



WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2026



Newsflash

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96.1 KICX

STOCKS

DOW	↓	NASDAQ	↑
107.99 TO		97.82 TO	
48,393.28		22,614.51	

WEATHER



TODAY	THURS	FRI
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Chance Rain
High 65	High 74	High 55

FLAGS HALF-STAFF TO HONOR SGT. TIETJENS

The Pentagon on Tuesday said one of the six military members killed over the weekend as the U.S. and Israel struck Iran was a U.S. Army Reserve soldier was from Bellevue, Nebraska. The Defense Department identified four people who died when an Iranian strike hit a military operations center in Kuwait. The members killed were: Sgt. 1st Class Noah Tietjens, 42, of Bellevue, Nebraska, Capt. Cody A Khork, 35, of Winter Haven, Florida, Sgt. 1st Class Nicole M. Amor, 39 of Bear Lake, Minnesota and Sgt. Declan J. Coady, 20, of West Des Moines, Iowa. The Defense Department said in a statement that the troops died Sunday in Port Shuaiba during an unmanned aircraft system attack. They were assigned to the 103rd Sustainment Command based in Des Moines. The Pentagon is investigating the deadly attack. Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen ordered flags to fly at half-staff to honor Sgt. Tietjens. He said he and the First Lady were deeply saddened to learn of his death. "We are holding the Tietjens family close in our hearts during this unbelievably difficult time and will keep them in our prayers. Noah stepped up to serve and defend the American people from foreign enemies around the world a sacrifice we must never forget. Please join us in praying for the Tietjens and for all members of the United States military who stand in harm's way to protect our freedom."



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PROPOSED HIKE IN CIGARETTE TAXES

A proposed hike in cigarette taxes to help balance the state's budget was criticized as unfair to lower-income Nebraskans in the Legislature Tuesday. Nebraska currently taxes cigarettes at 64 cents per pack the tenth lowest state rate in the country, and one that hasn't increased since 2002. The proposal by Sen. Tony Sorrentino would increase that to \$1.64 a pack about in the middle among the states. "LB1124 is not an indictment of smokers or smoking. It is a reimbursement mechanism that aligns the source of revenue with one of the state's largest budget drivers. This is a huge expense being removed from the general fund, thereby assisting the state in recovering our deficit while creating a logical cause and effect relationship," Sorrentino said. Supporters said since smokers disproportionately use the Medicaid system, it's fair that they pay a higher share of the expenses. But Sen. Dunixi Guereca said the tax would be unfair to working class Nebraskans, who are more likely to smoke. Guereca said most of the tax would be paid by people in households with incomes under \$50,000. "So we're going to tax our hard-working, working-class Nebraskans, a very pointed tax at them to give a tax break to the richest Nebraskans and largest corporations?" Guereca said.

FUEL PRICES HAVE INCREASED

Gas prices in Nebraska have increased sharply over the past few days after the U.S. and Israel bombed Iran over the weekend. According to AAA, the average price in Nebraska of a gallon of unleaded gasoline was nearly \$2.88 as of Tuesday morning. That price was 16 cents higher than Monday and nearly 25 cents higher than it was a week ago. Some individual cities have seen larger jumps though. Prices in Columbus on Tuesday were averaging \$2.81 a gallon, less than the state average. But that price was up almost 19 cents over Monday and was 34 cents higher than it was a week ago. Norfolk has seen prices go up 35 cents in the past week, while in North Platte, the average price has jumped above \$3 a gallon. AAA Nebraska spokesman Brian Ortner said that the increase is mostly due to the conflict in the Middle East, which has caused oil prices to increase, but it's also being driven somewhat by the time of year. Refineries are starting to produce summer-blend gasoline, which contains pricier additives to help reduce evaporation during warmer months and improve air quality. That causes prices to rise, as does the fact that demand starts to ramp up in March as spring break season hits and people drive more. The good news is that gas prices remain low relative to the past few years. "We're definitely still lower than we were last year across the state as an average, which is a great thing to see," Ortner said.

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7am - 4:30pm

Saturday
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No Appointment Necessary

THE CLAY TRAVIS & BUCK SEXTON SHOW

MONDAY-FRIDAY
11-2

1300 The BIG Talker
KBRL - McCook

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

96.1 KICX

Coaches Coffee Club

SATURDAY MORNINGS AT

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

A man only learns in two ways, one by reading, and the other by association with smarter people.

~Will Rogers~

The Nebraska state high school girls basketball tournament tips off today in Lincoln. The Dundy County-Stratton Tigers are the top-seed in Class D2 and will face Loomis in their first round game at 8 a.m. Pregame coverage on 103.9 The Hawk starts at 8:40. The DCS/Loomis winner will face the Silver Lake/Archangels Catholic winner tomorrow morning in the semifinals. Arapahoe and Maywood-Hayes Center will play their first round games tomorrow.

A cold-shooting night proved costly as No. 9 Nebraska fell at UCLA, 72-52, late Tuesday evening. The Huskers (25-5, 15-5 Big Ten) shot just 38.8 percent, including 5-of-24 from 3-point range in seeing their three-game win streak snapped. Sam Hoiberg led three Huskers in double figure with 12 points, while Rienk Mast and Cale Jacobsen added 11 points apiece. Trent Perry led UCLA (20-10, 12-7 B1G) with 20 points and seven rebounds while Eric Dailey Jr. added 14 points and eight rebounds for the winners. The Bruins shot 46 percent from the field, including 10 3-pointers to improve to 17-1 at home and pick up their third top-10 home win of the season.

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



LAND OF THE FREE
BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE



TODAY'S PUZZLE

HOME OF BISON SPORTS!



ACROSS

- 1 Brassiere
- 4 Heal
- 8 Fee
- 12 Atmosphere
- 13 Water (Sp.)
- 14 Dueling sword
- 15 Con (2 wds.)
- 17 Little
- 19 Miserable
- 20 Totals
- 22 Caesar's six
- 23 Compass point
- 24 Hectogram (abbr.)
- 26 Tree growth
- 29 Relating to a Duke
- 31 Unclip
- 32 Flightless bird
- 33 Wading bird
- 36 Aphrodite
- 38 Bushed
- 39 ___evated railroad
- 40 Rive
- 41 New York (abbr.)
- 42 East
- 44 Rowing tool
- 46 Filament
- 48 Ballroom dance
- 51 Syrian bishop
- 52 Oodles
- 54 Slide on snow
- 55 Lean
- 56 Admire
- 57 Border

DOWN

- 1 Shun
- 2 Rio de Janeiro
- 3 Branch of learning
- 4 ___ Gras
- 5 Self
- 6 Greek "N"
- 7 Capital of Syria
- 8 Think
- 9 Musical composition
- 10 Permit
- 11 Downwind
- 16 Behavioral psychologist
- 18 Thought
- 21 Misuse
- 23 Tally (2 wds.)
- 25 Relish
- 27 "The ___ Cola"
- 28 Road (abbr.)
- 29 Can be denied
- 30 Citizen of Libya
- 34 "To ___ or not to ___"
- 35 Des Monies locale
- 37 Canal
- 41 Rowdy
- 42 Abbreviate (abbr.)
- 43 Influence
- 45 Haste
- 46 Crow's call
- 47 Kimono sash
- 48 I want my ___
- 49 Stretch to make do
- 50 Dickens' Tiny ___
- 53 ___ line

