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THE SUNDAY SCANNER

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Historic, Catastrophic Flooding in Lincoln

(LINCOLN, Neb.) – Lincoln, Nebraska experienced historic, catastrophic flooding from an all-time record deluge on Sept. 30, 2026.

The city was built in the basin of Salt Creek and its tributaries (like Antelope Creek and Dead Mans Run), so it has a long history of sudden, severe flash flooding.

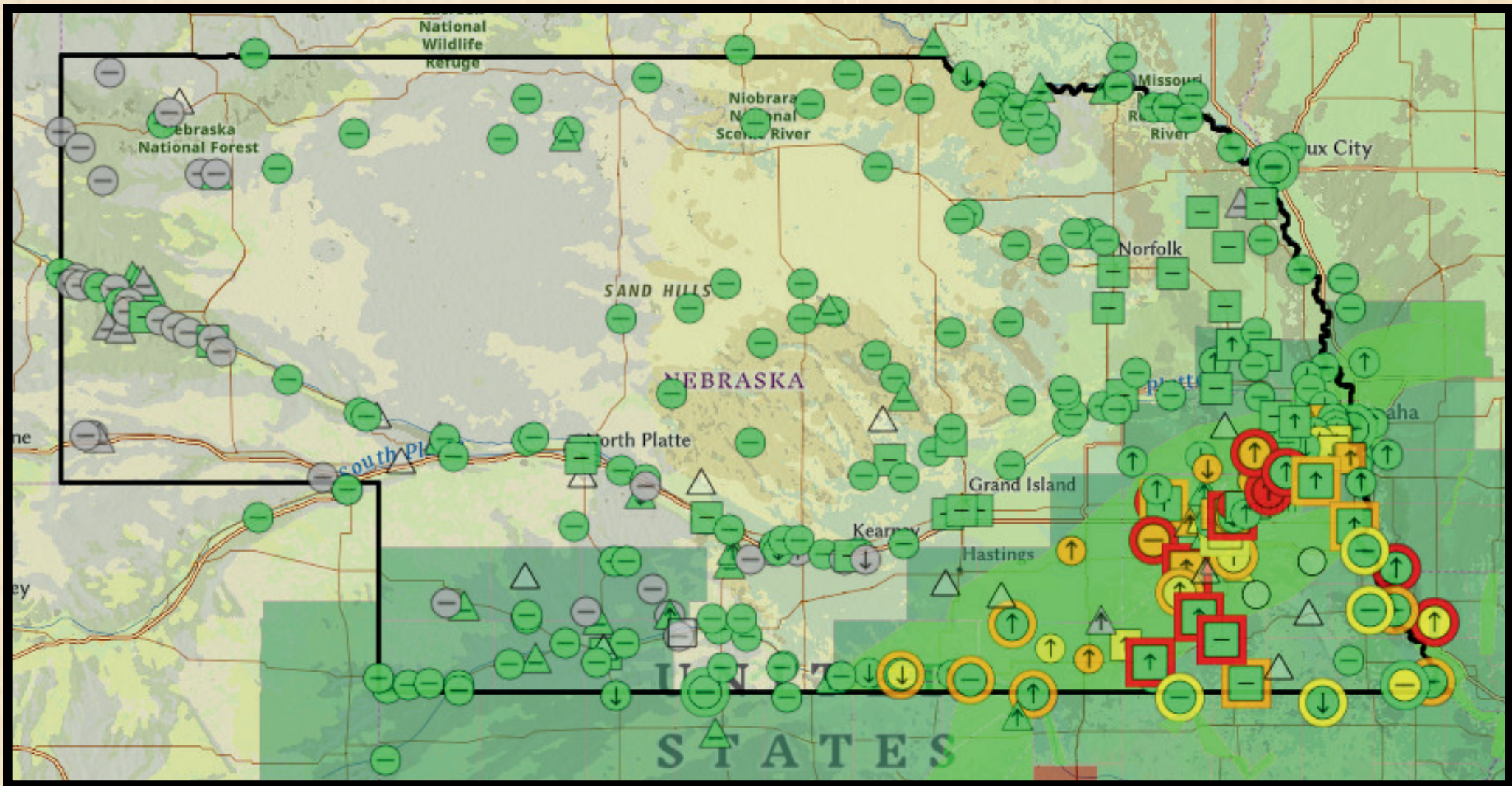
The rainfall pushed Lincoln to its wettest September on record (11.49 inches total) and the 4th-wettest month in the city’s history. Governor Jim Pillen quickly signed a state disaster declaration.

Salt Creek reached near-record levels, and Little Salt Creek hit an all-time record crest.

The Lincoln Airport officially recorded 6.15 inches of rain on Sept. 30, shattering the city's 116-year-old all-time single day rainfall record of 5.45 inches (set on Aug. 29, 1910).

Overflows from Antelope Creek flooded low-lying streets and parts of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, including the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska Flood Tracker Resource



We discovered a very useful resource for tracking and predicting flood patterns across the State of Nebraska.

You can access this tool under our Resources tab on PanhandleScanner.com.

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Community

HighPlains
MARKET



Funeral services for Margaret Bulman Eckerberg were held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday October 3rd, 2026 at West Way Christian Church, 1701 West 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Margaret was the beloved wife of Philip Eckerberg for 34 years. Together, they raised five children—four daughters and one son. She served as the school secretary at Gering High School, where she was loved and appreciated by students and staff.

Please continue to keep the Eckerberg family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Ongoing thoughts and prayers for Philip and the children and their families. Truly an indescribable pain and loss for each of them. Life is too short... especially for those left behind. - **Lisa Bell**

I miss you Auntie M - **Stephanie Burton**

What a wonderful picture of Margaret. Prayers for peace. - **Sara Scheller**

Continued prayers. Always so kind when I came to Sub at GHS. Great picture. - **Tammy Adams-Johansen**



The community is encouraged to dig deep and show the Kilthau family some love and support during this time. For questions, call 308-631-5557.

BigDog Benefit

(GERING, Neb.) – Memaw's Barnyard Eats is hosting an Enchilada and Pork Chili fundraiser to help the Kilthau family with medical expenses, travel costs and other needs as they continue supporting BigDog through his healing journey. If you haven't tried Memaw's, now is your chance!

The fundraiser accepts cash, checks and Venmo. Orders can be placed through the Memaw's Barnyard Eats Facebook page or with Sharon Henderson. Donations of supplies and help with rolling enchiladas are also welcome.

MISSING PERSONS

AND PROPERTY

Missing from Alliance since 2023



Name: Matthew Stayton

Missing Date: 04-01-2023

Age Missing: 17

Agency Name: Alliance PD

Race: White

Sex: Male

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Brown

Weight: 260



Chadron Missing

No Image Available

Name: [JESSE PAHL](#)

Missing Date: 10-30-2025

Age Missing: 14

Current Age: 14

Agency Name: Chadron PD

No Image Available

Name: [CHRISTIAN HALSTED](#)

Missing Date: 09-14-2025

Age Missing: 16

Current Age: 16

Agency Name: Chadron PD

STILL MISSING : NAIN CONTRERAS-PENA



Name: [NAIN CONTRERAS-PENA](#)

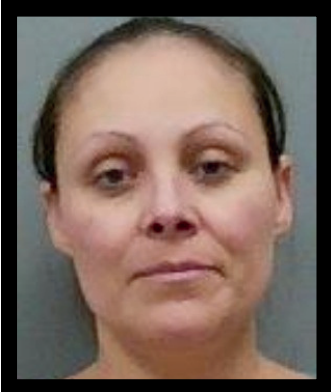
Missing Date: 08-15-2025

Age Missing: 8

Current Age: 9

Agency Name:





NAIN was last seen with parent, JAHINNA Contereras-Pena, shown in second photo. Contact FBI Omaha at 402-493-8688 or the Nebraska Missing Persons 1-877-441-5678.

Scotts Bluff County Missing



Name: [ANGELO COFFMAN BLANCO](#)

Missing Date: 06-22-2026

Age Missing: 16

Current Age: 16

Agency Name: Scotts Bluff CO SO Gering

Missing Persons; Policies and Procedures

(SCOTTSDLUFF, Neb.) -- The first truly valuable mission in the very beginning that the Scotts Bluff County Scanner (now Panhandle Scanner) took on was our Missing Persons. It remains one of our 5 primary news categories and remains a top priority. Starting in 2009, we established some firm policies that we still adhere to today.

WHAT IS NOT HELPFUL

We receive audio bulletins via scanner traffic, and therefore will not have a photo many times.

Remember, we are NOT asking everyone to start a full blown search party. The best way for you to help is to just SHARE the post and please pray.

- Asking for, or complaining that we didn't include a photo or enough information.
- Reporting that the person is found without citing the source.

- We verify that the reporting party is official guardian or next of kin.
- We ask for verification that a police report has been filed.
- We analyze the circumstances to determine validity of our involvement.
- Once the person is found, we often remove the poster and personal details.
- Due to the prevalence of human trafficking, runaways & missing are treated the same.

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--- police & crime ---



Felony Fugitive Sought

(GERING, Neb.) — A Mitchell woman is facing a felony fugitive-from-justice charge in Nebraska following the issuance of an arrest warrant in Colorado.

Joyce K. Buddemeyer, 22, of Mitchell, was charged in Scotts Bluff County Court with being a fugitive from justice prior to a governor's warrant. The offense date is listed as Sept. 15, 2026.

According to court records, the arrest stems from an active warrant issued Aug. 26, 2026, by the District Court of El Paso County, Colorado.

The Colorado warrant charges Buddemeyer with second-degree assault causing serious bodily injury, a Class 4 felony, and child abuse, knowingly or recklessly with no injury, a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Comments on this story have reminded us that there are always two sides of the story. Check our news page at diggingdeeper.net for comments and more on this case.

MARIJUANA BLOW BACK



(HYANNIS, Neb.) — A traffic stop for speeding on Highway 2 near Ashby led to charges against two occupants after deputies said marijuana residue was found on them and evidence discarded from the vehicle blew back inside.

According to a Grant County Sheriff's Office news release, deputies conducted the traffic stop Sept. 26 after observing a vehicle speeding on Highway 2. The vehicle did not stop immediately and continued for approximately two miles before coming to a halt.

When deputies contacted the occupants, they observed marijuana residue on them, establishing probable cause to search the vehicle, according to the sheriff's office.

During questioning, the occupants told deputies that marijuana had been thrown from the vehicle as they were being pulled over.

The sheriff's office said the discarded evidence did not travel away from the vehicle as intended. Instead, it blew back into the vehicle, landing on both occupants and across the back seats and inside the trunk area.

Both occupants were charged in connection with the incident.

The sheriff's office offered a reminder to motorists: Do not throw marijuana or other objects from a moving vehicle, particularly at highway speeds.

Drug Case Moves to District Court

(GERING, Neb.) — A Scottsbluff man has been bound over to District Court following a traffic stop last week that led to a felony drug charge.

Jeremiah D. Smith, 49, waived his right to a preliminary hearing Wednesday in Scotts Bluff County Court. Bond was set at \$5,000, or 10%.

County Judge Kris D. Mickey bound Smith over on a Class 4 felony charge of possession of a controlled substance. Possession of drug paraphernalia was dismissed.

A traffic stop was initiated on Sept. 21, near 12th Ave. and E. Overland after observing an improper turn signal.

During a consensual search of the vehicle, officers located two glass pipes containing a burnt white residue that tested positive for methamphetamine.

Smith is scheduled for arraignment in District Court Friday, Oct. 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

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--- police & crime ---

DETENTION CENTER BRAWL



(GERING, Neb.) — A detention center inmate faces a felony charge after allegedly breaking a corrections officer’s nose during an attack inside the Scotts Bluff County Detention Center earlier this month.

Christopher Torres Jr., 31, has been charged with assault by a confined person without a weapon, a Class 3A felony, following an incident the night of Sept. 15.

According to court documents filed by the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff’s Office, deputies responded to the facility at 2522 7th St. in Gering around 9:40 p.m. after receiving a report that an inmate had punched an officer.

Torres then fled down the hallway before stopping near the control tower, where he lay on the floor.

A preliminary review of security camera footage from the jail’s main hallway showed Corrections Officer Crow speaking with Torres. As Crow turned his head, Torres allegedly swung his fist and struck the officer in the face.

According to an affidavit by Officer Calvert, Torres later made an excited utterance while being interviewed in the facility’s medical pod, asking, “What, punching a CO? Why they gotta take me to jail every day, bro?”

Crow was transported to Regional West Medical Center’s emergency department for treatment. Physicians were able to reset his broken nose without immediate surgery, although further medical evaluation will be required after the swelling subsides.

Crow told investigators the attack occurred shortly after he asked Torres if he wanted something to eat. The case is being prosecuted by the Scotts Bluff County Attorney’s Office. Formal charges were filed Sept. 16, and Torres remains in custody.

Possession of Deadly Weapon Charges
Dropped for a Felon with a Record



(LINCOLN, Neb.) – Nebraska Inmate records show that Richard Endicott was convicted for Possession of a Firearm and Resisting Arrest in 2020. He served less than three years for that conviction as was released June, 2023.

---- <https://dcs-inmatesearch.ne.gov> ----

Less than One Year in Jail
for Meth, Alcohol, Knife

(GERING, Neb.) — A Gering man has been sentenced in Scotts Bluff County District Court following a January traffic stop that led to the discovery of methamphetamine and a weapon.

Richard Allan Endicott, 44, was sentenced Sept. 25 by District Court Judge Leo Dobrovolny to 340 days in jail and one year of probation.

Scottsbluff police arrested Endicott Jan. 29 after stopping his vehicle on South Beltline Highway East for missing license plates. A search of the vehicle yielded approximately 25 grams of methamphetamine, an open alcohol container and a knife with a blade longer than 4 inches.

An open-container infraction was dismissed, and he pled no contest to reduced charges of:

- Possession of a controlled substance — methamphetamine, a Class 4 felony
- Possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person, a Class 3 felony

Judge Dobrovolny sentenced Endicott to 340 days in jail on the weapon charge, with 240 days credited for time served, and one year of probation on the drug charge.

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--- police & crime ---



Free After Park Sex

(GERING, Neb.) — A Scottsbluff man has been sentenced in Scotts Bluff County Court following an August arrest at a local park involving alleged public sexual activity in the presence of a child.

Marcus Patrick Lucius, 37, pled guilty to public indecency, a Class 2 misdemeanor, and disturbing the peace, a Class 3 misdemeanor. As part of a plea agreement, a charge of negligent child abuse without injury, originally filed as a Class 1 misdemeanor, was dropped.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by the Scottsbluff Police Department, officers were dispatched around 12:38 p.m. Aug. 15 to a park near East 18th Street and Broadway following a citizen report of suspicious sexual activity.

According to an affidavit written by Officer Nathan Genoways, officers witnessed sexual contact between the two adults escalate in front of the child. Officers had to shout at the couple to get them to stop.

When ordered to place his hands behind his back, Lucius moved away slightly to pull up his unbuttoned pants, exposing his underwear, before being taken into custody.

For the public indecency conviction, he was sentenced to 46 days in jail, with credit for 46 days already served.

Never Miss A Shot Gets a Two for One

(GERING, Neb.) — A Scottsbluff resident, Kateri L. Never Miss A Shot, 29, was sentenced in Scotts Bluff County Court on Sept. 28, resolving two separate misdemeanor cases.

First Case: Traffic Stop and Impaired Driving

The first case stems from a late-night traffic stop June 7 in Gering, where a Nebraska State Patrol trooper observed Never Miss A Shot driving a 1990 blue Buick Sable without headlights.

According to court affidavits, the arresting officer noted signs of impairment, including bloodshot eyes, slurred speech and an odor of alcohol. Chemical testing indicated a blood alcohol concentration of 0.211, more than two and a half times the legal limit. Officers also recovered a THC vape pen from the vehicle during a probable-cause search.

Never Miss A Shot pled guilty to DUI with a blood alcohol content exceeding 0.15, a Class W misdemeanor, and no proof of insurance, a Class 2 misdemeanor. A third charge of possession of marijuana was dropped as part of the disposition.

Judge Mark L. Kovarik sentenced Never Miss A Shot to:

- Jail: Seven days in county jail, with two days credited for time served.
- Fines and fees: A \$500 fine for DUI, a \$300 fine for no proof of insurance and \$125 in laboratory testing fees.
- License revocation: A one-year driver's license revocation beginning Sept. 28, with an ignition interlock device order.

Second Case: Insurance Violation

In a separate incident June 14, Scottsbluff Police cited Never Miss A Shot near Avenue W and 18th Street for failing to provide proof of insurance.

The charge was later amended to operating a licensed vehicle without liability insurance, a Class 4 misdemeanor.

On Sept. 28, Never Miss A Shot pled no contest to the amended charge. The court found her guilty and ordered a \$300 state fine plus applicable court fees, bringing the total court-ordered payments in the second case to \$350.

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--- police & crime ---

Roadside Assault Ends in Probation

(GERING, Neb.) — A Gering man has been sentenced to six months of probation following an April roadside incident south of Gering that initially resulted in domestic assault and DUI charges.

Brendon J. Oaks, 23, was sentenced Tuesday in Scotts Bluff County Court after pleading guilty to obstructing government operations, a Class 1 misdemeanor, and possessing or consuming an open alcohol container, an infraction.

As part of a plea agreement, several additional charges were dropped, including third-degree domestic assault, first-offense DUI, refusal of a preliminary breath test and refusal of a chemical test.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office, deputies were dispatched around 6:21 a.m. April 13 to County Road 23 near County Road T after receiving reports of a physical domestic disturbance inside a black Jeep.

Upon arrival, deputies observed Oaks walking around the front of the running vehicle before getting into the driver's seat.

As conditions of probation, Oaks must abstain from alcohol and illegal drugs, submit to random drug testing, including testing for fentanyl, complete an assessment screening and pay \$270 in fines and court costs.



Officer Weitzel noted in the report that Oaks exhibited slurred speech, unsteadiness and a strong odor of alcohol. Oaks denied drinking or engaging in a physical altercation.

The female passenger told investigators that only a verbal argument had occurred, but deputies noted visible injuries to her wrists. A witness at the scene reported seeing a male punch the woman, wrap her in a blanket and drag her back toward the vehicle.

Deputies later located an open container of hard liquor inside the Jeep after Oaks gave permission to search for his wallet. Oaks later refused both a preliminary breath test and a chemical blood test.

On Tuesday, Judge Mark Kovarik sentenced Oaks to six months of probation. For the obstruction charge, he received a 169-day jail sentence with 170 days of credit for time served. For the open-container violation, he was sentenced to one day in jail, to run concurrently with his probation term.

Phone Dispute Leads to Altercation, Arrest

(GERING, Neb.) — A Scottsbluff woman was arrested Monday after allegedly forcing her way into a residence and assaulting her child's father during an altercation over a phone.

Addyson J. Lambert, 20, was arraigned Wednesday in Scotts Bluff County Court before Judge Mark L. Kovarik. She pleaded not guilty to third-degree domestic assault, a Class 1 misdemeanor, and criminal mischief under \$500, a Class 3 misdemeanor.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by Officer Drew Roalkvan of the Scottsbluff Police Department, officers were called Sept. 28, 2026, regarding an incident at 822 1/2 14th Ave.

The affidavit states Lambert forced entry into the residence through a window using a tool before taking the victim's phone.

Officers observed physical marks and scratches on the victim and identified Lambert as the predominant aggressor, according to the affidavit.

Judge Kovarik set Lambert's bond at \$10,000, 10%, and issued a no-contact order prohibiting her from contacting the victim.

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Criminal Mischief

(KIMBALL, Neb.) — Kimball Police Department is seeking information regarding intentional damage at Gotti Park.

Sometime between the evening of Sept. 25 and the morning of Sept. 26, an unknown person entered both the men’s and women’s restrooms and caused significant damage.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF AT GOTTI PARK



BETWEEN THE
EVENING OF
SEPTEMBER 25
AND THE MORNING OF
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026





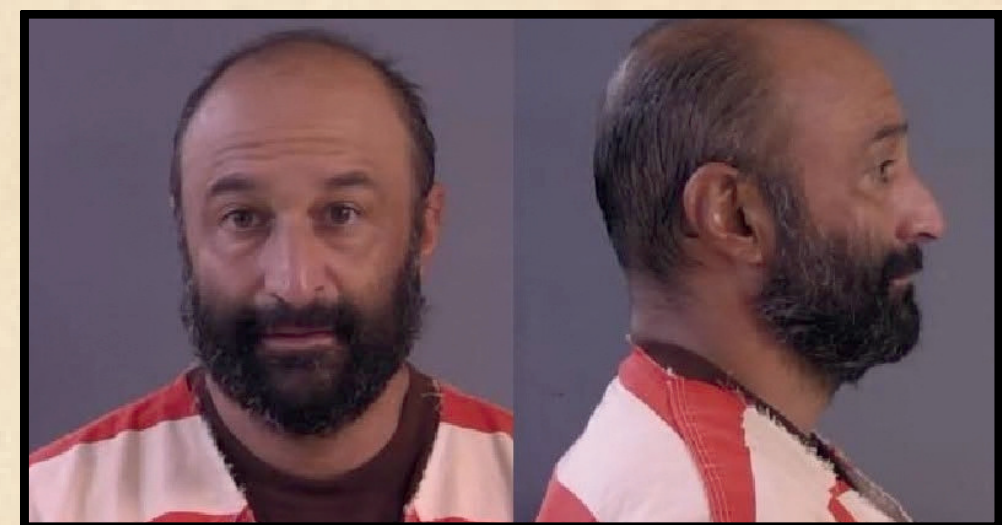
SIGNIFICANT
DAMAGE WAS
INTENTIONALLY
CAUSED



IF YOU SAW ANYTHING OR HAVE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT THE KIMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

If you have any information that may help identify the person responsible, please contact KPD at 308-235-1807.

Golf Course Pursuit



(CHEYENNE, Wyo.) — A Colorado man was arrested Monday evening after allegedly driving a truck through a local golf course and leading officers on a slow-speed pursuit.

On Sept. 28 at approximately 5 p.m., Cheyenne Police officers were dispatched to the Cheyenne Country Club, 800 Stinner Road, following a report of a truck driving on the golf course.

As officers arrived, the suspect vehicle, a blue GMC Sierra, drove through a fence and left the golf course. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver, later identified as Gust Martinez Jr., 48, of Lakewood, Colorado, refused to yield and continued driving at a slow speed.

Officers pursued Martinez south on Randall Avenue. During the pursuit, Martinez allegedly drove recklessly, at times traveling on the wrong side of the road and running red lights.

The pursuit ended when Martinez stopped at the intersection of West 25th Street and Pioneer Avenue. He continued to resist and struggle with officers before being taken into custody.

Following the arrest, officers searched the truck and located a rifle with a modified stock. Martinez is a convicted felon and is prohibited from possessing firearms.

Martinez was booked into the Laramie County Jail on charges of:

- Felony destruction of property
- Fleeing/eluding
- Reckless endangering
- Felon in possession of a firearm
- Failure to maintain lane
- Failure to stop at a stop sign
- Failure to stop at a red light
- Driving the wrong direction on a one-way street
- No vehicle registration
- Interference with a peace officer

FBI TOP 10 MOST WANTED FUGITIVE IN CUSTODY
The Justice Department announced the apprehension of Anibal Alexander Canelon Aguirre also known as “Prometheus” and “The Engineer,” 50, of Venezuela. Canelon Aguirre was the first cyber criminal and the 540th individual to be added to the Top 10 Most Wanted Fugitives list.

FIRE & RESCUE

Fire Prevention Week Oct. 4 to Oct. 10

(NATIONWIDE) – Spearheaded annually by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), this year's official national campaign theme is “Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower.”

The 2026 campaign places an urgent focus on the growing risks associated with lithium-ion batteries, which power everyday devices like smartphones, laptops, power tools, toys, e-bikes, and electric scooters. When damaged, overcharged, or paired with counterfeit equipment, these high-energy batteries can overheat rapidly, causing violent fires.



Fire Prevention Week Event in Kimball

- **Annual Open House:** The Kimball Volunteer Fire Department is opening its doors to local families on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Where:** The Kimball Fire Hall, 202 S Webster St, Kimball, NE 69145.
- **What to Expect:** The department is offering station tours, a look at the emergency response trucks, and an opportunity for residents to connect directly with local volunteer crews. Firefighters will be distributing specialized fire safety educational materials—including vital instructions on this year's focus regarding home lithium-ion battery charging safety. Freewill donations are accepted during the event to support local volunteer operations.



Essential Battery Charging Safety Rules

- **Use Authorized Gear:** Always use the original battery and charging cord that came with your device, or replacements directly certified by the manufacturer. Cheap, unapproved aftermarket chargers drastically raise fire risks.
- **Stick to Hard Surfaces:** Always charge your phones, tablets, or laptops on a hard, flat surface (like a desk or kitchen counter) where air can circulate. Never charge devices on beds, couches, or under pillows, which traps intense heat.
- **Unplug at 100%:** Avoid leaving devices plugged in indefinitely or charging them unattended overnight. Disconnect them once they reach a full charge to limit stress and heat on the battery.
- **Keep Exits Clear:** Charge larger equipment like e-mobility tools, e-bikes, or scooters outside or in an open area away from primary exits. A battery failure near a front door can block your family's escape route.
- **Watch for Warning Signs:** Immediately stop using and unplug any device or battery if it feels unusually hot, swells or changes shape, leaks fluid, emits an odd odor, or starts making popping or hissing sounds.

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FIRE & RESCUE



Family Displaced After Ceiling Collapse

(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — Rebecca Pryor, owner of PRYOR-ity Sweet Treats, a local favorite in Alliance, is asking for community support after severe weather damaged her family's home and ultimately caused portions of the ceiling to collapse.

Pryor said the problems began Aug. 17 after severe weather moved through the Nebraska Panhandle. The family began experiencing leaks and what she described as "bubbling" in the home.

At one point, they had to drill a hole into a light fixture to allow water to drain.

Pryor said she filed a claim with her insurance company, which later sent an adjuster to inspect the damage.

According to Pryor, the adjuster identified a leak coming from the roof and offered \$1,200 to paint the walls.

Pryor declined, saying she believed the water damage extended into the ceiling and walls.

The insurance company then asked the family to obtain a contractor's estimate for the damage. Pryor said they did so and were waiting to hear back.

The following week, Pryor spent approximately 18 1/2 hours working in her kitchen preparing PRYOR-ity Sweet Treats orders for an event and completing custom orders.

She stepped away from the kitchen, and within about a minute, she heard the ceiling collapse.

Pryor said portions of the kitchen ceiling and dining room were damaged. Thankfully, her three young daughters were safe.

Pryor called 911, and firefighters responded to inspect the home. She said firefighters found exposed wiring and other damage and determined the house was unsafe to occupy. Power was shut off to the home as a precaution against a possible fire.

The family is now waiting to hear from its insurance company about the next steps and does not yet know how long they will be unable to return home.

The damage has also affected Pryor's small business.

Some business items were lost in the collapse, creating additional challenges for the bakery and the equipment and supplies she needs to continue serving customers.

The family is raising money to help cover temporary hotel accommodations, a \$3,160 insurance deductible, replacement of business items lost in the collapse and potential out-of-pocket repairs that may not be covered by insurance.

Community members who would like to help can contribute through the family's fundraiser <https://www.spotfund.com/story/01add75a-031f-41d2-8667-e0d3ef447c35>

Visit [panhandlescanner.com/donate](https://www.panhandlescanner.com/donate) for official fundraiser links.



THE SUNDAY SCANNER IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY R&C WELDING

FIRE & RESCUE

Helicopters & Boats; Some Rare Training

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Gauret Stearns, Nebraska National Guard

(WEST OAK PRECINCT, Neb.) — On Sept. 12, roughly 70 Nebraska National Guard Cavalry Soldiers loaded inflatable Zodiac boats into CH-47 Chinook helicopters, flew over Branched Oak Lake, and plunged directly into the water below.

Soldiers from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 134th Cavalry Regiment stationed out of Beatrice, Nebraska, participated in the training, executing eight total lifts with six to seven personnel per flight.

After plunging into the water, the Soldiers were tasked with swimming to their dropped boat, getting the motor running, and then navigating to shore while the helicopter returned to load the next group.

“It was a blast, definitely nerve-wracking at the get-go, but once you hit the water, it was good,” said Spc. Devon Speakman, a Troop C member. “Nerves get really high in the helicopter, so staying calm is key.”

Speakman emphasized the importance of keeping composed and focused when conducting a helocast.

For more information about the Nebraska National Guard, visit a local recruiting office or visit their website at <https://ne.ng.mil/>.



New Alliance Fire Chief



(ALLIANCE, Neb.) – The City of Alliance has hired Brad Schrum as its new fire chief, effective Oct. 1, 2026.

Schrum began his career with the Alliance Fire Department in 1979 as a firefighter/EMT and most recently served as assistant fire chief. He has more than 48 years of experience with the department.

“I am very excited to be chosen as the new Fire Chief for the City,” Schrum said. “This new role will present new and interesting challenges ahead. The fire service is changing at a fast pace and keeping up with new technology, tactics and equipment will keep me busy.”

Schrum said the department currently has four paid staff members supported by 47 volunteers. He praised the department’s ongoing training and the dedication of its members in providing fire suppression and EMS services.

Schrum also credited former Fire Chief Troy Shoemaker with establishing a strong foundation for training and maintaining the department’s Insurance Services Office rating of 3.

Schrum will be formally recognized during the Alliance City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 6.

FIRE & RESCUE

Fatal Rollover North of Kimball

(KIMBALL COUNTY, Neb.) – One person reportedly died and another was seriously injured following a rollover crash early Saturday morning on Highway 71 north of Kimball.

The crash reportedly occurred around 5:00 a.m. Oct. 3, approximately 10 miles north of Kimball. A single vehicle reportedly rolled approximately seven times with two people inside.

AirLink responded to the scene with a full trauma team requested for a 77-year-old male driver. Initial information indicated the driver may have experienced a seizure before the crash.

Friends of the family report that the 77-year-old driver later died from injuries sustained in the crash. His wife, who was also in the vehicle, remains in intensive care.

The circumstances surrounding the crash and the identities of those involved have not been independently confirmed.

Additional information was not immediately available.

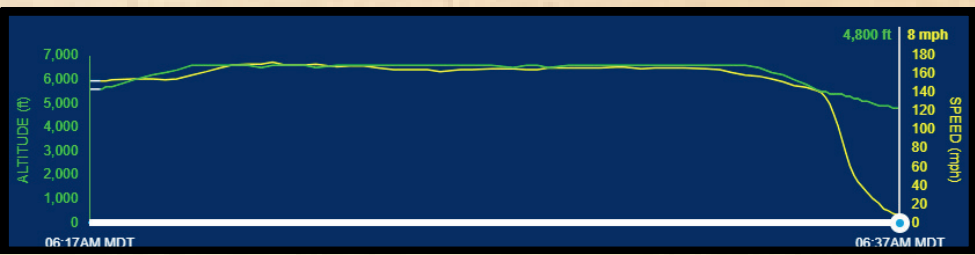


Photo : Scottsbluff Fire Department

SCOTTSBLUFF FD RESPONDS TO STEAMY TRUCK

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Smoke-like vapor coming from a yellow Hertz truck prompted a Scottsbluff Fire Department response Wednesday morning.

At approximately 10 a.m., Scottsbluff Fire was dispatched to the area of Avenue B and West 27th Street for a report of smoke coming from the truck. Engine 1, Engine 3 and Scottsbluff 2 responded and made contact with the truck’s operator.

Firefighters determined the truck was not on fire. The company was using the vehicle to steam-clean sewer lines in the area. The work is expected to continue throughout the week in Scottsbluff and Gering.

The fire department said residents who see a large yellow truck producing what appears to be white smoke should not be alarmed, as the vapor is steam from the sewer-line work.



Apple cider, changing leaves and cooler evenings... yep, fall is here! And while you're enjoying that first warm cup of cider, it's a good time to think about staying warm, too.

Controlled Burn



(MITCHELL, Neb.) – On Tuesday around 9:25 a.m., local residents in the area began reporting a fire outside of Mitchell. After a brief investigation, we determined that it was a controlled burn with permit.

Confirming the controlled burn was Alexis Gordon, who works at Steve’s Truck in the Parts Department, “This is Steve truck and equipment salvage yard. This is a controlled fire. Please do not report.”



Lady Golf Teams Prepare for Postseason Play

The regular season across the region featured highly competitive team standoffs and several standout individual scorecards. Individual and team top performances across the Western Nebraska Panhandle girls' golf landscape include:

- Alyvia Harless (Bridgeport): Delivered arguably the most dominant individual round of the local season at the Bridgeport Invitational. Harless cruised to a first-place finish by shooting a 79, winning the tournament by an incredible 16 strokes.
- MayLee Smith (Scottsbluff): Captured the individual crown at the Mitchell Invitational, carding an 83 to lead the Bearcats to a team title. She also logged a top-five performance at the Gering Invite with a 94.
- Sarah Monheiser (Sidney): Claimed the prestigious individual meet medalist honors at the Gering Invitational, shooting a hard-fought 90 at Monument Shadows Golf Course to outpace the 12-school field.
- Rylee Norris (Alliance): Put together a stellar performance at the highly competitive Scottsbluff Invitational, shooting a 91 to finish 4th overall as the top local Panhandle golfer in a field heavily crowded by Eastern Nebraska powerhouse teams.
- Sidney Lady Raiders: Started the year in championship form on their home course by capturing the Western Conference Championship title. They backed that up later in the month by winning the Gering Invite team title with a cumulative score of 387, and placed second at the Alliance Tournament with a 386.
- Scottsbluff Bearcats: Put together their best collective team effort of the fall at the Mitchell Invite, carding an overall team score of 397 to take home the first-place plaque over rivals Sidney and Alliance.

UNK CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL

(Kearney, Neb.) – The UNK High School XC Invitational was hosted by UNK at the Kearney Country Club on Monday, Sept 28.

Class B Girls: Scottsbluff had a strong team showing, finishing 5th overall as a team with 97 points. They were led by a stellar individual performance from Nina Polk, who placed 4th overall with a time of 19:56.8. Her teammate Hannah Wemhoff also cracked the top fifteen, finishing 11th at 20:25.5.

Class D Boys: Hemingford claimed a podium finish, placing 3rd overall as a team with 56 points. Gordon-Rushville also competed in the division, securing 8th place with 133 points.

Class B Boys: Gering placed 11th overall as a team with a 243.

Bearcat Cross Country Invitational

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – The Bearcat XC Invite took place Friday morning, October 2, at the Scotts Bluff Country Club. Runners from Alliance, Chadron, Chase County, Creek Valley, Gering, Scottsbluff, & Sidney participated.

Scottsbluff swept both the boys' and girls' team titles at the Bearcat Cross Country Invitational held, Friday, October 2, 2026, at the Scotts Bluff Country Club. The host Bearcats also dominated the individual podiums, securing the top overall spots in both divisions;

- Boys Champion: Gavin Wemhoff (Scottsbluff) won the individual boys' varsity crown.
- Girls Champion: Nina Polk (Scottsbluff) took home the individual girls' varsity title.

PANHANDLE

SPORTS

FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

Thursday

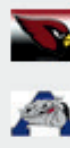
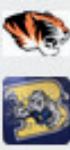
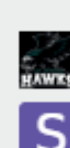
Gridiron Action

Garden County 57, South Platte 0
(BIG SPRINGS, Neb.) – The Eagles continued their dominant run, shutting out South Platte completely on the road.

Cody-Kilgore 54, Morrill 6
(MORRILL, Neb.) – Morrill struggled at home, falling hard to a high-powered Cody-Kilgore squad.

Crawford 51, Minatare 0
(MINATARE, Neb.) – Minatare was held scoreless at home as Crawford dominated all four quarters.

Leyton 1, Banner County 0
Leyton officially secured a forfeit victory over Banner County, who had to cancel their season due to injuries.

 Crawford Minatare 51 0 Final	 Garden County South Platte 57 0 Final
 Leyton Banner County 1 F Final	 Cody-Kilgore Morrill 54 6 Final
 (#20) Scottsbluff Gering 56 7 Final	 (#22) Chadron Alliance 29 26 Final
 Mitchell Bridgeport 7 0 Final	 Valentine Hershey 20 35 Final
 Wauneta-Palisade Bayard 24 0 Final	 Hay Springs Sioux County 1 F Final
 Creek Valley Potter-Dix 12 75 Final	 Hemingford Perkins County 54 6 Final
 Hartington-Newcastle Gordon-Rushville 84 42 Final	 Ogallala (#14) Sidney 0 24 Final

Friday

Gridiron Action

- Scottsbluff at Gering (56-7)
- Chadron at Alliance (29-26)
- Sidney vs. Ogallala (24-0)
- Hartington at Gordon-Rushville (84-42)
- Hemingford at Perkins County (54-6)
- Kimball at Gibbon (20-41)
- Wauneta-Palisade at Bayard (24-0)
- Mitchell at Bridgeport (7-0)
- Potter-Dix vs Creek Valley (75-12)
- Hay Springs at Sioux County (1-0)

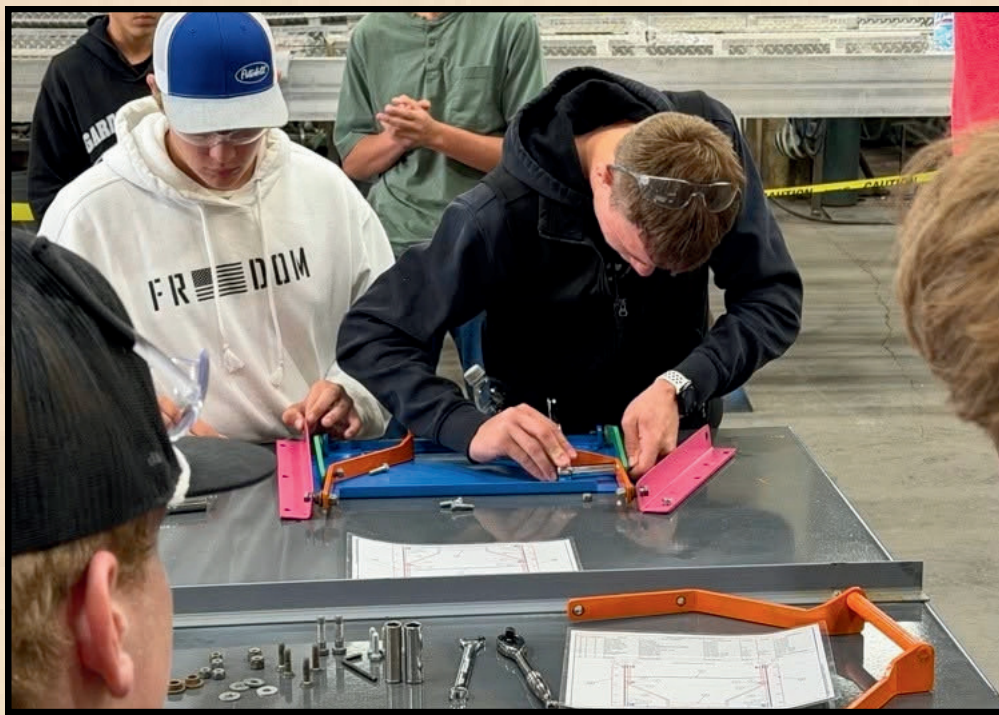


THE SUNDAY SCANNER

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SCHOOL NEWS**AREA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AULICK MANUFACTURING DAYS**

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – For the past nine years, Aulick's Manufacturing Days has provided hands-on industrial and technical experiences, facility walkthroughs, and local high school competitions.



Mason and Mav represented Creek Valley Schools well in the finals, shaving almost three minutes off their original time.

The purpose of Aulick Manufacturing Days is to connect regional Panhandle students with modern manufacturing careers, equipment fabrication processes, and local career opportunities in agricultural and construction equipment building. Visit www.Aulicks.com for more information.



Creek Valley & Mitchell Public Schools posted photos of those in attendance at Aulick Manufacturing Days in Scottsbluff where students competed to assemble a grain gate and got a tour of the facility to see some big tools.

43 teams from more than 10 Panhandle schools participated at the massive Aulick Industries campus in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Middle School Snake Evacuation

(OGALLALA, Neb.) – Students at Ogallala Middle School were safely moved from a classroom Thursday after a nonvenomous snake was discovered inside the building.

In a message to families, Ogallala Public Schools said the snake was found in a middle-grades classroom. Students were promptly moved from the room, and the snake was safely removed from the building.

The school's maintenance team is checking how the snake entered the building and addressing any potential entry points.

School officials thanked students and staff for responding calmly and quickly, adding that student safety remains the district's top priority.

Visit <https://www.opsd.org> for more information on the district's website.

DOVES Program visits WNCC

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – The DOVES Program visited Western Nebraska Community College on Thursday, Oct. 1, to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month and encourage students and community members to consider one thing they can do to support survivors.

The DOVES team met with students at The Pit and asked them to identify their "1Thing" – an action they can take to support survivors of domestic violence. Visitors were also encouraged to wear purple and add their "1Thing" to a display that will remain at WNCC throughout October.

The DOVES Program thanked WNCC student life workers and Angelina Pattavina for creating the display and helping support the awareness campaign.



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AGRICULTURE



This past week, Brian Hale hosted several featured guests and segments across his three syndication radio programs—Cattleman’s Corner, Horseman’s Corner, and the Harvest USA Report.

- Cattleman's Corner Radio: The program featured Angus cattle producer Shawn Booth of Wyoming. In another segment alongside co-host David Woodruff, the show highlighted the maternal strengths of Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle with a featured segment on the popular breed.
- Horseman's Corner Radio: The show featured horse trainer Tom Curtin on its Horseman's Corner Extended Edition. The standard daily program also hosted horseman Warren Thompson from Colorado.
- Harvest USA Report: This program was produced by Brian Hale and hosted by David Woodruff, presenting daily agricultural news and industry insights alongside field interviews like this week’s conversations with Shorty Kulhanek and Sarah Nicholson.

www.halebroadcasting.com

Hale Multimedia LLC Launches Another Ag Website

(LUSK, Wyo.) – Hale Multimedia is at it again, or should we say still. Over the past 30 years they have launched over 1,000 website and programming projects and are reportedly excited to launch this one from a client that has been with them for over 20 of those years. Andrea Hale designed the new look and will have the full website complete once new content is received. Learn more about our friends Travis, Sheila, and the whole posse that that run the outfit known as Broken Arrow Livestock below.



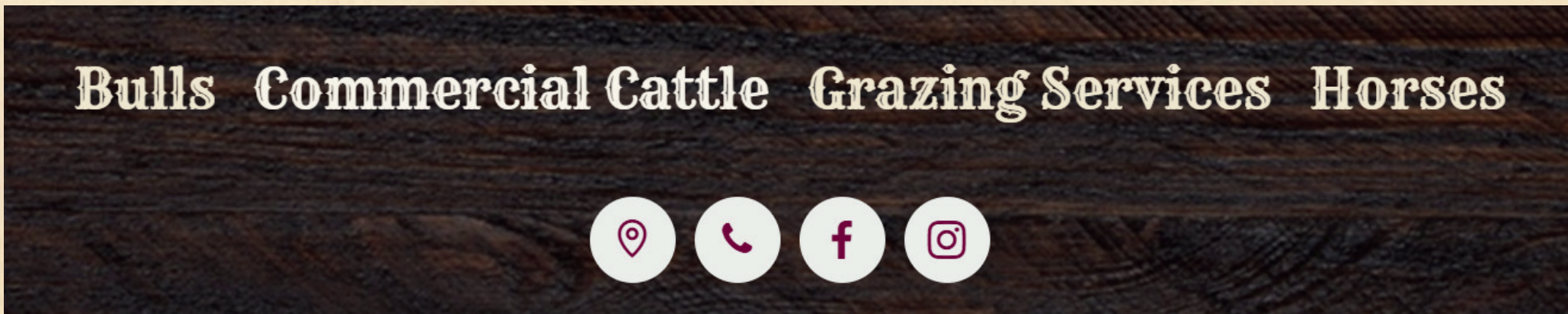
“Every ranch and every operation is different. That is why we take the time to listen, ask questions, and understand what each customer needs.”

“Our experience, industry connections, and extensive network allow us to provide more than livestock. We help customers make connections, solve problems, locate opportunities, and find practical solutions when challenges arise.”

Experience You Can Count On

When you work with Broken Arrow Livestock, you can expect:

- Personal attention and individual service
- Quality cattle and horses
- Honest communication
- Attention to detail
- Knowledge built through experience
- Valuable industry connections
- Support before, during, and after the sale



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WEATHER

PILLEN DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

(LINCOLN, Neb.) — Gov. Jim Pillen signed an emergency declaration Thursday following record-setting rainfall and severe flooding across southeast Nebraska.

Pillen said he joined the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska National Guard and local emergency managers to receive an updated briefing and inspect flooded areas. The declaration makes state resources available for cleanup and response efforts.

The flooding followed a historic rainfall event Sept. 30 and into Oct. 1. The National Weather Service reported a band of 3 to locally 10 inches of rain across southeast Nebraska into southwest Iowa. Lincoln Airport recorded 6.15 inches in one day, breaking its previous daily rainfall record of 5.45 inches set in 1910.

The National Weather Service advised motorists to avoid driving through flooded roads, noting that most flood-related deaths occur in vehicles.



 CHARLES PEEK - STORM TRACKER / WEATHER REPORTER



The heavy rainfall resulted in widespread flooding and numerous water rescues in the Lincoln and Omaha areas.

Flooding also affected roads and low-lying areas across several southeastern Nebraska counties.

Pillen urged Nebraskans to use extreme caution around flooded areas and damaged infrastructure and expressed appreciation for first responders and road crews who have worked to respond to the flooding and keep residents safe.

The Week Ahead

The weather outlook for the Nebraska Panhandle from October 4 to October 10, 2026, favors an unseasonably warm, exceptionally dry, and mostly sunny weather pattern. Driven by a strong upper-level ridge of high pressure, daily high temperatures will consistently climb 10°F to 20°F above normal mid-October averages.

- **Temperature Peak:** The heat peaks early in the week. Monday, October 5 brings high temperatures flirting with record territory, soaring up to 90°F around Scottsbluff. Highs will slowly step back later in the week but remain comfortably in the upper 70s and low 80s.
- **Overnight Lows:** Expect crisp, classic autumn nights. Overnight temperatures will drop into the mid-40s to low 50s, offering plenty of morning cooling.
- **Precipitation:** There is virtually zero chance of rain across the entire panhandle during this 7-day window. The Climate Prediction Center highlights well-below-normal precipitation chances, continuing a severe multi-month drought stretch across the region.

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
 83° 50°	 91° 51°	 89° 48°	 83° 47°	 79° 47°	 87° 55°	 87° 48°

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BUILDING A STRONGER MIND



Living with Bi-Polar Disorder

By KC

Today, I'm in a full-blown bipolar crash.

It's dark. I feel incredibly heavy. Everything takes more effort than it should, and there isn't some magical switch I can flip to make it go away.

I'm not posting this because I want nor need sympathy. I'm posting it because I want people to understand something:

People don't choose this **.**

I didn't wake up this morning and decide I wanted to feel this way. I didn't do something wrong. Sometimes, this is simply what bipolar disorder does.

And the part most people never see is that life doesn't stop because your brain decided to crash.

- There are still doors to unlock.
- Phones to answer.
- Work to do.
- People who need you.
- Bills to pay.
- A life that keeps moving.
- So you get up.

You put your feet on the floor. You go through the motions. You answer people when they talk to you. You may even laugh at something. From the outside, you can look completely fine.

And inside, you're carrying a weight nobody else can see.

I've been through these crashes before. I know they don't last forever.

But knowing that doesn't make today light.

Today is heavy.

So if someone in your life lives with bipolar disorder, depression, or another mental illness, remember that what you're seeing may be only a fraction of what they're carrying.

Sometimes we're not asking you to fix us. **We just need you to understand that we're carrying it.**

CONSUMER TIP

DON'T BE FOOLED BY BIG PROMISES.

TIP #4

After a hailstorm, it's common to see companies offering free gifts, deductible assistance, or immediate repairs to earn your business. Before you sign anything, ask yourself:

- Will they be here if I need warranty work?
- Am I choosing the best repair—or just the best promotion?

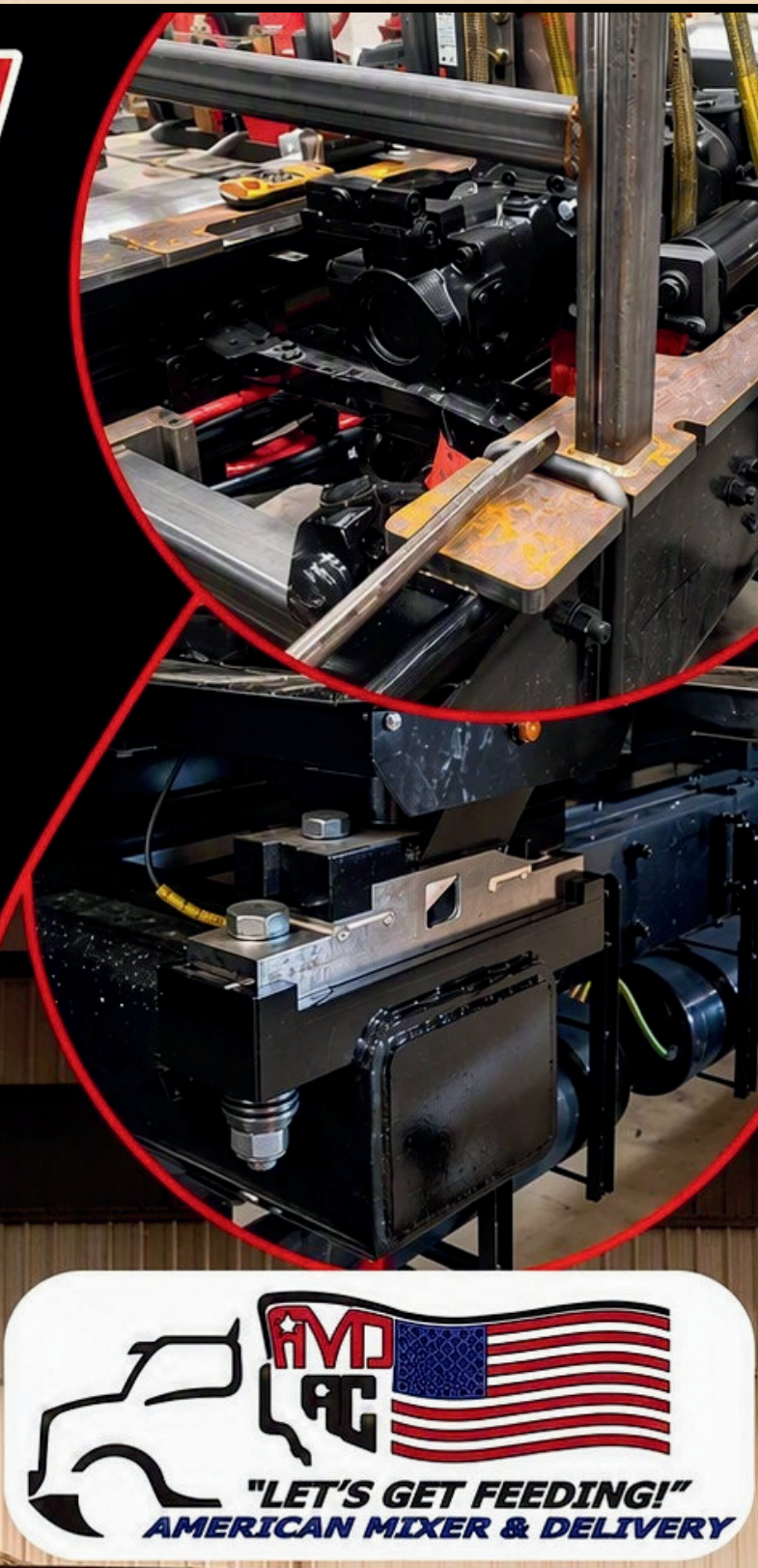
Take your time. Do your research. Choose a repair shop based on its reputation, certifications, training, and commitment to repairing your vehicles correctly—not flashy incentives.

Panhandle
Public Health District

OCTOBER 3
NATIONAL BPD AWARENESS WEEK

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

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**BUSINESS NEWS*****We're Hiring!*****GENERAL
MANAGER****APPLY ONLINE OR IN PERSON****📍 880 COUNTRY CLUB RD, GERING****☎ PH: 308-635-0081****🌐 www.rcwelding.com****Health / Dental Vision / Life
Retirement / Vacation**

(GERING, Neb.) – R&C Welding's family-company, American Mixer and Delivery, is proud to offer a unique opportunity for someone looking to take the next step in their career.

This is an intense, rewarding opportunity that will require diligence, loyalty, leadership, and a commitment to excellence. In the past 20 years, we have offered a position like this only three times.

The person selected will have the freedom to manage in their own style, make decisions, and take ownership of their role while working alongside and learning from our current General Manager, who has been instrumental in managing the startup and growth of the operation.

We are looking for an intelligent, loyal, full-company-minded individual who wants more than simply a job. This opportunity is likely best suited for someone who has reached the top of their current career path—or for someone considering a move to our area to become part of the family, business, and community.

A genuine passion for our community and the surrounding area is a must.

If you're looking for an opportunity to grow, lead, make a difference, and become an important part of a family-owned company, we would like to hear from you.

This opportunity doesn't come around often. Contact R&C in Gering.

**American Gelbvieh
Association Unveils
New Logo**

(LINCOLN, Neb.) – The American Gelbvieh Association (AGA) has represented Gelbvieh breeders for 55 years and has experienced much growth and advancement within the breed since its founding on June 28, 1971.

Today, the AGA is excited to reveal the brand-new AGA logo suite that will serve the association and breed as they enter a new era of growth, awareness and recognition.

As media partners with AGA, Hale Multimedia / Hale Broadcasting is always excited for the opportunity to promote the Gelbvieh breed. We've been talking with cattlemen and women for 30 years, and it's apparent that the breed has so much to offer.

To learn more about The Gelbvieh Advantage, listen to our Cattleman's Corner Radio Program at www.cattlemanscorner.com or visit www.gelbvieh.org.

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SCANNER TRAFFIC & MORE

OUR REACH THIS WEEK

Panhandle Scanner Facebook

82,401 Followers

1.5 Million Views

188,905 Unique Viewers

Digging Deeper News Page

17,778 Unique Readers

Podcasts & Streaming

1,720 Unique Listeners

Advertising; Call or Text 941-942-4361

advertising

MENU

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

PRICING PER WEEKLY ISSUE

1/12 PAGE

\$100.00

1/6 PAGE

\$150.00

1/3 PAGE

\$250.00

20% DISCOUNT FOR ANNUAL SPONSORS

50% DISCOUNT FOR EXCLUSIVE SPONSORS



Digging Deeper, Panhandle Scanner, Scanner FM and The Sunday Scanner are all produced by Hale Multimedia LLC

www.halemultimedia.com

BRIAN HALE - CHIEF EDITOR

ARIANNA HALE - PUBLISHER

ANDI HALE - GRAPHICS/ASST EDITOR

BRAYDEN HALE - ASSISTANT EDITOR

TIMOTHY MENDEZ - PRIMARY ADMIN

BRIDGET LEHMAN - CONTRIBUTOR

CODY MARTIN - CONTRIBUTOR

BRILEY DARLEY - CONTRIBUTOR

NATE BAYLESS - SE WYOMING ADMIN

ADYN FLORES - CONTRIBUTOR

Let the Nominations Begin!

(SCOTTSDLUFF, Neb.) – Panhandle Scanner first introduced the concept behind #scannersaturdays in late 2022 after realizing Small Business Saturday is only recognized once a year, plus we noticed that the same big businesses win the only significant promotion left from the old home town newspaper every year. We believed that the community needed something for the brand new businesses that no one has ever heard of. We felt THEY are the ones that could really use the free advertising, so we started Scanner Saturdays, where every Saturday is Small Business Saturday!

Scanner Saturdays started out as a FREE day for local small businesses to send us promotional advertising to share for them, to help them reach our large following. We started asking folks who their favorites were, and that’s where it all started.

Our first contest was for 1st Quarter 2023, where a new unique restaurant called “Sweet V’s” was our first winner. Overall, we have had 14 different winners in the 3 ½ years, so far, with nine different towns represented.

Each Saturday we ask our followers to nominate their favorite local small businesses for a chance at the Quarterly Title and a promotional package from Hale Multimedia. We vote on nominations during the 10th week of each quarter to determine the panhandle's favorite local small business.

Reasons why we offer free exposure to small businesses;

• We are small business owners

• Small businesses need the help

• We believe in paying it forward

#ScannerSaturdays

=

#SmallBusinessSaturday

Winning businesses receive an annual promotional advertising package valued over \$750 with exposure on several of our media platforms.



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

In Other Scanner Traffic...

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

Possible Assault - Sep 27

(GERING, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated a male pushed down the stairs and bleeding from his head - partial trauma team activated and transported to the hospital.

Late Night Altercation - Oct 1

(SCOTTSDLUFF, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated approximately 7-10 individuals involved in an altercation at 5th Avenue and East Overland around 11:00 p.m. at or near the Watering Hole.

Stolen Vehicle Returned - Oct 1

(SIDNEY, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated a stolen vehicle out of California spotted near mile marker 17 on I-80, eastbound at 6:04 pm mst.

A Nebraska State Trooper located the suspect vehicle and made a traffic stop. Then, with the assistance from a Cheyenne County Sheriff’s deputy, arrested the driver, notified the reporting company and had the vehicle towed to the impound lot.

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.

PANHANDLE SCANNER IS A PRODUCTION OF HALE MULTIMEDIA LLC