Issue # 2640 Week of October 4 - 10, 2026 page 1

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

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News from across the State of Nebraska with a focus on the Panhandle

Fatal Vehicle vs Pedestrian Accident



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Scanner followers indicated a traffic accident near E. 23rd Street and Broadway in Scottsbluff following the Bearcat football game Friday night, Oct. 9, 2026.

The Scottsbluff Police Department has confirmed that the accident was fatal and that charges are pending against the 19 year old driver at this time.

Our prayers and condolences for everyone involved. The story is continued on page 11.

Presidential Visit to Nebraska



(GRAND ISLAND, Neb.) -- Excellent teamwork by Troopers, deputies, and officers from across Nebraska to ensure safety for the President's visit to Grand Island. President Donald Trump visited Grand Island, Nebraska, on Monday, Oct. 5, 2026, marking the first presidential visit to Grand Island in 20 years.

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Community

Kiowa Honey Co. Mitchell, NE Shafter, CA
HighPlains MARKET

Happy 109th Birthday Mrs. Emma Marker

(MINATARE, Neb.) — The Minatare community gathered Tuesday evening to celebrate longtime local resident Emma Marker's birthday.

She was born in Gering on Oct. 5, 1917, making her 109 years old. She was recognized as the oldest living member of the Minatare community and is believed to be the oldest resident in Scotts Bluff County.

The celebration was held at the Broken Spoke, which provided the space and the birthday cake. Community members gathered to celebrate the milestone, and Minatare Mayor Carolyn Nelson presented Marker with a birthday card from the city.

The City of Minatare thanked everyone who helped make the celebration possible.

Marker and her late husband, Edward Marker, were married for 73 years before his death in 2011. Together, they raised three children: Sylvia, Edward and Henry.

Throughout her life, Marker was known for her talents as a seamstress and quilter, reportedly making around 100 quilts. She was also known locally for baking traditional German-Russian pastries, including grebel and dina kuchen.

Leaf Legacy Project to Begin at Terry's Lake

PLANTNEBRASKA

(TERRYTOWN, Neb.) — The City of Terrytown is preparing to begin work on its Leaf Legacy Project, an initiative aimed at improving the community's tree canopy and maintaining the natural environment.

The project is funded through the Urban and Community Forestry Grant, provided by Plant Nebraska and the USDA Forest Service. The first phase of work will focus on Terry's Lake, a community recreational area.

The planned work will address existing trees while creating opportunities to add new trees to the area. New plantings will help support the area's tree canopy for the future.

The Urban and Community Forestry Grant program supports efforts to establish, improve and maintain trees in communities. Terrytown is using grant funding to invest in the long-term care of its public green spaces, beginning with Terry's Lake.

FREE VETERAN HEADSTONE CLEANUP PROJECT

(SIDNEY, Neb.) – Gehrig Headstone Cleaning and Restoration in Sidney Nebraska has a unique and honorable goal of cleaning up the cemetary on their time and expense.

To accomplish this, he is asking the public to send pumice stones to 1122 Osage St. Sidney, NE 69162. Contact Bob Gehrig : 308-249-5987 or send an email to williamgehrig1965@gmail.com

LOOK WHO'S HIRING



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – The Panhandle Public Health District is hiring for several different positions. Please contact PPHD or apply at pphd.ne.gov.

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MISSING PERSONS
AND PROPERTY

STILL MISSING; GINA BOOS



Age at Missing: 40
D.O.B.: Nov. 4, 1959
Hair Color: Auburn
Eye Color: Brown
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 105 lbs.
Gender: Female
Race: Caucasian
Case #: A1-116020



(LINCOLN, Neb.) – Regina Marie Boos has been missing since 2000 and is our featured cold case for the week of Oct. 4–10, 2026.

Gina was last seen around 1:00 a.m. leaving Duggan's Pub in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 17, 2000. She is a musician and had participated in the Open Mic. She told friends she planned to pick up her boyfriend and then go home to be with her three children for the night. She left the pub carrying her guitar and her music. She never arrived at her boyfriend's home and has never been heard from again. The next morning, her car was located across the street from the pub with the trunk ajar and her guitar inside. Foul play is suspected.

NOTE: Gina's sister, Jannel Rap, founded the GINA for Missing Persons FOUNDation (411GINA.org) in Gina's honor.

According to a late-August 2026 update, new technology could potentially reveal additional clues in the case. No findings or further information from that technology have been publicly released.

She has a tattoo of a small yellow rose on her back, pierced ears, and freckles. She wears wire frame glasses or contact lenses. Her maiden name is Rap and her previous married name is Williams. She was last seen wearing a short-sleeved shirt, fitted black pants, and ankle-high black boots.

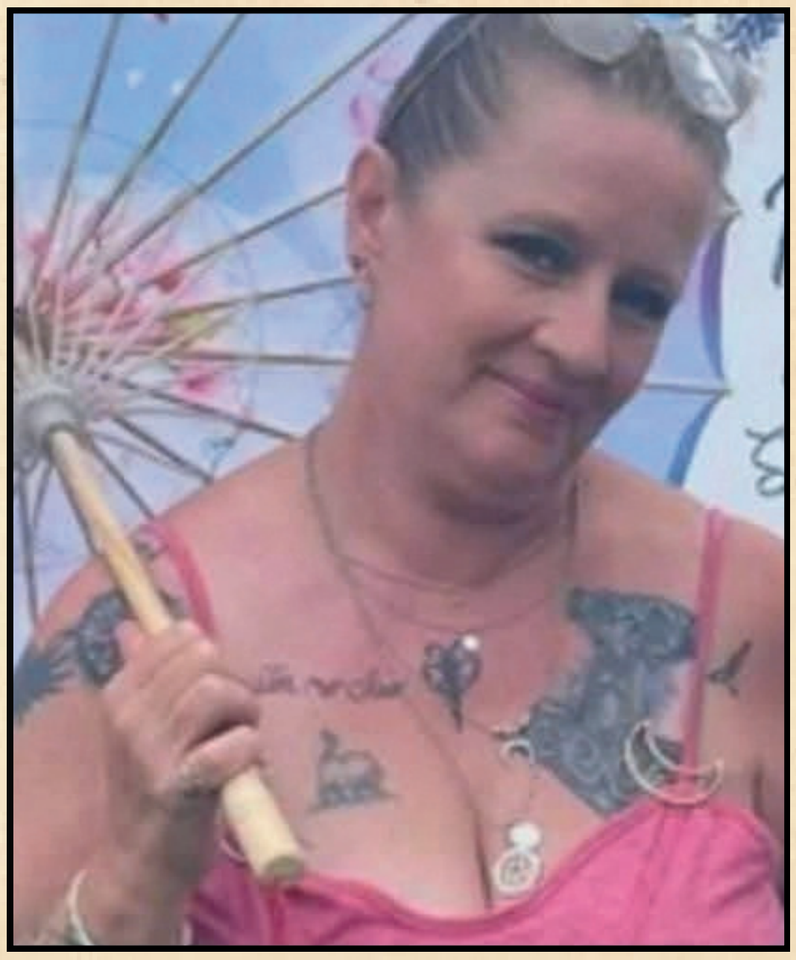
Contact Lincoln Police Department with any information at 1-402-441-7204.

MISSING; Lisa Suhr

Last Seen: 9/30/26
Age: 56
Height: 5' 8"
Weight: 200 lbs

(PAXTON, Neb.) – Lisa Suhr was last seen the morning of Sept. 30, 2026 in Paxton Nebraska. Lisa has pierced ears & several tattoos. She did not take any of her belongings. She said she was headed east and is very likely suicidal.

If you know anything, please call her family at (253) 392-4563.



LISA SUHR : MISSING / ENDANGERED

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Intense Training



(LINCOLN, Neb.) – It was an intense week of training at the NSP Training Academy during #NSPCamp74. Recent training included solo-response scenarios for an active shooter call.



“Train like it’s real. Always ready.”

Wilder’s Terrifying Phone Calls

(GERING, Neb.) — Aaron J. Wilder Jr., 23, of Mitchell, was sentenced to 90 days in the Scotts Bluff County Jail Oct. 1, 2026, resulting from a February incident in which he allegedly threatened two people by phone.

Wilder was originally arrested late Feb. 6 after Scottsbluff police officers responded to a report that two victims said he threatened to kill them.

Following his arrest, Wilder posted a $2,700 bond, representing 10% on March 27. He subsequently entered a formal plea agreement in Scotts Bluff County District Court case CR 26-145.

Wilder failed to appear for a scheduled sentencing hearing Sept. 17. District Judge Leo Dobrovolny issued a bench warrant for his arrest Sept. 18, which was served Sept. 23 in Scottsbluff.

During a rescheduled sentencing hearing Oct. 1, Dobrovolny sentenced Wilder to 90 days in the Scotts Bluff County Jail on each count, with the sentences to be served concurrently.

Under the agreement, two Class IIIA felony counts of terroristic threats were amended to two Class I misdemeanor counts of assault by threatening in a menacing manner.

Wilder was given 10 days of credit for time served and ordered to pay $150 in court costs from his bond proceeds. He was remanded directly to the custody of the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff.

“Lost” Item Leads To Felony Shoplifting

(GERING, Neb.) — A 39-year-old Scottsbluff woman faces a felony shoplifting charge following a February theft at a local home improvement store and a subsequent bench warrant issued after she failed to appear in court.

Laura N. Schnell, also known as Laura Little Eagle, was arrested Feb. 19, 2026, after officers responded to a report of a shoplifting in progress at Menards, 2401 Delta Drive, Scottsbluff.

According to an affidavit by Scottsbluff Police Officer Maric J. Vorse, store employees reported seeing Schnell run out of the store with a large box hidden under her jacket. The box contained a jump starter valued at $199.95.

Officers initiated a traffic stop on a silver 2004 Toyota Camry matching the suspect vehicle description. Schnell reportedly claimed she lost the item as she entered the vehicle, but officers were unable to locate it.

Because of prior convictions, Schnell was charged with theft by shoplifting, $0-$500, third or subsequent offense, a Class IV felony.

Court filings indicate Schnell posted a $270 appearance bond, representing 10% of a $2,700 bond, on April 6, 2026, and pled not guilty.

Schnell failed to appear for her scheduled District Court arraignment May 15, 2026.

District Judge Leo Dobrovolny revoked her bond and ordered a bench warrant for her arrest. Court records show the bench warrant, No. 00119740, was issued May 21, 2026, and returned executed Sept. 29, 2026. District Judge Andrea D. Miller is presiding over the case.

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Woman Pushed From Truck, Man Pleads Not Guilty

(GERING, Neb.) — A 20-year-old Gering man pled not guilty Monday, Oct. 5, to a Class I misdemeanor domestic assault charge following an early October incident in Scottsbluff that left a woman injured.

The charge stems from a law enforcement response the afternoon of Oct. 2, 2026.

Raul I. Ayala appeared in custody before Scotts Bluff County Court Judge Kris D. Mickey on Oct. 5, 2026.

Ayala pled not guilty to one count of third-degree domestic assault causing bodily injury.

Judge Mickey appointed a public defender after finding Ayala indigent and set bond at $10,000, with 10% allowable.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by Scottsbluff Police, officers were dispatched around 4:17 p.m. to the 1500 block of Cowen Drive for a reported assault.

Upon arrival, the woman reported that during an argument inside a 2006 black Lincoln Mark LT, Ayala punched her in the face, slapped her and pushed her out of the vehicle before driving away.

According to court documents, Ayala told law enforcement he pushed the woman out of the pickup but denied striking her.

He was arrested at 6:33 p.m. and transported to the Scotts Bluff County Detention Center.

Stolen Vehicle Crash Becomes Fatal

(LEXINGTON, Neb.) — A teen driver died Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026 after a stolen vehicle being pursued by Dawson County deputies crashed west of Lexington on Highway 30.

The Dawson County Sheriff's Office was notified Sunday, Oct. 4, of a stolen vehicle from the North Platte area that was possibly being driven by a missing or runaway juvenile. The vehicle was reportedly traveling eastbound on Highway 30 from the Gothenburg area.

Dawson County deputies located a vehicle matching the description and confirmed it had been reported stolen from the North Platte area. Deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver refused to pull over.

The vehicle continued eastbound through Cozad before deputies disengaged from the pursuit.

Several minutes later, the Sheriff's Office received a report of a vehicle matching the description of the stolen vehicle that had rolled and crashed west of Lexington on Highway 30.

Deputies responded and found the driver had been ejected from the vehicle. Emergency medical care was provided at the scene, but the driver later died from injuries sustained in the crash.

The Dawson County Attorney's Office has ordered an autopsy. The Nebraska State Patrol and Lexington Fire and Rescue assisted at the crash scene.

According to the Nebraska State Patrol, who is investigating the incident, the driver of the vehicle at the time of the crash was Cody Mallula, 16, of Geneva who succumbed to his injuries and later died a short time after the crash.

Hit-and-Run, Pursuit

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — A 19-year-old Scottsbluff man faces six misdemeanor charges following an early morning incident Sept. 30 that allegedly involved property damage, leaving the scene of an accident, driving under the influence and resisting arrest.

Eli W. Jackson was arrested around 2:24 a.m. after an investigation that began at 822 S. Beltline Highway West in Scottsbluff.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed in Scotts Bluff County Court by Scottsbluff Police Officer Keaton Bissonnette, the officers responded around 2:22 a.m. to assist sheriff's deputies with the call.

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Hit-and-Run, Pursuit

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An employee reported seeing a maroon vehicle back into a guardrail surrounding one of the gas pumps. When the employee attempted to get the driver to stop, the vehicle left the parking lot and traveled southbound on Avenue I at a high rate of speed.

Shortly afterward, Gering police located a vehicle matching the description. The vehicle had rear bumper damage consistent with backing into the guardrail, and the driver was identified as Jackson. Jackson has been charged in Scotts Bluff County Court with:

- DUI, first offense — Class W misdemeanor
- Leaving the scene of a property-damage accident / failing to furnish information — Class II misdemeanor
- Refusal to submit to a preliminary breath test — Class V misdemeanor
- Refusal to submit to a chemical test, first offense — Class W misdemeanor
- Resisting arrest, first offense — Class I misdemeanor
- Obstructing government operations — Class I misdemeanor

Jackson pled not guilty to all charges during his arraignment Oct. 1, 2026. County Court Judge Kris D. Mickey set bond at $20,000. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Nov. 10, 2026, in Scotts Bluff County Court.

DUI, Child Abuse Charges Filed

(GERING, Neb.) — A 22-year-old Scottsbluff woman faces multiple criminal charges, including child abuse and second-offense DUI, following an early morning traffic stop Sept. 30 near South Beltline Highway West.

Alicia Gibson was arrested around 2:25 a.m. after a deputy observed erratic driving along Avenue I. According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by Deputy Kale Hamilton, deputies on routine patrol around 1:47 a.m. observed a silver 2022 Chevrolet Traverse cross the fog line multiple times before stopping at a green light and striking a curb while turning into the Essential Fuels parking lot.

When Hamilton approached the vehicle, he initially found a different woman sitting in the driver's seat, while Gibson was sitting on the lap of another adult in the middle rear seat.

Two young children, ages 2 years and 6 months, were also inside the vehicle in child restraint seats.

According to the affidavit, law enforcement determined Gibson, the registered owner of the vehicle, had been operating it before the traffic stop.

Deputies reported seeing an open BuzzBall alcohol container in the center console and observed signs of impairment from Gibson, including bloodshot and watery eyes, slurred speech and a strong odor of alcohol. Standardized field sobriety tests were not performed because Gibson reportedly had been physically assaulted. A preliminary breath test, however, reportedly showed a result above the legal limit.

A records check showed Gibson's driver's license was revoked and that she had one prior DUI conviction. She also was unable to provide proof of insurance.

Gibson was medically cleared at Regional West Medical Center, where a legal blood draw was conducted, before she was booked into the Scotts Bluff County Detention Center.

- DUI, .08 blood, second offense — Class W misdemeanor
- DUS/before reinstatement — Class III misdemeanor
- Possession/consumption of an open alcohol container — Infraction
- No proof of insurance — Class II misdemeanor
- Negligent child abuse, no injury — Class I misdemeanor

Gibson pled not guilty to all charges during her Oct. 1 arraignment. County Court Judge Kris Mickey set bond at $15,000.

A pretrial hearing is scheduled for 10:45 a.m. Nov. 18, 2026, in Scotts Bluff County Courtroom 2.

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First Responder Attacks Lead to Charges

(GERING, Neb.) — A 25-year-old Scottsbluff man faces multiple felony charges, including assault on first responders and terroristic threats, following an August disturbance that allegedly involved attacks on paramedics, police officers and hospital staff.

Gary D. Collins was arrested the morning of Aug. 26, 2026, after Scottsbluff police officers responded to reports of a man knocking over trash cans and striking a vehicle near the 1000 block of East 11th Street.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by Scottsbluff Police Officer Nathan True, officers located Collins lying in the front yard of a residence on 12th Avenue and displaying signs of severe alcohol intoxication.

When officers attempted to arrest Collins for disturbing the peace, he actively resisted.

After being handcuffed and placed in a patrol vehicle, Collins hit his head against the vehicle roof and lost consciousness. Officers administered Narcan as a precaution, and EMS was called to transport him to the hospital.

While inside the ambulance, Collins allegedly kicked two paramedics and spit on one while claiming to be HIV-positive and threatening to kill them.

At the hospital, Collins continued to resist staff and kicked a police officer during a transfer to a wheelchair.

Officers placed a spit mask on Collins, but he allegedly maneuvered it off and spit on an officer's face while continuing to make death threats against officers and their families.

During his final transfer to the jail, Collins allegedly head-butted a corrections officer, causing a visible bump on the officer's head.

Defense attorney Cody Adamson filed a plea in abatement Sept. 28, arguing the state presented insufficient evidence at the county court level to establish probable cause for the felony assault and terroristic threat charges.

During court proceedings Oct. 1, District Judge Leo Dobrovolny presided over a hearing in which Collins appeared by video. Dobrovolny appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent Collins at county expense.

A hearing on the plea in abatement is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Nov. 10, 2026, in Scotts Bluff County District Courtroom 2.

Domestic Violence Charges Reduced

(GERING, Neb.) — A 32-year-old Scottsbluff man has entered into a plea agreement in Scotts Bluff County District Court following an August domestic disturbance involving allegations of assault and threats.

Eli J. Gonzalez was arrested shortly after midnight Aug. 31, 2026, after Scottsbluff police officers responded to a report of a physical disturbance at a residence on W. 31st St.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed by Scottsbluff Police Officer Andrew Leishman, a victim at the residence reported getting into an argument with Gonzalez, during which he allegedly forced his way into a bedroom and attempted to take a young child.

As the victim attempted to leave, Gonzalez allegedly grabbed the victim by the hair and pulled her backward on the stairs, broke a cellphone in the kitchen and attempted to strike the victim in the stomach while making physical threats.

Leishman reported observing blood on the bridge of Gonzalez's nose, visible damage to a bedroom door and a broken phone case.

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Police Department Asking for Public's Help Identifying Woman

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – The woman pictured here may have stayed at a local hotel due to possibly being from out of town. Seen in Scottsbluff Sept. 7 - 14. Multiple stops to Essential Fuels (Old WTT) Driving a Black Ford Explorer with no front plates. If seen or identified please call the Scottsbluff Police Department. (308) 630-6261.



Domestic Violence Charges Reduced

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Gonzalez was initially charged with nine counts, including Class IIIA felony domestic assault, child abuse and terroristic threats.

Under the terms of a written plea agreement filed with the court, the state agreed to dismiss six counts, including both felony charges and the child abuse charge.

In exchange, Gonzalez agreed to plead guilty or no contest to:

- Criminal mischief, less than $500 — Class III misdemeanor
- Disturbing the peace — Class III misdemeanor

During court proceedings Oct. 2, 2026, District Judge Leo Dobrovolny appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent Gonzalez and granted a bond reduction to own recognizance.

A formal change-of-plea hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Oct. 15, 2026, in Scotts Bluff County District Courtroom 2.

PROTECTION ORDER CASE GETS MESSY

(GERING, Neb.) — A Terrytown man pled guilty to three misdemeanor charges stemming from a September incident involving the alleged violation of a domestic abuse protection order.

Nicholas Salazar, 24, of Scottsbluff, appeared by video Oct. 5, 2026, before District Judge Leo Dobrovolny.

Under the terms of a plea agreement, Salazar pled guilty to an amended information charging him with first-offense violation of a domestic abuse protection order, a Class I misdemeanor; criminal mischief under $500, a Class III misdemeanor; and disturbing the peace, a Class III misdemeanor.

A fourth count of public indecency / indecent exposure, a Class II misdemeanor, was dismissed.

The charges stem from Salazar's Sept. 11 arrest by Scottsbluff Police Officer Keaton Bissonnette.

According to an affidavit of probable cause, officers responded to a residence in Terrytown around 11:03 p.m. after receiving a call from a protected party.

The reporting party told law enforcement that Salazar had repeatedly called her phone despite an active protection order prohibiting contact. She also reported that Salazar later arrived at the residence, knocked on the door and urinated on the front door, doorstep and inside the residence.

Police reviewed security camera footage of the incident and located Salazar nearby around 11:21 p.m., placing him under arrest without further incident.

Salazar was initially charged with a Class IV felony for violating a protection order as a second offense.

In exchange for his guilty plea to the reduced misdemeanor charge and remaining counts, the state agreed to amend the charge. There was no agreement between the parties regarding sentencing.

Dobrovolny accepted the pleas, ordered a presentence investigation and scheduled sentencing for 10 a.m. Dec. 1, 2026. Bond was continued under the previously established conditions.

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Traffic Stop With a Spirited Twist

(GERING, Neb.) — Two Scottsbluff men made initial court appearances Monday following an Oct. 3 traffic stop near Gering that led to the discovery of suspected methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and open alcohol containers.

Jesse A. Watson, 29, and Abraham J. Lane, 28, appeared in custody before Scotts Bluff County Court Judge Kristen D. Mickey on Oct. 5, 2026.

Watson faces charges of possession of methamphetamine, a Class IV felony; driving under suspension, a Class III misdemeanor; possession of drug paraphernalia, and speeding 16-20 mph over the limit, an infraction.

Lane is charged with possession of a controlled substance, a Class IV felony; possession or use of drug paraphernalia, an infraction; and possession or consumption of an open alcohol container, an infraction.

Judge Mickey advised both men of their rights, conducted indigency inquiries and appointed public defenders to represent them. Watson's bond was set at $11,500, with 10% allowable.

The charges stem from a morning traffic stop conducted by Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Sgt. Mark Bliss.

According to an affidavit of probable cause, Bliss stopped a black 2026 Chevrolet Trax driven by Watson, with Lane as a passenger, at approximately 10:15 a.m. near Highway 92 and County Road 16. Watson was initially cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

During the stop, deputies searched Lane and reportedly found a glass pipe commonly used to smoke methamphetamine concealed in his sock, along with a small zip-close bag containing suspected methamphetamine residue.

A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed an open bottle of whiskey and a plastic water pipe, or bong, on the floorboard in front of Lane's seat. Deputies also found an additional glass pipe inside the driver's side door panel, within Watson's reach.

Both men were arrested at 10:40 a.m. and transported to the Scotts Bluff County Detention Center.

Preliminary hearings for Watson and Lane are scheduled for 9:45 a.m. Oct. 14, 2026, in Courtroom 2 of Scotts Bluff County Court.

Felony Charge For False Identity

(GERING, Neb.) — A woman is scheduled to stand trial next week in Scotts Bluff County District Court following a May incident in which she allegedly gave officers a false identity while hiding in a crawl space.

Marianna R. Garnette, 43, also identified in court records as Marianna Rocio Sanchez, faces one count of criminal impersonation, a Class IV felony.

According to a probable cause affidavit, officers were dispatched May 27, 2026, to an apartment building on 2nd Avenue following reports of a domestic disturbance and a possible physical altercation.

Upon arrival, officers heard yelling inside an apartment, but no one answered the door. Citing safety concerns and a lease provision allowing access for welfare checks, property management for Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska granted officers permission to enter the unit.

Officers found Garnette hiding in a crawl space. When questioned, she allegedly provided her daughter's name and birth date. CAPWN management staff at the scene recognized Garnette and alerted officers to her identity.

According to the affidavit, Garnette later admitted to using her daughter's identity because she believed she had an active arrest warrant in Lincoln. She was arrested and booked into custody. She later posted a $900 bond, June 24.

Garnette has pled not guilty. Her jury trial is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, in Scotts Bluff County District Courtroom 2.

VALLEY ROOFING & RESTORATION

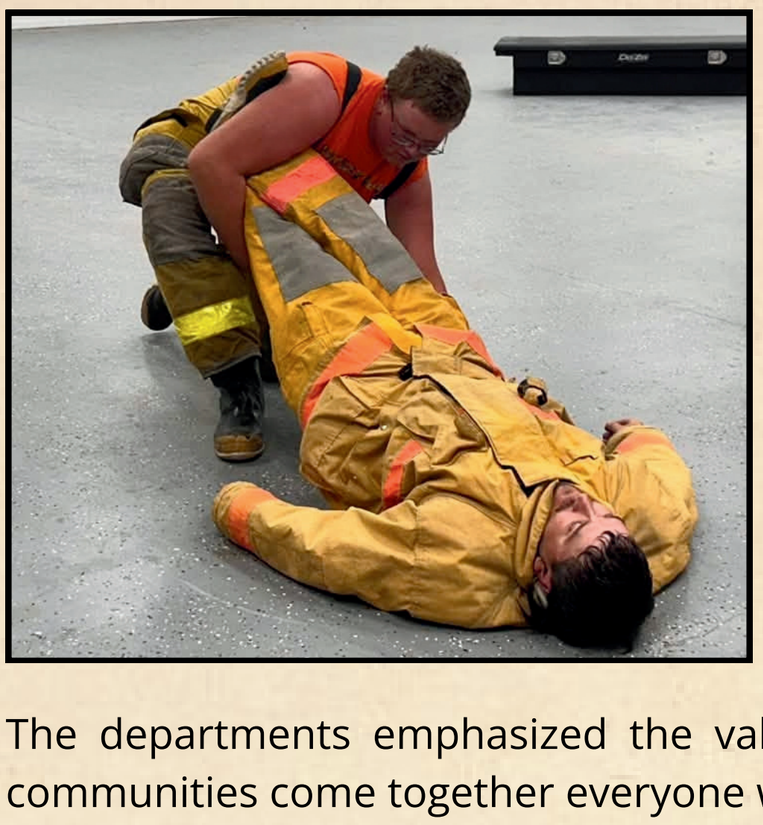
Sandhills Center for HOPE

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FIRE & RESCUE





Joint Fire Training Coordination

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Firefighters from area departments recently came together for a joint training session focused on hands-on skills and strengthening cooperation between neighboring departments.

The Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department and Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District participated in a training night hosted by the Scottsbluff Fire Department.

Training included hose lays, building types, search tactics, drags and other hands-on exercises designed to give firefighters an opportunity to sharpen their skills and learn from one another.

Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District said the training allowed firefighters to sharpen their skills, challenge each other, learn new things and work together to better serve their communities.

“Everyone at our joint training last night walked away better,” the department said.

The Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department thanked the Scottsbluff Fire Department for sharing its time and expertise and thanked Legacy Cooperative for providing the building for the training.

The departments emphasized the value of working together, with Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department noting, “When communities come together everyone wins.”





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FIRE & RESCUE

Fatal Vehicle vs. Pedestrian Accident

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(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — A vehicle versus pedestrian incident was reported after the Scottsbluff football game near East 23rd Street and Broadway in Scottsbluff, involving a Nissan pickup truck, according to scanner follower reports.

On the morning of October 10, 2026, the Scottsbluff Police Department posted the following press release.

On October 9, 2026, at approximately 2125 hours, officers with the Scottsbluff Police Department were dispatched to the intersection of 23rd Street and Broadway in reference to a vehicle-pedestrian accident.

Upon arrival, officers located a male pedestrian lying in the southbound lanes of Broadway, with a pickup truck positioned just south of the pedestrian. The male was transported to Regional West Medical Center, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

The preliminary investigation indicates that a 1991 Nissan pickup, driven by 19-year-old Brody Gustafson, was traveling southbound on Broadway toward the intersection of 23rd Street when it struck the pedestrian.

The pedestrian was reportedly crossing Broadway within the crosswalk at the time of the collision.

Broadway was closed for approximately four hours while officers conducted an accident reconstruction and investigated the circumstances surrounding the collision.

The investigation remains ongoing. Authorities are examining potential contributing factors, including speed and distracted driving. Charges are pending the outcome of the investigation.

The identity of the deceased pedestrian will be released at a later time, pending notification of next of kin.

The Scottsbluff Police Department was assisted at the scene by the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office, Scottsbluff Fire Department, and Regional West Ambulance Services.

Should the public have information about this case, please contact the Communications Center at (308) 632-7176 or Crime Stoppers at (308) 436-HELP. Email policeinfo@scottsbluff.org

Captain Lance L. Kite
Field Operations
Scottsbluff Police Department

Ron Asmus' daughter posted on the Scottsbluff Police page that the victim was her father.

Our continued prayers for the Asmus family and friends.

FedEx Truck Fire



Photo submitted by Troy Rask

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Smoke and flames were visible for miles from a FedEx Truck on fire in Scottsbluff on Tuesday.

The following is our account of live scanner traffic coverage;

8:48 a.m. Scanner traffic is indicating a FedEx truck is on fire near CR R & Hwy 71.

8:53 a.m. - now calling for EMS. Driver has injuries.

8:57 a.m. - SB traffic has been shut down. SBCO diverting traffic at 14th St.



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FIRE & RESCUE

Budget Cuts Raise Concerns

LINCOLN, Neb. — Proposed budget reductions affecting the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office could make firefighter training more difficult to access and increase costs for rural and volunteer fire departments across Nebraska.

The proposed changes for the 2027-29 biennium include eliminating a training coordinator position and potentially reducing the office's role in teaching at the annual Nebraska State Fire School. However, the most significant training reduction was outlined as a hypothetical response to potential across-the-board cuts, not a recommendation from the agency.

According to the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office, Nebraska had 478 fire departments as of Oct. 6, 2026. Of those, 449 are all-volunteer, 23 combine paid and volunteer firefighters, and six are fully paid departments. All-volunteer departments account for approximately 94% of the state's fire departments.

Proposed cuts have raised concerns about how rural departments will maintain access to essential training. The Fire Marshal's Office teaches one-third of the classes at Nebraska State Fire School, and nearly half of attendees take courses led by the agency.

Luke Renken, a captain with the Eagle Volunteer Fire Department who also serves on a rural fire board and teaches part time at State Fire School, told 10/11 NOW that the changes could add thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars in expenses to some departments.

Robert Buchheit, current fire chief of the Hemingford Volunteer Fire Department, described State Fire School as a primary training opportunity for his department, which covers approximately 1,000 square miles.

For volunteer firefighters, the costs extend beyond course fees. Attending training may require taking time off work, sacrificing wages or using vacation time. Travel, lodging and other expenses can add to the burden for both firefighters and their departments.

With local departments already paying for protective equipment, apparatus maintenance and insurance, additional training expenses could strain limited budgets. Departments may need to find alternative training providers or travel farther to access courses if state instructional capacity is reduced.

The governor's office said the agency's budget request retains approximately $43,500 for State Fire School. A separate proposed $28,450 training-budget reduction was presented as a hypothetical response to across-the-board cuts, not a recommendation from the agency.

The budget recommendations will go before the Nebraska Legislature during its session beginning in January 2027. Final decisions have not been made.

The proposals do not automatically mean departments will be charged tuition. Nebraska law provides for free training through the State Fire Marshal's volunteer and career fire department training program, although charges may apply to certain materials, testing and specialized courses.

With nearly 94% of Nebraska's fire departments staffed entirely by volunteers, changes to state training support could affect communities across the state. For rural departments, maintaining access to affordable training is essential to preparing firefighters to respond safely to emergencies while balancing the demands of their jobs and families.



(SIDNEY, Neb.) – Ron's Towing is hiring qualified applicants in Sidney, Nebraska for a Class A CDL position; must be 23, with clean MVR and customer service skills.

RON'S Towing

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PANHANDLE
SPORTS

Bearcats Bring Home The Hardware



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Scottsbluff High School cross country teams swept all four team championships at the Scottsbluff Invite and captured all four Western Conference team titles Friday, Oct. 2. The Bearcats earned first-place finishes in girls varsity, boys varsity, girls junior varsity and boys junior varsity at the Scottsbluff Invite.

In girls varsity, Nina Polk won first place, followed by Hannah Wemhoff in third, Jovee Keener in sixth and Erika Crofutt in 11th. Gavin Wemhoff led the boys varsity team with a first-place finish. Jace Castle placed third, while James Blumert finished 14th and Agustus Gonzalez took 15th.

The girls junior varsity team was led by Angelica Galindo, who finished first. Fallyn Groskopf placed second, Peyton Sanders third, Leticia Todd sixth and Gabriela Rodriguez eighth. Carston Holt won the boys junior varsity race, with Stryker Strand finishing second, Cole Shimp third, Mason Middledorf fourth, Jaxon Sanchez fifth and Josiah Bruner sixth.

The Bearcats carried that momentum into the Western Conference championships, earning four more team titles. Polk won the girls varsity conference race, with Wemhoff second, Keener fourth and Crofutt eighth.

In boys varsity, Gavin Wemhoff took first and Castle finished third. Galindo won the girls junior varsity conference race, followed by Groskopf in second, Sanders in third, Todd in fourth, Rodriguez in fifth and Carley Kizer in 10th. Holt led the boys junior varsity conference field, with Strand second, Shimp third, Middledorf fourth, Sanchez fifth and Bruner sixth.

Scottsbluff pulled off a clean sweep of the team championships at both meets.

Serving Up Wins

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Western Nebraska volleyball teams turned in strong performances during the week, highlighted by tournament success for Chadron and Scottsbluff high schools and continued momentum for Western Nebraska Community College.

Scottsbluff competed in the Twin Cities Volleyball Tournament on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2-3. The Bearcats advanced to the silver-bracket championship match Saturday but fell to Rapid City Stevens of South Dakota. Scottsbluff reached the final after defeating Sidney in a three-set semifinal.

Chadron also competed in the Twin Cities tournament, winning the Oregon Trail bracket. On Saturday, Oct. 3, the Cardinals swept Alliance, 25-17, 25-17; Mitchell, 25-14, 25-18; and Hill City, South Dakota, 25-23, 25-13, to finish undefeated in bracket play.

Scottsbluff returned to the court Tuesday, Oct. 6, hosting Bridgeport. The Bearcats swept the Bulldogs in three sets, 25-10, 25-13, 25-21.

Western Conference Volleyball was hosted by Gering on Saturday, Oct. 10 with Gering, Scottsbluff, Chadron, Alliance, Sidney and Torrington all in attendance.

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PANHANDLE SPORTS

FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

Bearcats Remain Undefeated, 24-21

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- The game was decided late in the fourth quarter when kicker Cole Dedic drilled a 41-yard field goal to break the tie and pull the Bearcats ahead. With the thrilling home victory, Scottsbluff remains undefeated and improves to 7–0 on the season.

(#17) Aurora	21	Final
(#16) Scottsbluff	24	

Sidney Red Raiders Still Unscathed

(SIDNEY, Neb.) -- Sidney continues to steamroll Class C1 opponents.

They completely locked down Kearney Catholic with a commanding shutout victory to keep their unblemished streak alive.

Kearney Catholic	0	Final
(#18) Sidney	42	

Leyton Warriors Hold Unblemished Record

(DALTON, Neb.) -- Located in Dalton, the Warriors boast a flawless record and look poised for a deep postseason run at 6-0 with just two regular season games remaining; Creek Valley and Garden County. This week, the Warriors defeated South Platte, 65-26.

South Platte	26	Final
Leyton	65	

Gering Volleyballer Wins Challenge

(GERING, Neb.) -- Congratulations to Gering's Aubrey Anderson for achieving 2,500 assists and winning the Transwest Ford Fall Scholarship Challenge.



Photo by Mark Rein

Hay Springs	64	Final
Minatare	6	

Bayard	38	Final
Sutherland	14	

Crawford	29	Final
Cody-Kilgore	20	

Maywood/Hayes Center	12	Final
Hemingford	52	

Gordon-Rushville	22	Final
Elkhorn Valley	54	

Plainview/Osmond	39	Final
Valentine	0	

Bridgeport	12	Final
Chase County	14	

Gering	13	Final
Northwest	42	

Cozad	0	Final
(#24) Chadron	25	

Hershey	0	Final
Mitchell	47	

Alliance	46	Final
Ogallala	8	

Potter-Dix	26	Final
Garden County	74	

Kearney Catholic	0	Final
(#18) Sidney	42	

Amherst	35	Final
Kimball	22	

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SCHOOL NEWS

FFA - Igniting Leaders

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Middle school students from across Nebraska recently gathered for FFA Ignite conferences designed to introduce young people to agricultural education, leadership, and opportunities within the FFA organization.

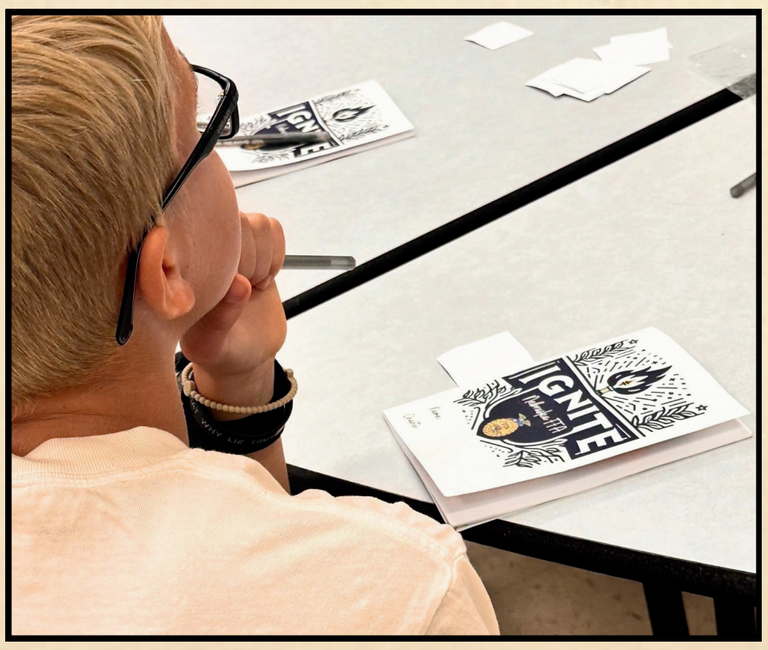
The one-day conferences were held in Scottsbluff, Kearney, and at Norris High School, bringing together students in seventh, eighth, and ninth grades for interactive activities, leadership workshops, and opportunities to connect with peers from other schools.

More than 120 students from Panhandle-area schools attended the Scottsbluff conference at the Panhandle Research Extension and Education Center on Sept. 22, according to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nebraska State FFA officers led workshops focused on leadership, teamwork and communication. Students also explored goal-setting, resilience and personal branding, along with opportunities in agriculture and upcoming leadership and career development events.

Donnie Wolters, Nebraska State FFA leadership program manager, said the conference gives students a chance to go beyond the classroom, learn from state officers and connect with other FFA members. The conferences were supported by sponsors Tallgrass Energy, Central Valley Ag and the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation.

The Ignite program aims to help younger students discover FFA opportunities and build skills they can use throughout their education and future careers.





FCA | FIELDS OF FAITH

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Students, families and community members from across the Nebraska Panhandle are invited to gather Wednesday, Oct. 14, for Fields of Faith at Bearcat Stadium in Scottsbluff.

Hosted by Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the event will begin with food at 5:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7:00 p.m.

Fields of Faith brings students together for an evening of worship, personal testimonies, prayer and encouragement to grow in their faith. The national FCA initiative encourages young people to read the Bible, connect with others and strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Fields of Faith is traditionally held on the second Wednesday in October, bringing students and communities together for an evening centered on faith and fellowship.

PROVEN JOHN 15:8

OCTOBER 14, 2026
Scottsbluff Bearcat Stadium
Tailgate / Food / Games 5:30 p.m.
Program Starts 7:00 p.m.

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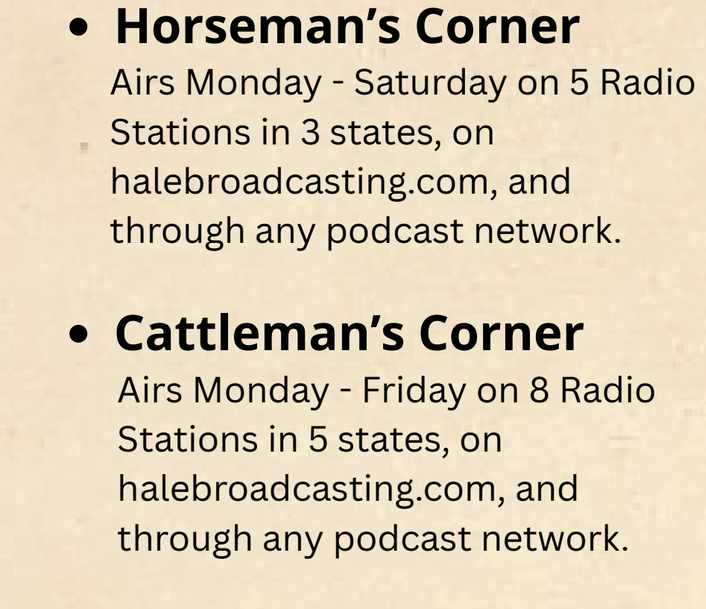
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  Airs Monday - Friday on KCMI-FM, on halebroadcasting.com, and through any podcast network.
- **Harvest USA Report**
  Airs Monday - Friday on 14 Radio Stations in 8 states, on halebroadcasting.com, and through any podcast network.
- **Horseman's Corner**
  Airs Monday - Saturday on 5 Radio Stations in 3 states, on halebroadcasting.com, and through any podcast network.
- **Cattleman's Corner**
  Airs Monday - Friday on 8 Radio Stations in 5 states, on halebroadcasting.com, and through any podcast network.

www.halebroadcasting.com



Senator Ricketts Unveils "Rebuild the American Herd" Plan

by Melanie Standiford of Midwest Media

(NORTH PLATTE, Neb.) — U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts visited Sustainable Beef in North Platte on Friday, Oct. 9, to share his nine-point "Rebuild the American Herd" plan, an initiative focused on strengthening the nation's cattle industry, protecting Nebraska ranchers, and expanding opportunities for American beef producers.

The plan addresses challenges facing cattle producers, including foreign beef imports, meatpacking competition, federal regulations, livestock disease threats, and the future of family-owned ranches.

Ricketts highlighted Sustainable Beef as an example of how independent, rancher-owned processing facilities can create additional markets for cattle producers.

The North Platte facility is designed to process up to 1,500 cattle per day.

According to materials distributed during the visit, the project is expected to support 875 jobs and generate over $1 billion in annual economic impact.



The senator's proposal also calls for restoring mandatory country-of-origin labeling for beef, expanding international markets for Nebraska agricultural products, and reducing American dependence on China for livestock feed vitamins and supplements.

Another priority is protecting family farms and ranches through estate tax reform, limits on foreign ownership of agricultural land, and reduced federal regulatory burdens.

Ricketts also emphasized the need for faster disaster assistance following droughts, wildfires, and floods, along with stronger protections against New World Screwworm, a destructive livestock parasite.

The plan includes expanded agricultural scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships intended to prepare young Nebraskans for careers in ranching, veterinary medicine, meat processing, and food safety.

The proposal also builds on broader federal efforts to strengthen domestic beef production at a time when the national cattle herd has fallen to historically low levels.

A central focus of the proposal is increasing competition in the meatpacking industry.

Photo by Melanie Standiford

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WEATHER

Poles Down on W. 42nd Street

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- The area was hit with some gusty conditions that brought these poles down onto the roadway Saturday afternoon.



Photo by John Venturino Jr.

On October 10, 2026 at approximately 2:40 p.m., Scottsbluff Rural Fire Department was dispatched to a report of power lines down at the intersection of County Road 20 and West 42nd Street. Upon arrival it was discovered that multiple poles had snapped along 42nd street. These poles and lines were covering the intersections and street. Roosevelt Public Power was contacted immediately.

At 3:30 p.m., while still on scene of the first incident, they were dispatched to Sugar Factory Road and 42nd Street for a kite in a power line. NPPD was alerted to this incident and assisted. Units all cleared at 5:00 p.m.

The department reminds everyone to stay away from downed power lines and never drive over them! They also gave thanks to the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Department, Roosevelt Public Power, NPPD Scotts Bluff County Communications for their assistance.

Weekly Weather Outlook from Kendell Henderson Agency, Inc.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
67°/45°	67°/42°	53°/41°	53°/41°	51°/30°	46°/28°	60°/28°

Weekly Weather Outlook

- October 11–12 (Sun–Mon): A distinct cold front sweeps through early in the week, putting an end to the previous heat wave. High temperatures drop immediately to 67°F, and overnight lows fall into the low 40s. There is a 30% chance of rain showers on Sunday evening.

- October 13–14 (Tue–Wed): The core of the cool air settles in. Highs will only reach the low 50s (53°F) under mostly cloudy skies, with a 40% chance of light rain on Wednesday.

- October 15–16 (Thu–Fri): Clearer skies return, but conditions remain quite brisk. Highs hover between 46°F and 51°F. Strong northwest winds pick up, peaking on Thursday at 26 mph, which will bring significant wind chills. Overnight temperatures will drop below freezing for the first time this week, reaching 28°F to 30°F.

- October 17 (Sat): The weekend kicks off with a slight afternoon rebound as temperatures climb back up to 60°F under full sunshine.

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BUILDING A STRONGER MIND

Hands They Trust Caregiver Support Group

Caregivers Need Love Too



A caregiver support group is a regular, safe gathering of people who care for a family member, partner, or friend. These groups can be peer-led or guided by a professional, such as a social worker, and meet either in person or online.

Caregiving is an intensely demanding role that impacts a person’s emotional, mental, and physical health. Without proper outlets, caregivers face a high risk of burnout, depression, and social isolation.

- (213) 220-5133 in Scottsbluff
- Caregiversupport26@gmail.com

Caregiving can alienate you from friends and family who don't understand the daily reality.

Support groups connect you with peers who truly understand without needing an explanation. Group members can help you see when you are pushing yourself too hard and encourage you to prioritize your own physical and mental health.

- You can learn useful shortcuts and coping strategies for daily challenges, such as managing aggressive behavior in dementia patients or safely transferring someone from a bed to a wheelchair.
- It is a safe space to express "taboo" emotions—like anger, guilt, resentment, or grief —without fear of being judged.
- Groups often teach mindfulness, stress-management techniques, and boundaries.
- Support groups helps caregivers remember that they are an individual with their own needs, not just a caregiver.

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BUSINESS NEWS

NEHAWKA SAYS NO



(NEHAWKA, Neb.) — Nehawka has become the first known Nebraska village to permanently prohibit data centers, citing concerns about water supplies, electricity demand, noise and environmental impacts.

Chad Krueger, co-chair of the Nehawka Village Board of Trustees, said developers were pursuing land near the Cass County village, prompting residents to push for a permanent ban. Although Cass County adopted a temporary moratorium on data centers, Krueger said the county's authority does not extend into the village's jurisdiction, which includes Nehawka and a one-mile buffer zone.

The village's zoning authority allowed local officials to enact their own restrictions. Krueger said most residents who weighed in supported the ban, concerned that large data centers could strain local natural resources. Water availability was a particular concern, he said, noting that drought conditions and declining groundwater levels have caused some nearby ponds to disappear.

At least 19 counties have adopted temporary moratoriums, while others, including Box Butte and Sioux counties, have approved rules addressing water use and electricity costs. Krueger said village clerks from across Nebraska have contacted Nehawka seeking information about its ban, suggesting other communities may be considering similar measures.

The Nebraska League of Municipalities said it was not aware of any other Nebraska villages that had enacted a data center ban.

GERING IS COOL

(GERING, Neb.) — Two Gering businesses are representing the Nebraska Panhandle in the Elite Eight of the 2026 "Coolest Thing Made in Nebraska" contest, advancing to the next round after public voting narrowed the field from 16 products to eight.

Grand Republic Milling Company's fresh, stone-milled flour and Family Built Homes' modular housing are both still in the running. The annual competition celebrates Nebraska manufacturing, an industry that employs more than 100,000 people statewide.

Grand Republic Milling's flour will compete against Ceres Group's Hi Rail Excavator and Snowblower, while Family Built Homes faces Valmont Industries' PyraMAX Transmission Structures.

The contest is hosted by the NE Chamber and Nebraska Manufacturing Alliance, with Pinnacle Bank as presenting sponsor.

Public voting for the Elite Eight round remains open through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. The winner will be announced Oct. 29 at the NE Chamber's Manufacturing Summit in La Vista.

Both Gering entries advanced to the final eight, putting local manufacturing in the spotlight alongside products from across Nebraska, ranging from agricultural technology to medical innovations.

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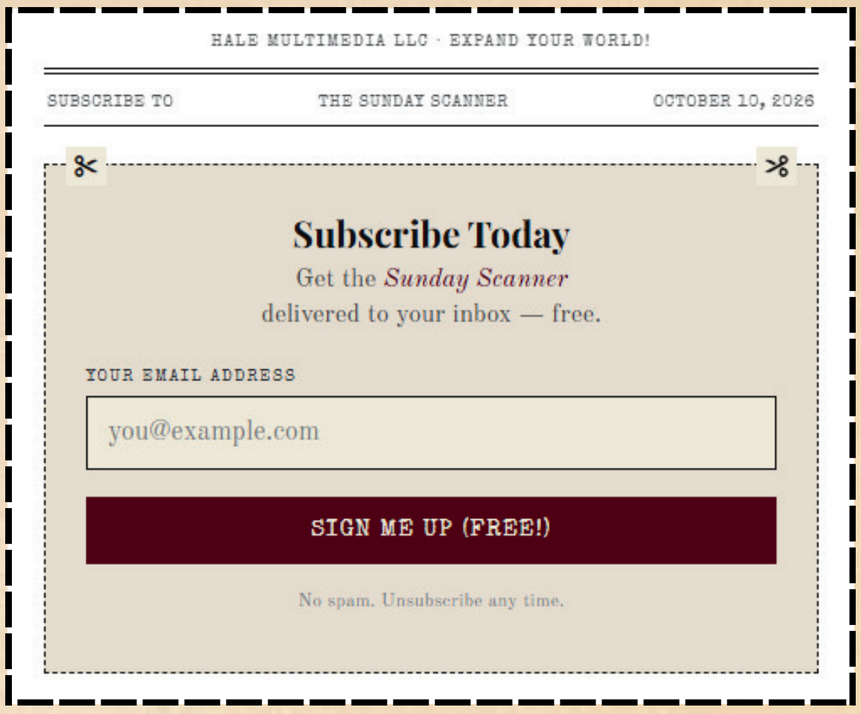
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Readership on News Page at All-Time High

Over the past week, the daily number of unique readers on our news page has been steadily averaging over 5,000, with total articles read over 40,000 this week. A small sampling of the past week is shown below. Advertisers; contact us before our limited space runs out. Visit our news page directly at www.diggingdeeper.net.

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2 Vehicle MVA Scottsbluff - Oct 5
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic is indicating a two vehicle accident on Broadway and E 20th in Scottsbluff. Requesting EMS, unknown injuries.

Driving Complaint - Oct 7
(ALLIANCE, Neb.) -- According to scanner traffic, NSP on the lookout for a silver Toyota SUV NB Hwy 385. RP states they have been tailgating and swerving all over the roadway.

L62A Semi MVA - Oct 6
(BAYARD, Neb.) – According to scanner traffic, 2 vehicle collision with a pickup vs semi (both pulling trailers) L62A & Road 83. There is lane blockage.

Driver of the other vehicle was unrestrained and EMS called RWMC for partial trauma team.

One 22 year old male was transported via ambulance.

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.