



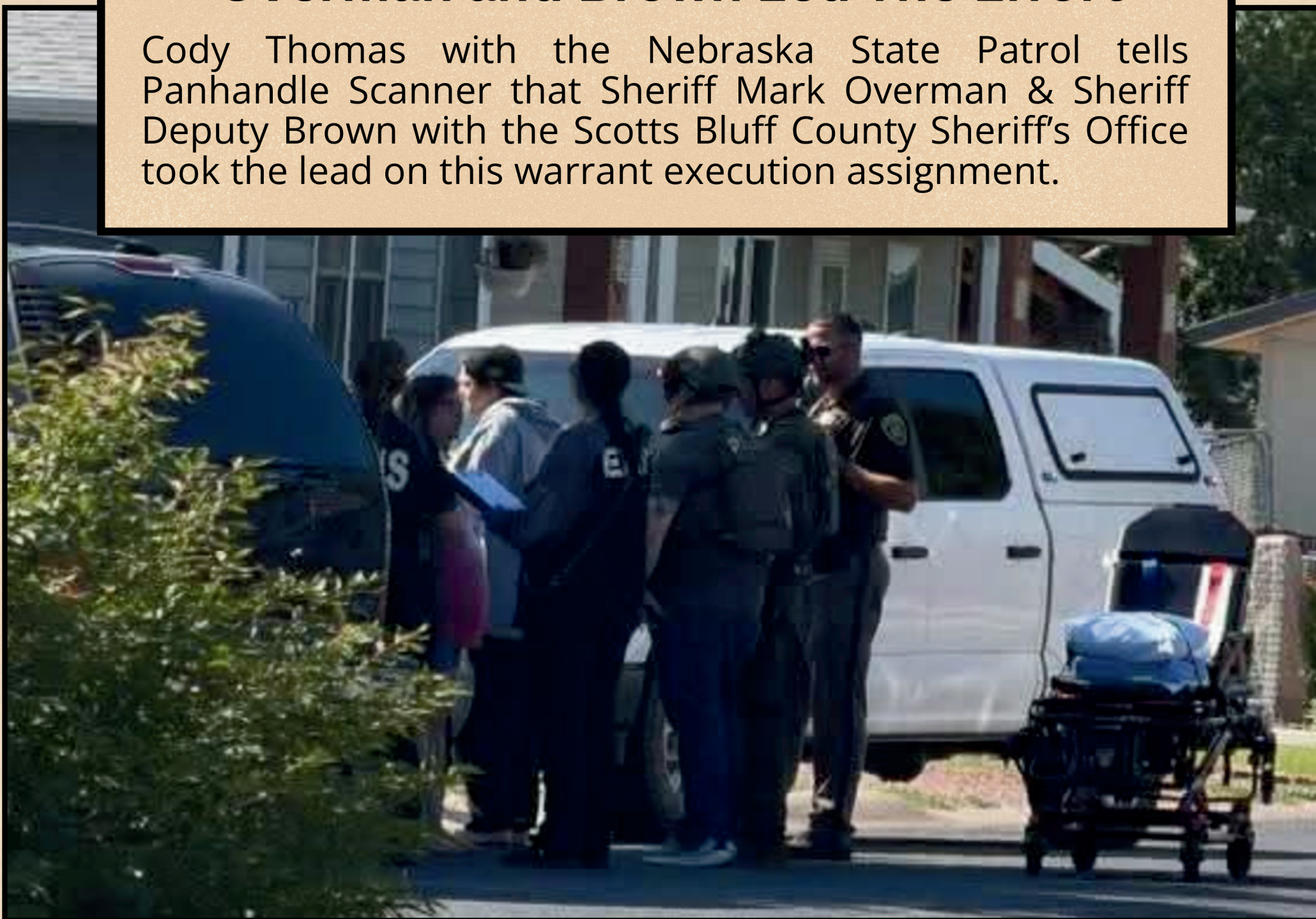
THE SUNDAY SCANNER

WWW.PANHANDLESCANNER.COM

PANHANDLE S.W.A.T. ACTIVITY

Overman and Brown Led The Effort

Cody Thomas with the Nebraska State Patrol tells Panhandle Scanner that Sheriff Mark Overman & Sheriff Deputy Brown with the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office took the lead on this warrant execution assignment.



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Early on July 15th, 2026, SWAT activities were reported in Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties, focusing on high-profile criminals with felony warrants. Operations occurred in Scottsbluff, Bayard, and Gering, led by local sheriffs.

Residents were advised to stay clear of the ongoing police operations, with more updates expected from the County Attorney's Office.

Following multiple months of investigation by WING and partner agencies, law enforcement served multiple search and arrest warrants beginning in the early morning hours Wednesday.

Due to the nature of the crimes and weapons involved, the warrants were served by the Scotts Bluff County SWAT team, the Nebraska State Patrol SWAT team, and the US Marshal's Metro Fugitive Task Force. All the warrants were served without incident. The warrants were served in Scottsbluff, Gering, and Bayard, Nebraska.

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(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Arthur's Pizza and Panhandle Scanner have teamed up to sponsor local photo contests, where the winning photographs each quarter will hang on the walls of everyone's favorite pizza parlor.

Panhandle Scanner is a production of Hale Multimedia LLC

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TIMOTHY MENDEZ - NEWS & WEATHER
JOE MARTINEZ - NEWS REPORTER
BRIDGET LEHMAN - MORRILL COUNTY

12	Today	13	Mon	14	Tue	15	Wed	16	Thu	17	Fri	18	Sat
	96° 67°		97° 67°		95° 65°		96° 65°		96° 65°		97° 67°		96° 67°

MINATARE TABOR DAYS

JULY 17 & 18, 2026MINATARE, NEBRASKA

(MINATARE, Neb.) — The small rural community of Minatare Nebraska kicked off their annual Tabor Days celebration Friday night, July 17th.

Despite their sub-century mark for a population base, Minatare does not shy away from throwing big parties.

Loaded Dice rocked the stage Friday night at the very popular gathering spot, The Broken Spoke Bar & Grill, shown in the photo below.

The Minatare-Melbeta Fire Department held a pancake feed prior to the parade and full day of activities in Kelso Park.



PANCAKE FEED – PARADE – GAMES – FUN – WATER SLIDE
VENDORS – NSP DRUNK DRIVING COURSE – HIGH PLAINS MINI-CON



HERITAGE DAYS

July 14 - 19, 2026Alliance, Nebraska

(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — Alliance Heritage Days in Alliance, Nebraska kicked off on Tuesday, July 14, 2026.

The celebration featured the theme “Rails, Roots and Resilience” and ran through Sunday, July 19, 2026.



There was something for the whole family, including food vendors, sidewalk sales, and a beer garden. Plus, Frazier Shows was in town from July 15th to the 18th along with the world famous Cactus Jacks!



19	Sun	20	Mon	21	Tue	22	Wed	23	Thu	24	Fri	25	Sat
	100° 70°		100° 67°		87° 67°		95° 69°		90° 67°		84° 67°		92° 68°

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

FIRE IN LYMAN STIRS CONTROVERSY OVER PUBLIC INFORMATION

(LYMAN, Neb.) — A recent call came across scanner traffic indicating a structure fire at Lil Redz in Lyman. Mutual Aid was also requested. Thankfully the response was quick and the fire was limited to the grille/kitchen area. We were also thankful that there were no major injuries reported.

Out of concern for a familiar local business, our Morrill County Scanner owner/admin Bridget Dawn Lehman hustled to the restaurant to check on her friends. She was met with resistance for being there and was asked to remove the really cool fireman photo (shown below) that we had already posted with our story on how quickly and efficiently Lyman-Kiowa got things under control.



Our post was complimentary and the photo itself was professionally appealing and properly credited.

We have a protected right to provide this media coverage. There is no legitimate reason why he (or any firefighter or leo) should be so upset at us for taking a photo or for providing positive coverage of their public activity.

- **The First Amendment Right:** You have a clearly established constitutional right to photograph and record anything plainly visible from public spaces, including police officers, federal agents, and government buildings. [ACLU of DC +1](#)
- **No Warrantless Seizures:** Law enforcement officers cannot confiscate your camera, phone, or memory card without a valid warrant, nor can they order you to hand them over simply because you were recording them. [ACLU of Texas +1](#)
- **No Forced Deletion:** Government officials and law enforcement officers are strictly prohibited from deleting or demanding to view your photographs or videos under any circumstances without a warrant. [ACLU of Texas +1](#)
- **Exceptions and Restrictions:** This right is not unlimited. You cannot obstruct legitimate police operations, cross established police lines, or trespass on private property. Officials may also enforce reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions for safety, provided they do not specifically target newsgathering or single out the press. [FIRE | Foundation for Ind. -3](#)

Regardless of jurisdiction, Panhandle Scanner has always committed to working with local law enforcement and ems professionals, and we've always encouraged the public to respect legal boundaries and guidelines. There is no reason to disrespect us. It's the media's job to hold our public officials accountable. Please respect that.

Possible Drowning Call



VINCE WINKLER

(LAKE MINATARE, Neb.) — Scanner traffic indicated a call for a possible drowning at Lake Minatare.

"As discussed during the dispatch call, emergency crews diverted to a possible drowning involving a female near the lighthouse by the docks on Lake Minatare Road in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The female was later reported on the opposite side of the docks near the lighthouse."

The victim contacted us with an update on her condition, thanking all who commented and sent prayers. "The doctors told me that I was very lucky to be alive!"

Fatal Helicopter Accident



INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER

(GUNNISON COUNTY, Colo.) — The Gunnison County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) has announced that an aircraft being used to help contain the Gold Mountain fire has crashed.

A 56-year-old contracted Canadian firefighting pilot named Nicholas Dale was killed when his specialized helicopter crashed into the Silver Jack Reservoir.

Dale was the sole occupant of the aircraft and was actively assisting flight operations to suppress the Gold Mountain Fire. The cause of the crash remains undetermined and is under active investigation.

NEW WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE



(WASHINGTON D.C.) — Chief Fennessy was interviewed on #BetterEveryShift, on how he became the director of the newly created U.S. Wildland Fire Service and the importance of having this new service dedicated to fires in rural areas. You can watch the interview on the Panhandle Scanner website under the Fire Resources tab.

Chief Brian Fennessy is the inaugural Director of the newly established U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS), officially assuming the role on January 12, 2026. His appointment by the Department of the Interior (DOI) marks a transition from a 48-year career in local and metropolitan fire departments to spearheading the federal government's historic overhaul of wildfire management.

The U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) is a newly established federal entity officially launched in January 2026 whose goal is to consolidate, modernize, and unify the nation's fragmented wildfire management framework.

Like the new Police Chief in Kimball said,
"We're On The Same Team."

A MESSAGE FROM

CHIEF

James Lucero

"We're on the Same Team"

Every community deserves a police department that listens.

As your new Chief of Police, my goal is simple:
To earn your trust through professionalism, respect, and honest communication.

Public safety is a partnership. The Kimball Police Department cannot do it alone—we need the support, ideas, and involvement of our community.

That is why one of my guiding principles is:
Treat Each Other Right.

Those four words aren't just a slogan. They are a commitment—to our community, to one another, and to the way we serve every day.

I look forward to meeting you in the weeks ahead, listening to your ideas, and working together to build an even stronger Kimball.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community.

— Chief James Lucero

kimballne.org/police-department | (308) 235-1807

TREAT EACH OTHER RIGHT

7 Arrested, Ages 15-19, in Panhandle S.W.A.T. Operation

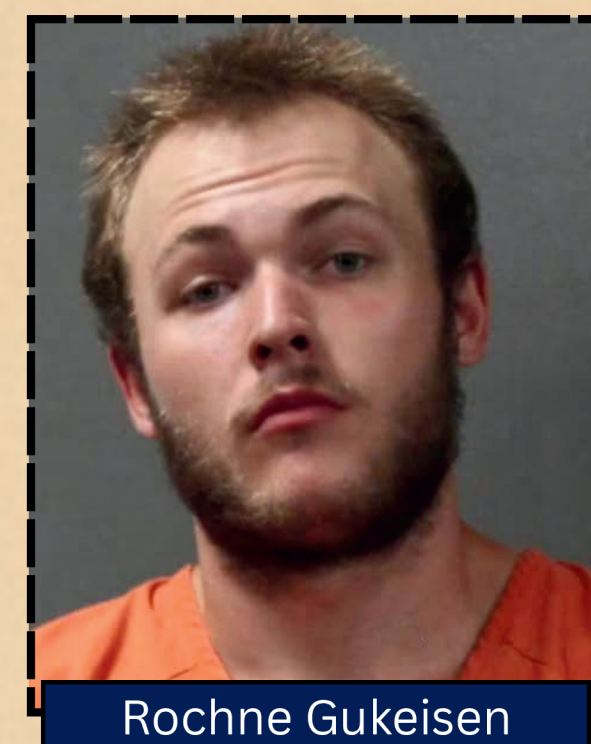


(continued from page 1)

In addition to the Federal Agencies, the Scottsbluff and Gering Police Departments, Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office, the Nebraska State Patrol including the Air Wing, Homeland Security Investigations agents, and Regional West Ambulance Service also provided personnel for the operation.

"308 BOYZ" Arrested;

- Preston Torres-Islas, age 18, charged with possession of a machine gun
- Rochne Gukeisen, age 19, charged with possession of a machine gun
- Five juveniles (three 17, one 16, one 15) and all are in custody

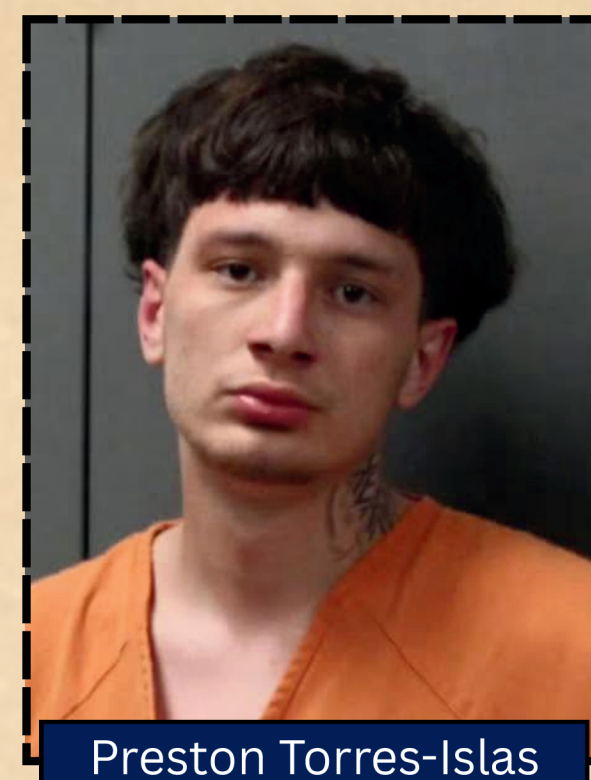


Rochne Gukeisen

Scanner followers are familiar with at least one of the youth arrested. Preston Torres-Islas has appeared in the news multiple times, beginning at the age of 16 when we reported him as a Runaway on more than one occasion.

On February 15th of this year, Torres-Islas stole a Mazda in Scottsbluff and took the police on a two minute pursuit before being arrested after jumping from the vehicle. He was arrested for the charges of Possession of Stolen Property over \$5000, Flight to Avoid Arrest, Resisting Arrest, Willful Reckless Driving, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, No Operators License, and several traffic infractions.

Preston Torres-Islas has not been given a final sentence or total time served in the Scotts Bluff County Jail, as his legal proceedings are ongoing. He was arrested on February 16, 2026, following a police pursuit and again on July 16, 2026, on felony drug and weapons charges. Because both of his cases were active as of mid-July 2026, any time spent in jail has been strictly as pretrial detention.



Preston Torres-Islas

CANNABIS SMASH AND GRAB



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — In a not-so-laughing- matter, a local Scottsbluff retailer discovered evidence of a real-life, Mario-like, smash-and-grab.

High resolution cameras caught the culprit in full color. (not actual photo shown) The burglar was not Mario, but a homeless man known in the community that was easily identifiable to police.

Panhandle Premier Cannabis is located in downtown Scottsbluff at 706 Broadway and is open during the summer from 12-8 p.m.

STOLEN JEEP PURSUIT AND RECOVERY

(CHEYENNE, Wyo.) — Two juvenile suspects are in custody after a high speed chase that started in Nebraska and ended in Cheyenne. At approximately 10:41 a.m. Monday morning, Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) was alerted to a chase in progress coming out of Nebraska into Goshen County involving a stolen Jeep Wrangler. Troopers with WHP made contact and joined the pursuit at 11:31 AM near the Antelope east of Cheyenne on the I-80 Service Road.

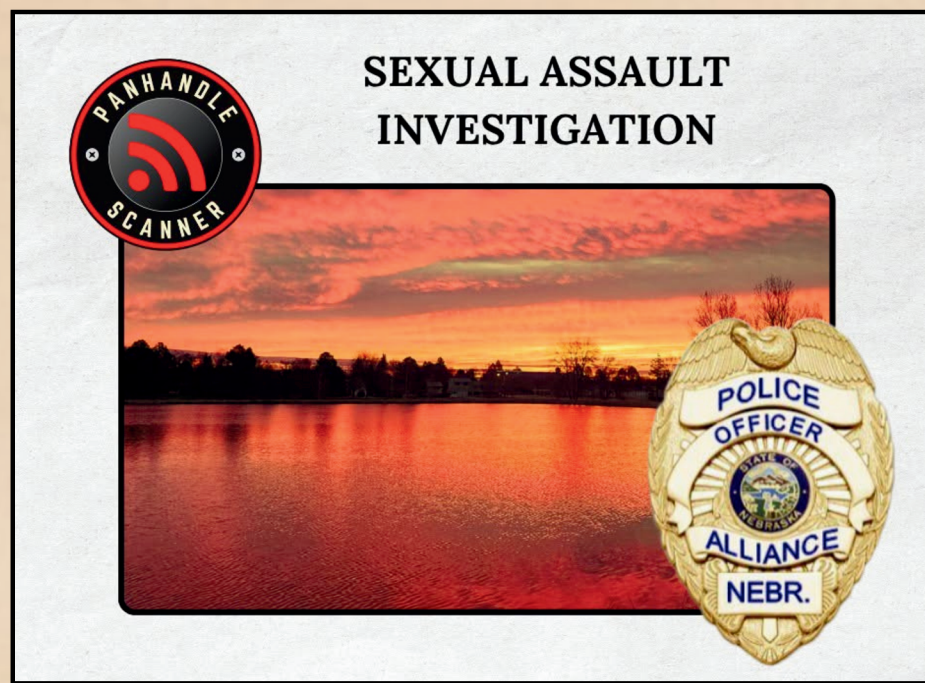


The pursuit continued at a high rate of speed. The vehicle exited onto Campstool Road, where Cheyenne PD joined the pursuit. The Jeep left the road near Sierra Trading post and attempted to jump the railroad tracks south of Sun Valley. The Jeep crashed in the attempt before the suspects, two juveniles, fled on foot. The suspects then entered a residence in southern Sun Valley where they were taken into custody with the aid of a K9 unit from the Cheyenne Police Department.

The Wyoming Highway Patrol expressed their gratitude for the assistance of other agencies involved in this incident, including the Cheyenne Police Department and the Laramie County Sheriff's Office, as well as those in Nebraska who initiated the pursuit.

Alert Scanner Followers listened as this pursuit unfolded live over scanner traffic. Our local traffic ended when Wyoming took over the pursuit. You can listen to the local scanner feed anytime by visiting panhandlescanner.com/listen or through any police scanner app.

THE SUNDAY SCANNER



ALLIANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATING SEXUAL ASSAULT

(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — A woman was assaulted Monday evening, July 13th, at Laing Lake, but the secluded area and darkness made it difficult for the victim to give a detailed description of her attacker.

At approximately 9:35 p.m., officers were notified that an adult female had been sexually assaulted while walking alone in the area of the pedestrian bridge at Laing Lake. Officers responded to Box Butte General Hospital to meet with the victim while additional officers secured and processed the scene.

The preliminary investigation indicates the victim was walking south across the bridge shortly after 9:00 p.m. when she was attacked from behind by an unknown male. The suspect forced the victim to the ground, sexually assaulted her, and fled on foot.

Due to the darkness, the victim was unable to provide a detailed physical description. She described the suspect as having a deep, raspy voice, a strong body odor, and wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt. Officers believe the suspect may have been waiting near the trees on the south side of the bridge before the assault.

As part of the investigation, officers conducted an extensive review of surveillance cameras in and around Laing Lake. After a thorough review, none of the cameras captured the assault or provided a clear image of the suspect.

The investigation remains active. Officers are continuing to pursue all available investigative leads, and additional evening patrols have been assigned to the Laing Lake area.

Chief David Leavitt urged residents to remain vigilant while emphasizing that incidents of this nature are extremely uncommon in Alliance.

"This was a random, violent attack, and we are committed to identifying the individual responsible. While we do not want residents to be alarmed, we do want them to be aware. If you walk or exercise after dark, consider doing so with another person, remain alert to your surroundings, and report suspicious activity immediately.

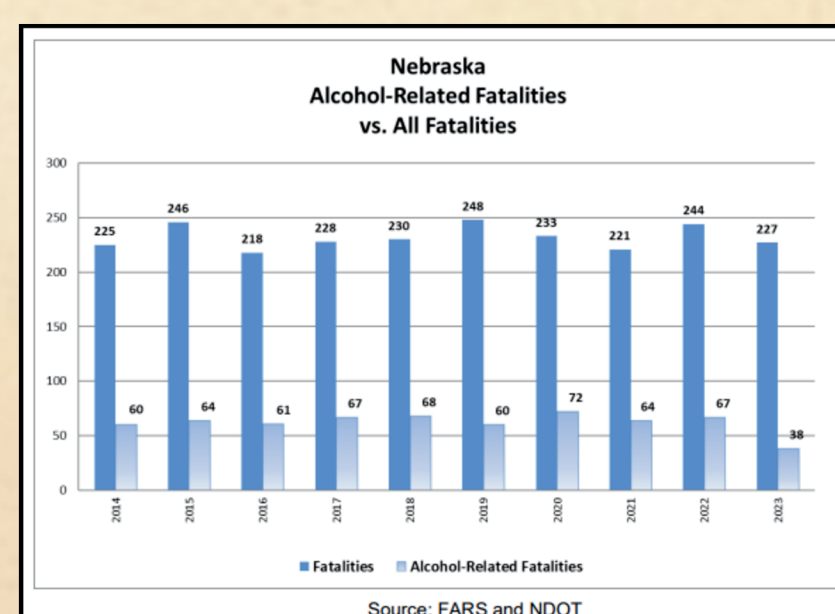
If you were in the Laing Lake area Monday evening between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and observed anything unusual, no matter how insignificant it may seem, we encourage you to contact us. Even the smallest detail could prove critical to this investigation."

Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact the Alliance Police Department at (308) 762-4955.

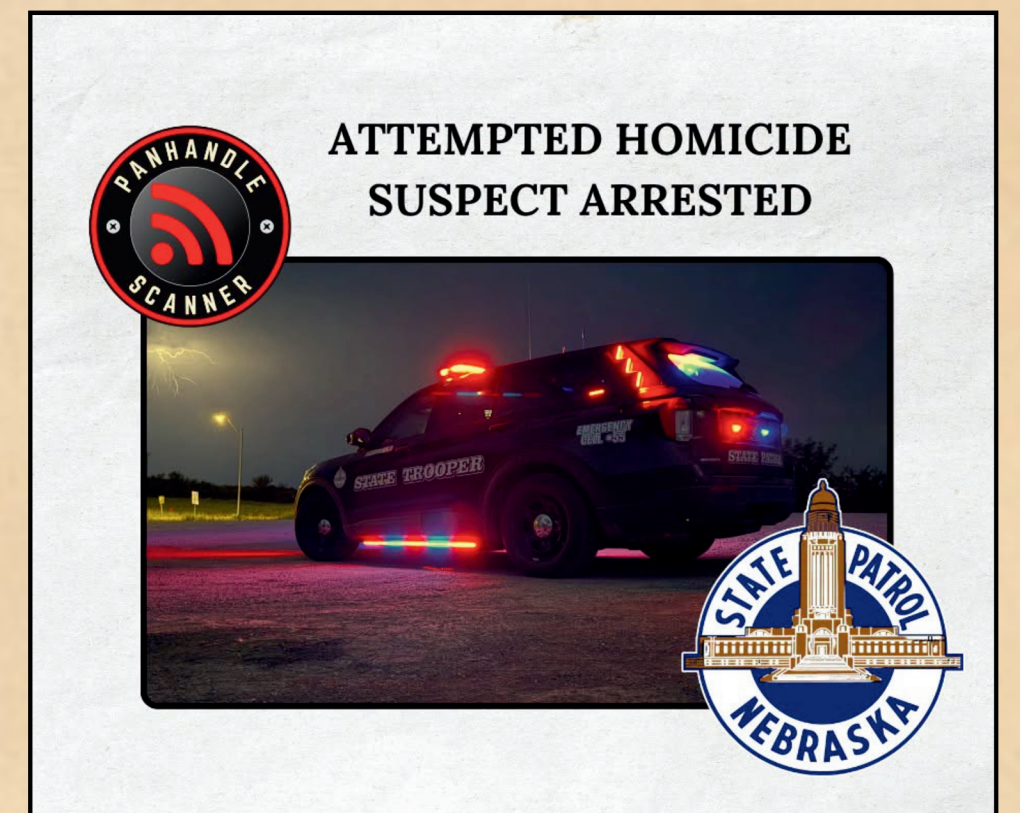
LARGE SCOTTSBLUFF M.I.P. BUST

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — A large party of underage drinkers occurred in the general area of Dakota Rd & CR J during the early morning hours of July 12th. The incident resulted in multiple Minor in Possession (M.I.P.) citations being issued.

During the incident, multiple individuals reportedly fled the residence and were located hiding within the tree line while NSP personnel were attempting to make contact at the location.



Illinois Attempted Homicide Suspect Arrested in Nebraska



(KIMBALL, Neb.) — Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol, working with the United States Marshals Service, have arrested three people in western Nebraska, including a person wanted for attempted homicide in Illinois.

Troopers arrested Niccolo Luis-Michael Moylan, 24, yesterday on Interstate 80 in Kimball County. Moylan was wanted by the Hancock County (IL) Sheriff's Office for attempted murder from an incident that took place on June 26.

Monday afternoon, Nebraska State Troopers located the vehicle, a Honda Pilot, as it was traveling westbound on I-80 between Kimball and the Wyoming border. Troopers performed a traffic stop near mile marker 8 on I-80.

During the traffic stop, Moylan initially provided a false identity. Troopers utilized a mobile fingerprinting device to correctly identify the suspect and took him into custody without incident.

Nebraska State Troopers also found approximately 22 grams of suspected methamphetamine and 5 grams of suspected fentanyl in the vehicle. The other occupants, Aiden Michael Derr, 19, and Kenneth Ryan Bouchard, 48, were also arrested.

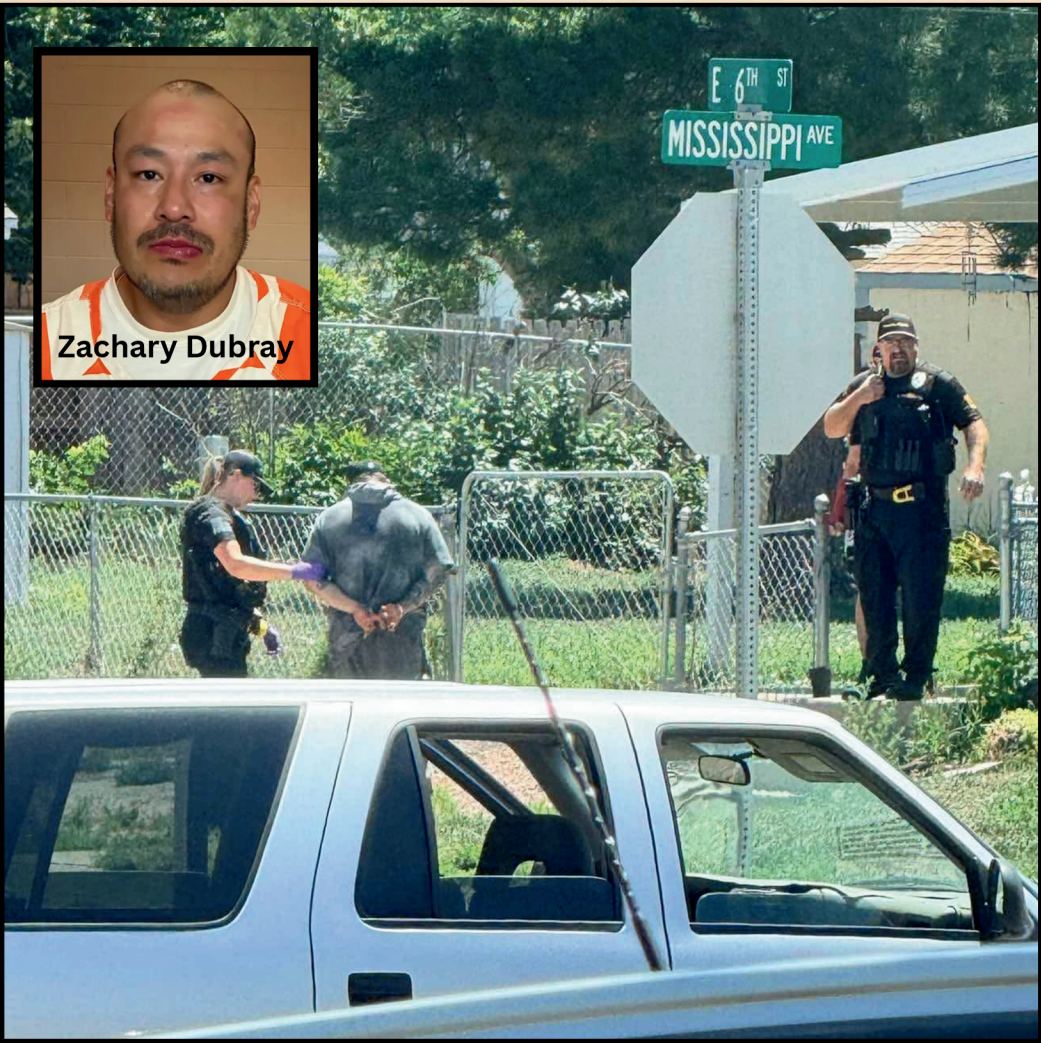
All three men were lodged in Kimball County Jail for possession of controlled substances. Moylan was also lodged for criminal impersonation.

The U.S. Marshals Service District of Nebraska Metro Fugitive Task Force, U.S. Marshals Service Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force, and Hancock County Sheriff's Office assisted with this arrest.

Vehicle vs. Pedestrian in Alliance Sends One to Hospital, One to Jail

(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — Thursday afternoon, scanner followers reported an unknown injury accident involving a vehicle vs pedestrian near Mississippi Street and 5th in Alliance. Alliance Police taped off the area during the active investigation.

Upon arrival, officers located an adult male bicyclist who had sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries after being struck by a vehicle. The victim was transported by Alliance Fire Department EMS to Box Butte General Hospital for treatment.



Following an investigation, officers determined that the driver of the vehicle had been traveling the wrong direction on a one-way street when the collision occurred. During the investigation, officers also observed signs consistent with drug impairment.

The driver, identified as Zachary Dubray, M/O, DOB 7/28/85, was transported to Box Butte General Hospital, where blood samples were obtained pursuant to the investigation. Upon his release from the hospital, Dubray was transported to the Box Butte County Jail and charged with:

- Driving Under the Influence of Alcoholic Liquor or Drugs Causing Serious Bodily Injury (Felony)
- Driving the Wrong Way on a One-Way Street
- Willful Reckless Driving

As part of the investigation, both Dubray's vehicle and the victim's bicycle were impounded as evidence.

The investigation remains ongoing. Additional charges may be filed as the investigation progresses pending the results of toxicology testing. As of this writing, bond had not been set.

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

MITCHELL CITY POOL VANDALIZED

(MITCHELL, Neb.) — The City of Mitchell pool closed due to vandalism that occurred at their facility overnight Thursday. A short announcement from the City will be posted once the pool is ready for reopening.



FRANK PARK ASSAULT REPORTED

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — Panhandle Scanner received reports from multiple parents upset about what occurred near Frank Park in Scottsbluff on Thursday.

According to witnesses, a male described as "white, slender, bald head, shorts on that went to his knees, kinda yellowish and white wifebeater shirt. Possibly late 30's... 'attacked' teenagers that were in a vehicle parked near Frank Park."

The parents were in the area at the time when this situation occurred. Panhandle Scanner will investigate further and keep you up to date whenever possible. No hospitalizations were necessary, but the incident remains under investigation.

BULL BISON TOSSES TOURIST

(YELLOWSTONE, Wyo.) — A man is in serious condition after being launched into the air by a male Bison Buffalo at Yellowstone National Park on Friday.

Many people are sympathetic to the elderly man, saying he was following park guidelines.

If allowing people of any age and condition to walk within charging distance of a thousand pound wild animal is considered safe, perhaps they should reconsider their guidelines.

The man could have been killed, and was seriously injured. Is the Government going to pay for his medical bills? Unanswered questions remain.

RESTAURANT MANAGER JAILED

(LEWELLEN, Neb.) — The manager at a local restaurant found himself in more than hot water when he falsely accused, attempted to provoke, and then chest bump his cleaning lady nearly off her feet.

Video evidence was reviewed and police arrested Jeremy Samuelson of The Lodge Restaurant in Lewellen. He was transported to the county jail.

The property is currently in a legal battle over rightful ownership and these current criminal charges only adds to the woes of this failing manager.

Scottsbluff Stabbing

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — One female is in custody following a stabbing on 7th Avenue & East 15th St in Scottsbluff, Saturday afternoon.

On 7/18/26 at approximately 3:50 p.m., Scottsbluff Police were dispatched to the 1500 block of 7th Ave in reference to a possible stabbing victim.

The victim was transported to Regional West Medical Center by ambulance for treatment of a single stab wound to the torso. The investigation found this is an isolated incident and there is no danger to the public. The investigation is still active and further information may be released at a later time.

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

**ROAD CLOSURE
NOTICES**

17th & D July 22-29

(GERING, Neb.) — The City of Gering officials would like to inform citizens that the intersection of 17th and D Street will be closed beginning Wednesday, July 22, at 7 a.m. through the following Wednesday, July 29, at 5:00 p.m. for repairs.



**RR CROSSING
NOTICE IN GERING
7th Street Crossing**

(GERING, Neb.) — The City of Gering would like to inform residents that the 7th Street Union Pacific Railroad crossing will be closed for crossing repairs beginning Monday, July 20, 2026 at 7:00 a.m. and is expected to reopen by Thursday, July 23, 2026 around 5:00 p.m.

Please plan ahead and use alternate routes during the closure. Drivers and pedestrians are asked to use extra caution when traveling near the work zone and obey all posted traffic control signs.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation while these necessary repairs are completed. Thank you for helping keep our community safe!

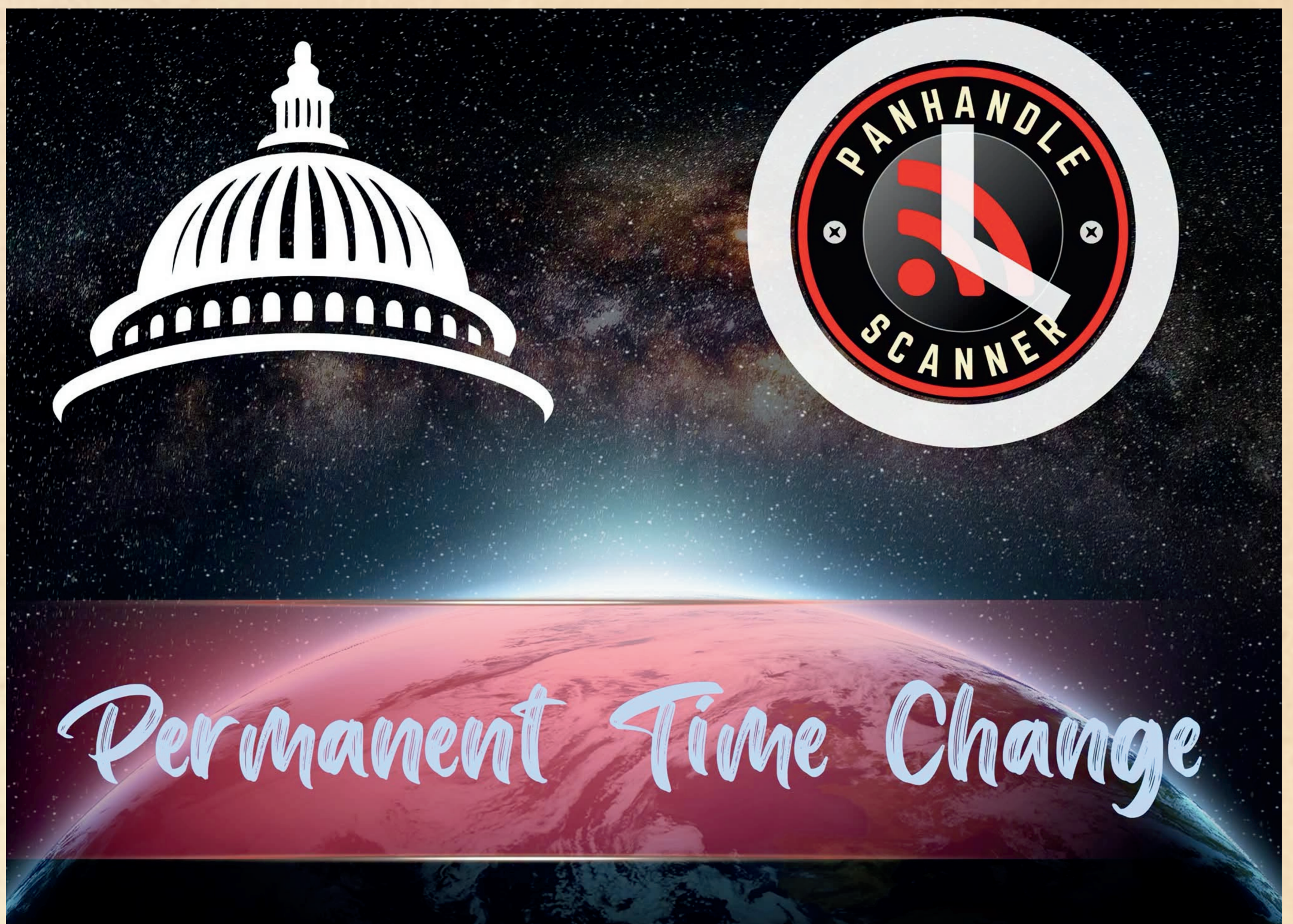


Time Zone Controversy

**THE SUNSHINE ACT PASSES
308 - 117**

(WASHINGTON D.C.) — The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Sunshine Protection Act in a bipartisan 308-117 vote. This bill aims to eliminate the biannual clock change entirely, putting the country on daylight saving time permanently year-round.

The bill must pass the Senate and be signed by the President to become law. Though President Donald Trump has indicated support, the bill faces immediate headwinds in the Senate due to ongoing disagreements about whether permanent standard time or permanent daylight saving time is safer for winter commutes.



Under the Uniform Time Act of 1966, states are legally allowed to opt out of DST entirely, but only if they choose to stay on permanent standard time. Current jurisdictions that do not adjust their clocks include: Arizona (except for the Navajo Nation), Hawaii, U.S. Territories: Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

there are several time zones around the world that are offset by a half-hour (30 minutes) rather than a full hour. These are known as fractional or non-standard time zones, and they are typically chosen by countries so that the official clock aligns more closely with the actual position of the sun in their region. They are India, Iran, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Newfoundland, Sri Lanka, French Polynesia and parts of Australia.

Even weirder; 45-Minute offsets in Nepal, New Zealand and Western Australia.

Introducing... Dude! (now available for adoption)

A charming 5-year-old Australian Shepherd / Corgi mix available for adoption. Dude possesses a vibrant personality and a delightful demeanor that promises to bring joy to any home. The Scottsbluff Police Department invites you to meet Dude and discover the wonderful companionship he has to offer.



Do You Love Animals Enough to Make it Your Job?

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER

APPLY NOW!!!

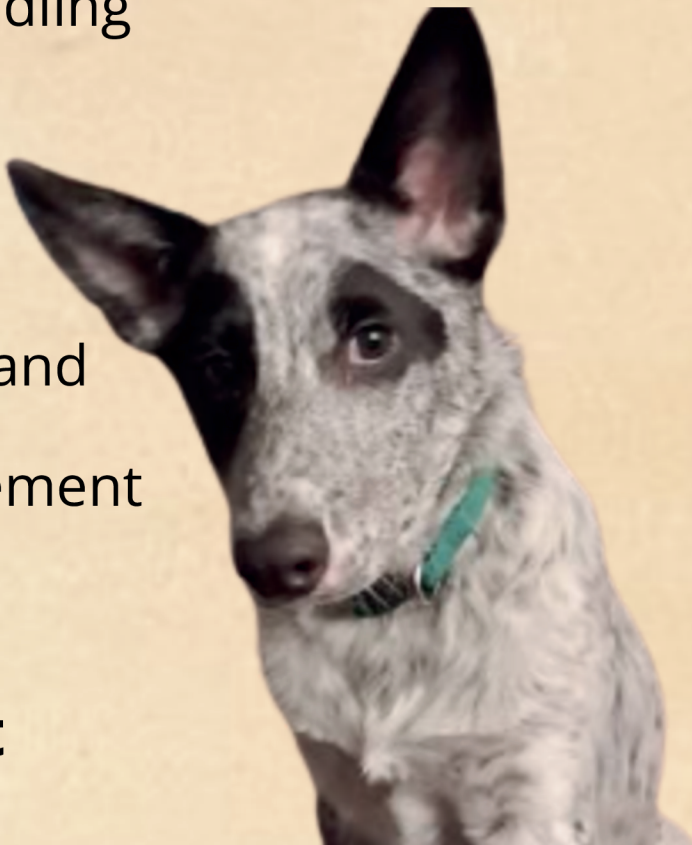


(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — The Community Service Officer is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the City Ordinances pertaining to the keeping, control, licensing and vaccination of animals within the City.

- Minimum Qualifications
- Education equivalent to completion of the 12th grade.
 - Previous experience or training in the care and handling of animals.
 - Valid Operator’s License.
 - Must have computer/word processor experience.

- Preferred Qualifications
- Willingness to continue education on the handling and care of animals.
 - Willingness to be available to help local law enforcement agencies in emergency cases after hours and on weekends.

Apply at www.scottsbluff.org or in person at Scottsbluff City Hall. Hourly Rate: \$20.47



TATUM’S TRIUMPHANT RETURN HOME

(BRIDGEPORT, Neb.) — It all began when the six-month-old Border Collie and Red Heeler mix slipped away around 9 p.m., disappearing into the night near H and I Streets in Bridgeport. Affectionately known as "Tatum Nuggets," he was young, easily frightened, and away from home.

Jennifer Rose, Tatum’s owner, refused to give up and was feeling sad, so Panhandle Scanner, friends, neighbors, and complete strangers rallied around her, sharing the story, searching fields and roads, checking every lead, and preparing organized search efforts.

Hope carried everyone through two days of uncertainty as the community came together with one goal—to bring Tatum home.

After two days of searching, hoping, and refusing to quit, the adventurous little pup was finally back where he belonged—in the arms of the people who loved him most.

Tatum's story is a reminder that hope and encouragement from the community can turn even the longest two days into the sweetest reunion.

Welcome home, Tatum Nuggets!

-- NEWS TIPS --
Message Facebook Page
or Call 941-942-4361



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.

In Other Scanner Traffic...

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

OUR REACH THIS WEEK

Panhandle Scanner Facebook
78,623 Followers
3.4 Million Views
274,643 Unique Viewers

Digging Deeper News Page
11,620 Unique Readers

Podcasts & Streaming
6,298 Unique Listeners

Advertising; Call or Text 941-942-4361

Triple I Check July 16, 2026 10 pm
Scanner traffic indicated that a Triple I Check was conducted near the intersection of 14th Avenue & East 20th Street in Scottsbluff. The check turned up Negative, No priors.

What is a Triple I Check?
No, it's not to check to see if they have a third eye. And it's also not an all-encompassing background check, but does serve as another buffer for checking a criminal's past history.

Bayard Incident July 16, 2026 10 pm
Scanner traffic indicated Nebraska State Patrol Toopers with 4 units surrounding an area on Main Street in Bayard after a call came in for a possible weapons threat.

Police Activity July 18, 2026 9 pm
Scanner followers reported heavy police & EMS/FIRE activity via 9th Ave & 14th St in Scottsbluff, Saturday night. We believe this was possibly related to the incident two blocks away.

