



## News 7A Why El Paso?

Before massacre, El Paso became a hot spot on border



## Sports 1B Baseball playoffs

Pioneers set to host Moo in division title game

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Bodey Yurko sprays water into a cup to push it down a string. The activity was one of several youth enjoyed during National Night Out.

## Fostering a strong community

National Night Out provides safe environment for family fun.

By Lauren Brant  
Star-Herald

SCOTTSSLUFF — The community enjoyed an evening of family fun as the Scottsbluff Police Department hosted the 22nd annual National Night Out on Broadway in Scottsbluff Tuesday evening.

Families and children roamed several blocks of downtown completing interactive and educational activities.

One of the new activities at this year's National Night Out was a rollover simulator, featured at the Nebraska State Patrol booth. The simulator showed spectators what happens to people and belonging inside of a vehicle during a rollover crash.

For Bryce Long, 11, of Alliance, seeing the dummy fall out of the window was

scary.

"If that was real, the person would be dead," Long said. "It's important to put your seatbelt on."

Ethan McKean, 9, of Scottsbluff also attended National Night Out where he got to visit with members of law enforcement and firefighters.

"I'm not scared of them," McKean said. "They fight fires and catch criminals and people who disobey the rules."

McKean played the bean bag toss, making three bean bags into the board's hole. He said it was a fun evening.

Josh Larez brought his son Maximus, 2, to the event and helped his son swing

See NNO, 3A

### CRASH



LAUREN BRANT/Star-Herald

Scottsbluff Police officer Ron Wilson walks Candelario Gomez, 42, to a police cruiser after putting Gomez into handcuffs. Gomez was arrested on the charge of obstructing following a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of 20th Street and Avenue A in Scottsbluff Tuesday.

## Woman transported to hospital after collision

By Maunette Loeks and Lauren Brant  
Star-Herald

SCOTTSSLUFF — Scottsbluff police allege a woman involved in a collision Tuesday morning of being under the influence of alcohol.

Scottsbluff Police Capt. Brian Wasson said officers were called to First State Bank after a collision occurred near the bank. Wasson said investigators determined Rebecca Hernandez, 33, the driver of a red Dodge Durango, had been traveling northbound on Avenue A when she collided with a vehicle driven by Karen Koenig, a red Honda CRV. Koenig had been traveling eastbound on 20th Street.

Hernandez's vehicle traveled over a curb, striking First State Bank.

Officers found Hernandez unconscious. She was believed to be under the influence of alcohol, Wasson said, and was transported to Regional West Medical Center by ambulance. Charges are pending.

A passenger in Hernandez's vehicle, Candelario Gomez, 42, was arrested on a charge of obstructing.

She was not believed to have suffered any injuries.

Koenig suffered a hand injury, but she was not transported. Two other occupants in her vehicle were not harmed.

Valley Ambulance, Scottsbluff Police Department and Scottsbluff Fire responded. Two towing companies were also on scene.

### BALLOON CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Opening ceremonies and reverse parade planned for Old West Balloon Fest

By Jerry Purvis  
Star-Herald

GERING — Official "Opening Ceremonies and Reverse Parade" are coming up this Saturday in downtown Gering as the community welcomes balloon pilots, crews, spectators and balloon enthusiasts to the area for a week of ballooning activity.

Brenda Leisy, Director of the Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, explained the idea behind a "reverse parade."

"Instead of the crowd standing on the outside watching the floats go by, the pilots will be parked in the middle of Main Street and the crowd walks past them," she said.

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday night, Gering's 10th Street will be lined with stationary balloon baskets and the pilots that will be competing in next week's U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championships, sponsored by the Balloon Federation of America.

It's an opportunity for the public to meet the pilots and learn about the national championship event. The kids will also be able to get trading cards from the pilots. There will be food trucks, face painting, balloon animals and lots of fun.

City leaders and balloon officials will also be there to welcome the pilots to the

See BALLOONS, 3A



FILE PHOTO

Close to 80 competition and exhibition balloons will fill the skies of western Nebraska next week as the community hosts the Old West Balloon Fest and the U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championships.

#### Inside Today

Local ..... 2-3A  
Nation/World ..... 7A

Classifieds ..... Hometowns

Comics ..... 5B  
Markets ..... 6B

Obituaries ..... 5A

Opinion ..... 4A  
Weather ..... 8B

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