

# Learning fire safety



ANGIE MOORE/Colby Free Press  
The Brewster kindergarten and preschool visited the Brewster Fire Station Thursday, Oct 10, for Fire Prevention Month. Volunteer firemen Kevin Schmidt and Jeff Rall took the kids on a tour of the station.

# Offers of repaid debit cards a common tool for scammers



**Derek Schmidt**  
• Attorney General

Prepaid debit cards have become popular ways to pay bills over the phone or order things online without using a credit card. However, these cards have also become the target for scam artists looking for quick access to your money.

Unlike credit cards, transactions on prepaid debit cards are hard to reverse or track once the money has been sent from your card. This makes them a popular method for scam artists to have you send them money, leaving you with no way to get it back. Sending someone money through a prepaid debit card is just like sending cash.

Our office has received an increasing number of complaints of scams using these prepaid cards as the vehicle for ripping off Kansans from their hard-earned dollars. Often, these scams come in the form of a phone call informing you that you have won a sweepstakes or lottery. They will then ask you to purchase a prepaid debit card, available at almost any convenience or discount store, to cover the fees. Next, they want you to give them the card number

and access code, allowing the instant access to the money you put on the card.

The FBI also recently issued an alert that scam artists have been calling retail businesses using bomb threats to extort money by prepaid debit cards. The callers warn the business that a bomb has been placed on their premises and unless a certain amount of money is loaded onto a prepaid card, the device will be detonated. The FBI reports that no actual explosives have been found at any of the locations where the calls have been received.

Here are a few tips to keep you safe from these scams:

- Report any threats of explosives or violence immediately to local law enforcement officials.

- You should never have to pay fees to claim a prize that you have "won."
- Never give out account numbers over the phone to someone you do not know, including prepaid card numbers, credit card numbers or bank account numbers.

If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Be skeptical and ask a lot of questions.

Ask telemarketers to send you information on their product or service by mail so you can consider all your options and make informed decisions.

Remember, the Kansas Lottery is the only legally operating lottery in the State of Kansas, and officials from the Kansas Lottery will never ask you for money up front in order to claim a prize.

Consumers who think they may have been a victim of a prepaid debit card scam should contact our Consumer Protection Division at (800) 432-2310 or file a complaint online at [www.ag.ks.gov](http://www.ag.ks.gov).

## On the Beat

### COLBY POLICE

- Oct. 6**
- 1:57 a.m. – Removed a shopping cart from the 100 block of W. Willow.
  - 2:05 a.m. – Took subject to Oasis.
  - 3:10 a.m. – Driving under the influence report filed on traffic stop.
  - 10:54 a.m. – Caller reported two transients begging for money. Spoke with subjects; removed subjects.
  - 12:28 p.m. – Caller needed help catching dog at large. Uncatchable.
  - 6:02 p.m. – Provided information for motorist.
  - 10:29 p.m. – Checked on clerk at motel
- Oct. 7**
- 8 a.m. – Did program at Colby Middle School.
  - 8:28 a.m. – Caller reported subject trespassing. Report filed.
  - 9:15 a.m. – Walk through at Colby High School.
  - 9:41 a.m. – Walk through at Heartland Christian School.
  - 10:20 a.m. – Removed sign from Range and Fourth.
  - 11:44 a.m. – Subject reported hit and run Sunday night.
  - 12:45 p.m. – Dog at large taken

- to Colby Animal Clinic.
- 12:45 p.m. – Did program at Colby Middle School.
- 1:51 p.m. – Provided information.
- 1:54 p.m. – Caller reported argument. Report filed.
- 4:50 p.m. – Domestic disturbance report filed.
- 11:37 p.m. – Security check at the college.

- Oct. 8**
- 12:12 a.m. – Narcotics violation: caller reported subjects coming into business with a strange odor. Vehicle left.
  - 1:22 a.m. – Security check at Meadow Lake.
  - 1:31 a.m. – Security check at Colby Dodge.
  - 1:35 a.m. – Security check to businesses on Franklin.
  - 2:03 a.m. – Security check at Walmart.
  - 3:04 a.m. – Helped disabled semi at Range and I-70 – out of fuel
  - 3:33 a.m. – Security checks to Days Inn and Motel 6.
  - 5:30 a.m. – Escorted vehicle and subject to the Law Enforcement Center.
  - 7:08 a.m. – Provided directions.
  - 7:19 a.m. – Checked semi at I-70 and Range. Out of fuel and

- had help coming.
- 8:11 a.m. – Caller reported finding drug pipe. Report filed.
- 10:13 a.m. – Civil standby.
- 10:13 a.m. – Collision at Prairie Senior Living Complex.
- 12:02 p.m. – Three officers helped ambulance crew.
- 2:15 p.m. – Caller reported neighbor's cats in yard.
- 10:33 p.m. – Caller reported dog caught. Turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.
- 11:21 p.m. – Security check at the college.

### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

- Oct. 7**
- 1:38 a.m. – Booked Norma J. Kammer.
  - 9:36 a.m. – Took prisoner to Sherman County.
  - 9:53 a.m. – Report filed for cash seizure from Highway Patrol arrest on Sunday.
  - 11:31 a.m. – Walk through at Brewster School.
  - 11:14 p.m. – Caller reported sheep in his backyard at 2040 E. Fourth. Will contact owner of sheep tomorrow.
- Oct. 8**
- 1:08 p.m. – Alarm at Rexford. Call cancelled by alarm company; they contacted owner.

## Thomas County Jail

- Booked into the Thomas County jail:
- Amy Ellen Field, 40, Colby, Sept. 27, transporting open container/alcohol, failure to appear, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released Oct. 1 to other agency.
- Michael Edward Henderson, 28, Hays, Sept. 27, failure to appear/possession of narcotic drugs, Thomas County Sheriff, released Oct. 2 on recognizance.
- Kevin Paul Fields, 24, Carthage, Mo., Sept. 30, possession/distribution of hallucinogenic drugs, Kansas Highway Patrol,

- released Oct. 2 with charges pending.
- Joshua Michael Lewis, 30, U.S., Sept. 30, possession/distribution of hallucinogenic drugs, Highway Patrol, released Oct. 2 with charges pending.
- Jason Robert Bell, 39, Topeka, Oct. 1, bond violation, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, released Oct. 2 to other agency.
- William Dean Boehme Jr., 38, Levant, Oct. 4, Court Services of Thomas County, released Oct. 6 for time served.
- Tracy Elizabeth Willis, 50, Las

- Vegas, Oct. 4, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, obstruction of official duty, Colby Police Department, released same day on recognizance.
- Richard Stanton Nance Sr., 49, Stewartstown, Pa., Oct. 5, possession/distribution of hallucinogenic drugs, Highway Patrol, released Oct. 7 on recognizance.
- Danace L. McDonald, 35, Colby, Oct. 6, driving under the influence, Colby Police, released same day on recognizance.

## Drunk driver goes off road, asks to go to jail

NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa. (AP) – Police say they had no choice but to grant a man's wish to be taken to jail after they determined he was drunk when he drove off a road into a field in south-central Pennsylvania.

The *York Dispatch* (bit.ly/15VGbKQ) reports 20-year old Noah Julius Jr., of East Berlin, repeatedly asked Fairview Township police to take him to jail after the wreck.

Police say when they asked Julius why he wanted to go to jail he replied, "For driving drunk." Police say they arrested Julius after he failed a field sobriety test. Online court records show Julius is awaiting trial on other drunken driving charges.

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Family Center for Health Care and Citizens Medical Center, Inc. will hold an open house to view the clinic's new addition and welcome Dr. Kelly Gabel, General Surgery, and Dr. Sarah Gabel Family Practice, to our organization and community.

**Please join us at Family Center for Health Care on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 310 E. College Drive in Colby**

Dr. Kelly Gabel

Dr. Sarah Gabel

*Citizens Foundation is very grateful for the support that we have received from our community and we hope everyone can join us as we celebrate the completion of the addition and honor those who have contributed to its success.*