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THE SUNDAY SCANNER

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Horizon Music Festival



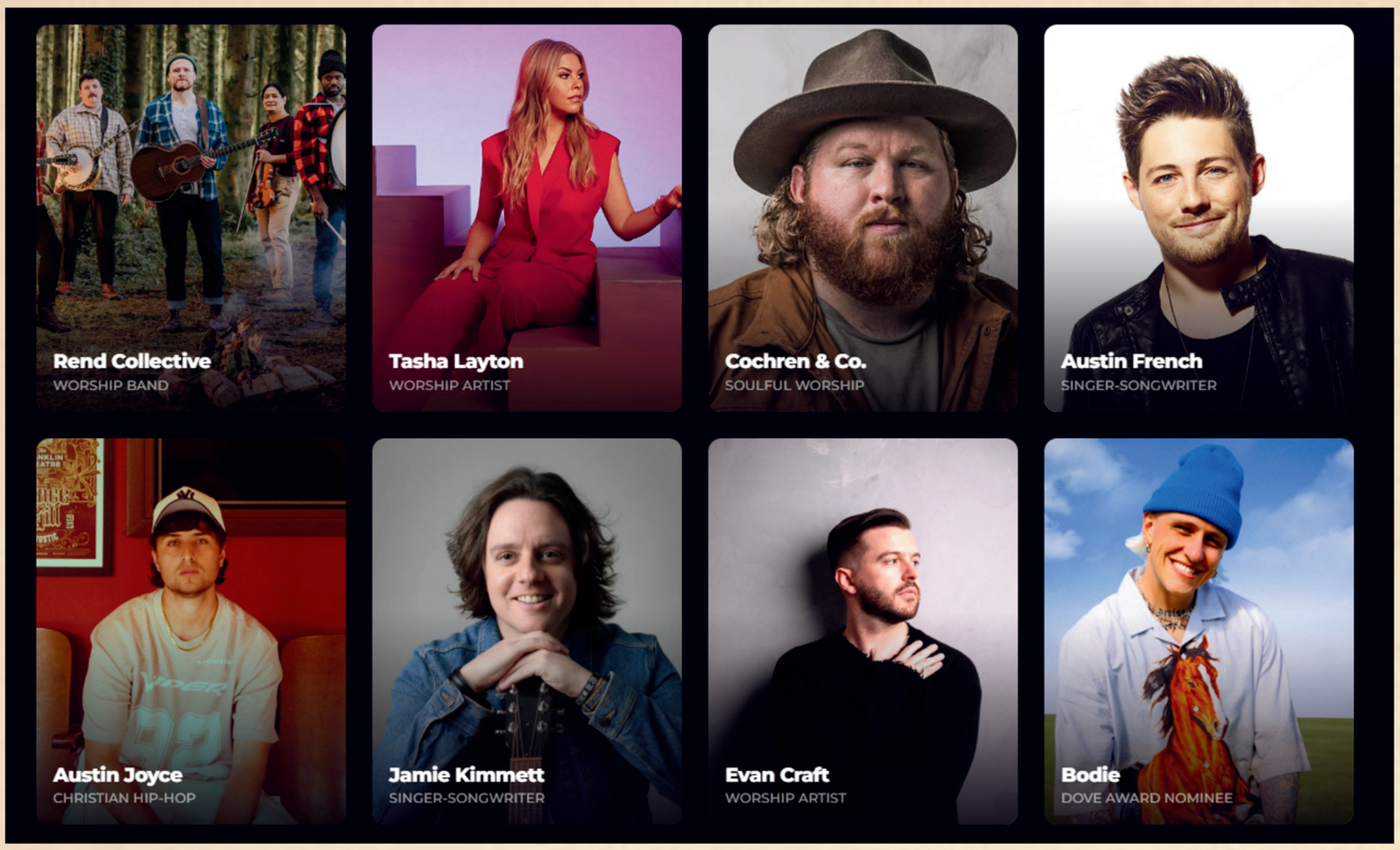
We'll see you there!
~ Andi & Brian Hale

Owners
Panhandle Scanner
by Hale Multimedia LLC

HORIZON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday Sep 5 & 6

Look for us in the Ministry Tent area!



Flock is Tracking Your Every Move

(OSHKOSH, Wisc.) – A police chief in Oshkosh, Wisconsin caught Flock lying to his city council, and killed the $8 billion surveillance company's contract.

One council member asked the Flock rep a plain yes-or-no question. Does this system build a heat map?

Flock's rep said no. The council believed him and voted 5 to 2 to renew. By the next morning, Chief Dean Smith's own officers had told him that answer was false.

So he pulled up the system, watched it for himself, then walked into an emergency meeting and said, "Because of this misrepresentation, I can no longer recommend Flock." Understand the heat map is the whole trick.

Not one snapshot at one corner. Your pattern. Where you sleep, where you work, where you keep going back and how often.

So the pitch and the product are two different things, just like Data Centers. The company wins the contract selling a plate reader, then sits on a moving map of your life.

The vote to rescind was 7 to 0. Unanimous. Flock called the whole thing "one small misconception" from a long meeting and said it was disappointed nobody let it explain.

A surveillance company worth eight billion dollars got caught lying about whether it maps where you drive. Its defense was that the lie was small.

IN THIS ISSUE

MISSING

- Ryan Larsen Still Missing p3
- Randi Lou Marshall Located p3
- Destanie Lejya Missing p3

POLICE & CRIME

- Flock is Tracking Your Every Move p1
- Alliance Stabbing Arrest p4
- Trucker Booked in Wyoming Case p4,6
- Vehicular Homicide p5
- Two Arrested for Drugs in Kimball p5
- NSP Extracurricular Activities p5
- Range Qualifications in Sidney p5
- Two Arrested in Knife Assault p6
- Additional Sexual Assault Charges p7

FIRE & EMS

- Smoke Alarm Safety p8
- Firefighter Burger Feed p8
- Car vs Pole Downs Power Lines p8
- Bypass Fire Caused by Lightning p8
- Safe Kids Day in Goshen County p9
- Drone Coverage Draws Concerns p9
- Hay Bale Fire Shuts Down I-80 p9
- Large Grass Fire Near Monument p9
- Pickup vs. Moose Accident p10
- Car vs. Cow Accident p10
- Suspected Arson; One in Custody p10
- Disabled Vehicle Leads to Arrest p10
- Bicyclist Seriously Injured p11
- Car in the Ditch p11
- Feature; Scottsbluff Rural Fire p11

WEATHER

- Lunar Eclipse Photos p17
- Weekly Weather Outlook p17
- Multiple Lightning Victims p18
- Weekend Flooding in Gering p18

MORE

- COMMUNITY NEWS p2
- MISSING PERSONS p3
- PANHANDLE SPORTS p12-13
- SCHOOL NEWS p14-15
- AGRICULTURAL NEWS p16
- PANHANDLE WEATHER p17-18
- BUSINESS NEWS p19
- SCANNER TRAFFIC p20

KENDELL HENDERSON AGENCY, INC. WEEKLY WEATHER OUTLOOK

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

Community

Summer Fun Photo Contest

Sumbmit your summer photos now!

Arthur's PIZZA MADE IN 21

PANHANDLE SCANNER

PHOTO Contest

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Panhandle Scanner has teamed up with the legendary Arthur's Pizza to highlight area photographers with a chance to make it onto the Wall of Fame!

Selected winners will be framed and hung on the walls of the restaurant, courtesy of Hale Multimedia LLC. We have three winners thus far.

Arthur's PIZZA MADE IN 21

WALL OF FAME



Brian Lambert "Hole in the Wall"



Chelsea Johnson "Sunset over the Monument"



Mariah Jackson "Bridgeport Storm"

New Young Adult Group Forming



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — There is a new Inter-Church Young Adults Group starting around Scotts Bluff County and we have the exciting details!

The new group kicks it off on Friday, September 11th with meetings to be held every Friday from 6:30-8:30 pm.

It is geared for Young Adults College Aged through 39, and you don't have to be a member of any specific church to attend.

So far, five different Bible-believing churches in the Valley have agreed to support and participate in this ministry; Bethel Baptist, Monument Bible, Harvest Valley, Grace Chapel, and Calvary Memorial.

Meeting locations will rotate between the different churches. Each meeting will have a lesson time followed by a group activity.

September 11th, 18th, & 25th will be at Monument Bible Church: 4124 Ave. I, Scottsbluff.

October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th will be at Calvary Memorial Church: 265 18th St, Gering.

November 6th, 13th, 20th & December 4th & 11th will be at Grace Chapel: 300 Valley View Drive, Scottsbluff.

If any other churches are interested in participating in group leadership or supporting the ministry in other ways, contact Giles Hovseth via email at ghovseth@gmail.com.

Please include 'Scottsbluff Valley Christian Young Adults Group' in the subject line, introduce yourself and the church you represent, and please express the area you are most interested in participating in.

Downtown Gering Mural Revitalized



NEED A WEBSITE OR HELP MARKETING? CONTACT HALE MULTIMEDIA LLC

MISSING PERSONS

AND PROPERTY

STILL MISSING

(LA VISTA, Neb.) – Ryan walked out of La Vista West Elementary School unaccompanied — something he'd reportedly done before, only to be found safe each time. This time he wasn't. Ryan had autism, Tourette's Disorder, and seizures.

Police initially treated the disappearance as non-suspicious but later said they hadn't ruled out abduction or harm. Searches, including a nearby dumpster where his umbrella was found, turned up no evidence.

His mother, Tammi Larsen, sued Papillion-La Vista Community Schools, alleging negligent supervision. She also sought to have Ryan legally declared deceased, but a judge ruled she hadn't met the burden of proof required.

As of September 2025, the Nebraska Supreme Court revived the negligence lawsuit against the school district, ruling that a lower court had prematurely dismissed the case. The case has been sent back for further proceedings.

Bring 'Em Home Nebraska is a volunteer group, founded by Erik Rezabek, that helps families search for missing loved ones at no cost. Follow them for personal updates.





Brandi Has Been Located

(CUSTER, S.D.) – Randi Lou Marshall, formerly known as Bad Wound and also known as "Brandi," age 26, was reported missing. Randi's family last heard from her at approximately 4:35 p.m. Friday, August 21, 2026.

Fortunately, Panhandle Scanner received word on Monday that Brandi was located! We are thankful for another case that turned out well.

MISSING; Destanie Leyja, 16

(CHADRON, Neb.) – Chadron teenager Destanie Leyja has been reported missing once again. Destanie is 16 years old, approximately 5'3" tall and weighs around 125 lbs. The Chadron Police Department issue a bulletin via scanner traffic Thursday night.

An internet search for her name will show that we have reported on her prior missing cases, where she has always safely returned. We are hoping for the same outcome this time.

If you know her or know of her whereabouts, please contact the Chadron Police Department.

OREGON TRAIL PLUMBING AND HEATING SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

police & crime

Alliance Stabbing Arrest



(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — An early-morning stabbing investigation in Alliance has led to the arrest of a local man after police say evidence gathered from the scene, nearby railroad property and a residence helped investigators identify a suspect.

At approximately 2:51 a.m. Monday, August 24, the Alliance Police Department and Alliance Fire Department were dispatched to the 900 block of West Second Street following a report that a man had been stabbed.

When officers arrived, they found an adult male victim suffering from significant lacerations to his head, left arm and wrist. The victim was treated at the scene before being transported by ambulance to Box Butte General Hospital with serious injuries.

As investigators worked to determine what happened, they identified Fred John Red Nest, 47, as a suspect in the assault. Police determined Red Nest had left the immediate area following the incident and began searching the surrounding neighborhood and nearby railroad property.

Investigators also contacted BNSF Railway for assistance in identifying and preserving surveillance footage that could be relevant to the investigation.

During the search, officers located a blood-covered T-shirt near the railroad tracks that investigators believe Red Nest discarded following the assault. Additional information gathered during the investigation led officers to believe Red Nest had returned to his residence at 704 Laramie Avenue, Apartment 3.

The Alliance Police Department obtained a search warrant for the residence. The warrant was executed by Alliance Police officers with assistance from the Nebraska State Patrol and Box Butte County Sheriff's Office.

Red Nest was located inside a bedroom and taken into custody.

According to police, Red Nest later admitted his involvement in the assault during a post-arrest interview. Investigators say he told them he had discarded the knife along a dirt road near the residence.

Officers searched the area but have not yet recovered the weapon. The search for the knife and the collection of additional evidence remain ongoing.

Red Nest was booked into the Box Butte County Jail on charges of:

- First-degree assault
- Second-degree assault
- Burglary
- Use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony

The investigation remains active, and authorities are asking the public to use caution if they come across a knife or other item they believe could be connected to the case. Chief Leavitt advised that *"anyone who locates a knife or other item that may be connected to this investigation should not handle it and should immediately contact the Alliance Police Department."*

Trucker Booked in Fatal Wyoming Case

(TORRINGTON, Wyo.) — Nearly five years after a fatal crash south of Hawk Springs claimed the lives of two young people, the Colorado truck driver involved in the collision has been booked into the Goshen County Jail on a homicide-by-vehicle charge.

Conan Dean Ferguson, 54, of Briggsdale, Colorado, was booked August 24, 2026, according to the Goshen County jail roster. The booking was made by the Wyoming Highway Patrol at approximately 2:53 p.m. The roster lists charges including overtake on the right, driving within a single lane, speed too fast for conditions, careless driving, first offense, and homicide by vehicle. The roster listed $0 total bail.

Ferguson was released from the Goshen County Jail on August 25, according to jail records. Publicly available information reviewed for this report does not establish whether Ferguson voluntarily turned himself in or was taken into custody by authorities, and no reliable source located as of publication provided details regarding the circumstances of his release.

The warrant stems from a November 17, 2021, crash on U.S. Highway 85 near milepost 69.5, south of Hawk Springs.

According to the original Wyoming Highway Patrol release, troopers were notified of the crash at approximately 10 p.m.

The deaths were the 100th and 101st traffic fatalities recorded in Wyoming during 2021.

Fatal crash claimed two young lives

An 18-year-old, Korey Bowers, was driving a 2005 Ford Taurus with his left turn signal activated as he attempted to turn onto Wyoming Highway 313. Ferguson was driving a northbound 2016 Volvo tractor-trailer.

The Highway Patrol reported that Ferguson attempted to pass the Taurus on the right shoulder. As Bowers turned right, the Volvo collided with the side of the Ford, causing the car to overturn.

Bowers was wearing a seatbelt and was transported by ambulance to Community Hospital in Torrington. He later died from injuries sustained in the crash.

Bowers, who was living in La Grange, Wyoming at the time, was formerly of Beardmore, Ontario, Canada, where his family had served as missionaries. Bowers and Nelson were both students at Frontier School of the Bible in LaGrange, Wyoming. Bowers died on his 18th birthday.

His passenger, 19-year-old Emma Nelson of Juniata, Nebraska, was not wearing a seatbelt and died at the scene.

Ferguson and his passenger, 29-year-old Manos Zouridakis of Longmont, Colorado, were not injured.

The crash investigation did not end with the initial report.

continued on page 6

NEED TO RELOCATE? SIMPLY REAL ESTATE - TORRINGTON, WYOMING

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

police & crime

Vehicular Homicide for Slow Driver



(NORTH PLATTE, Neb.) — What initially appeared to be a deadly semi-truck crash on Interstate 80 has resulted in a motor vehicle homicide arrest after investigators continued examining the circumstances surrounding the collision.

The crash occurred Saturday, August 15, near mile marker 198 on I-80 in Lincoln County. Nebraska State Patrol troopers were called to the scene at approximately 9:20 p.m. after two semis collided in the westbound lanes near Brady.

The crash involved a semi pulling a flatbed trailer and a second semi pulling a trailer. Initial reports indicated the second truck caught fire following the collision, and emergency crews responded.

According to the Nebraska State Patrol's preliminary investigation, the semi pulling the flatbed trailer had been parked on the shoulder of the interstate. Investigators determined that the truck subsequently merged back onto I-80 and was traveling below the minimum speed limit when it was struck from behind by the second semi.

The driver of the second semi was identified as Jose Espinosa Salazar, 40, of Florida. Salazar was pronounced dead at the scene.

The investigation continued after the crash as troopers worked to determine the circumstances leading up to the collision. On August 24, the Nebraska State Patrol announced that the driver of the flatbed semi, Aleks Latsabidze, 46, of New York, had been arrested on suspicion of motor vehicle homicide.

Latsabidze was lodged in the Lincoln County Jail, where he remains in custody, according to authorities.

Latsabidze had also been booked by the Nebraska State Patrol on August 16 on an immigration violation and was listed as being held on an immigration-related hold. That booking occurred the day after the fatal crash.

The motor vehicle homicide arrest was announced more than a week after the crash, underscoring that the investigation continued beyond the initial response at the scene. Authorities have not released additional details regarding what led to the criminal charge.

NSP Extracurricular Activities



NSP Photo : Fun at the Nebraska State Fair



NSP Photo : Training with the Bomb Squad

Range Qualification



(SIDNEY, Neb.) — Firearms qualifications are just one part of the ongoing training and continuing education officers complete throughout the year to maintain and enhance the skills needed to serve the community safely and professionally.

Regular training helps ensure our officers remain prepared, proficient, and committed to providing the highest level of service.

The Sidney Police Department thanked Cheyenne County Deputy Goodrich for assisting their officers with their annual range qualifications.

Two Arrested for Drugs



(KIMBALL, Neb.) — On August 23, 2026 the Kimball County Sheriff's Office arrested Diane Bustos (58) and Richard Castillo (65) for possession of meth, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to distribute and possession of narcotics.

WE RECOMMEND BUMPER TO BUMPER BODY AND PAINT - SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

police & crime

Trucker Booked in Fatal Wyoming Case (continued)

Investigation continued into 2022

According to information provided by Wyoming Highway Patrol spokesman Aaron Brown to Cowboy State Daily, Trooper Samuel Szott was assigned to investigate the crash in March 2022. The investigation was completed in October of that year, after which the evidence was forwarded to prosecutors.

Brown explained that fatal crash investigations can take several months because troopers assigned to crash teams do not work exclusively on crash reconstruction.

Nearly four years later, a warrant was issued for Ferguson on June 30, 2026, charging him with homicide by vehicle. The charge is a misdemeanor under Wyoming law and alleges criminally negligent driving that resulted in a person's death. The offense carries a potential sentence of up to one year in jail.

Families filed wrongful-death lawsuit

The criminal case is not the only legal action stemming from the crash.

The families of Bowers and Nelson filed a wrongful-death lawsuit in federal court on July 29, 2022, representing the estates of the two victims. The lawsuit named Ferguson, McLane Company Inc., Transco Inc. and Zouridakis as defendants and requested a jury trial.

Court records show Ferguson was served with the lawsuit on August 27, 2022, and filed an answer and affirmative defenses on September 19. McLane and Transco filed their response on September 13, denying the allegations and asserting affirmative defenses.

The civil litigation later became part of a broader discussion about trucking safety and motor-carrier hiring practices.

In February 2025, attorney Maren Chaloupka, who represented Nelson's family, testified before the Nebraska Legislature while speaking against proposed legislation concerning trucking companies and civil litigation.

Chaloupka told lawmakers that the lawsuit involving Bowers and Nelson uncovered what she described as concerns about the motor carrier's hiring practices and its handling of drivers with previous safety issues.

She said the families were determined to use the lawsuit to push the carrier to make changes rather than simply seek financial compensation.

"Money alone was not going to make this case go away," Chaloupka told lawmakers.

According to her testimony, the motor carrier ultimately agreed to make changes. The testimony did not identify the specific changes or disclose the financial terms of any settlement.

The available reporting does not indicate that the civil lawsuit proceeded to a public trial. Instead, the family's attorney's 2025 testimony indicates the litigation resulted in an agreement by the motor carrier to make changes.

The criminal case against Ferguson remained unresolved for nearly five years following the crash.

When the warrant was first reported publicly in August, Ferguson had not yet been arrested or appeared in court. Goshen County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Boyer declined to discuss the pending case, citing ethical rules and the interests of justice.

Ferguson's August 24 booking changed that status. The Goshen County jail roster lists the Wyoming Highway Patrol as the arresting agency and shows Ferguson's release the following day.

The case brings renewed attention to the November 2021 crash that took the lives of Bowers and Nelson, as well as the nearly five-year gap between the fatal collision, the completion of the Highway Patrol investigation and the filing of the criminal charge.

All parties are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Two Arrested in Knife Assault

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — A late-night disturbance in Scottsbluff resulted in a serious hand injury and the arrest of two people from outside the area, with two suspects now facing multiple felony allegations stemming from the incident.



Scottsbluff Police Department officers were dispatched to a residence on 9th Avenue at approximately 2:02 a.m. Tuesday, August 25, following a report that a man had been injured and a suspect was walking away from the residence.

When officers arrived, they learned the male victim had suffered a knife wound to his left hand. The injury was serious enough that the tip of his index finger was severed.

The victim was treated and transported by Regional West Medical Center Ambulance Services for further medical care. The Scottsbluff Fire Department also assisted emergency personnel during the response.

As officers investigated the circumstances surrounding the assault, the investigation led to the identification and arrest of two suspects.

Christopher Murillo, 43, of Omaha, was arrested on charges of first-degree assault, false imprisonment, possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person and use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony.

Paulina Gutierrez, 29, of Commerce City, Colorado, was also arrested. Gutierrez faces charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, first-degree assault, use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony and tampering with evidence.

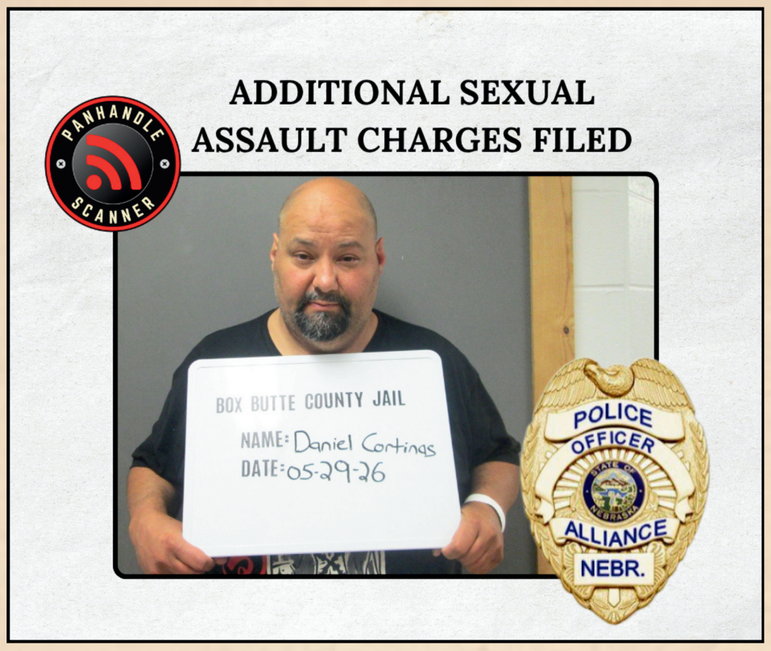
The investigation remains subject to the normal judicial process, and the allegations contained in the police report have not been proven in court. Both suspects are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

NEED TO RELOCATE? SIMPLY REAL ESTATE - TORRINGTON, WYOMING

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

police & crime

Additional Sexual Assault Charges for Alliance Perp



(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — We originally reported June 2, 2026, on an investigation that led to the arrest of an Alliance man on serious charges involving a minor. At the time, the case was still developing as investigators continued working to uncover the circumstances surrounding the allegations.

Now, the Alliance Police Department has released additional information about the investigation, including details about evidence investigators say was recovered during the course of their work.

The new information sheds more light on the ongoing investigation and the efforts of local investigators to follow additional leads and examine potential evidence. Police say the investigation remains active, with additional charges now filed in connection with evidence uncovered during the investigation.

The investigation began in May 2026 after APD received a report that a minor had been sexually assaulted on multiple occasions. The investigation resulted in Cortinas's arrest on multiple counts of First-Degree Sexual Assault of a Child and Child Abuse.

During the investigation, Sergeant David LaDuke developed information indicating that Cortinas maintained a separate cellular telephone that he reportedly used to store private photographs. Additional information indicated that the device could contain child sexual abuse material, commonly referred to as CSAM. Sergeant LaDuke obtained multiple search warrants and continued working to locate the telephone. The device was eventually recovered during the execution of a search warrant with assistance from the Nebraska State Patrol.

After the telephone was seized, Sergeant LaDuke completed a forensic extraction and examination of the device using the Alliance Police Department's GrayKey digital-forensics system. The examination uncovered multiple images of child sexual abuse material. Investigators also discovered images that Cortinas is alleged to have created involving another minor. This is a separate victim from the minor involved in the original sexual-assault investigation.

Based upon the evidence recovered from the telephone, Cortinas has received the following additional charges:

- Eight counts of Creating or Manufacturing Child Sexual Abuse Material
- Nine counts of Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material

These charges are in addition to the First-Degree Sexual Assault of a Child and Child Abuse charges arising from the original investigation.

Cortinas has remained in custody since his arrest in May. He is currently being housed in the Scotts Bluff County Jail to accommodate his medical needs.

Chief David Leavitt specifically recognized Sergeant LaDuke for his work on the case.

"Sergeant LaDuke's hard work and perseverance were critical to this investigation," Chief Leavitt said. "He continued pursuing the evidence through multiple search warrants, located the device, and then completed the detailed forensic work necessary to identify additional criminal conduct and another minor victim. His dedication is a major reason we are able to continue seeking justice for these victims."

Sergeant LaDuke recently completed the Digital Evidence Investigations course, an intensive one-week program hosted by the United States Secret Service in Hoover, Alabama.

The course provides investigators with advanced training in identifying, extracting, and analyzing digital evidence obtained from cellular telephones, computers, GPS units, tablets, and other electronic devices. It also includes hands-on instruction involving forensic-analysis tools, legal requirements, search warrant considerations, and the preparation of digital-forensics reports.

The federal government covered the cost of the training, travel, and lodging, allowing Sergeant LaDuke to receive this additional specialized instruction at no cost to the City of Alliance.

This investigation demonstrates the importance of combining advanced technology with properly trained investigators. APD's investment in GrayKey gives investigators the ability to lawfully extract and analyze evidence from cellular devices pursuant to search warrants. However, the software is only effective when personnel have the training and expertise necessary to properly recover, analyze, document, and present that evidence.

"Digital evidence is now involved in nearly every type of serious criminal investigation," Chief Leavitt said. "Our investment in GrayKey and specialized training allows us to conduct this work locally, move investigations forward more efficiently, and uncover evidence that might otherwise remain hidden. In this case, that investment helped identify another victim and supported 17 additional felony charges."

The identities of the minor victims are being withheld in accordance with laws protecting minors and victims of sexual offenses.

Anyone with information that may be relevant to this investigation, contact the Alliance Police Department.

NEED TO RELOCATE? SIMPLY REAL ESTATE - TORRINGTON, WYOMING

FIRE & RESCUE

SMOKE ALARM SAFETY



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Panhandle Scanner's Exclusive security alarm sponsor gave a helping hand to our Scottsbluff Fire Department recently.

"Did you know your average smoke alarm is not adequate for a person who is deaf or hard of hearing?

SBFD had the opportunity to work with Tiffany from the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

"We also want to extend a thank you to Alarm Security Technicians for taking time out of their day to assist with testing, and providing guidance on their system as well!"

Car vs. Pole

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — A non-injury single vehicle accident involving a car and a pole occured near the intersection of Avenue I and West Overland in Scottsbluff Monday mornning with downed power lines, causing a delay in the response to the scene.

Firefighter Burger Feed



(MITCHELL, Neb.) — When the call comes in, volunteer firefighters don't punch a clock—they leave their homes, families, jobs and everyday lives behind to answer the call. They do it because their neighbors need them.

Across our communities, volunteer firefighters give countless hours to training, responding to emergencies, helping at accidents and standing ready whenever they are needed. Their service often happens quietly and without much recognition, but their commitment makes a tremendous difference.

That's why RedZ Bar & Grill and Rodriguez Brothers Processing in Mitchell are taking an opportunity to say thank you with a meal for the local firefighters who give so much to their communities.

A free burger feed for all local firefighters and their families will be held Wednesday, September 2, 2026, beginning at 5 p.m. at RedZ Bar & Grill in Mitchell, Nebraska.

The event is being hosted by Rodriguez Brothers Processing and RedZ Bar & Grill as a way to show appreciation for the area's volunteer firefighters and their families.

The community can also help support local fire departments. Anyone wishing to contribute to the event or donate useful items to local departments—including Gatorade, bottled water, granola bars, beef jerky or similar supplies—is encouraged to contact Mike Roberts at RedZ Bar & Grill or Rigo Rodriguez at Rodriguez Brothers Processing.

A burger may only take a few minutes to eat, but the message behind it is much bigger: Thank you to the men and women who volunteer their time, courage and energy to help protect our communities.

To every volunteer firefighter who has ever dropped what they were doing to answer the call—we appreciate you, and we're grateful for your service.

Enjoy a free meal at Redz Bar & Grill in Mitchell, Nebraska on September 2nd!

Bypass Fire Caused by Lightning

(CHADRON, Neb.) -- The Nebraska Forest Service staff directly assisted with suppression efforts and coordinated aerial single engine air tanker (SEAT) support on the Bypass Fire south of Chadron on Tuesday. The Chadron Volunteer Fire Department says the fire was one of several in the area ignited by lightning strikes.

On Saturday night, Gering and Scottsbluff experienced some very powerful and dangerous lightning strikes, starting a large grass fire at the monument and sending at least three people to the hospital, who either believe they were hit, or were at least knocked to the ground with nearby strikes.


Photo : Nebraska Forest Service

FIRE & RESCUE

Safe Kids Day at Goshen County Fairgrounds



The Torrington Volunteer Fire Department encourages kids to Practice Fire Safery Every Day!



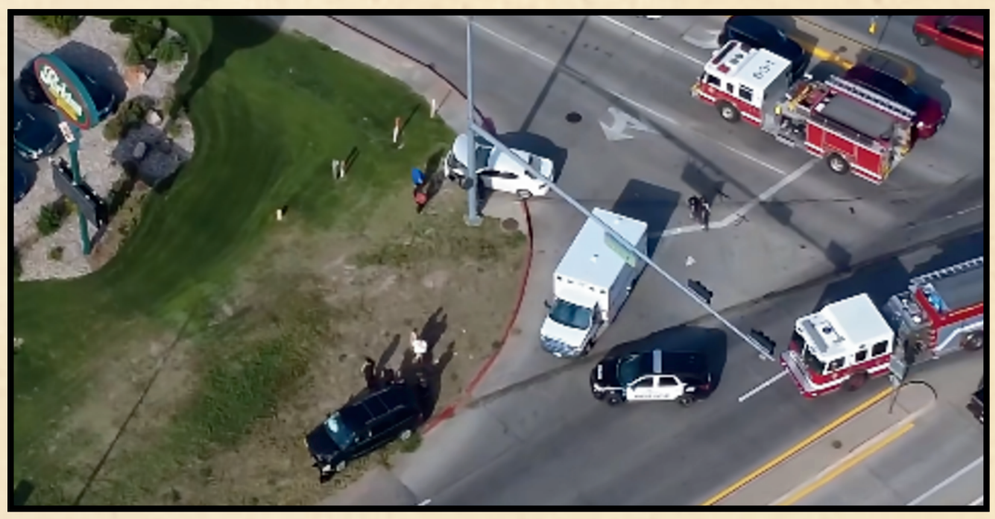




Lil' Red from AirLink at Regional West, Torrington Police and Goshen County Sheriff all came out.

Drone Coverage Raises Concerns

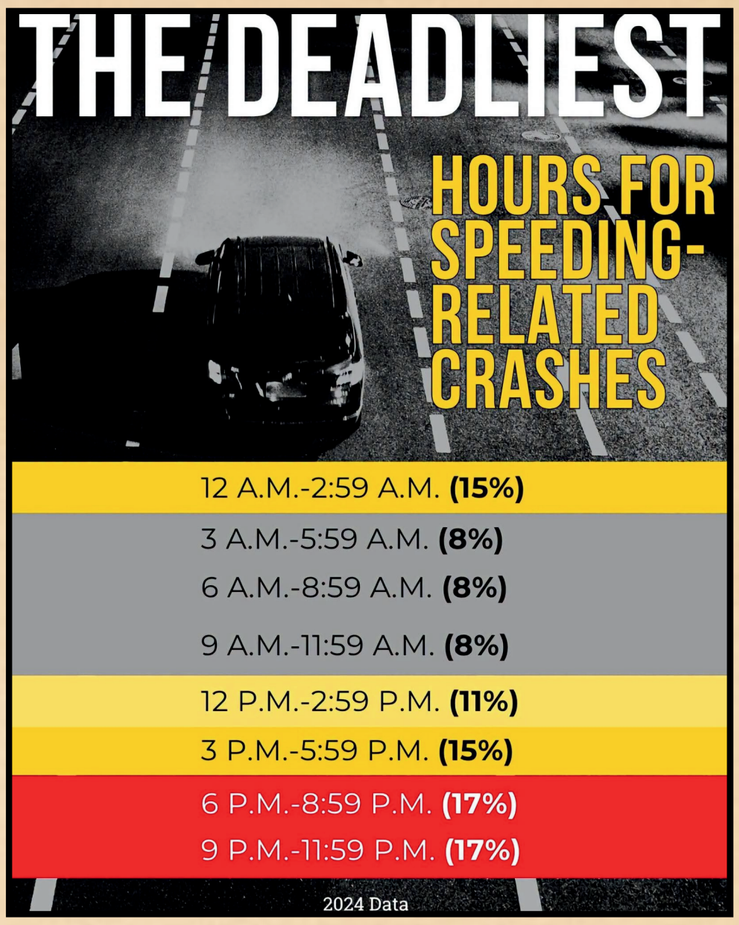
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — An aerial scene of an accident by James Gray Friday afternoon around 4:45 p.m. spurred some questions about the usage of drone footage in the media..



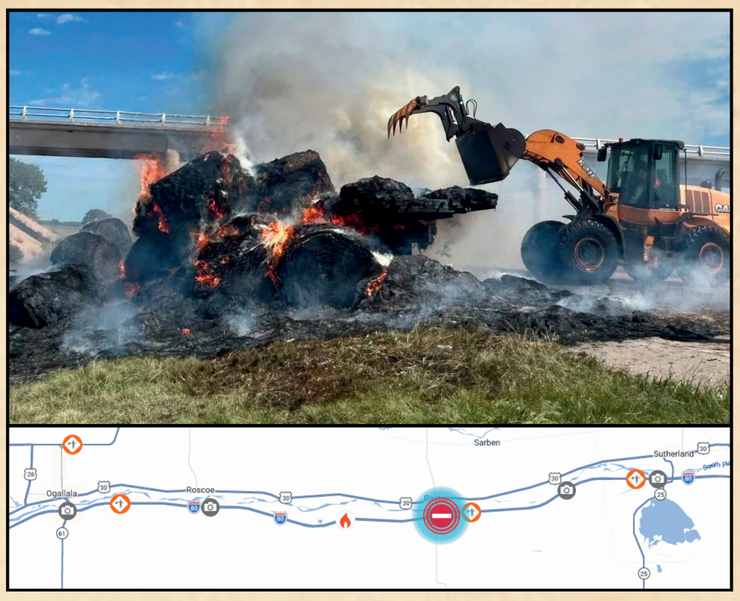
While we do not recommend or directly use drone footage, we are appreciative of the donated coverage. Our primary concern is always that the law is being followed. We understand the restrictions over certain areas and this one leaves us with questions.

We will be consulting our generous video donor to ensure that we all continue to operate under the law and in cooperation with all local law enforcement and emergency services..





Hay Bale Fire Shuts Down I-80



(PAXTON, Neb.) — I-80 near Paxton and mile marker 147 was the scene of a semi fire that remporarily closed down westbound I-80 Saturday afternoon, August 28th. The semi was carrying a load of hay, which burned for hours, delaying the opening of the interstate.

Large Grass Fire

(GERING, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated a large grass fire reported by several individuals at the Monument after nearby lightning strikes sent victims to the ground. At least one person was reportedly hit and was transported to the hospital Saturday afternoon.

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

FIRE & RESCUE

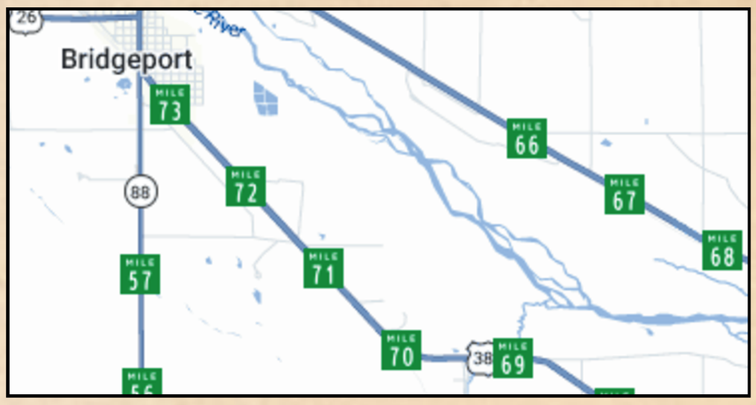
Pickup vs. Moose Injury Accident

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- Shortly before 6:00 a.m. Wednesday morning emergency personnel were called to the scene of a car versus moose accident near County Road D and Sugar Factory Road in Scottsbluff.

Scanner traffic indicated that it was a female driver and she reported hitting her head. Our prayers for her recovery and the whole process that comes with replacing or repairing a vehicle after a hit like this.

Car vs. Cow

(BRIDGEPORT, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated a car versus cow, non-injury accident on Hwy 385, somewhere between mile marker 69 and 71, just a few miles south of Bridgeport late Tuesday night.



HORSEMAN'S CORNER || CATTLEMAN'S CORNER || HARVEST USA REPORT
DAILY RADIO PROGRAMS BY HALE BROADCASTING

Disabled Vehicle Leads to Felony Arrests Near Hyannis



(HYANNIS, Neb.) — A report of a disabled vehicle along a Sandhills highway led to a drug investigation and two felony arrests Friday afternoon in Grant County.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. August 21, the Grant County Sheriff's Office was contacted by a concerned citizen who reported a vehicle that appeared to be disabled in the northbound lane of Highway 61.

Deputies responded to the area and found two people inside the vehicle. The occupants told law enforcement the vehicle had "stopped working."

With the vehicle sitting in a travel lane, the Grant County, NE Sheriff's Office assisted by pushing it out of the roadway to help protect the occupants and other motorists traveling through the area.

The situation took a different turn once the vehicle was safely moved. Deputies observed indicators that led them to begin a drug investigation.

The Arthur County Sheriff's Office was contacted and assisted Grant County deputies with the investigation. Authorities said the investigation resulted in the discovery of a large quantity of drug paraphernalia, controlled substances and related supplies. The two occupants reportedly told law enforcement they were "just passing through."

Both occupants were arrested and transported to the Box Butte County Jail on felony charges related to possession with intent to deliver.

The incident highlights the role local residents can play in keeping travelers and communities safe. The initial call came from a concerned citizen who noticed a vehicle stopped in a potentially dangerous position on Highway 61.

The Grant County Sheriff's Office, based in Hyannis, provides law enforcement coverage throughout the county, including Hyannis, Whitman, Ashby and the surrounding rural areas.

The sheriff's office thanked the Arthur County Sheriff's Office for its assistance and expressed appreciation to Grant County residents for remaining vigilant and reporting situations that may pose a concern to the community.

Suspected Arson; One in Custody



This story originally appeared on The Twister. Follow them for more South Dakota news.
Photo Courtesy: Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry and Wildland Fire Management

(PORCUPINE, S.D.) — Firefighters are investigating a suspected arson after discovering three separate fires burning near Porcupine early Saturday, according to Alpha One Fire & Rescue.

One person is now in custody, and authorities are looking for additional individuals who may have information about the fires or involvement in setting them.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigations has taken over the investigation.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry and Wildland Fire Management now estimates the Brooks Fire has burned roughly 15 acres. A Type 3 incident management team has taken command of the response, with firefighters, engines, water tenders, dozers and aircraft working to contain the fire and keep nearby structures safe.



FIRE & RESCUE

Feature; Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District



Hose Training August 25th

For information regarding volunteer opportunities, drill schedules, or community programs, you can reach out to the Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District.

Key Training Programs & Operations include;

- Mutual Aid & Regional Training: The district frequently trains alongside the Scottsbluff Fire Department and the Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department. Recent hands-on sessions have focused heavily on vehicle extrication techniques and specialized tools.
- Mass Casualty & Aviation Exercises: The district actively participates in large-scale disaster simulations, such as the mass casualty plane crash drill hosted at the Western Nebraska Regional Airport.
- Live Fire & Hazardous Material Drills: Firefighters participate in live-burn exercises, including specialized propane emergency training run in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal.
- Apparatus Driver & Equipment Certification: Members have access to rigorous regional certifications, including upcoming State Fire Marshal Apparatus Driver Operator-Pumper courses hosted locally.
- Readiness & ISO Compliance: Beyond emergency maneuvers, personnel undergo regular equipment and operational drills, such as annual high-pressure hose testing to maintain their Insurance Services Office (ISO) readiness ratings.

Car in the Ditch; Five Rocks Road

(GERING, Neb.) — On Tuesday, August 25, 2026 passing motorists reported a car in the ditch on Five Rocks Road near Prairie Street. They said the male was unconscious and bleeding, but was breathing. Law Enforcement and Gering 99 were on scene within 3-4 minutes with Regional 2 responding.

An 18 year old male was transported to the hospital under the partial trauma team designation. By the time they arrived at 7:23 p.m., just 19 minutes since the initial call, the patient was awake and responsive.





Bicyclist Seriously Injured

(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — A bicyclist suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries Thursday morning after being struck by a pickup truck in an Alliance intersection.

The Alliance Police Department and Alliance Fire Department responded to the collision at approximately 6:59 a.m. Aug. 27 at the intersection of 3rd Street and Cody Avenue.

According to preliminary information from the Alliance Police Department, the bicyclist was traveling southbound on Cody Avenue near the intersection while a white 2013 Dodge Ram pickup truck was traveling northbound.

The pickup truck entered the intersection while making a westbound turn on a green light and struck the bicyclist.

The bicyclist was transported to Box Butte General Hospital with serious, non-life-threatening injuries.

The collision remains under active investigation. Police said no further details will be released at this time, but additional information will be provided as it becomes available.



THE SUNDAY SCANNER

PANHANDLE SPORTS

Thrilling Comeback Victory on the Diamond



(GERING, Neb.) – The Gering Bulldogs varsity girls' softball team holds a 3-3 record for the current 2026 fall season. They most recently secured a thrilling, late-game comeback victory against their local rivals, the Scottsbluff Bearcats.

The Bulldogs won 7-6, sparked by a 5-run 6th inning, including a Jaleigh Bohac home run and Kiera Hight's game-winning hit.

Gering Volleyball Off to a Hot Start

(GERING, Neb.) – The Gering Bulldogs girls volleyball team has officially kicked off its 2026 season. Coming off a successful run to the Class B State Tournament last year, the team enters this season with high expectations under head coach Amanda Cochran.

- Season Opening Sweep: Gering opened the schedule with a dominant road victory over Alliance, winning in straight sets (25-14, 25-10, 25-16).
- Top Performer: Jacey Cochran spearheaded the Bulldogs' offense with 14 kills and seven digs during the opening match.
- Early Tournament Action: A hard-fought day in Douglas ended with the Bulldogs bringing home the Gold Bracket championship.



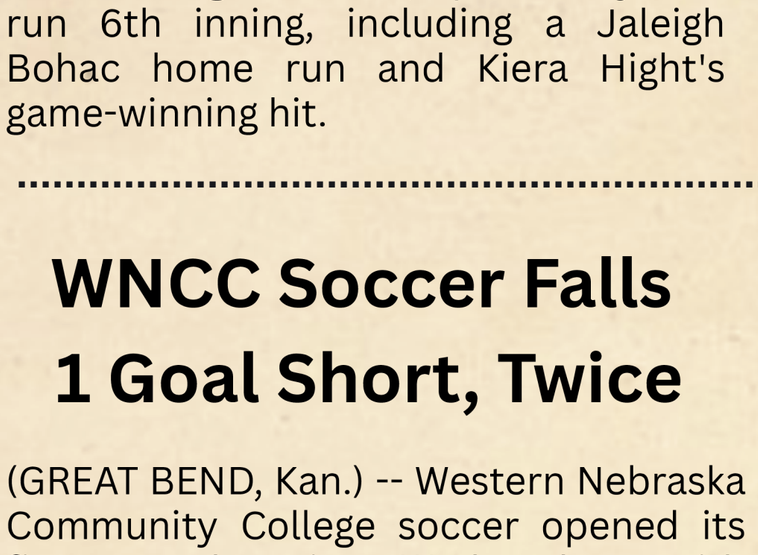
The Bulldogs return home soon for key regional matchups.

- Sept 1: vs. Sterling, CO 5:30 pm
- Sept 3: vs. Bridgeport 5 pm
- Sept 8: @ North Platte 7 pm
- Sept 10: vs. Chadron 6 pm

You can ollow the team on the Gering High School Hudl Page or track updates via MaxPreps.

WNCC Soccer Falls 1 Goal Short, Twice

(GREAT BEND, Kan.) -- Western Nebraska Community College soccer opened its first road trip Wednesday with competitive matches against Barton Community College, falling 1-0 in the men’s game and 3-2 in the women’s contest.



WNCC's Baylee Hoskins takes a shot on net in the second half against Barton. Photo courtesy of Barton Athletic Department.

The WNCC men battled preseason No. 7 Barton throughout, but Masaki Tsujl scored the only goal in the 59th minute. Barton held a 16-11 advantage in shots and 9-2 in corner kicks. Mariano Miranda led WNCC with three shots, while Aurele Cuenot had two. Ever Zubia made four saves.

The women’s match was scoreless at halftime before five second-half goals. Barton’s Ella Swift opened the scoring in the 57th minute, but WNCC’s Lara Santamarta quickly answered with a free-kick goal—her second of the season.

Barton then scored twice in five minutes, with Maki Kimura and Ayaka Nagano making it 3-1. Freshman Baylee Hoskins responded two minutes later, beating the goalkeeper to cut the deficit to 3-2.

WNCC had late chances to tie, including another Hoskins shot saved in the 79th minute. Barton finished with 21 shots, 14 on goal, while WNCC had five shots, all on frame. Hoskins led WNCC with three shots and Santamarta had two. Ella Strom made 11 saves for WNCC.

Scottsbluff Cross Country



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — The Scottsbluff Cross Courntry team kicked off its 2026 season with strong performances in late August. Both the boys and girls varsity teams placed 2nd overall at the North Platte Invite on August 27, 2026.



THE SUNDAY SCANNER

PANHANDLE SPORTS

FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD



Minatare travels to Paxton next week.

THURSDAY AUGUST 27, 2026

- **Minatare** 60, Creek Valley 59
- **Hemingford** 58, Bayard 6
- Hay Springs 0, **Garden County** 57
- Sioux County 6, **Paxton** 49

FRIDAY AUGUST 28, 2026

- Lincoln Pius X 6, **Scottsbluff** 21
- Wheatland 19, **Mitchell** 49
- **Kimball** 52, Gordon-Rushville 24
- Crawford 18, **Leyton** 64
- **Torrington** 15, Gering 6
- Alliance 20, **Minden** 26
- Wood River 0, **Bridgeport** 39
- **Potter-Dix** 61, Morrill 20
- O'Neill 0, **Chadron** 16
- **Sidney** 29, Broken Bow 6

Minatare	60	Final
Creek Valley	59	

(CHAPPELL, Neb.) – The Minatare Indians football team defeated Creek Valley High School with a final score of 60-59. The thrilling one-point victory took place on Thursday, August 27, 2026, during the opening week of the Nebraska panhandle high school football season.

Hay Springs	0	Final
Garden County	57	

(OSHKOSH, Neb.) – The Garden County Eagles enter the 2026 season with massive momentum as the reigning Class D6 State Champions and are currently ranked as a top six-man team in Nebraska. They kicked off their 2026 title defense on Thursday, with a dominant 57-0 shutout victory against Hay Springs.

Pius X	6	Final
(#24) Scottsbluff	21	

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Licoln Pius X looked solid for the most part, but three long touchdown runs of 35, 44 and 70 and two Bearcat interceptions were just too much for the visiting Thunderbolts. Bluffs 21-6.

Alliance	20	Final
Minden	26	

(MINDEN, Neb.) – The Whippets of Minden held off the Bulldogs in a hard-fought 26-20 battle in Minden Friday night.

Kimball	52	Final
Gordon-Rushville	24	

(GORDON, Neb.) – The Kimball Longhorns defeated Gordon-Rushville Mustangs 52–24 on the road in their season opener.

Wood River	0	Final
Bridgeport	39	

(BRIDGEPORT, Neb.) – The Bulldogs blanked Wood River in their home opener in Bridgeport, August 28, 2026, 39-0.

Potter-Dix	61	Final
Morrill	20	

(MINDEN, Neb.) – The Whippets of Minden downed the Bulldogs in a hard-fought 26-20 battle under the lights Friday night.

Wheatland	19	Final
Mitchell	49	

(MITCHELL, Neb.) – The Tigers went up big a the half 42-0, then cruised their way to a final score of 49-19 at home Friday night.

Crawford	18	Final
Leyton	64	

(DALTON, Neb.) – Leyton proved to be too much for the Rams of Crawford in the opener with the 64-18 thrashing.

O'Neill	0	Final
Chadron	16	

(CHADRON, Neb.) – Chadron fans feel the Cardinals are back in good form again with a 16-0 shutout win at home.

Hemingford	58	Final
Bayard	6	

(BAYARD, Neb.) – Coming off a strong 2025 campaign, the Hemingford Bobcats entered the 2026 season as the top ranked eight-man team in the Nebraska Panhandle area, defeating Bayard 58-6 in their road opener Thursday night under the blood red moon created by the lunar eclipse.

Sioux County	6	Final
Paxton	49	

(PAXTON, Neb.) – The Sioux County Warriors high school football team capped off last year with a thrilling 39-37 comeback win over rival Crawford, and then opened their 2026 Class D-6 season Thursday, falling on the road to Paxton by a score of 49-6. Next week, Paxton hosts Minatare in a Friday night matchup.

Gering	6	Final
Torrington	15	

(GERING, Neb.) – Gering had their chances, but a grounding penalty from the end zone and a failed drive near the red zone in the 4th quarter allowed Torrington to hold on for the 15-6 win over Gering Friday night.

(#13) Sidney	29	Final
Broken Bow	6	

(BROKEN BOW, Neb.) – Sidney looked strong to start off the 2026 season with a victory over Broken Bow, 29-6.

SCHOOL NEWS

Mitchell Schools Celebrates Top-Tier Level Excellence

(MITCHELL, Neb.) – Mitchell Secondary School enters the 2026–2027 academic year celebrating top-tier state rankings, campus demolition milestones, and expanded career pathways. As a prominent Class III school system in Scotts Bluff County, the home of the Tigers is blending high classroom proficiency with modernized infrastructure.

🏆 Top-Tier State & Metro Academic Rankings

- #1 in Scottsbluff Metro: In the latest educational analytics, Mitchell Secondary School ranked as the #1 public high school in the Scottsbluff Metro Area.
- Statewide Standing: The high school secured the #35 overall rank among all Nebraska High Schools, driven by a 98% graduation rate and highly proficient standardized testing scores.
- Proficiency Outperformance: According to the U.S. News & World Report breakdown, 77% of Mitchell students tested at or above proficient in mathematics, substantially outperforming the Nebraska state average of 61%.

💼 Expanding Career Pathways & Leadership

- New Career Tools: Under the guidance of the High School Counseling Office, Mitchell launched an interactive digital portal mapping out multiple direct career pathways to bridge high school coursework with technical, agricultural, and business college goals.
- Business & FBLA Growth: Mitchell High School expanded its business curriculum by participating for the first time in the regional "Best of the West" competition hosted at Chadron State College. Business and technology teacher Tanner Long noted the event serves as direct preparation for the statewide FBLA Leadership Conference.
- Mitchell Schools has also launched a new Parent-Teacher Communication app, intended to improve relationships across the district. The app is available on both the Apple Store for iPhone users, as well as on Google Play for those with Android based phones.

Kimball School's "Own Your Path" Initiative

(KIMBALL, Neb.) – Kimball Public Schools have officially transitioned into the 2026–2027 school year with a major new student accountability framework, unique schedule updates, and high state-level honors for local leadership.

🗺️ The "Own Your Path" Academic Initiative

- Individual Student Plans (ISPs): Kimball Jr./Sr. High School launched a sweeping accountability initiative for the current academic year. Every student is now required to build a customized, personal Individual Student Plan.
- Targeting Milestones: These ISPs serve as a concrete academic and post-secondary roadmap. They are designed to bridge high school coursework with direct regional career goals—whether students are preparing for four-year degrees or tracking into specialized regional fields like welding, lineman training, or mechanics.
- Faculty Advising: To guarantee accountability, every student is paired with a dedicated faculty adviser who conducts monthly one-on-one reviews to audit academic progress and celebrate milestones.

🏆 Academic Leadership & Team Spotlight

- Statewide Leadership Award: The Nebraska School Activities Association formally honored Kimball Jr./Sr. High School Principal Danielle Reader with the prestigious Above and Beyond Award. Reader was recognized for outstanding leadership, which included balancing principal duties while completely taking over counseling operations when the district faced a critical staff shortage.
- Mock Trial Assembly: For students interested in legal and civic pathways, the KHS Mock Trial Team has scheduled its official informational meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 7:30 A.M. to begin preparation for regional competitive events.
- Testing Benchmarks: According to recent data compiled by U.S. News & World Report, Kimball Jr./Sr. High outperforms state averages in mathematics, with 62% of students testing at or above proficient levels.



The Class of 2026 was officially recognized by the administration for their donation of the new sign.

Positive Vibes at Morrill Schools

(MORRILL, Neb.) – Following official approval from the Board of Education, Morrill Public Schools has transitioned to a four-day school week starting this semester. To meet state-mandated instructional blocks while keeping Fridays open, the high school has adjusted its daily schedule. Classes now run from 7:45 A.M. to 3:50 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

Senior student Katelyn Walker was awarded the prestigious Nebraska Positive Athlete Award. Walker was selected as one of just seven students chosen from thousands of statewide nominations, recognized for outstanding leadership, character, and school contribution. Walker also signed her letter of intent to continue her academic and volleyball path regionally at Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC).

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome... Class of XXXVII

(GERING, Neb.) – This past week, the Gering Public Schools' District Office was a community scavenger hunt stop for the first class of Leadership Scotts Bluff XXXVII. They took the opportunity to have a little fun with a Gering + Gering Public Schools history game - and made sure they left a little more familiar with the rich history and community pride behind our schools.

For generations, Gering Public School educators have helped shape leaders, families and community members who continue to make an impact here and beyond.

The District wrote, "*We were proud to welcome the class and share a little piece of the #HeartOfGeringSchools with them!*"



Alum Crystal Palser & Jenn Sibal @ Gering Public Schools

New Opportunities at Minatare Schools

(MINATARE, Neb.) – Good news for those with young children! For years, Minatare Public Schools partnered with ESU 13 to run the "Minatare Pre-Start" program. However, they were restricted to a small modular building that capped enrollment at just 17 students. This new facility will more than double enrollment capacity to 40 students, effectively wiping out local preschool waitlists.

The school purchased the old church building on Main Street and is being completely outfitted to support active learning. It will house two fully equipped early childhood classrooms, a dedicated student gathering hall, an independent cafeteria, and specialized workspace for Educational Service Unit (ESU) 13 regional services.

The Minatare School District has made the Pre-Start program flexible and open not only to Minatare residents, but also to busy working families from surrounding Panhandle communities.

Panhandle Public Health District Kicks Off "5 to Thrive" Campaign

The "5 to Thrive" campaign is a public health initiative designed to help students build daily, healthy habits that directly boost their energy and focus in the classroom. Instead of focusing on restrictive rules, it gives families and teenagers a simple, memorable checklist of five baseline wellness targets to hit each day.

The core message of the campaign breaks down to:

- Sleep More: Aiming for a consistent 8 to 10 hours of rest each night so teens' brains can recharge.
- Unplug Early: Keeping recreational screen time under 2 hours a day to prevent digital fatigue and eye strain.
- Move Often: Getting at least one hour of physical activity to burn off stress and boost mood.
- Eat Better: Prioritizing fresh fruits and vegetables to fuel the body with steady, lasting energy.
- Stay Hydrated: Swapping out sugary sodas and energy drinks for plenty of water throughout the school day.

Alliance Schools Focused on Safety and Community Collaborations

(ALLIANCE, Neb.) – Alliance High School (AHS) has commenced the 2026–2027 school year with major structural adjustments, key academic transitions, and safety-focused community collaborations. The school currently maintains an overall 84% graduation rate, navigating unique academic growth curves in mathematics and reading core proficiencies.

Heading into 2026-2027, the high school saw transitions in its administrative building. Longtime Activities Director and Assistant Principal Brent Bauer officially departed the district after accepting a leadership contract with Hershey Public Schools.

Academic focus goes hand-in-hand with student safety. Following a comprehensive, independent engineering study commissioned by the city, Alliance Public Schools partnered with the Alliance Police Department to launch new morning and afternoon traffic patterns. new morning and afternoon traffic patterns. These alterations are structurally designed to maximize pedestrian student safety and eliminate congested gridlocks.

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

AGRICULTURE

Kristi Noem New Owner of Twombly's "Cowgirl"

The family recently wrote, *"We would like to thank Kristi Noem on her purchase of this beautiful blue roan mare we call "Cowgirl"! She is 12 years old and has been ridden by the family, roped off of and ridden all over the ranch! They don't come much prettier than her and you have to love that true blue roan color!! Kristi purchased her to ride on her South Dakota Ranch!"*



Hale Multimedia LLC has been designing websites since the 1990's focusing on rural based operations like Lauing Ranch in South Dakota and Twombly Performance Horses of Nebraska. One of Twombly's first websites was designed by the Hales, and the BV&D Heritage Sale website continues to shine as a premium example of the work that they have been doing for 30 years.



(GRAND ISLAND, Neb.) – The 2026 Nebraska State Fair is currently underway, running from Friday, August 28 through Labor Day, Monday, September 7. Hosted at Fonner Park in Grand Island, this annual celebration showcases the best of Nebraska's agriculture, entertainment, culture, and community spirit.

Blue Valentine & Driftwood Heritage Sale

From across the United Sates, our breeders; Sunrise Farms, Lauing Ranch, and Moonshine Creek Quarter Horses, have joined together to bring you an offering of top quality horses all in one central location. Years of research, selection, breeding and knowledge have come together to give the public a unique chance to purchase prospects, riders, and breeding horses. While each of our programs are different, our goal remains the same... providing you with the best horses in the business. Every single horse in the sale will be 5 panel N/N by testing or by parentage so you can bid with confidence!



www.bvdheritagesale.com

AgSearch.us

"Because Agriculture Deserves It's Own Search Engine"

AgSearch.us is a specialized, niche search engine and business directory designed specifically for the American agricultural community. It was built in 2004 by database programming and digital marketing agency Hale Multimedia LLC.

Since its creation by Brian Hale in 2004, the search engine has generated over 12,000,000 connections between agricultural producers and consumers.

Agricultural businesses can list their operations in the database for free, and the search engine works hand-in-hand with Hale Broadcasting, which produces long-running syndicated agricultural radio programs like The Cattleman's Corner, The Horseman's Corner, and The Harvest USA Report which air on more than a dozen radio stations across the wheat belt.

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

WEATHER

Local Photographers Capture Spectacular Lunar Eclipse



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- Scanner News
- Breaking Alerts

Weekly Weather Outlook made possible by our friend Kendell Henderson

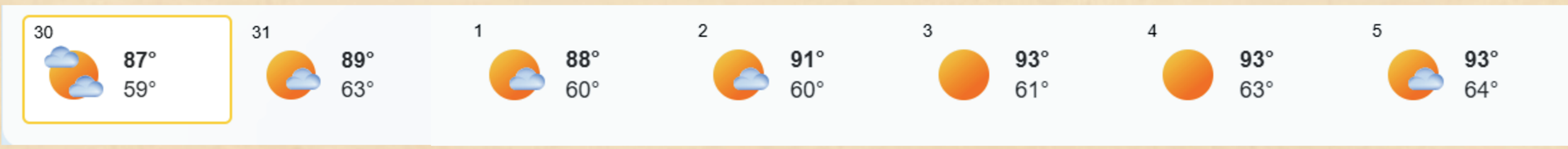
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American Family Insurance
20th & Broadway
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Weekly Outlook

The weather outlook for the Nebraska Panhandle for the week of August 30 through September 5, 2026, features a highly anticipated break from summer's intense heat, shifting into a cooler, more normal temperature pattern alongside a few opportunities for active weather.

- A Welcome Cool Down: Early in the week (around Monday, August 31), a surface cold front pushing through the region will bring a noticeable temperature drop.
- Daytime Highs: High temperatures across the western Panhandle will transition away from oppressive late-summer heat down into the lower to mid-80s, and potentially dipping into the upper 60s to low 70s during cooler stretches behind the front.
- Overnight Lows: Expect comfortable, crisp late-summer nights with temperatures dropping into the mid-50s to low 60s.
- Early-Week Storm Risk: The arrival of the cold front between Monday afternoon and Tuesday brings a probable chance of rain and thunderstorm development along and behind the front.
- Rainfall Potential: While weather projection models have seen varying totals, pockets of western and central Nebraska have the potential to pick up over half an inch of rain from these early-week systems.
- Late-Week Drying: Following the initial front, the region is expected to settle into a more stable, dry pattern as the week progresses.



THE SUNDAY SCANNER

WEATHER

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE®

NEBRASKA PANHANDLE WEATHER ALERTS AND ROAD CONDITIONS

Dangerous Lightning Sends Several to the Hospital

(GERING, Neb.) — On August 29, 2026 the skies were lit up with multiple massive lightning strikes across the Scottsbluff Gering area. At 4:15 p.m., scanner traffic indicated an unknown subject struck by lightning at the Scotts Bluff National Monument Visitor's Center. Further traffic revealed it was a male who was conscious, breathing and talking with an EMT, who was on site.

Forty-five minutes later another call came in for multiple lightning strike victims. One male and one female, each in their forties, were transported to the hospital after the male was knocked to the ground, while the female said she felt it come through her head.



(NATIONWIDE) — There have been a total of 12 confirmed fatalities from lightning so far in 2026. Last year was the highest year on record dating back to at least 2020, according to the graphic shown below. Florida is the place to avoid this year, as they lead with 4, to Wisconsin's 2, with Utah, Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina registering one each..

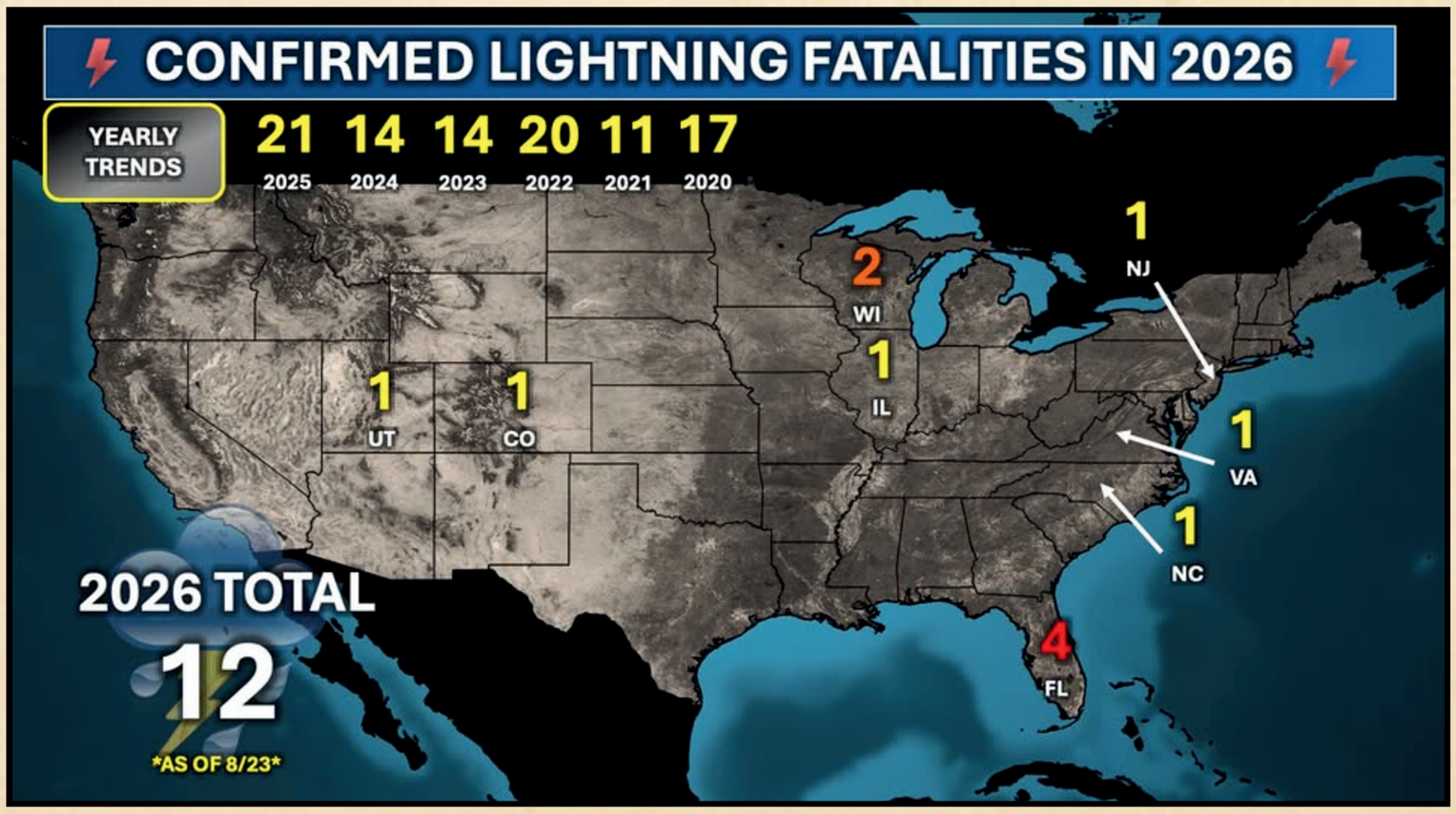




Photo : Temple Russell - Gering, Nebraska
Submitted to our weather group
Nebraska Panhandle Weather Alerts & Road Conditions



Photo : Clara Mae - Gering, Nebraska



Photo : Cody Martin - Gering, Nebraska



WEATHER SPONSORED BY THE KENDELL HENDERSON AGENCY, INC

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

BUSINESS NEWS

Walmart Launches Tap To Pay



(BENTONVILLE, Arkansas) — If you're like most shoppers, the convenience of Tap to Pay has become something you expect at the checkout. So when Walmart announced plans to update its point-of-sale system to support contactless payments, the reaction from many shoppers could be summed up in one word: Finally!

Walmart began rolling out Tap to Pay at select stores and Sam's Club locations on August 24, with plans to have the technology available at all U.S. stores and clubs by the end of 2026.

The new system will allow shoppers to pay using eligible contactless credit and debit cards, smartphones and smartwatches. Supported digital wallets include Apple Pay and Google Pay, among other contactless payment options.

For Western Nebraska shoppers, Walmart operates stores in communities including Scottsbluff, Chadron, Sidney, North Platte, Ogallala and McCook, among other Nebraska locations. Walmart has not publicly confirmed individual store rollout dates.

The change marks a significant shift for Walmart, which for years relied primarily on its own Walmart Pay system rather than standard contactless payment services.

Walmart says Tap to Pay will be an additional payment option rather than a replacement for existing methods.

Check your local Walmart store for precise availability dates.

LOOK WHO'S HIRING

(HARRISON, Neb.) – Agate Fossil Beds is hiring a FUL-Park Ranger (I) with the National Park Service.



They are seeking a Park Ranger to oversee the general operations of the Interpretive and Education team and programming, including visitor center operations.

The person selected for this position would also develop and present a variety of formal and informal interpretive programs, to a wide variety of audiences; conduct research for interpretive programs; and develop social media posts for information, education, and interpretation.

Visit https://www.usajobs.gov/job/881834400 to apply

Favorite Local Small Business

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Panhandle Scanner began recognizing favorite local small businesses back in 2023 when the Hales made the decision to transform the scanner from a hobby to a business model that could help others.

In the fourteen quarters thus far, we have had winners representing 6 different towns; Scottsbluff, Mitchell, Alliance, Bridgeport, Rushville, and Hay Springs. A total of 9 different business categories have been selected so far, with six of the winners being restaurants.

2023

Sweet V's - Scottsbluff
Scotty's Drive In - Scottsbluff
Platte River Glass - Scottsbluff
Prime Cut - Scottsbluff

2024

The Crispy Biscuit - Scottsbluff
Golden Hour - Alliance
Frankie's - Bridgeport
The Happy Dackle - Mitchell

2025

My Angels - Alliance
The Twisted Turtle - Rushville
Kiowa Honey Company - Mitchell
Cryptic Tattoos - Scottsbluff

2026

Cornerstone Coffee - Mitchell
Farm to Family Cooperative - Hay Springs

TOP 10 *for voting*

- Trujillo Services
- JAY's Duct Cleanings LLC
- Covered Wagon Drive-In
- Broadwater Country Store
- Chapman Family Farms & Dairy
- Heaven Sent Tattoos, LLC
- Farm to Family Cooperative
- Bow-Wow Dog Grooming
- Kiowa Honey Company
- Quality Engine Repair LLC

Voting Closes Friday at Midnight mst

FARM TO FAMILY
COOPERATIVE

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

SCANNER TRAFFIC AND MORE

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214,120 Unique Viewers

Digging Deeper News Page
17,414 Unique Readers

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BRIDGET LEHMAN - CONTRIBUTOR
CODY MARTIN - CONTRIBUTOR
BRILEY DARLEY - CONTRIBUTOR
NATE BAYLESS - SE WYOMING ADMIN

Accident Knocks Out Stoplight; Now What?

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – The accident happened at the intersection of Highway 26 and East Overland Drive. One vehicle struck a modular box that powers and controls the traffic lights at that intersection, so therefore it kicked them off.

No Stoplight, Now What?

It is to be treated as a four-way stop. Proceed as if each person has a stop sign, and each driver then yields the right-of-way to the person on their right. The right-of-way means if two vehicles arrive at the same time at the same place, the vehicle on the right gets to go first. As a courtesy, if it's close, we let the driver on the right go, and we proceed around the circle appropriately. So when you come to a four-way stop, always look to your right and yield, if necessary.

This applies to unmarked intersections as well, as many accidents happen where there is no stop sign present. Always use caution when approaching any intersection.

Scanner Traffic is provided by Hale Multimedia LLC, Streaming by Broadcastify



In Other Scanner Traffic...

Listen to Scanner Traffic - www.panhandlescanner.com/listen

Boy Bitten By Dog Aug 27 10 pm
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Scanner traffic indicated a dog bite to a juvenile at a Scottsbluff apartment.

W Railway Avenue I MVA Aug 28 10 pm
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated a possible injury accident at the intersection of Avenue I and West Railway in Scottsbluff around 5:10 p.m. Friday. Reporting party reports NO injuries.

Asian Sword Found Aug 29 11 pm
(MORRILL COUNTY, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated Morrill County deputies at mile marker 6 on L62A with two occupants that have an Asian sword. Nebraska State Patrol requested to assist.

Person Walking Hwy 26 Aug 28 9 pm
(MORRILL COUNTY, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated a person wearing all black walking at mile marker 40 on Hwy 26 Westbound. State Patrol was 10-77 (unable to locate the subject).

Broken RR Arm Melbeta Aug 28 5pm
(MELBETA, Neb.) – Scanner traffic indicated a non-functional Railroad Arm at the Melbeta crossing. Authorities were made aware of the issue.

Hwy 26 Ave B MVA Aug 28 5 pm
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicates a two vehicle injury accident at the intersection of Highway 26 and Avenue B in Scottsbluff. Originally two patients reported with one patient lying on the ground. An ambulance transported one patient to the hospital.

Injury Accident 27th St Aug 26 5 pm
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated an accident at 611 W. 27th St in Scottsbluff. 4:55 p.m : One patient transported; seatbelts were in use.

Domestic Call Aug 28 10 pm
(HEMINGFORD, Neb.) – Scanner traffic indicated law enforcement headed north of Hemingford 10-18 (in a hurry) for a reported 10-34, or domestic disturbance.

Further traffic indicated that the male who was with the female was attempting to keep her from harming herself when she ended up shooting herself in the leg. Female was transported to the hospital.

Reckless Driver Aug 27 11pm
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Scanner traffic indicated a Silver Car at MM 66 on Hwy 71 Northbound driving reckless and running RP off of the roadway.

Scanner Traffic is ever evolving and not meant to be the final story, and seldom is. We report what comes across traffic verbatim whenever possible.