

# Workshop for irrigators planned here Thursday

A Kan-Sched workshop will be provided to irrigators on Thursday, March 28, from 1-4 p.m. at the Thomas County Office Complex Conference Room. There is no charge to atten, said Dennis Chandler, extension agent, and no advanced registration is needed. "Kan-Sched is a computer program designed to help producers schedule irrigation applications," he said. Topics will include information on soil moisture sensors, evap transpiration monitoring, and scheduling of irrigation. The Kan-Sched program allows en-

try of data concerning the crop and moisture received and the evap transpiration that is going on in the field to determine if the soil moisture level is at a maintained level or is at a depleting level. If it is depleting, Chandler said, at what rate is it depleting, and when does water need to be applied to maintain maximum production levels. Kan-Sched is a tool to help in maintaining sufficient soil moisture to help in producing maximum profits. Come learn about the program and how it can work for you.

# Parents seek to oust three Piper school board members

KANSAS CITY (AP)—Some parents in the Piper school district are seeking to remove three school board members from office after they failed to resolve a plagiarism dispute. The parents applied for a petition Tuesday to recall Chris McCord, the board's president, James Swanson and Greg Netzer, said Leroy Stevens, the recall effort's leader. "All of those members should have known, or should have made decisions with the majority of the school system in mind, not just 28 students," Stevens said. The rural district about 20 miles west of Kansas City, Mo., has been in turmoil since December when the board, in a closed-door meeting, re-

versed a Piper High School science teacher's decision to give 28 students zeros on a project. Christine Pelton had suspected plagiarism after discovering that many papers contained identical material. But after hearing complaints from the students' parents, the board decided the students should get partial credit on their sophomore botany project. McCord has said the parents' complaints had no effect on the board's decision. Pelton resigned in protest, the school's principal said he will resign at the end of the year, and all seven board members face a civil complaint filed by the Wyandotte County district attorney alleging their meeting violated the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

## Checking the possibilities



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

S&T Telephone employees (left to right) Don Newell, Pat Mallory and Jane Keck show Brad Bartlett of Colby all the services that S&T has to offer at the weekend Home & Living Show at the Colby Community Building. The annual event attracted large crowds Friday and Saturday, but with the change in weather, Sunday's turnout wasn't near as large.

# Area donors help K-State in telefund

MANHATTAN—Thomas County alumni and friends of Kansas State University helped the world's largest all-volunteer telephone campaign for higher education set nearly a dozen records and raise \$1,368,653, up two and a half percent from the 2001 pledge total. K-State's Telefund, coordinated by the KSU Foundation, has set records for pledges, participation, or berth, for 22 consecutive years. Telefund 2002 at K-State reached the \$1.3 million total through 22,189 pledges, including 56 pledges from Thomas County worth \$2,145.00. The 2002 pledge total is \$34,411 above the previous record set during Telefund 2001. Telefund first topped \$1 million in 1998 and now ranks among the nation's elite collegiate telephone campaigns, college officials said. Records for pledges were set in eight of nine colleges, for the university-wide pledge total, for total alumni donors and for student participation during Telefund 2002. During the 25-day calling marathon, which ran from Jan. 22 to Feb. 28, 1,638 volunteer student callers representing all nine academic colleges received pledges from all 105 Kansas counties, all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico. K-State ranks first in the Big 12 Conference and fourth nationally among similar colleges and universities based on the percentage of alumni support. Telefund is a key to the 28 percent participation rate.

# Consumer asks how to get money back from scholarship-finding service

**Dear Attorney General Stovall:**  
I recently received a postcard in the mail from a scholarship-finding service saying my daughter could be eligible for thousands of dollars of scholarship money. The postcard said that tens of thousands of scholarship dollars go unclaimed each year simply because students do not know where and how to apply. Although my daughter is ineligible to receive scholarship funds based upon financial need, the high cost of education led me to consider this scholarship-finding service. I called the service, and the woman I spoke to said that for only \$179 she would guarantee my daughter a large list of available scholarships, tailored to her needs, for which my daughter would only need to write letters of application. I was a little leery at first, but then the representative told me that my daughter would receive at least \$ 1,000 in scholarship funds — or I could get my \$179 back. After a little hesitation, I decided that I couldn't really lose as long as the company was offering a money-back guarantee, so I agreed to purchase the service.



Carla J. Stovall

• From the Attorney General

my daughter needed to apply to and be denied by each and every source on the voluminous list before I could get a refund. Attorney General Stovall, is there anything I can do to get my money back from this foolish "investment" that I made?

**Dear Kansas Consumer.**

My Consumer Protection division looked into your complaint and found that the actions of this scholarship service were in violation of several sections of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act in its transactions with you and other Kansas consumers. First, the company's solicitation implied that consumers would receive college scholarships, grants, and/or loans;

however, it did not disclose that consumers would receive only a list of possible sources of scholarships — some with conditions consumers did not meet. Additionally, this scholarship service supplier is considered a telemarketer because it sent written materials about its service to you in the mail without discussing all material terms of the offer and requested that you contact the company to initiate the trans-

action. Under the Consumer Protection Act telemarketing laws, such a supplier is required to obtain a signed confirmation from consumers before receiving payment for any goods or services purchased over the telephone. This scholarship company did not obtain this signed confirmation before receiving payment. Finally, the act requires Credit Service Organizations to register with the Kansas Consumer Credit Commissioner. A Credit Service Organization is any person or business that represents that it will assist a consumer in, among other things, obtaining an extension of credit for them.

The scholarships and educational funding this scholarship service advertised constituted an extension of credit; however, this company did not register or provide file proof of a surety bond or account with the Kansas Consumer Credit Commissioner. My office was able to obtain a refund of your \$179 after contacting the company. It is important to remember that no one can truly guarantee scholarships other than the entity which is actually furnishing the scholarship. Many companies which promise scholarship money deliver only lists of sources with this same "application-and-denial" requirement for refunds, or provide only sources of other financial assistance, such as student loans,

which must be repaid. Usually, the same information is available at no charge from your student's financial aid or counseling office. *Editor's note: Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help people avoid becoming victims of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry.*

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