

2008 Press Release Binder

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From: Bucco-White, Leah
Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2008 2:42 PM
Subject: AG Releases Comment on Court's Decision to Prohibit Gaming in Carter Lake
Attachments: Ponca_Order[1].pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 29, 2008, 2:40 p.m.
Contact: Leah Bucco-White
402-310-3710
leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

**Attorney General Bruning Comments on U.S. District Court's Decision
to Deny Gaming in Carter Lake**

*****Court order is attached**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning issued the following comment on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa's decision to deny gaming in Carter Lake.

"We're very pleased with the U.S. District Court's decision. A casino in Carter Lake would have directly affected Nebraskans. The judge's ruling prohibiting gaming on the Carter Lake land is the best possible outcome."

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 25, 2008, 10:45 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
402-471-2067
Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

Attorney General Jon Bruning Launches PSA Campaign on Video Game Ratings Just in Time for Holiday Shopping Season

*New Ads Explain and Encourage Parents to Use ESRB Ratings to Choose
Age-Appropriate Games for their Families*

Note: A sound bite on this topic is available at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) With the holiday shopping season underway, Attorney General Jon Bruning and the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB), which assigns ratings for computer and video games, today announced a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign to educate Nebraska's parents about the video game rating system. In the new TV and radio spots, Bruning urges parents to check the rating symbol each time they buy or rent a video game to make sure it's suitable for their children and family.

"Parents should be involved and take an active role in choosing games for their kids," said Bruning. "The ESRB ratings are an effective tool every parent can use to pick video games that are age-appropriate and family-friendly. I use them when I buy games for my children. I hope Nebraskans will too."

The PSAs are being delivered to radio and television stations and local cable TV operators in Nebraska this month as parents head to the stores to buy video games as holiday gifts. The PSAs can be viewed on ESRB's Web site at http://www.esrb.org/about/media_library.jsp. ESRB has also prepared a brochure providing additional information about the rating system. Parents can download the brochure from the Attorney General's Web site at <http://www.ago.ne.gov>. Click on the "Kids and Parents" section.

"Video games are no different than movies and TV shows in that they are created for a diverse audience of all ages," said ESRB president Patricia Vance. "That is why it is so important that parents remember to check the rating when purchasing games for their children. We're grateful to have Attorney General Bruning's support in reaching out to Nebraska's parents and educating them about the ratings so they can be sure that the games they give as gifts this year are ones they consider appropriate."

The ESRB video game ratings employ a two-part system. As seen in the illustration below, rating symbols on the front of virtually every game package sold at retail provide an age recommendation, such as EC (Early Childhood 3+), E (Everyone 6+), E10+ (Everyone 10 and up), T (Teen 13+) and M (Mature 17+). On the back of each package, next to the rating, are content descriptors that provide information about what's in the game that may have triggered the rating, or may be of interest or concern to parents.



Since its inception in 1994, the ESRB ratings have become a trusted resource for parents when choosing computer and video games. In April 2007, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released a report¹ which found that nine in 10 parents are aware of the ESRB ratings, 87% expressed satisfaction, and nearly three quarters use them regularly when choosing games for their children.

“Parents who use the rating system know it works,” added Bruning. “I’m proud to partner with ESRB on this issue.”

ESRB recently announced the availability of “rating summaries,” a supplementary source of information which explain in objective terms the context and relevant content that factored into a game’s ESRB rating assignment. A new mobile Web site at m.esrb.org was launched to allow parents to search for rating summaries on their cell phones right from the store when trying to make a decision about which game to buy. Parents can also find rating summaries before they go to the store by searching on ESRB’s Web site at www.esrb.org, using ESRB’s [rating search widget](#), or signing up for a free e-newsletter called [Parentools](#), which provides a list of recently rated titles complete with rating summaries customized to their preference of rating categories and game platform.

A complete list of ratings, content descriptors and their definitions can be found on the ESRB Web site at www.esrb.org.

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Jon Bruning is Nebraska’s 31st Attorney General. Bruning serves as President-Elect of the National Association of Attorneys General. He’s chairman of the Nebraska Crime Commission and serves on the Nebraska Board of Pardons.

The ESRB is a non-profit, self-regulatory body established in 1994 by the Entertainment Software Association (ESA). ESRB independently applies computer and video game content ratings, enforces advertising guidelines, and helps ensure responsible online privacy practices for the interactive entertainment software industry.

¹ Federal Trade Commission Report to Congress on the Marketing of Violent Entertainment to Children, April 2007



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 20, 2008, 8:45 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
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Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

Guard It!

AG Bruning Launches Statewide Effort to Help Businesses Protect Personal Information

Note: Sound bites on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning launched “Guard It” a statewide effort to help businesses protect personal information.

“Securing information is critical and Guard It details data security measures for every business,” said Bruning. “The bottom line is safeguarding data today will help protect businesses and their customers tomorrow.”

Most businesses in Nebraska keep sensitive information in electronic or paper files. And if names, Social Security numbers, credit and debit card or other account information isn’t protected, a company leaves itself vulnerable to a security breach.

For the seventh straight year, identity theft topped the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) list of consumer complaints. Last year, 246,000 Americans filed identity theft complaints with the FTC. The average cost for a company to recover is \$5 million according to the Ponemon Institute.

But the cost of a breach runs much deeper than dollars and cents. A company can lose its hard-earned reputation and customer trust along with lost time and resources devoted to damage control instead of profitable growth.

Guard It is a guide that outlines what companies need to do to build a sound data security plan and secure information.

It basically comes down to five common sense steps:

1. Take Stock – Know what personal info you have in your files and on your computer.
2. Scale Down – Keep only what you need for your business.
3. Lock It – Protect information that you keep.
4. Pitch It – Properly dispose of what you no longer need.
5. Plan Ahead – Create a plan to respond to security incidents.

The Attorney General’s Office partnered with the FTC and the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry to produce and distribute Guard It.

(more)

Barry Kennedy, President of the Nebraska State Chamber of Commerce and Industry said, "Our members work hard to build their businesses and customer bases, so the State Chamber appreciates this effort to help the business community guard customer and employee data. When the private sector and government work together to protect personal information, everyone benefits – the consumer, the employee and Nebraska businesses."

More than 81,000 copies of Guard It are being mailed today to local chambers and businesses.

Guard It is also an educational effort. Bruning will be traveling across the state and giving presentations to local chambers and their members.

Bruning launched Guard It this morning at a news conference and was joined by Kennedy and Marc LeBaron, Chairman and CEO of Lincoln Industries.

Businesses interested in receiving a guide can contact the Attorney General's Office at 471-2594 or download it at www.ago.ne.gov.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 19, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
402.471.2067
Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

***PLEASE NOTE TIME AND LOCATION CHANGE

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Attorney General Bruning Will Hold
News Conference at State Capitol
Thursday, Nov. 20 at 8:45 a.m.**

WHAT: News conference

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 20 at 8:45 a.m.

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 2115, Lincoln

TOPIC: Attorney General Bruning will announce statewide effort to help businesses protect sensitive customer and employee information.

WHO: Bruning will be joined by:
Barry Kennedy, President, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Marc LeBaron, Chairman and CEO, Lincoln Industries

For a live audio feed of the news conference, please dial **(866) 247-0709** and code **(402) 471-2682** at the prompt. *Please remember to mute your phones, and please avoid placing the call on hold.*

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 19, 2008, 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
402.471.2067
Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Media Availability Before Internet Safety Conference in Norfolk Tomorrow is Cancelled Conference Continues as Scheduled

WHAT: Cancellation of media availability prior to Internet Safety Conference on Friday, Nov. 21 at 8:30 a.m.

Conference will continue as scheduled at 9 a.m. Reporters are still welcome to cover. There just won't be media availability ahead of time.

WHERE: Divots Conference Center
4200 W. Norfolk Ave.
Norfolk

TOPIC: WEBSAFE – Internet safety conference designed to help protect Nebraska's children and improve response to Internet crimes in Nebraska. WEBSAFE is geared towards law enforcement and prosecutors.

WHO: The Attorney General will be joined by Col. Bryan Tuma of the Nebraska State Patrol and other law enforcement and county officials.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 18, 2008, 4:50 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
402-471-2067
Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Gas Station Owner Pleads Guilty to All Charges in Fuel Scam

Note: A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced that gas station owner, Tom Wiese, pleaded guilty to five charges in Burt County Court today.

In August, a joint investigation between the Attorney General's Office and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Division of Weights and Measures showed Wiese was selling ethanol-blend gasoline to customers at the higher unleaded price. People pumped and purchased what they thought was unleaded gas but what they really got was the lower-priced ethanol blend.

"Mr. Wiese deceived his gas station customers for well over a year," said Bruning. "Dishonest business practices won't be tolerated. My office will continue to pursue those who prey on consumers."

Wiese, who owns gas stations in Scribner (Scribner Express) and Decatur (Decatur Express), pleaded guilty to three counts of theft by deception, one count of criminal simulation, and one count of deceptive advertising.

Judge Matt Samuelson sentenced Wiese to pay maximum fines totaling \$4,000 plus court costs. Wiese cooperated with investigators. The plea agreement is conditional on his continued cooperation and testifying in court if needed.

The investigation also found that Tim Kaup, the general manager of the Sapp Bros distribution center in West Point, actively promoted the idea of selling ethanol-blended gasoline at unleaded prices to store owners. He's charged with aiding and abetting Wiese in committing seven counts of theft by deception, one count criminal simulation and one count of deceptive advertising. Kaup was scheduled for a pre-trial conference today and he asked to have it rescheduled. Judge Samuelson granted the request. A new date will be set in the near future.

Theft by deception is a class II misdemeanor with a penalty of up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Criminal simulation and deceptive advertising are class III misdemeanors punishable by up to three months in jail and \$500 fine.

State law doesn't allow prosecutors to add the financial losses of multiple victims together. Bruning will ask legislators to address the issue next session. If a person steals from a lot of people, a change in the law would allow the money lost to be added together and therefore increase penalties.

In the last year, the Attorney General's Office has received more than 90 gas complaints from consumers across Nebraska involving 35 stations. Issues raised include pricing, advertising and pump calibration. More than a dozen stations are currently under investigation.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 18, 2008, 2:15 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
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Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Attorney General Bruning Will Hold News Conference at Lincoln Industries Thursday, Nov. 20 at 9 a.m.

WHAT: News conference

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 20 at 9 a.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Industries, 600 West E St., Lincoln
Take Rosa Parks Way east from downtown and make the first left on
Folsom. Park on the east side of building (signs will direct you).

TOPIC: Attorney General Bruning will announce statewide effort to help
businesses protect sensitive customer and employee information.

WHO: Bruning will be joined by:
Barry Kennedy, President, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and
Industry
Marc LeBaron, Chairman and CEO, Lincoln Industries

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 14, 2008, 3:15 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
402.471.2067
Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Attorney General Bruning Will Speak at
Domestic Violence Conference in York
Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 11:30 a.m.**

WHAT: “Improving Community Response to Domestic Violence in Nebraska”

This conference focuses on police protocol, victim assistance, prosecution methods in rural communities and offender accountability. Participants include: law enforcement and probation officers, victim advocates, medical and emergency personnel, and prosecutors.

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Holiday Inn
4619 South Lincoln Avenue
York

TOPIC: Domestic violence

WHO: Attorney General Jon Bruning will speak at the conference.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 18, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
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Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Attorney General Bruning
Will Hold Media Availability Before
Internet Safety Conference in Norfolk
Friday, Nov. 21 at 8:30 a.m.**

WHAT: Media availability

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 21 at 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Divots Conference Center
4200 W. Norfolk Ave.
Norfolk

TOPIC: WEBSAFE – Internet safety conference designed to help protect Nebraska’s children and improve response to Internet crimes in Nebraska. WEBSAFE is geared towards law enforcement and prosecutors.

WHO: The Attorney General will be joined by Col. Bryan Tuma of the Nebraska State Patrol and other law enforcement and county officials.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 13, 2008, 10:20 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
402.471.2067
Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Information from Helen Wilson Case

Available for Review

Today at 3 p.m.

WHAT: Information from Helen Wilson case: statements, trial transcripts, police reports, interrogation video

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 13 at 3 p.m.

WHERE: TierOne Office Building, 1221 N. St., 5th floor conference room.

WHO: Prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office will be on-hand to go over information and answer questions.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 13, 2008, 11:30 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White

402.471.2067

Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Attorney General Bruning Will Hold Media Availability Before Internet Safety Conference in Kearney Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 8:30 a.m.

WHAT: Media Availability

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 8:30 a.m. CST

WHERE: The Ramada Inn
301 Second Avenue
Kearney

TOPIC: WEBSAFE – Internet safety conference designed to help protect Nebraska’s children and improve response to Internet crimes in Nebraska. WEBSAFE is geared towards law enforcement and prosecutors.

WHO: The Attorney General will be joined by Col. Bryan Tuma of the Nebraska State Patrol and other law enforcement and county officials.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 7, 2008, 3:35 p.m.

Contact: Perre Neilan
402-471-2629
perre.neilan@nebraska.gov

Attorney General Bruning Announces Killer Identified in 1985 Beatrice Case

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that the killer of Helen Wilson in Beatrice in 1985 has been identified as Bruce Allen Smith of Oklahoma. The identification was made with the use of DNA evidence. Mr. Smith is deceased.

Bruning was joined at the announcement by current Gage County Attorney Randy Ritnour, Beatrice Police Chief Bruce Lang, investigators from the Nebraska State Patrol and three other members of local law enforcement.

“When our office became involved in this case three months ago, we sought the truth,” said Bruning. “Helen Wilson deserves justice, and so do six wrongly convicted people.”

Recent DNA evidence has conclusively shown that Bruce Smith raped and murdered Helen Wilson. Smith’s DNA matches the blood throughout Helen Wilson’s bedroom, blood on a pair of her panties found near her body and the semen found in Helen Wilson’s body.

On February 6, 1985, Helen Wilson, 68, was found raped and murdered in her Beatrice apartment. More than four years later, six people pleaded guilty or were convicted of the crimes.

In late 1989, Joseph White was found guilty of first-degree murder by a 12 member jury. He served 18 years before being granted a new trial October 15 of this year. He was released from custody that day. Bruning and Ritnour said they have filed a motion to dismiss all charges against Joseph White. Thomas Winslow pleaded no contest to aiding and abetting second-degree murder. He served 18 years before being released on October 17 of this year after being resentenced to time already served. Ada Taylor pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting second degree murder and was sentenced to 40 years. She is currently in custody at the Omaha Work Release Center. She will come before the Parole Board on Monday, November 10. Debra Shelden, James Dean and Kathy Gonzalez all pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting second degree murder and were sentenced to 10 years in prison. All three have served their time and been released.

Beatrice Police Chief Bruce Lang said, “The cooperation among law enforcement personnel over the past three months has been excellent. There is no doubt in our minds that Bruce Smith is the lone perpetrator of this crime.”

Smith was one of the original suspects in the case in 1985 but was excluded through the testing methods available at that time. His history shows numerous other arrests, and he was incarcerated in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary from August 10, 1987 to December 15, 1989. In 1992, Smith was hospitalized at Oklahoma Memorial Hospital. He died of AIDS September 29, 1992.

“The victim’s family has suffered through a roller coaster of emotions for the last 25 years. I hope this gives them some final peace and closure,” said Gage County Attorney Randy Ritnour.

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Nov. 4, 2008

“Dogfighting in Nebraska – Stop the Cruelty, Protect Our Communities”

By Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning

Dogfighting is a violent crime that tortures and kills animals, and it’s happening here in Nebraska. Many local humane societies have seen mauled dogs come through their doors, some with injuries so severe, they couldn’t be saved. But dogfighting affects more than dogs, it endangers the safety of our communities.

We know those who hurt animals are more likely to be violent toward people. Drugs and guns are commonly found at the scene of dogfights, and in some cases parents actually take their children to the matches. A person from a local humane society recently shared a disturbing story with me. He said he was watching a tape of a dogfight and in the background you can hear a child crying and screaming, “I want to go home.” The child’s mom says, “We’re not going home until that dog is dead.” Kids who witness these vicious acts are desensitized to violence and taught that cruelty is acceptable. Animal cruelty is never acceptable. That’s why I’ve partnered with the Humane Society of the United States and animal welfare groups to raise awareness and offer a dogfighting information reward program to increase reporting of this illegal activity.

People who put on dogfights are hard to find and so are the unlicensed breeders. It’s an underground community and fight locations and kennels are disguised very well. This is where we need your help. Keep an eye out for signs of dogfighting in your community: a large number of pit bulls in one location, dogs with scars on their faces, front legs, hind legs and thighs, dogfighting training equipment like treadmills and tires hanging from trees, and many people visiting a location at odd hours.

If you suspect dogfighting in your neighborhood, please call local law enforcement, your local humane society or animal control agency. The Humane Society of the United States will pay a \$5,000 reward to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person involved in dogfighting. In Nebraska, dogfighting is a felony with a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Putting a stop to this inhumane activity will help protect animals and our communities.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 3, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White
402.471.2067
Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Attorney General Bruning Will Hold Media Availability Before Internet Safety Conference in North Platte Thurs., Nov. 6 at 8:30 a.m. CST

WHAT: Media availability

WHEN: Thurs., Nov. 6 at 8:30 a.m. CST

WHERE: Sandhills Convention Center
2102 S. Jeffers
North Platte

TOPIC: WEBSAFE – Internet safety conference designed to help protect Nebraska’s children and improve response to Internet crimes in Nebraska. WEBSAFE is geared towards law enforcement and prosecutors.

WHO: The Attorney General will be joined by law enforcement officials and county attorneys.

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