



**OMAHA COALITION MEETING**  
*Wednesday, October 11, 2023*  
*9 a.m.*

## **A G E N D A**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review of the September 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
*(please contact PEM staff with corrections)*
- III. Lessons Learned from the National Liquor Law Enforcement Conference  
*Inv. Cody McGee – Nebraska State Patrol*
- IV. Focus Area Updates
  - a. Policy
    - i. Prevention Letter – signature deadline 10/26
  - b. Enforcement
    - i. Buffalo County Compliance Checks
    - ii. Dodge County
    - iii. Law Enforcement Workgroup meeting recap
  - c. Youth
    - i. Leadership Network – Next meeting: October 16<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 p.m.
  - d. Awareness
    - i. October Research Summary available at [www.projectextramile.org](http://www.projectextramile.org)
- V. Additional Discussion/Announcements
- VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: **November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.**  
CUNY Prof. Sean Haley, PhD, will discuss Redlining and Alcohol-Related Harms  
*UNO's Community Engagement Center, Room 127*

### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS**

Youth Leadership Network meeting – October 16, 2023 from 7-8 p.m.  
Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Hearings – November 7 & 8, 2023

The mission of Project Extra Mile is to advocate for evidence-based policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.

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**Omaha, Nebraska 68182-0600**  
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## PROJECT EXTRA MILE

### OMAHA METRO AREA COALITION MEETING MINUTES September 13, 2023

- I. Call to Order: Dr. Tom Safranek called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.
- II. Welcome and Introductions: Coalition members and speakers in attendance: Palistene Gray-Moore, Sharona Ernst, Ashley Pick, Maggie Ballard, Sadie Hinkel, Chris Foster, Margie Magnuson, Natalia Trinidad, Jordan Cedillo, Jim Timm, Fred Zwonechek, Diane Riibe, Alessia Wagner, and Tom Safranek. Coalition members in attendance via Zoom: Jim Boucher, Lanette Richards, Jona Beck, Zack Hicks, and Jolene Rohde. Staff members: Chris Wagner, Jenna Abbott, Beatha Kliever, and Liene Topko.
- III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were included in the coalition meeting packet. No additions or corrections were made.
- IV. The Importance of Community Involvement: Diane Riibe briefly discussed the history of the organization and how citizen engagement has been instrumental in the advocacy victories the organization has achieved. Riibe encouraged attendees to engage cities and counties, regulatory bodies like the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, as well as state and federal legislative bodies. She and Chris Wagner also discussed opportunities for utilization of the City of Omaha's Good Neighbor Ordinance in response to a lack of support from the LCC in addressing problems caused by a business.
- V. Focus Area Updates
  - a. Local
    - i. Chris Wagner shared that the Throwback Arcade Lounge was before the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) this month and despite the City of Omaha's recommendation for denial, tavern reports, and citizen protests, the liquor license was approved with conditions. Wagner and Riibe discussed that this business is the perfect opportunity for the city to utilize its Good Neighbor Ordinance to bring this business into compliance or shut it down if necessary, rather than relying on the state to solve the problem.
    - ii. Liene Topko discussed the mandatory meeting at the LCC for Rocco's Pizza & Cantina regarding its Jell-O Shot Challenge during the College World Series. The LCC brought them in to discuss staffing, security, and how the excessive jell-o shot purchases are handled. No difficult questions were asked of the business, and it was essentially a "keep up the good work" meeting.
    - iii. Chris Foster, community member in the Gifford Park neighborhood, shared that "Denim Days" in August caused alcohol-fueled chaos in the neighborhood. The police response resulted in approximately a hundred students scattering when the first citation was issued. There did not appear to be enough officers to deal with the large crowd.

b. Policy

- i. Wagner shared that the LCC plans to vote on its legislative letter in November, which will likely include items such as requiring responsible beverage server training, increasing liquor license fees, and other items. Project Extra Mile is drafting a "prevention letter" detailing alcohol-related harms in our state and evidence-based solutions that policymakers can use to address these problems. Coalitions and citizens are invited to sign onto the letter as well.
- ii. Wagner also updated the group on the LCC's Rules and Regulations hearings that were held this month. Some items the LCC is looking to change includes getting rid of double fencing requirements at SDL events; additional reporting requirements for alcohol shippers; and altering language regarding minor employees of liquor licensed businesses. Comments were submitted to the LCC on behalf of the coalition and included in the coalition packet.

c. Youth

- i. Jenna Abbott shared that Senator John Fredrickson will be speaking with the youth at the next Youth Leadership Network meeting.
- ii. The next Youth Leadership Network meeting is on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7-8 p.m. at the UNO Community Engagement Center.

d. Awareness

- i. The September Research Summaries are available at [www.projectextramile.org/ResearchSummary](http://www.projectextramile.org/ResearchSummary)

VI. Additional Discussion/Announcements: None

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. ADVOCACY. AWARENESS. ACTION

## READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



Youth in grades 8-12 in the Omaha Metro Area are invited to join Project Extra Mile's Youth Leadership Network. Members will learn about the harms of excessive alcohol use in our community, develop the leadership skills needed to make real change, and put those skills into action!

## FOCUSING ON EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO LEAD



Project Extra Mile has been creating community change for over 25 years and we are passionate about reducing alcohol-related harms in our community. In the Youth Leadership Network, we focus on teaching and practicing the skills needed to create change. Youth will receive expert guidance on projects that will utilize media literacy, public speaking, advocacy, problem-solving, and community organizing skills that they'll develop from this initiative.

## A YOUTH-LED APPROACH



We're serious about youth leadership, which is why all projects are planned and developed by the youth themselves. Youth projects over the last couple years have included hosting a town hall, meeting with state senators, creating media campaigns to raise awareness, and more!

**MEET AND LEARN FROM LOCAL AND STATE POLICYMAKERS**

**CREATE YOUR OWN MEDIA CAMPAIGNS**

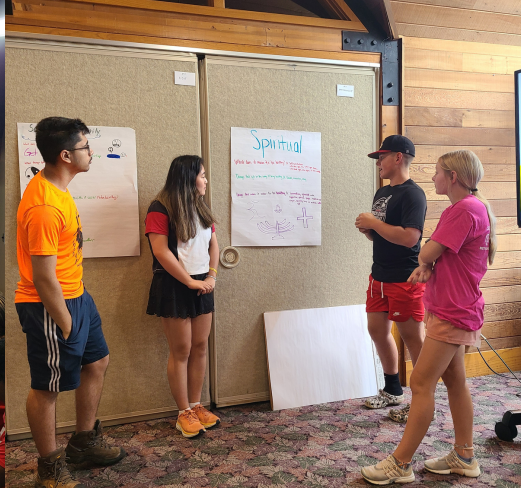
**LEARN HOW TO USE YOUR INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP STYLE**

**MEET NEW FRIENDS AND DEVELOP SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME**

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR SPRING 2024!**







**GROW YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND MAKE FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST A LIFETIME**

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

**AUGUST 28, 2023**  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC

**OCTOBER 16, 2023**  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC

**NOVEMBER 20, 2023**  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC

**DECEMBER 18, 2023**  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC

**YOUTH ADVOCACY DAY  
AT THE STATE CAPITOL  
SPRING 2024**

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING  
JUNE 2024**

## HOW TO JOIN

The Youth Leadership Network is open to all Omaha-area youth in grades 8 through 12 who want to grow as leaders and are interested in preventing alcohol-related harms in our community with the skills they develop. To indicate your interest in joining us for our next meeting, please fill out the form using the QR code below. YLN is completely free to join!



**Register here!**

## WHERE WE MEET

The Youth Leadership Network meetings are held once a month at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC) on the University of Nebraska-Omaha campus at 6400 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE. Parking is free and food and drinks are provided at each meeting (must register for food).

## LEARN MORE!

To learn more about the Youth Leadership Network, please visit [projectextramile.org/youth](http://projectextramile.org/youth) or contact us at [youth@projectextramile.org](mailto:youth@projectextramile.org) or (402) 963-9047

Find us on:





**RESEARCH SUMMARY**  
Date Compiled: October 2023

**Key takeaways from included research:**

- Researchers assessed US state-level alcohol policies as they relate to drinking outcomes among women of reproductive age. After examining government control of liquor retail sales, heavy beer at gas stations, heavy beer at grocery stores, liquor at grocery stores, Sunday off-premise liquor sales, and blood alcohol concentration (BAC) driving limits, researchers found that the general population alcohol policies of prohibiting Sunday off-premise liquor sales and BAC limits of 0.05-0.08 are related to less past year overall and heavy drinking among women 18-44 years old.
- Researchers examined the association between parent and child drinking. They found that 6.6% of adolescents drank alcohol. When those adolescents' parents drank frequently (five or more days per month) or binge drank, the odds of those adolescents drinking were significantly higher than adolescents whose parents did not drink or did not binge drink, suggesting that parents could drink less to reduce the likelihood of drinking among their children. In addition, the study noted that effective population-level strategies like increasing alcohol taxes and regulating alcohol sales can also reduce excessive drinking among both youth and adults.
- Researchers looked at young people's tendency to partake in excessive consumption under positive and negative circumstances. They found that participants were significantly more likely to drink in larger quantities on occasions preceded by higher positive effect, meaning fun-seeking was found to positively predict total drinks consumed. Negative effects were not found to have predicted excessive consumption among the participants.
- A study examined simultaneous alcohol and marijuana use (SAM) and tested daily associations between SAM use and alcohol use (number of drinks), marijuana use (hours high), negative alcohol consequences, and negative marijuana consequences. Researchers found SAM use was reported on 25.1% of alcohol use days and marijuana use was reported on 41.9% of alcohol use days. They concluded that SAM use days are linked to consuming more alcoholic beverages, a greater number of hours being high, and experiencing more total alcohol-related consequences.

## **Dodge County Sheriff identifies victim, arrests Fremont man in relation to deadly crash**

Written by Jake Anderson

DODGE COUNTY, Neb – A Fremont man was arrested after an 18-year-old man died after a crash Saturday morning, according to the Dodge County Sheriff's Office.

Around 5 a.m., the driver of a gray Hyundai SUV just south of Fremont lost control of the car and crashed into a wooden fence, according to authorities.

The passenger, identified as 18-year-old Ryan Littrell, was taken to a local hospital where he later died, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office said.

Investigators said that the driver, identified as 18-year-old Doltyn Garule, left the scene after the crash, but was later located by deputies.

Garule was taken into custody for motor vehicle homicide, driving under the influence, minor in possession of alcohol, failure to stop and render aid, obstruction, tampering with physical evidence and willful reckless driving.

Littrell was a senior at the Fremont Learning Center, the district said in a statement.

Alcohol and speed are believed to be factors in the crash and the airbags didn't deploy, according to the Dodge County Sheriff's Office.

"This is a tragic loss for our community and school district. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and loved ones of Ryan and his family," Mark Shepard, superintendent of Fremont Public Schools, said in a statement.

The crash is still under investigation.

## **'It needs to be stopped'; Fremont crash victim's family warns of dangers of drunk driving**

Written by Jessica Perez

FREMONT, Neb. — The Dodge County Sheriff said a drunk driving crash took the life of 18-year-old Ryan Littrell Saturday morning. Now his family is warning of the dangers of drunk driving.

According to DCSO, Littrell was the passenger in an SUV that crashed into a wooden fence on the 400 block of South Ridge Road near Fremont.

Sgt. Brie Frank said when deputies arrived, they found him still in the car, injured. He later died at the hospital.

Frank said deputies believed the alleged driver 18-year-old Doltyn Garule ran away from the scene after the crash.

Deputies later found and arrested him.

"He was consuming alcohol which we believe was a contributing factor to the crash and also speed," Frank said.

The case is still under investigation, so charges haven't been filed.

Ryan Littrell's family said they want to see consequences.

His mother, Colleen Littrell said Garule's alleged actions were shocking.

"What he had done after the fact, is forever unforgivable," she said.

Ryan Littrell's family remembers him as someone with a passion for working on air boats who showed a lot of promise.

His Grandfather, Michael Ireland Sr. said Ryan Littrell picked up on anything mechanical quickly and showed a lot of promise.

He said Ryan Littrell's dream was to become a welder.

"I'm devastated, I'm still devastated," Ireland Sr. said.

Ireland Sr. said he never expected to outlive his grandson.

Ryan Littrell's uncle Michael Ireland Jr. said this tragedy should be a reminder to everyone to make wise choices.

"Parents talk to your kids about alcohol, I know we've all done stupid things, and gotten away with it, this is an example where it doesn't happen, it needs to be stopped," Ireland Jr. said.

Now Ryan Littrell's family must bear the cost of a funeral they weren't prepared for.

"This was so unexpected, we were not prepared for a funeral or anything, we're asking if anybody can help, please send a donation," Ireland Jr. said.

Colleen Littrell said she'll miss Ryan's smile the most, while his friends said they'll miss his sense of humor.

His stepsister Mia Price said these crashes happen too often and, in this case, their friend group lost not one, but two friends.

"Take this accident as a lesson, so that his spirit lives on and that we make better decisions and choices for our town and our community," Price said.

If you'd like to help the Littrell family with funeral expenses, you can Venmo @RyanLittrellDonationFund or a donation jar will be available at his celebration of life on Sunday at the Fremont Air Boat Club.



## European think tank calls for mandatory EU alcohol health labelling

Written by Clara Bauer-Babef

Health warnings on alcohol should be made mandatory across the European Union, according to a recent report by the Centres for European Policy Network, a think tank that praised the European Commission for giving the green light to Ireland's plans in this direction.

From May 2026, bottles of alcoholic drinks sold in Ireland will have to be labelled with consumer prevention messages in the same way as cigarette packets.

Irish consumers will soon be able to read messages such as "Alcohol consumption causes liver disease" or "There is a direct link between alcohol and deadly cancers".

In Ireland, there are 1,000 new cases of alcohol-related cancer each year, according to Action Alcohol Ireland, while one in ten babies is born with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

FASD, which can happen if alcohol passes from the mother's blood to the baby's blood during pregnancy, can damage the brain and body and stop them from developing normally.

However, while the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) welcomed this decision, the wine lobbies did not, arguing that it would distort competition in the EU single market.

"The European Commission's decision is a major blow. It sets an extremely dangerous precedent," the French Federation of Wine and Spirits Exporters (FEVS) said last June.

But, according to the Centres for European Policy Network (CEP), the Irish law is an example that all EU countries could benefit from.

"Given the proven health risk of alcohol, it is legitimate to introduce this new labelling requirement throughout the European Union," Victor Warhem, economist and CEP representative in France, told Euractiv in an interview.

However, the European Wine Business Committee said that "the provisions contained in the Irish labelling regulations are incompatible with applicable Community law and constitute an unjustified and disproportionate barrier to trade under Community law".

### Economic benefits?

Conversely, a CEP report published in August argued that labelling all bottles of alcohol sold in Europe would have economic benefits for the wine and spirits industry.

Labelling "would have the effect of avoiding increasing labelling costs for alcohol producers, particularly in France, Spain and Italy, or causing them to turn away from the Irish market, with even more negative consequences for the health of the sector," the report said.

At a time when the wine market is in crisis, small producers will find it difficult to cope with these additional costs, while larger producers will have no problems, Warhem added.

Despite the economic benefits, in particular for large producers, France, Italy, and Spain are not in favour of widespread labelling.

In response to the impending Irish law, the three countries, which together produce nearly half of all bottles of wine sold in the world, have decided to work on a joint document to challenge the Commission's decision.

While the European Commission has not yet received a letter from the three countries, it believes that the future Irish legislation does not undermine the single market.

But with EU elections due next June, the issue will undoubtedly be on the agenda in Brussels and for the next Commission.

Until then, and starting from December, bottles of wine sold in the EU will have to display ingredients and nutritional values on their labels using a QR code.

## Young adults' simultaneous use of alcohol and marijuana linked to more negative consequences

Written by Research Society on Alcoholism

Up to one in four young adults use alcohol and marijuana simultaneously (i.e., use at the same time with overlapping effects), a behavior linked to a greater risk of adverse consequences. Given the expanding legalization of non-medical marijuana use, there is an urgent need to better understand the effects of simultaneous use and who is most vulnerable to adverse outcomes. Previous research has yielded mixed and limited results.

For the study in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, investigators sought to clarify the associations and consequences of simultaneous use in young adults.

Young adults' simultaneous use of alcohol and marijuana on a given day was associated with consuming more drinks, experiencing more negative consequences from alcohol, and experiencing specific negative marijuana consequences, according to a new study. These findings relate specifically to the simultaneous use of alcohol and marijuana rather than simply the amounts consumed.

Researchers collected data from 409 adults aged 18–25 (50% women, 48% White) in the greater Seattle area who reported recent simultaneous alcohol and marijuana use. Notably, the sample included both college and non-college students. In six bursts over two years, young adults completed 14 days of online surveys, reporting their alcohol and marijuana use and related effects for the previous day. The researchers explored associations between simultaneous alcohol and marijuana use and negative consequences.

Participants reported drinking on 36% of survey days with a mean of 3½ drinks; on 28% of those days, they experienced at least one negative alcohol consequence. They reported using marijuana on 36% of survey days with a mean of three hours high and at least one negative marijuana consequence on 56% of those days.

Simultaneous alcohol and marijuana use was reported on 15% of survey days. On days of simultaneous use, participants consumed 37% more drinks and 43% more negative alcohol consequences (e.g., doing something embarrassing, feeling clumsy or confused) compared to drinking days without simultaneous marijuana use.

Further, on days of simultaneous use, participants reported being high for 10% more hours (but did not experience more negative consequences) compared to marijuana use days without simultaneous alcohol use. On days with marijuana use, each additional hour high was linked to 14% more negative marijuana consequences, and simultaneous use carried greater odds of feeling clumsy or dizzy.

Researchers note the findings may not generalize to all populations, given the sample was higher-risk substance-using young adults. The findings provide the strongest evidence to date that simultaneous use is high risk and should be the focus of ongoing education and prevention efforts—including messaging that those who use alcohol and marijuana simultaneously would particularly benefit from monitoring and limiting the amounts consumed.

## Five Kearney businesses cited for selling alcohol to minors

Written by KSNB Staff

KEARNEY, Neb. (KSNB) - Five Kearney businesses failed compliance checks over the weekend.

Eight officers from the Kearney Police Department, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office and the Nebraska State Patrol checked a total of 37 businesses in Buffalo County.

Five of the 37 were cited for selling alcohol to minors. Authorities said it was a significant increase in the non-compliant rate from June 2023 checks that saw five (7%) of 69 businesses cited for selling to minors.

### Alcohol Compliance Checks for September 2023

Business	Location	Non-compliant
El Potrero	5012 3rd Avenue	X
Fairfield Inn	510 W Talmadge Road	X
Gourmet House Japanese Cuisine	1325 2nd Avenue	X
La Quinta Inn & Suites	108 3rd Avenue	X
Skeeter Barnes	516 2nd Avenue S	X

One theme that emerged during those compliance checks was the importance of checking minor IDs and verifying their age. Out of the 10 sales to minors during these two operations, nine (90%) did not even ask to see the minors' identification prior to providing them the alcohol. All of the 36 businesses that refused the sale this past weekend checked the minors' IDs.

"We encourage all businesses to establish policies that require employees to check IDs," said Kearney Police Lieutenant Gabe Kowalek. "IDs are vertical for minors and clearly state in bold red letters that the minor is under the legal drinking age of 21. It's the easiest and most effective way to keep Buffalo County youth and our community safe. We look forward to working with our local businesses to achieve 100 percent compliance next time."

The five businesses cited are facing their first sale to a minor violation within the last four years. If found guilty by the LCC, these businesses could be facing 15-25 days of suspension that they could choose to pay off as a fine at \$50 per day in lieu of suspension. The two businesses listed below had previous sales to minor violations, but they fell outside of the four-year window that the LCC uses for determining progressive penalties:

- El Potrero, 5012 3rd Ave, Kearney (11/08, 5/14, 10/18);
- Skeeter Barnes, 516 2nd Ave S, Kearney (10/07, 12/09).

To report underage drinking or adults providing alcohol to minors, call the statewide tip line at 1-866-Must-B-21 (687-8221). It's anonymous, and it's the right call. Individuals are urged to call 911 to report an underage drinking party in progress.

Heightened enforcements are supported by the Nebraska Department of Transportation - Highway Safety Office. NDOT-HSO also funds the tip line. Project Extra Mile helped to coordinate the enforcement efforts.



## **NU plans \$450M remake of Memorial Stadium, including new South Stadium**

Written by Chris Dunker

The Memorial Stadium of the future, complete with modern amenities designed to improve the gameday experience for Husker fans for the next century, could soon become a reality.

The University of Nebraska unveiled plans for a \$450 million renovation of the iconic college football venue on Thursday, featuring a ground-up rebuild of South Stadium, the installation of chair-back seats in East and West stadiums, and improvements made with accessibility for all fans in mind.

The program statement, which will go before the Board of Regents next week, also calls for modernizing restrooms throughout the concourse, creating new spaces for academic programs, student life and community engagement at UNL, and improving the efficiency of operations at the facility.

If approved at the Oct. 5 meeting, the renovation would be the largest single facility project in terms of cost to ever be considered by NU's governing board. The \$323 million Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center currently holds that distinction.

Roughly half of the project cost — \$225 million — will be paid for through private donations, while the remainder will come from an internal lending program used by NU to fund facility projects as well as other Athletic Department funds.

No state tax dollars appropriated for the university's general operations, student tuition or other fees will be used to pay for the renovation, the university stressed.

Nebraska Athletics Director Trev Alberts said that once it's finished, the renovation will embody a "holistic vision for the entire stadium" outlined by some 22,000-odd fans who provided feedback on their experience and laid the foundation for the department's financial success in the years to come.

The 2022 survey resulted in "really, really good" input from Husker fans about how the university could improve their experience, Alberts told the Journal Star in an interview, with some fans going into excruciating detail about what they thought Memorial Stadium could do better.

Most of the feedback received revolved around improving fan comfort, as well as modernizing the stadium's infrastructure and raising amenities at Memorial Stadium to a level seen at college venues across the country, or even above.

While that served as an internal driver for the proposed renovation, an external driver — the monumental shift in the business of college athletics, particularly how revenues once funneled into athletic departments are now being redistributed to student-athletes due to litigation as well as the emerging NIL industry — means universities need to look at ways to keep their finances in the black, Alberts said.

The case for keeping the business side of Husker Athletics profitable means it will be able to continue investing in emerging opportunities in college sports, particularly volleyball and women's basketball, which are seeing increased popularity nationwide, he added.

"I don't know what everybody else is doing, I don't know where (collegiate athletics) is going," Alberts said, "but what I do know is the best chance we have to navigate these choppy waters is to have the most disciplined business we can, have a healthy balance sheet and a strategy for the future."

Part of that strategy will focus on ensuring Memorial Stadium is accessible to all fans by addressing Americans with Disabilities Act deficiencies that have existed, in some cases, for decades. Alberts said that after relying on being "grandfathered in in some areas," it was time to address those issues.

Putting chair backs in three sides of the stadium and widening aisles, installing handrails and other related amenities will improve comfort, Alberts said, but NU also anticipates that could result in a 10-12% capacity reduction.

If Memorial Stadium can now seat 89,000-plus for a football game (ignoring the 92,003 figure Husker volleyball put up on Aug. 30), it might only take a figure in the mid-70,000 range to reach sellout status in the future.

The lowest level of the new South Stadium behind the end zone will also become the new home for students — known as the Boneyard — as well as the Cornhusker Marching Band, which Alberts said was a focus of major donors who plan to back the project.

"We need to do a better job of embracing our students," Alberts said. "We want the students and the band to say, 'This is our home, this is where we gather.' It will be the loudest, most crazy environment in the world."

The new South Stadium will also have a new loading dock, vertical transportation for fans and athletics staff, as well as new concessions stands, restrooms and a concourse providing easy access to both East and West stadiums. Fans will be able to navigate 360 degrees of the stadium at ground level, and 270 degrees from an upper concourse, under the proposed renovation.

Throughout the stadium, concession upgrades will provide new menu options and added points of sale, while restrooms also will be modernized. Alberts said the goal is to provide amenities to fans and ease of use so they won't feel like they'll miss a significant portion of the game if they step out for a drink.

The plan to renovate Memorial Stadium will also include building infrastructure to serve alcoholic drinks to fans enjoying a game or other event. But Alberts is quick to note that any decision to sell booze would be up to the Board of Regents at a future date.

"While we've had lots of people demand or request it now, it just isn't physically possible," he said. "We don't have the point of sale and Wi-Fi to handle it."

Alberts said the renovation also gives Memorial Stadium a chance to be in use more than just seven Saturdays every fall.

With the opening of the "Go BIG" football facility project and the consolidation of services for student-athletes in that facility, UNL will look at how vacant space could be repurposed for student learning and community engagement.

Husker Athletics approached UNL Executive Vice Chancellor Kathy Ankerson about the opportunities of using areas of East Stadium for overflow space for academic programs that need it or experiential learning opportunities that aren't feasible elsewhere.

Ankerson worked with UNL's deans to identify programs that could fit and came back with a need of 60,000 square feet, Alberts said, about half of what will be available: "That can grow once it's built out and people get excited and have more demand."

All in all, Alberts said the stacking benefits — improved experiences for fans and students, new opportunities to engage in entrepreneurial partnerships that could diversify revenue streams, and a better engagement with campus — realized through investment in Memorial Stadium will keep Nebraska Athletics competitive well into the future.

"The outcome of this project is still the same," Alberts said. "It's seat comfort and everything we learned in the survey, but it quickly became a business strategy for the next 25 years. That's really the way I look at it."

But getting to that point could involve a little short-term pain, particularly for those who call South Stadium home on Husker gamedays, as well as others in the Sea of Red who will be affected by construction throughout the venue.

Alberts said — repeating the caveat that the plan first needs regents' approval — that planning and preliminary work would begin almost immediately with the goal of tearing down South Stadium after the Huskers' last home game of the 2024 season.

The Athletic Department is exploring options to make those fans "whole," he said, but admitted that the project is going to be "really disruptive."

"This is not going to be easy and there are going to be people that are really upset," Alberts said. "But there is no other way for us to ensure the viability of a 100-year-old stadium."

The program statement outlines a goal of July 2026 for construction to be completed and August 2026 — as the Huskers gear up for their fall campaign — as the date to occupy the new space.

Husker Athletics is hoping the as-yet-unnamed project will be done by that point, but Alberts said the unpredictability of Nebraska's weather and other unforeseen delays could mean South Stadium won't be occupied until the 2027 season at the earliest.

"We're going to have to build around a football season, so I'd love for it to be one year, but we better plan on two," Alberts said. "Every time we've done a project like this, we find something we didn't anticipate, there's always unknowns."

"I'm mentally preparing for two seasons to be without South Stadium," he added.

Lincoln Regent Tim Clare, the current chair of the board, called the proposal put forward by Alberts and Husker Athletics an “exciting vision for Memorial Stadium’s next era that puts our fans first.”

“Whether we’re talking about getting back into the (Association of American Universities), or winning national championships, or recruiting the very best students, student-athletes and faculty — it all matters when it comes to achieving excellence at the University of Nebraska,” Clare said.

Regent Rob Schafer of Beatrice, who will be the board’s chairman in 2024, said the University of Nebraska has the opportunity to lead when it comes to fan experience at Husker football games and other events in the stadium.

“The plans put forward today by Trev Alberts will make Memorial Stadium one of the top destinations in college sports for generations of Husker fans to come,” Schafer said. “We have a lot of hard work ahead, but I know Nebraskans will once again come together to make this tremendous vision a reality.”

Regents will meet at 9 a.m. on Oct. 5 on the UNMC campus in Omaha to consider the program statement for the Memorial Stadium renovation and other business.

## **Alcohol, narcotics, larceny part of 11 arrests made by UNLPD this past week**

Written by Ryan Luetkemeyer

Following a week of declined campus crime, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department had its busiest week yet this school year, issuing 11 total arrests.

UNLPD arrested a non-affiliate individual on Sunday, Oct. 1, for driving while intoxicated. Sergeant Joshua Rubottom said the person involved was driving near 16th and Q St. with a .132 blood alcohol content. The legal limit in Nebraska is .08.

Police took the individual to a detox center and cited the individual for driving under the influence. Officers responded to a claim of a suspicious person on the west side of Memorial Stadium on Sunday. Rubottom said the found suspect already had two arrest warrants to their name. Police conducted a search and found methamphetamine on the suspect.

UNLPD arrested and took the individual into custody for the arrest warrants and possession of illegal substances.

University Police issued a Minor in Possession citation to a non-affiliate person after finding them intoxicated near the elevators of the University Suites, according to Rubottom. UNLPD also issued a citation to a student after finding a false ID in their wallet when it was turned in.

Police responded to another alcohol-related incident on Friday, Sept. 29, after officers noticed a student being carried by other people down the street due to their high intoxication level. No citations were issued, and the person involved was transported to the hospital for care and safe detox, according to Rubottom.

Rubottom says three individuals, two students and one non-affiliate individual, were arrested in separate larceny incidents over the past week.

On Tuesday, Sept. 26, university police caught a student stealing a bike outside Love Library. On Wednesday, Sept. 27, officers cited a non-affiliate individual for stealing a student's backpack. The suspect was cited for theft and trespassing.

In the final larceny incident over the past week, police caught a student who stole a laptop from Huskertech.

Rubottom said the student was caught on camera, and officers used the investigative tools at their disposal to locate where the student went and arrested him.

"That's the good thing of having all these cameras on campus," Rubottom said. Other arrests over the past week included a non-affiliate individual trespassing in a university parking garage; another non-affiliate trespassing in a residence hall, who made their situation more difficult by attempting to give officers a fake name when contacted; a third non-affiliate, who was also caught trespassing and gave a fake name to officers; and an intoxicated, non-affiliate individual cited for disturbing the peace in the Nebraska Union.

Here's what UNLPD found in the Lost and Found this week:



4 wallets  
Green purse  
Nebraska vehicle registration  
Bank Of The West debit card  
Union Bank & Trust debit card  
3 Nebraska driver's licenses  
Audi car key  
Backpack with purple watch and keys  
Calvin Klein sunglasses in Costco case  
Samsung phone  
Apple AirTag with pink case  
Keys  
\$50 found at Oldfather Hall  
Grey SwissGear backpack  
Black Apple Watch  
Silver necklace  
Garmin fitness watch  
Toyota watch  
Earring  
Walmart gift card  
Left earphone  
Soundcore By Anker Space left earphone in case  
JLab left earphone in case  
Apple AirPods case  
Apple AirPods Pro  
3 sets of AirPods  
Montrex watch  
Ford key and miscellaneous keys  
Fuji Bike