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THE SUNDAY SCANNER

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

COMMUNITY UNITES AFTER TRAGEDY



(HEMINGFORD, Neb.) — We continue to pray for the Henderson family and the Hemingford community during this difficult time. Bobby's life was taken tragically when his semi collided head-on with another semi on Tuesday morning, Nov. 17. He was a husband, father and served as a volunteer firefighter in Hemingford.

Marcie Thomas of MC Signs & Decals is hosting a benefit at the Hemingford Volunteer Fire Department for the family on Dec. 18, 2026, starting at 5 p.m. If you would like to donate, please call or text Marcie at 308-760-1967.

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Community

Legacy Coop Plans to Sell Grocery Division

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Shoppers in Scottsbluff, Kimball and Torrington should start noticing some changes to their local grocery store come next year when Ridley's Family Markets plans to take over the three locations, promising personal service and a commitment to the community.

Founded by Jerry and Connie Ridley in 1984, Ridley’s Family Markets is a family-owned grocery retailer serving communities throughout the Mountain West.

“Ridley’s Family Markets started with the belief that taking care of people is the foundation of a successful grocery store,” said Anita Ridley, Chairperson of Ridley’s Family Markets. “Main Street Market’s employees have built relationships with customers in these communities, and we respect the work that goes into earning that trust. We’re excited for the opportunity to get to know these communities and become their local hometown grocery store.”

“We want customers to feel welcome, find good value and know that their local store listens to them,” Ridley added. “We look forward to earning their business and supporting the communities these stores call home.”



[November 18, 2026] — Ridley’s Family Markets today announced plans to purchase the three Main Street Market grocery stores owned by Legacy Coop in Scottsbluff and Kimball, Nebraska, and Torrington, Wyoming.

The purchase includes the following Main Street Market locations:
- Scottsbluff, Nebraska: 401 S. Beltline Highway West
- Kimball, Nebraska: 815 East 3rd Street
- Torrington, Wyoming: 1542 South Main

“We have taken great care in evaluating this transition and strongly believe that Ridley’s Family Markets is the right fit to carry these three Main Street Market grocery stores into the future,” said E. Tod Clark, interim CEO of Legacy Coop. “As a family-owned company with a strong understanding of the grocery business, Ridley’s shares Legacy Coop’s long-time commitment to serving customers and supporting the communities we call home. We are confident the grocery stores will be in good hands and that Ridley’s will build upon and strengthen the relationships our employees and customers have worked so hard to establish over the years. Our priority throughout this process is making sure this is a positive transition for our employees, our customers, and the communities we serve.”

The transaction is expected to close in early February of 2027.

The company emphasizes personal service, quality products and value, with a commitment to supporting the communities where its team members and customers live. Learn more at shopridleys.com.

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THANKSGIVING IN THE PANHANDLE



(PANHANDLE OF NEBRASKA) — Several local churches and organizations are providing Thanksgiving meals again this year. Here are a few that are still upcoming in Scottsbluff, Alliance, Bayard, Kimball, and Sidney.

Alliance (Sunday, Nov. 22) – Calvary Assembly (1345 E. 3rd St., Alliance) is hosting a public Thanksgiving dinner starting at 5 p.m.

Bayard (Sunday, Nov. 22) – Cornerstone Fellowship Assembly of God is hosting a free Community Thanksgiving Meal from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bayard Elementary School.

Sidney (Tuesday, Nov. 24) – Sidney Elks Lodge No. 1894 (1040 Jackson St., Sidney) 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

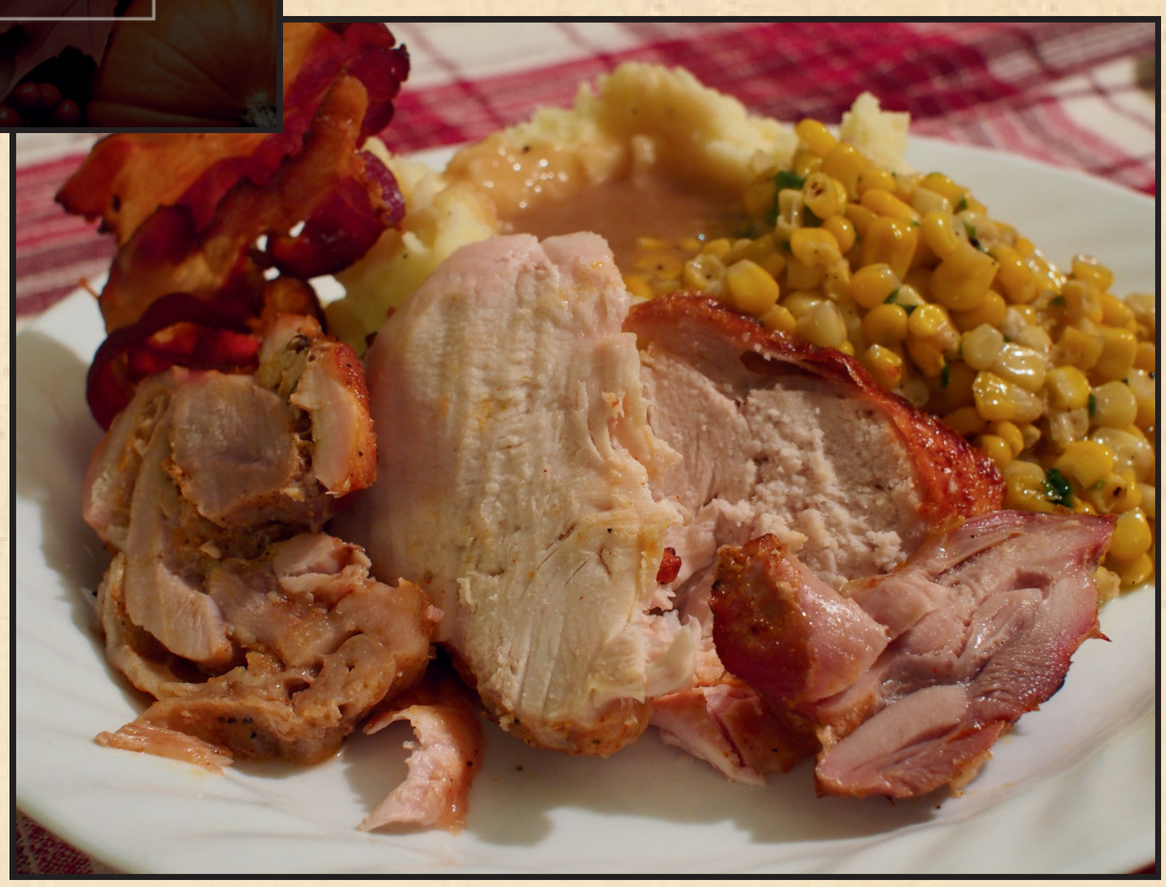
Thanksgiving Day Meals (Thursday, Nov. 26)

Scottsbluff — 43rd Annual Thanksgiving in the Valley, Guadalupe Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (1200 E. 9th St.)

Scottsbluff — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (501 Winter Creek Dr.) 1 to 3 p.m.

Kimball — New Hope Assembly of God, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Alliance — St. Agnes Academy (1104 Cheyenne Ave.) is offering both curbside pickup and dine-in service.



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Community

Presenting... Irving Berlin's Annie Get Your Gun

(GERING, Neb.) — According to local sources close to the matter, folks in the Nebraska Panhandle are being encouraged to "Saddle Up for a Rootin'-Tootin' Good Time!" So get ready for a Wild West adventure packed with laughter, romance, unforgettable music, and a little friendly competition as Gering High School's Stage Hounds proudly present Irving Berlin's Annie Get Your Gun, the beloved Broadway musical that proves love might be a battlefield, but sometimes it's also a shooting contest!





Featuring Broadway classics like "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Anything You Can Do," and "Doin' What Comes Natur'lly," this high-energy musical delivers larger-than-life characters, hilarious hijinks, dazzling performances, and plenty of Wild West excitement. It's Nov. 30, 2026.

Will Annie win Frank's heart, or will their larger-than-life egos get in the way? There's only one way to find out! So grab your hat, round up your family and friends, and join the Stage Hounds for a rip-roaring theatrical adventure that's sure to hit the bullseye!

Because when it comes to entertainment, THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS!

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MISSING PERSONS
AND PROPERTY

MISSING: Kaullani Lopez, 15



NAME: Kaullani Lopez
Age: 15
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 190 lbs

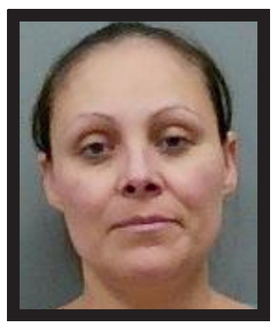
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — KAULLANI is a 15-year-old female, 5'10" tall, 190 lbs. She has black hair and brown eyes. Last Seen: 5th Ave and E 12th in Scottsbluff. wearing: Blue jeans, black hoodie, shoes, black Adidas backpack, and dark blue and pink backpack with pink hearts.

Signed: Scottsbluff PD Nov. 17, 2026

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 Contreras-Pena, shown in second photo. Contact FBI Omaha at 402-493-8688 or the Nebraska Missing Persons 1-877-441-5678.

Note: The Nebraska State Patrol has Rhylee Wilberger listed as Missing as well.

MISSING
Jordan Jenkins, 16

Name: JORDAN JENKINS
Age When Missing: 16
Current Age: 16
Race: White
Sex: Male
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Blond or Strawberry
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 150
Missing Date: 11-15-2026

Remarks: JORDAN was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt and blue jeans.

Description: JORDAN is a 16-year-old white male. At the time of his disappearance, he was 6' tall and weighed 150 lbs. He has blond or strawberry hair and blue eyes.

Agency: Scottsbluff P.D.
Phone: 308-632-7176 or Nebraska Missing Persons Clearinghouse 1-877-441-LOST(5678).

We verify Missing Persons through the Nebraska State Patrol as well as through direct contact with the most immediate family.

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FROM MURDER CHARGE TO MANSLAUGHTER



(GERING, Neb.) — A 17-year-old Scottsbluff resident was sentenced Tuesday in Scotts Bluff County District Court to 10 to 15 years in prison for his role in a fatal January 2025 stabbing.

District Judge Dobrovolny ordered Corey T. Rotherham Jr., 17, to serve his sentence in a Nebraska Department of Correctional Services facility.

Rotherham received credit for 40 days already served and was ordered to pay $194.38 in court costs.

Rotherham previously pled no contest to an amended charge of manslaughter, a Class IIA felony. A no-contest plea means the defendant does not admit guilt but allows the court to treat the plea as a conviction for sentencing purposes.

Prosecutors originally charged Rotherham with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting the use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony. As part of the plea agreement, the weapon charge was dismissed and the murder charge was reduced.

According to a probable cause affidavit filed by Detective Kiesel of the Scottsbluff Police Department, the incident occurred around 10:13 p.m. Jan. 20, 2025. Security camera footage from a nearby business captured three males exiting a red Mitsubishi and chasing a minor near the intersection of 5th Avenue and East Overland Drive.

Court records state that a co-defendant, Devante Castellaw, caught up with the victim and struck him three times with a knife. Investigators identified Rotherham as one of the suspects seen following the victim in the surveillance video and yelling during the assault.

Emergency responders transported the injured minor to Regional West Medical Center. He was later flown to Swedish Hospital in Denver, where he was pronounced dead the following night from a stab wound.

During Tuesday's hearing, Judge Dobrovolny heard arguments from prosecutor Allen and defense attorney Meister before handing down the sentence.

Rotherham was remanded to the custody of the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office to begin serving his prison sentence.

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No Excuse for No-Show

(GERING, Neb.) — A Scotts Bluff County District Court judge issued a bench warrant Monday for a 32-year-old Scottsbluff man who failed to appear for a scheduled hearing.

Judge Dobrovolny revoked bond and ordered the arrest of Eli J. Gonzalez, 32, of Scottsbluff, after he failed to appear in court Nov. 16. According to court notes, defense attorney Newell told the court Gonzalez was absent because he was reportedly in custody at the Dawson County jail.

Newell indicated Gonzalez may be held there on a federal probation violation.

Gonzalez was scheduled to finalize a plea agreement filed Oct. 1. Under the agreement, he agreed to plead guilty or no contest to four misdemeanor charges: criminal mischief, contempt of court and two counts of disturbing the peace.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors agreed to dismiss several original felony and misdemeanor charges. Those dismissed counts include felony third-degree domestic assault of a pregnant woman, felony terroristic threats, child abuse, criminal mischief and interfering with a public service company.

The case stems from a disturbance at a Scottsbluff residence late Aug. 30. According to an arrest affidavit filed by Officer Leishman, a pregnant woman reported that Gonzalez forced his way into a locked bedroom where she was with their 1-year-old child.

The affidavit states that Gonzalez allegedly pulled the woman by her hair, broke her cellphone and attempted to punch her in the stomach. When interviewed by police, Gonzalez waived his Miranda rights and denied that the argument became physical.

Gonzalez had previously been released on a personal recognizance bond Oct. 2, which required no upfront cash payment. He also missed an earlier plea hearing on Oct. 15, 2026.

No new court date has been scheduled in Scotts Bluff County while the warrant remains active. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Note: If you end up in another jail, it is still your responsibility to notify the jail that you have a court date, which can now be done via Zoom.

Assault Reported



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Early Sunday morning, just after 2:30 a.m., scanner traffic indicated a possible assault victim who was choked at an apartment complex in southeast Scottsbluff.

The scene was secure once Scottsbluff Police were on scene. EMS staged at Lakota Lutheran Center until police arrived.

Western Sleep Medicine

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SWATTING IS A SERIOUS CRIME

(MITCHELL, Neb.) — Law enforcement confirmed that a reported possible shooting reported at 8:17 p.m., Nov. 17 in Mitchell was actually what is known as a swatting incident.

Initial scanner traffic indicated a possible shooting involving two patients. Reports suggested a juvenile inside a residence may have been armed with an AR-style rifle while parents were barricaded inside. Emergency responders were dispatched, and law enforcement communications were moved to a secure channel.

Authorities later confirmed the call was a hoax and that no one had been injured. The people at the reported location were victims of a swatting call.

Swatting involves making a false emergency report, often claiming a serious threat or violent incident, to trigger a large law enforcement response at an unsuspecting person's location.

No further location details are being released to protect the privacy of those affected.

High-Speed Pursuit on County Roads



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — A live shot from a video by Panhandle Scanner of the Scotts Bluff County pursuit that occurred early Friday morning around 5 a.m., east of town along County Road 28 and others. Police issued a BOLO, meaning an alert to look out for a gold or tan sedan after calling off the chase for safety reasons, or they just plum lost ‘em. In any case, as you see from the photo below, they located the vehicle the next morning, but not before the culprits abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. (Scanner Humor)



Panhandle Scanner will investigate further to determine if the actual vehicle involved in the high-speed chase was ever located. (Scanner Humor)

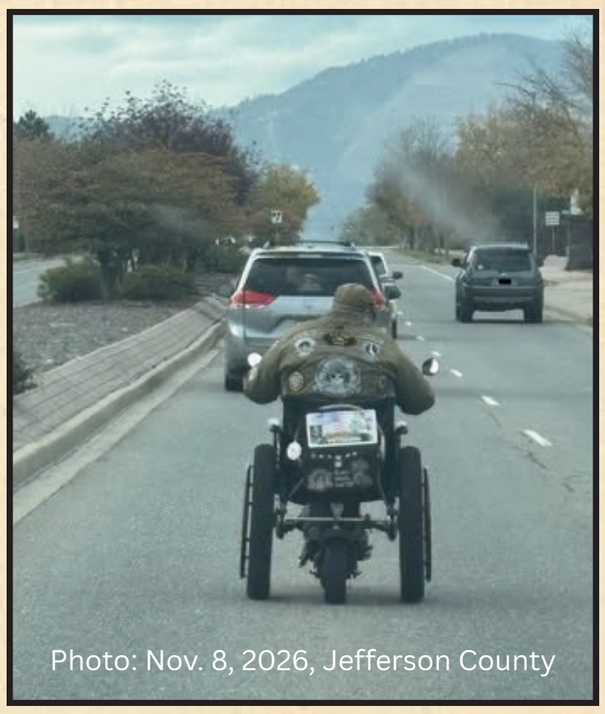

Photo: Nov. 8, 2026, Jefferson County

Alternative Transportation Methods on the Rise

(JEFFERSON COUNTY, Colo.) — A wheelchair fitted with an electric motor on the road is a hard NO, according to the Colorado State Patrol.

There are plenty of ways to get creative with transportation, but combining an unsafe setup is a recipe for disaster. Let's keep equipment for its intended purpose and leave the inventions to MacGyver.

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A Sharp Turn in Court

(GERING, Neb.) — A 21-year-old Scottsbluff man was sentenced Tuesday to 30 days in jail after pleading no contest to a reduced misdemeanor assault charge stemming from a June knife altercation in Gering.

District Judge Dobrovolny sentenced Christopher J. Gudgel, 21, of Scottsbluff, following a plea agreement. Gudgel received credit for 28 days already served in custody and was ordered to pay $138 in court costs.

The case began around 9:50 p.m. June 27, when Gering police were called to a residence regarding an argument over an ex-girlfriend that turned physical. According to a probable cause affidavit filed by Officer Thompson, residents repeatedly asked Gudgel to leave the home.

During the argument, Gudgel allegedly punched the male victim in the upper lip, pulled a knife and threatened to stab him. A witness corroborated the account, and another resident provided police with video showing Gudgel pulling the knife.

Gudgel told officers at the scene that the victim punched him first and that he pulled the knife in self-defense before tossing it to the ground. Officer Shepard later recovered the knife from the floor inside the residence, according to court records. Medical personnel advised the victim to get stitches for his injuries.

Gudgel was originally charged in Scotts Bluff County District Court with third-degree assault, terroristic threats and use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony.

Under the plea agreement filed Monday, prosecutor Winston amended the assault count to third-degree assault by mutual consent, a Class II misdemeanor, and dismissed the two felony charges. Gudgel waived a presentence investigation and entered a no-contest plea, which carries the same legal effect as a guilty plea for sentencing.

Judge Dobrovolny ordered the $138 in court costs to be deducted from Gudgel's previously posted $5,000 bond, with the remaining balance refunded to him. No further hearings are scheduled.

What's the Occasion?

"ANYTHING! WE'VE GOT THE ENTERTAINMENT!" says a new local Scottsbluff, Nebraska business.

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Rollover with Arrest

(MINATARE, Neb.) — Scanner traffic indicated a one-vehicle rollover near mile marker 31 on Highway 26 west of Minatare. The driver was reportedly out of the vehicle with Regional 2 on scene. “Minor injuries only, cancel any other responding units,” was the response to dispatch.



Panhandle Scanner’s Briley Darley was on scene and reported that there was one male 10-15, or under arrest, from the incident and taken to the Scotts Bluff County Jail around 1:19 p.m.



Flock Captures Stolen Motorcycle; Arrest Made

(GERING, Neb.) — A 34-year-old Terrytown man was sentenced Monday to 90 days in jail, with full credit for time served, after pleading no contest to a reduced misdemeanor charge involving a stolen motorcycle.

District Judge Miller sentenced Trey A. Brown, 34, of Terrytown, following a plea agreement in Scotts Bluff County District Court. Miller also ordered Brown to pay court costs from his bond.

The case began around 12:41 p.m. Aug. 6, 2025, when Scottsbluff Police Officer Yocum received an alert from a Flock Safety license plate camera. The alert flagged a 1997 Harley-Davidson motorcycle reported stolen in Sturgis, South Dakota, traveling north on Broadway.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Yocum stopped the motorcycle in a parking lot at 3210 Avenue B. Dispatch confirmed the vehicle identification number matched the stolen motorcycle report and identified Brown as the suspect.

Police estimated the motorcycle’s Kelley Blue Book value at $5,210 and arrested Brown on suspicion of theft by receiving stolen property, a Class IIA felony.

Under a plea agreement negotiated by prosecutor Eubanks and defense attorney Adamson, the state amended the charge to unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, a Class III misdemeanor. Brown waived a presentence investigation and entered a no-contest plea, which carries the same legal effect as a guilty plea for sentencing.

With credit for 90 days already served, Brown’s jail sentence is complete.

Editor’s Note: A June 2025 Facebook post by Ben Hymas confirms the theft of the 1997 Harley-Davidson shown in the photo to the left.

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MURDERER SENTENCED FOR IGNITING FATHER

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — On March 20, 2025 at 9:43 p.m., first responders were dispatched to 1022 11th Avenue regarding a fire and a possible oxygen tank explosion.



Upon arrival it was determined that an adult male, Anthony Cervantes (74), had been doused with an accelerant and set on fire. Anthony Cervantes was found to be deceased at the scene.

The suspect was identified as Anthony's son, Elijah Cervantes (44). Both men were residents of the home, but Elijah had departed the scene. Elijah Cervantes was located and subsequently arrested for 2nd Degree Murder and 1st Degree Arson.

The Scottsbluff Police Department was assisted by the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office, Gering Police Department, Scotts Bluff County CERT and the State of Nebraska Fire Marshal's Office.

In September 2026, after being found competent to stand trial following court-ordered treatment in Lincoln, Cervantes pled no contest to 2nd Degree Murder, and prosecutors dismissed other counts, including 1st Degree Arson.

Scotts Bluff County District Judge Leo Dobrovolny handed down the 80-years-to-life sentence during a Friday morning hearing to Elijah Cervantes, 45, for the killing of his father, Anthony Cervantes, 74. This exceeded the 50-year sentence recommended by prosecutors.

RR CROSSING MISHAP LANDS MAN IN JAIL

(GERING, Neb.) — A 28-year-old Scottsbluff man was sentenced in Scotts Bluff County Court to 30 days in jail following a plea agreement in an August railroad tracks DUI case.

Eric J. Jacobucci, 28, pled no contest to an amended misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .15 or higher.

On Aug. 8 around 10:52 p.m., scanner traffic indicated a driver in a red Dodge Charger stuck on the railroad tracks at Highway 92 and CR 25.

Officials from Union Pacific notified dispatch of the disabled vehicle after the driver refused to call 911.

Prosecutors originally charged him with DUI (.15 or higher) or refusal with one prior conviction, a Class I misdemeanor, before amending the count to a Class W misdemeanor.

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FIRE & RESCUE

MINATARE HOUSE FIRE

(MINATARE, Neb.) — A house fire occurred in Minatare on the corner of 3rd Ave and 7th Street around 1 a.m., Nov. 21, 2026. Scanner traffic indicated the structure was fully engulfed and mutual aid was requested from surrounding departments. The residents were home at the time and made it out safely, but unfortunately there were several dogs that reportedly perished in the fire.

The fire was extinguished and crews returned to duty only to have the area reignite hours later, prompting a second response on Saturday.

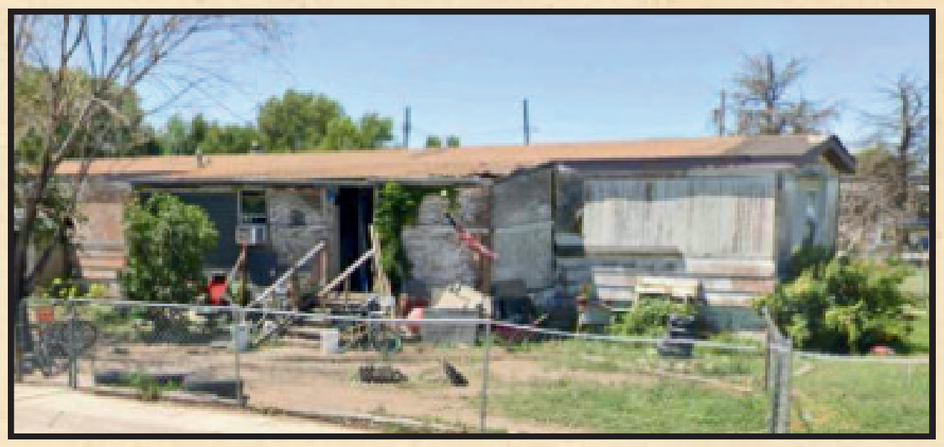




Additional info: A local electrician that lives in the same area reported a short, localized power outage just before this fire occurred. He called the power company to confirm it, and wonders if this had anything to do with the cause. Panhandle Scanner will follow this up.



Rebecka McDermott wrote, *“Our things can be replaced it's the precious life of all 6 of our dogs, our fur babies lives that we can't replace that we lost in that fire.”*



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FIRE & RESCUE

DOUBLE FATALITY, MULTI-VEHICLE ACCIDENT



The Nebraska State Patrol identified the deceased drivers as Bobby Henderson, 38, a volunteer firefighter from Hemingford, Nebraska, who was driving southbound, and Wesley Barkell, 66, of Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, who was driving northbound on Highway 71 just north of the old Victory Hill School above. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — It was a foggy morning when tragedy struck north of town after the call came in over the scanner for a semi on fire with one unresponsive. That was only the beginning of what eventually involved four, possibly five vehicles in the end with two deceased and an investigation underway.

The call came in at 9:08 a.m. immediately following the accident, with a portion of Highway 71 closed until 5:30 p.m. when the Nebraska Department of Transportation advised that it had been reopened.

Over the past several issues, we have published tips on what to do if you are in a collision after the initial emergency has been taken care of and it’s time to consider what to do with your damaged vehicle. Here is Tip #3 courtesy of Bumper To Bumper Collision Center in Scottsbluff.

Tip #3: The First Estimate May Not Tell the Whole Story

A vehicle can have damage that isn't visible during an initial inspection.

Once technicians begin disassembling damaged areas, they may discover additional problems that need attention.

This is why the first insurance estimate may not reflect the full scope or final cost of the necessary repairs.

Here's what you should know:

- The initial estimate is a starting point, not necessarily the final repair estimate.
- Additional damage can be documented and submitted to the insurance company through a supplemental estimate.
- The repair facility and insurance adjuster may need to communicate to resolve differences in the estimated repair costs.
- Ask questions about any proposed repairs, insurance payments and expenses you may be responsible for before authorizing work.

If you disagree with an estimate or a coverage decision, ask your insurance company for an explanation and keep a record of the discussion. Your repair shop may also be able to help clarify the repair requirements and communicate with the adjuster.

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FIRE & RESCUE



Members of the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department participated in hands-on training this past Thursday.

Sidney Fire Department Training

(SIDNEY, Neb.) — Members of the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department participated in hands-on training Thursday, Nov. 19, focused on firefighter rescue procedures and emergency accountability.

The training included realistic firefighter-down scenarios requiring crews to respond to a simulated Mayday emergency. Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) were tasked with locating and rescuing a downed firefighter, then initiating Firefighter Rescue CPR.

The exercise required firefighters to begin chest compressions while the simulated victim was still wearing full protective gear. Lifesaving efforts continued as additional crew members worked to remove the firefighter's personal protective equipment (PPE).

Firefighters also reviewed Personnel Accountability Reports (PAR), a critical procedure used to ensure all personnel are accounted for during emergency operations.

An immediate PAR may be necessary during rapidly changing or dangerous situations, including explosions, structural collapses, active shooter incidents and other emergencies. The procedure helps incident commanders identify whether all firefighters are safe or if someone is missing or in danger.

The department said the scenarios reinforce the importance of teamwork, communication and accountability, particularly when firefighters must respond quickly to protect one of their own.

The training also provided an opportunity for department officers and cadet advisers to work alongside cadets, helping them develop their skills through hands-on experience.

The department emphasized that firefighter safety is just as important as protecting the community, noting that regular training helps ensure members are prepared to respond when the unexpected happens.

"Train hard. Stay prepared. Everyone goes home," the department stated.

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FIRE & RESCUE

Arthur's PIZZA
MADE IN 21

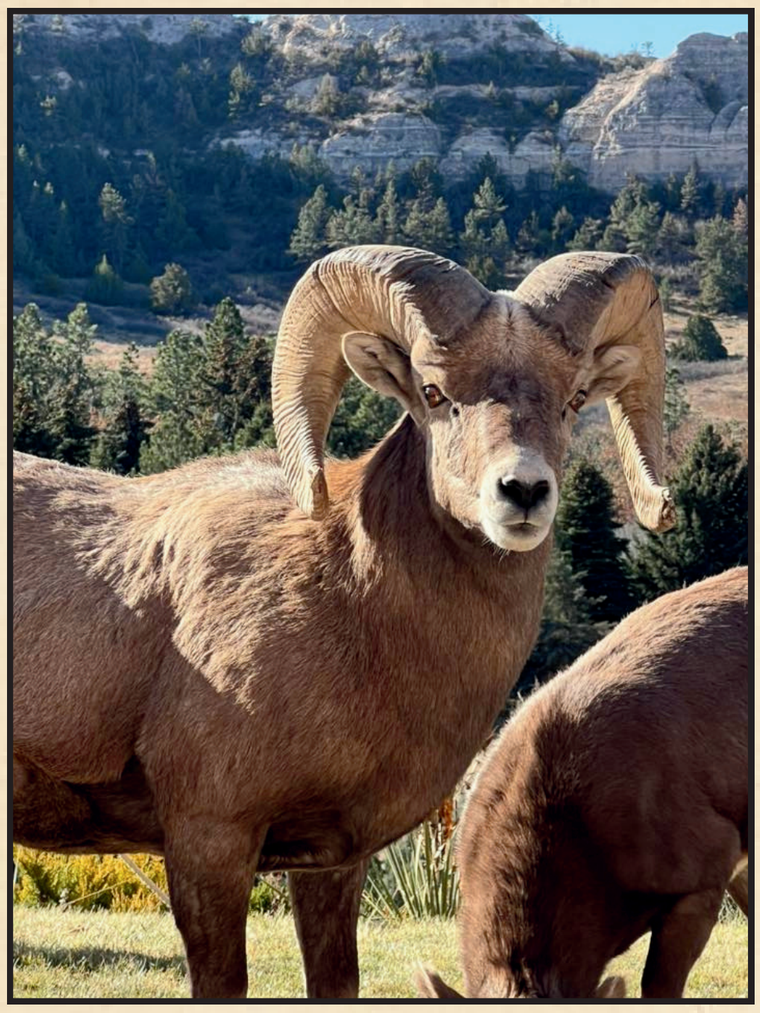
Working Here Fund Grant

(BAYARD, Neb.) — The Bayard Volunteer Fire Department was recently awarded a Working Here Fund Grant from Farm Credit Services of America. These funds were used to purchase 19 new firefighter helmets and 10 new flashlights for the department.

This equipment is an important investment in the safety of our firefighters. Whether responding to fires, accidents, or other emergencies, having reliable protective equipment and proper lighting helps ensure our volunteers are better equipped to serve and protect our community.



THANK YOU FARM CREDIT SERVICES OF AMERICA!



CAUTION : Wildlife Crossings

(GERING, Neb.) — Drivers were stopping and causing a hazard Thursday afternoon, according to the Nebraska State Patrol over scanner traffic.

Callers reported bighorn sheep gathering in a large group, looking like they wanted to cross Highway 71 near the Wildcat Hills entrance to the estates, south of Gering.



Arthur's PIZZA
MADE IN 21

Photo by Cassie Clymer, a finalist originally submitted to our 2025 Arthur's Pizza Fall Photo Contest.

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FIRE & RESCUE

Vehicle vs. Deer Accident Log



Nov. 15, 2026 6:47 p.m.
Hwy 26 & Just North of CR 26 with debris in the roadway, vehicle vs. deer with no injuries.

Nov. 17, 2026 10:23 p.m.
CR 22 & Lake Minatare RD, car vs. deer, vehicle still in the roadway.

Nov. 19, 2026 5:30 p.m.
Injury accident on Hwy 92, mile marker 22, car vs. deer, debris on the roadway.

Nov. 19, 2026 5:58 p.m.
Another Car vs. Deer, mile marker 13, Hwy 92, reported as non-injury.

Nov. 19, 2026 7:03 p.m.
Non-Injury car vs. deer just west of Minatare near mile marker 31.

Nov. 19, 2026 7:08 p.m.
Mile marker 29, Hwy 26 between Minatare and Scottsbluff, non-injury.

Nov. 20, 2026 6:03 a.m.
Heavy front end damage, mile marker 29, Highway 26, west of Minatare.

Nov. 20, 2026 5:28 p.m.
Hwy 26 mm 28. Deer is 10-65. Troopers advised no occupants in the vehicle.

Don't Ignore Those Warning Beeps

Smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are among the most important life safety devices in a home. But having them installed isn't enough. Knowing their expiration dates and understanding their warning sounds can make a lifesaving difference.



Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can be deadly. A properly functioning alarm is essential.

- UL Listing: Look for a UL (Underwriters Laboratories) listing when purchasing an alarm. Buy from reputable retailers and be cautious of unfamiliar online products.
- Expiration Date: Most CO alarms last approximately seven years. Check the manufacturing date and replacement instructions on the back of the device.
- Four Rapid Beeps: This commonly indicates a CO emergency. Immediately move everyone outdoors to fresh air and call 911. Do not re-enter until emergency responders say it is safe.
- Intermittent Chirping: May indicate a low battery, malfunction or expired device. Check the manufacturer's instructions.

Smoke Alarms
Smoke alarms provide an early warning that can give occupants valuable time to escape a fire. Regular inspection and replacement are essential.

- UL Listing: Look for a UL listing when purchasing smoke alarms to ensure the device has been evaluated against applicable safety standards.
- Expiration Date: Most smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. Over time, sensors deteriorate and may not detect smoke reliably.
- Three Long Beeps: Commonly indicate smoke detection. Never assume an alarm is false. Investigate safely, evacuate if a fire is suspected and call 911.
- Intermittent Chirping: May indicate a low battery, malfunction or expired device. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

Test alarms regularly, maintain batteries and replace expired devices. Never ignore a warning sound or assume an alarm is working simply because it's installed. A few minutes spent checking your home's safety devices could make all the difference when every second counts.

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PANHANDLE SPORTS

BACK-TO-BACK STATE CHAMPIONS!



(KEARNEY, Neb.) — The Garden County Eagles six-man football team became the first ever to win back-to-back state titles in NSAA Class D6 history Friday night by overcoming a 12-point deficit and a defensive turnover at the goal line, outscoring Diller-Odell in the second half three touchdowns to one, to make the final 38-34.

NSAA CLASS D6 HISTORY IS MADE IN KEARNEY

- 2026: Garden County over Diller-Odell to defend their state title, 38-34.
- 2025: Garden County defeats Southwest 41–22 for its first state title.


Photo by
Ogallala Police Department

Six-Man Roots: Invented in 1934 in Nebraska to give small schools a viable football option when they lacked numbers for 11-man rosters.

Game Adjustments: Played on a smaller field with 10-minute quarters and a 15-yard requirement for a first down, allowing all players to pass, run, and kick. Extra points after touchdown are opposite of 11-man rules. Kicking it through the uprights earns two, while running or passing it in is only worth one point. Also, field goals are worth four points. The field is 20 yards shorter and a bit narrower than a regular football field, as well.

Championship Venue: Title games are held at Ron and Carol Cope Stadium on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus.

Note: When the NSAA dropped the six-man division after 1998, the coaches association organized annual state championship tournaments. During that span, Wheeler Central won back-to-back titles during the 2005-2006 seasons, but not as part of the Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA) playoff system.

Congratulations to the Garden County Eagles on becoming the first team to win consecutive D6 titles in the NSAA!

Garden County 38
Diller-Odell 34



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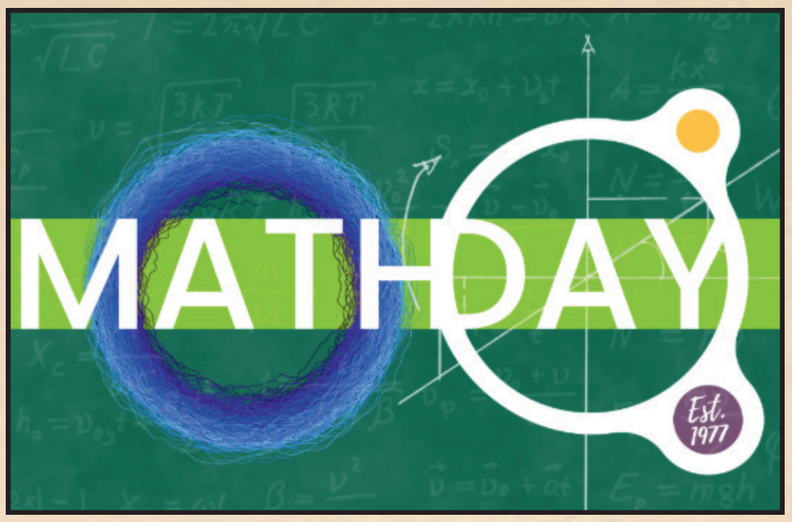
SCHOOL NEWS



(FORT COLLINS, Colo.) — Since 1977, the Department of Mathematics at Colorado State University has hosted Math Day, which is a full day of exploration in mathematics for high school students. This event brings in around 500 math-enthusiastic students from Colorado and surrounding states.

In the most recent CSU Math Day Competition, a combined Fossil Ridge / Scottsbluff High School team earned the 2026 Large School Math Bowl Championship, while the Scottsbluff A team earned a runner-up finish in the Large School Math Bowl tournament.

Student Project Math Fair (all day) is an open house-style fair with math-themed puzzles, games, art and a gallery of student-submitted projects to be judged by CSU mathematics instructors within these five categories:

- History, Biography & Mathematical Ideas
- Artistic and Recreational Mathematics
- Data Visualization or Statistics
- Original Mathematical Research
- Mathematics in Education/Teaching

SCOTTSBLUFF MATH CLUB



2026 CSU Math Day Large School Math Bowl Champions
Fossil Ridge/Scottsbluff E (pictured left to right)
Sebastian Kissick, Caleb Clodfelter, Johnlin Feng



Scottsbluff Math Team pictured in Colorado at the 2026 CSU Math Day

First	Last	Grade
Allison	Aaberg	9
Elijah	Aguilar	12
Amara	Alsidez	10
Hazelyn	Anderson-Frizzell	9
Josiah	Bruner	12
Caleb	Clodfelter	11
William	Croft	9
Alyxzander	Day	9
Gabriela	Duarte-Quijas	10
Annabelle	Fox	7
Sebastian	Kissick	11
Beau	Knapper	9
Declan	Long	8
Parker	Marlow	12
Mason	Middledorf	12
Wyatt	Nerud	11
Athaliah	Nhira	12
Zack	Rogers	8
Benjamin	Salinas	9
Abigail	Sanchez	12
Lucas	Scott	11
Kacy	Stone	9
James	White	9
Kinley	Williams	8
Maryanne	Winterbottom	12
Timothy	Winterbottom	8
Jonah	Zavala	9
Stephanie	Zhang	10

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SCHOOL NEWS

Gering Communications Takes Center Stage

(GERING, Neb.) — Jennifer Sibal, Director of Communications and Engagement for Gering Public Schools, has been named the 2027 Nebraska School Communicator of the Year, powered by Class Intercom.



With this honor, she will go on to represent Nebraska and compete for the National School Communicator of the Year Award.

"This award honors someone whose work goes beyond press releases and social posts. It’s about building trust, fostering connection, and helping every member of the community feel seen and heard. Jennifer exemplifies all of that and more," said Dr. Jill Johnson, President of Class Intercom.

The award was a surprise for Sibal, who has been working in school communications for eight years.

“My job may be to share what happens in our schools, but the story of Gering Public Schools belongs to all of us. The best communications work happens when people feel connected and celebrated, when they know their voices matter, and when they see themselves or the people and schools they’re most proud of reflected in what we share. I'm incredibly grateful to be part of a district and community that gives me so much to celebrate."

Though communications is in her title, Sibal does more than just communicate.

"Jennifer is much more than a communications director," said Dr. Kory Knight, Superintendent of Gering Public Schools. "As a Gering Public Schools alumna who has now dedicated nearly ten years to serving the district, she doesn't simply communicate the story of our schools; she is deeply connected to that story. She doesn't just communicate for Gering Public Schools; she believes in Gering Public Schools."

Over the past 18 months, Sibal guided district communications through several major transitions, including a school board vacancy and appointment, a superintendent transition, and the $29 million Gering Middle School Reimagined bond campaign, which passed with 61% voter approval.

Following an unsuccessful bond proposal in March 2025, Sibal helped shift the district's focus toward community listening by launching an extensive FAQ website, organizing community conversations, and engaging Gering champions to create "Did You Know" social media videos.

Beyond district campaigns, Sibal has brought national media attention to the Nebraska Panhandle through features on Nebraska Public Media and CBS Evening News, amplified family-focused programs like the Bitty Bulldog Day Camp and "The Heart of Gering Schools" recognition initiative, led district-wide communications professional learning, and serves the profession statewide as NebSPRA Treasurer.

The Nebraska School Public Relations Association (NebSPRA) is a state chapter of the National School Public Relations Association dedicated to advancing public education through responsible communication, professional development, and community engagement.

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AGRICULTURE

Our Daily Broadcast Lineup

- **Elevate Your Day**
  Airs Monday - Friday on Rumble, on halebroadcasting.com, and through any podcast network.
- **Scanner News**
  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.

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Late-Season Harvest News, Urban Sprawl, and Feral Swine on this week's Harvest USA Report

As November enters its final stretch, American farmers and custom harvesters are racing to finish up late-fall fieldwork ahead of incoming winter weather, while also confronting long-term challenges ranging from shrinking farmland to destructive invasive species. Those themes anchored the Nov. 15–21, 2026 broadcasts of the Harvest USA Report, hosted by Brian Hale across the Harvest USA Radio Network.

Across the Great Plains and Corn Belt, harvest crews are wrapping up their seasons. In the Nov. 16 broadcast, Hale noted that custom crews like Neumiller Harvesting have wrapped up their own corn acres, while operations such as Barr Harvesting are finishing up soybeans.

In the Nov. 17 segment, Harvest USA Report partnered with the Nebraska Farm Bureau to reflect on how drastically harvest technology has evolved over the past 50 years, contrasting modern high-efficiency machinery with archival photos of 1970s grain unloading. Despite the tech upgrades, the broadcast paid tribute to the "unsung heroes" of the season—including grain elevator scale workers who keep harvest traffic moving during long, unpredictable days.

Beyond the combine cab, the report highlighted a costly threat to U.S. agriculture: feral hogs. Citing USDA data, Hale reported that feral swine cause at least $3.5 billion in damages annually to American farmland, livestock, and natural resources. To combat the spread, the USDA has awarded more than $50 million across 29 partnership projects in 13 states through its Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program, urging affected producers to contact local USDA offices for management assistance.

On Nov. 18, the broadcast shifted focus to land-use pressures in shrinking farmland near Denver. The segment underscored how rapid suburban development is steadily replacing productive agricultural ground along Colorado's Front Range, noting the proliferation of real estate signs and crews paving over what used to be rural dirt roads.

No-Till Scholarships: Producers were encouraged to apply for travel scholarships—including the Cargill Grant Scholarship and the David Brandt Legacy Award—ahead of the No-Till on the Plains Annual Winter Conference scheduled for Jan. 19–20, 2027, in Wichita, Kansas.

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WEATHER



Taking Care of Your Pipes

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — This old gate-style water shutoff valve had failed, making it impossible for the customer to properly drain their sprinkler system. The team at Oregon Trail Plumbing replaced it with a new, reliable ball valve, making it easier and giving the customer peace of mind.

FREE AIR: Why pay for air when you don't have to?



Cold weather got your tire pressure light on?

Swing by Beelineand pull right into our warm shop!

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BEE LINE SERVICE & TOWING

Weekly Outlook

- Sunday, Nov. 22. Expect mostly cloudy skies with a high near 39°F and an overnight low dipping to 24°F. Winds will be light from the southeast at 8 mph, with only a 10% chance of snow flurries.
- Monday, Nov. 23. This will be the coldest day of the stretch, with overcast skies and a daytime high struggling to reach 32°F (low near 24°F). Southeasterly winds will pick up slightly to 13 mph, keeping wind chills in the teens and low 20s.
- Tuesday, Nov. 24. Skies clear out to bright sunshine, helping afternoon temperatures rebound to a high of 43°F after a morning low of 26°F.
- Wednesday, Nov. 25. Dry and sunny conditions continue ahead of the holiday. After a crisp morning low of 22°F, highs will reach 45°F with a 12 mph northwest breeze.
- Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, Nov. 26). Cloud cover increases, but temperatures climb noticeably into the low 50s, reaching a high near 51°F with a morning low of 25°F and light southwest winds around 10 mph.
- Friday, Nov. 27. Expect partly sunny skies and the warmest afternoon of the week with a high of 52°F and a milder overnight low of 34°F. Northwest winds will become breezy at 15 mph.
- Saturday, Nov. 28. The week wraps up with partly sunny skies, a high near 49°F, a low of 33°F, and southwest winds around 14 mph.

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BUILDING A STRONGER MIND



The Gratitude Effect: Unexplainable Benefits

As Thanksgiving approaches, many people take time to reflect on what they are thankful for. But gratitude is more than a seasonal tradition or a polite response when someone does something kind. Practicing gratitude can become a powerful habit that supports emotional well-being, strengthens relationships and helps build a more resilient mindset.

Gratitude doesn't mean pretending life is perfect or ignoring hardships. It means learning to recognize the good that exists alongside the challenges. Even during difficult seasons, taking a moment to acknowledge small blessings can help shift our perspective.

Research suggests that regularly practicing gratitude can have positive effects on mental well-being. It may help reduce stress, encourage more positive emotions, improve sleep and strengthen feelings of connection with others. When we intentionally focus on what we appreciate, we give our minds an opportunity to move away from constant worry, comparison and the feeling that something is always missing.

For those who draw strength from their faith, gratitude is also an important biblical principle. Scripture encourages believers to cultivate thankful hearts, not only when life is easy but in every circumstance.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV) reminds us: *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) encourages us *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Building a stronger mind doesn't mean eliminating every negative thought or difficult emotion. It means developing healthy habits that help us navigate life's ups and downs. Gratitude is one small but meaningful practice that can help us do just that.

The benefits don't require grand gestures. Gratitude can be practiced in simple, everyday ways:

- **Keep a gratitude journal.** Write down three things you're thankful for each day, even if they're small.
- **Express appreciation.** Tell someone when their kindness, encouragement or presence has made a difference.
- **Pause and notice.** Take a moment to appreciate an ordinary blessing, such as a warm meal, a beautiful sunrise or time spent with someone you love.
- **Reframe difficult moments.** This doesn't mean dismissing pain, but looking for sources of strength, support or lessons that may exist alongside the struggle.

This Thanksgiving season, consider making gratitude more than a holiday tradition. Make it part of your everyday life. Sometimes, a healthier perspective begins with simply recognizing what we already have to be thankful for.

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BUSINESS NEWS



Music Trivia from Chimney Rock n' Roll

Before becoming the legendary guitarist for Queen, Brian May and his father built something that would become one of the most recognizable instruments in rock history.



What unusual material did they use to build the neck of his famous Red Special guitar?

Was it wood from...

A. An old fireplace mantel
B. A church pew
C. A demolished railway station
D. An antique piano

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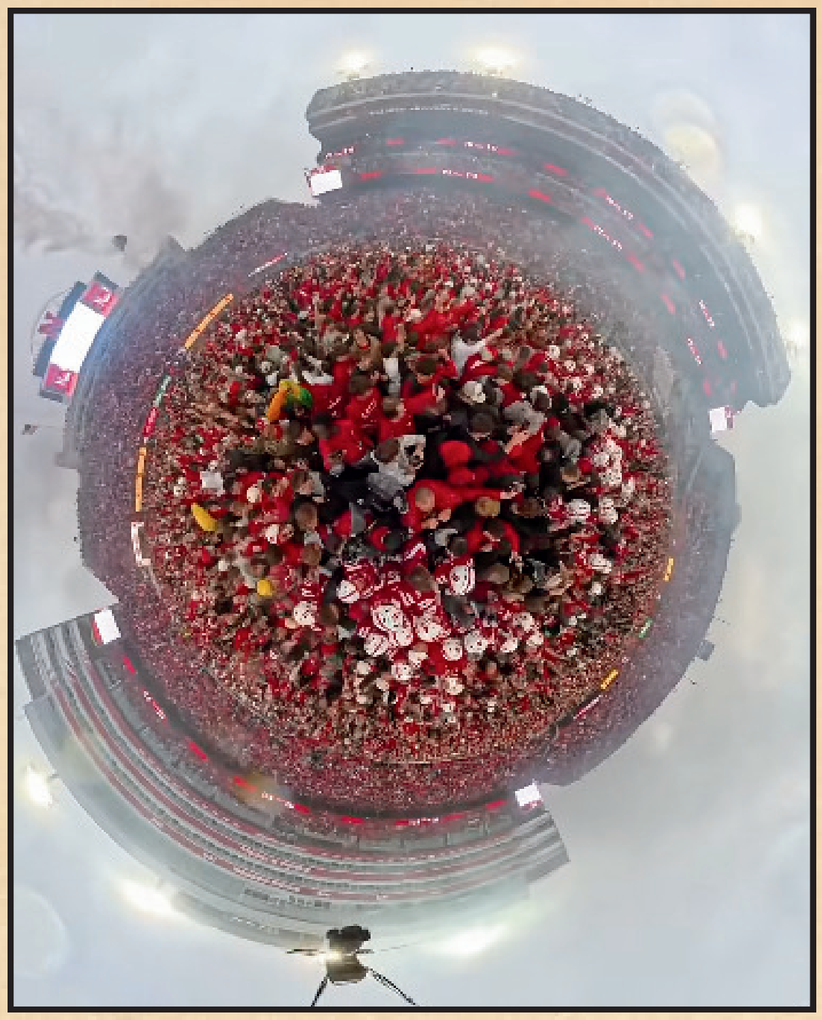
The Irony of College Football



On Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, the Nebraska Cornhuskers blanked Rutgers 31-0 securing their first shutout of a Big Ten opponent in their 16-season history as a member of the conference.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026, the Nebraska Cornhuskers defeated Ohio State 31–28 at Memorial Stadium, snapping a 31-game losing streak against ranked opponents that dated back to Sept. 17, 2016.

The Irony: The Huskers, in some folks opinion, are considered the biggest choke artists in NCAA Division I, then turn around and put up two historic performances. #gofigure #gbr

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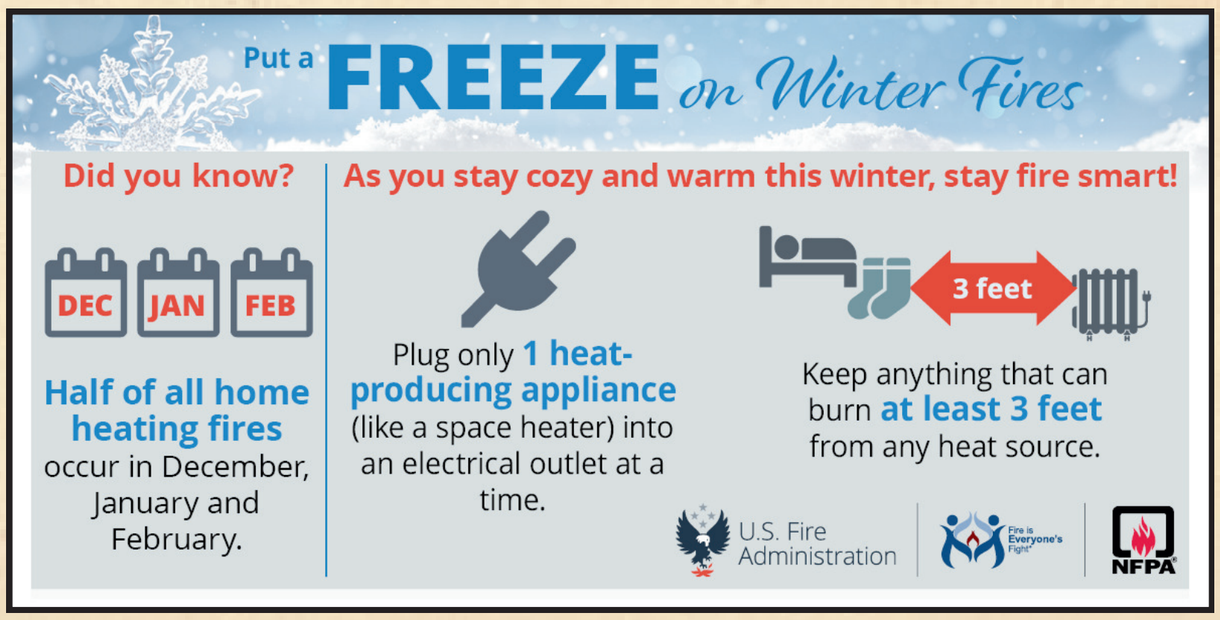
In Other Scanner Traffic...

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

Possible Outlet Fire - Nov. 21 12:49 a.m.
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- Scanner traffic indicated a Gering residence with an outlet sparking, smelling like smoke on 15th Street.



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