

**96.1 KICX**

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31, 2025

# Newsflash

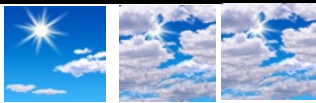
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## STOCKS

DOW	NASDAQ
94.87 TO 48,367.06	55.27 TO 23,410.08

## WEATHER



TODAY	THUR	FRI
Sunny	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy
High 60	High 57	High 49



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



## SORTING OUT THE STATE'S BUDGET

As the Nebraska Legislature begins to sort out the state's budget shortfall next week, income tax rates will fall again next month. A strong advocate for the tax cuts, Gov. Jim Pillen in a news conference Tuesday reaffirmed his commitment to "running government like business." The January income tax cut – from 5.2% to 4.55% – is the next incremental reduction from Pillen's 2023 tax reform package, which will ultimately reduce the income and business tax rates to 3.99% by 2027. "Our mission is simple: drive down the size and cost of government, while improving the services that taxpayers depend on," Pillen said in a Monday press release. "We're making Nebraska great for families – and keeping the 'Good Life' open for business." As the tax rate steps down again next month, the state of Nebraska has a problem to contend with: a hefty budget deficit sitting around \$470 million. At a campaign press conference Tuesday in which the governor championed new campaign endorsements ahead of 2026, Pillen fielded questions about the upcoming legislative session and the state's budget shortfall. "From day one, we're running government like business," Pillen said. "We have been incredibly focused on making sure that we're competitive with our neighbors. Our neighbors to the east have an income tax rate at 3.99. We will get that." Pillen said Nebraska needs to control spending in ways other than tax increases. "We're really excited to present a budget coming Jan. 15 that is going to get us back in the game, so we're competitive with our neighbors," Pillen said. "We're not singling out any one income bracket. We're focused on all Nebraskans."

## PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

A new Nebraska law aimed at protecting children online will take effect Jan. 1, putting restrictions on how social media and other online platforms design content for minors. The Age-Appropriate Online Design Code Act, known as LB504, requires certain online services to set accounts for minors to the highest privacy settings, limit data collection and restrict features designed to keep user online longer, such as autoplay and infinite scrolling. Supporters of the law say it's necessary to curb the addictive design of these platforms and cut down on the amount of personal data collected from children. They argue that social media companies design features that encourage prolonged use, often at the expense of young users' well-being. The law will also prohibit platforms from advertising products such as drugs, gambling and alcohol to minors. Additionally push notifications will be disabled during school hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and overnight on weekdays during the school year. The bill was proposed by Lincoln Senator Carolyn Bohn at the request of Gov. Jim Pillen, making Nebraska the third state to enact such legislation. The bill did face opposition from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Nebraska, which testified against the bill during legislative hearings. The organization warned the law could interfere with free speech and pressure platforms over moderate resulting in restricting lawful content.

## CONFIRMED MEASLES CASE

A confirmed measles case in Platte County has been reported to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The patient is an unvaccinated child with an out-of-state travel history in Arizona. Due to privacy, no further individual information will be provided. Measles is an acute, highly contagious respiratory viral disease. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, and rash. Although measles is usually considered a childhood disease, it can be contracted at any age. Children under the age of five, adults over the age of 20 years, non-immune pregnant and immunocompromised people are at greatest risk of developing severe complications from measles. There is no specific treatment for measles. Immunization is the best way to protect yourself and your family against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Children should receive their first dose of measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine between 12 and 15 months of age and another dose at four to six years of age.



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## NEW YEARS TOAST

"To all that we lost and  
all that we gained in the  
past year, and to all  
that's to come in the  
days ahead... cheers!"

The McCook Bison basketball teams split their opening games of the Malcolm Holiday Tournament yesterday. The Bison girls fell to Arlington 46-41. MHS will face Grand Island Northwest in the third-place game this morning at 10 a.m. Malcolm handed the GINW girls a 66-44 loss in the opener. The Bison boys rallied from 11 points down at the start of the fourth quarter, scoring 28 points in the final quarter en route to a 69-65 win over Arlington. The MHS boys will face Grand Island Northwest in the championship at 2:30 p.m. The Vikings defeated Malcolm in their opening game yesterday, 59-51.

Nebraska makes its second consecutive bowl appearance in 2025 in the SRS Distribution Las Vegas Bowl, where the Huskers will meet the Utah Utes on New Year's Eve Day. The game from Allegiant Stadium will kick off at 2:30 p.m. CT. Nebraska stands at 7-5 heading into the Las Vegas Bowl, after finishing Big Ten play with a 4-5 record. The Huskers increased their win total for the third consecutive regular season under Coach Matt Rhule and posted back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 2014. Nebraska's Vegas Bowl trip also marks the first back-to-back bowl appearances since a nine-year streak from 2008 to 2016. Utah comes into the Vegas Bowl with a 10-2 record and are No. 15 in the CFP, AP and Coaches polls. The Utes posted a 7-2 record in Big 12 play, losing only to conference title game participants Texas Tech and BYU. Utah owns a powerful rushing attack, averaging 269.8 yards per game to rank second nationally, while also ranking sixth in both scoring offense and scoring defense. Kyle Whittingham is in his 21st season leading the program and will complete his Ute coaching career in the Vegas Bowl.

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Hours: M-F: 2-5, Sat: 12-4



## TODAY'S PUZZLE

## HOME OF BISON SPORTS!



### ACROSS

- 1 Funny saying
- 5 Spoiled
- 8 Soviet Union
- 9 Washington (abbr.)
- 11 Seasickness symptom
- 14 Abraham's son
- 17 Musky
- 18 Surface
- 19 Japanese poem
- 21 Ride on the runway
- 22 Comes before a vowel
- 23 Car manufacturer
- 26 Sweet potatoes
- 29 Road (abbr.)
- 30 Head motion
- 31 Aluminum (abbr.)
- 32 Essence
- 35 People who get things done
- 38 Loudness unit (abbr.)
- 39 Shoshonean
- 41 Stomach sore
- 43 Clipped the tree
- 45 Time period
- 46 Helper
- 47 British King's name
- 50 Pound (abbr.)
- 51 Back of a coin
- 54 North northeast
- 55 Slope

### DOWN

- 1 Wharf
- 2 United States (abbr.)
- 3 State of being
- 4 Leading
- 5 Ready
- 6 Scale note
- 7 Apple type
- 9 Tail wiggle
- 10 Whiz
- 12 Rice wine
- 13 Flightless birds
- 15 Hot looking
- 16 Opera solo
- 18 Musical composition
- 19 Clasp
- 20 Negative (prefix)
- 24 Refastens
- 25 Collection of animals
- 27 Masculine
- 28 Speak indistinctly
- 33 Emit sound
- 34 Sharpen
- 36 Regretted
- 37 Salad
- 40 W. Australian capital
- 42 Ocean Spray's drink starters
- 43 Bud
- 44 Eve's beginning
- 45 Yowl
- 48 Radon (abbr.)
- 49 Dover locale
- 52 Sloth
- 53 Roman 49

