



96.1 KICX

TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2026

Newsflash

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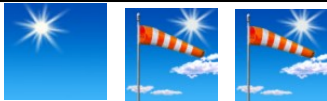
1300
The **BIG Talker**
KBRL - McCook

103.9
THE HAWK
The Classic Rock Experience

STOCKS

DOW ↓	NASDAQ ↓
4.87 TO	64.09 TO
49,442.56	24,404.39

WEATHER



TODAY	WED	THUR
Sunny	Sunny/ Breezy	Sunny/ Breezy
High 90	High 88	High 77

STATE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT GROW

Gov. Jim Pillen said that state government will not grow, even as Nebraska faces a budget deficit of more than \$630 million in the next biennium, which begins in July 2027. Pillen addressed the shortfall and underlined his budget strategy during a roundtable with his cabinet Monday morning. "As long as I'm your governor, we will not be growing government," Pillen said. "(We will) make sure that Nebraskans are getting all their money, that we're not storing it in pillowcases." The Legislature spent the majority of its 60-day session trying to solve a more-than \$471 million budget deficit for the current biennium, which ends in July 2027. Even though senators balanced the budget, the Department of Revenue reported that March tax receipts came in much lower than anticipated, and the state now needs \$72 million more for the current biennium. But Pillen said he doubted if the budget deficit projections are realistic. As he faces a competitive race for governor, he confidently maintained his budget strategy. "We'll just keep working on running the government like a business and make sure we balance the budget every single day and every single year," Pillen said. Pillen also addressed the upcoming closure of a Tyson Foods meatpacking plant in Lexington, adding that he has biweekly discussions with Tyson's leadership. Based on those conversations, Pillen estimated the plant will continue operating until August this year as the company works to finish its shutdown, and he expressed hope that the facility might continue to be an employer in some other fashion. Pillen added that Nebraska is key to Tyson's success, on par with Arkansas, where the company is based.



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VOTING BY MAIL

Nebraskans voting by mail are encouraged to send their ballots at least a week before the primary election. That's because in recent years, the U.S. Postal Service has lowered its delivery standards in the face of financial pressure, leading to slower delivery times. Lancaster County sent out more than 32,000 absentee ballots on April 6. Election commissioner Todd Wiltgen said he recommends people send their ballots in the mail by May 5 at the latest. "The Postal Service is inconsistent when it comes to mail delivery. There have been issues that have caused delays of upwards of a week for mail to be delivered," Wiltgen said. "That's why we went ahead with our standard, which is we advise voters not to mail their ballots within a week of the election." If voters haven't mailed their ballot by May 5, Wiltgen said they should use one of the five drop boxes around Lancaster County. During the 2024 election, USPS said it delivered nearly all ballots within seven days. "USPS employs a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling and delivery of all election mail, including ballots. In 2024, we delivered 99.88% of mail-in ballots within seven days," a spokesperson told Nebraska Public Media News. "Our success in delivering election mail in past elections, as well as more specific information on vote by mail, can be found in the election mail section on usps.com." Recent changes in service standards will cause more delays in rural areas than non-rural communities, according to an analysis by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

SOME NATIONAL GUARD ON ACTIVE STATUS

Gov. Jim Pillen on Monday issued a proclamation placing certain National Guard assets on active status to ensure they are ready and available to respond to wildfires. The proclamation covers aviation assets, as well as support personnel and equipment. "Protecting the citizens of Nebraska is my number one priority," Pillen in a news release. "We are ensuring that resources are ready to combat fires and safeguard lives and property. I have full confidence in Adjutant General Strong to lead our state's disaster response with efficiency and effectiveness." Pillen mobilized the Nebraska National Guard in mid-March to assist with the wildfires in central and western Nebraska. Airmen and ground crews worked in coordination with the Iowa National Guard, local firefighters and volunteers from other states over several weeks to bring those fires under control. Even though Pillen lifted a statewide burn ban earlier this month, he pointed out in the news release that high winds, low humidity and dry conditions continue to be a concern. While overall drought conditions improved slightly in Nebraska last week, they worsened in western Nebraska. As of Thursday, nearly 82% of the state remains in severe drought or worse, including nearly 44% in extreme drought. Pillen's move comes after he asked for a 30-day extension in applying for a federal disaster declaration related to the March wildfires in central and western Nebraska.

RADIO JOB LINK

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

96.1 KICX

TONIGHT @ 6:40

BALTIMORE
ORIOLES



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

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MCCOOK CLINIC
1301 East H Street | 308.344.4110

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

No Appointment Necessary

**Coaches
Coffee Club**

**SATURDAY
MORNINGS AT**



96.1 KICX **1300**
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WEATHER 24/7 AND
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DID YOU KNOW

A guide dog named Roselle led a group of people, including her blind owner, down 78 flights of stairs before the North Tower collapsed on 9/11. She only stopped to give kisses to a woman who was having a panic attack."

The Wauneta-Palisade girls and Arapahoe boys won the Medicine Valley Track and Field team titles yesterday in Cambridge. A number of area athletes will compete at the Midwest Track Classic in Gothenburg later today. Chase County will host their invite in Imperial. The Bison girls tennis team hits the road for North Platte for duals against the Bulldogs and Hershey. The Bison golfer will host the Ron Coleman Invite at Heritage Hills. The McCook Community College baseball team will host Colby Community College in a nine-inning game at the Jaycee Sports Complex this afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

Freshman Drew Grego has been named the Big Ten's Co-Player of the Week and Freshman of the Week, the league office announced Monday. The outfielder sparked the Husker offense across a four-game stretch last week, going 8-for-18 with two doubles, three home runs, 12 RBI and six runs scored. The Papillion, Neb., native recorded the second-most RBI nationally last week and posted a 1.056 slugging percentage and a .444 on-base percentage over the stretch. Grego opened the week with a 2-for-4 performance with a home run, three RBI and two runs scored in Nebraska's 5-4 win against Creighton. He followed that up with a double and an RBI in the series opener vs. No. 12 USC before going 3-for-4 with a double, home run, four RBI and two runs scored in Saturday's run-rule win over the Trojans. The freshman concluded the week with a 2-for-5 outing with a home run and four more RBI in the 16-6 win against USC in the series finale on Sunday.

Looking for L♥VE?

Find it at the McCook Humane Society!



TODAY'S PUZZLE

HOME OF BISON SPORTS!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tin (abbr.)
 - 3 Heifer
 - 5 Part
 - 7 Envoys
 - 11 Spring flower
 - 12 Brad ____, actor
 - 14 Baby eagle
 - 15 Greek stringed instrument
 - 17 Canadian prov.
 - 18 Lick
 - 19 Wipe
 - 24 .16 of an inch
 - 25 Not mine
 - 26 Repose
 - 27 Of Egypt
 - 29 Professional football team
 - 30 Stiff
 - 31 Toward

- DOWN**
- 1 Carve
 - 2 Taboo
 - 4 Coward
 - 6 Shadow
 - 7 Made a hole
 - 8 Unwell
 - 9 Desert
 - 10 Spruce
 - 11 Candy
 - 13 Plot of land
 - 14 Vane direction
 - 16 Government agency
 - 20 Challenger
 - 21 Fall mo.
 - 22 Shout
 - 23 Cleverness of wit
 - 24 Pod vegetables
 - 26 Frosted
 - 28 Mexican sandwich

