

Department plans to present facts

I announced last month that the Kansas Insurance Department is planning a series of informational meetings throughout the state in September designed to present facts about health insurance changes coming to Kansans.

We now have additional meetings set for October in Independence, Emporia, Garden City, Liberal and Kansas City. Our staff will give you information about how the new federal law might affect your situation and your family.

At each event, Linda Sheppard, our department health policy director and special counsel, will walk attendees through an overview of the new health law and explain who is affected by the coming health insurance changes.

A demonstration of how the new online insurance marketplace operates is also part of the program. The new online signup service, operated in Kansas by the federal government's Department of Health and Human Services, will begin operation Oct. 1.

A portion of the meeting will be answering your questions about the changes. The department has received many inquiries in the last month from people who just want to know if they are affected by the



Sandy Praeger

• Kansas Ins. Commissioner

merits of the changes; that's not our job as employees of the insurance department. We just want to make sure that people have all the necessary information to work through the changes put in place by federal law.

Handouts with additional information will be available at the meetings. If you have questions after reading them, our Consumer Assistance Representatives can

take your toll-free calls (in Kansas) at (800) 432-2484.

Also, new Kansas Navigator programs, established by the federal government, will provide information through community outreach and educational efforts throughout the state.

The department is posting some short YouTube videos that address certain health insurance changes. And, a new website, www.insureKS.org, will provide much information about the Kansas online marketplace. That includes walking through some of your financial considerations. You can also see the videos through our Facebook page and the new website.

We are trying to provide as much information to as many people as we can.

Marijuana arrow fired onto roof of jail

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — A man is accused of trying to get marijuana into a Washington state jail by attaching it to an arrow he shot onto the roof.

A Whatcom County sheriff's employee saw the man step out of his pickup truck and use a bow to launch the arrow toward the jail's second-floor recreation area, but it missed its target.

Sheriff Bill Elfo says the man, identified as 36-year-old David Wayne Jordan, was arrested for investigation of intro-

ducing contraband into the jail, resisting arrest and obstructing law enforcement.

The Bellingham Herald reports (is.gd/BKajJv) Jordan served 20 days in the jail earlier this month for assault and resisting arrest.

The sheriff says Jordan told deputies he had been aiming at a squirrel, but he couldn't explain why he needed to attach marijuana to the arrow to go squirrel hunting.

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