

Consumers need help before donating to Hurricane Katrina

Dear Attorney General Kline:
I've seen and heard about all the terrible devastation caused by hurricane Katrina and I would like to help.
Also want to make sure any contributions I make actually go to the relief efforts. What's the best and most secure way to accomplish this?
Dear Kansas Consumer:
When a need arises, Kansans are always very quick to respond. While that is an admirable trait it can also mean that unscrupulous con artists try to take advantage of that generosity. While "What can I do to help?" is the initial response of most individuals and businesses in a situation like this week's hurricane, some



Phill Kline

• Consumer Corner

unprincipled people view a disaster as an opportunity to reap illegal profits. There are a number of legitimate organizations that provide assistance and relief to disaster victims. Citizens should contribute only to organizations they know well and that willingly provide written information about their charitable efforts. There are several things you

should consider before making a contribution:
Beware of high pressure solicitations.
Remember, legitimate charities will give you time to decide whether and how much to donate.
• When solicited by an individual or organization unfamiliar to you, ask that they mail information to your home.
• Know what percentage of a con-

tribution actually goes for the charitable efforts. High administrative and other expenses may hide a solicitor's profits for raising funds.
• Be aware that fraudulent solicitors may use an organization name similar to established and well-known charitable organizations.
• If you make the decision to contribute, do not pay in cash and make checks payable to the organization, not to an individual or company name that is different from the charity itself.
• Never give your credit card, bank account or Social Security number to anyone who calls you on the telephone.
• Always check out charitable or-

ganizations before making any contributions.
You can do that by visiting Kansas Charity Check through my website at www.ksag.org. You can also call the Kansas Secretary of State's office at (785) 296-4564, or contact your local Better Business Bureau.
Any Kansas consumer who believes they may be the victim of a charity scam should contact my Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-432-2310.
During this time of national pain, our thoughts and prayers go out to the good people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama whose communities have been devastated by

Katrina. Let's all be certain that any monies we donate make it into the most needy hands.
Editor's note: Attorney General Phill Kline 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 or questions.
For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612.
Consumers may also call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

Gas prices put kink in travel

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)—Soaring gas prices have some Iowans rethinking their travels plans. With prices at \$3 per gallon, many Iowans have decided to stay close to home.
Gail Ehlers, of Oelwein, was planning on spending Labor Day weekend camping with her son at Brushy Creek State Park near Fort Dodge. Not anymore.
"I'm going to stay home and do day things," Ehlers said Wednesday.
"This is ridiculous," said Ehlers, whose truck gets about 12 mpg.
Dan and Mary Dias of Cedar Rapids also are considering changing their vacation plans. They want to go to Texas in early October, but said the 900-mile drive may be out of the question if gas prices continue to rise. AAA Minnesota/Iowa spokeswoman Gail Weinholzer said it's not the crude oil supply that's driving up gas prices, it's concern about how long it would take to resume production at Gulf Coast refineries and off-shore, oil-drilling rigs that were shut down because of Hurricane Katrina. Iowa motorists also pay federal taxes on motor fuels - 24.4 cents per gallon for diesel, and 18.4 cents per gallon for regular gasoline and ethanol-blended gasoline.

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Don't let a day at the lake become that day at the lake.

Always wear your life jacket. Drink responsibly while boating.

Paid for by Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Routine screening and prompt treatment can reduce deaths from breast and cervical cancer.

early detection works

call to see if you qualify for a free screening. **Shelley Nelson 620-275-5302** www.growerthorncancerfoundation.org

A message from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Cancer Information Services, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and American Cancer Society.

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For Classified Word ads are as follows:

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3-4 days	18¢/word
5-9 days	17¢/word
10-14 days	16¢/word
Monthly (tfn)	15¢/word

(*Price reflects 15 word minimum ad. Ads must be in our office by 12:00 noon the day before.

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\$9.45 for the first 15 words & 55¢ each additional word (per week). Your ad will run 1 time in the Advocate and 1 week in the sister paper of your choice.

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COLBY FREE PRESS 785-462-3963

CLASSIFIEDS

To Give Away	Wanted
To good home - 3 year old spayed female Lab/Springer mix. Needs active family and/or country home. Very sweet, climbs fences. Call 460-0047 after 6:00 p.m. —8/29—9/2— Free kittens. Blue eyes, litter box trained. 785-462-7943 after 6:00 p.m. —8/29—9/2— 4 kittens , cute, very loving and good with children. Also swing set with monkey bar and slide. 460-8074. —8/29—9/2— Female house cat , very sweet natured, declawed and neutered. 460-6920. —8/26—9/1—	Cash for your useable string instruments. Strings N Things, 640 N. Franklin Ave., Colby. 460-7278. —9/1— Babies Breath - lots of! Call 785-460-7153. —8/31—9/2— House cleaning in the tri-state area. Trustworthy, dependable and reasonably priced. Please ask for Stephanie. 785-675-2321. —8/17—9/12— Custom swathing and baling of fall crops. Stephen Shull. 462-2007. —8/12—9/1—
Garage Sales	
527 E Pine St. Saturday 8:00 a.m. - noon. Furniture, household items, knickknacks, and misc. items. —9/1 & 9/2— 310 S. Lincoln Ave. Saturday 8:00 a.m. - ? Sunday 1:00 p.m. - ? Monday 8:00 a.m. - ? Many, many items of all kinds. Old and new - furniture, clothes, bedding, kitchen, tools, misc. —9/1 & 9/2— 1804 Harvey Ct. Friday 3:00 - ? More items, lower prices, clothes, household, toys, misc. —8/24—9/2— 680 S. Grant Ave. Friday, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Saturday 8:00 a.m. - ? Multi-family, baby clothes, toys, household items, lots of misc. —8/31—9/2— 720 E. 7th St. Oakley. Friday, September 2, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3, 8:00 a.m. - noon. Lawn mower, clarinet, stereo equipment, videos, junior clothing, doors, area rug, snowman, misc. —8/29—9/2—	
Auctions	
Consignment auction Sunday, September 4, 10:00 a.m. Hoxie 4-H Building. The auction is booked up with antiques, furniture, new items and Nascar items. Mickey Brown 785-675-3767. —8/29—9/2—	
Pets / Supplies	
AKC registered miniature Schnauzer pups. Home raised, 6 females, 1 male. Call evenings 785-855-2285. —8/29—9/9— German Shorthair puppies , shots and docked, from AKC parents. Call 460-6920 or 460-9193 after 6:00 p.m. —8/26—9/1—	
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