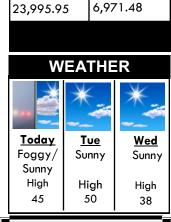
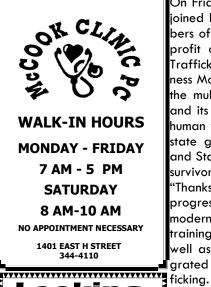


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MONDAY JANUARY 14, 2019

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FACING MANY CHALLENGES

Speaker of the Legislature Jim Scheer says state lawmakers face many challenges as they begin a new legislative session. Many bills will be filed, many issues will surface, but one stands out, according to Speaker Scheer. "The biggest difficulty without question is going to be funding," Scheer tells reporters. "We've had now three months in a row that have been lower than expectations." State revenue simply hasn't rebounded. Scheer, a state senator from Norfolk, anticipates the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board will lower revenue expectations further, compounding the fiscal problem facing legislators this year. This is the long, 90-day legislative session, the first half of the two-year session in which lawmakers draft a state budaet. Gov. Pete Ricketts will outline his fiscal priorities tomorrow in the State of the State address. The governor submits his plan to the legislature. The Appropriations Committee led again by Sen. John Stinner of Scottsbluff then begins work to fashion a budget to submit to the legislature for debate.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

On Friday, Governor Pete Ricketts and First Lady Susanne Shore were joined by Attorney General Doug Peterson, State Senators, and members of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF), and nonprofit organizations to recognize January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. After signing a proclamation, Governor Ricketts highlighted the multi-disciplinary response developed and carried out by NHTTF and its many partners across the state. "In Nebraska, the fight to end human trafficking has been an ongoing collaboration among local and state government, state agencies like the Attorney General's Office and State Patrol, as well as local law enforcement, community partners, survivor leaders, and the non-profit community," said Governor Ricketts. "Thanks to this team effort, we continue to raise awareness and make progress towards ending the great evil of human trafficking, which is a modern form of slavery." The strengthening of laws by the Legislature, training across the state by the Attorney General's Office (AGO), as well as proactive operations and investigations by NHTTF, have integrated the building of an effective approach in combating human traf-

DEFINING MEAT

More than four months after Missouri became the first U.S. state to regulate the term "meat" on product labels, Nebraska's powerful farm groups are pushing for similar protection from veggie burgers, tofu dogs and other items that look and taste like real meat. Nebraska lawmakers will consider a bill this year defining meat as "any edible portion of any livestock or poultry, carcass, or part thereof" and excluding "lab-grown or insect or plant-based food products." It would make it a crime to advertise or sell something "as meat that is not derived from poultry or livestock." Similar measures aimed at meat alternatives are pending in Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming. They come amid a debate over what to call products that are being developed using the emerging science of meat grown by culturing cells in a lab. Supporters of the science are embracing the term "clean meat" — language the Jui: 12-4 conventional meat industry strongly opposes.





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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself. ~Harvey Fierstein~

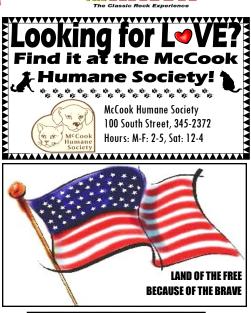




SPORTS

The McCook Bison basketball teams split a pair of aames on Saturday at the MHS gym. The Lady Bison won their fifth game of the season, knocking off Minden 45-33. The Minden boys won the nightcap 34-28. Both McCook teams will host Lexington at the high school gym tomorrow night. The Paxton and Southwest boys join the Dundy County-Stratton and Cambridge girls are top-seeds for the upcoming RPAC Conference basketball tournament starting this weekend. East Division first round games will be play in Arapahoe this Saturday while Wauneta-Palisade will host West Division games. The finals and consolation games will be played on January 26th at the Graff Events Center in McCook.

Sophomore Hailey Tiles (Rogers, Ark.) led MCC in scoring with 15 points. Sophomore Sam Hinkle, (Rifle Colo.) had 12 points. Freshmen Makenna Bodette (Colorado Springs) and Lena Goerke (Hamburg, Germany) both scored 10 points. Freshman Nikki Cross (Melbourne, Australia) led MCC with seven rebounds to go along with seven points and four assists. "This will be a good learning experience moving forward as we prepare for a tough Region IX schedule next week," Fernetti said. "We just have to keep our heads held high and still believe in what we are doing. The Blue Devils improve to 16-2 on the season. MCC closes out the "pre-conference" portion of the schedule at 11-5 with only Region IX or Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference games remaining on the schedule. Region IX South Division play begins Friday as the Lady Indians hit the road for four straight Region IX games starting at Otero Junior College and Trinidad State on back-to-back nights, then at Western Nebraska Jan.22 and at Northeastern Junior College Jan. 25. MCC closes out the January schedule Jan. 29 against North Platte then plays six home games in February with the final home game Feb. 23 against Lamar Community College.





TODAY'S PUZZLE

DOWN

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26 Evils

18 Rested

3 Prays

Residence hall

Opera solo

4 Ear protector

Move away Caraoes

Angel hair pasta

Sign language Reporter's question

11 Student debt cause

22 First letter in Hebrew alpha-

20 Miles per hour

24 After awhile

Yin's partner

Finger part

Corruptive

agency (abbr)

Mouser

37 Scene

44 Meshes

Catching fire

Infant's disease

43 Musical composition

Fencing sword

Note of debt

Computer makers

Turns sickly yellow

35 Environmental protection

ACROSS

- Pat lightly
- 4 Conder
- Crow's call
- 10 Lode yield
- Game
- 13 Tree 14 Cheat
- 15 Not rural
- 16 Layer
- 17
- Geological formation 19 Districts of ancient Attica
- 21 Map collection
- 23 Parody
- 26 First
- 29 Dardic language
- 30 Fall back
- 31 **Musical production**
- Not (refix) 33
- 34 Napkin fabric
- Throbbing 36
- 38 Slipup
- 39 South American country
- 40 Mexican sandwich
- 42 Nary (2 wds.)
- 46 Three
- 48 Grant
- 50 High-school club
- 51 fire
- New Testament book 52
- 53 North American Indian
- 54 Rob 55 Discs
- 56 Compass point
- 49 Limited (abbr.)

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