

State needs to rein in cost of prescription drugs

This past week in Topeka, a House committee voted for a law that would make criminals of anyone who sells Canadian prescription drugs to Kansas consumers, or even encourages such a purchase.

Let's be clear. Over-priced prescription medicines represent the most important and immediate element of health care inflation in our state.

Although there is no single answer to soaring health care expenses, we must rein in the cost of prescription drugs. A key weapon in this fight is the ability to import safe,



kathleen sebelius

• governor

low-cost drugs from Canada, Great Britain and other countries that have tightly controlled regulatory agencies like in the United States.

Kansans now have this choice under I-SaveRx — one key part of the Healthy Kansas plan that I have

put forward with Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger.

We simply must reduce drug prices, which have far outpaced inflation, if we are to hold down the overall cost of health

care in Kansas.

This is neither a liberal-conservative nor a Democrat-Republican issue. In fact, the most aggressive governor in pressing for reimportation of drugs from Canada has been Tim Pawlenty, a conservative

Republican from Minnesota.

Here in Kansas, the nonpartisan Garden City Commission has approved an importation program for city employees, with the possibility that employees from the Garden City school district, from Garden City Community College and from Finney County might also participate.

So why are some Kansas legislators lining up against drug savings? Lining up against reducing prices for Kansans across the state?

I don't know. But I do know that the drug industry sponsored testi-

mony against importation last week in Topeka.

Big pharmaceutical companies wield a lot of clout in Washington and, apparently, in Topeka too. But I far prefer to stand with Kansas consumers.

Over the next few weeks, legislators should hear from a wide range of their constituents, arguing forcefully for their right to buy safe, less costly prescription medicine from well-regulated pharmacies beyond U.S. borders.

We would all wish for more af-

fordable drugs in the long run, but in the short run we need to move ahead with importing prescription medicines from highly regulated sources. The Kansas legislature should embrace this policy, not obstruct it, and thus provide Kansans with real savings in the here and now.

To contact Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, write to her at Capitol Building, Room 212S, Topeka, Kan. 66612-1590. Phone 785-296-3232, Fax 785-296-973 e-mail, <http://www.ks.gov>.

County clerks to give scholarships

The Kansas County Clerk's and Election Officials Association is taking scholarship applications from students majoring in journalism, political science or communications.

The scholarships are available to high school seniors and college freshmen and sophomores. Applications can be picked up at any county clerk's office or from school counselors.

Applications need to be returned to the county clerk's office or mailed to Marilyn Horn, Decatur County Clerk, Box 28, Oberlin, Kan. 67749 on or before Friday, April 1.

The money for the scholarships is made available by the efforts of local elections officials and supervising judges of Kansas. Each are

asked to call a toll free number and report to the Voter News Service specified races in the general election, and the news service contributes to the scholarship fund.

The county clerk's and election officials association also holds a silent auction at its seminar each year to raise money for the scholarships. Vendors who do business with the county clerks often donate to the auction, Horn said, and the clerks and election officials donate items and then bid on each other's.

The news service collects and tabulates a single set of election returns for broadcast and publication throughout the nation and abroad for the Associated Press, CBS News, ABC News, NBC

News and United Press International.

How many scholarships are awarded depends on how much money is in the fund, said Janet Rumpel, Sherman County Clerk. Due to the efforts of the county clerks, secretary of state's office and the news service, Horn said, this year, the scholarship committee will be awarding 10 \$500-scholarships.

The auction usually raises \$2,000-\$3,000, she said, and there are usually 200 applications from across the state for the scholarships.

The scholarships will be announced at the County Clerk's and Election Officials Association Seminar in May. The county clerk from the recipients' counties will award the scholarships.

Texas Boys Choir to perform in Oakley Sunday

The Texas Boys Choir will perform at 2 p.m. Mountain Time Sunday at the Oakley High School auditorium and, co-sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association.

"The concert will consist of a rich variety of music including Western patriotic, ballads and classical, enhanced by choreography and theatrics," said Mary Beth Akers, association spokesman. "They will

present arrangements for both traditional treble choir and four-part harmony."

Admission is by Western Plains Arts Association season pass or can be paid at the door.

matters of record

Municipal Traffic

The following traffic fines have been paid in Municipal Court:

Jan. 28 — Christopher A. Krack, 21, Columbus, Ohio, \$136 for theft of fuel and \$10.52 restitution.

Michael F. Courly, 27, Columbus, Ohio, \$136 for theft of fuel and \$10.52 restitution.

Jan. 31 — Marcus A. Frederick,

22, Goodland, \$336 for no insurance.

Feb. 8 — Tammy M. Kindall, 35,

Goodland, \$236 for open container, \$48 for speeding 42/30 and \$40 for disobeying a stop sign.

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Sports television schedule

SATURDAY MORNING

10:00 54/57 ESPN2 College Basketball MEAC Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From Richmond, Va. (Live) (CC)

11:30 22/56 ESPN College Basketball ACC Tournament Semifinal — Teams TBA. From the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)

11:45 7/11 CBS College Basketball Big Ten Tournament Semifinal — Teams TBA. From the United Center in Chicago. (Live) (CC)

AFTERNOON

12:00 54/57 ESPN2 College Basketball Big 12 Tournament Semifinal — Teams TBA. From Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)

1:00 3/9 NBC 8/8 NBC PGA Golf Honda Classic — Third Round. From the Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (Live) (CC)

30/55 FXSP MLB Preseason Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Colorado Rockies. From Hi Corbett Field in Tucson, Ariz. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)

99/36 WGN MLB Preseason Baseball Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at Chicago Cubs. From HoHoKam Park in Mesa, Ariz. (Live) (CC)

1:30 22/56 ESPN College Basketball ACC Tournament Semifinal — Teams TBA. From the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)

40/38 FX NASCAR Racing Busch Series — Sam's Town 300. From Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas. (Live)

2:00 7/11 CBS College Basketball Big Ten Tournament Semifinal — Teams TBA. From the United Center in Chicago. (Live) (CC)

54/57 ESPN2 Horse Racing Louisiana Derby. From the Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans. (Live)

2:30 54/57 ESPN2 College Basketball Big 12 Tournament Semifinal — Teams TBA. From Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)

4:00 7/11 CBS College Basketball Pac-10 Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Live) (CC)

22/56 ESPN College Basketball Atlantic 10 Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From U.S. Bank Arena in Cincinnati. (Live) (CC)

40/38 FX NASCAR Nextel Cup Happy Hour (Live)

4:30 54/57 ESPN2 College Gamenight (Live) (CC)

5:00 30/55 FXSP Women's College Basketball Big 12 Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo. (Live)

54/57 ESPN2 College Basketball MAC Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From Gund Arena in Cleveland. (Live) (CC)

SUNDAY MORNING

10:00 3/9 NBC 8/8 NBC Arena Football Regional Coverage — Arizona Rattlers at Tampa Bay Storm or Chicago Rush at Grand Rapids Rampage. (Live) (CC)

22/56 ESPN College GameDay (Live)

54/57 ESPN2 College Basketball SWAC Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From Birmingham, Ala. (Live) (CC)

11:00 4/6 ABC NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Minnesota Timberwolves. From the Target Center in Minneapolis. (Live)

7/11 CBS College Basketball SEC Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. (Live) (CC)

22/56 ESPN College Basketball ACC Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) (CC)

AFTERNOON

12:00 13/7 FOX NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series — UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400. From Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas. (Live) (CC)

54/57 ESPN2 College Basketball Southland Conference Tournament Final — Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)

1:00 3/9 NBC 8/8 NBC PGA Golf Honda Classic — Final Round. From the Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (Live) (CC)

22/56 ESPN College Basketball Big 12 Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. (Live) (CC)

1:30 4/6 ABC NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Sacramento Kings. From ARCO Arena in Sacramento, Calif. (Live)

7/11 CBS College Basketball Big Ten Tournament Final — Teams TBA. From the United Center in Chicago. (Live) (CC)

2:00 54/57 ESPN2 Tennis Pacific Life Open — Early Rounds. From Indian Wells, Calif. (Live) (CC)

3:00 22/56 ESPN NCAA Women's Basketball Selection Special (Live) (CC)

4:00 7/11 CBS NCAA Basketball Championship Selection Show The 65-team NCAA Basketball Tournament field is announced. (Live) (CC)

22/56 ESPN SportsCenter (Live) (CC)

5:00 22/56 ESPN Bracketology: NCAA Men's Selection Special (Live) (CC)

60/89 UNIV Fútbol de la Liga Mexicana América vs. Guadalajara. (En Vivo)

Couple goes to California for conference

Leo and Eunice Townsend of Townsend Construction of Goodland recently attended the Global Industries 2005 National and International Sales Conference in Huntington Beach, Calif.

The annual conference attracted customers from 21 states, three Canadian provinces and 14 foreign countries.

Highlighting the conference were fast-paced business sessions featuring changes in products and services offered from the six different business units of Global Industries. New to the company this year is an all-terrain tracked work vehicle from TerraTrack, part of Hutchinson/Mayrath/TerraTrack in Clay Center.

Engineering updates on products were well-received, as were new computer-enhanced programs for quoting and specifying equipment.

All attendees participated in small-group discussions that emphasized details and allowed interaction between customers and companies.

Everyone's **St. Patrick's Day** Irish on

Family style buffet
March 17, 5-9:30 p.m.



Traditional dinner of Corn Beef-n-cabbage or Stuffed pork loin with all the trimmings

\$9.95/person

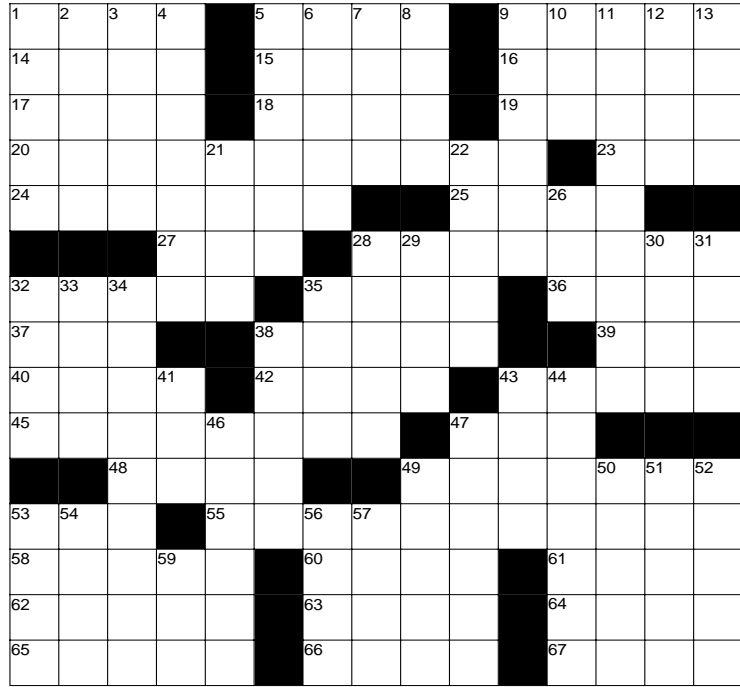


2218 Commerce Road, Goodland, Kan. Call 890-3644

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Mrs. Dithers
- Trucker on the air
- Stock or bond
- Yemeni port
- Pakistani tongue
- Bride's worldly possessions
- County center
- Drought ender
- Burger topper
- Ingredient in chocolate
- Vane dir.
- Cause of an immune response
- Carmine and crimson
- "Waking ___ Devine" (1998 film)
- Tacitly approved
- ___ to (check, as a dictionary)
- Pogs, Furbys, et al.
- Vena ___ (main vein)
- Altar words
- Chunk of fairway
- Fig. stamped into an automobile
- Plant with fronds
- State firmly
- What's in, in fashion
- Made beloved
- "Beavis and Butt-head" chuckle syllable
- Gallup survey
- Williams or Redgrave
- Hit the slopes
- One of an Earl Scruggs set
- Five: Prefix
- Inauguration Day recital
- General Bradley
- Writer Chekhov



American Profile Hometown Content

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- "Zip-_-Doo-Dah"
- Soft drink choice
- Cold and unfeeling
- Brain-busting
- Proposer's prop

DOWN

- Co-conspirator of Brutus
- Common theater name
- Respond to a stimulus
- Chemist Lavoisier
- Reined in
- Rocket engineer Wernher von ___
- Make changes in
- Litter's littlest
- Went gaga over
- Hoss, to Ben
- Military force that, believe it or not, really exists
- Cupid, to the Greeks
- Daly of "Cagney & Lacey"
- Golden-___ (senior)
- Dadaist Max
- Earp cohort
- Holiday
- ___ in (yielded)
- Dump emanation
- The devil's work
- Great ___ (big dog)
- In widespread use
- Eve's garden
- Auto that was the subject of criminal charges
- Lincoln's bill
- Alfalfa's heartthrob
- Modern: Prefix
- E-mailed, e.g.
- "Get a piece of ___" (insurance company slogan)
- The Empire State's capital
- ___ over (reviewed)
- Ballot caster
- Pop's Carly or Paul
- Drain-clearing tool
- See eye to eye
- Sauna sites
- The Daily Planet's Clark
- Genesis boat builder
- ___ Pinkett Smith
- Won ___ soup

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

The Goodland Star-News

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