

Kansas files suit against seller of health-related discount cards

Attorney General Phill Kline filed suit this week against a Florida company for alleged violations of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act and the Kansas Discount Card Act.

The suit is the result of an investigation by Attorney General Kline's Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division and the office of Kansas Insurance Commissioner

Sandy Praeger.

HealthCare Advantage of Plantation, Florida, was named in the suit filed in Shawnee County District Court seeking civil penalties of \$10,000 for each violation involving approximately 280 customers in Kansas, and an additional \$10,000 for each violation involving elder or disabled Kansans.

"By filing this action, we are

serving notice that we will use all resources necessary to aggressively protect Kansas citizens from this type of activity," Attorney General Kline said.

"I appreciate Commissioner Praeger's leadership and look forward to working with her office," he said.

The suit alleges that HealthCare Advantage made misleading, de-

ceptive or fraudulent representations as to the discounts available through the use of the card and that consumers received no material benefit because no local health care providers accepted the card.

The company is also alleged to have taken unauthorized payments from consumers and told consumers that its program was insurance when it was not.

The suit further alleges that HealthCare Advantage failed to register an in-state resident agent with the Secretary of State's Office and failed to maintain a surety bond or account in the amount of \$50,000.

"Government agencies on the local, state and federal levels must work together to fight insurance fraud through criminal prosecu-

tion," said Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger. "Consumers are the beneficiaries of this joint effort because insurance fraud takes money out of their pockets at the rate of \$120 billion dollars a year."

The lawsuit also asks that HealthCare Advantage be permanently enjoined from these practices and pay damages and fees.

Queen, princess entries sought for county fairs

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess contest is now taking entries for the contest on Friday, July 30. Queens ages 17-23, princess, 14-16, and junior princesses ages, 10-13, by July 1 are eligible. Contestants must also be a resident of north-west Kansas. Application deadline is Friday, July 23.

The contestants will be judged in horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling.

The 2004 Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess will be crowned on Tuesday, Aug. 3 at the PRCA Rodeo. For information, questions or entry forms, call Marie Skolout at (785) 586-2228 or email june@st-tel.net.

Graham County is looking for single girls in the 10 to 15 years

old and 16 to 23 years old who would like to compete for princess and queen at its rodeo.

"Interested young ladies may come to the Graham County Fairgrounds in Hill City on Saturday, July 24, for the contest," said Linda Scott, one of the coordinators. The contest will begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 24, with two go-rounds of horsemanship, a personal interview and a written test. The public is invited to watch the competition, Scott said today. For those wanting to enter the contest, call or write Scott at RR2, Box 85, Hill City, Kan. 67642 or telephone (785) 421-2336. A second contact for questions or entry forms is Jessica Schlingloff, 202 W. McFarland, Hill City, Kan. 67642 or telephone (785) 421-4266.

Goodland college gets \$30,000 donation

GOODLAND — The Northwest Kansas Technical College president Kenneth Clouse announced the school has received a \$30,000 equipment donation from Nuera Communications, Inc.

The company donated a Nuera SSC and GX-21 Media Gateway to the Goodland college's communications department.

Nuera is a multi-national communications systems provider

headquartered in San Diego, Calif., Clouse said.

In making the donation, Nuera marketing vice president Craig Lee said "We're making this valuable training aid available to NWKTC to provide a stronger workforce for the communications industry."

According to Lee, when the company decided to donate a SoftSwitch to a school, the Goodland college was recommended by Ted

Page, principal network engineer for Sprint Communications. Lee said the other school that received equipment was a university in Goodland.

"The equipment will be used in classroom theory and in a simulated industry central office to provide training for communications technology students," Clouse said.

The SoftSwitch is programmed with software that will transport

calls through a connection process utilizing Internet and existing telephone company networks. It can process calls from telephone to telephone, telephone to computer to telephone and computer to computer. The value of voice over Internet Protocol to consumers is that their communication (calling) is processed through the Internet, and no individual company "owns" the Internet, Lee said.

Musician plans return performance in Colby

Roger Cooper, Christian and country music artist, will perform at 9 a.m. Sunday, at First Christian Church, 385 W. Third in Colby. He will be bringing his message "To Love Jesus Is Fun" in



R. Cooper

words and music.

There will be coffee and rolls in the Fellowship Hall after church services. Join in fun, fellowship and meet and visit with Cooper.

"He is a veteran Christian artist who effectively communicates the love of Jesus Christ," church officials said.

He connects with his audience if they are nine or 90. The way he re-

lates to today's youth, through his music and humor, says that the message of the gospel is timeless, "A musician with a message."

A native Kansan who worked the family farm and has lived in western Kansas most of his life, Cooper maintains residences and offices in Nashville, Tenn. and the "big city" of Penokee, Kan., (Pop. 50).

He continues making a mark in

both the Christian and country music industry with his recordings, concerts and hits he has written, officials said.

In his 30-year career, he has recorded 14 albums and received numerous music nominations and awards. In addition, he has performed at many county and state fairs, music festivals and concerts around the world.

Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show nears

BIRD CITY — The 51st annual Tri State Antique Engine and Thresher Show will be held July 29-Aug. 1 in Bird City. The show will feature a parade of farming equipment, steam engines, gas tractors and classic cars. There will be plowing with

the steamers out in the field.

There are 14 permanent buildings on the grounds, including the sod house, the one room country school, the historic Neville church, creamery, blacksmith shop, the museum with living history presenters, the

quilt building and the printing press building. Some of the facilities are air conditioned.

Part of the festivities will be an antique tractor pull Friday and on Saturday, the McDonald Lions will have a barbecue and sweet corn

feed. After the barbecue, Deans Duckson and the Turkey Snorts from western Nebraska will perform patriotic, western and gospel music.

For information, visit <http://www.networksplus.net/thresher-show> or call (785) 734-2785.

PiGamma holds final meetings prior to summer break

Pi Gamma met at the home of Bev Eicher on Friday, April 2. Club members were served brunch with the next meeting decided on for Friday, April 16, at the home of Esther Woofert.

The program was given by Va-

Club

nessa and Eric Eicher on John Brown, who was one of the people portrayed at Chautauqua.

The Pi Gamma group then met on

Friday, May 7 for the Husbands Party.

The party was held at the Bev Biel home with the event enjoyed by the pond.

The next meeting on Friday, May 21, was held at Biel's home with

Charlene Kaus giving a very interesting program on ponds.

During the summer months, Pi Gamma does not meet.

However, the members are looking forward to begin meeting again in the fall.



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