

In disaster giving, remember caution

In light of the devastating storm system that hit the East Coast last week, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt warns Kansans to be aware of possible scam artists seeking to profit from the generosity of others.

Schmidt warns the public to make sure they are donating to a reputable charity and to specify that a charity uses donations for intended purposes.

"When natural disasters strike, it is human nature to offer help," Schmidt said. "But please donate wisely to established, legitimate disaster-relief charities."

Here are a few simple tips for donating, to avoid being scammed:

- Make donations to established organizations with a strong track record of organizing and providing disaster relief.
- Initiate the donation yourself, rather than responding to online or phone solicitations.
- Avoid door-to-door solicitors or offers from charities to stop by a consumer's home to pick up a check. These too could be fraudulent.
- Do not fall prey to high-pressure pitches from solicitors. Legitimate charities allow you time to think about how much — and when — you choose to donate.
- Be wary of charities that ask for alternate forms of payment. Legitimate charities rarely if ever ask you to give by wire transfer.

The Kansas Attorney General's Office is dedicated to consumer protection. More information on avoiding charity scams is available on the Attorney General's website at www.ag.ks.gov.

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Bank robbery just for a dollar

NORTHERN CAMBRIA, Pa. (AP) — Police say a man who robbed a western Pennsylvania bank handed tellers notes demanding only \$1 because he apparently hoped to be sent to a federal prison nearby.

But instead of being held in the Federal Correctional Institution at Loretto, 50-year-old Jeffrey Mullen remained in the Cambria County Prison awaiting a preliminary hearing on charges from the heist at the AmeriServ bank in his hometown of Northern Cambria.

Mullen must undergo a mental evaluation if he manages to post \$50,000 bail, or he won't be released from jail.

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On the Beat

COLBY POLICE
Wednesday

2:36 a.m. — Caller reported a barking dog. Unable to locate.

3:34 a.m. — Caller reported a barking dog. Spoke to subjects.

7:39 a.m. — Helped ambulance crew.

12:06 p.m. — Accident at 485 N. Chick.

2:23 p.m. — Battery/disorderly conduct/criminal damage to property: caller reported damage to dorm room. Report filed.

3:37 p.m. — Spoke to subject practicing parasailing in field west of 1950 S. Range. All OK.

6:19 p.m. — Caller reported domestic disturbance.

Thursday

12:20 a.m. — Halloween: caller reported picnic tables taken from gazebo at Fike Park and placed on top of each other. No damage.

9:15 a.m. — Caller reported subject seen possibly being verbally and physically abusive to puppies. Spoke with subject, no report.

9:56 a.m. — Walk through at Colby Grade School.

11:26 a.m. — Caller reported

possible problem between two subjects. All was OK.

11:40 a.m. — Caller reported possible assault.

2:21 p.m. — Subject came to station wanting speed check done on his vehicle. Spoke to reporting party.

2:55 p.m. — Caller reported barking dog. Owner not found, will check back later.

3:35 p.m. — Rape report filed.

6:16 p.m. — Caller reported theft. Report filed.

6:54 p.m. — Caller reported barking dogs. Spoke with owner.

10:15 p.m. — Caller reported two possible abandoned dogs. Made contact with owner; everything OK.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Wednesday

3:41 p.m. — Richard Joseph Mesisca Jr. arrested on warrant.

6:29 p.m. — Helped Colby Police on domestic call.

6:54 p.m. — Assisted highway patrolman on traffic stop at westbound I-70 mile 67.

Snake removed from jail

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — An unwelcome visitor at a North Texas jail has been freed by a reptile-friendly deputy.

Cpl. Mike McNicholas of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office helped remove the 5-foot-long rat snake from overhead pipe space.

The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

(bit.ly/QRNT2Z) reported that an inmate at the county's Greenbay jail facility had spotted the snake above his cell.

McNicholas blamed the non-venomous snake for the inside job, saying the creature probably got into the jail through exhaust fans or air conditioning ducts.

Hunters Dinner arranged by Lions

Yet another week of beautiful weather in Rexford! With the opening weekend of pheasant season coming, I'm sure some of the hunters are wishing for snow, but it doesn't look like they will get it.

Whether or not you are a pheasant hunter, plan to come out to the Lions Club Hunters Dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Lions Hall on Main Street. There is a fee for the dinner, but it is well worth it.

Shepherd's Staff was host to the Country Quilters again this weekend. Eighteen ladies hauled in their machines and material on Thursday afternoon and left Sunday afternoon with many completed projects.

Area 4-Hers and their families attended the annual 4-H banquet Friday night at the 4-H building in



Gwen Griffiths
Rexford Correspondent

Man took wedding gift cards

MARIENVILLE, Pa. (AP) — State police say they plan to file charges against a rather unwellcome wedding guest.

Troopers from the Marienville barracks say the 31-year-old Titusville man stole wedding cards from a basket of guest gifts at the reception at the Harmony Township Community Center.

Police have yet to release the

name of the man because he's yet to be charged.

But police say they plan to charge the man with theft. Witnesses tell police they saw the man taking the envelopes.

Police haven't said how much money or what other gifts the cards contained, or whether any of that has been recovered.

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