

# Quarterly Issues/Programs List

KRNP-FM Sutherland, NE

KZTL-FM Paxton, NE

KELN-FM North Platte, NE

KNPQ-FM Hershey, NE

KOOQ-AM North Platte, Ne

## 4th Quarter October 2023 – December 2023

KOOQ-AM, M-F Newscasts at 6:30am, 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am, 12:30pm, 4:30pm

KELN-FM, Newscasts at 6:30am, 7:30am, 8:30am, 12:30pm, 4:30pm

KNPQ-FM, Newscasts at 6:30am, 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am, 12:30pm, 5:30pm

KZTL-FM, M-F Newscasts at 7:20am, 12:10pm and 5:10pm

KRNP-FM, M-F Newscasts at 6:20am, 7:20am & 8:20am

## Description of Programing

“Eagle Radio Community Issues” is a over the air weekly program dedicated to local and state events and issues. These local interviews air Sundays between 6a and 8a on KRNP-FM, KZTL-FM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM & KOOQ-AM

News Stories that aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM over the course of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

## October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Sutherland, Nebraska – The Village of Sutherland has been awarded its first economic development grant under the new Property Improvement Program. In May of 2022, the very fiscally conservative voters of Sutherland recognized the need to collectively invest in the growth and sustainability of their community. They voted to place a tax upon themselves of 1 ½ percent. That process included the creation of the Sutherland Economic Development Program and the Citizens Advisory Review Committee to oversee the distribution of the half-percent tax that was earmarked for economic development.

The Village Board of Trustees approved three programs developed by the volunteers on the committee and the Program Administrator, Muriel Clark. The programs are the Business Development Loan and Grant, the Property Improvement Program Loan and Grant and the Digital Marketing Grant.

On September 21, the Citizens Advisory Review Committee reviewed a grant application for the Property Improvement Program from Devin and Sandi Ruff for exterior improvements to downtown Sutherland's Sno White. The Ruffs purchased the business earlier this year and have been spending many hours cleaning up the property and improving its appearance. Development plans include creating a year-round restaurant and preserving the historic telephone exchange building that is also on the property. The CARC voted to recommend to the Village Board of Trustees funding for the exterior improvements with a grant of \$10,000.

The Sno White is a Sutherland landmark, having served up ice cream and meals in the community since the 1950's. The CARC recognized the importance of the business to the community and the fact that prepared food sales are taxable and will help to replenish the balance of the economic development fund. The committee also forwarded a favorable recommendation of a Property Improvement Program grant application from a homeowner to replace a deteriorating sidewalk but recommended that the Village adopt standardized guidelines for sidewalks throughout the community prior to funding the project.

The Village Board of Trustees agreed with the recommendation and approved funding for the Sno White at its regular monthly meeting on September 27. They also tabled approving the grant for sidewalk repair until the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees can clarify specifications for sidewalks.

The grants awarded under the program are for reimbursement and no monies will be paid out until the project is completed to the satisfaction of the Village in accordance with the application. No part of the project contained in the application can be begun prior to the applicants signing an agreement and receiving a notification to proceed. The Ruffs plan to have the Sno White open in the spring of 2024 with the improvements completed.

Details about the economic development programs, including guidelines and applications can be found on the Village website, [VillageofSutherland.com](http://VillageofSutherland.com). The Economic Development Department will be holding an informational Open House and Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday October 24 from 7pm to 8pm in the Village offices for anyone interested in learning more about the programs.

The story was reported on air on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast and Post News Director Canon Rath used sound bytes for newscast.

## **October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

Oshkosh, NEB - On 9-23-23, around 7pm, a Deputy with the Garden County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call from a male stating that Cowboy Tobacco was drunk and had tried to snap the caller's neck. When the Deputy arrived on scene and entered the residence, he observed Tobacco laying on his stomach with a hammer in his right hand. The Deputy instructed Tobacco to let go of the hammer and

Tobacco complied. Once Tobacco was seated on a couch, he started becoming emotional, asking the Deputy what was going on and what he did.

When the Deputy told Tobacco about the call received, Tobacco became angry, yelling and threatening the Reporting Party. Tobacco was removed from the residence in order to try to calm him down and get his side of the story, but Tobacco began getting even more aggressive and continued yelling, stepping toward the residence and breaking a window with his fist.

Tobacco was then placed into custody and taken to the Emergency Room to treat the cuts on his hand sustained while breaking the window. While in the ER, Tobacco was very aggressive toward medical staff and would not follow Deputies' commands. Tobacco intentionally made a fist and would wave his hand in a flicking motion toward the Deputy, flinging blood on him.

Tobacco had to be physically held down for medical attention and received stitches. He was eventually transported to the Cheyenne County Jail. Tobacco has been charged with Terroristic Threats, Assault Peace Officer with Bodily Fluids, Criminal Mischief, Assault 3rd Degree and Disturbing the Peace.

Parts of the story were aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscasts.

## **October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

North Platte, NE- Mike Jacobson, President and CEO of NebraskaLand Bank along with the Board of Directors, is pleased to announce the promotion of Jamie Streit to Vice President, Information Technology Manager. In her new role, Jamie will be responsible for the management of the Bank's IT department and serve as a member of the IT Steering Committee and Business Continuity.

Jamie Streit has been with NebraskaLand Bank since 2015 and has been a key member of the IT department. She has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Bank's IT strategy and has been a leader in the Bank's IT department.

NebraskaLand Bank is committed to providing its customers with the best possible service and Jamie's promotion is a testament to that commitment. The Bank is confident that Jamie will be a great asset in her new role and will help the Bank continue to grow and develop its IT infrastructure.

Parts of the story were aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscasts.

## **October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

NORTH PLATTE - On October 8, Lincoln County Deputies and North Platte Fire and Rescue were dispatched to an injury accident involving a motorcycle. Further information was that the motorcycle had crashed and exploded. The accident was near the 2700 block of North Airport Road. While enroute deputies were advised that there were two motorcycles involved in the crash.

When deputies arrived one driver had been transported and the second was receiving medical aid from EMS and was about to be transported. North Platte Fire was extinguishing the burning motorcycle and a small grass fire that was caused by the burning vehicle. Deputies could see debris from the crash scattered for nearly a ¼ mile to the south of the vehicles. Several witnesses and a video from a nearby house confirmed that the vehicles accelerated heavily after crossing the railroad tracks near highway 30.

For some reason the motorcycles contacted each other at a very high rate of speed and crashed. The drivers were identified as 23-year-old Travis Roberts and 21-year-old Trevin Jeffs, both of North Platte. When deputies arrived at the hospital, both drivers were heavily sedated and receiving emergency care. A test for alcohol was not possible. Both drivers have many broken bones, and one driver will likely lose his leg.

A motorcycle accident occurred in North Platte resulting in the riders getting hurt. Post New Director Canon Rath used parts of the story that aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

## **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

OGALLALA, NEB. - Saturday, at approximately 12:50 a.m. MT, NSP was informed that a stolen Subaru Legacy had fled an attempted traffic stop in northeast Colorado. The vehicle was believed to have entered Nebraska. A trooper was able to locate the vehicle as it was traveling eastbound on Interstate 80 near Ogallala.

The Subaru exited I-80 at the Ogallala interchange and proceeded northbound into Ogallala. The trooper attempted a traffic stop, but the driver immediately accelerated and turned westbound onto Highway 26. The trooper initiated a pursuit.

The Subaru fled westbound on Highway 26 with speeds in excess of 130 miles per hour. The vehicle continued until voluntarily coming to a stop between Lisco and Broadwater. The driver was then taken into custody without further incident. Troopers located 13 grams of methamphetamine, a small amount of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia inside the vehicle.

The driver, Kage Anthony, 19, of North Platte, was arrested for flight to avoid arrest, willful reckless driving, possession of methamphetamine, theft by receiving stolen property \$5,000+, and other charges.

A North Platte man who stole a car was caught in the Panhandle of Nebraska. Parts of the story were aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscasts.

## **October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Hobson Montana - On October 2nd, 2023, at approximately 1632 hrs the Judith Basin County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to help locate a 35-year-old male at his residence near Hobson, Montana. Upon arrival, deputies found the resident deceased inside his home.

At the family's request, the Judith Basin County Sherriff's Office will not be releasing the victim's name at this time.

Tyson Kolar (40) and Megan Fiechtner (33) were taken into custody at the scene. Kolar is charged with deliberate homicide. Fiechtner is charged with deliberate homicide by accountability and obstructing a peace officer. Both parties are being held at the Fergus County Detention Center on Judith Basin County charges.

The Sheriff's office is very grateful to the following organizations for assistance: Montana Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI), Fergus County Sheriff's Office, Lewiston Police Department, and Montana Highway Patrol. More information will emerge as the investigation continues.

A Nebraska man from around the listening area was killed in Montana by his girlfriend who was also from the listening area. Parts of the news story aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

## **October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

NORTH PLATTE, NEB. — Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol arrested five people following a pursuit with a stolen vehicle Tuesday in Keith County.

At approximately 12:10 p.m. MT, a trooper observed a westbound Nissan Versa speeding on Interstate 80. The trooper also received information that the vehicle had been reported stolen in Iowa. The vehicle exited I-80 at the Paxton interchange and the trooper attempted a traffic stop.

The driver exited the vehicle and appeared to be complying with the trooper, until one of the passengers exited the vehicle and entered the driver's seat. The original driver then entered a passenger seat and the vehicle fled. The trooper initiated a pursuit.

The vehicle fled westbound on I-80. Additional units were able to successfully deploy stop sticks to bring the vehicle to a stop near mile marker 140, just west of Paxton. All five subjects inside the vehicle were then taken into custody without further incident.

The original driver, an 18-year-old male, was arrested for obstructing a peace officer and no operator's license. The second driver, Yovani Alfonso Rivas, 32, was arrested for willful reckless driving, flight to avoid arrest, and no operator's license. The three other subjects were identified as Carlos Alberto, 26, Jordan Medina, 26, and an 18-year-old male. All five occupants are from Venezuela. All five were arrested for possession of stolen property \$5,000+ and lodged in Keith County Jail.

The Keith County Sheriff's Office assisted in this incident.

Five individuals were arrested after fleeing from a traffic stop in Paxton, Nebraska. The story aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM.

## **November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

McCook, NEB. - On October 30th, a single engine plane crashed in the yard of a residence in the 1400 Block of East C Street in McCook, Nebraska. There were two occupants aboard the plane. The occupants were identified as pilot, Clifton Coffman age 79, who passed away from his injuries, and his passenger, Henry Ritcher age 65, who is being treated for his injuries. NTSB and FAA are investigating the crash. Both occupants were from Shreveport, Louisiana.

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RED WILLOW COUNTY, Neb. —One person died in a small plane crash just before noon Monday in southwest Nebraska.

The small plane crashed 1/8 of a mile southwest of the McCook Ben Nelson Regional Airport property, according to McCook City Manager Nate Schneider.

There were two occupants in the airplane. First responders found one deceased, and the second occupant was transported to the Community Hospital of McCook for treatment.

City of McCook personnel were at the scene of the crash and have contacted the appropriate federal agencies.

Officials secured the crash site, and it will be maintained until investigators from the appropriate federal agencies arrive. Officials have not released the names of the pilot or passenger.

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McCook NEB. - First responders were dispatched to a small plane crash in McCook around 12:00pm. No further information is available at this time. We will provide updates once more information is released.

A small plane crashed in McCook, Nebraska resulting in one fatality and one injury. This story aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM.

## **November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

Hershey, NEB. - At about noon on 11-1-23 deputies were dispatched to West Stark Rd, which is northwest of Hershey. It was reported that there was an abandoned vehicle in a pasture. Nearby residents had noticed it there earlier in the day and now had noticed an unidentified male walking in the area. They checked the vehicle and found that it was disabled in a small washout.

Deputies determined that it had been stolen from Bridge Street Auto in North Platte. The residents reported that they approached the male, but he ran into a nearby corn field. Deputies could not locate the male, so NSP was dispatched for assistance. They responded with a drone, manpower and K-9. The male was located near Birdwood Creek. He refused to comply with orders to come out of the field. Less lethal pepper balls were used and had little effect. The K-9 was deployed as a warning, but he continued to defy the orders.

As officers approached him to affect an arrest, he became physical, and the K-9 took action. In an effort to defeat the dog the suspect bit the dog on the face. The best biter prevailed, and the suspect was handcuffed and arrested. He was given medical attention for bite injuries on scene and at the hospital. The K-9 did not require medical attention.

He was identified as Roman Reyes, DOB 12-27-84.

No known address. He was believed to be under the influence of drugs. He has had a lot of contact with the law in the recent past. He was charged with Theft, Possession of Stolen Property, Resisting Arrest and Harassing a Police Animal.

Parts of the story were aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscasts.

## **November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

NORTH PLATTE, NEB. — Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol apprehended a juvenile after a pursuit with a stolen vehicle Friday afternoon.

At approximately 4:45 p.m. Friday, a trooper was on patrol near mile marker 211 on Interstate 80 when he observed a pickup that just been reported stolen out of North Platte. The pickup was traveling at 97 miles per hour on eastbound I-80. The trooper attempted a traffic stop. The pickup initially came to a stop on the shoulder, but accelerated and fled as soon as the trooper exited his patrol vehicle. The trooper initiated a pursuit.

During the pursuit, a Dawson County sheriff's deputy was able to successfully deploy stop sticks to slow the vehicle, but the subject continued fleeing eastbound into Buffalo County. Near mile marker 262, a trooper deployed another set of stop sticks to bring the vehicle to a stop in the median. The driver was taken into custody without further incident.

The driver, a 17-year-old male from Hastings, was taken into custody for flight to avoid arrest, willful reckless driving, and theft by unlawful taking - \$5,000+.

A Hastings teenager stole a pickup from North Platte and was apprehended by the Nebraska State Patrol and Buffalo County Sheriff's Deputies. Parts of the story were aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

## **November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Post news director Canon Rath chatted with Lisa Kraus, Danielle McGuire and Kelly Coggins about the upcoming Pryce Gette Silent Auction and Benefit Dinner going on November 17th.

Ogallala - The Pryce Gette Silent Auction & Benefit Dinner is going on November 17th at the Crandall Creek Golf Club in Ogallala. The free will donation event will open the doors at 5pm mountain time with Cocktail Hour as dinner will began serving at 6pm mountain. The event will feature a sloppy joe meal, silent auction and raffle tickets.

8-year-old Pryce Gette was injured in a rollover car accident on Oct. 16th and is currently at the Children's Hospital in Denver. The proceeds from the fundraiser event will help cover expense costs on Gette's road to recovery. If you would like to follow Pryce progress, you can on [caringbridge.org](https://www.caringbridge.org).

To preview auction items, you can follow on Facebook at "[Pryce Gette Silent Auction & Benefit Dinner](#)". To learn a more in-depth of the Pryce Gette Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction, Gette's story and updates, check out the podcast above.

The community of Ogallala and surrounding counties hosted a silent auction and benefit dinner for an 8-year-old who was injured in a car accident. Post News Director Canon Rath interviewed Lisa Kraus, Danielle McGuire and Kelly Coggins about the event. Sound bytes from this interview were used on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day.



## **November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Ogallala, NEB. - County wide tones for ditch fire spreading into unharvested corn field in the Ogallala district. Resources included Command from Ogallala and KL. Brush trucks and tenders from all four agencies along with LEO for traffic control responded. KCEM Kling and MAC 60 responded with FLIR drone. Private farm equipment requested to create fire line.

Center pivot utilized to halt forward progress of fire. MA requested from Grant due to minor equipment problems with two Keith County units. Structures threatened but not damaged. No injuries were reported to IC. Approximately 50 acres of standing corn were destroyed.

The photo is at the point of origin from a poorly maintained semi-trailer, west bound on 80. These duals separated from the trailer, crossed the east bound, miraculously not hitting anyone or anything, and the hot metal ignited the ditch and corn field. Semi continued traveling and has not been identified at this time. All units returned to service by 1700 hrs.

50 acres of corn caught fire near Ogallala which caused a county wide page. Parts of the news story aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM during newscast.

## **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

SCOTTSBLUFF, NEB. — The Nebraska State Patrol has arrested one person following a reported drive-by shooting and standoff in Oshkosh overnight.

At approximately 11:00 p.m. MT Wednesday, the Garden County Sheriff's Office was notified of a drive-by shooting that had occurred in the 400 block of East Avenue H in Oshkosh. There were no injuries reported in the shooting. The involved vehicle was located a short time later at a residence in the 400 block of West 5th Street.

Garden County deputies requested assistance from the Nebraska State Patrol. The suspect was identified as Henry Schuff, 54, of Oshkosh. Schuff is prohibited from possessing a firearm. NSP investigators made contact with the suspect at the residence, but the suspect refused to exit the home. The NSP SWAT team was activated. Additional attempts were made to have the suspect exit. At approximately 4:50 a.m., the suspect voluntarily exited the residence and was taken into custody. NSP SWAT performed a search warrant on the home and located numerous firearms. Schuff was lodged in Scotts Bluff County Jail for possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. Additional charges are pending. NSP continues to investigate the drive-by shooting.

The story was reported on air on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

## **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

NORTH PLATTE, NEB. — The Nebraska State Patrol is investigating multiple fatality crashes that occurred during Friday's winter storm. Troopers responded to 14 crashes and performed 36 motorist assists in areas experiencing winter driving conditions Friday into Saturday morning.

At approximately 2:10 p.m. Friday, troopers were dispatched to a crash on Interstate 80 near mile marker 184. The crash involved three vehicles. Preliminary investigation shows that a GMC Yukon was westbound on I-80 when it lost control, crossed the median, and struck an eastbound Honda SUV and a semi. The driver of the GMC, Lezter Juarez, 27, and passenger, Janice Arriaga-Martinez, 25, both of Lincoln, were ejected from the vehicle. Both were pronounced deceased at the scene.

All four occupants of the Honda were transported to Great Plains Health in North Platte with serious injuries. Three have since been transferred to UNMC in Omaha for further treatment. The semi driver was not injured. I-80 reopened at approximately 8:30 p.m.

At approximately 5:45 p.m. Friday, NSP responded to a single-vehicle crash on I-80 near mile marker 211. A Ford pickup had been traveling westbound when it lost control in winter driving conditions and rolled. The driver, identified as Joseph Dodson, 53, of North Platte, was ejected from the vehicle. A passenger and a trooper attempted life-saving measures until EMS arrived.

Dodson was transported to Gothenburg Health Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The passenger in the vehicle suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

On Black Friday, multiple accidents near North Platte and our listening coverage closed I-80 for over 8 hours. This story aired on newscast for KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM.

## **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The head of the union that represents track maintenance workers says Union Pacific is jeopardizing safety by delaying nearly 1,200 planned projects until next year and laying off more than 1,000 workers, but the railroad says the seasonal move shouldn't be alarming.

The president of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division union has been sending letters to regulators for more than a month raising concerns about the layoffs, but the the Surface Transportation Board hasn't intervened.

“Chaos and disruption with Union Pacific’s Maintenance of Way forces can only lead to one outcome — deferred maintenance and catastrophic outcomes,” Tony Cardwell, who leads the union, said in his letters. “These furloughs will affect the safety of Union Pacific operations and pose serious safety risks for the general public and the communities surrounding Union Pacific’s infrastructure.”

Union Pacific said the decision to delay these projects is a reflection of the fact that the railroad went over budget after dealing with several unexpected weather events like the tropical storm that hit

California this year and last summer's extreme heat. The railroad said it remains committed to safety and improving its track network across the western U.S.

Railroad safety has been a concern nationwide this year ever since a Norfolk Southern train derailed, spilled hazardous chemicals and caught fire in eastern Ohio in February. Members of Congress proposed reforms but those have largely stalled.

Cardwell said that after these layoffs of 1,350 workers UP will have only a little over 4,700 track maintenance workers. Back in 2015 before a series of cuts designed to make the railroad more efficient, Union Pacific employed 8,791. That means each maintenance worker will now have about 11 miles (17.7 kilometers) of track to take care of on average, up from 8.6 last year and 6.5 in 2016.

The union is concerned that these cuts are an indication of how tightly new CEO Jim Vena plans to manage the railroad's expenses. Union Pacific, like all the major freight railroads, already made significant cuts in its workforce over the past several years as part of overhauling its operations to rely more on fewer, longer trains. Last month, Union Pacific announced plans to trim the ranks of its managers across the railroad to help streamline decision making.

Union Pacific hasn't done large year-end layoffs of maintenance workers like this in several years, according to the union, although these jobs were originally listed as seasonal positions.

Union Pacific spokeswoman Clarissa Beyah said the actual number of furloughs will be smaller than the union fears because many workers take other jobs with the railroad and some workers may have enough vacation time saved up to cover the period.

"Accusations that Union Pacific does not invest in its infrastructure and maintenance are untrue," Beyah said. "This year alone, the railroad will spend \$3.7 billion on capital investment, of which a significant portion is allotted for maintenance. As part of the capital planning process, we are temporarily reducing some seasonal track maintenance positions."

The railroad said its workers have already replaced more than 3 million railroad ties and more than 400 miles of track across the railroad this year.

And even though these maintenance workers will be out of work during the holiday season, Union Pacific said it continues to hire train crews in certain locations as part of its effort to improve service and make sure it can handle all the shipments companies hire the railroad to deliver. At last report, Union Pacific had more than 33,000 employees in October before these layoffs began.

In early December, an AP story was released about Union Pacific going to lay off over 1,000 track maintenance workers. North Platte is home to UP biggest rail yard. The story was reported on air on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Benkelman, NEB.- On Wednesday, November 29th, 2023, at approximately 8:00 am, Dundy County Communications received a 911 call in reference to a two-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 61 near the Kansas State Line. Once Dundy County Sheriff's Office Deputies arrived at the scene, they observed that 2 commercial motor vehicles had collided, and 1 driver had facial injuries.

The driver was then transported to Dundy County Hospital by Benkelman EMS. Once Dundy County interim Sheriff Ryan King arrived at the scene, it was observed that one of the commercial Motor Vehicle's was owned by DHW Energy, and wanting to make sure that there would be no conflict of interest due to a close friendship with the owner of DHW Energy, it was decided to contact the Nebraska State Patrol to investigate the accident. This is the media release the Dundy County Sheriff's Office received from NSP in order to be transparent with the public.

**Nebraska State Patrol Press Release below:**

"On this date (Nov. 29th) at approximately 0940 hours, NSP was asked to assist Dundy County with the two vehicle CMV collision on Hwy 61 approximately mile marker 1. Due to the Sheriff's relationship with one of the drivers, NSP was asked by the Sheriff to handle the crash to prevent a possible appearance of conflictive interest.

At approximately 0930 hours, a fuel tender was traveling south bound on Hwy 61. A TT/ST hauling grain was traveling a distance behind it at the time. The tender approached the intersection of Road 702 and applied its brakes and turned on its left turn signal.

The driver of the TT/ST decided to try and pass the tender on the left side at the intersection causing the two vehicles to collide. The driver of the tender was flown to Denver for evaluation/observation but he did not appear to have any serious injury when he was transported to the local hospital.

The transport to Denver was a precaution since the driver has some visible bruising on his head. The driver of the TT/ST did not appear to have any injuries at the time of the crash. He was cited and a level III reflected the citation which was issued."

This accident was a big undertaking by multiple agencies including Benkelman EMS, Benkelman Fire Department, Nebraska Department of Roads, Kansas Department of Transportation, Tri State Towing and Sinners Towing to clean up this accident site.

In early December 2 commercial vehicles collided near Benkelman, Nebraska. Part of this story aired during newscast on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM.

## **December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

NORTH PLATTE, NEB. — Investigators with the Nebraska State Patrol have arrested the former Dundy County Sheriff as part of an investigation into firearms missing from the sheriff's office.

An inventory conducted by the sheriff's office identified that four department-owned handguns were missing. This morning, NSP investigators served a search warrant at the residence of Clinton Smith, 42, of Benkelman, and located one of the four missing firearms.

Smith was arrested for theft by unlawful taking and possession of a stolen firearm. He was lodged in Dundy County Jail.

This investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with additional information that could assist in this investigation is asked to contact Nebraska Crime Stoppers. Tips can be made anonymously at [NebraskaCrimeStoppers.com](http://NebraskaCrimeStoppers.com), through the P3 Tips mobile app, or by calling 800-422-1494.

Parts of this story aired during newscast on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM.

## **December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

NORTH PLATTE - At approximately 8:03 PM, on December 11th, 2023, the North Platte 911 Center received two reports of a shooting at a residence located in the 300 block of S. Silber. The suspect was reportedly outside of the house with a handgun and left in a vehicle, with another person, prior to police arrival. North Platte police officers and North Platte rescue were dispatched to the residence and a description of the suspect's vehicle was broadcast to all Lincoln County law enforcement agencies.

Shortly after the broadcast, a Lincoln County deputy sheriff located the suspect's vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. The suspect fled and eventually came to a stop in the 300 block of W. B St. The suspect exited his vehicle with a handgun, reportedly fired the gun at the deputy, and the deputy returned fire. After an exchange of gun fire, the suspect fled westbound on B St. in his vehicle. The deputy resumed his pursuit of the suspect until he came to a stop at a residence located in the 1100 block of W. B St. It was later determined that the residence on W. B St. was the suspect's home.

The pursuing deputy received assistance from members of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Nebraska State Patrol, and the North Platte Police Department. The suspect shot several times at the law enforcement officers before fleeing in another vehicle. The officers experienced visibility issues with the suspect and there were no gunshots fired by law enforcement officers on W. B St.

Officers pursued the suspect as he fled from the 1100 block of W. B St. in a different vehicle. Officers temporarily lost sight of the fleeing suspect, but a trooper with the Nebraska State Patrol located the suspect vehicle in the 200 block of W. Leota. The trooper made a U-turn and followed the vehicle as the suspect came to a stop at the traffic light at Leota and Jeffers. At that location, the suspect reportedly shot at the trooper who returned gunfire. The suspect fled and was pursued north on HW83 leaving North Platte. Additional gunshots were fired during the pursuit.

The suspect came to a stop after leaving the roadway near mile marker 94.5 on HW83. Due to safety concerns, a drone pilot from the North Platte Police Department was sent to the scene. Using the drone, the officers determined that there was one person in the vehicle who appeared injured and a firearm was not visible. Officers made a tactical approach, removed the suspect from the vehicle and

transported him to an awaiting ambulance. A .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol was found in the suspect's vehicle.

The suspect was identified as 38-year-old Brandon R Girkin Sr. He was transported to Great Plains Health, with at least two gunshot wounds, and later transferred to a Lincoln area hospital for a higher level of care. Girkin was last known to be in critical but stable condition.

The victim in the initial shooting in the 300 block of S. Silber was a 12-year-old boy. He was taken to Great Plains Health where he was treated and released.

When the suspect stopped in the 300 block of W. B St. and exchanged gunfire with the deputy sheriff, the suspect's 14-year-old son was in the vehicle with him. His son was not injured. No law enforcement officers were injured.

The North Platte Police Department is the lead investigating agency and has received full cooperation and assistance from the Nebraska State Patrol and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation involved a moving crime scene and will take a considerable amount of time to complete. Once the investigation has been completed, the case will be referred to the Lincoln County Attorney's Office for prosecution.

During the evening of December 12<sup>th</sup>, a juvenile was shot which led to a police chase. The suspect also shot at officers before wrecking his vehicle outside of North Platte and sustained gunshot wounds. This story was reported on air on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

## **December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

NORTH PLATTE - NEBRASKAland Days has chosen its 15th Executive Director. Bob Lantis will take over for David Fudge at the conclusion of the 2024 Celebration. "I am truly honored and excited to lead NEBRASKAland Days into the future. Together, we'll build on the rich legacy, create new milestones, and ensure the ongoing success of this remarkable organization," said Lantis.

Lantis served on the NLD board from 2008-2013 and is also involved in numerous local organizations like the NP Chamber Ambassadors, NEBRASKAland Days Cody Cavalry, North Platte Chamber Agriculture Committee, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Board of Elders and Lincoln County Cattleman's Association.

At the core of Bob's values is his family. Together with his wife Jenny, Bob is a devoted father to three daughters - Gracia, Lexi, and Whitley. Bob will join us in the office in February.

Longtime NEBRASKALand Executive Director David Fudge announced his retirement in early fall and the committee has announced that Bob Lantis will be the next NEBRASKALand Day Executive Director. The story was reported on air on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

## **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

NORTH PLATTE - At approximately 10:27 AM, police officers responded to a report of gunshots in the 700 block of West 8th Steet. Upon arrival, the officers located five 9mm casings at the scene. An unoccupied van parked nearby appeared to have been struck by two of the 9mm rounds. An occupied home was in the line of site of the shooter.

Witnesses reported a male subject knocked on the door of a nearby house before the shots were fired. The van is owned by the resident of the home. The suspect walked about two blocks after the shooting and entered a home located in the 700 block of West 10th Street. Officers contacted the residents of the home the suspect entered after the shooting.

The officers located a man matching the description of the suspect and took 20-year-old Kage J. Anthony into custody. A 9mm semi-automatic pistol was located and later found to have been stolen during a 2021 burglary. Anthony did not wish to add any clarity to the event. Police learned that the victim and suspect were familiar with each other.

Anthony was arrested for discharging a firearm at a person, building or vehicle; possession of a stolen firearm; and use of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Parts of this story aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

## **December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

North Platte, Ne - As darkness falls on the plains Tuesday, Interstate 80 has now been closed along with Highway 30 both directions from Lexington all the way to Wyoming Border, I-76 is also closed from Big Springs to Sterling, Colorado this evening. There is no word on when the roads will reopen, but it's hard to imagine they will open until Wednesday morning. A Blizzard warning is in effect until 6am CST/5am MST.

Most roads in northeastern Colorado are now completely closed. Officials in both states are urging motorists to stay home this evening and off roads as emergency crews are spread thin trying to get to many of the accidents that have happened because of weather today.

A winter storm with blizzard conditions wiped through Nebraska during Christmas eve and it snowed until December 27<sup>th</sup>. Radio coverage with current road conditions was aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM and information was also aired during newscast.

## **December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

I-80 is now fully open both eastbound and westbound. Highway 30 remains closed. Check <https://511.nebraska.gov/> for the latest on openings. Please use caution and patience as you get back on the roads -- winter driving conditions still remain, so take it slow, turn off your cruise control and watch out for NDOT crews in plows and on interchanges. Buckle up, phone down!

I-80 and parts of Highway 30 reopened after the winter storm wiped through Nebraska. This aired on KOOQ-AM, KELN-FM, KNPQ-FM, KZTL-FM & KRNP-FM throughout the day on newscast.

**SEVERE WEATHER updates** – All 5 radio stations interrupted regular programming multiple times over the quarter to give updates on Severe Weather that was impacting the area. The interruptions included road conditions and closings due to snow storms. Counties included Duell, Garden, Keith, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Lincoln, Dawson, Frontier, Hayes, Perkins and Chase Counties.

**CRIMESTOPPERS** - The Crimestoppers Crime of the Week runs six times per week on all five stations.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR** - On-air personalities promote events from our [www.NorthPlattePost.com](http://www.NorthPlattePost.com) and [www.sandhillspost.com](http://www.sandhillspost.com) Community Calendar daily during on-air shifts.



