



Sunny

High

81

Chance

Tstrms

High

86

TODAY Sunny High

92



**MONDAY - FRIDAY** 7 AM - 5 PM SATURDAY 8 AM-10 AM

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY 1401 EAST H STREET 344-4110



MONDAY-FRIDAY 1-2



FRIDAY MAY 17, 2024





#### **ORIGINAL REFERENDUM WILL NOT BE ON BALLOT**

Sponsors of the private education tax credits referendum were notified Thursday that Secretary of State Bob Evnen does not intend to place the issue on the November general election ballot. The referendum sought to repeal LB753, the Opportunity Scholarships Act, which became law in 2023. A press release stated Evnen made the decision following the Nebraska Legislature's recent passage of LB1402, which repealed LB753. The Secretary of State's office consulted with the Office of the Attorney General regarding the issue. "Since the previous law will no longer be in effect by the time of the general election, I do not intend to place the original referendum on the ballot," Evnen said in a press release. On April 30 the same petition organizers filed a new referendum, this time seeking to partially repeal LB1402. Petition organizers have until July 17 to collect valid signatures from 5% of Nebraska's registered voters. Additionally, as with any statewide petition, sponsors will need to collect valid signatures from 5% of Nebraska registered voters in at least 38 counties.

### **RURAL MAINSTREET INDEX**

For a ninth straight month, the overall Rural Mainstreet Index (RMI) sank below growth neutral, according to the May survey of bank CEOs in rural areas of a 10-state region dependent on agriculture and/or energy. Overall: The region's overall reading for May fell to 44.2 from 45.8 in April. The index ranges between 0 and 100, with a reading of 50.0 representing growth neutral. "Higher interest rates, weaker agriculture commodity prices and higher grain storage costs pushed the overall reading below growth neutral for the ninth straight month," said Ernie Goss, PhD, Jack A. MacAllister Chair in Regional Economics at Creighton University's Heider College of Business. Farming and ranching land prices: After rising above the growth neutral threshold for 53 straight months, the region's farmland prices slumped to 47.9 from April's 56.5. "For the first time in more than four years, Creighton's survey is detecting weakening farmland price growth. Only 4.2% of bankers reported that farmland prices expanded from previous levels," said Goss. Bankers registered average yearly cash rents for non- irrigated crop land in the region of \$245 per acre. According to trade data from the International Trade Association, regional exports of agriculture goods and livestock for 2024 year-to- date were down 9.5% from the same period in 2023.

## RENEWABLE FUELS MONTH

U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts (R-NE), member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, led a bipartisan resolution to designate May 2024 as Renewable Fuels Month in America. "Biofuels like ethanol and biodiesel are a win for Nebraska and a win for America," said Senator Ricketts. "This resolution recognizes the essential role renewable fuels play in lowering prices for consumers, reducing our impact on the environment, supporting rural communities, and lessening our reliance on foreign adversaries. I want to thank this bipartisan group of colleagues for their support and call on all Americans to continue choosing renewable fuels." Additional co-sponsors of the bill include U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Roger Marshall (R-KS), John Thune (R-SD), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Tina Smith (D-MN), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Deb Fischer (R-NE). The resolution also has the support of Growth Energy, Renewable Fuels Nebraska, and Clean Fuels Alliance America.







ARMADA MEDIA CORPORATION www.highplainsradio.net



NEWS, SPORTS, WEATHER 24/7 AND FIND US ON FACEBOOK

# **ON THIS DAY IN 1877**

The first telephone switchboard burglar alarm was installed by Edwin T. Holmes.

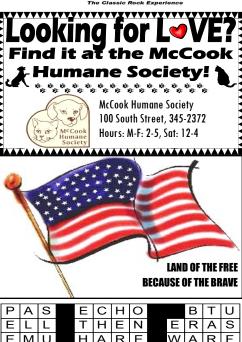




**SPORTS** 

The McCook Bison boys finished ninth and the Lady Bison tied for 🖡 18th after the final day of the Class B state track and field meet in Omaha yesterday. Norris won the boys division with 103 points. MHS scored 26 points. Waverly won the girls division with 66 points. The Bison girls scored eight points. Paige Bortner 🖡 won her second medal of the meet yesterday, finishing seventh 🖢 in the 800 meters. Bison long jumpers Brett Fraker and Evan Mai 🖡 finished fourth and sixth overall. Classes C and D start today in Omaha. Listen for reports from Burke Stadium on KICX 961 and 103.9 The Hawk.

The McCook Community College women's basketball team is still taking registrations for the Girls Basketball camps June 3-5 for girls in kindergarten through eighth grade and for the High School Girls Basketball Skills Camp June 2. MCC Coach Brandon Pritchett said he and his coaching staff and players are committed to providing each camper with quality one--on-one instruction. The goal is to help each camper develop as a student, player and person. "We will teach fundamental skills related to basketball, education and life," he said. For the high school girls skills camp, campers have the opportunity to attend four camp sessions targeted for specific positions throughout the day June 2. Registration forms for both camps are available on camps section of MCC Women's Basketball Page on the official site of McCook Community College Athletics at www.mccindians.com. For more information contact MCC Coach Brandon Pritchett at 308-345-8115 or email him at pritchettb@mpcc.edu



Ρ	А	S		Е	С	н	0			В	Т	U
Е	L	L		Т	н	Е	Ν		Е	R	А	S
Е	М	U		Н	Α	R	Е		W	А	R	F
Κ	А	М	Ρ	А	L	А		В	Е	Ζ	Е	L
			Ι	Ν	K		Κ	Е	R	Ι		
В	А	S	Т	Е		F	I	G		Е	S	Т
Ι	Т	С	Н		В	0	Х		Т	R	Ι	0
Т	Е	А		Е	E	G		W	Ι	S	Ρ	Υ
		Ν	0	Ρ	E		н	Е	R			
Ρ	А	Ν	D	А		С	А	Т	Е	R	Е	D
R	Е	Е	D		Ρ	0	R	Т		А	Ρ	Е
Е	R	R	S		Е	L	S	Е		Ν	Е	W
S	0	S			А	D	Н	D		к	Е	Υ

# TODAY'S PUZZLE

DOWN

Missed

Ultimate

1

2 Sickly

3

4

5

- ACROSS
- Disconnected 1
- 4 Observe secretly
- Steam bath 7
- 12 For
- 13 United States 14
- Pivots
- 15 Serving of corn "Scarlet 16
- 18 Severity
- 20 Wing
- 21 Unaccompanied
- 22 Wrecker
- Rates 26
- 28 Precedes an alias
- 29 Central Standard Time
- 31 Cornstalk
- 33 Permit
- What's owed 34
- 35 Remember 37 Detectors
- Public disorder 40
- 43 Card game
- 44 Stairway post
- 45 Pakistan inhabitant
- 50 Before, poetically
- 51 Malevolence
- Convert into leather 52
- 53 Clairvoyance
- 54 Belief 55
- Chicken creation
- 56 Web

7	Inscribed stone	
3	Halos	
>	Pot	

**Musical production** 

Pounds per square inch

Thanksgiving vegetable

- 10 Compass point
- 11 Sign language
- 17 3.26 light-years
- 19 Single
- 22 Centers
- 23 October holiday
- 24 Stretch to make do
- Repeat mindlessly
- 29
- 30 Take to court
- 32 Fixing the socks
- Palter 36
- 38 Larae hotel room
- 39 Beginning
- 41 Concise
- 42 Took a nap
- Pacific Time 45
- 46 Baboon
- 47 Cousin
- 48 Dined
- 49 Hen-peck

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16			17		+			
18			19				20					
21						22				23	24	25
		26			27					28		
29	30			31				32		33		
34					35				36			
37			38	39				40	+		41	42
			43	+				44	+			
45	46	47		+	+	48	49			50		
51						52				53		
E 4				_	_			_		50		

- 25 Rodent
- 27
- Disks