

By LARRY PHILLIPS

• Leader & Times

“We are pleased to inform you of this year’s release of the Euromillions World SweepStakes International program.”

That’s the lead-in for one of the most recent scams to hit the area, and it goes on to say the drawing was originally scheduled for Oct. 18, but due to a mix-up of numbers and names, the results were not released until Nov. 6, and voilà, your name was resubmitted and you won!

Your winnings? \$1.85 million.

This letter going around, looking similar to a bingo flyer, is supposedly from the International Lotto Commission based in Spain.

The company or organization is bogus, according to Seward County Sheriff’s Detective Ryan McVey.

“There is no International Lotto,” McVey said recently.

The flyer goes on to instruct winners to call a “security” agent in Madrid, who will handle your

claim. He will make sure your money is deposited to a bank account of your choice.

McVey pointed out this is where they could get your bank account number, and voilà, you're cleaned out.

There are also several scams going on with Sensy and Thirty-One Gifts representatives.

"A lot of these reps have websites and the scammer makes a big order online, like \$350 worth of stuff," McVey said. "Then he mails a \$3,500 check, and follows up saying his accountant messed up the check, but if they would just keep the \$350 and mail him a check for the balance of the \$3,500.

"Naturally, the check he sent is bogus," McVey added. "It won't clear the bank."

McVey reminded people who receive these various offers should remember the old adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't."