

Access to health care big problem for people

Everyone agrees a big problem faced by all Kansans is cost and access to health care.

If insurance was less expensive, more people and small businesses would purchase coverage, but in tight times, keeping your coverage can be tough if you lose your job or can't afford to pay.

Last week, we passed House Substitute to Senate Bill 81, the Health Care Reform Act. It begins to address the need for prevention and early health interventions, and improves portability and coverage for those who face losing their insurance.

Employees of large business-



jim morrison
• capitol review

es may deduct health insurance from their income taxes, saving 15 percent or more. Unfortunately, employees of small businesses, especially sole proprietors, don't get the same break unless they create a complex plan called a 125 plan.

The Kaiser Foundation estimates that 60 percent of Americans don't take advantage of this 15 percent

savings. We made it simple for thousands of small businesses to save 15 percent or more by requiring insurance companies to offer a cheap and simple way to use the

tax deduction.

Many Kansans face losing their insurance coverage because of a job loss or illness. This bill improves the portability of insurance and protects Kansans who lose their insurance by extending the state continuation policy from six to 18 months of optional coverage after leaving a job. This bill also helps uninsur-

able Kansans by increasing lifetime benefits from \$1 to \$3 million.

Thousands of Kansans have little or no health insurance. This forces many to emergency rooms and passes on the costs to those who do have coverage. It is clear our state's health care system must be reformed for the good of all Kansans.

Thousands of uninsured Kansans struggling to make ends meet will get the coverage they need. The House bill will help insure more Kansas children by requiring new efforts to enroll those eligible for programs for low-income families. It establishes the Premium Assistance Program so the poorest Kansas

families (up to 50 percent of federal poverty level) get the help they need to afford health insurance.

When it comes to prevention and early health intervention, the bill increases cancer screening available at Safety Net and rural clinics.

It will improve the health of poor expecting mothers by expanding Medicaid and providing dental care and stop-smoking programs for them.

Budget restraints kept us from doing everything and I am not really very happy about the anemic House bill.

I actually was one of several voting against it because it does not go

far enough. Something is better than nothing, though, and, hopefully, we will look at the true problem in cost, which is lack of competition and openness (transparency) of the charges made by providers and suppliers in the monopoly we call health care.

Thank you all for your support, feedback and prayers. It truly is an honor to serve as your legislator.

Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby serves Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham counties. Write him at State Capitol Building, Room 242W, Topeka, Kan. 66612; call him at (785) 296-7676; or e-mail jmorrison@ink.org

Implement dealer operating new satellite system for agriculture

By Casey McCormick
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Agriculture technology continues to advance, and one example is the development of a new satellite system being operated through an area John Deere implement dealer.

Goodland Greenline of Goodland and Wheeler has already positioned three base stations on towers in northwest Kansas and has two more on the way. This will make the Real Time Kinetics system available for farmers.

Matt Breining, Greenline's agriculture management solutions consultant, has spent the last two months getting the network up and going.

He sees advantages of the system over the typical global positioning system signal.

"The Kinetics system sends a differential correction to the tractor eliminating global drift, where as your traditional signal does not," Breining said.

With the current technology, a farmer sets his A-B line, which gives the auto tracking a base to go off of. But, as the earth rotates, this line will change/drift since satellites move faster than earth.

With the kinetics system, the differential allows for 1-inch or less accuracy in the field.

"It doesn't matter if it's two hours, two days or two years later, those lines don't change," Breining said.

A farmer can leave the field he is working on, then return and the lines will not move.

The three towers in place now are at Ruleton, Goodland and Brewster, all in Sherman County.

The next two base stations will be placed in McDonald (Rawlins County) and in southern Cheyenne County.

These will be operational by mid-April. Each tower will send out signals up to 12 miles.



Goodland Greenline employees Gary Cooper (left) and Matt Breining show the John Deere Real Time Kinetics system. Breining, an agriculture management solutions consultant, talked to area farmers at Captain Hook's restaurant in Wheeler.

Photo by Casey McCormick/The Saint Francis Herald

"These towers will cover the majority of agriculture land in Sherman and Cheyenne counties, with portions of Rawlins and Thomas included," Breining said.

Farmers, who use the system, will lease the signal from Goodland Greenline. They will need to purchase the receiver equipment, which is a kinetics system radio and activation.

"The advantages of the sub-inch

accuracy and repeatability will pay for the equipment in a matter of years," Breining said.

The innovations that led to this technology began in the late 1990s with parallel tracking Breining said. This allowed the farmer to know where his tractor should be, using positioning systems. However, the tractor still needed to be steered.

This was followed by auto-track,

where the tractor could steer itself. Auto-track became available in the last five to six years, but the driver still had to turn the machine at the end of each row.

Today, John Deere offers the I-Tec Pro on their 8030 series tractors.

"This allows the tractor to turn itself," Breining said. "The farmer is in the cab mostly for safety reasons."

matters of record

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions have been reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Charles H. Schulte and Lois Schulte quit claims to David Bunker a tract in the NE/4 of Sec. 31, T8S, R42W.

Elaine Kelly and Bob L. Kelly, Roger Schutte and Margaret Schutte, Wanda Hughes and Jana Shutte-Ford and Michael Ford convey and warrant to Richard E. Emig, Marcia E. Emig, Nathan A. Emig and Lindsey H. Emig the NE/4 of Sec. 21, T9S, R40W.

Joyce Lee Isernhagen Wanamaker and Charles Wanamaker of Morgan County, Mo., warrant and convey to Kent L. Willems and Shelly K. Willems of Sherman County 1/2 interest in the NW/4 of Sec. 22, T8S, R40W, minus a tract.

Roland Isernhagen and Connie L. Isernhagen of Johnson County warrant and convey to Kent L. Willems and Shelly K. Willems 1/2 interest in the NW/4 of Sec. 22, T8S, R40W, minus a tract.

Roland Isernhagen and Joyce Lee Isernhagen Wanamaker, trustees of the Walter and Rose Isernhagen Trust, to Roland Isernhagen and

Joyce Lee Isernhagen Wanamaker the NW/4 of Sec. 22, T8S, R40W, minus a tract.

Blake Flanders and Risa Flanders of Shawnee County to Jim Flanders of Sherman County 1/3 interest in the N/2 of Sec. 21, T6S, R38W.

Fawn Fulk and Charles Fulk of Johnson County to Jim Flanders 1/3 interest in the N/2 of Sec. 21, T6S, R38W.

Jim Flanders, a trustee of the Jim and Janice E. Flanders Trust, to Fawn Fulk the SW/4 of Sec. 34, T6S, R38W.

Kimberly J. Smades and Jarod

R. Smades convey and warrant to Trevor W. Henderson Lots 8 and 9, Block 14, CK&N Addition to Goodland.

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