

Benches added feature to fair



Benches have been added at the grounds of the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair for people to take a break on. The fair will end Friday night. Hot weather hasn't prevented people from enjoying the grandstand shows or the carnival.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Web site provides help for consumer

Dear Attorney General Kline:
I do my best to be an informed consumer, and your web site is a great help. Is there any other easy way for me to get timely information from your office on a wide variety of topics?

Dear Kansas Consumer:
My office receives hundreds of calls each week from consumers who are unhappy with their purchase of a product or service, are concerned about being the victim of a scam or have otherwise been ripped-off.

Shortly after I assumed office in January 2003, I directed my Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division to search for new ways to educate Kansans about a wide variety of consumer issues, which led to the establishment of the 24-Hour Consumer Information Line.

By simply making a telephone call, Kansans have access to valuable consumer information on these topics:

1. Common Scams: Scam artists target potential victims in a variety of ways. Category 1 includes valuable information for individuals who fear they have been targeted or would like information regarding the most common scams in the United States. Included is information about mail, phone, Internet, door-to-door and home repair scams.

2. Communicating With The Consumer Protection Division The Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division receives an average of 100 telephone calls and 20 written complaints a day. Category 2 provides information about requesting a speaker and/or educational material from our office, information about the Vulnerable Adults Task Force



phill kline

• attorney general

and how to file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau.

3. Billing Issues. Category 3 presents tips to follow when you are billed for merchandise returned or never received, what you should know regarding telephone solicitations for "free" or "special" deals, protection under the Fair Debt Collection Practice Act, information about telephone cramming and Internet service.

4. Vehicle Purchases. Buying or leasing a vehicle is an exciting time for many consumers and it is important that consumers make informed decisions before signing a contract. Category 4 contains information designed to inform and educate consumers on a variety of issues related to buying, leasing and owning a vehicle.

5. Unwanted Phone Calls. The Kansas No-Call Act allows Kansas residents to make their home phone numbers "off limits" to certain types of sales calls. Category 5 includes information on how to register your phone number, a briefing on laws regulating the faxing of

commercial advertisements and tips to reduce unwanted e-mail.

6. Consumer Laws. Although the Attorney General's office is prohibited by law from giving private legal advice, Category 6 offers help in understanding several consumer laws including door-to-door sales, three-day right to cancel, fair debt collection and credit repair.

7. Problem Solving Advice. Many problems in the marketplace can be handled without contacting an outside agency for assistance. Category 7 documents steps consumers should consider when trying to resolve a consumer complaint.

8. Commonly Asked Questions. The Consumer Protection Division receives about 1,000 calls weekly from consumers seeking information on a variety of issues. Category 8 contains questions and answers to inquiries including on-line pharmacies, ID theft and charity checks. The topical recordings in Category 8 are changed as needed, as are the messages in Category 1.

To access the Consumer Information Line, first dial (785) 296-2424. Then you can choose the category which interests you by pressing a number, one through eight. Then,

you select the specific message, again by pressing one through eight.

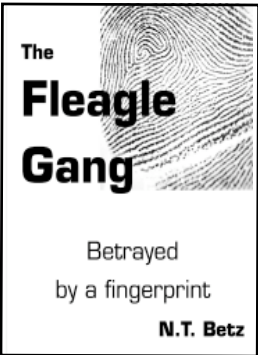
It is much easier and more effective to prevent people from becoming victims of financial crimes than to make them financially whole again. The information provided on the Consumer Information Line should be most useful to Kansas consumers.

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.

Got News? 899-2338

Kansas' earliest CSI story
Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt



Another great review posted on Amazon.com
★★★★ Excellent job on the Fleagle gang, June 5, 2006
M. Koch "Mike" (Oklahoma)

Mr. Betz tells the story of the Fleagle gang in a creative writing style, with the use of various reporters of the time period, which made the book very readable and flow well. Betz also goes into the various law enforcement techniques of the time period and various changes in forensic science used to solve crimes and prosecute criminals. This is one book to read if you like the gangsters period of the 1920s. I highly recommend it. Mike Koch, Author of "The Kimes Gang."

Ranked in top 20 true crime, burglary and robbery on Barnes & Noble

Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of The Goodland Star-News, has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the robbery/murder case which hinged on a single fingerprint — precursor to today's CSI shows — found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI plays a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid forensic evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals.

The Fleagle Gang robbed banks in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at the Big Timbers Museum in Lamar, Colo., the Holly Library, Holly, Colo.; the Lane County Museum in Dighton, Kan., the Fick Fossil and History Museum in Oakley, Kan., the Finney County Museum and Hastings in Garden City, Kan., the High Plains Museum in Goodland, Kan., the El Quartejejo Museum in Scott City, and the Colorado Prison Museum in Canon City, Colo. It is available on-line from the publisher Authorhouse.com, Linda Knott's web bookstore knottjustbooks@spreadtheword.com, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other major book stores.

Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.

Records on film deteriorating

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Some of the record indexes for county books that were micro-filmed years ago have developed problems, Sherman County commissioners heard Friday, and need to be done over.

Carol Armstrong, register of deeds, showed the commissioners a handful of microfilm sheets that have developed a spot that make them difficult to read or copy. She said Linda Roberts of Midcontinent Micrographics of St. Joseph, Mo. told her the spots would get worse. Armstrong said Roberts has been working with the county on the microfilming needs since the county decided not to have county workers to the microfilming.

She said county workers did the old microfilms of the numeric index books years ago.

"You want to remicrofilm these?" Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked.

Armstrong said she would like to use Midcontinent Micrographics, which are the same people who came to Goodland in July 2001 to do the microfilming.

She said every office in the courthouse could use the service while they are here.

Armstrong said she had \$19,000 in her office tech fund to help pay for the work.

"What do you do on an annual basis?" Commissioner Kevin Ra-

sure asked.

Armstrong said she does about \$9,000 a year in microfilming each year. She said the company is willing to set up a two-year payment plan for this project with no interest.

"That will catch you up?" Thomas asked.

Armstrong said it would, and that the company would produce CDs to use in her office while the original films are stored in the salt mines near Hutchison.

Rasure said it is important to keep the records intact. He asked if there was any quality assurance from the company about how long its work would last?

Armstrong said she would talk to the company about information on how long the microfilm should last.

The total estimate of the micro-filming that needs to be done is \$40,000, Armstrong said.

Rasure asked when the work would be done and if the company would come to Goodland. "I haven't set a date yet," Armstrong said. "They said there are several jobs out here and they would let us know when they could schedule us in."

She said the company would bring their equipment to Goodland.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said originals microfilms of all the county records are stored in the salt mines.

Animal cruelty case still in negotiations

Court negotiations involving a Goodland couple charged with 14 counts of animal cruelty earlier this year are still going on.

Sheriff's deputies confiscated 10 horses from Tim and Shaunna Armknecht Feb. 28 after a report they were not being fed. Deputy Jason Showalter and Undersheriff Roger Studer investigated went to the Armknecht's home at 6975 K-27, about five miles north of Goodland.

Deputy Showalter reported finding 10 horses in need of food and water by their appearance. Four dead horses were in with the others.

The county seized the horses and moved them to Prairieland Animal Clinic.

The horses were sold at the Colby Livestock Auction Monday, April 3, following an agreement by the parties, said Scott Showalter, who is handling the case for the Sherman County attorney's office.

The Armknechts are facing 14 counts of animal cruelty, a Class A nonperson misdemeanor, and four counts of unlawful disposal of dead animals, an unclassified misdemeanor with a possible fine of \$100 for every 24 hours for each count.

Richardson's Homestead Realty

New Listing
801 Harrison

Spacious 5 bedroom, 2 bath home very reasonably priced. Upper level has living room, nice kitchen with hardwood floors, bath and three bedrooms. The lower level is finished with two more bedrooms, family room, bath and big laundry room. There's a single car garage, deck of dining area, central heat and air, newer thermal pane windows, no paint siding and lots more. \$63,000. Please call Donna Moore to view this home.



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