Private exhibit slated for Hansen Museum

The Dane G. Hansen Memo- collections throughout the U.S. rial Museum in Logan is featuring a dual private showing of the work of Bobbi Kerth and Staci Hartman in the gallery Friday, Dec. 7, through Sunday, Feb. 3. This exhibit features two local artists of great skill and talent.

Bobbi Kerth lives in Wa-Keeney. She paints in her home studio in the mediums of oil and watercolor. Her love of nature is an inspiration for her awardwinning paintings.

Kerth also enjoys creating whimsical and happy Santas, many of which have been "Art Search" winners for the American Diabetes Association Gift of Hope catalog.

She has received numerous awards for her paintings in area art shows and fairs. She has exhibited in the Goodland Car-Keeney and Hays Art Walks. Her paintings can be found in

Hartman has spent the majority of her life in Logan. Her work shows typical scenes of rural life. She also loves to travel and extend her subject venue.

Her creative work is done in oil and pastel. Hartman has studied with well-known national artists including Kaye Franklin, Howard Friedland and David Vollbracht and continues to work with these artists annually.

A member of Oil Painters of America, she has won honors at the Rohr Art Show in Russell. Hartman also belongs to the Palco Art Club.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays and holidays. For informanegie Art Center and the Wa- tion, call (785) 689-4846 or go to www.hansenmuseum.org.

Unsuitable insurance sales to vets not the way to honor their service

We pause to honor United States military veterans this month for their service and sacrifice to their country. Our good wishes always go with them throughout their military careers and into civilian life.

On a more tangible level, the United States government has honored vets by establishing Veterans Administration benefits that can help them and their families financially throughout their lives and beyond. But, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report, some sales and marketing agents are taking advantage of veterans by putting their money in financial products that may not be suitable for them.

Senior veterans and their families should be aware of how some organizations market these products. The accountability office reports that some sales agents characterize themselves as veterans' advocates representing a nonprofit organization or an organization endorsed by the Veterans Administration.

Sometimes they use presentations at assisted living facilities to offer assistance with a pension application to help vets qualify for their veteran's benefits. But these presenters don't



disclose they are actually selling annuities to "help" the veterans qualify for the benefits.

Kansas Insurance Department regulations prohibit unsuitable sales of annuity products and misleading marketing of insurance products. Unfortunately, our staff members know of instances where seniors and veterans were sold unsuitable annuities.

Insurance department staffers can help senior vets navigate their options when they are presented with these situations. All it takes is a phone call to our Consumer Assistance Hotline, (800) 432-2484.

The accountability office reported cases where sales representatives suggested that veterans transfer assets to family members, purchase deferred annuities, or establish a

trust to help them qualify for a veteran's pension. While the office points out that this is allowable, unscrupulous representatives are not warning the veterans or their families that these transfers might affect the veterans' eligibility for Medicaid coverage for long-term care.

For example, if a veteran needs long-term care, and the pension benefit is not enough to cover the expense, a Medicaid application might be necessary. However, Medicaid has a five-year lookback period; if a person has transferred substantial assets at less than the market value in that period, then he or she may become ineligible for Medicaid services.

According to our staff in the Life Division, another potential problem occurs when senior veterans have money in only one financial product, where making funds available usually means paying high withdrawal fees. This has happened when sales representatives sold veterans deferred annuities, where the income payments from the annuities are not received for several years.

Senior veterans should always be wary that what seems like a good financial idea at the time might lead to some very unfortunate consequences down the road. I urge vets to follow the "Stop.Call.Confirm" slogan that we advocate for people who are not sure about a particular insurance or financial proposition. Stop over the festival of holiday food and mu-this case, confirm that what you are being ofwhat you are doing, call our department and, in sic the first weekend of December. Each fered will not have unforeseen consequences. Let's be sure that veterans' hard-earned ben-

efits are honored in the right way.

Tickets on sale now for Fort Hays State University's Madrigal Feaste

Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1, at telephone orders will be taken. the Memorial Union.

Tickets are \$25 for Fort Hays students and \$35 for the public at the Memo-

The Madrigal Feaste is a modern version of the medieval feasts held in of 1964 when the Union Activities Board castles and manors throughout England created a monthly series of gourmet dinrial Union Office, Room 208, online at during the 16th century. It provides an ners. Themes from various parts of the www.fhsu.edu/madrigal, or by mail to abundance of music, singing, dancing world were used to provide evenings of

Fort Hays State University's Madrigal Madrigal Committee, Memorial Union, and feasting reminiscent of a Christmas food, music and decor. Feaste, a tradition since 1964, will be 600 Park St., Hays, Kan., 67601. No feast in a royal castle during the Middle Ages.

The feast at Fort Hays began in the fall

Lord and lady of the manor preside year, individuals are selected to serve as honored guests

Call the Memorial Union at (785) 628-5308 for information.

