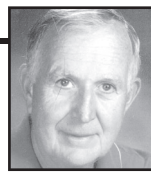


Legislative News

By
Ward
Cassidy



120th State Representative

Medicaid

Expanding Medicaid coverage in Kansas is another hot topic for the Kansas Legislature this year. The federal government has indicated they will cover 100 percent of the expansion costs for the first several years and then reduce their participation to 90 percent. What the Governor and Legislature are unsure of is whether the federal government will be able to keep this commitment to the state of Kansas.

I am very aware of how once Kansas accepts federal money, how tied we become and how much paperwork is required to conform to federal standards.

As you know, it is imperative the federal government begins to address our national debt and the unfunded liabilities of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

As your representative, I have an obligation to ensure our state has the ability to cover the costs of this expansion now and in the future.

I understand there are Kansans struggling in these tough economic times, and many simply lack the income to cover the high costs of medical care. I have heard from the Kansas Hospital Association, and they state a desire to see the approval of Medicaid expansion. They are concerned about lower health care reimbursement rates from the federal government and the desired outcome of the Affordable Care Act resulting in fewer Medicaid patients visiting the emergency room because of expanded health insurance coverage.

I have not yet seen the budget numbers or budget forecasts on the costs of expanding Medicaid coverage. Knowing the facts and figures will make the discussion more accurate.

All current Medicaid recipients were enrolled in the new KanCare program effective Jan. 1. In an earlier article, I

listed the three main Managed Care Organizations for Kansas. The first problem is that as of Jan. 1, only 10 percent of those receiving services have their card. This had an immediate effect on pharmacies, as patients had no way of getting their prescriptions.

Also, pharmacists found out that several of the prescriptions cost them more to purchase than they could sell them for. It is very frustrating that we would start a program without all the pieces in place.

There has been a great deal of effort to insure continuity of care, but it is falling short. There is a wealth of information for interested persons at www.KanCare.Ks.gov. There is also a customer service number at (866) 305-5147. If all else fails, please contact me.

There will be a KanCare educational meeting in Colby on Feb. 20.



POLICE OFFICER Darrell Thomas collects information from Barb Ewing after an accident on Main Street.
Herald staff photo by Scott Knebel

Off-broadway hit to be presented

The Marvelous Wonderettes - An Off-Broadway Hit

While Jersey Boys was bringing the tight-harmony guy-group music of The Four Seasons to Broadway, another show was packing the Off-Broadway Westside Theatre with tight-harmony girl-group tunes of the 1950s and 1960s.

The Marvelous Wonderettes is a funny, glittery song-and-dance revue by Roger Bean that features a trunk full of pop classics like "Lollipop," "Stupid Cupid," "Lipstick on Your Collar," "Mr. Lee," "It's My Party," and 20 other hits.

The show begins in 1958 where we meet four Springfield High School teens performing a show for their classmates on prom night. While Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy and Suzy are good friends, a competitive theme emerges when all four girls are announced as candidates for Prom Queen. At the end of Act One, the audience votes

and elects the winner. Act Two fast-forwards ten years to 1968 where the Wonderettes gather for a class reunion; older, wiser, and a little bruised by the upheavals of the Rock Revolution. But, it's all in fun as the girls pursue dreams that are as big as their crinoline skirts.

The Marvelous Wonderettes is written and directed by Roger Bean and stars four talented singer-actors; Ashley Pankow, Tiffany Wiesend, Kelly Karcher and Carly Mooney.

Support for this show in addition to the Western Plains Arts Association is from the "Patricia A. Embree Trust Fund and the Director's Fund at the Thomas County Community Foundation." The show opens at the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby Community College campus at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 1. Admission is by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket or at the door.

St. Francis News

Kacey and Eric Harper of Benkelman, Donna and Norvin Northrup were Sunday dinner

guests of Debra and George Harper, celebrating Norvin's birthday.

Navy chorus to perform in Colby

The "Sea Chanters," the official chorus of the United States Navy from Washington, D.C., will present a free concert at the Colby High School Auditorium on March 7, at 7:30 p.m. The 20-voice chorus, accompanied by a three-piece rhythm section, will perform a variety of styles ranging from patriotic selections to Broadway show-stoppers. The chantey, or shantey, derives from the French "chanter" meaning "to sing."

These "folk songs of the sea" have been used by sailors since time immemorial to coordinate the rhythm of rowing and other ship's work. There were several kinds of chanteys. For instance, the "short drag", the "long haul", and the "heaving" were used when hoisting the anchor and other general work. The "gangway" or "foc'sle"

chanteys, containing many verses, were sung in the foc'sle or other places where the men spent their leisure time aboard ship. Today, the Navy Band "sea Chanters" include traditional chanteys in their repertoire, such as "Blow High, Blow Low," "High Barbary" and "Shenandoah."

The concert is free, but tickets are required. Free general admission tickets are available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Pat Ziegelmeier, CCC, 1255 South Range, Colby, KS 67701

This special performance by the Navy's official chorus is part of the Navy Band Sea Chanters' national tour. The Sea Chanters perform frequently at the White House, the Vice President's house, and for dignitaries at Washington embassies.

Rancher discusses no road change

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansan.com

County roads and a bridge replacement was discussed by an area farmer and rancher when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday.

Gale Walz, farmer and rancher southwest of St. Francis, basically had two complaints: he had been asked about changing the road next to a bridge near his land and he was unhappy with the way the roads were being graded.

"Why didn't you come talk to me," he said about the road.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said he had talked to Tom Hnizdil because the bridge was closest to his land and Hnizdil had OKed the road. Also, he said, the state often objects to changing roads.

Mr. Walz then asked about putting a temporary crossing in while the Hnizdil bridge is being replaced. He didn't want to have the road closed. I understand about state regulations, he said, but, sometimes you need to buck up to them!

He then turned to rough roads, referring to the River Road, saying

that it still had ruts from three years ago. They (those driving road graders) don't blade them off. They need to start shaving those roads and then feathering the gravel off. You go to Sherman, Kit Carson, Yuma counties - those roads are so good.

Have you seen their road budgets? asked Dale Patton, commissioner.

Well, Mr. Walz said, the hospital gets it - now I'm not saying we don't need it and the nursing home - I know it takes a lot of money. I just think there is no reason for the washboard roads. If they would just put their blades down on the side of the roads in the fall as well as the spring. If I could have the keys to that motor grader, I could fix it!

If you put the blade down, Mr. Flemming said, it will take the crown off.

It will take three passes to blade, Mr. Walz countered. Then bring the dirt back up on the road.

The talk turned back to the bridge's temporary crossing and Mr. Walz said he would sign the bridge contract if that could be worked out and the roads graded better.

Book Review

Gypped - A Regan Reilly Mystery

By Carol Higgins Clark

Regan Reilly is in Los Angeles with her husband, Jack, head of the NYPD Major Case Squad. After Jack finishes his meetings with the LAPD, the couple may head north to the wine country, or may head south to Baja. Their only plan is to see which was the wind blows.

The first day back, Regan goes shopping at an upscale new mall in West Hollywood. To her surprise, she runs into Zelda, a woman she'd become friendly with seven years

before at a television studio in Burbank, when they were waiting to appear on the game show, *Puzzling Words*. They haven't seen each other since.

Zelda and Regan didn't win much money, but Zelda made up for it! A year ago, an elderly neighbor she barely knew, left Zelda \$8 million. She has been enjoying her newfound wealth but is aware of the need to give back. At a recent fundraiser, she bid on a week's stay in an old Hollywood Hills estate and was the lucky winner. She's currently in residence there and invites Regan to

a party at the mansion.

While Jack attends a business dinner, Regan goes to Zelda's by herself, unaware that she is being followed. Regan is more than surprised at the rundown condition of the house and grounds. People should be paid to stay here, she thinks.

Zelda introduces Regan to a colorful case of characters, including her old neighbors, friends from her yoga class, a filmmaker, Zelda's financial adviser, her bookkeeper, and her personal assistant.

It is all good fun. As the guests are

leaving, Zelda asks Regan to stay for a cup of tea.

They've barely sat down to chat when Zelda falls ill. A worried Regan doesn't want to leave Zelda alone and decides to spend the night at the isolated, aging estate.

It's not long before Zelda asks Regan to investigate people in her life, starting with her father's new wife, Bobby Jo. The couple said "I do" in the back of a cab at a drive-through chapel in Las Vegas only after three months of togetherness.

Has Zelda's windfall put her in danger?

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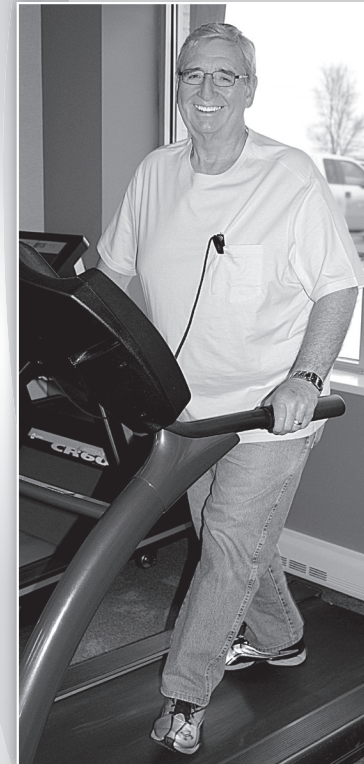
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Cardiac Rehabilitation renewed Howard Kool's

vitality!



An active life in auto sales left Howard Kool's body running out of fuel.

Howard had surgery in Denver to correct the irregular heart rhythm that caused overwhelming weakness, but his recovery was far from over.

The cardiac rehabilitation program at Community Hospital's Rehabilitation Center helped Howard lose over 50 pounds. His prescriptions dropped from 13 to 3, and his strength and stamina kicked into gear.

"Community Hospital's cardiac rehab program gave me an extended lease on life," said Howard, "and I made great friends along the way."

For more information, please contact the Community Hospital Rehabilitation Center at 308-344-8383.

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