tough decision for the seniors because we have so many great teachers here at Yankton High school," she said. "It says a lot because they leave YHS with a great education."

Woodward said she'll keep doing her best to give the best education possible in an evolving society.

'My goal has always been to help students be able to achieve beyond the doors of Yankton High School," she said. "Since our society is constantly changing, I hope to keep up with the changes and make the necessary adjustments in my classroom that will allow students to be successful in whatever world they are going to be living and working in."

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/

Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002 Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy

Dan, Ann & Sarab

Address/City/State/Zip_

third EOC exercise since the flood of 2011, according to Scherschligt.

With Fondest Memories We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

On Saturday, May 24th we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.



and laughter.

We hold you in our thoughts and

May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.

memories forever.

Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together My prayers will be with you until we meet again.

to see you again in Gods heavenly glory. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

The days we shared were sweet. I long

Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.

Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.

8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity. 9. May God's angels guide you and protect

you throughout time. 10. You were a light in our life that burns

forever in our hearts. 11. May God's graces shine over you for all time.

12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.

13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.

14. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.

15. I have written my own message and it is included.

Name of deceased Date of birth Date of passing OR Personal message (25 word limit) Print your name here

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$12.00 per listing, up to 25 word verse and \$5 for photo.

Fill out the form and mail to: Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan/ With Fondest Memories 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

Deadline: Friday, May 16, 2014, 5pm

Weather

From Page 1A

Doug Kluck, NOAA regional climate services director, added that it is important to note that the long-term outlooks are general predictions for an entire three-month pe-

storm in August, and be fairly dry in June and July, and that could turn out to be right," he

'You could get one big rain

Also discussed during the webinar was the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, which was released Thursday. The map shows much of southeast

South Dakota and northeast Nebraska experiencing moderate drought.

The precipitation and temperatures that are expected should help provide relief to from drought conditions, Angel said.

According to the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, also released Thursday, the areas in southeast South Dakota and northeast Nebraska in the moderate drought category are likely to experience drought removal by the end of

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.