

## *2006 Press Releases*

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 24, 2006, 10:00 a.m. CST

Contact: Mary Nelson  
402.471.2067  
Dave Margritz  
402.392.8925

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AND NEBRASKA STATE  
PATROL TO HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE,  
2:30 PM CST TOMORROW**

Attorney General Jon Bruning will join Postmaster Doug Emery, U.S. Postal Inspector Dave Margritz and Sgt. Scott Christensen at a news conference at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow, May 25, National Missing Children's Day, at the main post office at 700 'R' Street in Lincoln to unveil the new AMBER ALERT stamp and discuss the importance of the AMBER Alert program in Nebraska.

The news conference will be held on the second floor of the post office.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 16, 2006, 0:00 CST

Contact: Mary Nelson  
402.471.2067

## Attorney General Bruning Announces Charge Against Norfolk Police Corporal

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced his office has charged Tom Brungardt, a member of the Norfolk Police Department, with third-degree assault in Madison County.

The charge is the result of an investigation by the Nebraska State Patrol.

“It makes no difference if you’re law enforcement, a community leader or just a regular Joe. Everyone must be treated equally. Make no mistake about it, if you hurt a woman or a child in the State of Nebraska, you’re going to pay the price,” Bruning said.

The charge stems from an incident in July 2005 involving Brungardt and his wife; however, it did not come to light until this past February.

Third-degree assault is a Class I misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning  
Guest Column: May 15, 2006  
Contact: Mary Nelson, 402-471-2067

## Bruning Fights for Tougher Laws

It's unheard of for a quarterback to complete every single pass in one game.

And it's uncommon for a baseball player to go four-for-four at the plate.

But it's that kind of success that Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning experienced this past Legislative session.

In January, Bruning presented four proposals in his 2006 Legislative package. Each of the proposals, which focused on sex offenders, repeat drunk drivers, meth and security breaches, passed.

LB 1199, a comprehensive plan aimed at keeping innocent children safe from sexual predators, stiffens penalties for criminals who prey on the youngest and most vulnerable victims.

The bill creates a new mental health standard and gives the state the ability to civilly commit sex offenders. LB 1199 also allows for lifetime monitoring and addresses residency restrictions.

Attorney General Bruning worked closely with Gov. Dave Heineman and Omaha Senator Pat Bourne on the proposal.

"We must do all we can to protect Nebraska's innocent children. This bill will help keep these criminals out of our communities and away from our children," Bruning said.

State lawmakers also approved LB 925, Bruning's plan to increase penalties for repeat drunk drivers.

"This is important legislation," Bruning said. "We've had too many people die on Nebraska's roads. Repeat drunk drivers are a serious problem in our state, and it's time they face serious punishment."

The attorney general's methamphetamine legislation, known as LB 915, requires the safe and successful cleanup of meth labs in Nebraska. This law will not only lend uniformity, but it will ensure future property owners will not be subjected to leftover chemicals once used to make meth.

Attorney General Bruning's security breach legislation passed in the form of LB 876. Now, companies have clear-cut guidelines on notifying Nebraska consumers and employees if the security of personal information is compromised.

"The true impact of our success," Bruning said, "is the affect these laws will have on the good people of Nebraska."



Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 2, 2006, 2:00 p.m. CST

Contact: Mary Nelson  
402.471.2067

## Attorney General Bruning Announces Convictions in Illegal Gambling Machine Cases

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced convictions and sentences in 11 cases involving illegal gambling machines.

The cases were part of a statewide crackdown by Attorney General Bruning and the Nebraska State Patrol.

“The bottom line is these gambling machines are illegal. These convictions send a strong message that you cannot ignore the law and get away with it,” Bruning said.

The cases were handled by Assistant Attorney General Michael Jensen.

The cases are listed below in order of when they went to court, ranging from February 21 to May 1, 2006.

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### **Saunders County:**

Gary Blatter pleaded no contest to two counts possession of a gambling device. He was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine, plus court costs. Blatter provided illegal gambling devices to a bar in Cedar Bluffs.

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### **Red Willow County:**

Mary Badel pleaded no contest to one count possession of a gambling device. She was ordered to pay a \$200 fine, plus \$44 in court costs. Badel owns and operates LaCocina Mexican Food in McCook, where State Patrol investigators confiscated two illegal gambling machines.

Benjamin Coburn pleaded no contest to one count possession of a gambling device. He was ordered to pay a \$200 fine, plus \$44 in court costs. Coburn owns and operates

Sport's Nightclub in McCook, where State Patrol investigators confiscated nine illegal gambling machines.

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Candice Farr pleaded no contest to one count possession of a gambling device. She was ordered to pay a \$200 fine, plus \$44 in court costs. Candice and Mitch Farr own and operate The Looking Glass in McCook, where State Patrol investigators confiscated three illegal gambling machines.

Charges against Mitch Farr were dismissed as part of the agreement with Candice Farr.

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Tilden Weber pleaded no contest to one count possession of a gambling device, and was ordered to pay a \$200 fine, plus \$44 in court costs. Weber and Larry Siebrandt own and operate Old Sarges Bar in McCook, where State Patrol investigators confiscated seven illegal gambling machines.

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Larry Siebrandt pleaded no contest to one count possession of a gambling device, and was ordered to pay a \$200 fine, plus \$44 in court costs. Siebrandt and Tilden Weber own and operate Old Sarges Bar in McCook, where State Patrol investigators confiscated seven illegal gambling machines.

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Carol Blackman pleaded no contest to one count possession of a gambling device, and was ordered to pay \$200, plus \$44 in court costs. Blackman and David Fjelseth own and operate the Rocket Inn in Indianola, where State Patrol investigators confiscated two illegal gambling machines.

Charges against David Fjelseth were dismissed as part of the agreement with Blackman.

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**Saline County:**

Alvin Vyhanalek pleaded no contest to two counts possession of a gambling device, and was ordered to pay a \$500 fine, plus court costs. Vyhanalek owns and operates Vyhanalek's Service Station in Crete, where State Patrol investigators confiscated two illegal gambling machines.

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Randy Hoffman pleaded no contest to two counts possession of a gambling device, and was ordered to pay a \$500 fine, plus court costs. Hoffman owns and operates Randy's Place in Wilber, where State Patrol investigators confiscated two illegal gambling machines.

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**Chase County:**

Thomas Weigel pleaded no contest to one count possession of a gambling device, and was ordered to pay a \$200 fine, plus court costs. Thomas and Katie Weigel own and operate Tommy's Sports Club in Wauneta, where State Patrol investigators confiscated one illegal gambling machine.

Charges against Katie Weigel were dismissed as part of the agreement with Thomas Weigel.

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**Phelps County:**

Dwayne Kudlacek pleaded no contest to three counts possession of a gambling device, and was ordered to pay a \$750 fine and court costs. Kudlacek owns and operates the Sail Inn Lounge in Holdrege, where State Patrol investigators confiscated three illegal gambling machines.

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*An audio clip featuring comments from Attorney General Bruning is now available online at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*