

**weather
report**

65°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 7:20 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:13 a.m.

Sunset, 7:21 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 47 degrees
- Humidity 35 percent
- Sky Sunny
- Winds S 26-35
- Barometer 30.15 inches and falling
- Record High 80° (1936)
- Record Low 9° (1953)

Yesterday's Data

- High 60°
- Low 27°
- Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Cloudy; 20 percent chance of precipitation; low 40; winds SE 10-20. Tomorrow: Cloudy 80 percent chance of rain; high 55; winds SE 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday through Friday: Dry all three days with highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

**local
markets**



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.30 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$2.29
 - Loan deficiency payment — 16¢
 - Corn — \$1.73 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$1.86
 - Loan deficiency payment — 13¢
 - Milo — \$2.63 cwt.
 - Soybeans — \$3.85 bu.
 - Posted county price — \$4.04
 - Loan deficiency payment — 85¢
 - Millet — \$4.25 cwt.
 - Sunflowers oil current — \$8.00 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.94
 - oil 1999 crop — \$8.55 cwt.
 - conf. current — \$17/\$10 cwt.
 - Pintos — \$12 (new crop)
- Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Frontier Equity
Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

**afternoon
wire**

Late news from the Associated Press
1 p.m.

Jury acquits McDougal

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Susan McDougal was found innocent of obstructing Kenneth Starr's Whitewater investigation and the judge declared a mistrial today on the other two charges against her. With the jury hopelessly deadlocked on the two criminal contempt charges, U.S. District Judge George Howard Jr. declared the mistrial on those counts and allowed jurors to deliver the one verdict they could agree on. "I had a fair trial and my day in court and I thank you for that," Mrs. McDougal told the judge after the jury left the courtroom. Prosecutor Mark Barrett said a retrial is "obviously an option." Barrett said he hoped prosecutors would decide within a couple of weeks whether to try the case again. Mrs. McDougal hugged her fiancé, Pat Harris, and her attorney, Mark Geragos.

Commission faces financing still under tax lid

In their first meeting since the city and schools elections, the Sherman County Commissioners will consider how to finance a new and the hospital's master lease agreement in light of voters' rejection of their bid to escape the state tax lid.

The meeting begins at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the first floor of the Sherman County Courthouse with an open public forum. During that time, anyone may discuss any business with the commissioners.

The commissioners will discuss a request from communications supervisor Mary Messamore to allow a split-shift pay scale for dispatchers. This item has been tabled several times because either Messamore has been unavailable to explain or a commissioner has been absent.

The bridge bond question was tabled at the last meeting because Commissioner Kenny Davis was absent. The commissioners will consider two ways to finance the bridge, to be built this summer on old U.S. 24 west to Goodland. The county could borrow the

money by leasing equipment to First National Bank, or it could go through a more traditional bond sale.

At the last meeting, the county's financial consultant recommended the bond method because it would not be under the tax lid, and would not tie up, through a lease, equipment the county may want to replace in the future.

Other items under old business include the review of a "certificate" the county has been asked to sign concerning the master lease for Goodland Regional Medical Center. County Attorney Mike Irvin was asked to review the certificate, which was requested by the First National Bank.

The commissioners will also consider a Kansas Cellular plan which was presented at the last meeting which would allow county employees to get lower phone rates, but would not obligate the county for any of their costs.

Also, Doug Johnson will talk to the commissioners about using the fairgrounds for roping practice.

The next commission meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 20.

Nebraska dedicates new waterfowl area to Brook Berringer

FAIRFIELD, Neb. (AP) — Jan Berringer of Goodland said her family was honored and humbled to have a wetlands project named in the memory of her late son, former Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer.

About 30 people joined her at the dedication of the Berringer Marsh Project Friday north of Fairfield. Ducks Unlimited had raised money to fix up the Kissinger Wildlife Management Area.

The project was named after the popular Nebraska player, who helped the Cornhuskers win a national football championship in 1994. Berringer, a Goodland High graduate, was killed when a small plane he was piloting crashed northwest of Lincoln on April 18, 1996.

Berringer was an outdoor enthusiast who enjoyed deer, quail and waterfowl hunting. He was quick to volunteer for many causes, including those of local wildlife conservation groups, such as the Nebraska chapter of Ducks Unlimited.

That, said DU's Great Plains regional biologist Rick Warhurst, is why Ducks Unlimited decided to dedicate the improvement project to him.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commis-

sion Chairman Bill Berryman of Kearney said the agency purchased the Kissinger Basin area with renovation in mind.

The 420-acre wetland area is part of the Rainwater Basin, a 4,200-square-mile area in south-central Nebraska used in the spring and fall by millions of migratory waterfowl.

"We put together a lasting, permanent way of remembering a truly great young man," said B.C. Kinsey of Lincoln, who served as chairman of the project's fund-raising campaign.

Mrs. Berringer said the wildlife area is even more special to her, given her family's history in the area. Her father, Edmund Ochsner, was born and raised in Sutton, Neb. Her husband, Warren, who died in 1981, also liked to hunt in the area.

"Brook's dad would be so proud," Mrs. Berringer said. "It's an honor for his whole family. It's so hard to describe. I'm so honored. (Brook) would be so proud. The whole thing is overwhelming."

The memorial marker placed at the Rainwater site reads: "Dedicated in memory of Brook Berringer — athlete, conservationist, sportsman and role model."

Senator blames abortion

EL DORADO (AP) — Sen. Sam Brownback says Social Security is in trouble in part because too many abortions mean too few workers available to pay into the system.

"A lot of people won't like this comment," the Kansas Republican said Friday to an audience of high school and college students at Butler County Community College. "You can see a real impact in the abortion policy we've had in this country. We have a lot fewer

people out here. You can see we have a lot fewer workers coming on board."

At a later speech in Wichita, Brownback stopped short of that assertion.

Some people were taken aback. "I don't think women should have on their backs fixing the economy of this country by having more children," said an older woman in the audience in El Dorado. She told Brownback he shouldn't blame women for shortcomings in Social Security system.

Legislature agrees on budgets, leaves other issues for final session April 28

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators were supposed to finish work on a bill with nearly \$9 billion worth of government spending, then adjourn their regular session.

But drafting a bill that contains most of the state's next budget requires a lot of work — and time — from the staff. So members had to wait.

They found enough filler to keep themselves reasonably busy, caucused on the proposed budget, voted to send it to Gov. Bill Graves and went home Saturday evening, 24 hours later than they had hoped.

The Legislature plans to return for a wrap-up session April 28. Its leaders typically schedule three days of meetings, though the wrap-up has

lasted as long as 12 days in the past.

Legislators met during the weekend because members negotiating budget issues didn't reach agreement until late Friday. It was their fifth day of discussions on a budget for the 2000 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The joint conference committee of three senators and three House members ducked some tough issues to come up with a compromise bill. Most dramatically, they did not include a single penny for juvenile justice programs.

Still, the final product was good enough for most members, who took heart in the addition of \$18 million in spending not recommended by Graves for programs for the mentally ill and de-

velopmentally disabled. The House adopted the conference report 97-25, and the Senate 35-2.

A coalition of Democrats and conservative Republicans pushed for the extra social services spending, irritating moderate Republican leaders in both chambers.

"We feel pretty good," said Rep. Phill Kline, R-Shawnee, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "We won a budget battle."

While they were waiting for their staff to finish drafting the conference committee's report, the Legislature dealt with other issues.

The House and Senate approved a compromise version of a bill that would restrict the authority of the state's "water czar."

The chief engineer of the Division of Water Resources would be required to submit proposed rules and regulations to the secretary of agriculture for comment, although the engineer still would make the final decisions.

Many legislators believe the chief engineer, who rules on water rights, has nearly unchecked power now.

Both houses also approved and sent to Graves a conference committee's version of legislation to make it harder for teen-agers to get driver's licenses.

The bill would require any applicant under 18 for an unrestricted license to complete 50 hours of driving supervised by an adult.



Director Linda Holton checks the labels of some pieces of historic furniture the High Plains Museum cannot display, including examples of early phonographs and a beautifully ornate coal stove. The museum is seeking ideas as it begins to plan for a new building. Photo by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

Museum wants to know how people think it should plan

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

To many people, a museum may be a collection of "grandpa and grandma's stuff," to others a repository of historical research material and to others a living record of the development of a county and the communities within.

Goodland's High Plains Museum, at age 40, is all those things and more, and a special committee is looking at what the museum wants to become in the future.

While a new building is several years away, the committee is looking for ideas to help determine how big it should be and what should be exhibited to develop a concept for design when an architect is consulted.

A professional conservator did an assessment in September 1996, and wrote: "The building has many critical space restrictions. The most serious problem with space is there is inadequate room for storage and collections preparation and processing or for changing exhibits. Another factor in support of relocating the museum is the potential for long-term damage and deterioration to the collection resulting from the power plant vibrations is very high and very real."

Director Linda Holton said the museum is out of storage space, and she says that when the city's generating diesel engines are running, part of the building vibrates and shakes the items on the shelves and walls.

"We are out of space for displaying items as well as for storage," Holton said. "Additionally, we want people to think about what stories we are not telling with what we have on display now."

"This is the time to dream, and we are hoping interested people will give us ideas about what we should be looking at for the future."

Holton said the museum covers the time period from the 1880s to the 1930s, but there is not much beyond that.

"We could do something with the '40s and '50s, but we need people to help us decide what we should be doing about the more recent history," Holton said. "For example, we don't have anything about the sugar beet and the impact they had on Sherman County. Should we have a display on this, and if so what kind of depth should we be looking at."

"Currently we have good displays for the early days, but we have quite a bit of additional material which we cannot put on display because there is no space the way the museum is laid out."

A questionnaire will be the next step in gathering ideas about the museum Holton said.

"It asks specific questions about what people would like to see, and will be available at each of Goodland's banks, the Chamber of Commerce, the Goodland City office, the Sherman County Courthouse, and the Goodland and Kanorado Senior Centers," she said. "If you have an interest in the museum, please pick up a form and fill it out. It may be left where you got it, or send it or bring it by the museum."

"Several focus groups are going to be held as well at the end of the month. If you would like to attend, and do not receive an invitation, please call the museum by Friday, April 23."

As a part of the continuing effort to determine the needs of the museum, a grant of \$3,000 has been awarded to have Conservator Matthew Crawford of the University of Denver come to Goodland and survey a sample of the museum's furniture, household goods, archival documents and newspapers, textiles, business machines and farm tool collections.