

Don't give account number to person on phone

Dear Attorney General Kline:
I recently received a phone call from a man claiming to be with the Federal government who told me that Medicare had extra funding that had just been released. He then asked for the name of my bank and my account number so this money could be transferred to my account.



phill kline

• attorney general

It was at that point I informed him I would do no such thing and hung up. Did I do the right thing?

Dear Kansas Consumer:
Yes, you handled the situation properly. Congratulations for recognizing this as an attempted theft of your identity. This is a very common form of what is known as a "phishing scam."

Identity theft continues to be a rapidly growing crime. Those who fall victim to this crime have been known to spend endless hours and many dollars in an attempt to undo

credit report damage that can literally happen in a few seconds.

Here are some ways to properly protect your identity:

- Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet or purse. Keep it at home in a secure location. There is not a law prohibiting businesses from requesting your Social Security Number, but there are very few instances in which you are required to give it. If a business requests it, ask why that information is needed. Also, don't have it pre-printed on your personal checks.

with a check enclosed provides an identity thief with your bank account number.

- Shred invoices and any other items containing your personal financial information. If you are not shredding these documents, you should tear sensitive information and dispose of the pieces in separate containers.
- Review your credit report once each year. You are entitled to one free copy of your credit report yearly from each of the three credit reporting entities: Equifax,

Experian and Transunion.

- Make sure you thoroughly review all monthly bank and credit card statements. Any unauthorized credit card charges or demand drafts (checks tendered without your signature) should be challenged immediately. For information on how to do that, call my Consumer Protection Division's 24-hour information line — (785) 296-2424 — and listen to recordings posted in category 7.
- If you have not already done so, register all phone numbers on the National No-Call list by calling toll-free (888) 382-1222. You should notice a drop in telephone solicitations three months after you register. If you are asked to buy something over the phone after registering, and the business is not one that you have bought from in the recent past, then file a complaint with my

Consumer Protection Division.

- Keep a photocopy of the front and back of all credit cards in a secure place. If you become the victim of Identity Theft, you will then have relevant information at your fingertips to promptly cancel the stolen accounts.

If you think you may be the victim of Identity Theft, you should immediately contact all financial institutions and credit bureaus, asking that a fraud alert be placed on your accounts.

In addition, police reports should also be filed in the location where the theft occurred and in your hometown. My Consumer Protection Division will send any and all Kansans who fall victim to identity thieves a helpful brochure detailing the steps needed to protect themselves. Merely call and ask for investigator Larry Larsen if you need

advice about dealing with Identity Theft.

If you'd like more information on what you can do to protect yourself against Identity Theft or what to do if you become a victim, contact my 24-hour Consumer Information Line at (785) 296-2424 or visit my web site at www.ksag.org.

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.

Football jerseys auctioned at homecoming

This last week was a busy week in Brewster. With the cooler days, that means football and homecoming.

They auctioned off football jerseys and work time when they auctioned off the students. Thursday night was the bonfire with a pep rally on Kansas Ave. Friday afternoon, Andrew Starns was crowned king, and Sarah Flanders was crowned queen.

The football game was close with Brewster winning 28-26 against Palco, one of the top teams in the state. So, congratulations to all of you that made it a success. On Sunday, they will again be



betty jo baird

• brewster news

having church and potluck at the Minor Soddy north of Brewster. Church is at 10:30 a.m. with potluck at noon. Bring a dish and your own place setting and a lawn chair. It's a beautiful setting for outdoor services and is always enjoyed by all.

The Alzheimer's Association spoke at the Senior Center Tuesday,

Sept. 5. It was very informative, and we all decided we were all okay for the time being. We thank the association for coming.

We want to keep a number of people from our community in our prayers; these included Wayne Luckert, Maxine Moore, Reva Eicher, Nettie Mills and Coleen Crumrine.

My dear child, Did you know that praising me can heal you? It can still your restless spirit and fill your

empty soul. Turn to me and bring me praise. Let it spring from deep within your inmost being. Let you exalt my holy name.

Remember my mercies and all of my benefits, for I am the God who heals and forgives. I am the Father who redeems your life and satisfies you with good things. I make you young again, like the eagle. Praise me, for I am slow to anger and abounding in love.

Remove your sins as far from you as the east is from the west. Praise me, for my love continues forever. Turn to me and bring me praise.

I am the Lord, your God. Psalm 103:1-17.

Stories abound from domestic violence victims

Violence in any form is adverse to the concept of what a civilized world should be. The reality is that the flow of violence has been with us since the beginning of time, but it should also be a reality that good people will work to provide a solution.

Since the inception of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, which was created by Governor Kathleen Sebelius, I have received many letters about the horror people have experienced as victims of domestic violence.

Some of those folks who have contacted me have been friends and acquaintances over many years, and I was unaware of the tragedy in their lives.

For example, a man I have known for more than 40 years recently told me that he was a victim of domestic violence during his childhood.



bob stephan

• domestic violence

The daughter of a friend who is a business woman told me she had been subjected to violence from her husband for 20 years. This silent blight on our society must not be allowed to continue unnoticed.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation publishes a yearly Domestic Violence Report. The 2004 KBI report showed that 121 domestic violence related fatalities occurred in Kansas from 1999 to 2004.

Of the 121 fatalities, 82 were women and 39 were men. Victims ranged from 18 to 90 years of age.

Only since 1992 have Kansas law enforcement agencies been required to submit a standard offense report to the KBI on domestic violence incidents.

The Board reviewed six cases from 2003 involving nine domestic violence related deaths. In four of six cases, friends, family and coworkers knew of the violence or threats to kill.

In four out of the six cases, the decedents were attempting to leave their partner. Five of the victims were Caucasian, and one was African American. It should be noted that no homicide is reviewed until the legal process has been completed.

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board has two principal

goals: 1. to inform the public about the insidious nature of domestic violence in order to get citizens involved in finding solutions. 2. To identify systematic changes in all agencies that work with domestic violence that might reduce the number of fatalities and improve the delivery of services.

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board has received a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to be used to formulate a program to raise public awareness about the horror of domestic violence.

We believe the support of the public is necessary if domestic violence is to be reduced. That cannot become a reality until awareness gives rise to action.

Bob Stephan is the chair of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

Century Feeders recognized as GridMaster

Century Feeders of Goodland has been recognized by the Red Angus Association of America for being a GridMaster in 2006, not once but twice.

The first citation was for cows and calves from Quarter Circle U Ranch of Otter, Mont., on Tuesday, Jan. 24. The second, on the same day, was cows/calves from Rhoades Brothers of Burlington. The cattle were processed at a Fort Morgan packing plant.

The company has been recognizing feeders and the cow/calf producers in its GridMaster program since 2003. The program praises the ranch breeding program for outstanding genetics, management and timely marketing cattle at the feed yard for the best performance.

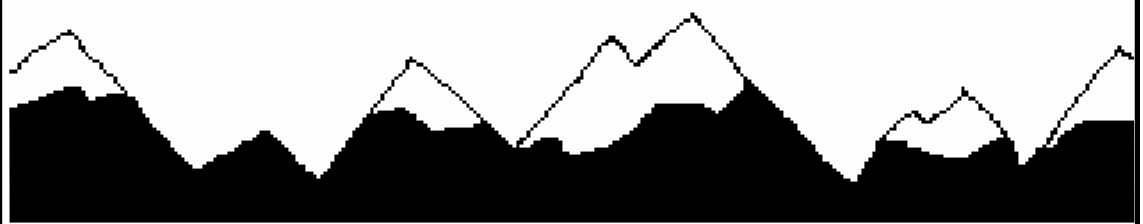
The requirements for the program are a minimum of 30 head of cattle marketed on the Angus America Grid with a minimum grade of 80 percent choice or better

and a maximum yield of grade 4's of 7.5 percent and minimum grid score of 100.

The grid score is figure using the performance of the lot of cattle and accounts for the percentage of choice and premium meat products and percent of yield grade 1's and 2's stamped, as well as the overall choice and yield grade 4 percentages.

The yard is at 6845 County Road 17.

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The Goodland Star-News

and The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors welcomes

Fido's Fluff Shop

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Marilyn Bliss - Owner

Fido's Fluff Shop celebrated its grand opening on July 13, 2006. Owner, Maryilyn Bliss, has been grooming small dogs part time for the past 14 years. She started out grooming her own dogs and then friends' dogs.

Fido's Fluff Shop offers all dog grooming basics including bathing, combing, clipping and claw trimming. Marilyn specializes in small dogs.

Call Marilyn at Fido's Fluff Shop today to schedule your dog for a grooming. Open Monday through Thursday by appointment.