

Marketplace deadline extended

By Julianne Shoup
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The new deadline in the Health Insurance Marketplace has been extended from December 15 to December 23 to have coverage beginning January 1. This extension is due to the many difficulties people have experienced so far trying to enroll in marketplace plans. While this extra eight days will allow more people to enroll, consumers need to be aware that this is also a very short turn around time to receive information from insurance companies in the mail.

For coverage beginning after January 1, consumers are allowed to purchase marketplace plans until March 31, 2014 without facing a tax penalty.

With the promise of a functioning website at the end of November, Healthcare.gov, although not functioning perfectly, has made significant im-

provements over the last month. Rates and plan details can now be accessed before creating an account or entering any personal information allowing consumers to better compare their options.

Comparing rates and plans, in the marketplace and out, will be critical for consumers to make educated decisions about what kind of healthcare they need and also what they can afford. If you are experiencing problems enrolling online, you can also enroll over the phone by calling 1-800-318-2596.

Deadlines are also not the only thing that has changed in healthcare over the last month. The federal government is allowing states to decide if they want to allow people to keep non-compliant plans for one more year because of the problems people are having getting enrolled in the marketplace. Kansas is allowing insurers to do this if they choose to.

This means you may be receiving a letter in the mail saying your plan will continue into this coming year. If your plan was canceled, call your insurance company to see if they will still be offering your plan for one more year.

However, consumers still need to compare their current plans to other private plans and marketplace plans to find what will best suit their needs. They will also need to keep in mind that tax credits will only be available in the marketplace. To find out if you are eligible for a tax credit, use the calculator on insureks.org.

If you have questions about the new health insurance law or health insurance basics call the Twin Creeks Extension Office at 785-675-3268, and Like Us on Facebook at K-State Research and Extension Twin Creeks District to receive updates from our office.

Christmas goodies!



The First United Methodist Women held their annual Cookie and Candy Walk at the Norton Community Center on Wednesday. David Will is seen here filling his box full of Christmas goodies, cookies, candies and cinnamon rolls.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NCHS
Sunday-Saturday, Dec. 8-14
KAYS Citizenship Week
Monday, Dec. 9
FCCLA Board meeting, 4 p.m.
Scholar's Bowl at Colby, 7:45 a.m.
KAYS Hanging of the Green, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
KAY Board, 7:45 a.m.
MCL meeting at Hill City, 10 a.m.
SADD meeting, A.P.
Wednesday, Dec. 11
FCCLA SEAC at Hesston
FCCLA Christmas Party, 1:30 p.m.
MTSS early dismissal at 1 p.m. (meals served, buses run at dismissal), 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Faculty meeting, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
FCCLA SEAC at Hesston
Varsity BB at Top-Side Tip Off at Goodland, girls 3 p.m. and boys 5 p.m.
Forensics Night, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13
JV Wrestling to Southern Valley Tournament, 1 p.m.
Artist of the Month, A.P.
Varsity BB at Top-Side Tip Off at Goodland, girls 3 p.m. and boys 5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14

A.C.T. Test Date
Varsity Wrestling to Clay Center Tournament, 9 a.m.
Varsity BB at Top-Side Tip Off at Goodland, TBA
NJHS
Sunday-Saturday, Dec. 8-14
KAY Citizenship Week
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Band Concert; JH Gym, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 11
MTSS early dismissal at 1 p.m. (meals served, buses run at dismissal), 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12
BB vs. Ellis, 5 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13
KAYS meeting, MTSS
Saturday, Dec. 14
7/8 BB Tournament at Smith Center, 9 a.m.
EES
Monday, Dec. 9
Grade Level meetings, 3:40 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 11
MTSS early dismissal at 1 p.m. (meals served, buses run at dismissal), 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12
Christmas concert rehearsal at East Campus Gym, 12:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13
Christmas concert rehearsal at East Campus Gym, 8:30 a.m.
Northern Valley
Monday, Dec. 9
KAYS Citizenship Week

Hill City Scholars Bowl, 4 p.m.
Purple & Gold Tournament at WaKeeney, girls 6 p.m., boys 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Bus drivers meeting at Almaena, 6:30 p.m.
K-4 Christmas Concert at Almaena, 7 p.m., (Board meeting immediately following Christmas Concert)
Thursday, Dec. 12
NVJH BB vs. Thunder Ridge at Agra, 3:30 p.m.
Purple & Gold Tournament at WaKeeney, TBA
Friday, Dec. 13
KAY Secret Pal Party in Mrs. Montgomery's room, 7:45 a.m.
Presentation on China for grades 5-8, in Long Island band room, 12:40 p.m.
Presentation on China for grades K-4, at Almaena in the elementary library, 2:45 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14
Purple & Gold Tournament at WaKeeney, TBA
Sunday, Dec. 15
City of Almaena Christmas Party, 11:30 a.m., (bring a non-expired canned food donation to the Almaena State Bank for a chance to win a prize at 1:30 p.m.), Santa will arrive at 1 p.m. for pictures.

SCHOOL MENU

NCHS-NJHS
Monday, Dec. 9
Breakfast-Breakfast Tornado, fruit, orange juice and milk.
Lunch-Breaded chicken sandwich, lettuce and tomato, green peppers, corn, applesauce w/ cinnamon and milk.
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Breakfast-Ultimate Breakfast Round, applesauce, grape juice and milk.
Lunch-Beef burrito, lettuce and tomato, peaches and milk.
Wednesday, Dec. 11
Breakfast-Assorted cereal, fruit, toast w/margarine, orange juice and milk.
Lunch-Chicken and noodles, whipped potatoes, broccoli and carrots, rolls w/margarine, cottage cheese, pears and milk.
Thursday, Dec. 12
Breakfast-Pancake and sausage on a stick, syrup, fruit, orange juice and milk.
Lunch-Ham and cheese roll-up, baked beans, Carnival salad, pineapple tidbits and milk.
Friday, Dec. 13
Breakfast-Pizza squares, applesauce, grape juice and milk.
Lunch-Salisbury steak, whipped potatoes, carrots, Mandarin oranges, rolls and milk.
EES Menu

Monday, Dec. 9
Breakfast-Kansas Granola Bar, cheese stick, Mandarin oranges, apple juice and milk.
Lunch-Spaghetti, tossed salad, peaches, garlic bread and milk.
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Breakfast-French toast, warm syrup, strawberry fruit cup, grape juice and milk.
Lunch-Corn dog, sweet potato tots, pepper strips, fruit cocktail and milk.
Wednesday, Dec. 11
Breakfast-Western omelet quesadilla, salsa, tater tots, peaches, orange juice and milk.
Lunch-Scalloped chicken, corn, sweet heart pears, celery stick and milk.
Thursday, Dec. 12
Breakfast-Breakfast cake, pineapple chunks, apple juice and milk.
Lunch-Beef burrito, cheesy broccoli, applesauce, baby carrots and milk.
Friday, Dec. 13
Breakfast-Sausage gravy, biscuit, apricots, grape juice and milk.
Lunch-Chicken and noodles, whipped potatoes, green beans, orange half, cheese rolls and milk.

Northern Valley Menu
Monday, Dec. 9
Breakfast-Ham and cheese bagel, hash browns, fruit and assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Italian Dunkers, tossed salad w/dressing, buttered beets and apricots.
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Breakfast-Streusel Top Muffin, eggs, juice and assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Vegetable beef soup, crackers, carrot/celery sticks, hot roll and pineapple ring.
Wednesday, Dec. 11
Breakfast-Egg biscuit, fruit, juice and assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Chicken-n-noodles, mashed potatoes, seasoned peas and carrots and pumpkin dessert.
Thursday, Dec. 12
Breakfast-Biscuits and gravy, fruit, juice and assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Enchiladas, tossed salad w/dressing, seasoned corn and frosted banana.
Friday, Dec. 13
Breakfast-Cinnamon Raisin biscuit, hash browns, fruit and assorted cold cereal.
Lunch-Ground beef stroganoff, whole wheat roll, seasoned broccoli and peach crisp.

Shopko to donate money to Norton schools

This holiday season, as shoppers seek the ideal gift for their loved ones, Shopko Hometown Foundation is giving back to the Hometown communities it is privileged to serve. For every signature Shopko Hometown in Norton receives between December 1 and December 24, the Shopko Hometown Foundation will make a \$1 donation to Norton Community School District (up to \$2,000 per store) as part of its Help Us Give Back initiative, a program that is being run in all 181 store locations across the country. Customers can sign their name once a day, every day to show their support; no donation or purchase is required. "At Shopko Hometown, we understand that schools are the center of our community, so it is crucial that they receive assistance to maintain the standard of excellence our community members have come to expect," said Joel Duscher, Shopko

Hometown store manager. "The Help Us Give Back campaign is an easy and free way for local residents to raise money for their schools. Given our community's strong commitment to its children, I fully expect we will quickly reach 2,000 signatures in our store well before the December 24th deadline." The Shopko Hometown Foundation is proud of Shopko's roots as a retail health and optical care provider. To maximize its impact, the Foundation has a narrow focus on areas of giving that support the health of Shopko customers, teammates and communities. Recognizing that education is fundamental to an individual's health and functionality in society, the Foundation has developed the Help Us Give Back program to provide critical support to schools across the country, while raising awareness to the budgetary challenges many districts face.

To achieve its vision, the Shopko Hometown Foundation believes in supporting community projects, with funds raised supporting established non-profit organizations with a proven record of success in maintaining solid, vital programs or innovative new organizations and programs supported by established non-profits or successful leadership. If all 181 stores reach the 2,000 signature goal, the Shopko Hometown Foundation will have donated more than \$360,000 to school districts across America.



Merry Christmas
To "Thank You" for your support of
Hill City Livestock Market throughout 2013, you and your family are invited to celebrate the past production year and holiday season.
Please Join Us
Saturday, December 14
8:00 p.m.
Public Social, Karaoke and Dance
Appetizers, Desserts, Punch, Tea and Coffee Provided, BYOB
GRAHAM COUNTY 4-H BUILDING
Hill City, Kansas

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call at 877-3361 email: dpaxton@nwkans.com

The Governing Board of Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services and Northwest Kansas Community Corrections will meet on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at Whiskey Creek 3203 Vine Street, Hays, KS 67601 - This meeting is open to the public -

SEVENTH ANNUAL
100% of Proceeds are Donated to God's Pantry
~2013 Christmas~
Cookies, Candy, Cakes/Cupcakes or Bread Contest
This year you can enter your favorite candy, cakes/cupcakes or bread also!
A fund raiser for God's Pantry
Brought to you by The Norton Telegram with co-sponsorship from Stitch Up A Storm, Destination Kitchen, End Zone, Garden Gate Florals Etc. and the Norton Theatre
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16
at The Norton Telegram Office 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton
Entries must be received by 1:00 p.m. on December 16
Voting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.
\$5.00 for each entry; 25 cents for each vote
WITH UNLIMITED ENTRIES AND UNLIMITED VOTING ALLOWED
After voting and sampling your favorite cookie, candy or slice of bread for 25c per vote, any quantity of goodies can be purchased for 25c each (containers will be available)
Anyone can enter, anyone can vote
Cookies, Candy or Bread must be homemade and have at least 1 dozen cookies per entry
PRIZES
There are two categories — ages 13 and older, and ages 12 and younger. The bakers in each category with the most votes will win a prize. There are also prizes for second and third place as well.
Prizes for both age categories have been donated by End Zone, Stitch Up A Storm, Destination Kitchen, Norton Theatre, Garden Gate Florals Etc. and The Norton Telegram.
We will also be collecting canned and non-perishable food for God's Pantry