

Careful shopper can stretch budget buying used car

Dear Attorney General Kline:
My son is ready to buy his first car. He has asked for a list of what to keep in mind while shopping the used car market. How would you advise him?



phill kline
• attorney general

Dear Kansas Consumer:
Buying a used car rather than a new one can be a great way to stretch the budget. One must keep in mind, however, that used car purchases generally offer the Kansas consumer less protection than new car purchases, so the buyer must beware.

My Consumer Protection Division receives calls from Kansans who mistakenly believe that out state has a lemon law for used car purchases. It does not. Others wrongly think that all vehicle purchases can be "unwound" within three days. They cannot. Thus, one must be very careful when signing on the dotted line.

The Kansas Consumer Protection Act does offer protection to those purchasing new or used cars, as long as the purchase is from a business. Consumer to consumer sales are not

covered by the Consumer Protection Act, so while buying a car from the neighbor may be the path to a great deal, your recourse to the law will be limited if the car has known, undisclosed defects.

The complaints filed with my Consumer Protection Division reveal that those who rush into buying used cars are sometimes saddled with unpleasant surprises. Your son can spare himself some trouble down the road by taking note of these suggestions:

1. Decide what you want and need in a vehicle before reaching for your wallet. It's important to think through and write down exactly what you're looking for in a car or truck. What will be the primary purpose for owning a vehicle? Is gas mileage or size more important? Do you need four doors?

Towing capacity? Storage? Asking questions like these will help you narrow the range of vehicles you consider.

2. Research your options. The library is a good place to start your search for a vehicle. Magazines such as Consumer Reports showcase various tests on vehicles that reveal features, reliability and maintenance trends. Walking through many used-car lots in the area with a plan to *not* buy on impulse introduces a consumer to the many different vehicle styles and manufacturers available locally.

3. Research the market. Once you've identified a vehicle that interests you, check the monthly National Automobile Dealers Association (N.A.D.A.) "blue book" or another similar source to determine the current value of the car you have picked. Check ads in the local paper and keep track of what is asked for in similar vehicles. You should be able to develop some narrow guidelines as to the value of the ve-

hicle that interests you.

4. Determine where to buy. The Kansas Lemon Law does not cover used cars, only new ones. Nevertheless, used-car dealers are held to higher legal standards than someone selling their family car. If you buy from a licensed used-car dealer in Kansas, you will have legal protections that those who buy from private individuals simply do not enjoy. Also, it's best to steer clear of "curbstoners" (unlicensed dealers who pass themselves off as private sellers), auctions and the internet if you are a novice when it comes to purchasing vehicles. It is not uncommon for the uninitiated consumers who buy on-line, at an auction or from a curbstoner to find themselves with no title, a salvage title or an otherwise less-than-desirable vehicle.

5. Examine the vehicle closely. A short test drive followed by a quick once-over is the path toward buyer's remorse. Take the time to put your prospective vehicle through its paces. Drive it both on the highway and Kansas back roads and don't be

afraid to put 25 miles on it. Try out every option, especially safety features. Look for irregular wear on the tires and make sure the head lamps are properly aimed.

6. Check on the title. Make certain the title contains no unpleasant surprises before you invest. You can do this by ordering the title history from the Department of Motor Vehicles, signing up with CARFAX or asking the seller to provide the information to you. You can also ask your insurance agent to run the vehicle identification number through NICB (National Insurance Crime Bureau.)

7. Check with a mechanic. If the vehicle passes your best review and has a clear title, take it to a reliable mechanic for an evaluation. The cost of a diagnostic test is minimal compared to the cost of replacing a transmission or engine.

8. Get everything in writing. Every used vehicle purchased from a Kansas dealer is covered by an implied warranty which protects the buyer unless the seller discloses a defect and the price is adjusted ac-

cordingly. If the seller promises to make repairs which are not listed on the Buyer's Guide, ask the seller to disclose those promises in writing on both the Buyer's Guide and the sales contract.

9. Be wary of after market warranties. Do not buy one unless you first read and understand the contract.

Buying a vehicle is an exciting experience, but it is important to not let that excitement steamroll your good judgment. Take the time to check out the vehicle and its history before you sign on any dotted lines.

Attorney General Phillip 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 Phillip Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

What causes 'scorched' leaves?

Leaf scorch is something we see at various times throughout the summer. This is not a disease but rather a physiological problem associated with severed roots, limited soil area or hot, dry winds.

Moisture is lost so quickly from the leaves that the roots can't absorb and transfer water quickly enough to replace it. Though scorch is usually associated with drought periods, it can appear even when the soil is moist.

Scorched leaves turn brown or, in some cases black, from the edges and between the major veins.

If severe, the leaf may drop. Leaves may be affected over the



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• ag notebook

entire tree or only on one side.

Though scorch can be due to the weather, the condition of the roots can make plants much more susceptible.

Shallow soils, such as those over hardpan or rock, lead to a limited root system that may not be able to absorb all the water a tree needs.

Trees may be more sensitive to scorch after heavy rains or over

watering. Scorch also can show up after roots are disturbed.

Root damage of any kind makes it more difficult for trees to provide all the water needed for the leaves. Root damage can come from disease, insects, poor drainage or construction.

To help alleviate damage due to dry soils or limited root systems, water once per week if there is no rainfall. Mulching small trees or shrubs will help conserve moisture.

4-H news

In July, the Country Clover 4-H Club decided to do a tour instead of its regular meeting. This gave the club a chance to see several members' fair projects.

The club tour started at the home of Milan and Cienna Brannick, who showed their woodworking projects.

The club then went to the home of Layne and Amber Perdew and Savannah Brighton, who showed their pigs and goats.

The next stop was Breanna Nemechek's house; she showed her cows, horses and goats. Then the club caravanned to Jarod Lake's house and saw his pigs while munching on Popsicles.

Next, the group went to Garrett, Jamie and Parker Nemechek's house and saw their horses, sheep, goats and bucket calves. They had two baby goats that members also got to see. They were so cute!

The club traveled to Parker

Sieck's house to see his sheep and pigs and also got to see his piglets. They were only two weeks old.

The last spot on the tour was Hope Cochran's, where the club saw her pigs, goats and sheep. The Cochrans then hosted a barbecue, and the club held a short meeting for important fair announcements. Then the club had cake and ice cream. A great time was had by all.

Submitted by Cienna Brannick, club reporter.

matters of record

Municipal Court
These are cases decided by the Goodland Municipal Court:

June 16: Jerri L. Brown, speeding 51-40, fined \$80.

June 19: Amber N. Cowan, improper backing, fined \$76, diversion fee \$100.

Dixie A. Schemm, Sharon Springs, speeding 51-40, fined \$80.

June 21: Roger D. Enfield, speeding 40-30, no seat belt, fined \$86.

Theresa L. Gordon, Hoisington, disobey traffic light, fined \$76.

June 22: Susana K. Peters, Semimole, Texas, speeding 49-40, fined \$76.

Brent A. Wood, speeding 40-30, fined \$76, diversion fee \$100.

June 23: William M. Jenkins, speeding in school zone 30-20, fined \$76, diversion fee \$100.

June 26: Tyrone Crosby, no dog license, fined \$76.

Marilyn G. Hefner, speeding 66-40, fined \$152.

Frank J. Gilbert, Orlando, Fla., speeding 55-40, fined \$96.

June 27: Nathan M. Linin, speeding 51-40, fined \$80.

Anthony A. Ruibal, battery, disorderly conduct, fined \$336, 10 days in jail, credit for five days served, six months unsupervised probation.

Real Estate
The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Patrick M. Townsend, trustee of the Emma Townsend Revocable Trust, corrected to Richard Townsend W/2 NW/4 SE/4 Sec. 30, T9S R40W.

Robert J. Hayden, successor trustee of Rose M. Hayden Revocable Trust to Carlos Magana and Tonya Norvell-Magana Lots 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42, Block 25, First Addition to the City of Goodland.

Stan Coons in the State of Missouri to Julie Stefan Lots 11, 12 and 13, Block 3, CK&N Addition to the City of Goodland.

Jill Evinger and George Evinger in the State of Missouri to Julie Stefan Lots 11, 12 and 13, Block 3, CK&N Addition to the City of Goodland.

Kevin L. Butts, Sheriff of Sherman County to Monument Street Funding LLC, Lot 20, Block 1, Eastridge Subdivision of Academy Addition to the City of Goodland.

Cedant Mobility Relocation Company, 40 Appleridge, Danbury, Conn. to Lincoln L. Wilson of Hale, Yuma County, Colo. Lot 5, Block 5, Kohler First Addition to the City of Goodland.

Joan M. Darnauer of Dupage County, Ill., to Camron Paxton and Lisa Ann Paxton a tract of land located in W/2 NW/4 Sec. 31, T8S R39W.

Marlin K. Gittinger and Kendall R. Gittinger to Marilyn K. Gittinger and Kendall R. Gittinger, an undivided half interest in Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 9, Second Addition to the City of Goodland; E65' of Lots 1, 2, 3 and S10' of W75' of Lot 3, Block 1, Third Addition to the City of Goodland; Lots 1 and 2, Block 29, Beahms Addition to the City of Goodland; Lots 1 and 2 and N15' of Lot 3, Block 16, Second Addition to the City of Goodland; and S15' of Lot 5 and all of Lot 6, Block 28, Beahm's Addition to the City of Goodland.

306 E. 11th
\$56,000

Take a look at this wonderful family home. The Loft offers a fun and functional place for the kids with lots of storage for mom. The sunny, open kitchen looks out on the beautiful backyard. There's a double garage for dad, a huge fenced yard plus a separate fenced yard for the dogs. The Owner's pride shows everywhere. Located within walking distance from downtown and schools. This home is very affordable at only \$56,000.00. Call Rose Koggie and let her show you this family friendly home. 785-899-3060, 866-899-3060 or 785-899-7464.



GOODLAND
Tom Harrison, Owner
Broker/Auctioneer
785-443-0136
114 West 12th • Goodland, KS
785-899-3060
Fax: 785-899-3100
Rose Koggie Assoc. Broker
785-899-7464
Hazel Estes
785-899-3060

Make an appointment to see any of our fine Homeland listings!
WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO...CALL!!

Check out our new web page at www.goodlandnet.com/homeland

 

Economic development office join others

As many of you already know, the Economic Development office has moved. The Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development are now located at 104 E. 10th.

Visitors needing the Convention and Visitors Bureau please come in the Main Street entrance. To see Economic Development or the Chamber of Commerce, come in the south side on 10th street.

Other than moving, the office has been very busy.

We are continuing to work with Terry Woodbury, housing programs, the gogoodlands.com website and putting together new DVDs.

The work with Woodbury is still in the beginning stages; a steering committee is going through the interview process now.

We will be done with these interviews in early July and we will move on to interviewing the public soon after.

The reason why we have interviews with different people is to get a better grasp on what our strengths and weaknesses are here in Sherman County.

From these interviews, we will have talked with members from the four categories of the "public square," where business, education,



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• development notes

health/human services and government join hands.

After all the interviews, we will have a Community Conversation. At this conversation, which everyone is invited to (more details on time and date later), we will get the results of our strengths and weaknesses. It is important for as many people as possible to show up at this meeting so we as a community can stand up for what is important to us.

Many projects are being looked at to try in Sherman County but if the community itself doesn't want that project, then we haven't helped ourselves.

One project that the Economic Development office is looking into is the housing programs that were been mentioned earlier. The first program that we will look at applying for is the Community Development Block Grant. This grant would be available to rehabilitate owner-occupied houses or demol-

ish dilapidated houses.

We are up against a short deadline, but hopefully we can pull this through this year instead of having to wait un-

til next year.

The new website at gogoodlands.com is coming along nicely. We are working to add information, but please feel free to stop by and check the website out while we are working on it. Don't forget that coming soon, this website can make you a winner of lots of cool prizes.

Last but certainly not least, the office is working on putting together a new DVD showcasing Sherman County. These DVDs will be used to help bring in prospect businesses. The DVDs will be easier to mail out to those looking to start or relocate their business here, since a letter and brochure isn't going to show the quality of life in Sherman County.

We have a lot to be proud of here, and I think that will show in these DVDs.

Tiffani McMinn is Sherman County economic development director.

REUNION
2006
The Time of Your Life
August 10-11-12, 2006

Edson - Goodland
Kanorado - Ruleton

Sherman County
Alumni Association

Honor your alumni
&
Target the hundreds more
coming to town

Don't miss your chance to spotlight your business in our 2006 Reunion Special Section.

A chance like this only comes around once every 5 years. Let your ad tell all the visiting Alumni
"Hey! Come shop with us!"

This section will appear in the Goodland Star-News on August, 11th.

But hurry! Deadline for getting your ad in is by August 1st.

Contact Anne today to reserve your space!
899-2338