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THE SUNDAY SCANNER

WWW.PANHANDLESCANNER.COM

PRAYING FOR BAYARD

Tragic Accident Stuns Community



(BAYARD, Neb.) -- People all over the panhandle are praying for this small, tight-knit community after a tragic accident near Albin, Wyoming at mile marker 43 on Hwy 85 happened just after midnight Thursday night that claimed the young lives of Brock Burry and Joslyn Hopkins. We are expecting a News Release from the Laramie County Sheriff's Office. Meanwhile, here is what we do know.

2026-07-24 12:37 am - Laramie County scanner traffic indicated an "injury accident at the 43."

"Volkswagen Jetta, heavy front end damage."

"We have multiple unresponsive. Standby."

That's when our heart sank, and unanswerable questions began start gnawing at the brain.

We offer our sincerest prayers and condolences to the family and friends of everyone affected.



It is our understanding that Garrett Hopkins and his younger sister, Joslyn, along with Brock Burry were travelling back from Cheyenne Frontier Days late Thursday night via Hwy 85 northbound when the accident happened. Condolences are pouring in for Brock and Joslyn, who were student athletes from Bayard High School. They died from their injuries in the accident.

Garrett remains hospitalized in critical condition. We ask for your continued prayers and respect for the family and friends affected by this terrible loss.

Rattlesnake on Omaha Beach



(LAKE MCCONNAUGHY, Neb.) -- At 5:00 pm mountain on July 23rd, this photo of a rattlesnake was taken from the Ogallala Beach area.

Please be very aware of your surroundings while enjoying Lake McConaughy this year. They're out, and this heat will have them looking for water and cool places as the summer continues.

Photo courtesy of Lake McConaughy, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

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BRIAN HALE - CHIEF EDITOR
ARIANNA HALE - PUBLISHER
ANDI HALE - CREATIVE DIRECTOR
BRAYDEN HALE - ASSISTANT EDITOR
TIMOTHY MENDEZ - NEWS & WEATHER
JOE MARTINEZ - NEWS REPORTER
BRIDGET LEHMAN - MORRILL COUNTY
CODY MARTIN - CONTRIBUTOR
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Weather Review made possible by Kendell Henderson Agency Inc.



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Mr. Moose Coolin’ Down as Tempatures Continue to Soar

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Mr. Moose was spooted coolin’ down from the heat wave that continues to batter the region. Halie Smith captured the photo on the right, then called dispatch to report the wild animal in the ditch behind her house.



Trooper Kleich of the Nebraska State Patrol came to the rescue to assist the moose to safety, and to remind everyone, “If you don’t have to be outside in these extreme temperatures, please do not. Be like Mr. Moose & stay cool and be sure to stay hydrated.”

Torrington Construction Update

(TORRINGTON, Wyo.) – The East D Street Construction Project is in the final stages, and there some closure changes to be aware of.

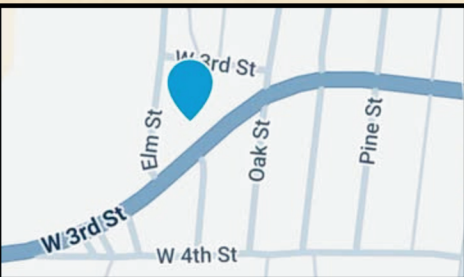
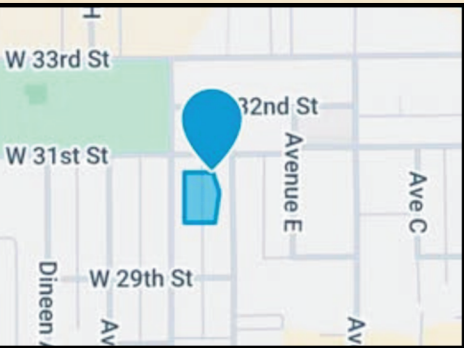
If you haven’t driven through the area lately, East D Street is now open to East 28th Avenue, which provides an easy connection to Main Street.

East 29th Avenue will remain closed from East A Street to East B Street. Beginning Friday, that closure extended to East D Street.

Recommended alternate routes include East 28th Avenue, East A Street, and Main Street.



Storms Bring Rain, Power Outages, Fire



(PANHANDLE OF NEBRASKA) – Recent thunderstorm activity has brought much needed rain to scattered areas around the panhandle. Unfortunately, there are also some serious side effects that always present a threat.

Power outages and fires caused by lightning are two issues that the panhandle has faced this past week. Power outages were reported in at least Chadron and Scottsbluff, plus one fire north of Mitchell was reportedly caused by lightning then doused by rainfall.

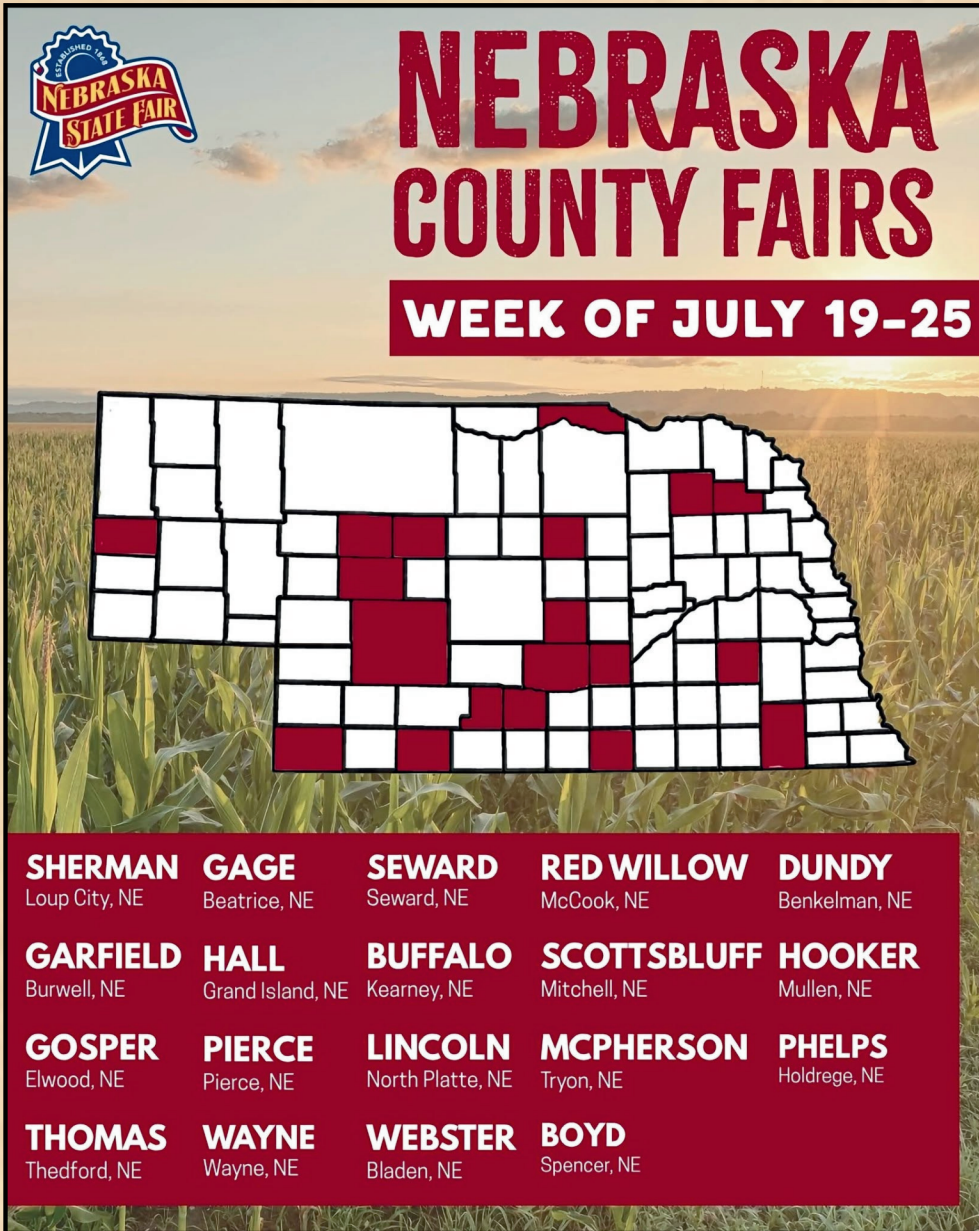
Darlene Holmstedt Johnson reported 1 1/4" rain in less than a half hour, 2 miles north on Henry Road.

Weather Outlook made possible by Kendell Henderson Agency Inc.

County Fairs Across Nebraska

(LINCOLN, Neb.) – The following illustrative chart shows County Fairs across Nebraska. Citizens of the Panhandle found discrepancies, so we eached out to the Board.

We heard back from the Nebraska State Fair on the criteria behind their illustrations. They explained to us that they list the county fairs that START during the week listed.



Technically, Scotts Bluff (two words when it is the county) actually began Saturday, July 18th with the Shooting Sports and judging of Clothing Styling, and Construction entries. Sunday, July 19th featured the 4-H Dog Show at Sanford Hall.

The Scotts Bluff County Fair picked back up with the Horse Show on the 25th and will continue through August 2nd with the Livestock Sale being held on Saturday the 1st of August, 2026.

The State Fair reminded us that the Morrill County Fair and Cheyenne County Fair were listed on the illustration from last week.

We feel their criteria would have been more useful if they have listed county fairs that are HAPPENING this week, rather than ones starting the week listed.



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WNCC CRISIS
AVERTED



(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) — On July 21, 2026 at approximately 3:42 am, the Scottsbluff Police Department was dispatched to the Western Nebraska Community College campus as Security had located a subject attempting to gain access to parked vehicles.

Scottsbluff Police Officers arrived on scene and located the subject wearing a mask and carrying a backpack. The subject said he was going to shoot and kill officers and continued telling officers to shoot him. The male ran from officers and was able to climb on to the roof of the Auto Tech building. Scottsbluff Police determined the male subject to be in a mental health crisis. The male then laid down on the roof and refused to comply with officer commands.

A perimeter was established around the building and negotiators were called. Negotiators maintained contact for nearly five hours before the male ingested an unknown number of prescription medications. Shortly after the male subject had ingested the medications, he became lethargic. A team of officers was established and made entry to the roof via an external ladder. Once the subject was secured medical personnel were given access to the rooftop and the subject and medical care was immediately provided. The subject was taken to RWMC where medical care continues.

Scottsbluff Police were assisted by the Gering Police Department, Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office, Scottsbluff Fire Department, Regional West Ambulance Service and WNCC Security.

Warrant Service Results In Suicide

(MARQUETTE, Neb.) — The Nebraska State Patrol is investigating an apparent suicide following an attempted search warrant at a Marquette residence Wednesday morning.

At approximately 7:00 a.m., the NSP Tech Crimes Unit, assisted by Homeland Security Investigations, attempted to serve a search warrant at a home on Center Street as part of an ongoing investigation involving suspected child sexual abuse material.

Investigators identified the resident as 47-year-old Chad Lammermann. While officers attempted to make contact, investigators reportedly saw Lammermann move farther inside the home. Moments later, officers heard gunshots coming from inside.



PHOTO CONTESTS



(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 at 2207 Broadway in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

EWC Hosts Police Training



(TORRINGTON, Wyo.) -- On Tuesday, July 21st, and Wednesday, July 22nd, the Torrington Police Department hosted a regional training event at Eastern Wyoming College focused on law enforcement response to active threat incidents.

There was a significant Law Enforcement presence at Eastern Wyoming College on both days.

The law enforcement officers engaged in multiple reality-based scenarios intended to simulate an active threat in an indoor and outdoor environment.

The west side of the campus, between the Tebbet Building and Lancer Hall, and the parking lot behind the Vet Tech building was closed to the public during the training. The campus otherwise remained open for regular summer business.

Please contact the Torrington Police Department at 307-532-7001 if you have any questions about the event.

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Road Rage Arrest



(YORK COUNTY, Neb.) — A Connecticut man is under arrest for terroristic threats, and other charges, after a witness says he threatened them with a semi automatic rifle.

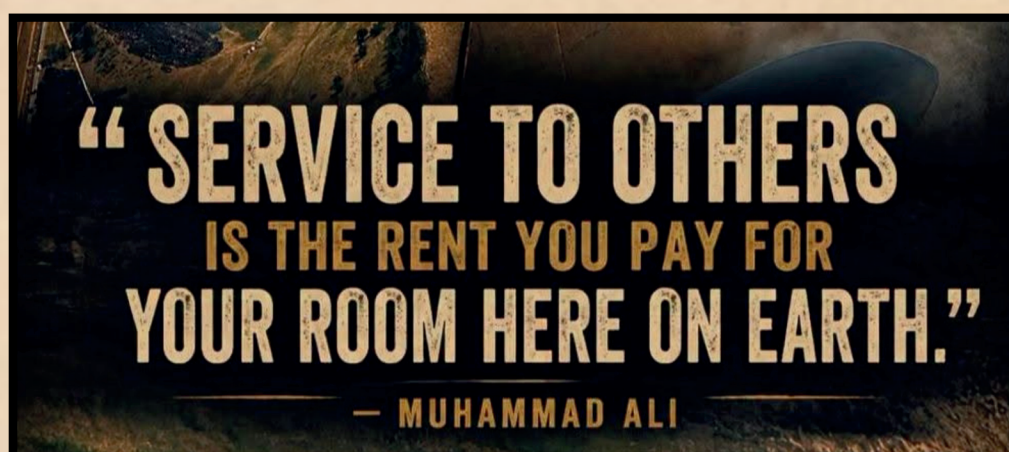
On Saturday, July 18, 2026, at approximately 1300 hours, our office received a report of a road rage incident on Interstate 80 near mile marker 361. The reporting party stated that the driver of a gray Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van had allegedly brandished an AR-15 style rifle and pointed it at them as they drove down the interstate. The reporting party also stated that the gray Sprinter van had gotten off of the interstate at mile marker 360 and traveled north on Road S.

Deputies then located a vehicle matching the description traveling west on Road 10 and conducted a traffic stop with the assistance of the York Police Department. During the investigation, the driver admitted there was a rifle inside the vehicle. Witnesses were later brought to the scene and positively identified the driver as the individual involved in the incident.

A search warrant was subsequently obtained for the vehicle. Deputies recovered an AR-15 style rifle, multiple magazines, and ammunition, all of which were seized as evidence. A juvenile passenger who was inside the vehicle at the time of the incident was safely removed and released to the appropriate guardian following coordination with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The driver, Michael K. Johnson of Tolland, Connecticut, was arrested and lodged at York County Corrections for:

- Terroristic Threats (28-311)
- Use of a Firearm to Commit a Felony (28-1205)
- Child Abuse (28-707)



(HERSHEY, Neb.) — The Hershey Volunteer Fire Department posted a meaningful and timeless message recently.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." - Ali

If ever you want to give back, contact your local fire department to see what assistance they could use.

Teacher Arrested



(YORK COUNTY, Neb.) -- A former York educator was arrested on multiple child sexual assault and abuse charges following a joint investigation by local and state agencies.

FATAL TEEN SHOOTOUT

(RAPID CITY, S.D.) -- At approximately 8:10 pm, Saturday July 18th, officers responded to the area of 965 E. Omaha St after receiving reports of a shooting.

Two juveniles—one from each of the two groups involved in the confrontation—fired shots during the incident near 965 E. Omaha St. in Rapid City.

One of the suspected shooters was wounded and hospitalized, while the other was detained.

Preliminary information indicates the shooting happened during a confrontation between 2 groups of juveniles and does not seem to be a random incident, according to Rapid City Police Department. The investigation is ongoing.

Felon in Possession of a Firearm



(ALLIANCE, Neb.) — An Alliance man was arrested early Friday morning after a traffic stop led officers to discover a firearm in his vehicle, despite him being prohibited from possessing firearms due to a prior domestic violence conviction.

At approximately 1:21 a.m. on July 24, 2026, Alliance Police Officer Isaac Hart conducted a traffic stop on a black Chrysler 200 in the 700 block of West 10th Street after observing the vehicle operating without license plates.

The driver was identified as Daniel Ferrin-Birt, 28, of Alliance. During the investigation, officers determined Ferrin-Birt was driving under suspension.

Officers also observed a license plate displayed in the rear window that was registered to a different vehicle, and a VIN check revealed the Chrysler was not currently registered.

While speaking with Ferrin-Birt, officers detected the odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle.

Ferrin-Birt admitted to smoking marijuana in the vehicle the previous day. A probable cause search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of a marijuana pipe and a Ruger .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle.

A criminal history check revealed Ferrin-Birt had a prior domestic violence conviction, making him prohibited under Nebraska law from possessing a firearm.

Ferrin-Birt was arrested and lodged in the Box Butte County Jail on the following charges:

- Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person (Class I D Felony)
- Driving Under Suspension
- Display of Fictitious License Plates
- No Valid Vehicle Registration

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

NEED TO RELOCATE? SIMPLY REAL ESTATE - TORRINGTON, WYOMING

THE SUNDAY SCANNER

Fires Deemed Accidental



(NORTH PLATTE, Neb.) — Multiple grass fires in close proximity appeared to be set in the same way which lead to further investigation.

On July 16th and 17th, two ditch fires were reported on the south west side of North Platte. The fires were very small and quickly extinguished. On July 22nd, two more fires were reported, one near the Wild West Arena and another south of North Platte off Highway 83.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office joined with North Platte Police Department investigators with assistance from the City Fire Marshall's Office and a State Fire Marshall investigator. We quickly identified a suspect vehicle in the area of each fire date and location. The owner of the vehicle was interviewed along with a local mechanic that had worked on the vehicle that same day. Investigators examined the vehicle and corroborated information obtained in the interview.

At the conclusion of the investigation, All involved agencies are confident that all four fires were caused by a mechanical issue on the vehicle and was not an intentional act.

Mitchell Grass Fire



(MITCHELL, Neb.) – On Monday July 20th the Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a grass fire in the area of Murphy Road and HWY 29 north of Mitchell in Sioux County.

The department stated that the fire likely started from a lightning strike as thunderstorms moved into the area.

"Luckily the rain from those storms put out the fire before it could get very big. MVFD responded with eight trucks and multiple personnel."

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FATAL SCOOTER VS PICKUP ACCIDENT

(BENNINGTON, Neb.) — The 11-year-old boy who was critically injured when a pickup struck his scooter in Bennington has died, school and community officials said.

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office said three juveniles were riding north on 179th Street about 4:30 p.m. July 14 when one entered the intersection at Island Circle and was hit by a westbound pickup. Nearby residents began lifesaving measures before Bennington Fire & Rescue transported the boy, identified by Bennington Public Schools as Logan Rahn, to Children's Nebraska in critical condition.

Bennington Public Schools later notified families that Rahn, a student in the district, died from his injuries, and counselors would be available for students and staff. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office has said speed, alcohol and drugs do not appear to be factors, and that the pickup driver stayed at the scene and cooperated with investigators.

Rahn was a youth hockey player, and local clubs have posted condolences and mental health resources for families grappling with the loss. A GoFundMe page created to support Rahn's family says donations will help with medical and funeral expenses as they navigate "this incredibly difficult time." A honor walk was held for Rahn at the hospital Wednesday as his family made the decision to donate organs to save the lives of many others.

Fish Creek Fire Evacuation Order in Wyoming

(ALBANY COUNTY, Wyo.) -- The Albany County Sheriff's Office issued an immediate GO evacuation order due to an active wildfire that was first reported Tuesday evening at 9:22 pm.

All residents within a 2-mile radius of Fish Creek Ranch and the Cherokee Park area were ordered to leave immediately, and do not wait for additional notice.

Evacuees are also told to take only essential items if it is safe to do so and evacuate as quickly as possible. Also, avoid traveling into the area so firefighters and emergency crews can safely respond.

The Albany County Fairgrounds was established as the evacuation center.



Torrington Pickleball Courts To Reopen

(TORRINGTON, Wyo.) — The City of Torrington announced that the pickleball courts will be closed for repairs and are tentatively expected to reopen July 27th.

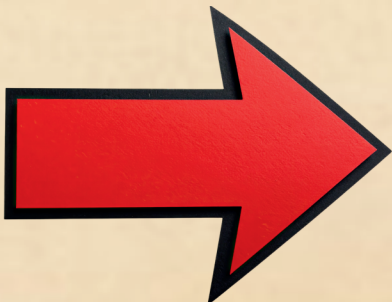


Attention Fire Departments

(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) - The Scottsbluff Fire Department will be hosting a Apparatus Driver Operator Class September 21-25, taught by the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office.

This class is very hard to come by.

If your agency has people interested in attending the course, please have them register!



ALLIANCE TRIKE ACCIDENT



(ALLIANCE, Neb.) - As of approximately 6:40 a.m. this morning, we received a report of a trike motorcycle accident near the intersection of W. 3rd Street and Highway 385, near Maverik.

According to initial reports, the three-wheeled motorcycle entered the irrigation ditch at a high rate of speed. The driver reportedly lost control of the motorcycle and was thrown from the bike, landing on the roadway.

At this time, the extent of any injuries and whether medical transport was required are unknown. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Rick Guernsey wrote, "Sounds like he has a lot of road rash but was up and talking. Told someone he had not slept for quite a while and the trike traveled on a ways after he fell off."

Note: A "trike" refers to a three-wheeled motorcycle.

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SEPTEMBER 21ST - 25TH, 2026

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THE SUNDAY SCANNER

The Lettuce Recall; It's in the Water

(WASHINGTON D.C.) — The initial recall was tied to a multistate investigation into a cluster of Cyclospora infections and concerns that iceberg lettuce could be the source.

- Taylor Farms de Mexico was identified as a potential source during the investigation and traceback.
- Taylor Farms initiated a voluntary recall of certain iceberg lettuce products originating from central Mexico.
- The recall included some Marketside-brand products sold at Walmart, along with certain products distributed through food-service channels.
- Consumers were advised not to eat recalled products and to check packaging and recall information before consuming them.
- The concern was Cyclospora cayetanensis, a parasite that can cause cyclosporiasis. Symptoms can include frequent, watery diarrhea, abdominal cramping, nausea, fatigue, and loss of appetite.
- The initial positive laboratory result that helped drive attention toward the lettuce was later determined to be a false positive. However, the FDA has continued investigating because other evidence—including epidemiological and traceback information—has continued to point toward lettuce as a possible source.



The false positive was a setback for the investigation, but it did not clear Taylor Farms or end the recall. The FDA is essentially saying: "That particular lab result was wrong, but the broader evidence connecting the outbreak to the recalled lettuce is still strong enough that the investigation and recall continue."

The key distinction: The recall was not simply because Taylor Farms' lettuce was definitively proven to contain Cyclospora. It was a voluntary recall undertaken while the FDA investigated a potential connection between the lettuce and illnesses. The later false-positive result complicated the investigation but did not automatically eliminate the recall.

Elderly Couple Killed

(PRAGUE, Neb.) — A husband and wife from Wahoo lost their lives Sunday afternoon following a two-vehicle crash in Saunders County around 3:25 p.m. on July 19 at the intersection of Highway 79 and County Road V, about four miles north of Prague.

Investigators say Marvin Fujan, 89, of Wahoo, was driving a 1999 Dodge Ram 1500 southbound on Highway 79 when he attempted to turn east onto County Road V. As he turned, the pickup entered the path of a 1994 Ford F-350 traveling northbound, driven by Alex Archer, 30, of Prague. Archer was unable to avoid the collision.

Mildred Fujan, 84, who was riding as a passenger in the Dodge Ram, was pronounced dead at the scene. Marvin Fujan was transported to the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where he later died from his injuries. The couple were husband and wife.

Archer was taken to Methodist Fremont Health with a suspected leg fracture and other minor injuries.

Multiple agencies responded to the crash, including Prague Fire and Rescue, Morse Bluff Fire, Cedar Bluffs Fire and Rescue, and the Nebraska State Patrol.

Gun Trafficking & Money Laundering



(OMAHA, Neb.) — A Mexican man was taken into federal custody on July 21, 2026 after agents executed search warrants at his home and business.

Jose Gerardo Ruiz Alonso, 36, of Mexico, was found in possession of multiple firearms, ammunition and a large sum of cash.

United States Attorney Lesley A. Woods announced that Jose Gerardo Ruiz Alonso, 36, of Mexico, was charged in a criminal complaint in federal court in the District of Nebraska for being an alien unlawfully in the United States in possession of firearms. On July 22, 2026, Ruiz Alonso appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Michael D. Nelson and was detained pending trial.

Per the criminal complaint, on July 21, 2026, the FBI executed search warrants on Ruiz Alonso's Omaha residence and business.

As a result of the search warrants, law enforcement seized approximately 71 firearms and several hundred rounds of ammunition from the business. Law enforcement seized two additional firearms and ammunition from his residence.

Ruiz Alonso is not a United States citizen and was not legally in the United States. It is illegal under federal law for an alien unlawfully in the United States to possess a firearm. U.S. v. Jose Gerardo Ruiz Alonso, 8:26MJ321

The case is being investigated by the FBI, ATF, DEA, ICE, Omaha Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, Bellevue Police Department, La Vista Police Department, and Council Bluffs, Iowa Police Department.

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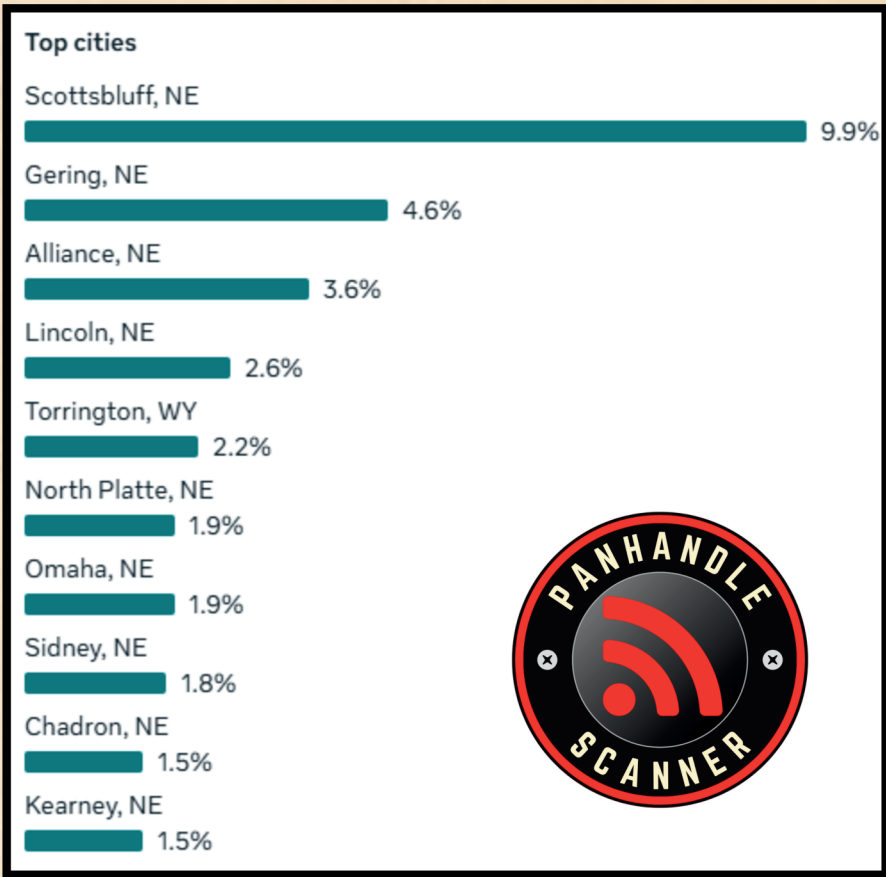
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Chelsea Johnson - Wolff Haus Real Estate
Roger Huckfeld for County Commissioner
El Poblano Food Truck
Extreme Tornado Chaser Kyle Miller

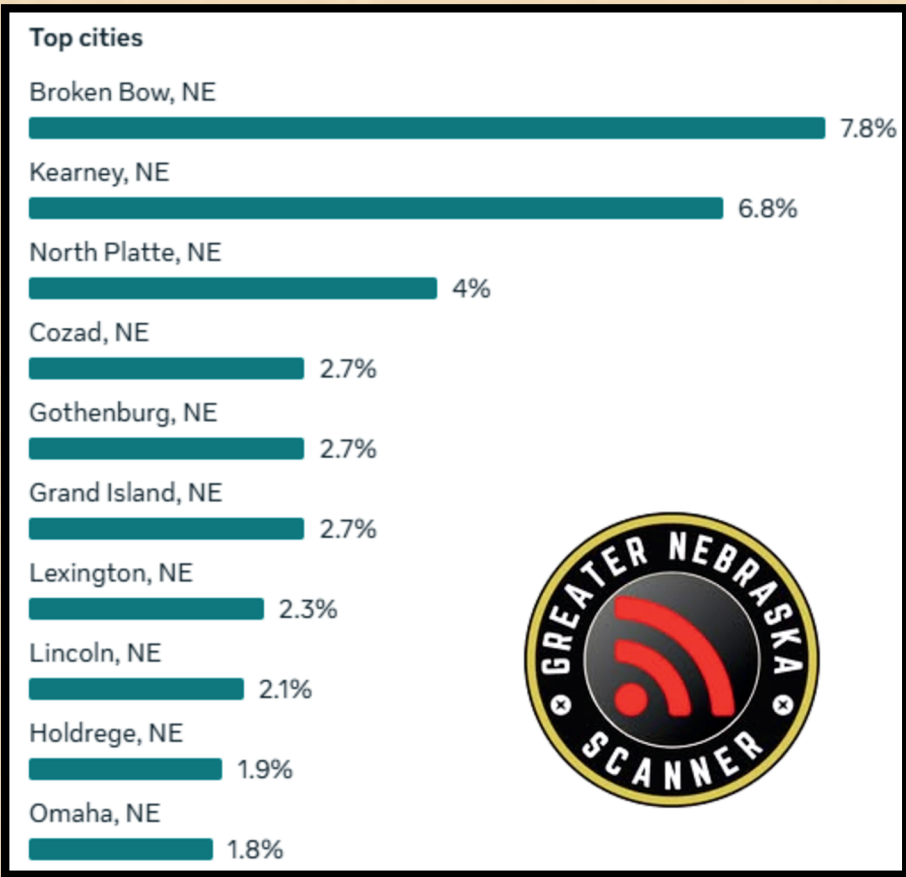
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Top Following Cities
Panhandle Scanner



Top Following Cities
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In Other Scanner Traffic...

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

Car vs Deer MVA July 19, 2026 10 pm
(SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, Neb.) – Scanner traffic indicated a Car vs Deer accident around mile marker 15 on Hwy 92.

Single Vehicle MVA July 24, 2026 12 pm
(MITCHELL, Neb.) – Scanner traffic indicated a single vehicle accident with possible injuries near CR G and Mitchell South Road.

Fire / Foot Pursuit July 25, 2026 5 pm
(LAKE MINATARE, Neb.) – A fire turned into a foot pursuit, with possible weapons involved per scanner traffic...

6:00 pm: ONE MALE 10-15 (Under Arrest)

Robbery Reported July 20, 2026 9 pm
(SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, Neb.) – Scanner traffic indicated a robbery in progress near Hwy 26 & CR 26.

- Suspect 1: Hispanic male, approximately 6'0", 250 lbs.
- Suspect 2: Hispanic male, approximately 5'8", 160 lbs.

Please contact law enforcement if you know anything about this situation.

Injury Accident July 25, 2026 10 pm
(SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb.) – Scanner traffic indicated an injury accident near Avenue I & S. Beltline Hwy in Scottsbluff.



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

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.