



**96.1 KICX**

THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 2025

# Newsflash

[www.highplainsradio.net](http://www.highplainsradio.net) 308-345-5400 [openline@highplainsradio.net](mailto:openline@highplainsradio.net)

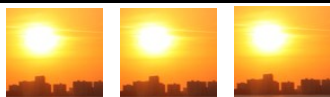
**1300**  
The BIG Talker  
KBRL - McCook

**103.9**  
**THE HAWK**  
The Classic Rock Experience

## STOCKS

<b>DOW</b>		<b>NASDAQ</b>	
170.73 TO		27.76 TO	
44,751.54		21,685.38	

## WEATHER



<b>TODAY</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>
Hot	Hot	Hot
High 100	High 101	High 100



**MCCOOK CLINIC**

1301 East H Street / 308.344.4110

## WALK-IN HOURS

Monday - Friday

7am - 4:30pm

Saturday

8am - 10am

No Appointment Necessary

THE  
CLAY TRAVIS &  
BUCK SEXTON  
SHOW



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

**1300**  
The BIG Talker  
KBRL - McCook

## SCHOOL BONDS FAIL

Voters struck down school bond propositions in three separate special elections held Tuesday. Along with Pierce, McCook and Cambridge voters said no to school bonds. McCook Public Schools Superintendent Grant Norgaard said while he was disappointed with the outcome of the special election, he was happy with the voter turnout for it. He said over half of the community voted. "We had a lot of folks come through our buildings, a lot of our patrons and community members," Norgaard said. "We appreciate everyone who really wanted to know about the bond issue and had questions and engaged with us. I think that was a really positive experience for those folks and also for the school itself because through that process, we learned and developed a better understanding of what the community wants and what the community's priorities are." The district asked for \$42 million in property tax levies to address "significant structural issues that cannot be adequately addressed by remodeling," upgrade technical education spaces and implement more safety measures like controlled access points to the junior high school. Norgaard said while there are structural concerns with the junior high building, it won't fall over anytime soon. "All buildings have a limited lifespan, so at some point, something's going to need to be done," Norgaard said. "In the meantime, we're going to just invest in the facilities that we have and making the best learning environments we can for kids." Similar results played out for the Cambridge Public Schools District, which saw its school bond fail with 482 "against" and 280 "for" the measure. According to the proposal, the district asked voters to approve a property tax levy that would fund \$13.2 million in additions to the school such as classrooms, science labs, a consumer science lab, a multi-purpose room with a stage and administrative offices. The defeats mark nine losses for school bond issues so far this year. Other school bond losses occurred earlier this year for the public school districts of Logan View, Freeman, Gering, Hemingford, South Sioux City and Tri-County. Ten public school districts have won bond requests at the ballot box this year: Elkhorn Valley, Millard, Pleasanton, Ravenna, Bennington, Fillmore Central, Weeping Water, Louisville, Randolph and Centennial.

## NORFOLK BUSINESS RANKED ON LIST

The fastest growing company in Nebraska isn't in Lincoln or Omaha. It's in Norfolk. Consolidated Consulting was ranked 298th among the 5,000 fastest-growing companies in the United States this year by Inc. magazine. The four-year-old company's CEO, Ben Spray, said what was originally a two-man team has now grown to 28 employees. Spray said the company's dedication to growing clients' businesses and the integration of artificial intelligence, both internally and within its clients' companies, has been the key to its rapid growth. "We're building AI systems for our clients in all sorts of different ways," Spray said. "We're helping people, stay on top of customer requests, help get more bang for their buck and scale, grow their company without growing headcount because they're able to operate more efficiently and have more access to resources." The CEO emphasized that the use of AI is not meant to replace labor internally or for partnered companies but to instead enhance the work of current employees. "Our AI systems aren't meant to cut a company's headcount from 500 to 50. We want those 500 people to be 10,000 percent better. That's where the effectiveness comes in," Spray said. The company has eight AI engineers who work on both internal AI innovations and with clients to establish AI services. Spray said clients using the AI tools save money.

## THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

With students filling their backpacks and teachers preparing lessons, many Nebraska schools are preparing for classes to start up again this month. Nebraska's 2025 Teacher of the Year Lindsey Wilson prepared her own classroom to welcome back her students at Bennington Middle School on Wednesday, Aug. 13. She said she's excited to see her students collaborate in the creative and curious space that is her classroom. "There's just nothing about that first day or first week energy," Wilson said. "There's a ton of buzz in the air, and it's all about the possibilities ahead, and just that feeling that we all get a fresh start." One of the biggest challenges facing educators this year, Wilson said, is finding ways to keep their students engaged, especially in a world full of technology. "We're also dealing with evolving technology, especially in the age of AI, and finding the best ways to use it as a tool for learning versus a distraction," she said. Wilson added that AI has endless possibilities, and she wants to try to see what works so she can help her students understand the tool.



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**HIGH PLAINS RADIO**

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

**96.1 KICX**

**TOMORROW @ 7:10**  
**VS**  
**CHICAGO WHITE**  
**SOX**



**HORIZON BANK** **1300**  
The BIG Talker  
KBRL - McCook

## SPORTS

### 2025 MID PLAINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAR RAFFLE 1972 GMC C10



TODAY AUGUST 14TH

EMBERS DRIVE-THRU 10:00-11:30  
NEBRASKA LAND TIRE 12:00-1:30  
SHELL 2:00-3:30

DRAWING WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER



## FUN FACT

Across the country, there are approximately 480,000 registered school buses, taking 26 million children to and from school every day.

Following fall practice, special teams coordinator Mike Ekeler met with members of the media to share his thoughts and experiences with the Huskers' new punter, Archie Wilson. "Man, that guy is special. I mean, he truly is," Ekeler said. "He's 18 years old, leaves home for the first time, goes to a different country, and leaves his family which he's extremely close to. What coach said about him is accurate. That kid knows every one of his teammates, and his teammates love him because of the energy he brings in the building, not just because of what he can do with the football." He spoke on the special teams unit's mindset during fall camp. "It's not where we start, it's where we finish," Ekeler said. "Wishing and trying and hoping, we don't use those words. What we do is we work every single day. When you work, and you put it on film, and players see that what you're doing works they gain confidence. They gain confidence by going out there and having success." Ekeler discussed the Huskers' punt return team. "Our saying on punt returns is 'get it started man, just get it started,'" he said. "We want to lead the country in the number of punt returns and we want to average 10 yards or more. Every time you return a ball, you're giving your offense a first down. Instead of starting on the 30, you're on the 40 or instead of on the 40, you're on the 50."

Daylen Lile's two-out, ninth-inning single boosted the Washington Nationals over the Kansas City Royals 8-7 on Wednesday. After the Royals tied the game in the eighth, Luis García Jr. doubled, then scored on Lile's single to right for the lead. Jose A. Ferrer (4-3) recorded four outs for the win. Carlos Estévez (4-5) took the loss after allowing one run on two hits and a walk in the ninth. The Nationals took a five-run lead in the first, highlighted by Nathaniel Lowe's grand slam. Royals starter Seth Lugo surrendered seven runs on six hits over four innings. The five runs in the first was his most since an eight-run fourth inning against the Dodgers on Aug. 7, 2023. CJ Abrams hit his 16th homer leading off the fourth for a 7-3 Nationals lead. The Royals chipped away with two runs in the first and one in the second before Vinnie Pasquantino's three-run homer cut the Nationals lead to 7-6. Bobby Witt Jr. hit an eighth-inning sacrifice fly to tie the game. Pasquantino has three homers and 11 RBI in his last four games. The Royals are off tonight and then will open a three-game series with the White Sox on Friday.

## Looking for L♥VE? Find it at the McCook Humane Society!



McCook Humane Society  
100 South Street, 345-2372  
Hours: M-F: 2-5, Sat: 12-4



## TODAY'S PUZZLE

## HOME OF BISON SPORTS!



### ACROSS

- 1 Torah table
- 5 Alphabet
- 8 Expert
- 11 Tilted
- 13 Find
- 14 Fight
- 15 Lowest point
- 16 Brand of dispensable candy
- 17 Sky
- 18 Governor (abbr.)
- 20 Hoofed mammals of tropical America
- 22 That was at one time
- 26 North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- 27 Aborts
- 28 Small cities
- 30 Fawn's mom
- 31 Micro\_\_ (document storage)
- 32 Jitney
- 35 Lay away
- 36 Messenger
- 37 Gap
- 39 All right
- 41 Bungle (2 wds.)
- 43 High-school club
- 44 W.C.
- 45 \_\_ feeling
- 47 Coffee shop order
- 51 Billion years
- 52 Manipulate
- 53 Toothbrush brand
- 54 United Parcel Service
- 55 Stretch to make do
- 56 GS

### DOWN

- 1 Outlaw
- 2 Terminal abbr.
- 3 Center
- 4 Adjusts
- 5 Viper
- 6 Vegetable
- 7 Painter
- 8 Expect
- 9 El Qahira
- 10 Goofs
- 12 Walked
- 19 Prophetic
- 21 Old-fashioned Dads
- 22 Proof ending
- 23 Spanish "one"
- 24 Poem of praise
- 25 Coffee
- 29 Puppy
- 31 Tire
- 32 Pouch
- 33 Good grief!
- 34 Focus
- 35 Cattle
- 36 Woodwind players
- 37 Boat with one mast
- 38 Diving birds
- 40 Do it again
- 41 Type of dressing
- 42 Large tooth
- 46 Ball holder
- 48 Coral reef
- 49 Entire
- 50 Federal Bureau of Investigation

