Use caution when buying prepaid phone cards

Dear Attorney General Kline: *My children live in other states,* and I've been thinking about getting them pre-paid phone cards as a Christmas present. I have never bought them before, so what should I be aware of when making this purchase?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

Pre-paid calling cards are very credit card. convenient gifts; however, you should shop around to find the card that is the best deal for you.

Pre-paid phone cards are sold at a wide variety of locations, including grocery stores, post offices, retail stores, newsstands and convenience stores. Some pre-paid phone cards can be recharged, usually by billing the additional costs to your



In some instances, pre-paid phone cards have a hidden cost – because sumer complaints about pre-paid you've paid for the card in advance, phone cards include: you may be out of luck if there is a problem trying to use the card.

Keep in mind this is a big difference when compared to traditional leaving card-holders with a useless long distance calling cards, where card. charges don't appear on your bill until after you've made the call.

Some pre-paid card issuers provide a replacement number on a separate document when you buy the card.

So if your card is stolen or lost, give the issuer the number to

recover your unused calling time. Some of the most common con-

• Access numbers or PINs that don't work.

• Issuers who go out of business,

• Customer service numbers that are busy or simply don't work.

• Rates higher than advertised. • Hidden connection charges, taxes and surcharges.

when you don't connect with the

party you're calling.

• Poor quality connections. Consumers can avoid many of these problems simply by planning ahead and checking out a few things

in advance: 1. Ask if the retailer will stand behind the card if the phone service covering the PIN. is not satisfactory.

and international calls on the card's If you can't find the rate, call the control the quality of the service. card's customer service number.

3. Beware of extremely low rates.

service.

4. Look for disclosures about sur-• Cards that debit minutes even charges, monthly fees and per-call access.

5. Check on expiration dates. Most cards expire in one year.

6. Look for a toll-free customer service number.

7. Be sure the card comes with instructions you understand and is in a sealed envelope or has a sticker this column are based on actual com-

When you buy a pre-paid phone 2. Check the rates for domestic card from a store, remember that you've bought a telephone service. package or on the vending machine. not a product. The store doesn't

you've paid for, you may want to 800-432-2310.

They may indicate poor customer purchase a small denomination first to test the service.

> Pre-paid phone cards can be very convenient and thoughtful gifts, provided you take the time to do some research before you buy.

> Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in plaints or questions.

For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline. Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call To make sure you're getting what the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-

Standpipe was cleaned; water plentiful By Evelyn Ward today in history Sherman County Historical Society

December 19, 1905: Standpipe Coupled Up — Goodland People Will Now Have Plenty of Pure Water — Monday night the new standpipe was emptied for the second time and cleaned out thoroughly.

The next afternoon both pumping engines were put to work pumping the big pipe full again. No one need fear to use the water, as the job was thoroughly done.

The difficulties encountered in keeping the city supplied with water and shifting from the old tub to the new standpipe have been considerable. Three different men have been working in water, at night, themselves cold and wet, till nearly morning to make the couplings of the standpipe to the mains. These difficulties have at last been surmounted.

December 20, 1905: Has No Backbone — The seven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Harrison, who was brought back from Kansas City, where he was taken to receive treatment for a nervous trouble, is bright and smart for a child of his age, but unfortunately he has no

solid frame work in his back to hold him up.

At his birth, he scarcely possessed a semblance of backbone ing -A system of signals, by the and has been very slow in developing that necessary physical support. December 21, 1905: Auers Sell closed this week whereby J.S. his ranch 13 miles northeast of place for the old H.H. Auer restaurant and bakery business near the railroad.

The property was valued at \$5,000, and Mr. Amphlett traded the 480 acres of land and gave in some personal property interests. The restaurant and accompanying business is a good proposition, and ern themselves accordingly. if Amphlett handles it right, it is bound to make him money.

Mrs. Laura Auer and her son, Richard, have composed the firm since they were the parties on the one side of the business transaction. Mr. Auer willed all his property to his wife.

December 22, 1905: Water Works Signals - If You Know Them, You'll Know What Is Comuse of the bell at the water works, has been arranged.

When the water is to be shut off Lower Place — Abusiness deal was for the making of taps into the water main, the bell will first be rung Amphlett, who has been living on like the call for school or church to attract attention. Then the ward Goodland, traded his improved number where the tap is to be made will be rung.

One stroke. First ward: two strokes, Second ward; three strokes, Third ward. People complain of the cutting off of water without notification. All parties therefore are hereby notified as to the signals for shutting off water and should gov-

By order of the mayor and council. From weekly issues of The Goodland News, provided by the Sherman County Historical Society. Since the paper was published weekly, some items were arbitrarily assigned a date.

Lawmaypromotebusinessgrowth

kathleen

sebelius

governor

Kansas has been fortunate to experience 20 straight months of job growth, but I'm not

satisfied. We need to keep our economy growing away and not cause a shift of the tax burden onto

We can do that by encouraging businesses to invest in new equipment and new technology. That's why I'm proposing a common-sense move to spur job creation in Kansas, eliminating the property tax

Business owners have repeatedly brought to my attention their need to invest in new equipment and technology. But the current Kansas machinery and equipment personal property tax is a barrier to those investments.

We should encourage businesses to invest in new equipment and new technology to keep pace with rapid changes in the market.

That's why I am calling on the Legislature to exempt from property taxes all commercial and industrial machinery and equipment purchased after Jan. 1, 2007.

Eliminating property taxes on new equipment will encourage investment in Kansas businesses. And in addition to encouraging existing businesses to expand, it will also be a wonderful incentive for businesses to start up or relocate in Kansas.

This is a first step we can take right homeowners and farm families.

It will encourage business improvements without jeopardizing state and local investments in schools, roads and safety.

I call on the Legislature to pass it quickly, and I hope employers and employees will join me in encouraging legislators to take this common-sense step.

I also plan to work with the business community on a timetable for expanding this tax relief to more businesses in the coming years so we can continue to encourage Kansas businesses to grow and create jobs.

The Kansas economy is growing, but in a world where we compete not just with Colorado and Missouri, but also China and Malaysia, we must always look for ways to make Kansas an even more attractive place to do business.

matters of record

Accidents

These accidents were reported by the Goodland Police Department. **Nov. 27** – 6:20 p.m. – 1999 Chevrolet owned by David J. Tedford was left stuck in the snow on Eighth Street at Syracuse and a 1990 Ford driven by David Avila

struck the parked car. **Nov. 28** – 12:54 p.m. – 2000 Pontiac driven by Mary P. Volk was

northbound on Center and was struck by a 2001 Toyota driven by James Klostermeier, who was attempting to stop at the intersection on 12th. **Nov. 29** – 2:08 p.m. – 1999

Chevrolet driven by Sarah J. Lovins driveway, and due to ice on the Main, when she struck in the rear by a 2002 GMC driven by John G. Topliff. **Dec. 1** - 7:50 a.m. - 1984 Chevrolet driven by Amber C. Helderman was backing out of

Michael W. Brannick.



Dec. 2 - 12:25 p.m. -2000 so he could turn left onto Wyoming was eastbound on 12th and attempt- roadway was unable to stop and Chevrolet driven by Thomas M. when a 2000 Dodge driven by ing to stop on ice and turn south on struck a 1997 Ford driven by Tompkins was stopped on Business Candice M. Meissinger struck the U.S. 24 waiting for traffic to clear stopped car in the rear.

220 West 2nd Goodland, Kan. 67735 890-3625

and creating even more new, good jobs.

on new business equipment.



Sherman County Business ads run this Friday Dec. 30 and then again within a week following the birth of the first child born at Goodland Regional Medical Center. Deadline for advertising and gift donation information is 1pm, Tuesday Dec. 27th Call Mona or Yvonne at The Goodland Star-News for more information at 899-2338.

Call for Appointments 785-890-6030

January Consultant Schedule

ALLERGIST** AUDIOLOGIST CARDIOLOGIST CARDIOLOGIST DERMATOLOGIST DIETITIAN EARS, NOSE, THROAT **ENDOCRINOLOGIST** GASTROENTEROLOGIST GENERAL SURGEON GENERAL SURGEON GYNECOLOGY NEUROLOGIST OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY ONCOLOGY/HEMATOLOGY **OPHTHALMOLOGIST** OPHTHALMOLOGIST OPHTHALMOLOGIST ORTHOPEDIST ORTHOPEDIST ORTHOPEDIST ORTHOPEDIST ORTHOPEDIST PSYCHIATRIST PODIATRIST PULMONOLOGIST PULMONOLOGIST RADIOLOGISTS RHEUMATOLOGIST SPEECH THERAPY SUSTANCE ABUSE DIR UROLOGIST UROLOGIST

Jeffrey Rumbyrt, M.D. Jan. 12 Jan. 6 & 20 Sherri M. Beck, Au. D. Barry Smith, M.D. Jan. 11 & 25 Vijay Subbarao, M. D. Jan. 12 Jan. 5 & 19 Charles Ruggles, M.D. Sarah Linton, RD, LD Mon - Fri Alfred N. Carr, M.D. Jan. 6, 20, 26 & 27 Gerald Poticha, M.D. Jan. 12, 13, 26, 27 Jeffrey D. Huston, M.D. Jan. 16 David. D. Beck, M.D. Jan. 12 & 26 Jeffrey Cross, M.D. Jan. 5 & 19 Laura Rokosz, M.D. Jan. 11 & 25 Steven J. Gulevich, M.D. Jan. 11, 13, & 25 Jan. 18 David Forschner, M.D. Jan. 3 & 31 Martin Rubinowitz, M.D. Kent Bashford, M.D. Jan. 5 Brian Joondeph, M.D. Jan. 18 Jan. 3, 10, 17, & 24 David Pfoff, M.D. John Gargaro, M.D. Jan. 4 Tim Birucy, M.D. Jan. 16 Armond Hatzidakis, M.D. Jan. 23 James Holmes, M.D. Jan. 23 Edward Parks, M.D. Jan. 30 John C. Faul, M.D. Jan. 4, 6, & 20 Erik Ouderkirk, D.P.M. Jan. 2 Ken Weisiger, M.D. Jan. 2 Val Lindquist, M.D. Professional Radiology Services WEEK DAYS Karl Chambers, MD Jan. 19 Lisa Paxton By Appt. Only Fred Waters, CADC, III Mondays Darrell D. Werth, M.D. Jan. 10 Wallace Micheal Curry, M.D. Jan. 31

Excellence

In Community Healthcare ** For appointment with the Allergist please call 1-888-849-8424