

weather report

26°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 5 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.
• Sunset, 5:01 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 33 degrees
• Humidity 71 percent
• Sky cloudy; light snow falling
• Winds south 10 mph
• Barometer 30.11 inches and steady
• Record High 73° (1970)
• Record Low -16° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High 33°
Low 20°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy; 50 percent chance of snow; low 10-15; winds light. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy; 30 percent chance of snow; high 25-30; winds light; low 10-15.

Extended Forecast

Saturday through Monday, Saturday: chance of snow; high 30-35; low 10-15. Sunday and Monday: dry; high 35-45; low 10-20.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.28 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.07
Loan deficiency payment — 38¢
Corn — \$1.80 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.85
Loan deficiency payment — 14¢
Milo — \$2.78 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$4.46 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.36
Loan deficiency payment — 53¢
Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.40 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — \$3.60
Confection current — \$13/\$8 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$12 (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.

Boy meets his grandmothers

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — The grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez hugged and kissed the 6-year-old boy during a tense, 90-minute meeting Wednesday that was arranged by the U.S. government. The three Cubans sat down for the first time in two months, flipping through an album of photos from less stressful times.

Then the women went back to Washington, D.C., to state their case again in the international power struggle among Elian's relatives about where he should live. While the child's Miami relatives want him to stay here, his father and grandmothers hope to have him returned to Cuba and to derail efforts in Congress to make him a U.S. citizen.

"Tomorrow they're going to make me an American citizen," Elian said in an interview broadcast over the Spanish-language Radio Mambi after the reunion.

Investigation continues into death at Bastille

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Family members and Sherman County officials are awaiting the report from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation into the death of Tirso E. Zuniga, Jr., 18, who died Friday at the Sherman County Bastille.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson was expecting an agent from the KBI to be in Goodland Wednesday, but he had not arrived when we talked to the sheriff.

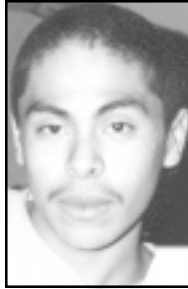
Josephine Hernandez, 1116 Cherry, older sister to Tirso said she is also waiting to see what is in the KBI report. She said the Zuniga family has been grateful for the outpouring of support from the community and the church.

Zuniga was found dead in his cell at 2:30 a.m. Friday. The cause of death was

listed as a "self-inflicted injury." The KBI was called in to investigate, and it was hoped the report would be ready this week.

Deputy Coroner Dr. Sue Jennings said today her autopsy report would probably be filed next week, but that she had been asked by the KBI agent in charge of the investigation to delay the report until he had completed his report. She said all autopsy reports are filed with the District Court, and are public documents once filed.

Zuniga was arrested Friday, Jan. 14, in Goodland on a "power of arrest" issued by the Northwest Kansas Community Corrections office in Hays. The power of arrest was issued on Dec. 30



Tirso Zuniga

because Zuniga had failed to report for his weekly probation supervision meetings for several weeks.

Records show Zuniga was placed on one year supervisory probation by the Thomas County District Court on June 4, 1999. The sentence was from a case with a charge of burglary of a nonresidence which occurred on Feb. 12, 1999.

On Aug. 9, 1999 an additional year of supervised probation was added because of three cases in Sherman County. The Sherman County charges included a juvenile case where Zuniga was charged with battery and burglary. There were also two adult cases filed in Sherman County with two counts of battery

and a charge of criminal damage to property. These three cases were rolled into one at the sentencing on Aug. 9.

On Nov. 22, a hearing was held concerning the failure of Zuniga to follow the provisions of the supervised probation, and John Trembley of the Northwest Kansas Community Corrections said he talked to Zuniga and said the community corrections people would not try to revoke his probation. "I told him it was going to be up to him to show he could abide by the rules," Trembley said.

When he disappeared in December Trembley issued a power of arrest to have him picked up and held until another court hearing could be held to determine his status. "Then he attempted to escape and more charges were added which took the situation out of our

hands." "While the officers were booking him at the Bastille he ran out of the building," Sheriff Whitson said. "He only got about half-a-block away before he was recaptured and returned to the Bastille."

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said her office was preparing to charge Zuniga with "aggravated escape," which is a felony, but the paperwork had not been completed.

Both Trembley and Selby said that with his previous record it was likely Zuniga was facing a prison sentence.

"I know my brother was not an innocent person, but I don't know what could have brought him to take this action," Hernandez said. "I think it is important to be sure this does not happen in the future."

New duplexes begin at Wheat Ridge Acres



Dave Hutchison, contractor, (front) looked over the concrete forms for a duplex to be built west of Wheat Ridge Acres on Tuesday, while Heath Hutchison held a board for Beau Hodges (partially hidden) to nail in place. Beau Hodges (right) nailed a board in place on the concrete forms for the foundation of the duplex.

Photos by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News



Clinton readies economic win list for big speech

WASHINGTON (AP) — As he prepared to sum up the seven-year Clinton-Gore balance sheet, President Clinton paused to reflect anew on the scandal that will at least partially define his presidency.

"First of all, I made one mistake. I apologized for it, I paid a high price for it and I've done my best to atone for it by being a good president," Clinton said in a television interview Wednesday, the eve of his final State of the Union address.

In the PBS interview, Clinton also called the six-year Whitewater investigation "a bunch of bull," and claimed Republicans in Congress knew it early on. Fourteen people have been convicted in the investigation of the president and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"But I do regret that fact that I wasn't straight with the American people" about the Monica Lewinsky phase of the investigation, Clinton said in the

interview with PBS host Jim Lehrer. "It was something I was ashamed of and pained about, and I regret that."

Lehrer interviewed Clinton two years ago, just as the Lewinsky scandal was breaking. In his first public remarks on Lewinsky, Clinton then denied any improper relationship with the former White House intern whose story of White House sexual encounters with Clinton ultimately led to his impeachment in the House and acquittal in the Senate last year.

The scandal threatened to overshadow the State of the Union address to Congress the past two years. Clinton ignored the topic in his speeches then and will likely do so again tonight.

Instead, he will tick off statistics that chart the national economic success story since 1993, which the White House counts as its most tangible accomplishment.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 3,242 when Clinton took office. It's

above 11,000 now. The jobless rate fell from 7.3 percent to 4.1 percent. The poverty rate fell from 14.8 percent to 12.7 percent. The welfare rolls dropped from 14.1 million to 6.9 million.

The president surely will remark on the milestone coming next week — the date marking the longest economic expansion ever in America. In the process, Clinton will offer a plug, implicit or explicit, for the election of Vice President Al Gore to succeed him.

Gore will be in the audience, as will the first lady, as the president catalogs hundreds of billions of dollars worth of programs he wants Congress to approve this final year of his presidency — from health insurance and medical research to education initiatives and tax breaks for the working poor.

He will propose another boost in the minimum wage, a prescription drug benefit under Medicare, tougher gun controls and a patients' bill of rights. In health care coverage, alone, Clinton is

proposing a \$110 billion initiative, saying it would be the largest investment in health coverage since Medicare was established in 1965.

On Wednesday, the White House said Clinton will ask for more than \$3 billion in education spending increases, including the largest expansion ever of the Head Start program, which helps the nation's neediest children.

In the speech, Clinton will propose doubling an after-school program designed to help turn around failing schools, doubling funding for a program focusing on teacher accountability, and new funds to hire more teachers and improve training.

Clinton already has proposed a \$31 billion plan to make college more affordable, the centerpiece of which is a \$10,000 tax deduction to help millions of Americans pay for tuition, books and university fees. That plan also would increase Pell Grants.

All the while, Republican leaders in

Congress are warning that big proposals with big spending to match do not stand much chance of passage in this election year.

Clinton and his spokesmen reply that the booming economy represents an unprecedented opportunity to do some big things, such as bolster the long-term health of the Social Security system, while paying down the national debt.

In the VIP box tonight with Mrs. Clinton will be several people the White House says are examples of what has gone right in the Clinton-Gore years, as well as what still needs to be done. The guests include a 33-year-old man from St. Paul, Minn., who was having trouble paying child support but now is keeping up with his obligation after enrolling in an employment and training program. Another guest will be a 72-year-old Johnson City, Tenn., woman who spends \$4,000 from her savings for prescription drugs each year.

Fed chairman sails through hearing for fourth term

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alan Greenspan is widely expected to bump up interest rates next week, raising borrowing costs for millions of Americans. But even the prospect of that politically unpopular action is not likely to deter the Senate from approving Greenspan to a fourth term as chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Greenspan sailed through a confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee on Wednesday, pledging to promote greater openness at the traditionally secretive central bank and make sure inflation doesn't get out of control and jeopardize the current expansion the U.S. economy is enjoying.

Committee Chairman Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said he expects his panel to clear Greenspan's renomination on Feb. 1 with Senate approval later that day.

"If you were forced to try to narrow down the credit for the golden age that we find ourselves living in ... I think your name would have to be at the top of the list," Gramm said. Other members of the panel gave Greenspan the bulk of the credit for the economy's remarkable performance: strong economic growth, plentiful jobs and low inflation. In February, the expansion will be the longest ever on record. Greenspan, who has been at the helm

of the Fed since 1987, did not directly comment on what the Fed's next move on interest rates might be. However, many economists predict that Fed policy-makers will boost interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point on Feb. 2 in an effort to slow the red-hot economy and keep inflation from escalating. The Fed raised rates three times last year, a move that makes borrowing more expensive for businesses and consumers.

Economists said Greenspan's testimony offered no new or surprise messages to financial markets. Wall Street, which had fallen sharply Monday on fears of what Greenspan might say in

his congressional testimony, was subdued. The Dow Jones Industrial Average on Wednesday closed up 3.10 points at 11,032.99.

But economists were intrigued by Greenspan's comments that the Fed is studying the recent high levels of borrowing by investors to buy stocks. While Greenspan expressed concern over the matter, he noted the Fed is reluctant to exercise its authority to tighten limits on such borrowing, a practice known as buying on margin. Studies have suggested that a rising level of stock prices is unrelated to liberal margin requirements, Greenspan said.

City to hold special meeting

The Goodland City Commission will hold a special meeting at noon Friday to discuss a home occupation permit.

The home occupation permit is being requested by Bill Frazier, 114 E. 5th Street for an embroidery business.

The commission will meet upstairs at the City Administration Building, 204 E. 11th Street.