

Week of July 5 - 11, 2026



A publication of Hale Multimedia LLC



THE SUNDAY SCANNER

WWW.PANHANDLESCANNER.COM

OREGON TRAIL DAYS 2026



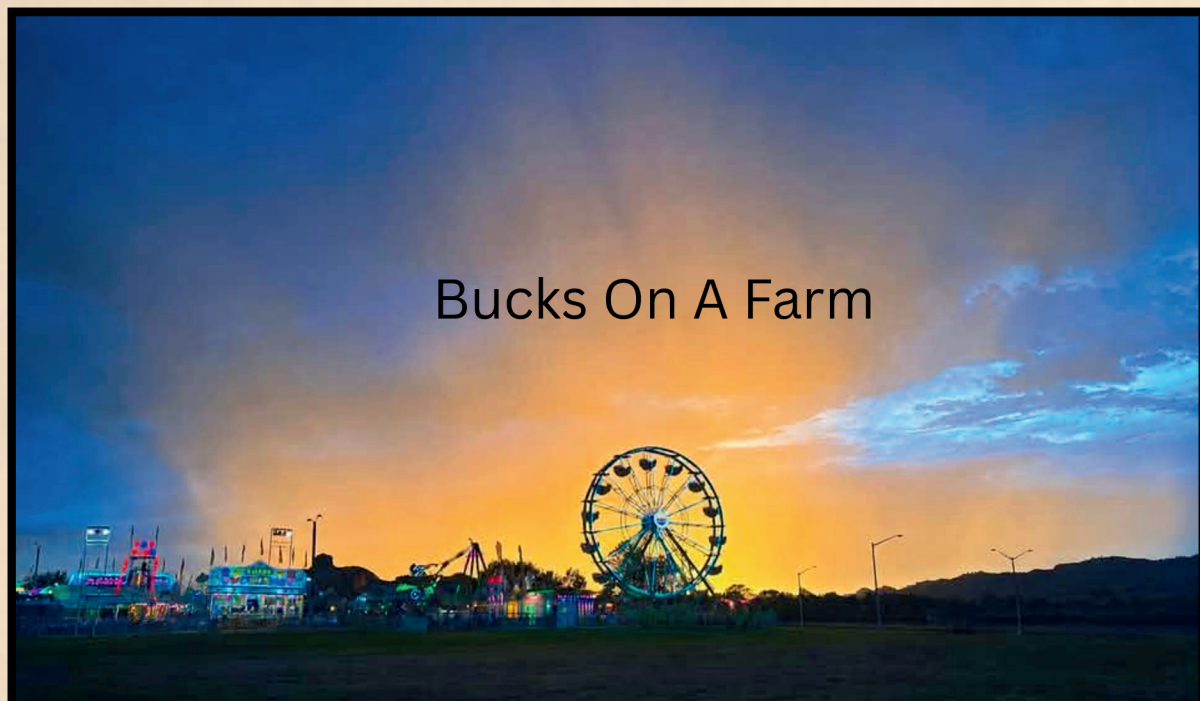
Danno Quijas



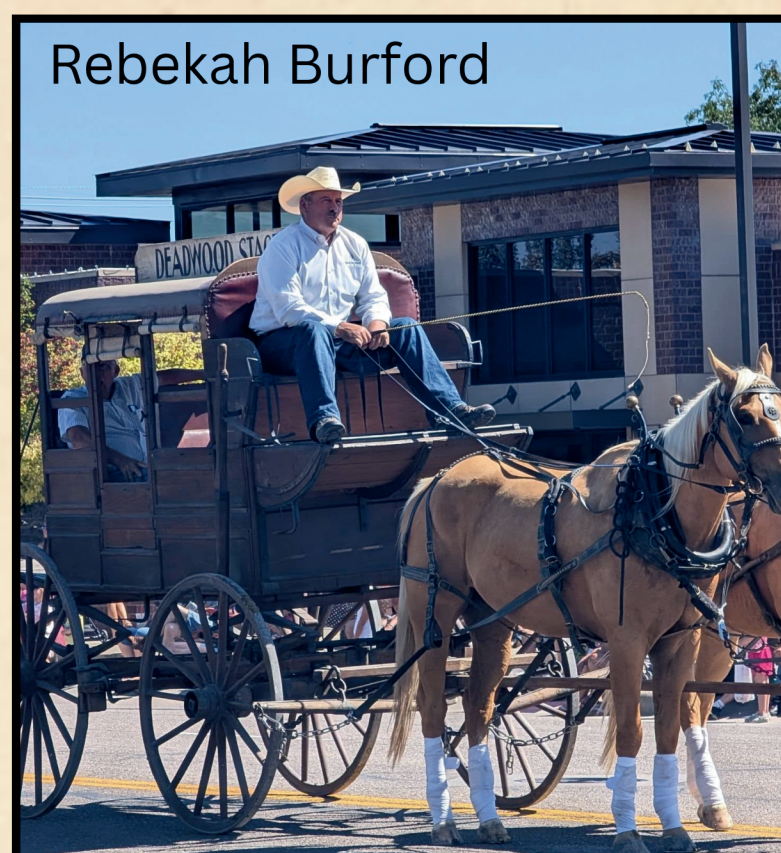
Amanda Gibbs



Lorenzo Panduro



Bucks On A Farm



Rebekah Burford



City of Gering



Erika Montoya

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Who is Panhandle Scanner?

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JOE MARTINEZ - NEWS REPORTER

BRIDGET LEHMAN - MORRILL COUNTY

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12



Today

96°
67°

13



Mon

97°
67°

14



Tue

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65°

15



Wed

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16



Thu

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17



Fri

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18



Sat

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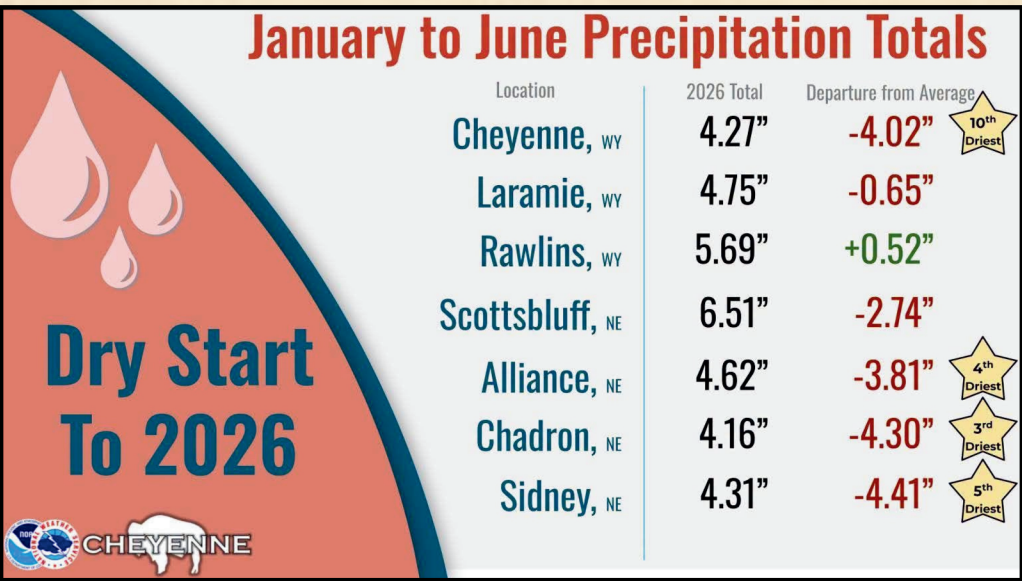
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Gering & Scottsbluff
ROAD CLOSURES



(GERING, Neb.) – City of Gering Officials would like to inform citizens that Pacific Blvd. from Holly Drive to Beverly Blvd. will be closed beginning Monday, July 13, 2026 through Friday, July 31, 2026 for street repairs. Residents on Pacific Blvd. will have access to their houses. City Officials respectfully request that drivers use caution if traveling in this area.

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – The City of Scottsbluff would like to advise the public that on Thursday, July 9, 2026, Avenue I between West 17th and West 18th Street will be closed to traffic for the repair of a water leak. The City respectfully requests that the public use alternate routes as detours will be in place.



CHADRON FIRE RESPONSE



(CHADRON, Neb.) -- From March through June, the Chadron Vol Fire Department responded to five significant wildland fires — Ashby, Morrill, Ashpole, Southfork, and Log Road — along with countless smaller wildland fires and mutual aid calls.

Across those five significant fires, 76 total personnel deployments, 32 total apparatus deployments, and more than 800 volunteer personnel hours dedicated to fire response. These totals include some of the same responders and apparatus responding to multiple incidents.

March: 37 calls totaling 516.5 volunteer personnel hours
April: 33 calls totaling 295 volunteer personnel hours, including a structure fire
May: 34 calls totaling 1,081 volunteer personnel hours
June: 69 calls totaling 2,717 volunteer personnel hours, including a structure fire

In addition to emergency response, Chadron Vol Fire Department continued to meet monthly, train regularly, and stay prepared for the next call.

While crews are committed to each incident, they also work to keep resources available for medical calls, car accidents, structure fires, mutual aid, and any other emergencies that may happen next.

We are all incredibly proud of our volunteers and grateful for the community members, families, employers, and mutual aid partners who continue to support them.

MINATARE TABOR DAYS



Mayor Carolyn Nelson

JULY 17 & 18, 2026
MINATARE
NEBRASKA

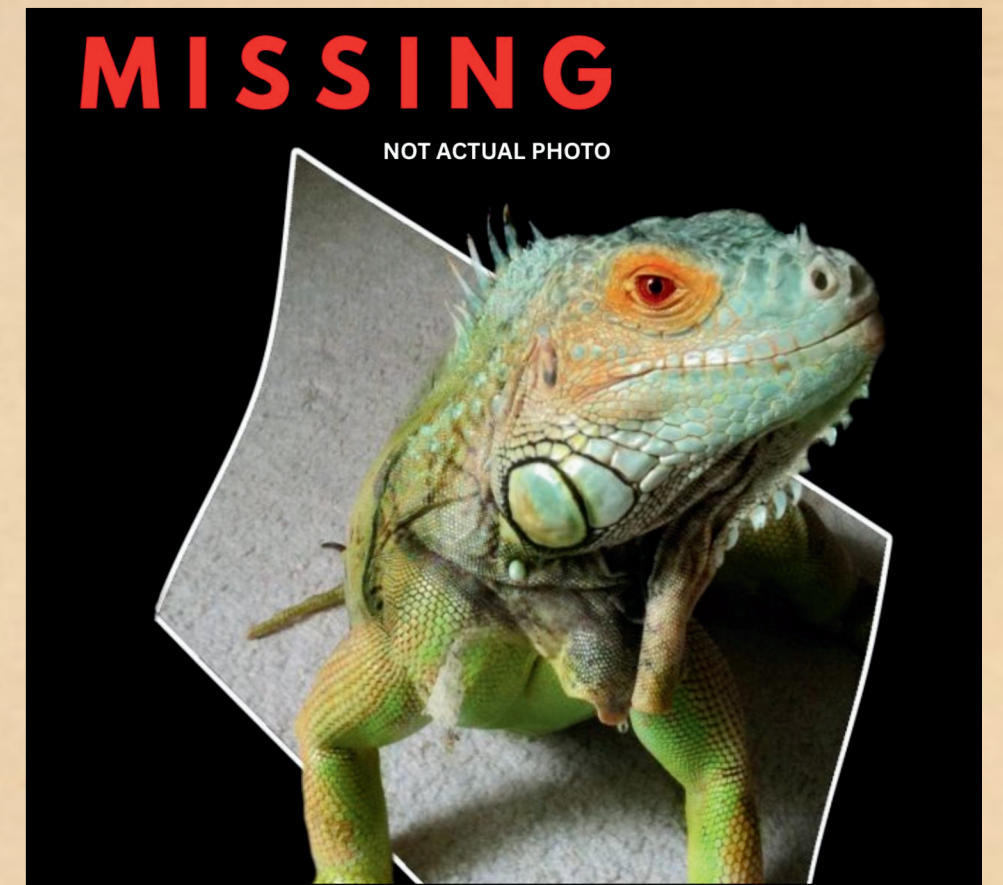


Parade begins at 10 am July 18, 2026

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

C-130 TRAINING AT W.N.R.A.

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Western Nebraska Regional Airport staff notified us of two C-130's training at WNRA that could be seen performing a common maneuver called "touch & go's".



(GERING, Neb.) – An iguana named "Gancho" went missing from his home at 11th & P St if Gering. There is a \$100 reward for his safe return.

GERING REQUESTS VOLUNTARY REDUCTION OF WATER USE

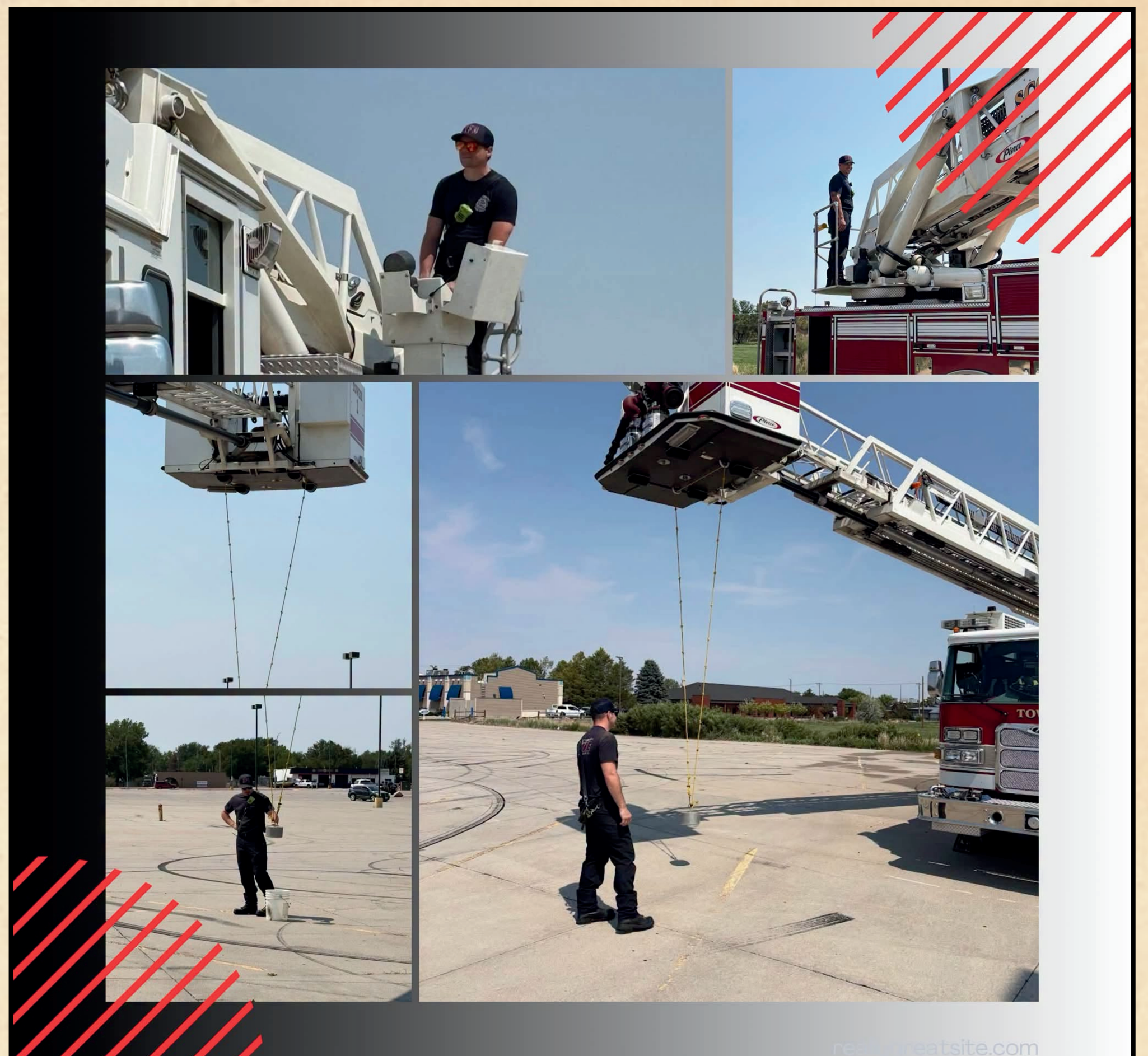


(GERING, Neb.) -- City of Gering officials are asking residents to voluntarily reduce water use by 10%. City Administrator, Pat Heath, explained "Due to excessive water use, the City's water storage reservoirs are not filling to capacity during the evening and night time hours. This request is intended to help avoid the need for mandatory water restrictions."

Administrator Heath suggests the best way to reduce water use is by cutting back on lawn irrigation by 10%. For example, if a sprinkler normally runs for 20 minutes in one spot, reduce that by two minutes. Other suggestions include limiting non-essential outdoor water use, such as washing driveways or vehicles.

The City of Gering is also making adjustments in water use by reducing the amount of time City green spaces are irrigated. City officials appreciate everyone's cooperation and are hopeful this will negate the need for mandatory restrictions.

Scottsbluff Fire Department News



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – C-Shift took advantage of the hot weather and did some precision training with Tower One where the goal is to get the weight into the bucket without knocking the bucket over. This allows our destructive firefighters to practice their gentle, feather like touches on the joystick controls.

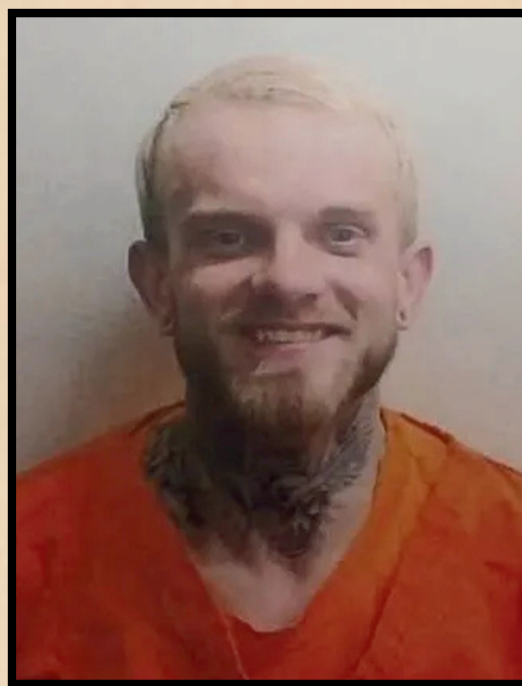
This training helps operators establish the necessary skills they need to be precise with the bucket for situations such as rescues, navigating small areas or performing technical rescues.

Three Arrested for Possession

(KIMBALL, Neb.) -- Three individuals were arrested for drug-related crimes, including possession and intent to distribute meth.

On July 6, 2026 the Kimball County Sheriff's office arrested Jonathon Richards (29) for Possession of Meth. Thank you Kimball Police Department for assisting with the warrant.

On July 7, 2026 the Kimball County Sheriff's Office, Kimball Police Department and Nebraska State Fire Marshal excited a search warrant that resulted in the arrest of Sarah Ludwig (44) and Jose Cruz (56) for Possession of Meth with Intent to Distribute, No Drug Tax Stamp, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of Marijuana.



Zackariah Bissett, 28

Possession of Methamphetamine, Drug Paraphernalia, Procuring Alcohol for a Minor, Bond Violation

(KIMBALL COUNTY, Neb.) – Freedom and independence will be sacrificed, rather than celebrated on this night for one Kimball man. On July 4, 2026 the Kimball County Sheriff's Office arrested Zackariah Bissett (28) for Possession of Meth, Procuring alcohol for a Minor, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Bond Violation.

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Juveniles Arrested Fleeing on e-Bikes

(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — Two juveniles were taken into custody early Wednesday morning after attempting to steal alcoholic beverages from Maverik and then fleeing from responding officers on an electric bicycle before leading officers on a brief foot pursuit.

At approximately 1:34 a.m. on July 8, 2026, Alliance Police officers were dispatched to Maverik, 1640 W. 3rd Street, after employees reported that two juveniles had attempted to steal alcoholic beverages before fleeing the area together on an electric bicycle.

While responding, Sergeant Parker Dahlberg observed an electric bicycle matching the description traveling without headlights near Black Hills Avenue and W. 3rd Street. When he attempted to conduct a traffic stop, the operator of the e-bike refused to stop and instead fled from the officer.

**Kimball Meth & Arson Arrest**

(KIMBALL, Neb.) -- On July 5, 2026 the Kimball County Sheriff's Office, with a joint effort from the Kimball Police Department, arrested Brianna Ebel (36) for Criminal Mischief over \$5,000, possession of Methamphetamine, and 2nd degree Arson for the house fire on July 3, 2026. Spencer Ebel (42) was arrested for conspiracy to commit 2nd degree Arson, Conspiracy to commit criminal mischief and possession of methamphetamine.



All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

Attempted Break-In and Assault Arrest

(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — The communications center received several calls about a domestic disturbance Tuesday evening with the aggressor leaving the scene with his young daughter. Officers were able to locate and pull the perpetrator over.

An Alliance man was arrested Tuesday night after allegedly forcing entry into a residence, threatening to assault an individual, and fleeing the scene with his 8-year-old daughter in the vehicle before being stopped by Alliance Police officers.

At approximately 11:13 p.m. on July 7, 2026, the Alliance Police Department received multiple 911 calls reporting that a male was attempting to kick in the door of an apartment in the 300 block of West 5th Street. While officers were responding, dispatch received additional information that the suspect had successfully forced the door open before fleeing the area in a minivan.

Officer Isaac Hart located a vehicle matching the description and conducted a traffic stop a short distance away. The driver was identified as Nicholas Mario Sanchez (Hispanic male, DOB: 06/12/1985), of Alliance.

During the investigation, officers observed an open container of alcohol inside the vehicle and began a DUI investigation. Sanchez provided a preliminary breath test that indicated a blood alcohol concentration of 0.163, more than twice Nebraska's legal limit of 0.08. Sanchez later refused to submit to a chemical blood test as required under Nebraska's implied consent law.

Investigators subsequently reviewed video evidence that showed Sanchez forcibly breaking down the door of the residence and threatening the occupant. Officers also discovered that Sanchez's 8-year-old daughter was in the front passenger seat of the vehicle at the time of the incident.

Sanchez was arrested and booked into the Box Butte County Jail on the following charges:

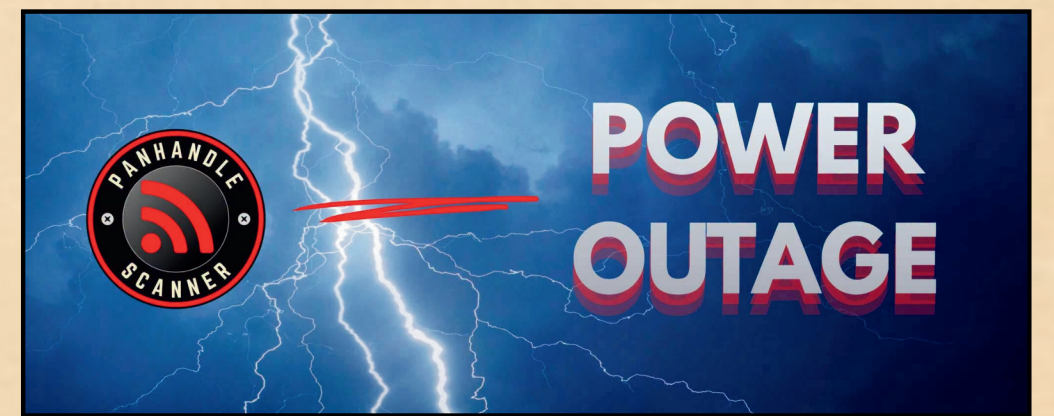
- Driving Under the Influence (DUI)
- Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test
- Transporting a Child While Intoxicated
- Open Container
- No Seat Belt
- Third Degree Assault
- Criminal Mischief

His vehicle was towed from the scene as part of the investigation.

"This incident demonstrates how quickly an already dangerous situation can become even more serious when alcohol is involved," said Chief David Leavitt. "Fortunately, officers were able to quickly locate the suspect, take him into custody, and prevent what could have become an even greater tragedy, particularly with a young child in the vehicle. We are grateful no one suffered more serious injuries."



The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.



(KIMBALL, Neb.) – A City power outage was being investigated and the city posted the following message, "We will keep everyone posted once crews have located the issue. Should the City need to utilize the power generation plant we can, however, utility crews must first run all lines to confirm there is no danger or downed lines prior to any startup of generators. We appreciate your patience while we work on the outage."

Scottsbluff PD Investigation of Webbers Furniture Short-Lived

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Briley Darley noticed showroom lights on at Webbers Furniture and called this in as suspicious in nature.

JULY 8 UPDATE: Per Employee, the breaker was accidentally left on at closing time! No harm, No Foul! Thank you, JT Ramsey.

Tom didn't remember leaving that light on.



FESTIVAL OF
FREEDOM



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- The Chuckwagon Church in Scottsbluff is known as a diamond in the rough, to those that know about it. Located in southeast Scottsbluff, this ministry has been celebrating freedom in the form a festival for over 20 years now. Join them on July 25, 2026 for Live Music, Food, and Dance.

Airline Diversions



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- Multiple diversions and cancellations caused by weather affected air traffic at Western Nebraska Regional Airport.

Per United Safety Operations team, "flight #5078 out of Scottsbluff, NE to Denver, CO was cancelled."

They wrote, "Your flight is canceled because of forecasted or severe weather conditions. Your safety is our priority and we're sorry for the inconvenience."

BULL ELK PASSING THROUGH



(LYMAN, Neb.) -- Several Bull Elk were spotted near Lyman, Nebraska moving toward the Wyoming line Sunday afternoon, July 5th. There is speculation that they may be on the move due to recent fires. In Wyoming, the month of June represents the final, crucial phase of the spring elk migration. By this time, tens of thousands of elk have already departed their low-elevation wintering grounds—such as the National Elk Refuge in Jackson—and are transitioning into high-altitude mountain territories.

FREEDOM TRUCK VISITS GERING



(GERING, Neb.) – The Freedom Truck 2026 (officially known as the Freedom Truck 250) is a fleet of six state-of-the-art mobile semi-truck museums traveling across the United States throughout 2026. Organized as part of the country's semi-quincentennial celebrations, these "museums on wheels" aim to bring the story of American history and independence directly to students, military hubs, and local communities.

The Freedom Truck visited Gering, Nebraska and parked at the Gering Civic Center on Tuesday, July 7 through Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

Attractions include an interactive kiosk allowing guests to digitally append their own signatures to the Declaration of Independence, a display featuring simulated loop conversations with founding figures, including an AI-animated George Washington, a dedicated installation honoring 50 distinct cultural and historical heroes from across America's timeline, and graphic and multimedia recollections detailing key Revolutionary War conflicts like the Battle of Bunker Hill and the Battle of Concord.

Drought, Water Shortages, Leaky Canals, and now this...



(MORRILL COUNTY, Neb.) – A canal breach east of County Road 85 on County Road 105 in Morrill County caused flooding during the early morning hours overnight, sending water into nearby fields, roads, and surrounding areas.

Residents in the vicinity reported rising water levels shortly after the breach occurred, with crews working to assess the extent of the damage and determine the cause of the failure.

Motorists are urged to use caution when traveling in the area, as water-covered roads and washed-out sections may create hazardous driving conditions. Officials remind the public to never drive through flooded roadways, as the depth and condition of the road beneath the water may be impossible to determine.

At this time, no injuries have been reported. Additional information regarding repairs, road conditions, and any impacts to irrigation deliveries is expected as officials continue their assessment of the breach site.

Residents are encouraged to monitor local authorities and emergency management officials for updates as more information becomes available.



B3 Lemonade Successful At First Attempt

(GERING, Neb.) – Bella and Braylynn successfully setup to offer fresh lemonade, cookies and water during the OT Days Parade on Saturday.



CORKSCREW FIRE RESPONSE



New fire reported by NIFC at 12:48 PM Fri Jul 10th (MDT).

The fire is 29.8 acres per the perimeter uploaded to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), which is visible on the Watch Duty map under the Active Fire Perimeters map layer.

To our knowledge, Alliance, Gordon, Hay Springs, and Rushville Fire Departments were all paged out in response.

MINATARE PRESENTS
TABOR DAYS

Come to Minatare Nebraska
Friday night July 17th
where we celebrate the town's
history with a **Street dance**
Feat. Loaded Dice
opening the weekend at The Broken Spoke

Saturday July 18th
will include:
A Parade
Park vendors
Bounce houses
Feat. Victory Underground
playing at The Broken Spoke

Mother Nature's Fireworks Display



PHOTO BY
TROY BRYAN

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) -- The night sky was lit up across the valley Monday night, July 6th, giving several local photographers an electrifying opportunity to be a modern day Ben Franklin and catch some lightning first hand.

One of our favorite contributors in Troy Bryan who caught several amazing shots this week, featured here.

Troy has won a FREE Large Pizza from Arthur's Pizza in Scottsbluff for his recent severe weather photos.

Visitors to Arthur's Pizza will see our past two Photo Contest Winners framed up on the walls!



-- NEWS TIPS --
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In Other Scanner Traffic...

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OUR REACH THIS WEEK

Panhandle Scanner Facebook

78,250 Followers
3.1 Million Views

Digging Deeper News Page

12,141 Readers

Podcasts & Streaming

6,298 Listeners

Advertising Rate = \$100 per page

Scottsbluff MVA July 8, 2026 8 pm

Scanner traffic indicated a 2 vehicle accident; Ave I & West 24th Street in Scottsbluff. Unknown Injuries. Patients refused transport to the hospital by ambulance.

Scottsbluff Fire July 10, 2026 4 pm

Scanner traffic indicated; CR 32 CR J Minatare VFD called to a farm equipment fires with tires on fire, getting close to the shop. MUTUAL AID requested from Scottsbluff Rural Fire Protection District Grass Rig and Tenders.

Driving Complaint July 10, 2026 4 pm

10-59 10-74 Watch out for a super slow driver (approx 25 mph) on Hwy 26 mm 15 westbound Ford Expedition, older female.

Driving Complaint July 10, 2026 6 pm

Scanner traffic indicated multiple complaints on a couple red and white dump trucks, high 10-48 along CR G and CR 31, on CR G, repeat calls about them going back and forth.

Overheated Youth July 11, 2026 10 am

Scanner traffic indicated that at 10th and T Streets, Gering PD is out with an overheated youth. They are located next to Riverstone Bank and the patient is in the ambulance being assessed now.

Child Dog Bite July 11, 2026 10 am

Scanner traffic indicated a dog bite which did break the skin, child was with mother and they were near the Civic Center flagging down EMS at the time of the call.

WE RECOMMEND ARTHUR'S PIZZA - SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA