

Legislative panel considers expansion of prenatal care

TOPEKA (AP) — A legislative committee is considering whether the state should provide health care to more pregnant women, and one member is suggesting unborn children receive separate health coverage as well.

The Joint Committee on Children's Issues met Monday to discuss medical services for poor children and the children of working families that cannot afford private insurance.

The panel plans more meetings this summer and fall, and any proposals it endorses will be forwarded to the 2005 Legislature.

"I'm always in favor of providing health care to pregnant women and for all people — if we can afford it,"

said Sen. Henry Helgersen, D-Wichita, a committee member.

Rep. Brenda Landwehr, R-Wichita, the committee's vice chairwoman, said the unborn children of poor and working-class families should be covered so they are born healthy.

Landwehr, who also is chairwoman of a House budget subcommittee on social services, said she plans to pursue the idea next year — with or without the joint committee's endorsement.

"This is about prevention," Landwehr said.

Other legislators suspect Landwehr's idea is designed to grant a special legal status to a fetus — taking a step toward banning abortion.

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Sen. Henry Helgersen
Committee member

Landwehr is a strong abortion opponent.

Landwehr said the issue is not about abortion, but Rep. Sue Storm, D-Overland Park, an abortion rights supporter, said, "That's exactly what it's all about."

The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services currently

person family. About 6,700 pregnant women participate.

The second program is the State Children's Health Insurance Program, another federal-state partnership providing health coverage to families that would otherwise be uninsured.

A family is eligible if its household income is 200 percent or less of federal poverty guidelines, or \$30,520 for a three-person family.

But under that program, only girls and young women 18 or younger receive prenatal care — typically only a dozen patients in a given year.

If they are older, they are not eligible.

"There should not be a gap,"

Storm said.

Cost would be an issue in expanding services.

Social Rehabilitation Services estimates up to 2,700 additional pregnant women could qualify if prenatal services were provided to women whose household income is 200 percent or less of poverty guidelines.

On average, the Medicaid program spends \$610 a month per woman providing prenatal care, so that expanding services could cost more than \$9 million annually.

The federal government would cover most of the cost, but the state's share still would be between \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million, according to the state agency.

Pet lover's table manners concern friend and relationship

DEAR ABBY: I recently met a lady I'll call Gloria. We have been spending time together and enjoy each other's company.

Last week, she invited me to her home for dinner. While I was eating, she excused herself from the table and returned a few minutes later with her pet cockatiel, "Bogart," on her shoulder. After she sat down, she placed a morsel of food in her hand and lifted it to her shoulder so Bogart could eat.

Next, she put some food in her mouth, and with the bird still on her shoulder, exposed the tip of her tongue (which had another morsel of food on it), and proceeded to let Bogart peck the food off her tongue. Finally, she craned her neck toward the bird as if delivering a passionate kiss, while Bogart inserted his beak between Gloria's lips and withdrew a shred of food.



Abigail Van Buren

- Dear Abby

what life will be like if your relationship progresses. Do not kiss Gloria unless she first gargles with a mouthwash that kills germs on contact.

DEAR ABBY: I lost my virginity about a month ago. My mother and I have always been close, and I have been able to tell her anything. But this time I'm not sure I can. What if I see hurt and disappointment in her eyes when I say it?

My mother got pregnant young, and she has always told me she doesn't want that life for me. So, Abby, do I tell her or not?

I hate lying to her and I hate keeping things from her. Please help!

— "DAISY"

DEAR "DAISY": It is important for a number of reasons that you tell your mother. She may be hurt and disappointed, but she will also understand. It is important that you be examined by a doctor and learn how to protect yourself from becoming pregnant or catching a sexually transmitted disease. It is even more important that you learn how not to be pressured into having sex. Your mother can help you with these things because she learned the hard way. So level with her NOW.

DEAR ABBY: My cousin, "Hazel," was recently told by her doctor that she must lose 75 pounds. She tells me that sticking to her diet is almost impossible. Years ago, you printed a prayer for dieters in your column. It was based on the 23rd Psalm. I kept a copy of it for years, but I lost it. Would you please print it again?

— SYMPATHETIC

DEAR SYMPATHETIC: I could not locate the prayer you requested, but the premise intrigued me — so I wrote one myself. I hope it inspires your friend. I empathize with her. By the way, she's not alone.

I am told that one-third of all Americans are overweight. Read on:

ADIETER'S PRAYER

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

He maketh me to lie down on vinyl-covered gym mats.

He leadeth me to flavored calorie-free waters;

He restoreth my goals.

He diverteth me from the path of midnight snacking for my health's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the alley of the Vendors of Pastry, I will fear no weevil; for thou art with me;

My diet and exercises, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me

Spread with veggies and low-fat protein;

Thou steameth my fish in foil, My resolve runneth over.

Surely, if I follow this living

plan all the days of my life, My hips will be slim forever. Amen.

DEAR ABBY: A little over a year ago, after reading your column about a man who had experienced testicular cancer, I was prompted to examine myself. It was something I had never thought about until that day. Not once had I ever considered the possibility that it could actually happen to me.

Sure enough, I found a large lump that sent a cold chill down my spine. My general practitioner didn't think it was anything to be concerned about. But I was still worried, so I made an appointment for a second opinion with a urologist. He had a waiting list a month long, but the morning after I consulted him I found myself in the hospital having my first surgery.


Now, one year later, after two surgeries and six weeks of chemotherapy, I am 99 percent cured and feeling great. Thank you, Abby, for raising my awareness about this serious disease. I can't stress strongly enough the extreme importance of self-examination and early detection. Your column saved my life.

— GRATEFUL GUY


Ralph Ostmeyer

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- ★ 14 Years School Board Member
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- ★ 33 Years Active Member of KSHSAA
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-Ralph Ostmeyer

Elect

Ralph Ostmeyer

State Senate - 40th District

Republican

Vote August 3 - Primary Election

Pol. Adv. paid for by Ostmeyer Campaign Fund, Lori Edwards, Treasurer

Colby's 9th Annual **PICKIN'** on the PLAINS

BLUEGRASS 'N FOLK FESTIVAL

JULY 16, 17, & 18, 2004

Thomas County Fairgrounds - Colby, KS

2 Mi. N. of I-70, Exit 53 ~ Camping Available

WANTED: Teens & Under for the Bluegrass Youth Contest Sat. morning CASH PRIZES!

10 Bands + Cowboy Poetry! Programs begin Friday nite, 6:30 p.m.; Festival ends Sunday, 2:00 p.m. CT

Enjoy the family atmosphere - camping, crafts, food vendors, horse-drawn wagon rides, children's activities, chess games.

For information contact: Colby Convention & Visitors Bureau at 460-7643 or 1-800-611-8835

Check our website: www.shorrock.com/colby

Admission:

Weekend (3 day) Advance - \$20

Gate, \$25 • Youth (12-18), \$10

Friday only, gate.....\$10

Sat. all shows, gate.....\$15

Sat., 6-11 p.m., gate.....\$10

Sunday, gate.....\$10

Under 12, FREE with paying adult

Tickets: 1-800-611-8835

DEAR GRATEFUL: I'm pleased that my column helped you. The American Cancer Society informs me that when testicular cancer is diagnosed early, it is highly curable.

Testicular self-examinations are quick and easy, and should be performed once a month. A simple way to do it is while taking a shower.

For more information, contact the American Cancer Society by calling the toll-free number (800) 227-2345 or visiting the Web site: www.cancer.org.

Bridal Registry

Shawna Eberle & Mike Kersenbrock

Shower: Sunday, July 18th



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43rd Annual
"Critters, Squeals & Ferris Wheels"
Logan County Fair

July 20-24 in Oakley, KS

Tuesday, July 20

6:00 p.m. 4-H Public Style Revue & 4-H Foods Auction Sale

7:30 Christian Concert - Free

Wednesday, July 21

7:30 p.m. Free Family Night of Games

Thursday, July 22

7:00 p.m. Cookie Baking Contest

7:30 KPRA Rodeo

Friday, July 23

5:00 p.m. 4-H Livestock Auction

7:30 Demolition Derby

Saturday, July 24

7:30 a.m. Old Settler's Breakfast @ School Cafeteria

10:00 Parade down Center Avenue

4:00 p.m. Kids Peddle Tractor Pull

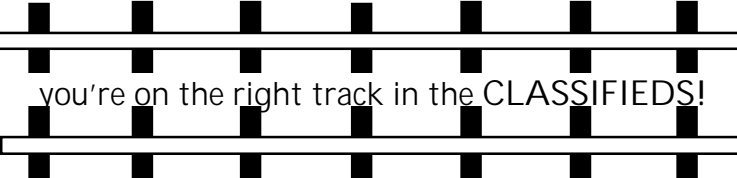
5:00 Free Barbecue in Annie Oakley Park

7:00 Truck & Tractor Pull


* For a complete Listing of events & time, refer to the Logan County Fairbook

Tri-County Amusement Carnival

opens each evening at 7:00



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