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(Neb.)-Patrol Supervises As Alcohol Delivery Made In Whiteclay



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 05/21/2013 08:03 AM

(Whiteclay)-Several incidents lately with protestors in the border town of Whiteclay have prompted the Nebraska State Patrol to take action. Several weeks ago, a beer delivery truck from Dietrich Distributing was vandalized and the driver of that truck was allegedly threatened, and just last week another truck from High Plains Budweiser was damaged as well.

Protestors are demonstrating against alcohol in Whiteclay, which borders the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. For many years, people against the sale of alcohol, including the American Indian Movement, have tried unsuccessfully to stop the sale of alcohol in Whiteclay, claiming it is a significant factor in the rate of alcoholism on the reservation, which does not allow alcohol sales.

The tension has escalated over the years to the point a small group actually became physical and took out their aggressions on the Dietrich delivery truck, with reports of tires being slashed and product being destroyed. The driver of that truck was allegedly threatened as well. Last week, the Budweiser truck was also vandalized, with reports of the headlights and windshield being smashed and tires slashed yet again.

On Monday morning, the Nebraska State Patrol sent at least two troopers to Whiteclay while a delivery was made in town. Shortly after 8 am, the Patrol reported they were exhibiting high visibility during the alcohol delivery, and the only reported incident was the citation of two individuals for open container and littering. As of this time, no one has been arrested for the prior attacks on the delivery trucks. It is not known how this will play out, or if the Patrol will continue to stand by as other deliveries are made.

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