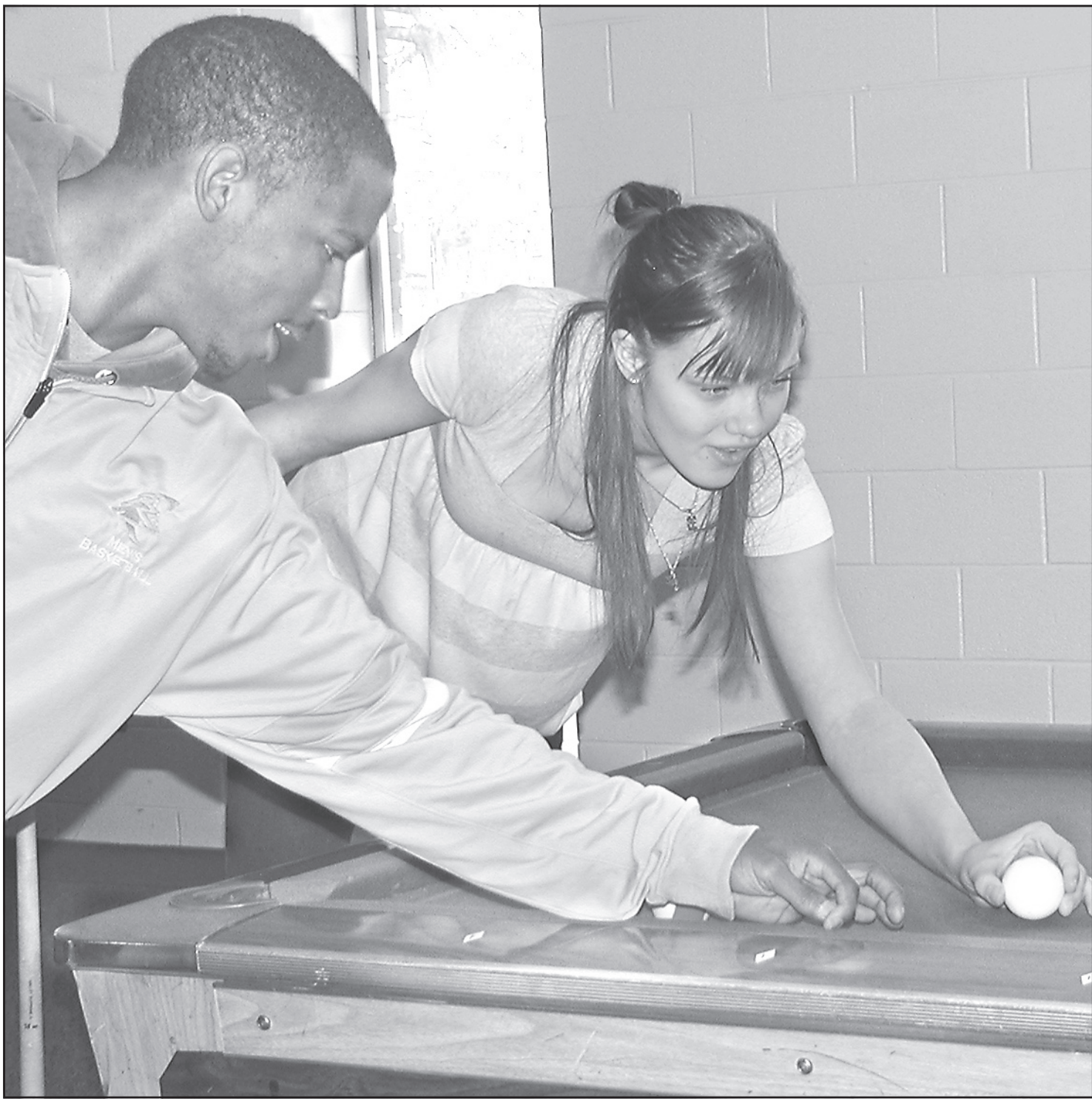


Setting up for a shot



Hurley Johnson, Clewiston, Fla. (left) played pool on Tuesday with Liga Vente from Valmiera, Latvia, at the Colby Community College student union. Both are members of the college basketball teams.

Protect your data, online and offline

Nearly every day, our office hears stories of Kansans whose personal information has ended up in someone else's hands.



**Derek Schmidt**  
• Attorney General

In today's information age, it is easier than ever for identity thieves to get this information. On Saturday we recognize National Data Privacy Day. It is a good time to review your precautions to guard against a tragic – and perhaps costly – privacy breach.

Our computers contain a significant amount of personal information. Passwords, financial information and other files are often stored on our hard drives and even on the Internet. Identity thieves may try several different methods to gain access to this information.

**Phishing scams.** People on the Internet are not always who they claim to be. In a phishing scam, an identity thief will send you an e-mail pretending to be your bank, credit card company or another place of business.

It may tell you that your password has expired and you need to reply to the e-mail with your old password and new password to reset it. Or the e-mail may contain a link that directs you to a website to change your password. The e-mail and website may look official, even show your bank's logo. But this is just a scam to gain access to your online banking account.

If you use online banking, always go through your bank's homepage to access your account. Links in e-mails cannot always be trusted, even if they look official.

**Viruses.** Scam artists and hackers can also gain access to your system by installing a virus on your computer. These viruses can then record every action on your computer, including capturing usernames and passwords to online accounts.

The best way to avoid these viruses is to be very cautious when opening e-mail attachments or downloading files from the Internet. Only open files from trusted sources. Be sure antivirus software is up-to-date, and regularly scan your system for viruses.

**Electronic devices.** Thieves are always on the lookout for

electronics, especially when they are left inside a car. When a thief gets a hold of a laptop computer or smartphone, they don't just get the device itself, but access to the personal information stored on it.

To prevent this from happening, first keep the device in a secure location. Second, use strong passwords to lock your computer and smartphone. You may want another level of password protection on sensitive files and applications.

**Physical files.** Even with all the information that has been digitized, most of us still have paper files. Whether it is tax information, blank checks, bank statements or bills, these documents contain personal information. It's important to keep them in a secure place in homes and offices and destroy them before throwing them away. Shredding them with a cross-cut shredder is one of the best ways to make sure identity thieves can't get this information from your dumpster. Later this spring, our office will be sponsoring several shred-a-thons across the state to help you safely dispose of personal information.

Even with the best precautions, data breaches do occur. News reports of hackers getting into banks and government computer systems are unfortunately common.

When these data breaches occur, federal and state laws do give you some protections. The business or agency where the data breach occurred is required to notify you. They may also be required to report the breach to credit monitoring agencies.

Our office is continuing to crack down on identity theft – one of the fastest-growing crimes in America. If you believe you have been a victim of identity theft, please contact our office at (800) 432-2310 or at [www.ksag.org](http://www.ksag.org).



On the Beat

**COLBY POLICE Sunday**  
2:20 a.m. – Received several calls of an accident at 470 S. Lincoln. No report.  
2:44 a.m. – Driving under the influence report filed on above incident.  
12:20 p.m. – Provided motorist assistance at Oasis.  
2:35 p.m. – Found dog turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.  
6:17 p.m. – Subjects came to station about verbal abuse.  
8:27 p.m. – Caller was at Dillon's, wanted officer to stop girlfriend from trying to leave Colby. Provided information to reporting party.  
10:03 p.m. – Provided ride for

subject from the 100 block of S. Franklin to residence.  
10:33 p.m. – Callers had argument. Report filed for assault.  
**THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Monday**  
10:09 a.m. – Subject came to Law Enforcement Center about lost license plate. Report filed.  
12:16 p.m. – Released Warren Lee Edmondson.  
12:47 p.m. – Released Joshua Stephan Morales.  
**Tuesday**  
9:53 a.m. – Cattle out at County Rds. 17 and Z.  
1:28 p.m. – Caller requested officers watch for vehicle traveling from Garden City to Colorado. Watched for vehicle.

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