

THE LINCOLN STAR

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Lottery operators given ultimatum

Lahnens says out-of-state video lottery, pickle cards are illegal; bingo unaffected

OMAHA (AP) — U.S. Attorney Ben Lahnens says he will give all organizations operating lotteries in Nebraska one week to stop using gambling materials produced outside of the state or face federal prosecution — a move that may at least temporarily shut down the lotteries.

To his knowledge, currently used gambling materials — which range from sophisticated video lottery equipment to simple pickle cards — are all manufactured out of state.

Bellevue City Administrator Jeff Renner said city officials will meet with attorneys from both video machine companies on Friday to determine what course of action they will take.

Lahnens acknowledged at a Thursday press conference it may be difficult for the "probably more than 500" cities and non-profit corporations conducting lotteries to obtain Nebraska-produced gambling devices.

Some officials, however, were not sure the ruling would block their operations, and other officials said it was likely that the companies manufacturing the equipment would seek court action blocking Lahnens' proposed seizures.

The ruling does not affect bingo, Lahnens said. Asked what Lahnens' ruling means to the "very lottery," Mayor Dean Burdum said, "Oh, I don't really think anything. I don't really know if our tickets come from out-of-state."

If the tickets are imported, the city will shift planning the week's game period given lottery operators before his office will begin prosecuting violators of a federal law, Section 18 of the U.S. Code.

"The federal law allows the interstate movement of such gambling devices only for specific purposes, as presently applicable in Nebraska only relating to parimutuel betting," he said.

"The federal law also exempts the interstate

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It's not as hot as it looks, even with the sun out. The clouds of steam are from furnaces fighting subzero temperatures.

130 hours below zero and counting

You're living through Lincoln's longest period of subzero readings ever

By Reid Warren

of The Lincoln Star

Come spring, or next year, or whenever you thaw out from the current hammerlock of teeth-rattling temperatures, you can brag (or curse) to others about how you weathered 1983's record-setting cold spell.

And when you pry your feet and start regaling people about the mental and physical fortitude you showed in a time of great hardship, you can use the following facts to impress people and inspire awe in them:

— You not only endured but prevailed through the longest stretch of subzero temperatures in Lincoln's history.

— You suffered through the city's coldest December day ever, Thursday, when the temperature plummeted to 27 below zero.

— You survived the coldest December ever in Lincoln since the National Weather Service began keeping track in 1982. (That's not official yet, but

Records fall as fast as readings dive

From the Associated Press

Nebraska temperature records have fallen nearly as fast as the temperatures across the state, marking the official arrival of winter Thursday, according to the National Weather Service.

Omaha recorded its coldest day in a long time as seven Nebraska communities set record lows for the date.

The temperatures were blamed for several deaths in the state, caused problems for vehicle operators, prompted early school closings for Christmas vacation and required record or near record usage by utility customers trying to keep warm.

Omaha reported 24 degrees below zero at 8:35 a.m. Thursday, surpassing the previous December low of 18 below set on Dec. 28, 1977. The city's all-time record low was 27 below on Jan. 5, 1984.

Valentine's 27 below Thursday came close to the state record low of 47 below near Bridgeport on Feb. 12, 1899.

Joining Valentine with record lows were North Platte at minus 34, Lincoln 27 below, Scottsbluff 24 below and 22 below at Grand Island and Norfolk.

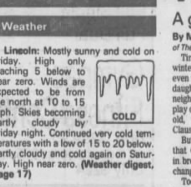
North Platte's Thursday reading shattered the old record of 18 below for the date set in 1984 and broke the all-time December mark of 30 below, set Dec. 14, 1981. Valentine's reading was a record for

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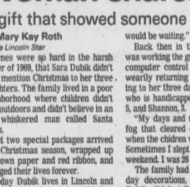
Singing blues may be just thing this holiday

Lincoln: Mostly sunny and cold on Friday. High only reaching 5 below to near zero. Winds are expected to be from the north at 10 to 15 mph. Skies becoming partly cloudy by Friday night. Continued very cold temperatures with a low of 15 to 20 below. Partly cloudy and cold again on Saturday. High near zero. (Weather Dept., Page 17)



Today's Corn

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft it sank — proving, for once and for all, that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.



Woman shares true Christmas story

A gift that showed someone cared helped turn young mother's life around



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Wine-Dine Christmas Eve 5 P.M.-1 A.M. Bddy's 6th & O'—Adv.

Open 9 A.M.-9 P.M. Sat. JCPenney 13th & O'—Adv.

The Circulation Office will close at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas—Adv.

75% Off All Plants Inventory clearance Greenfingers-Ad

Gateway Gift Certificates Fri. & Sat. Gateway Mall-Ad