

# Hit it, boys!



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Ella Fikan, 4, got up in front of the stage to dance the evening of Saturday, June 1, in the loft of the Cooper Barn while Brian Odle and the Hillbilly Underground played at the Farmer Rancher and Listener Appreciation night.

# Ignorance of Obamacare gives scammers advantage



**Sandy Praeger**  
 • Kansas Ins. Commissioner

You have probably read reports that many consumers know little about the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

In fact, the Kaiser Family Foundation, a reputable nationwide organization that tracks health care issues, conducted a poll in April that revealed more than four in 10 Americans surveyed didn't know that the Affordable Care Act was the law of the land.

When confusion happens, deceit flourishes.

Kansans should be on the lookout for fraudulent insurance activity during the next few months, when scammers might try to steal your money and your identity through various illegal schemes built around obtaining "Obamacare" information.

In the time before the federal law's biggest phase-in, which begins in January, con artists, posing as federal government workers, may look to steal your financial information by convincing you to give out personal information in order to get "national health insurance cards," according to Jim Quiggle, a national spokesman for the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud.

Remember, there is no enrollment for the new online marketplace health insurance exchange until Oct. 1 and after. Coverage under the new plan, which in Kansas will be operated by the federal government, doesn't begin until Jan. 1. And you don't get a "national insurance card."

Scammers often target older people on Medicare, claiming they will need a new Medicare card under the Affordable Care Act. But over the past three years they also have been known to target people of any age in door-to-door scams.

The best idea I can give you on knowing the difference between what's true and what isn't is to follow our Kansas Insurance Department motto of "Stop.Call.Confirm." Whether someone is at your door, on the phone or sending you an e-mail on your computer, if you are unsure about the person's motives, stop what you are doing, call our department to talk

to a consumer assistance representative and confirm whether the information you are receiving is truthful.

If you receive phone calls, personal visits or e-mails from someone claiming to represent Obamacare on behalf of the federal government, don't give out personal information such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers, birth dates or Social Security numbers. Hang up, shut the door or don't hit "reply" on your computer.

Our Kansas Insurance Department consumer representatives can provide you truthful, unbiased answers to your questions. They are gearing up for more questions and calls from Kansans during the next few months, so if you have concerns about anything you are hearing now concerning health insurance, call us at (800) 432-2484.

The department will be providing statewide informational meetings in September about upcoming health insurance changes.

Check our website, [www.kansasins.com](http://www.kansasins.com), for the latest health insurance information.

Be informed, and don't become a victim of insurance fraud.

## On the Beat

**COLBY POLICE**  
**Wednesday**  
 11:55 a.m. – Caller reported three dogs at large. Report filed.  
 2:15 p.m. – Caller reported two pigs at large. Owners contacted.  
**Thursday**  
 2:16 a.m. – Helped motorist with a flat tire at mile 54 overpass.  
 2:51 a.m. – Kyle Railroad caller to advise of train doing an emergency stop and blocking Franklin. Checked clearing for K-25 and Country Club.

11:02 a.m. – Unattended death: caller requested officer. Report filed.  
 11:15 a.m. – Caller reported problem with juvenile. Subjects spoken to.  
 12:04 p.m. – Collision at Country Club and College Dr.  
 4:37 p.m. – Caller reported loud vehicle. Spoke with subject.

**THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF**  
**Tuesday**  
 5:08 a.m. – Caller reported a do-

mestic disturbance. Report filed.  
 5:45 a.m. – Went to El Dorado and Cloud County to pick up prisoners.  
 8:28 a.m. – Oakley police contacted about transient walking north on U.S. 83 near County Rd. F. Not found.  
 11:24 a.m. – Driving under the influence/no insurance report filed for traffic stop.  
 3:10 p.m. – Caller reported paraphernalia near trash can on N. Range. Disposed of.

3:34 p.m. – Took inmate to Rawlins County Sheriff's Office.  
 3:38 p.m. – Took inmate to Sherman County Sheriff's Office.  
 4:41 p.m. – David Glen Hanks arrested on warrant.  
 7 p.m. – Subject came to the Law Enforcement Center to report a theft.  
 8:35 p.m. – Caller requested assistance in changing a tire at mile 62 eastbound I-70.  
 8:39 p.m. – Booked Floyd C. Coates.

8:43 p.m. – Booked Torry T. Barleen.  
**Wednesday**  
 9:45 a.m. – Debi Marie Lane arrested on warrant.  
 10:05 a.m. – Served arrest warrant on Timothy Roeder.  
 11:20 p.m. – Sheridan County Sheriff's Office called about a vehicle hitting a deer.  
**Thursday**  
 4:30 a.m. – Assistance requested in the jail because prisoner's mental state. High Plains Mental

Health contacted.  
 5:45 a.m. – Released Floyd Coates.  
 6:21 a.m. – Took a prisoner back to El Dorado Correctional Facility.  
 9:02 a.m. – Brought prisoner from Rawlins County to Colby.  
 11:30 a.m. – Failure to register report filed on Joseph Dean Harper.  
 3:18 p.m. – Served warrant on Rigoberto Mendez.  
 5:21 p.m. – Obstruction report filed.

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