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**Idaho State Journal**

Pocatello, Idaho

**Tuesday Jan. 9, 2017**

**Shelbie Harris**

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## Officials announce location of Chubbuck's new medical campus

CHUBBUCK — It's official. The proposed Bingham Healthcare Medical Campus is coming to Knudsen Boulevard, a street in Chubbuck that Mayor Kevin England said is situated in the heart of the city.

Announced last month by Dr. Fahim Rahim of Pocatello, the medical campus will feature several facilities and aims to bring more health care options to those living in Pocatello, Chubbuck and surrounding communities.

"This is huge for the city of Chubbuck," England said during a Monday phone interview. "There is no doubt about it."

England and City Council member Annette Baumeister broke the news of the facility's location on social media on Friday.

"The famous 'road to nowhere' is leading somewhere awesome! This is great news for Pocatello and Chubbuck," Baumeister said in a Facebook post.

In his own Facebook post, England said, "It is official. The medical campus will be built on Knudsen."

Officials announced last month that the planned location for the Bingham Healthcare Medical Campus was an undeveloped 20-acre lot in central Chubbuck, but they did not specify at that time the location of the lot within the city.

The campus will include multiple buildings constructed over several phases. It aims to provide Southeast Idaho residents with more health care and insurance options, while also implementing an integrated model of care for its patients.

"This is a big, big win," England said. "I see this as very optimal to the city and I think it will change the face of that area." He continued, "We believe this will attract things like professional office spaces to the area. We have a master plan as to what type of an overlay we would want for that area and are calling it Chubbuck Downtown. This medical facility and the Idaho Central Credit Union headquarters building fits right into that plan like a glove."

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The primary stakeholders in this development include Rahim and his brother, Naeem Rahim, other physician partners, regional healthcare leaders, development partners, Bingham Healthcare and the Skyline Surgery Center in Pocatello.

Ground will be broken on the medical campus in late spring or early summer this year. The development is divided into three phases, with the first phase of services including heart and kidney care, which Fahim Rahim has said will likely be offered at the facility in early 2019.

Eventually, the campus will provide orthopedic physicians, laboratories and a pharmacy under one roof on one campus. Once completed, more than 35 doctors will work at the facility.

The Bingham Healthcare Medical Campus is the second such facility coming to the Gate City area.

Last November, the Portneuf Health Trust announced it would build its own medical campus on 20 acres of land as part of the Northgate project north of Pocatello and east of Chubbuck. Construction on the Portneuf medical campus is set to begin this year.

“More competition means more options, and with the way health care is set up that is really important,” England said.

Conversations within the confines of Chubbuck’s city government have long circled the idea of adding a hospital or medical facility like the proposed Bingham Healthcare Medical Campus. Though talks stalled over the years, England said that in conversations with Fahim Rahim, the new facility seemed like the option that was most viable for the community.

Further, England said he expects the new facility, once it's complete, will attract many people from both within the region and from afar.

“It was mentioned that this would be built in the heart of Chubbuck, but really this will be in the heart of the region, too,” England said. “Eventually, once it gets fully developed, I think we will see people coming here from all directions.”

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