

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE
Thursday

1:21 a.m. — Caller reported a loud party. Spoke with subjects.

1:52 a.m. — Helped Sheriff's Office unit at Country Club and College with waiting for Wagoners.

2:20 a.m. — Caller reported subjects being loud at Colby House. Spoke with subjects.

2:32 a.m. — Caller reported her vehicle taken from the college in reference to case at 1:52 a.m. No report.

5:42 a.m. — Security check at Walmart.

7:26 a.m. — Stalled vehicle at Franklin and College Drive. All OK, provided ride for subject to get fuel.

8:31 a.m. — Caller reported subject assaulted another. Report filed.

9:33 a.m. — Caller reported semi ran stop sign at Horton and Range; headed eastbound on I-70. Not found.

4:24 p.m. — Caller reported stolen items. Report filed.

11:38 p.m. — Caller reported being harassed by text. Spoke with subject.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Thursday

12:10 a.m. — Caller reported a semi all over the road at eastbound I-70 mile 57.

1:27 a.m. — Several different types of alarms going off at 1945 County Rd. 21. Colby Police busy on another call. Everything OK.

1:44 a.m. — Motor vehicle-fixed object-noninjury accident: caller advised of poles, lines and debris on the roadway in the 2000 block of E. College. Report filed; Wagoner's towed vehicle; Midwest notified.

4:18 a.m. — Booked Dalton K. Paul.

1:28 p.m. — Civil forfeiture: report filed for Highway Patrol's traffic stop at eastbound I-70 mile 46.

2:02 p.m. — Took two inmates for housing to Rawlins County Sheriff's Office.

5:06 p.m. — Caller reported a piece of wood in roadway at westbound U.S. 24 mile 61. Unable to locate.

6:23 p.m. — Welfare check on an individual in Brewster.

Oakley workshop for tenant, landlord

Oakley will be the Wednesday, Jan. 18, site for a workshop being offered by Kansas State University addressing the intricacies of leasing agricultural land.

The workshop is one of several designed to aid both landlords and tenants as they work to arrive at an equitable arrangement for Kansas farmland.

"Price volatility in recent years, particularly in the grain markets, has led to difficulties for landlords and tenants to determine and negotiate appropriate rental arrangements," said Kevin Dhuyvetter, K-State

Research and Extension agricultural economist. "These day-long workshops are offered to help landlords and tenants manage the risk associated with rental agreements."

Presentations include: Introduction to Rental Arrangements; Ethics of Leasing; Using Excel Spreadsheets; and Using KSU-Lease.xls (spreadsheet tool).

Information, including how to register, is available on the K-State extension agricultural economics website: www.ag-manager.info or by contacting Rich Llewellyn at (785) 532-1504 or rvl@ksu.edu.

Prison popular for weddings

MANSFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Here's one that invites wisecracks from weary spouses inclined to joke that marriage is a kind of incarceration: the old, imposing prison in Ohio where the movie "The Shawshank Redemption" was filmed has become a hot spot for weddings and hosts an annual bridal show.

"When people ask me, 'Why would anyone want to get married in a prison?' I tell them to come here and check it out. You've got to see it to believe it," said Susan Nirode, operations manager.

Nirode told the Mansfield *News Journal* (<http://ohne.ws/vMxN7Q>) that what was once known as the Ohio State Reformatory is all booked up for weddings through the end of 2012 and has begun taking reservations for 2013.

"On the inside, the central guard room is just beautiful," she noted.

In its fifth year, the bridal show — "Glamour in the Slammer" — recently drew nearly 40 vendors and 500 spectators to the reformatory, which closed in 1990 after playing host to more than 155,000 inmates over 94 years.

Give generously, give wisely



Derek Schmidt

• Attorney General

With the holiday season upon us, giving will be on the minds of many Kansans. While shoppers seek the perfect gifts for family and friends, many non-profit charitable organizations will also be asking for your generous support.

Nearly 4,000 charitable organizations are registered in Kansas and engage in a wide variety of important work. It can be difficult to decide where to direct our charitable dollars. Unfortunately, there are also scammers out there who masquerade as non-profit organizations but whose real purpose is to line their own pockets.

How can you be sure your donations are going to support a legitimate organization? First, you should check to make sure the charity you are giving to is registered with the Kansas Secretary of State's Office by visiting www.kscharitycheck.org.

Most charities that solicit donations in the State of Kansas are required to register. The most common exceptions from registration are certain educational and religious institutions.

If an organization is registered, this site will also let you know what percentage of the funds the organization raises goes to support the charitable purpose and what percentage is used for fundraising expenses. Look closely at this information — sometimes a very small portion of each dollar you give goes to the actual charitable work and much of your do-

nation goes to "overhead" and administrative expenses.

Second, if you are planning to claim a tax deduction from your donation, you should also make sure the organization is in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service. Recently, a number of organizations had their charitable status revoked for failing to file necessary paperwork. You can check to see if an organization is eligible for tax-deductible contributions at www.irs.gov/app/pub-78. Once you have made your contribution, be sure to save a receipt or acknowledgement from the organization to claim your deduction.

Scammers posing as charities will often target people by telephone solicitation. They may use a name that sounds similar to a legitimate organization and ask for the donation to be made on the phone by giving them your bank or credit card number. You should never be afraid to tell the solicitor you need some time to think about it and ask for a physical address to send your donation. You may also ask

them to mail to you written information about the charity. This will give you time to research the organization and make sure it is legitimate. Any reputable charity will be willing to wait a few days to receive your contribution.

Perhaps the best advice is to think in advance about what charities you want to support and then you contact them to discuss a possible contribution. That puts you in control of your giving and does not leave you subject to the whims of whoever may choose to solicit you for your donations.

If you do run into a scam or are concerned about the registration status of an organization, our office is here to help. Please file a report with us by visiting www.ksag.org or call our Consumer Protection Division at (800) 432-2310. You can also find more tips for charitable giving in the Consumer Protection section of our website.

We appreciate the fine work our Kansas charities do year-round and know that they couldn't do it without the support from generous Kansans. The best way to avoid charity scams is to give to local, familiar organizations with which you have a personal relationship. Doing a little research before you give can help make sure your donations are put to good use.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

Ex-lobsterman's stories relate fishing lift

By Joe Wojtas

The Day of New London

MYSTIC, Conn. (AP) — When retired Stonington lobsterman Jim Henry was 91 he decided it was time he taught himself how to read and write.

And now seven years later, at the age of 98, Henry is a published author.

Henry recently signed copies of his just-released book, "In a Fisherman's Language," at Academy Point, the senior housing project where he lives. A larger public signing is being planned for December, and the book will be soon be available at www.fishermans-language.com.

The book is a collection of short stories such as the time he was unable to save a fellow fisherman who fell overboard, his time as professional boxer and his arrival by boat from Portugal with his parents. Many of the stories involve his career on the ocean.

The cover of the book, which is published by Fowler Road Press of North Stonington, is a close-up black and white photo of Henry's right hand as he writes on a piece of paper.

On Tuesday, the day before the signing, Henry was at the desk in his apartment.

He was beaming.

"I feel so good about doing this. I don't know what to do or what

to say," he said. "I feel like I was just born."

In recent days, Henry said people who have read the first copies of the book have told him they can't believe they were now talking to the author.

"Here I am, nothing but a fisherman before and now everyone is looking up to me. It makes me feel so happy," he said.

Because he's worried about how his signature looks when he starts signing books, he said he's been working extra hard to perfect it.

Henry said he is especially thankful for all the people who have helped him achieve his goal of learning to read and write and then publishing his book.

One of these is Mark Hogan, a retired East Lyme English teacher who is a volunteer with Literary Volunteers of Eastern Connecticut. He spent many hours with Henry helping him read and write and edit the book.

"I have tears in my eyes when I go to bed at night and think about all the nice things that have happened to me lately," Henry said.

In the foreword to the book, Henry's oldest grandchild, Marissa McLaughlin of Pawcatuck, said she not only learned about the sea from him but came to find that Henry is a gifted storyteller.

"The collection of stories which follows is the result of his extraordinary journey into literacy, and

the following selection of memories reflect his natural approach to storytelling," she wrote.

Earlier this week she said her grandfather has the ability to inspire not only students but also other seniors and give them a sense of hope.

When Henry was a third-grade student, his father made him and his brother quit school so they could work odd jobs.

When he was 18 he moved to Stonington Borough, and he went on to not only captain a lobster boat, but also work at Electric Boat and serve in the National Guard. He became a skilled carpenter and plumber and even designed and built his own home in Stonington. He helped found the annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremony and ran it for years.

Over the years, he hid his illiteracy from friends and relatives by employing a variety of tricks, such as ordering what he heard someone else ask for when he went to a restaurant. He could write his name just well enough get by.

Then, seven years ago, at 91, Henry was inspired after learning about the story of George Dawson, the grandson of a slave who wanted to earn his high school diploma by learning how to read and write at 98. Dawson went on to write the book "Life is So Good."

Henry began by reading books designed for first-graders and

spent countless hours practicing how to write, first the alphabet and his name, then small words.

He was also inspired by grand-nephew Bobby Henry, who when he learned about Henry's desire to read and write told him he would no longer take phone calls from him. He wanted a letter.

So a few weeks ago, Henry finally wrote that letter. For Henry it's an achievement as important as the book.

"DEAR BOBBY. THIS IS YOUR UNCLE JIM. I KNOW THAT YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT I FORGOT ALL ABOUT YOU BUT I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU. I COULD NEVER FORGET YOU BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU SAID TO ME THAT YOU WOULD NOT TAKE A PHONE CALL FROM ME. I KNOW YOU MEANT WELL. YOU GAVE ME THE AMBITION TO ANSWER YOU. AND I THANK YOU. I WILL TRY MY BEST TO PLEASE ALL OF YOU THAT ARE HELPING ME. I THANK YOU ALL. J.H."

Henry said he was so proud of the letter that he framed it and hung it on the wall of his bedroom.

So what's in Henry's future?

He said he's considering writing more short stories about his life.

"I have so much more to write down," he said.

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