

weather report

90°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:03 p.m.
- Tomorrow
- Sunrise, 5:45 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:02 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 83 degrees
- Humidity 33 percent
- Sky mostly sunny
- Winds east at 4 mph
- Barometer 29.94 inches and falling
- Record High 104° (1943)
- Record Low 48° (1971)

Last 24 Hours*

High 98°
Low 68°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low near 65, south winds at 5 to 15 mph.
Friday: mostly sunny, hot, high 95 to 100, southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: chance of thunderstorms, low near 65, high near 90.
Sunday, Monday: chance of thunderstorms, low near 60, high near 85. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.16 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.96
Loan deficiency payment — .49¢
Corn — \$1.65 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.51
Loan deficiency pmt. — .48¢
Milo — \$2.40 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.65 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.57
Loan deficiency payment — 1.32¢
Millett — \$4 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.55 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.75
Oil new crop — \$6.45 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Heat wave still grips nation

OMAHA (AP) With temperatures in the 90s and humidity levels making it feel as hot as 110 degrees, it was a lonely day to be a furrier in Omaha, Neb.

Business wasn't exactly booming at Heather Ray's Christian Nobel Furs, despite an air-conditioned store and furs for up to 75 percent off.

Omaha sweltered through another day of scorching temperatures Wednesday as a heat wave that has killed people throughout the country rolled on with little relief forecast until the weekend.

The hot weather has been blamed for at least 63 deaths since July 19. Hardest hit have been Missouri, with 22 deaths, and Illinois, with 19.

Temperatures were in the 90s from the Plains to the East Coast again Wednesday, with the heat index hitting triple digits in many areas.

County road closure hearing Friday

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County Commissioners have been working on closing over 200 miles of rural roads, and at 9 a.m. Friday they will hold a public hearing to hear citizens about the proposal.

During a work session today Commissioners Gary Townsend and Chuck Frankenfeld reviewed the letters that have been received and reviewed with Assistant County Attorney Bonnie Selby the legal statutes which cover the county roads.

Townsend said the county has received about 20 letters on the road closures and that they were split about half in favor and half opposing specific road closures.

"We will open the hearing with a reading of the state statutes dealing with county roads and then Selby will review the other legal issues involving easements and access," Townsend said. "Then we will open up to hear from anyone who has a question."

"We don't know how many to expect, but we will listen to

everyone," he said. "After the hearing we will review all the input and possibly even view some of the roads before making a final decision."

Townsend said he expects the commissioners to wait until the August 17 meeting to make a final decision.

"Many of the people I have talked to are concerned about having access to their property, and are wondering if we are going to barricade the roads," he said. "I have been telling them there will not be any difference than there is today except that the county will not be responsible or liable for the roads that are closed."

For those who are concerned about being landlocked Selby will review the statutes dealing with easements and also the common law access issues.

Over a year ago Public Works Director Curt Way came to the commissioners requesting they consider closing roads in the county which are either considered "minimum maintenance" or roads which are not currently being maintained by the county

road and bridge department.

Over the past year the county has researched the legal descriptions of each road location and after determining the legal owner they set the date for the hearing and notified each landowner adjoining the specific road of the plan to close the road.

The hearing is the next step in the process, and after the hearing the commissioners will take some time to determine exactly which roads will be closed.

In other business the commissioners will review the claim vouchers for the month and adopt a salary range for the assistant county attorney position.

Terry Richardson of Homestead Realty is expected to appear at 8 a.m. during the open forum time to discuss the Goodland Regional Medical Center board's recent decision about sale of the Medical Arts Clinic to the Goodland School District.

The next regular Sherman Commission meeting will be 8 a.m., Tuesday, August 3, in the commission room on the first floor of the Sherman County Courthouse.

Insuring custom harvesters expands agency

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

Recognizing the opportunity at hand and then seizing it is a talent. Not everyone has it. Apparently, Larry Minner does.

Minner is the owner of Western Insurance Agency Inc., and he says, "the largest writer of custom harvester insurance policies in the world."

"We started writing policies for harvesters in 1985," he said. "I really got started because Rick Farris, a custom harvester from Edson, needed a policy."

"I wrote it, then Rick started telling everyone that they should come to me for insurance," he said.

That first year, he wrote some 40 policies. Minner said he was getting concerned because the company that issued the policies, Cimarron, was getting so high, he was afraid he would lose his clients.

So he worked out a deal with another insurance company that would give better rates, and continued to expand his agency.

Minner went through several companies, and eventually became part owner of Legion Insurance Company. He now funds the gap between premiums and payout himself.

Western Insurance Agency insures about 600 crews in 12 states, for between \$4 to \$4.5 million in premiums per year.



Larry Minner and Colleen Muhr used models to explain what the agency does. They insure trucks, trailers, campers, pickups, combines, tractors, grain carts, provide commercial liability coverage, and workmans compensation for custom harvesters. The agency is the leading insurer of harvesters.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

"The reason Larry is so successful is that he has formed not only customers, but friends," said Colleen Muhr, custom harvest manager.

"They always look forward to him ar-

iving; he is treated like family.

"They want to take him to dinner; cook him lunch.

"They always bring pies and other baked goods.

Every year Minner outfits a motor home with computers and printers and hits the road for eight weeks.

The trip covers 13,000 miles, and he contacts approximately 225 customers.

"We pull into their yard, fire up the generator, tell them what their insurance will cost them and where they can send their premiums," he said.

He takes members of his staff with him for two week periods. "That is all they can stand of the road and me," he said.

His staff does not seem to think that he is that hard to get along with.

"I went along for five weeks last year," said Sara Rice. "I got to go to some really cool places I've never been before."

"It is like going to a reunion.

"His clients treat him like family."

Minner jokingly says it is his staff that makes the agency a success. "They do all the work," he said. "I just travel around and talk to people."

The work really starts in mid February. "I hit the harvesters convention, get the motor home set up, then, we're on the road until May 15.

"Seventy-five percent of our year is done between May 1 and June 10.

"We work some ghastly hours during that time," he said.

He rewards his employees for their hard work. "They are very dedicated," he said. "They give me more work than

I pay them for."

So, for that last several years, he has taken his employees and their spouses on an annual company trip.

Samantha Siruta, who has moved from the harvesters department to claims, has been at the agency for seven years. "He has taken us to Puerto Vallarta, Phoenix, a cruise to the Bahamas, Cozumel, and Vegas.

"It's always a lot of fun, we all get together on one of the nights and have a dinner, it's a great time," she said.

Minner also has a baby at work policy. If a new mother wants to continue to work, she can bring her baby with her for the first six months. "Family comes first with him," says Muhr.

"If your child has something going on at school, he gets upset if you don't take the afternoon off," she said.

"He is a very giving man, and an exceptional boss."

Another opportunity that Minner has taken advantage of is purchasing the building that houses the agency. He paid \$15,000 a few years ago for the former Hotel Neu. "I have had to put a lot of money into it since then," he said. He has been through four remodels since 1993. "We have more room than we can use right now".

"And, as an added bonus, I have 30 bath tubs.

"If I can just figure out what to do with them."

Blood drive to be held Tuesday

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Got blood. Please give it. Area residents are asked to respond to the call for blood donations at the American Red Cross Blood Drive, which will be held from noon to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.

Increased travel during summer months increases the need for blood. It takes several days to collect, test and process blood donations, so don't think you can wait to donate until someone you know needs blood. A significant portion of the blood supply is transfused in emergency situations. Therefore, it must be waiting on the hospital shelves at any given time.

All blood types are needed, but especially type O. O-positive is the most common of all blood types, therefore it is in greater demand. In contrast, O-negative is a very rare type of blood and can be given to anyone, regardless of their blood type. O-negative benefits trauma patients who are brought into hospitals in need of blood transfusions and don't have time to be tested for their specific blood type.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh more than 110 pounds, and be in general good health. Most medications do not defer people from donating blood. All donors are asked to bring photo identification. If you bring a first time donor or someone who hasn't donated in the last two years, both of you will receive a free "Be A Friend" T-shirt.

For more information on donating blood, volunteering to help with the local blood drive, or scheduling an appointment, call Dolly Irvin at 785-899-2111 or 785-899-2011.

Judge orders Clinton to pay fine for testimony

WASHINGTON (AP) — Imposing an unprecedented penalty against a president, a federal judge today ordered President Clinton to pay a \$90,686 sanction for false testimony about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Most of the money, which Clinton's legal defense fund could pay, will go to Paula Jones and the attorneys who represented the former Arkansas state worker in her sexual harassment lawsuit. Clinton's testimony in that case led to his impeachment by the House and eventual acquittal in a Senate trial.

Clinton's lawyers, who had argued that he should pay no more than \$33,737, accepted the ruling. One of Mrs. Jones' attorneys said he was considering an appeal to recover more money.

The sanction was less than one-fifth of the money sought by Mrs. Jones' side. U.S. District Judge Susan Webber

Wright, who issued a historic contempt ruling against Clinton last April, had said she would order him to pay for depositions and other costs that resulted from his "false, misleading and evasive answers" in his January 1998 deposition for Mrs. Jones' lawsuit.

"Sanctions are being imposed, not only to deter others who might consider emulating the president's misconduct, but to compensate the plaintiff by requiring that the president pay her any reasonable fees and expenses caused by his willful failure to obey this court's discovery orders," Wright wrote in her order filed in Arkansas.

As part of the sanctions, the judge ordered Clinton to pay the court \$1,202 for her trip to Washington at the president's request to preside over his deposition.

"We accept the judgment of the court and will comply with it," said Clinton

lawyer Robert Bennett.

It was not clear how much of the sanction money Mrs. Jones would receive herself.

The Dallas law firm of Rader, Campbell, Fisher & Pike was awarded \$79,999. The Rutherford Institute, a conservative public interest law firm on the defense team, will receive \$9,484.

The Dallas firm submitted itemized bills for \$437,825 and the Virginia-based Rutherford Institute asked for \$53,333.

In her order, Wright said the lawyers' claims were "excessive and must be reduced."

John Whitehead, of the Rutherford Institute, said he was pleased that the judge imposed a financial penalty but might appeal the amount.

"I'm satisfied the president has finally been held accountable for his lying in the deposition of the Paula Jones case," he

said. "The key thing is how history will view this. They're not going to look at the money but at the first sitting president that was ever held in contempt."

Wright said Jones' legal teams tried to justify their fee request by arguing that sanctions should be imposed to punish Clinton's misconduct.

"Sanctions are not imposed to punish ... but must be based upon evidence of actual loss," she wrote.

Wright also rejected the lawyers' contention that they should be reimbursed for all the legal work they did after Clinton's deposition.

Because the parties have already settled the case for \$850,000, "it is appropriate to limit fees and expenses to those incurred" as a result of his contempt of court, she said. The president admitted no wrongdoing in the settlement.