

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

The issue of health insurance is a concern for the City of De Queen, just as it is for all employers.

In case of a major illness, even the best insurance is likely to be inadequate. Employers and insurance companies are now encouraging a proactive approach by encouraging people to take care of their good health and try to avoid illness or injury.

The State of Arkansas is offering a free program to help tobacco users kick the smoking habit. Smoking can increase health care costs and therefore drive up health insurance rates.

Arkansans who want to stop using tobacco can get help through the Arkansas Tobacco Cessation Network Clinics. Clinic specialists use research-backed strategies to help tobacco users increase their chances of quitting and staying tobacco-free. A special SOS Quitline is one of the services offered by the clinics.

The program is funded by the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Tobacco Prevention and Education Program with funds from the tobacco settlement.

To find out more information about the SOS Quitline, call toll-free 1-888-827-7057 or contact the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

All services of the program are free of charge for all workplaces in the state of Arkansas.