

St. Mary's lands eEmergency technology grant

By LANCE NIXON
LANCE.NIXON@CAPJOURNAL.COM

St. Mary's Healthcare Center has received \$339,415 from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to put in place eEmergency technology, the hospital announced Friday.

eEmergency is an innovative service that will link St. Mary's Healthcare Center to emergency trained physicians at Avera in Sioux Falls via two-way video equipment 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"This program isn't designed to replace the local physician. It's designed to enhance him

or her. We know it's impossible to have a cardiologist on 24 hours a day or a neurologist on 24 hours a day at the drop of a hat when emergencies do occur," said Walter Panzire, trustee of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

"So this fills in the gaps."

Panzire said the technology will give St. Mary's staff the ability to confer with board-certified emergency physicians and emergency-trained nurses at Avera in the event of an emergency situation such as a heart attack or stroke in the middle of the night, for example, or if there is a mass casualty accident.

The funding

The eEmergency funding for St. Mary's comes through the Rural Healthcare Program of The Trust, which has awarded more than \$148 million in grants to institutions and organizations in the Midwest. More than \$51.9 million of that total has been awarded in South Dakota, including more than \$2.1 million in the Pierre and Gettysburg area.

The technology is already available in 65 hospitals across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska,

See **GRANT**, A10



Walter Panzire, trustee of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, announced a grant of \$339,415 for eEmergency technology at a press conference Friday at St. Mary's Healthcare Center in Pierre. (Lance Nixon/Capital Journal)

ELEVENTH NATIONAL BOYS & GIRLS CLUB DIGITAL ARTS FESTIVAL



Hannah Lehmkuhl (left) listens to Natasha McAlpine (right) play the guitar while the rest of the Boys and Girls Club members gather around the piano. Seven students were selected to put their lyrics to music for the National Digital Arts Festival. (Allison Jarrell/Capital Journal)

Boys & Girls Club expresses creativity through songwriting

By ALLISON JARRELL
ALLISON.JARRELL@CAPJOURNAL.COM

Boys and girls are honing their creative process and articulating their voices as they write original songs for the 11th National Boys & Girls Club Digital Arts Festival.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Capital Area is participating in the digital arts festival for the first time this year. Seven club members were selected to put their original lyrics to music and will record those songs this week.

"It's surprising to see how their imaginations just run wild," said Moriah Wagner, fine arts specialist at the club. "They're communicating where they are in their lives, where they want to be, what their concerns are and what they're enthusiastic about."

The Boys & Girls Club encourages artistic expression through music, drama, dance, culinary, photography and language programs.

Participating in the festival was a natural fit, and it's been possible with equipment purchased through a Ted Turner grant.

Students were shown examples from last year's festival on a new 'smart board,' or interactive whiteboard, which can be used as a touch screen or a projector.

"It was pretty fascinating to see their reaction to an award winner from a club in California," Wagner said. "It was neat to be in Pierre, S.D., but through music and art con-

nect with another member on the West Coast whose lifestyle, I'm sure, is very different."

The students typed out lyrics to their songs on tech room computers and thought about whether they wanted their songs to be in major or minor keys. This week they'll use a sound system called JamMan to record their songs.

The songs the kids have written vary in focus, from global warming and saving renewable energy sources to growing up as a strong girl in today's world. Others wrote about dealing with bullies and why

"It's surprising to see how their imaginations just run wild,"

Moriah Wagner, fine arts specialist at the club

See **SONG**, A10

SD sees increase in wildfire numbers and intensity

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Record heat and extended drought sparked a huge increase in the number and severity of wildfires in South Dakota this year, forcing the state to spend nearly five times what it spent to battle blazes last year.

The number of wildfires nearly doubled from 2011 to 2012, putting a strain on the budgets of small fire departments, causing the cancellations of July 4 fireworks displays, leading to a ban on open campfires and causing stress among firefighters, according to the Rapid City Journal.

The battle against the fires also turned deadly in July, when a plane crash killed four members of the North Carolina Air National Guard who were helping fight a fire in the southern Black Hills.

The state has spent about \$4.5 million fighting wildfires so far this year, up from \$970,000 a year ago.

Firefighters in South Dakota this year fought 1,113 fires that

SD wildfires
• The number of wildfires nearly doubled from 2011 to 2012
• The state has spent about \$4.5 million fighting wildfires so far this year, up from \$970,000 a year ago.

burned more than 103,000 acres, or 161 square miles. South Dakota last year had only 631 fires that burned 65,000 acres, or 101 square miles, according to the state Agriculture Department.

Jim Strain, chief fire management officer for the South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, said the number of fires and the area burned were "way above normal."

Voters decide whether projects get state grants

NOTE TO READERS: This is the fifth in a series of stories about the four constitutional amendments, two referred laws and one initiated law that South Dakota voters will decide on the Nov. 6 general election ballot.

By BOB MERCER
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

PIERRE — At its root, Referred Law 14 is a question of whether voters want to earmark, for a special purpose, 22 percent of the many millions of dollars that they and others pay in contractor excise taxes on projects from handyman repairs and home remodeling, to road surfacing and new construction.

The purpose of setting aside the 22 percent is to pay for grants that would be made by the state Board of Economic Development, as incentives and rewards for business projects costing at least \$5 million to build.

The annual amount available for the grants would vary with the economy and construction activity.

In 2008 the contractor tax generated about \$79 million and in 2009 about \$70 million, while in 2010 the amount was about \$61 million and in 2011 more than \$65 million. In the 2012 fiscal year, which ended June 30, the tax produced about \$82 million.

Using that five-year range, the annual amount from the 22 percent set-off would have varied between about \$13.3 million and about \$18 million.

Had the law been in place for those five years, about \$78 million would have been used for the grants to businesses, rather than for other purposes.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard wants the grant program. The governor appoints the members of the state board that would make the grant decisions.

Technically, the board would have the final authority on grant decisions under the law. Based on standard operating procedure in state government, however, it would be unlikely the board would make grants that hadn't been first cleared by the governor.

A yes vote on Referred Law 14 is to approve the governor's plan. A no vote is against the governor's plan.

Daugaard, a Republican, proposed the grant program for the Legislature's approval in the 2011 session. The House of Representatives supported it 50-18, with the votes splitting almost precisely along Republican-Democratic lines.

The same was true in the Senate, where the vote was 28-4.

South Dakota Democratic Party chairman Ben Nesselhaf stopped the legislation from becoming law by successfully gathering sufficient signatures in spring 2011 to force a statewide referendum this November.

See **ELECTION**, A10

