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# Arctic blast halts state's activity

OMAHA (AP) — Stamping his boots, with his face turned against a bitter northwest wind, Ron Czyz pondered going south Saturday.

"It would be nice to go down to the Florida Keys," Czyz said as he pumped gas on "Day Two" of an arctic blast that gripped Nebraska.

"The cold gets tougher on you every day," he said, before he hustled off to pay the clerk.

The sun came out Saturday, bringing slightly warmer temperatures across much of the state with 40-below-zero wind chills in eastern and central Nebraska. The state high was 11 at Broken Bow. The overnight low was 19 below at Alliance.

The arctic conditions blasted into the state Friday, with 75-below wind chills in north-central Nebraska.

Cathy Zapotocny, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Valley, said the weather improved Saturday from Friday.

A wind chill advisory remained in

effect late Saturday night for much of northern Nebraska, with 45-below wind chills in the northeast and 50-below wind chills possible later Sunday.

The cold spot during the afternoon was Alliance with 7 below.

The frosty conditions were expected to remain until early next week, with a gradual warming on Wednesday. However, residents shouldn't expect a heat wave, Zapotocny said.

"It doesn't look like we're going to get back to normal temperatures anytime soon," she said.

Sharon Newman of Omaha had to "psych herself out" to go run some errands. It's easier to stay inside where it's warm, she said.

"It's not human to be out in this," Newman said.

The cold drove more of the state's homeless into shelters. Paul Koch, executive director of the Siena-Francis House in Omaha, expressed concern about homeless people being too in-

dependent in the dangerous weather.

"A lot of people, when it gets like this, have to come in," Koch said. "We want to encourage people to come in."

Other people who depend on social services also were affected by the bitter winter weather.

The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging canceled its scheduled hot-meal delivery Friday out of concern for the volunteers who make the deliveries, spokesman Bob Whitmore said.

Temperatures reached a low of 15 below in some parts Sunday and a high of 10 degrees.

The extended forecast calls for the chilly weather to continue Monday, with highs in the single digits and teens and a chance of snow possible in the far west.

Tuesday and Wednesday will be slightly warmer with highs in the mid-teens to 20s. Lows will range from 5 below to 5 above on Tuesday, with zero to 10 above in the west Wednesday and 15 above in the southeast.

# Lawmakers may affirm AKSarben idea

OMAHA from page 1

FDR has said it would donate some of the land to UNO for a planned college of information sciences and technology.

The project has been called one of the most significant in the city's history by Omaha Mayor Hal Daub and NU President Dennis Smith.

The college, a \$37.4 million project, has already gone through some preliminary designs. At the December NU Board of Regents meeting, the board was given an update on the structure for high-tech offices and information science classrooms.

Only Regent John Payne of Kearney had an objection — the building's \$200 per-square-foot price tag. The project's chief archi-

tect, Ken West of Dana, Carson, Roubal and Associates, said the infrastructure dictated the cost, which West called reasonable.

With the backing of the NU Board of Regents, the city of Omaha, Douglas County and FDR, only a \$22 million appropriation from the Legislature remains.

Gov. Ben Nelson has said he would put the money into the budget package he will present to the Legislature.

Wehrbein said the appropriation will be part of the main budget package and would have to undergo months of debate and hearings. He said he had not heard of any efforts to split the appropriation into a separate bill to speed up the process.

Wehrbein said he hoped sena-

tors saw the importance and need for the project.

Debate on the \$22 million appropriation will come from senators concerned the project will only benefit Omaha, said Education Committee Chairwoman Sen. Ardyce Bohlke of Hastings.

"There may be some gnashing of teeth from the more western senators," she said.

Bohlke said that when the opposition was convinced of the statewide benefit, the appropriation would pass easily.

The benefit, Bohlke said, was going to come in the form of new high-paying technology jobs filled by Nebraskans.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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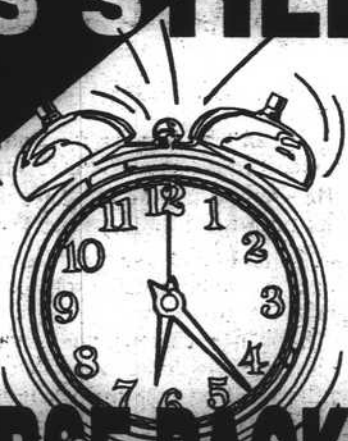


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