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### South Dakota

# Commission Sets Plan For Boosting Video Lottery

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The South Dakota Lottery Commission adopted a 20-item strategy for increasing video lottery play Tuesday.

Lottery director Norm Lingle said his staff would start immediately on a half-dozen changes that can be made without approval by the Legislature and without rule changes.

Among those are licensing bar-top machines, allowing businesses to offer free play and match play promotions, and establishing a player loyalty and rewards program.

The top priority however depends on the Legislature: Decreasing state government's 50 percent share of net machine income that currently is set

NMI is the money lost by players in the privately owned machines. The smaller cut for state government would be an incentive for investment in new technology.

At this point lottery officials don't appear ready to present any proposals of any kind regarding video lottery to the Legislature in the 2014 ses-

sion that opens Jan. 14.

"I'd like to be more aggressive on all of the changes available," commissioner Doyle Estes of

Lingle said he and three commissioners will meet with Gov. Dennis Daugaard as soon as possible to present the plan. Chairman Bob Hartford of Pierre said the ex-

pectation is the lottery staff "will embark shortly" on all of the short-term items on the list.

"That is our full plan, that is exactly correct," Lingle replied.

The No. 2 priority is increasing the \$1,000 top prize to \$2,500 and the \$2 bet limit to \$5. That also would need the Legislature's approval.

So would most of the other priorities including No. 4, progressive jackpots; No. 5, allowing establishments to have 15 machines per license rather than the current 10; No. 17, allowing multiple licenses in a single room.

Lingle said lottery officials can reach memos of understanding with machine manufacturers to publish statistics about each game's performance as a way "to stimulate healthy competition from a product development perspective.'

State law currently requires the information to be confidential.

However, Lingle told the commissioners, agreements can be reached with the manufacturers to put the information on the lottery's Internet site

and make it otherwise available. An overall theme is returning more authority to the commission. Under the original video lottery laws, the commission could set state government's share up to 35 percent.

The Legislature at the urging of then-Gov. Bill Janklow set the state share at 50 percent in the mid-1990s as part of the replacement funding to reduce property taxes by 30 percent.

Commissioner Brent Dykstra of Fort Pierre said the staff needs to start working on all top-rated items. "Those other items are huge as far as where we'd like to go," he said.

To see the full list of items and the minutes from the Nov. 19-20 strategy meeting, go to this ad-

http://lottery.sd.gov/docs/commission/sdlot\_com m\_mtg20131210.pdf on the Internet. The list is page 10, marked Exhibit A.

# Reid Says Senate Will Not Extend Farm Law

WASHINGTON (AP) - Majority Leader Harry Reid says the Senate will not extend current farm law if Congress can't agree on a new farm bill before adjourning next week.

House leaders have reserved space on their agenda this week for extending the current law until the end of January. Lawmakers fear that milk prices might rise sharply if dairy subsidies expire Jan. 1.

The House and Senate have passed separate versions, but with widespread differences over crop subsidies and how much to cut food

House Speaker John Boehner said last week that the House should extend the current law while negotiators seek a compromise. But Reid balked at that plan.

"Let them vote on it. We're not



Some senators fear an extension relieves pressure to get a deal. The Senate Agriculture Committee, led by Democratic Sen. Debbie

going to do it," he

Stabenow of Michigan, tweeted Tuesday, "We don't need an extension — we can get this done this week."

In a separate tweet, the committee said a short-term extension could allow subsidies called direct payments to continue. Those subsidies are paid to farmers whether they plant or not and have come under political fire from conservatives and others who have lobbied for less spending on farm programs. Both the

House and Senate farm bills would eliminate the subsidies and create

Finding a compromise on cuts to the nation's \$80 billion-a-year food stamp program has been the toughest obstacle in the talks between the House and the Senate. The House passed a bill this summer that would cut \$4 billion from food stamps annually and allow states to create new work requirements for some recipients. The Democratic Senate, backed by President Barack Obama, passed a farm bill with \$400 million annual cut, or a tenth of the House cut.

Negotiators have focused on cracking down further on a practice in some states of giving low-income people as little as \$1 a year in home heating assistance, even when they don't have heating bills, in order to

make them eligible for increased food stamp benefits. The Senate found its \$400 million in annual cuts by requiring that recipients receive at least \$10 in assistance to make them eligible, while the House doubled that cut by requiring that recipients receive \$20 annually — bringing the savings to around \$800 million a year.

North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven, a Republican who sits on the House-Senate conference committee, confirmed that negotiators have floated that \$800 million in annual cuts plus pilot programs that would create new work requirements in a handful of states. But he stressed that there is not a final deal.

Hoeven said he agreed that the Senate should not pass an extension.

"We want to keep the pressure on to get a farm bill done," he said.

# From Page 1

"In Yankton, income grew by over 44 percent (between 1999-2011), which is very high," he said. "It's just a marker of civility and pros-

Lisa Scheve, director of the Yankton Convention and Visitor's Bureau, said she

agrees with NerdWallet's assessment.

"For someone who's lived here for six years, I think this is a great place to raise a young family," Scheve said. "I think a lot of residents here would be in agreement with this survey and agree with what they have to say. When people are looking for places to raise young families, it's not just about your job but it's about the cost of living, how the community is investing in itself, job market

and you're also looking at schools and education. Scheve said the ranking

gives Yankton a chance to promote itself to the region.

"This is a great opportunity for Yankton to continue to be a cheerleader for itself and let people in the state and the surrounding areas know that this is a great place to raise your family," she said. "It's another feather in our cap in being able to recruit workforce to come work here."

Anderson said 41 cities, all with populations above 2,000, were considered in South Dakota and that new lists will become available in the future as new data comes out.

The full rankings for South Dakota are as follows:

- 1. Yankton 2. Mitchell
- 3. Elk Point
- 4. North Sioux City
- 5. Tea 6. Watertown 7. Volga

9. Spearfish 10. Aberdeen For more information on

8. Harrisburg

the survey, visit http://www.nerdwallet.com/ blog/2013/best-towns-southdakota-young-families/.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/

From Page 1

Mingo said. "With the city facilitating the Menards development (to the north), we assumed that this location would be re-purposed at some time. Obviously, from a redevelopment standpoint, more is better. This is another big step toward getting that dream realized for improving our retail opportunities in town. There is more property available in the neighborhood, and this is going to be a big piece of the

In 2012, the City of Yankton purchased from the state approximately 36 acres of ground on the southeast corner of the Human Services Center campus at the intersection of Highway 81 and Highway 50 for \$1.95 million.

'The development of the city-owned former Human Services Center property is contingent largely on some bigger initial anchor entity being interested in the site," Mingo stated.

The city also provided incentives for the Menards store just north of Yankton's Best Site where outlots are still available.

"There has been some pretty positive movement on some prospects for the Menards outlots recently," Mingo said. "Hopefully, there are some announcements there also to complement what is going on here today."

Phase one of Yankton's Best Site will consist of three buildings:

- A facility on the southwest corner of the lot will be Wireless World:
- North of Wireless World will be Maurices; and
- East of Maurices will be a 6,500-square-foot building that could house three to

According to Lubben, several entities have expressed interest in the location but none have signed a lease. Clothing, specialty retail, coffee shops, sandwich shops, and bar-and-grill restaurants are among the types of businesses he said have shown interest.

Phase two of Yankton's Best Site will be located east of phase one and will consist of a restaurant and/or another one or two retail buildings. No timeline has been established for proceeding with phase two.

Lubben, of Sioux Falls, is an owner of 38 Wireless world locations in the region and has had an outlet in Yankton since 2000.

"We have simply run out of room and want to provide a nicer, bigger store for our customers," said Keith Zessin, the store manager at Wireless World/Verizon. "We are also really excited about the increased visibility that our new store will offer."

Patrick Flynn of United Development Group regularly works as a developer for Maurices in the Midwest.

"This is our first project in Yankton," he said. "We're excited to be a part of (the city).'

Groseth Crossing can be found at YanktonsBestSite.com.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

## CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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## Wagner

The \$180,000 grant will help purchase a 5,000square-foot modular unit capable of holding eight kidney dialysis chairs and nine dialysis machines, according to the SMSC news release. The extra dialysis machine is required to ensure continuity

of service. The SMSC has provided \$250,000 to the Yankton Sioux Tribe in previous support of four dialysis chairs.

Builders Choice of Vermillion, which works with modular buildings, has been contracted for the Wagner project. Lon Rochester, who represented the company at the Wagner groundbreaking ceremony in late September, indicated the dialysis unit could be set on site next month depending on weather and other conditions.

Rochester didn't respond to a Press & Dakotan email seeking comment on the

The new modular building will be in addition to the dialysis unit at the Wagner IHS building. The addition will not only help improve the quality of life for dialysis patients but also make it easier for family to provide support for the patients.

The building will be located in front of the Indian Health Services (IHS), and will be a modular unit similar to the Veterans Affairs' outpatient clinic located on the same block in Wagner.

While dialysis service is currently offered in Wagner, the demand has outstripped the available facilities.

"Unfortunately, the volume of patients continues to grow, and some patients travel an hour each way up to three times a week to dialysis locations in Yankton, Mitchell or Gregory," the SMSC news release said. The Yankton Sioux experience is not unique, as American Indians combat diabetes and kidney disease at a higher rate than the general population.

Diabetes patients with end-stage kidney disease undergo dialysis or hemodialysis, which uses a machine to filter their blood to rid the body of harmful wastes, extra salt and water," the news release said.

"Often required up to three times a week for three to five hours each time, dialysis can be physically exhausting and emotionally draining. If a patient has to be transported an hour each way, this can further complicate their lives.

A dialysis patient shared her story with the Wagner *Post* weekly newspaper.

Wagner area resident Beverly Wright told of traveling three times a week to Gregory for dialysis treatment. Wright and the late Cora Flying Hawk, another dialysis patient, started working with former YST chairman Robert

Cournoyer about two years ago to get an upgraded facility built in Wagner.

with the SMSC grant, which

The effort became reality

paved the way for the groundbreaking ceremony. Area dialysis patient Beverly Montgomery told the Wagner newspaper that she considers the new facility "a

dream come true" with no

longer a need to travel for Yankton Sioux Tribe health director Clarence Montgomery couldn't be reached by the *Press* & Dakotan for comment. However, he told the Wagner Post that the new dialysis treatment center will be "health-

need driven." "If you need dialysis, we'll help you here," he said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

## AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 12-11

EU

PΚ X G EI C I JWBIDR GK

TIDSPJZ XGE'W

DJW

REODRRDW DYP

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THOSE PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY KNOW EVERYTHING ARE A GREAT ANNOYANCE TO THOSE OF US WHO DO. — ISAAC ASIMOV

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