

**weather
report**

60°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 7:16 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:19 a.m.

Sunset, 7:20 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 47 degrees
- Humidity 36 percent
- Sky Partly cloudy
- Winds WNW 47-59
- Barometer 29.44 inches and rising
- Record High 82° (1930)
- Record Low 12° (1973)

Yesterday's Data

- High 72°
- Low 35°
- Precipitation .14

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Mostly Clear; low 35-40; winds NW 5-15. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy; 20 percent chance of precipitation; high 60; winds SE 15-25.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Monday: Dry through the weekend; highs 60-65; lows 30-35.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

**local
markets**



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.41 bu.
- Posted county price — \$2.39
- Loan deficiency payment — 6¢
- Corn — \$1.76 bu.
- Posted county price — \$1.85
- Loan deficiency payment — 14¢
- Milo — \$2.67 cwt.
- Soybeans — \$3.84 bu.
- Posted county price — \$4.03
- Loan deficiency payment — 86¢
- Millet — \$4.25 cwt.
- Sunflowers oil current — \$7.95 cwt.
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1.48
- oil 1999 crop — \$8.50 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.



**Sec. Glickman:
It'll get better**

TOPEKA (AP)—U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman told Kansas legislators that despite the present slump in the farm economy, better times are ahead for American farmers because the world must have their food products.

"As difficult a time as this is, I think these are very exciting times in agriculture," Glickman said Wednesday as he spoke to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Agriculture committees.

The world's population continues to explode, and "no country is better equipped to meet the demand" of feeding the world's people, Glickman said.

In the meantime, he said, the United States needs a better safety net for its farmers.

The 1996 Freedom to Farm Act had many good provisions, but its writers did not envision the kind of precipitous decline in farm price that American farmers have experienced in recent years, Glickman said.

Clinton welcomes Chinese premier

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton welcomed Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji to the White House today and said the United States can best achieve its hopes for the next century through the creation of a "strategic partnership" with China on such issues as nonproliferation, free trade and the mutual embrace of political freedom.

With Zhu standing at his side on a sparkling early spring day, Clinton made only passing references in his formal remarks to the long list of issues that divide the two countries.

In his comments, Zhu spoke effusively about Chinese-American relations, asserting that the friendship between the two countries "cannot be undermined by anybody."

There is no Sino-American problem "that cannot be resolved through friendly consultation," he said.

Like Clinton, he used the term "strategic partnership" to express his hopes for future ties with the United States.

Efforts by the two countries to achieve closer trade ties were set back today when an administration official said they had been unable to resolve differences on eliminating Chinese trade barriers. This apparently means further delays in China's hopes of joining the World Trade Organization, the body that governs international commerce.

Zhu was given full military honors after his arrival at the White House. He drew cheers from the large gathering when he concluded his remarks by saying, in English, "I love Chinese people. I love American people."

Human rights is one of a number of divisive issues in Chinese-American relations, and Clinton touched on the subject only indirectly.

"America has a stake in China's success, in a China that has overcome the challenges it faces at home, a China that is integrated into the institutions that promote global norms on proliferation, trade and the environment, a China that respects human rights and promotes peace," he said.

During the half-hour ceremony, about 200 protesters gathered along the street demonstrating against continued Chinese control of Tibet.

The two leaders were expected to discuss security issues, trade, Taiwan and human rights. Adding spice to the relationship are allegations of Chinese nuclear spying on the United States and newly published reports that the chief of China's military intelligence directed \$300,000 to Clinton's re-election campaign in 1996.

Administration briefers declined comment on the two latter issues Wednesday on grounds that they were under investigation.

Clinton said in a speech Wednesday that his policies of engaging China have yielded benefits for the United States.

As a result of these links, the Clinton administration was able to negotiate a nuclear freeze with North Korea five years ago and it also persuaded China to stop selling weapons-related nuclear materials to Pakistan and Iran.

Zhu joked about the allegations that China stole nuclear secrets from the Los Alamos research lab in the 1980s.

He said in Los Angeles on Tuesday that China would celebrate the 50th anniversary of communist rule this year by parading weaponry "developed by China itself, not by technology stolen from the United States."

Zhu arrived Wednesday night at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and had an unscheduled White House meeting with Clinton.

Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes said China has been the prime beneficiary of Clinton's efforts to cultivate closer ties with China.

"China's policies toward the United States are based on one perception—that is the administration will continue its one-sided approach in favor of China," he said Wednesday.

The visit, the first by a Chinese premier in 15 years, comes at a time of great wariness between the two countries. China has been under fire from Republicans and others not only for the alleged spy and campaign finance activities but also for repressing dissent, refusing to renounce the use of force against Taiwan and keeping its market closed to many U.S. products.

Zhu was expected to reaffirm his government's opposition to the NATO bombing campaign in Yugoslavia.

Clinton's efforts to facilitate Chinese entry into the WTO drew strong opposition Wednesday from Senate Majority leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Wind damage...



Winds gusting to 67 mph from the West blew through Goodland today, and caused a tree at 412 W. 9th to split in half. The National Weather Service reported the winds at between 47-59 mph. Early in the morning the rain shower was whipped by the winds bringing .14 in moisture. Tonight the winds are expected to change to the Northwest and drop to 5-15 mph. The home where the tree fell is owned by Kevin and Christi Rasure. Photo by Joan Smith / Goodland Daily News

Yugoslavia seals border, claims Albanians returning

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)—Amid fears that refugees are becoming human shields now that Yugoslavia has sealed its borders, Serb media claimed today that ethnic Albanians were voluntarily returning to Kosovo. A Cypriot lawmaker arrived in Belgrade to seek the release of three captured U.S. soldiers.

Spyros Kyprianou, speaker of the Cypriot parliament, said he planned to meet Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Friday and that the Americans might be freed during the long Orthodox Easter weekend, starting today.

But the hardline Serbian vice premier, Vojislav Seselj, told reporters today that freeing the three was "out of the question" and that the soldiers should be tried as terrorists.

"The United States is leading an undeclared war against Yugoslavia," said Seselj, leader of the extreme nationalist Serbian Radical Party allied with Milosevic.

Before leaving for Belgrade, Kyprianou said the Yugoslav government expects NATO bombing to ease if it turns over the American soldiers.

The United States, however, has ruled out any concessions to gain the soldiers' release, though NATO arranged for safe passage today of Kyprianou's flight.

NATO warplanes and missiles took aim before dawn today at the heart of

Belgrade and against government troops in the hills of Kosovo in what the alliance said was a systematic bid to break the Yugoslav military machine.

"We will prevail," Defense Secretary William Cohen told American pilots today at the Aviano air base in Italy.

A day after Yugoslavia sealed its borders and choked off a flood of refugees from Kosovo, Serb media said ethnic Albanians were voluntarily heading back into the province.

Showing footage of long lines of cars and road signs pointing to destinations inside Kosovo, state TV said refugees had initially wanted to cross into neighboring Macedonia but had "decided to return" to their homes.

Nearly half a million Kosovars have fled or were driven out of Kosovo in the two weeks since the NATO bombing campaign began, the greatest mass displacement seen in Europe in half a century. Those reaching refuge in neighboring states have described a campaign of terror by Serb troops and police.

Western military officials said the latest wave of air attacks focused on Serb police and army units scattered in rural areas of Kosovo. Small Yugoslav units have been blamed for most of the atrocities against ethnic Albanians, and targeting them in the hills and forests of the largely rural province has proven difficult.

NATO airstrikes on roads and bridges in Kosovo are hampering the ability of Serb forces to get around the province, according to accounts today by French journalists who entered western Kosovo accompanied by members of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army. One of the accounts, on French RTL radio, said KLA forces are using a satellite telephone to help NATO identify Serb targets.

"We have attacked the nervous system, we have attacked the central system as well, that is to say a part of the brain that is conducting the operations," French Army Chief of Staff Gen. Jean-Pierre Kelche told reporters today.

Bill would have short line railroads maintain farmland crossings

TOPEKA (AP)—Railroads couldn't charge fees or require property owners to maintain insurance for private rail crossings linking farmland to public roads under a bill passed by the Senate.

"Always in the past, the railroads have maintained the crossings. Now they want the farmers to maintain the crossings and have insurance," said Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley.

Clark offered an amendment dealing with the crossing charges to a bill that already passed the House. The 40-0 vote Wednesday returns it to the House to consider the changes.

As amended, the bill would rewrite Kansas law to prohibit railroads from imposing rental fees on private farm crossings and requiring property owners to pay for liability insurance. The bill wouldn't apply to other types of crossings.

State law says if a railroad laid tracks through a farmer's land after 1911, it must provide a crossing for access to both side of the land. The amendment would make that law also apply to tracks laid before 1911.

Clark said he drafted the amendment after learning that a constituent, Leila Focke of Rawlins County, received a letter from Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado RailNet Inc., which operates a short line railroad in northwest Kansas.

The letter demanded the 88-year-old woman sign a contract to pay \$225 a year for maintenance of the rail crossing between her farm house and U.S. 36.

The tracks were laid in 1888, and the farm house was built in 1918. Mrs. Focke and her husband moved there in 1946 and farmed the land until his death in 1972. Her son now farms it.

The letter also demanded she pay for

a \$3 million liability insurance policy, and the railroad wanted \$200 for preparing the contract and administrative costs.

NKC RailNet, based in Grant, Neb., operates on two branch lines of the old Burlington Northern track. Clark said he was shocked that the railroad would try to force property owners to pay for the upkeep of crossings and carry insurance.

Following publicity last month about the issue, NK RailNet issued a statement saying it would drop demands for annual fees in most cases because of confusion over the types of crossings and related charges, ranging from \$100 to \$225.

But the company still said it "desires an agreement with all users of private grade crossings primarily to obtain reasonable liability coverage."



Grant Junior High students became auto manufacturers this week as they tried to see how far a paper car carrying a golf ball would travel after being released from a ramp. Dustin Klinge, Megan Ford, Bill Linen, Teagan Raile, Doug Lalicker and Megan Leonard prepare to test their creations. Materials were limited to paper, 2 wooden dowels and glue. The winning team of Matthew Windell, Melinda Benavides and Cory Navarro had a distance of over 14 feet.

Photo by Nell Frohlich / Goodland Daily News