



FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 2026



96.1 KICX

STOCKS

DOW	↑	NASDAQ	↑
112.33 TO 49,261.96		226.43 TO 23,698.18	

WEATHER



TODAY	SAT	SUN
Very Windy High 36	Sunny/ Blustery High 25	Mostly Sunny High 50



WALK-IN HOURS
Monday - Friday
7am - 4:30pm
Saturday
8am - 10am

No Appointment Necessary



MONDAY-FRIDAY
11-2

1300
The BIG Talker
KBRL - McCook

Newsflash

www.highplainsradio.net 308-345-5400 openline@highplainsradio.net

STATE OF THE STATE SPEECH

Nebraska is in good shape, Gov. Jim Pillen said in his State of the State speech Thursday. He said his proposals will make it better, but some senators disagreed with his approach. For months, state government observers have wondered how Gov. Jim Pillen would handle a projected \$472 million shortfall in the state budget. Thursday, he assured people everything will be fine. "Our economy is incredibly broad, led by agriculture, banking, manufacturing, healthcare, construction and insurance," he said. "We in Nebraska our economy remains recession proof. We can bet the farm that Nebraska is primed to grow." Pillen criticized some unnamed "Debbie Downers" for looking on the dark side, saying his budget proposal will deal with the shortfall. "The result of this budget will mean a \$500 million improvement to the state's bottom line in this biennium. For those doing the math, take note, the proposal eliminates the make-believe budget crisis that so many critics have imagined over the last few months," he said. Sen. Danielle Conrad criticized the governor's characterization. "It's unhelpful when the governor says 'There's nothing to see here. We don't have a budget crisis.' Because that just does not it's not grounded in the reality of the dollars and cents of it," Conrad said. Pillen proposes to balance the budget through a combination of spending cuts, fund transfers, and as-yet unspecified tax changes. Some of the biggest proposed cuts, including to services for the ranging from funding for aged and disabled programs to Medicaid, would be in the Department of Health and Human Services.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents on Thursday unanimously approved the university's \$800 million plan to buy Clarkson Regional Health Services' half of Nebraska Medicine, along with acquiring several Clarkson-owned properties. NU President Jeffrey Gold said Clarkson's withdrawal is a unique opportunity. "There was the goal of Clarkson to make this seamless, to make it transformational, if at all possible, to enhance the mission, that was clearly in their vision a tight alignment between the University of Nebraska and Nebraska Medicine," Gold said. "What does it mean to be a world class academic medical center? What are the core values that we share? What does that mean to the people that we serve?" The university will pay for the deal using a combination of debt structure and monetizing the real estate being transferred through the agreement, either through renting or selling it, according to a university spokesperson. Regent Tim Clare apologized to Nebraska Medicine leaders and philanthropists for not including them in the conversations leading up to this vote, and said the next six months would be focused on including them in what happens next. "We can agree to disagree as to why they weren't consulted, but the fact remains that we did not consult these amazing partners, and I'm sorry," Clare said. "This is not how you treat your partners, and we will do better with our partnership." Several regents said this was a "once in a lifetime" chance. Regent Robert Schafer said the university has no intention of taking over Nebraska Medicine or its programs.

TEMPORARY TAX BREAK FOR SENIORS

As much as seniors love a new tax break, a risk exists that retirees and others will miss out if they think the new enhanced deduction for seniors on 2025 federal income tax returns is somehow automatic. It is not. Another potential problem: Treating your Social Security benefits as if they're not potentially taxable on 2025 federal income tax returns. They are. Many seniors will see substantially bigger refunds and smaller tax bills when they file their 2025 federal income tax returns if they qualify and pay attention to detailed rules. A new, temporary senior bonus will enable many taxpayers age 65 and older who fall within income limits to deduct up to \$6,000 in income from their federal returns. To do so, though, you must file a new, extra form called Schedule 1-A for "additional deductions." If you don't complete that form, you're not getting the much-publicized extra tax break for seniors that is part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed into law July 4.

1300
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103.9 THE HAWK
The Classic Rock Experience



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The Scoop
ice cream

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Norway created a nighttime panoramic train (Northern Lights Train) so you can watch the Northern Lights in comfort.

The McCook Bison boys wrestling team picked up dual wins over Oberlin and Phillipsburg last night in Oberlin. The MHS boys will join some other area teams at the Chase County Invite tomorrow. The Bison girls will compete at the Ord Invite today. The Bison basketball teams will host Hastings tonight at the MHS gym. Girls pregame coverage on KICX 961 and the KICX 961 YouTube channel will start at 5:40 with the tip-off at 6 p.m. The Bison teams travel to Minden tomorrow. Girls pregame coverage on KICX 961 starts at 2:10. Hi-Line travels to Arapahoe on 103.9 The Hawk. The Community Hospital pregame begins at 5:40. The Bison swimmers/divers will compete in the Lincoln High Invite today and tomorrow. The McCook Community College basketball teams will host Otero tonight and Trinidad State tomorrow at the Graff Events Center.

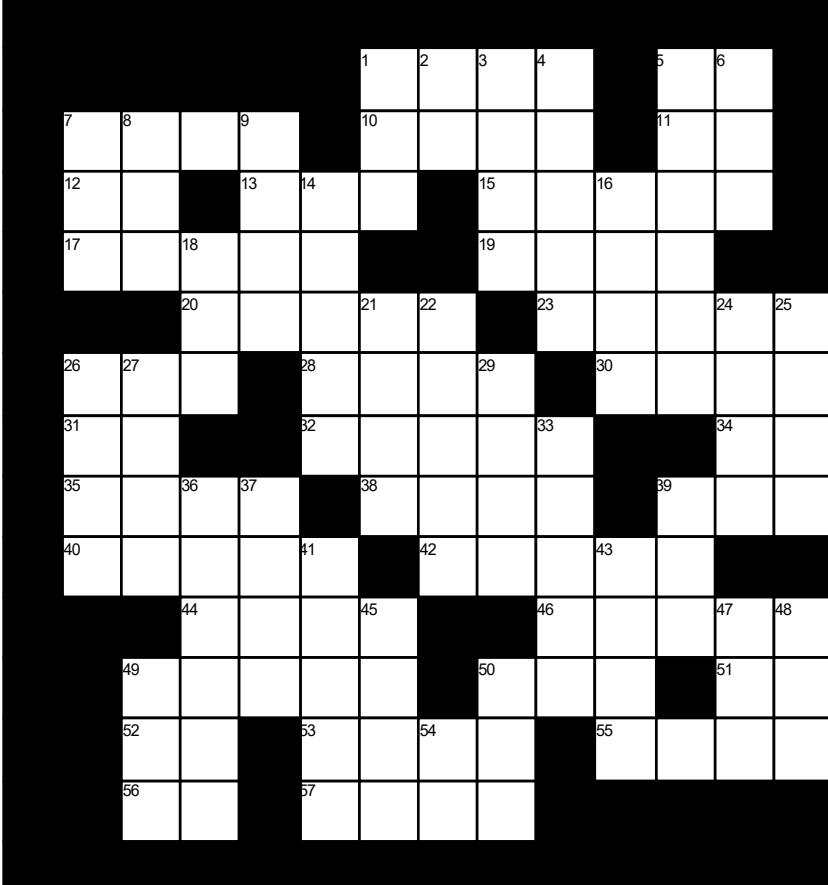
No. 24 Nebraska led No. 15 Michigan State 69-66 with 1:35 left, but the Spartans made the plays down the stretch to escape with a 73-71 win over the Huskers at the Breslin Center on Thursday night. Nebraska slipped to 14-4 overall and 3-4 in the Big Ten with all four losses to top 20 teams, while the Spartans improved to 17-1 and 6-1 in the conference. In a back-and-forth game in which no team held a double-digit lead at any point, the Huskers trailed 62-58 with six minutes left, before Amiah Hargrove led a significant Nebraska surge in a five-minute stretch. Hargrove, who finished with 21 points on 9-of-11 shooting, scored seven straight Nebraska points to put the Big Red up 65-64 with 3:58 left. The Huskers return to Big Ten road action next Wednesday when they travel to Wisconsin. Tip-off with the Badgers at the Kohl Center in Madison is set for 6:30 p.m. (CT).

TODAY'S PUZZLE**HOME OF BISON SPORTS!****ACROSS**

- 1 Go up
5 Michigan (abbr.)
7 Advertisement (abbr.)
10 6th month (Jewish calendar)
11 Indianapolis locale
12 Scale note after mi
13 Surface to air missile
15 Rotate
17 Not expensive
19 Gorilla "king"
20 Withstand
23 What an actor has
26 Sail
28 Layer
30 Roman emperor
31 United Nations, for short
32 Truss (2 wds.)
34 Possibly
35 Pros
38 Pixies
39 Enact
40 Whining speech
42 Many months
44 Alter
46 Large ponds
49 Trust
50 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
51 Biblical "look"
52 Past
53 Left
55 TV award
56 State of being
57 Asian country

DOWN

- 1 Cram
2 Idaho's abbr.
3 Container
4 Flub
5 Mix
6 Pen stuff
7 American Football Conference (abbr.)
8 Telegraphic signal
9 Russian ruler
14 Separated
16 Soon
18 Recede
21 Eight
22 Foe
24 Little Mermaid's love
25 Dull
26 Common Spanish name
27 Ancient Indian
29 Mislead lead on
33 Sacred song
36 Writings
37 Rice wine
39 Query
41 Freed (2 wds.)
43 Storm
45 Not who
47 Tree
48 Legume
49 Federal Bureau of Investigation
50 Bog
54 Not applicable

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