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(Neb.)-Continued Presence By Protestors In Whiteclay



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 09/03/2013 10:52 AM

(Whiteclay)-KNEB is reporting that anti-alcohol activists continue to march in Whiteclay, causing law enforcement to have a significant presence in the border town between Nebraska and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

The protesters were peaceful on Saturday, but State Patrol Lt. Jamey Balthazor says they were "very, very busy" both Monday and this morning with protesters marching in the Whiteclay area.

The daily State Patrol report indicated troopers responded to the area Monday after the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office indicated the protesters were getting physical with Deputies. The report says when troopers arrived the protesters had moved north of the state line and had four cars blocking the roadway, not letting anyone into South Dakota.

Alcohol is currently banned on the Pine Ridge Reservation but is sold at 4 stores in Whiteclay which is adjacent to the reservation. But a recent tribal vote approved reversing the alcohol ban, although it is not clear when it takes effect.

Things had reportedly calmed down recently, and beer distributors who had forced Whiteclay store owners to pick up their beer in Rushville were delivering beer again directly to the stores.

KCSR News has attempted to make contact with Sheridan County Sheriff Terry Robbins, but as of 11 am on Tuesday, he was still in Whiteclay.

(Information courtesy KNEB, Scottsbluff)