



**96.1 KICX**

THURSDAY MARCH 28, 2024

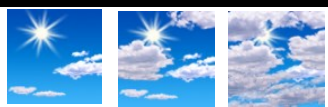
# Newsflash

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STOCKS	
<b>DOW</b>	<b>NASDAQ</b>
21.11 TO	34.71 TO
39,781.19	16,364.81

## WEATHER



TODAY	FRI	SAT
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Sunny
High 69	High 66	High 60

## TAX CHANGES DEBATE

The Nebraska Legislature began debate Wednesday on a proposal for significant tax changes, with senators expressing wide ranging opinions. The bill in question, LB388, would raise sales taxes and apply them to a range of currently exempt goods and services. Another separate bill would direct the money raised to schools, with the idea that they would then reduce the property taxes they currently rely on. Sen. Tom Brandt expressed strong support for the bill. "It's time for Nebraska to pursue property tax relief. The governor wants this. The Legislature wants this. And most importantly the people of the state of Nebraska have been asking for this for many, many years," Brandt said. Sen. George Dungan supported the goal, but opposed the bill. "Everybody here, I think, is trying to work towards the same goal of achieving property tax relief that is actual property tax relief. The difference that we have, I think, is our opinions of how to get there," Dungan said. Many opponents zeroed in on the proposed increase in the state sales tax rate, which could increase from the current 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent. Among them was Sen. John Cavanaugh. "I'm opposed to increasing sales tax on the people of the state of Nebraska," Cavanaugh said. But Sen. Kathleen Kauth said that's not a deal-breaker for the people she talks to. "Every person who I've engaged with every person who has actually taken the time to talk with me about this just has said if we can guarantee that that property tax is going to be lowered, they will be happy to pay that sales tax," Kauth said.

## TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Nebraska Department of Education launched the Teacher Apprenticeship Program to help train teachers with more in-classroom experiences. The Nebraska Legislature passed the Teacher Apprenticeship Program last year with \$1 million slated for the initiative in the first year. The program is starting with three grow-your-own initiatives that were already in effect: Midland University and Omaha Westside's "Growing Our Own Educator Assistant (EA) to Teacher Ladder Program" University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Lincoln Public Schools' "Building the Special Education Teacher Pipeline" Chadron State College and North Platte Public Schools' "Panhandle Para to Teacher Academy." The program was created as a way to help address the ongoing teacher shortage across the state. According to the Teacher Shortage Survey, over 900 positions were left unfilled by a fully qualified teacher and about 360 were left vacant this school year. NDE Commissioner Brian Maher said the education department hopes to connect more school districts and universities to create apprenticeship programs. "We think that this will be the start of a tremendous opportunity for the schools, for the educational assistants, for teachers, and ultimately, for students across the state of Nebraska," Maher said. With the Westside-Midland partnership, educational assistants can continue working while taking classes at night to get their teacher certifications. Shelly Sip is one of those EAs. She said she has been an educational assistant for 15 years, but was ready for a change. "It wasn't enough to just be an assistant," Sip said. "I wanted more. I wanted to be in front of the room. I wanted to make the lesson plans."

## NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC INDICATOR ROSE

Nebraska's Leading Economic Indicator rose sharply during February, according to the most recent report from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The economic indicator, designed to predict economic activity six months into the future, increased by a very rapid 3.48%. "The increase in the leading indicator suggests there will be strong growth in the Nebraska economy during the summer of 2024," said economist Eric Thompson, director of the Bureau of Business Research, department chair and K.H. Nelson College Professor of Economics. The six components of Nebraska's Leading Economic Indicator include business expectations, building permits for single-family homes, airline passenger counts, initial claims for unemployment insurance, the value of the U.S. dollar and manufacturing hours worked. Five of six indicator components improved during February, including three that improved significantly. Manufacturing hours worked rose rapidly in Nebraska during February, and business expectations were also positive. "Nebraska manufacturing continues to benefit from strong demand for food products as well as recent general improvements in the national manufacturing industry. In addition, Nebraska businesses reported plans to increase both sales and employment over the next six months," said Thompson. There also were signs of strength in the Nebraska home building industry during February, despite high interest rates.



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WEEKDAYS  
8:05 AM  
12:45 PM  
ON YOUR  
BISON SPORTS  
STATION



**WALK-IN HOURS**  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**7 AM - 5 PM**  
**SATURDAY**  
**8 AM-10 AM**  
**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**  
**1401 EAST H STREET**  
**344-4110**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
**11-2**

**Coaches  
Coffee Club**

**SATURDAY  
MORNINGS AT  
8:00 am**

**96.1 KICX**



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## ON THIS DAY IN 1979

A major accident occurred at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island nuclear power plant.

A nuclear power reactor overheated and suffered a partial meltdown.

## SPORTS

The McCook Bison track and field teams will host the LeRoy Hoehner Invite today starting at 1 p.m. Teams competing include Adams Central, Lexington, Holdrege, Colby, KS, and Hays, KS. The Lexington golf triangular for the Bison golfers and the North Platte tennis invite for the Bison girls were postponed. The Hi-Line Track and Field Invite and Cambridge Golf Invite were also cancelled. The MCC golfers are hosting the Region IX field of teams at Heritage Hills the next two days as part of the McCook CC Invite. The MCC softball games vs. Otero at the Jaycee Sports Complex have been pushed to Friday and Saturday.

Nebraska volleyball assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Jaylen Reyes has been named to the USA Volleyball U21 National Team coaching staff for the NORCECA Women's Continental Championship this summer. Reyes will be an assistant coach on a staff that also includes BYU head coach Heather Olmstead and Stanford assistant coach Alex Dunphy. The U21 National Team will train in Anaheim, Calif., from June 14-22. It will compete at the NORCECA Women's Continental Championship from June 23-July 1 in Toronto, Canada. Reyes played an instrumental role in helping Nebraska finish 33-2 and win a Big Ten Championship before reaching the NCAA Final in 2023. For the second year in a row under Reyes' defensive coaching, the Huskers led the nation in opponent hitting percentage with a .137 average. As NU's recruiting coordinator, Reyes landed PrepVolleyball.com's No. 1 recruiting class in the nation in both 2021 and 2023, as well as the No. 2 class for 2022.

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100 South Street, 345-2372  
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## TODAY'S PUZZLE



## HOME OF BISON SPORTS FOR 45 YEARS!

### ACROSS

- 1 Tangle (2 wds.)
- 7 Very large truck
- 11 Splochy
- 13 Jacob's father
- 15 Sorrow
- 16 Heat unit
- 17 Grain
- 20 Livid
- 21 Insist
- 24 Estimated time of arrival
- 27 Rising
- 29 Cola
- 30 Bad (prefix)
- 31 Prophet who built the arc
- 33 \_\_\_ A Small World...
- 34 Bark
- 35 Queasy
- 36 Callow
- 38 Computer science (abbr.)
- 39 Foot extension
- 40 Sign of skin irritation
- 42 Caviar
- 44 Grow older
- 45 Extra-sensory perception
- 48 Book of maps
- 50 Movie "King"
- 52 Things that feel
- 55 Blithe
- 56 Empire

### DOWN

- 1 Canadian prov.
- 2 \_\_\_evated railroad
- 3 Sward
- 4 Harriet Beecher \_\_\_
- 5 Ca. University
- 6 Smallest phonetic
- 7 Sibling
- 8 Eastern Standard Time
- 9 Tropical island
- 10 Des Monies locale
- 12 Twelve months
- 14 Get by
- 18 Upland
- 19 Deep-fried chip
- 22 Miles per hour
- 23 Climbing
- 25 Baby powder
- 26 Swiss mountains
- 27 Part
- 28 Horse game
- 32 Notified
- 34 Affirmative
- 37 Slue
- 40 Area
- 41 Hawk
- 43 Fake butter
- 46 Hotel
- 47 Doctoral degree
- 48 Branch of the military (abbr.)
- 49 Ocean
- 51 Silver (abbr.)
- 53 Rhode Island (abbr.)
- 54 Tin (abbr.)

