

QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS REPORT

Station (call letters): KNEP
Location (city, state): Scottsbluff, Nebraska
For quarter beginning:

January 1, 2022

April 1, 2022

July 1, 2022

x October 1, 2022

Attached hereto are descriptions of issue-responsive programming broadcast by this station during the reporting period.

The listed programs aired on the station during the reporting period on the days and times indicated. Each program regularly provides information or addresses current issues of concern to viewers in the area where the station is located.

LOCAL ISSUES ADDRESSED DURING THE QUARTER

The following local issues of concern to the community were addressed in programming of the station during the past quarter:

Issue/Concern	Brief description of issue or concern
Crime / Public Safety	Includes public education and awareness in matters pertaining to the safety of the community
Politics	Includes discussion on state, county, and local political issues/events
Education	Includes important information and changes in the school system
Health	Includes information pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic and health of the community
Economy	Includes impacts of the economic downturn in Nebraska

STATION PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS LOCAL ISSUES

The following local programs address issues and concerns in the station's city of license and within its service area.

Program Name	Schedule	Brief Generic Description
NBC Nebraska Today	6:00am-7:00am Mon-Fri	This program provides the latest in overnight and breaking News and Weather to Scottsbluff and Panhandle viewers, as well as a look ahead at their day with a focus on families and children.
NBC Nebraska Midday	12pm-12:30pm Mon-Fri	The show provides News, Weather, Sports and local interviews centering around Scottsbluff and the Nebraska Panhandle
NBC Nebraska at 6p	6:00pm – 6:30pm Mon-Sun	The latest News, Weather, Sports for the Scottsbluff area. Includes interviews with the community's and state's most important news makers
NBC Nebraska at 10p	10pm-10:30pm Mon-Sun	The latest Scottsbluff, Nebraska, National and International News as well as local Weather and Sports
KGWN Scottsbluff Today	6:00am-7:00am Mon-Fri	This program provides the latest in overnight and breaking News and Weather to Scottsbluff and Panhandle viewers, as well as a look ahead at their day with a focus on families and children.
KGWN Scottsbluff at Noon	12pm-12:30pm Mon-Fri	The show provides News, Weather, Sports and local interviews centering around Scottsbluff and the Nebraska Panhandle
KGWN Scottsbluff at 6p	6:00pm – 6:30pm Mon-Sun	The latest News, Weather, Sports for the Scottsbluff area. Includes interviews with the community's and state's most important news makers
KGWN Scottsbluff at 10p	10pm-10:30pm Mon-Sun	The latest Scottsbluff, Nebraska, National and International News as well as local Weather and Sports

Regular NBC Network News Programming

Program Name	Schedule	Brief Generic Description
Early Today	5am-530am Mon-Sun	
Today Show	7a-9a Mon-Fri	
Today Show	6am-7:30am Saturday	
NBC Nightly News	5:30pm-6pm Mon-Sun	
Meet the Press	8am-9am Sunday	Examines issues of national and international importance.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Politics

DATE: 10/5/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Mayor proclaims the week Support Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities Week

The City of Scottsbluff has proclaimed Oct 5-8 as Support Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities Week.

During Monday's city council meeting, Scottsbluff Mayor Jeanne McKerrigan read the proclamation.

"Do hereby proclaim the week of October 5-8, 2023 as Support Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities Week In Scottsbluff Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due notice of the observance," said McKerrigan.

The proclamation mentions that one out of every 10 families in the United States and over 50,000 Nebraskans are affected by intellectual disabilities.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Politics

DATE: 10/3/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: City approves road plans

The city of Scottsbluff has approved the 1-year and 6-year plans for the roads department.

The Scottsbluff City Council heard and approved improvement projects for one year and six years. The upcoming year will see continued work on 20th street, and a new development on Avenue I.

The 1-year plan will see a new development on Avenue I will be from Avenue I to Avenue K on 28th Street and will connect 28th Street to 29th Street. The project is expected to cost \$863,000. Improvements on 20th Street will continue.

The 6-year plan will see residential redevelopments across the city.

The Scottsbluff Public Works Department can be contacted at 308-630-6256 with questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Politics, Economy

DATE: 10/3/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Commissioners receive updates on tourism

The Scotts Bluff Board of Commissioners received updates for future tourism events at their meeting on Monday.

The Scotts Bluff County Board of Commissioners has approved a \$10,000 grant to the Midwest Theater to have more opportunities during the holiday season. The money approved comes from money collected from lodging tax.

“The Midwest Theater has requested \$10,000 to add to the overall holiday feel for downtown, her goal is to bring back the nostalgia of the Midwest Theater and the old Christmas celebrations they used to have decorating in the fifties, of course Santa but the main thing is to bring back some of the older family type activities movies and such,” Tourism Director Brenda Leisy said.

Leisy as well spoke to the board about the success of the USA Cycling Gravel National Championships and how the county will have more time to prepare for next years event.

The Scotts Bluff County Board of Commissioners can be contacted at 308-436-6600 with questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Education

DATE: 10/6/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Western Nebraska Community College lowering tax levy

Western Nebraska Community College will be lowering its tax levy.

During the October regular meeting, the Western Nebraska Community College Area Board of Governors voted to reduce the capital fund levy by approximately 1.65 percent. This means the tax levy for the 2023-2024 fiscal year will equal \$1.85 per \$100 of property valuations.

The change in the levy will see an approximate \$200,000 decrease to the capital improvement budget.

“Students are our number one focus, but we want to continue to be responsive to taxpayers. Our goal is to give our students the best educational opportunities while also being mindful of our taxpayer dollars,” board chair Lynne Klenke said.

The WCCA Board will hold a budget hearing on Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. that is open to the public.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Education

DATE: 10/11/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Scottsbluff Public Schools set to purchase former SWBC Building

Scottsbluff Public Schools is set to purchase the former SWBC Building.

The Scottsbluff Public Schools Board of Education voted to approve the purchase of the former SWBC Building located at 2617 College Park. The new property will be used to expand the services offered by Bear Cub Preschool and will house all other district Early Childhood programs and a number of additional district departments and services.

“This investment will allow us to better meet the needs of our students and families while addressing inadequate facility space for multiple departments,” said SBPS Superintendent Andrew Dick.

The purchase of the property and renovations is expected to cost approximately \$4.3 million and will be funded using the current levy into the district building fund. Scottsbluff taxpayers will not see an increase to their taxes because of it.

Once renovations are complete, the building is expected to serve more than 350 children. The Bear Cub Preschool will expand from eight classrooms to 12 and will add space for before and after school care. The building will also provide additional space to help accommodate any future growth for the district.

The purchase agreement is set to close by the end of the calendar year and is expected to start offering services by fall 2025.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Politics

DATE: 10/11/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: City of Gering approves contract for fueling provider

The City of Gering has approved a new contract for its fueling services.

During Monday's meeting, the Gering City Council approved a fuel bid from WESTCO after it previously declined all bids in September, while waiting for prices to potentially lower.

The bid from WESTCO will be \$4.095 per gallon for #1 diesel, \$3.495 per gallon for #2 diesel and \$3.065 per gallon for gasoline. The other organization that offered a bid was Panhandle Co-op.

The City of Gering can be contacted at 308-436-5096 with any questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Crime, Public Safety

DATE: 10/18/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution welcomes new Deputy Warden

The Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution will welcome a new Deputy Warden next month.

The Wyoming Department of Corrections announced Shea Rose will serve as the Deputy Warden at the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution beginning Nov. 1.

Rose began his career with the WDOC at the Wyoming Honor Farm in 2010, where he served as a correctional officer until 2016. After he received a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wyoming, he returned to work at the Wyoming State Penitentiary in 2018 where he worked as a correctional officer and a case worker. In 2021 he was promoted to Unit Supervisor at the WSP.

"I want to welcome Deputy Warden Rose to his next leadership role. I have no doubt he will make a great addition to the WMCI Team," said WDOC Director Daniel Shannon.

The Wyoming Department of Corrections can be contacted at 307-777-7208 with questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Politics

DATE: 10/19/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Scotts Bluff County set to improve 911 reliability and Lander Soccer Complex

Scotts Bluff County will be improving its 911 reliability and Lander Soccer Complex.

During Monday's meeting, the Scotts Bluff County Board of Commissioners approved an interlocal agreement between communities in the panhandle and south and central Nebraska to improve its 911 reliability, they also approved funding for Landers Soccer Complex.

The interlocal agreement will see Scotts Bluff County, Kimball County, Morrill County, Cheyenne County, Garden County, the City of Alliance, and the City of Chadron join into the 911 communications system that serves portions of south and central Nebraska. The agreement has the political entities purchasing workstations and software from Positron Viper to connect to the developed system in Dawson County and Buffalo County.

"Through the viper call sequence solutions, we go down here our calls can be answered in Kimball County, in Sidney or Buffalo County and vice versa, that has happened already quite a bit, with fiber cuts that occur around the state, we want to make sure 911 calls get answered," 911 coordinator Tyler Rexus said.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Politics, Health

DATE: 10/25/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Nebraska Medicaid listening tour highlights upcoming changings

Nebraska Medicaid made a stop in Scottsbluff to discuss the upcoming changes to Medicaid.

On Tuesday, officials from Nebraska Medicaid spoke to area residents and providers about the changes Medicaid users will see in 2024. The big changes people will see is three health plans to choose from, an extension of coverage and changes to dental services.

Medicaid users will have the choice of three different health plans - Nebraska Total Care, United Health Care, and Molina Healthcare which will replace coverage of Healthy Blue members. Medicaid users have the option to change their plans during open enrollment which takes place from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15.

Members will also see expanded coverage to postpartum coverage that will be extended from 60 days to 12 months, and eligibility for all children found newly eligible for Medicaid from 6 months to 12 months.

The final change users will see is that dental care will now be managed through the selected health plan. The plans will see the removal of the \$750 dental benefit, as well as updates to the reimbursement process for dental treatment.

“Medicaid in the state of Nebraska is a \$4 billion investment in the health of our communities and this is one of those critical communities particularly here in the Panhandle, we want to make sure that we are getting the most out of that investment and the way we do that is by talking to people,” said Medicaid Director Kevin Bagley.

Users will be able to apply for benefits and find more information about Medicaid services through the IServe Nebraska website.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 10pm

ISSUE: Public Safety, Crime

DATE: 10/30/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Former Scottsbluff Police captain surrenders law enforcement credentials

A former Scottsbluff Police captain has surrendered his law enforcement certificates.

Brian Wasson resigned from his position at Scottsbluff Police Department in Sept. and chose to voluntarily surrender his law enforcement certificates.

The Police Standards Advisory Council heard the matter during its monthly meeting and unanimously voted to accept the surrender of certificates, and recommended the Crime Commission revoke the certificates.

Nebraska Public Media has reported Wasson resigned due to the theft and use of drugs from the department's evidence room.

"We really want to see this through, get this behind us before we make some of those decisions" said SBPD Police Chief Kevin Spencer when asked about the department's plan for the new captain.

The Nebraska State Patrol is currently investigating the matter.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Politics, Public Safety

DATE: 11/7/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: City of Scottsbluff approves emergency repairs for water main

The City of Scottsbluff has approved emergency repairs for a water main.

On Monday, the City of Scottsbluff heard and took action on approving an ordinance that would allow the city to waive the bid process for a leaking water main on 6th Avenue and Park Lane Road.

The city will still accept bids from contractors but will not be advertise the bid, which the city hopes will speed up the selection process.

“After they had repaired a water main at this location and they dug up several feet of the water main and found it was in a very, very poor state of repair they’re worried about the freeze/thaw cycle at this time of the year,” said city attorney, Kent Hadenfeldt.

The city has not determined a start date for the repairs, but can be contacted at 308-632-4136 with questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Education

DATE: 11/9/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Chadron State College president highlights future plans in listening tour

The Chadron State College president stopped in Scottsbluff on Wednesday to discuss the college's future plans.

As a part of a service area listening tour, Chadron State College President Ron Patterson made a stop in Scottsbluff to listen and speak with area members about what the college has accomplished in the past year and what it wishes to accomplish in the coming years.

Patterson highlighted what the college is doing to address the state teacher shortage, ways it hopes to innovate its STEM program, and its partnership with Western Nebraska Community College to help students receive a degree.

“We’re just trying to figure out ways to collaborate an effective way that has tremendous impact on our students who are coming out of high school and looking for that two year, four year degree to get them back in the workforce,” Patterson said.

There will be one final stop in Rapid City on Thursday. More information about Chadron State College can be found [here](#).

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Education

DATE: 11/13/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Gering High School students set to build new preschool

Gering High School students will be building a new preschool.

Students from the Gering High School Construction Trades Program will be building a new preschool for students at Northfield Elementary. The new project has started construction and is expected to be completed in late May.

“We’re really excited to get started with this project, mostly you know get younger kids into the schools, get them going on their early education and having this building around I think it would be just really awesome to do that and having mostly seniors build this project. I think its honestly an honor to be able to do that so we can give this opportunity to future bulldogs who will be in our shoes one day,” said GHS student, Nevaeh Laeger.

The new building will be 5,000 sq. feet and will feature four new classrooms, a common area and office space. Gering Public Schools has partnered with Baker & Associates to develop the project.

“This was something through many conversations of growing the district and looking at our construction projects of really thinking inside and using our talents to move forward with our future generations,” said Gering Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Nichole Regan.

The project is expected to cost \$900,000 with no extra cost to taxpayers as it was previously approved in the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget. Gering Public Schools can be contacted at 308-436-3125 with questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 10pm

ISSUE: Public Safety

DATE: 11/16/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Electrical fire causes \$50,000 in damage to Gering mobile home

The Gering Fire Department said Wednesdays mobile home fire on Ridge Drive suffered \$50,000 in damage.

A total of 22 firefighters from Gering and Scottsbluff responded to a mobile home fire on Ridge Drive around 10:20 a.m. The homeowner was not home at the time and the building is a complete loss with an estimated \$50,000 in damage.

The fire is currently under investigation by the State Fire Marshal but Gering Fire Chief Nathan Flowers says an electrical issue caused the fire.

Firefighter Ministries provided assistance to the home owner.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Crime, Public Safety

DATE: 11/20/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Platte Valley Bank warns users of scam texts

Platte Valley Bank is warning members of fraudulent texts.

Platte Valley Bank said members may have received a text saying attempted charges or unrecognized charges were made, as well as new device warnings. Each of these texts are scams and should not be taken seriously.

Each message contains a link that looks similar to PVB's website and once the user's information is entered, scammers will have access to personal banking information.

PVB is offering a few tips to stay safe:

Never give out your information, PVB will never email, text, or call asking for confidential information.

Be suspicious, if the message contains information or a link that looks unfamiliar don't click it.

Don't reply to the sender, ignore requests, and don't call the number in the message.

Never share account information or two authentication factor codes.

If account information has been stolen, contact the closest PVB or the main branch at 308-632-7004.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Economy

DATE: 11/17/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Farmers Coop & Panhandle Coop discusses potential merger

The Farmers Cooperative and Panhandle Cooperative are discussing a potential merger.

The Board of Directors for the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company and the Panhandle Cooperative signed a letter of intent to explore the unification of the two cooperatives.

“This merger is just going to strengthen both company’s both Farmers Coop and Panhandle Coop and therefore its just going to strengthen the communities that we serve,” said Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company CEO Bart Moseman.

Each board hopes the merger will give the communities they serve a broader range of services, an increased access to markets, and improved bargaining power, which they believe will lead to mutual growth and strengthen the agricultural industry in the region.

“This doesn’t stop at the farm gate either though, we will continue to invest in the communities, education, just a lot of things both coops currently give to the communities they serve and I think this will enhance that even more so,” said Panhandle Cooperative CEO, Charlie Wright.

Both boards are currently working on a plan for the merger, and the completed documents will be made available to members in early Dec. for review and approval through a mail in ballot. Each cooperative will host an informational meeting in mid Dec. where the vote count will be certified. If approved the merger will take effect on March 1, 2024.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Politics

DATE: 11/5/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Scottsbluff City Council greenlights three land improvement projects

The Scottsbluff City Council has finalized three new land improvement projects.

On Monday, the Scottsbluff City Council approved three new land enhancements on West Overland, E 27th Street and Char Avenue. Each improvement project underwent discussion during the Planning Commission's meeting in November.

The project at 1008 West Overland involves the consolidation of three vacant lots to facilitate the construction of a new Dollar General store. The development of the new lots requires upgrades to sewer and stormwater infrastructure.

The improvement initiative on E 27th Street involves Regains Auto Center merging its East 27 and East Overland locations into a single site.

The city has also given the green light to a modification on Char Avenue, allowing Reverence Funeral Parlor to erect a new building.

For inquiries regarding these changes, the City of Scottsbluff can be reached at 308-632-4136.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Public Safety, Health

DATE: 11/12/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Gering City Council approves purchase of new fire truck

The Gering City Council approved the purchase of a new fire truck on Monday. The council approved the purchase of a new 2024 Ford F150 half-ton pickup from Transwest Ford and will replace the 2011 half-ton pickup currently in use.

“We use this vehicle to transport personnel and equipment to and from fire scenes or other emergencies and it hauls our dive rescue trailer and water equipment,” said Gering Fire Chief Nathan Flowers.

The pickup will cost \$54,703.60 plus an additional \$1,660 for an Ecoboost engine. It is expected to arrive in six months.

The fire department will continue to use the old truck until the new one is ready, and will likely sell it, trade it or transfer it to a different department in need.

The city of Gering can be contacted at 308-436-5096 with questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: KGWN Scottsbluff at Noon

ISSUE: Politics

DATE: 12/19/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Scotts Bluff County Board of Commissioners continues discussion on potential solar project

The Scotts Bluff County Board of Commissioners continued its discussion of the taxes and road usage for a solar project in the southwest corner of the county on Monday.

The project, which is proposed by Situla Energy Project, LLC of San Marcos, CA., would be a 3,900 acre solar panel project that would produce up to 400 megawatts of energy. The project was discussed on Dec. 12 during the counties planning commission meeting and approval or disapproval was tabled for a later date.

County officials wanted to know how the county could benefit from a Nameplate Tax which is placed on renewable energy facilities. The tax would be \$3.518 per megawatt produced which would amount to over \$1.4 million in tax funds. The county would be receive the money back from the state and would be responsible for distributing the money to county tax authorities.

The county is currently doing more of its own research into the project before it makes any recommendations, The county can be contacted at 308-436-6600 with questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: KGWN Scottsbluff at 6 pm

ISSUE: Health

DATE: 12/27/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: New Kimball hospital nearing completion

Kimball Health Services' new hospital is nearing completion.

The \$43.6 million facility will start serving patients again once construction is complete in either January or February.

The new facility will offer:

- Larger inpatient rooms and bathrooms, wider major corridors
- Modernized and expanded surgical suites
- In-house CT and MRI Services
- Improvements to electrical, mechanical and broadband systems
- Mammography
- Chemotherapy infusions
- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Expanded surgical options
- Orthopedic procedures
- Expanded physical therapy

The hospital will be a single story 61,000 square foot facility that will be located at the current Kimball Health Services North Campus.

Kimball Health Services can be contacted at 308-235-1951 with questions.

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ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: KGWN Scottsbluff at 10 pm

ISSUE: Politics, Economy

DATE: 12/28/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: City of Kimball approves land redevelopment for new housing

The City of Kimball has approved a new housing development.

On Dec. 19, the Kimball City Council approved a rezone of lots at the corner of East 7th and South High School Streets. The new rezones will allow for new housing to be developed by Clean Harbors Kimball Realty, LLC.

The new housing would include two modular housing units with four single bedrooms each, and two two-story modular townhouses with two or three bedrooms.

The City also approved the sale of the lands to Clean Harbors Kimball Realty, LLC, with an agreement that would see the lands returned to the City of Kimball if necessary utility improvements aren't made.

Construction is expected to start in the spring and the City of Kimball can be contacted at 308-235-3639 with questions.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: KGWN Scottsbluff at 6 pm

ISSUE: Crime

DATE: 12/12/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Woman charged for embezzling more than \$10,000 from youth softball organization

A 44-year-old woman has been charged with embezzling more than \$10,000 from a youth softball organization on December, 6th.

According to court documents, Heather Paez of Scottsbluff worked for the Broadway Bombers as their treasurer. Board members were concerned over one of the bank accounts missing thousands of dollars.

Court documents stated that the bank statements were reviewed and revealed various personal charges found within a two-year timeframe of December 2020 and September 2022 while Paez was treasurer. The amount of funds taken during this time amounted to \$10,772.87.

A signed warrant was issued and executed by the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office. Heather Paez was booked into the Scotts Bluff County Detention Center at 9:30 p.m.

Paez faces a Class IIA felony of theft of property valued at \$5,000 or more. She posted bail and is awaiting her next court date. The date has not yet been released.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 10 pm

ISSUE: Crime, Public Safety

DATE: 11/30/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Scammers are making calls around Scotts Bluff County

The Scottsbluff Police Department has seen an increased number of scam related calls.

The scams have included Scottsbluff Police Department numbers and officer names in attempt for the scammers to convince victims that these are legit calls and text messages.

These calls/texts always lead to requests for money to be sent through money transfer services or gift cards.

Scottsbluff PD wants to remind the public that they will never request money in exchange for criminal charges being dismissed or charge for a call for service.

Officers want to remind the public to not provide any financial or personal information.

Contact the communications center if you receive one of these scam calls (308) 632-7176.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6 pm

ISSUE: Crime, Public Safety

DATE: 11/28/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Three people hospitalized after a crash on Highway 26 near Mitchell

Three people have been hospitalized following a two-vehicle crash just east of Mitchell, Neb. Tuesday morning.

The Nebraska State Patrol said a Dodge Caravan rear ended a GMC Denali as they were both eastbound on Highway 26.

Preliminary investigation shows that neither driver was able to see due to the sun glare and pulled over onto the shoulder, which resulted in the collision.

Both drivers and a passenger were sent to Regional West Medical Center. One occupant had to be transported by Airlink.

No names have been released at this time.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska Midday

ISSUE: Crime, Public Safety

DATE: 10/31/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Rollover motor vehicle accident Tuesday morning in Scottsbluff

On Tuesday October, 31st at 6:42am multiple agencies were dispatched to an injury accident in the intersection of 5th Ave and East 20th Street.

Investigation revealed that 71-year-old Valerie Robles, of Scottsbluff, was northbound on 5th Ave when 65-year-old Galen Larson, Of Scottsbluff, was Eastbound on 20th.

Robles ran a red light at the intersection and struck Larson with her 2009 Acura.

This caused Larson's 2023 Explorer to roll on its side.

Both parties, including a passenger in Larson's vehicle, were transported to Regional West Medical Center.

Robles was cited for a traffic violation and no seat belt.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 10pm

ISSUE: Public Safety, Crime

DATE: 11/1/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Kimball motel owner arrested after guest shot

The Nebraska State Patrol arrested a motel owner in Kimball after a shooting Tuesday afternoon.

The Kimball Police Department was called to the Finer Motel, at 4306 East Highway 30, on the report of a shooting.

NSP said arriving officers found a male victim with multiple gunshot wounds who was transported to Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff with what were believed to be non-life-threatening injuries. The victim had been staying at the motel.

KPD requested that the Nebraska State Patrol handle the investigation.

After a preliminary investigation, NSP arrested the motel's owner, Leota Kant, 86, of Kimball, for attempted murder, use of a weapon to commit a felony, and discharging a weapon within city limits. Kant was lodged in Garden County Jail.

This is an ongoing investigation.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 10 pm

ISSUE: Education, Public Safety

DATE: 10/16/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Schools hold emergency response simulation

Local schools across Scottsbluff will hold a joint emergency response simulation on Tuesday.

Emergency personnel will work with each school to coordinate activities. Local law enforcement will be involved as well.

Parents and students have been given advance notice that it is only a simulation.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 10 pm

ISSUE: Education, Public Safety

DATE: 10/17/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Scottsbluff police spreads awareness during National Teen Driver Safety Week

Local law enforcement are focusing on teen driver safety during National Teen Driver Safety Week, which occurs from Oct. 15-21.

The Scottsbluff Police Department says that most accidents and traffic issues are caused by teens who drive illegally. This causes safety issues not just for everyone else, but for those teens as well.

Sergeant Philip Eckerberg said, "The first step that parents need to take is making sure their children know the rules of the road and don't get distracted." These distractions include anything and everything that isn't driving.

Scottsbluff Police will be conducting more patrols throughout the week.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6 pm

ISSUE: Education

DATE: 10/18/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Annual book sale returns to Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Every year, the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library puts on the annual book sale held by the Friends of Lied.

The book sale will be open for three days beginning this Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. for members only. People can apply to become members at the door.

On Saturday, it will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to the public. On Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. they will have their \$1 sale.

The Friends of Lied have the annual book sale for the library and the community to provide funding for programs, money to purchase books and funding for new equipment to give citizens who visit the library a better experience.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6 pm

ISSUE: Health, Economy

DATE: 11/2/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Regional West transfers home care and hospice services to Vetter Senior Living

Regional West on Nov. 1 transferred their Home Care and Hospice Services to Vetter Senior Living (VSL).

The service will operate under a new name called Brookestone Home Health and Hospice. All current patients under the care of Regional West Home Care and Hospice will continue to receive care through Brookestone, and Regional West employees have been invited to explore employment with Vetter.

“We are pleased to partner with VSL through an arrangement that extends our community’s continued access to consistent home care and hospice services,” said Mel McNea, Regional West CEO, in a news release. “We see firsthand the high quality and care that VSL provides, and this partnership simply makes sense because of VSL’s excellent focus on world-class home care and hospice services.”

VSL operates 28 facilities in Nebraska, including Heritage Estates in Gering, and specializes in the broad care continuum of home health and shares Regional West’s commitment to the greater Nebraska community.

“Regional West and Vetter Senior Living are united in our mission to serve this community,” said Glenn Van Ekeren, president of VSL. “We are truly invested in the Scottsbluff and Gering area and have a mutual goal of offering the very best care to home care and hospice patients across the region.”

For more information on home care or hospice service, call Brookestone Home Health and Hospice at 308-630-1430.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Public Safety

DATE: 11/17/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Nebraska Department of Transportation awards Scottsbluff Police grant for seat belt enforcement

The Scottsbluff Police Department was awarded a grant to participate in Thanksgiving week's Buckle Up, Every Trip, Every Time Seat Belt Enforcement Wave.

The grant is \$7,000 and was given by the Nebraska Department of Transportation. The money will be used to pay officers over time.

The enforcement wave will go from Nov. 22 to Nov. 26.

"Only 54.75% of people in Scottsbluff use their seat belts, which is very low and unsafe," said Sgt. Philip Eckerberg. "Due to this, we will be doing extra patrols on top of regular shifts."

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Health, Public Safety

DATE: 11/21/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Panhandle Public Health District starts suicide loss support groups

The Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) is starting virtual suicide loss support groups via Zoom for people ages 19 and older.

The first meeting on Tuesday, Nov 21 is scheduled from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. mountain time. The meetings will continue to be held virtually on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

These meetings are open to anyone in the Panhandle who has suffered a loss due to suicide. In the near future, PPHD will have in-person groups and meetings in Alliance and Scottsbluff.

PPHD member Liz MacDonald says, "In the past decade, rural areas have been consistently higher in their suicide rates than urban areas with the suicide rates increasing by 46% in rural areas compared to 27% in urban areas."

Virtual meetings will continue to happen when the in-person ones start up.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 6pm

ISSUE: Public Safety, Education

DATE: 12/6/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Alliance High School placed under lockdown following report of gun

Alliance High School went into lockdown Wednesday afternoon after a student brought a gun to school, according to police.

According to information released by the Alliance Police Department, an Alliance High School administrator was notified around 1:30 p.m. that a student had a firearm in their backpack. The school was immediately placed into lockdown and law enforcement was contacted. Police said the firearm was located, and the student was detained without incident.

Following the first lockdown, the school was in the process of being released when a second suspect with a potential gun was identified. The school was placed into a second lockdown. No gun was found during this incident and school resumed as normal.

The Alliance Police Department responded along with Box Butte County Sheriff's Office.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 10pm

ISSUE: Public Safety, Education

DATE: 12/19/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Scottsbluff Police Department participates in Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign

The Scottsbluff Police Department is participating in the selective-overtime enforcement campaign Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

The campaign started on Dec. 15 and will go through to Jan. 1. Officials said it will help reduce alcohol-related traffic incidents. Officers will do highly visible enforcement during this time.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 32 people in the United States die every day from drunk driving on average. In Nebraska, there is an average of more than 70 alcohol-related deaths each year. Because of these rates, the Nebraska Department of Transportation-Highway Safety Office gave a grant to fund the overtime enforcement.

“We want everyone to get home safely to their families and loved ones,” said Lance Kite, Captain of Scottsbluff Police Department.

ISSUE-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

PROGRAM: NBC Nebraska at 10pm

ISSUE: Health, Public Safety

DATE: 12/22/2023

LENGTH: :30

DESCRIPTION: Panhandle Public Health District offers free lead testing

Panhandle Public Health District is offering free lead testing for in-home childcare centers.

The National Center for Healthy Housing awarded the Panhandle Public Health District a grant to do the free lead testing. The test is valued at \$250, which includes the lab analysis and report write-up.

According to officials, lead poisoning stands as a serious threat to the health and development of children. In-home childcares can be at an increased risk due to many environmental factors. PPHD recognizes the importance of early detection and intervention, so they are committed to providing accessible testing services to ensure the health of the youngest community members. The tests help to identify and deal with potential lead hazards quickly, lessening the risk of childhood lead poisoning.

Lead is a toxic metal that can damage several parts of the body, including the brain and the nervous system. The testing for lead includes testing paint, toys, soil, and water. Paint testing doesn't cause damage, and the results are instant. If anything tests positive for lead, PPHD will work with the childcares to clean or replace them if necessary.

To schedule a time to do the in-home childcare testing for lead, please contact Melissa Haas at 308-487-3600 extension 108 or Kendra Lauruhn at 308-633-2866 extension 206.

**Non-Broadcast Employee Activities
Quarter 4**

There were no tours given