

Auctions raise \$12,000 for college; band entertains



The McLemore Family Bluegrass Band from Colby performed during dinner at the Northwest Kansas Technical College's Reverse Giveaway Fund Raiser in March. Parents Bob and Susan played

the guitar and banjo, with college freshmen twins Blake and Brandon on the bass and mandolin.

Silent and live auctions raised about \$12,000 for the Northwest Kansas Technical College Endowment Fund, with a prime rib dinner served to 156 ticket holders at the college's second Reverse Giveaway Fund Raiser.

The event, which raises money that will be dispersed to fall semester students, was held Saturday, March 18, at the Sugar Hills Country Club.

The McLemore Family Bluegrass Band from Colby entertained during dinner. Parents Bob and Susan played the guitar and banjo, with college freshmen twins Blake and Brandon on the bass and mandolin.

Terry Richardson, owner of Homeland Real Estate of Goodland, served as auctioneer, encouraging the crowd to consider their purchases as tax-deductible contributions to the scholarship fund.

Ken Clouse, college president, welcomed the diners. Lyle Hammer of Wallace, endowment board member and vice president at Western State Bank of Goodland, was master of ceremonies.

Area businesses, individuals and endowment board members donated items for the "reverse giveaway" prizes and live and silent auctions. Everyone received a prize

and a bidder number and could check and raise their bids on silent auction items throughout the evening.

Students Lane Linthacum of Goodland, auto technology; Lexie Ziegler of Hill City, medical assistant; Jordan Biel of Leoti, auto technology; and Zach Schoenfeld of Otis, Colo., heating, ventilation and air conditioning, helped with the auctions.

A light rain fell throughout the evening, giving cause to celebrate the first substantial moisture of the year.

"We might have to have a monthly fund-raiser if that's what brings the rain," said Endowment Director Inga Sloan.

The event raised \$4,000 more than last year, Sloan said. Every student can use financial aid, she said, and the scholarships are an important part of the college's recruiting.

Endowment board members include Harold Frasier and Everett Lage of Sharon Springs, Robert Loftin of Weskan, Roland Query of Bird City, Arlie Archer of McDonald, Jane Keck of Brewster, Lou Hines of Colby, Kirk Easterday of Atwood, Jimmie Smith of Hill City, Jon Pope of Hoxie, Lee Gilliam of Oberlin and Sonny Rundell of Syracuse.

Ten tips on planting trees can help with landscaping

Before you begin spring landscaping, here are 10 tips on planting trees:

1. Select the right tree for the site. To avoid problems, choose trees that are adapted to your location. Consider whether the tree produces nuisance fruit or if there are disease-resistant varieties available. For example, there are crabapple varieties that resist apple scab and rust diseases. Also consider the mature size of a tree to be sure you have enough room. Ask a nurseryman for suggestions.

2. Keep the tree well watered and in a shady location until planting. When moving the tree, lift it by the root ball or pot, not by the trunk.



dana belshe

• ag notebook

3. Before planting, remove all wires, labels, cords or anything else tied to the plant. If left on, they may eventually girdle the branch where they attach.

4. Dig a proper hole. Make the hole deep enough that the tree sits slightly above nursery level. Plant the tree on solid ground, not fill dirt. Don't dig the hole too deep and then

be visible. If it isn't, remove enough soil or media so that it is.

The width of the planting hole should be three times the width of the root ball. Loosening the soil outside the hole so it is five times the diameter of the root ball will allow the tree to spread its roots faster.

5. Remove all containers from the root ball. Cut away plastic and peat

add soil back to the hole before placing the tree.

The root flare (point where trunk and roots meet) should

pots; roll burlap and wire baskets back into the hole, cutting as much of the excess away as possible.

If you can remove the wire basket without disturbing the root ball, do it. If roots have been circling around in the container, cut them and spread them out so they do not continue growing this way inside the hole and become girdling roots later.

6. Backfill the hole with the same soil that was removed. Amendments such as peat moss likely do more harm than good. Make sure the soil that goes back is loosened, no clods or clumps. Add water as you fill to ensure good root-to-soil contact and prevent air pockets.

There is no need to fertilize at

planting. Adding organic matter to a larger area than just the planting hole can help. However, adding amendments to the planting hole in heavy soil creates a "pot" effect that can fill with water and drown your new tree.

7. Don't cut back the branches of a tree after planting except those that are rubbing or damaged. The leaf buds release a hormone that encourages root growth. If the tree is cut back, the reduced number of leaf buds results in less hormone released and fewer roots being formed.

8. Water the tree thoroughly and then once a week for the first season if there is not enough rainfall.

9. Mulch around the tree. This is important! Mulch should be two to four inches deep and cover an area two to three times the diameter of the root ball. Mulching reduces competition from other plants, conserves moisture and keeps soil temperature closer to what the plant's roots prefer.

10. Stake only when necessary. Trees will establish more quickly and grow faster if they are not staked. However, larger trees or those in windy locations may need to be staked the first year. The trunk needs to move to grow strong. Staking should be designed to limit movement of the root ball, not immobilize the trunk.

Do 'right to cancel rule,' Lemon Law apply to used-car purchases?

Dear Attorney General Kline: Last weekend I bought a car from a local used car dealer. Just two days later, the radiator and alternator both went out on my way to work. I had the car towed to the dealer and told the salesman I was returning it under the three-day right to cancel law.

He informed me that that rule does not apply to vehicles. So when I insisted that he make the necessary repairs at no cost to me under the Kansas Lemon Law, he refused. Am I not entitled to any protection in this deal?

Dear Kansas Consumer: There are some very common misconceptions regarding the three-day right to cancel rule and also the Kansas Lemon Law.



phill kline

• attorney general

The Kansas three-day right to cancel rule, also known as the door-to-door rule, allows consumers the option of returning goods or receiving a refund on the purchase price or rental and/or lease of consumer property if certain criteria are met. (Rentals of residential real estate are subject to the Kansas Residential Landlord and Tenant Act and not the three-day right to cancel rule contained in the Kansas Consumer Protection Act.)

the company's place of permanent business and the cancellation must be made prior to midnight on the third day following the transaction.

From what you described, it is most unlikely that the purchase of your used vehicle occurred in a manner allowing your sale to be rescinded.

When it comes to your claim that the dealer should have repaired the vehicle at no cost to you pursuant to

the Kansas Lemon Law, unfortunately, that law would not apply to this purchase either.

The Kansas Lemon Law provides consumers who are the first purchasers or lessees of new vehicles a remedy if they discover their new vehicle is a "lemon." In your case, this law would not apply because the vehicle you purchased was pre-owned.

It is unfortunate that you have learned that there are some unpleasant surprises which can occur when you purchase a used vehicle. Here are some tips to assist consumers in getting the best car possible for their money:

• Determine the best place to buy. Realize that reputable local lots are responsible to the public, to the Bet-

ter Business Bureau and to state authorities in a way that private owners are not.

• Carefully inspect the vehicle. Drive the vehicle on the highway and back Kansas roads, testing all equipment and options.

• Perform a title history search. You may do this by ordering the title history from the Department of Motor Vehicles, signing up with CARFAX or asking the seller to tender the information to you. Vehicles that have been totaled and rebuilt should carry salvage titles, a warning not to pay anything near book value.

• After performing your initial inspection, have a reliable mechanic of your choice run a diagnostic test and advise you on how much

to offer for the vehicle.

For more information on buying a used car, you can also call my 24-hour Consumer Infoline at (785) 296-2424. Then select category 4, recording 3.

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 this column are based on actual complaints 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 the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

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