

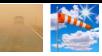




STOCKS

DOW 51.78 TO 31,060.47 NASDAQ 56.517 TO 13,128.95

WEATHER





45

FRI Very Windy High 41

SAT Partly Sunny High 47

THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 2021

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Voters could choose to take a dramatic step toward reducing local property taxes under a constitutional amendment proposed on Wednesday. State Sen. Tom Briese of Albion is proposing that the state take over financing of all "classroom expenses" of local, K-12 schools, relieving property taxes from funding teacher salaries, books and other costs. Expenses for buildings and administrators would likely remain a local responsibility. The rural senator, who has offered several proposals to reduce property taxes, said that voter approval of such a proposal would address one of the main drivers of the state's "crisis" of high property taxes Nebraska's lack of support for local schools, which ranks near the bottom nationally. Briese estimated that it would shift about 60% of the cost of K-12 schools to the state. Because rural schools get far less state aid than the state's largest school districts, the impact would be biggest in farming and ranching areas. "For far too long the State of Nebraska has shirked its obligation to provide for the 'free education' of its students. Instead, the state has continually chosen to pass on the bulk of the cost of public education to its property tax payers," Briese said.

NEXT PHASE OF ADMINISTERING VACCINE

Nebraska will start vaccinating anyone 65 years old and older as part of its next phase in administering the COVID-19 vaccine. But a top official in Nebraska's vaccine effort cautioned that the shifting priority will add 300,000 to 400,000 people to the next vaccine group. And one UNMC expert warns that the expanded rollout might not speed the effort and even could create more confusion. Nebraska's move comes after the vaccine quidance shifted Tuesday from the federal Operation Warp Speed effort. The outgoing administration urged states to open up vaccines beyond the previously stated priority of people 75 years and older. The new recommendation calls for vaccinating people 65 and older, along with younger people with documented medical conditions. Asked about the changing guidance early Tuesday, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts declined to sign off on the change locally. He said the state would examine the guidance, but wanted to be sure Nebraska had its necessary supply to get people their recommended second doses.

NATIONAL GUARDS BEING SENT TO D.C.

The Nebraska National Guard is sending approximately 230 personnel to Washington, D.C., to provide support for the inauguration of President-elect Joseph Biden as our nation's 46th Commander-in-Chief. Nebraska's initial plan for inauguration support called for 30 personnel to provide communications, food service, administrative and religious support to the National Guard task force. A subsequent request for another 200 personnel to assist civilian law enforcement with security operations was received and approved by Nebraska officials this week. Soldiers and Airmen from the National Guards of nearly all 54 states, territories and District of Columbia are expected to provide security, communications, medical evacuation and other support to civilian authorities throughout the presidential inauguration. This is the third consecutive presidential inauguration the Nebraska National Guard has supported. The Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen will assist in protecting property and providing a safe environment for citizens to exercise their right to peacefully assemble and protest. The personnel are scheduled to be on duty through the presidential inauguration Jan. 20. Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts authorized the Nebraska National Guard support after a request from the District of Columbia National Guard.





McCook Humane Society



100 South Street 345-2372 Hours: M-F: 2-5 Sat: 12-4

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



Your Nebraska Huskers play on





WALK-IN HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 7 AM - 5 PM

SATURDAY

8 AM-10 AM

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

1401 EAST H STREET 344-4110

DAVE RAMSEY MONDAY-FRIDAY 6 A.M.-9 A.M.













Want to Live Free for a Month?



COMING SOON! STAY TUNED TO KICX 96.1 FOR MORE **DETAILS!**



QUOTE OF THE DAY

Sunset is still my favorite color, and rainbow is second! ~Mattie Stepanek~

SPORTS

The McCook Bison wrestlers return to the mats later today, traveling to Oberlin for a triangular with the host Red Devils and Phillipsburg. McCook High School alum Joe Buresh is an assistant coach for the Panthers. The Bison will be back in Oberlin for their invite on Saturday. The Bison basketball teams return to the court tomorrow night, traveling to Hastings for a girlsboys doubleheader. The Bison will host Minden on Saturday at the high school gym. The Bison swimmers/divers leave tomorrow for the Cotter Invite in Lincoln.

USC Running Back Markese Stepp announced he is transferring to Nebraska. The Indianapolis native will still have three years of eligibility remaining, as he took a redshirt in 2018 after playing in four games. He played in 15 games over three seasons with USC. Over his career, Stepp who has been slowed by injuries has 100 carries for 505 yards and six touchdowns, to go along with four catches for 35 yards. He replaces Dedric Mills who has decided to move on to the NFL after rushing for 396 yards on 84 carries this past season.





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TODAY'S PUZZLE



HOME OF BISON SPORTS FOR 42 YEARS!

ACROSS

- 1 Band instrument
- 5 Overshoe
- 11 Thirst avencher
- 14 Move close to
- 15 Garner
- 16 Pod vegetable
- 17 Farm credit administration (abbr.)
- 19 Part abbr.
- 21 Slide on snow
- fide 23
- 26 I see
- 27 Fasten
- 28 Neuter pronoun
- 29 Envisage
- 32 Hubbub
- 33 Civilian army unit
- 35 Coffee brand
- 38 Seniors
- Promethium (abbr.) 39
- 41 Dog
- 42 Georgia (abbr.)
- 43 Talk about, with "over"
- 45 African antelope
- 46 Dayton locale
- 47 Movie star Taylor
- 48 Gross national product (abbr.)
- 50 Boyfriend
- 53 Offer as an excuse
- 55 Grown-ups
- 58 Drops (2 wds.)
- 59 Hunted animal

- 1 Ready
- 2 "To __ or not to _
- 3 Atlantic, for example
- 4 Terminal abbr.
- 6 like
- 7 Mouth part
- 8 City
- 9 Allayed
- 10 Helium (abbr.)
- 12 Arkansas
- 13 Dr.,'s helper
- 17 Federal Bureau of Investigation
- 18 Fold-up bed
- 19 Pitter
- 20 Not our
- 22 The other half of Jima
- 24 Place
- 25 Farm laborer in Arab (2 wds.)
- 30 San __ (CA city)
- 31 Rescue
- 34 Fire remains
- 35 Microgram
- 36 Forest
- 37 Dark hair color
- 39 Pressure unit
- 40 Megacycles per second
- 44 Birds "thumb"
- 49 Old-fashioned Fathers 50 Barium (abbr.)
- 51 Mr. __ (tv horse)
- 52 August (abbr.)
- 53 Place (abbr.)
- 54 Decigram (abbr.)
- 56 Thulium (abbr.) 57 Compass point

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