

weather  
report

33°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:04 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:39 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:05 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 36 degrees

• Humidity 89 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds south 17 mph

• Barometer 30.17 inches

and falling

• Record High 82° (1998)

• Record Low -1° (1955)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 33°

Low 28°

Precipitation 0.06 inch

Snow 1 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Cloudy with fog and areas of freezing drizzle, low 25-30, southeast wind 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: Cloudy with freezing drizzle early and chance of rain or freezing rain later, high 40-45, low 30-35, south wind 10-20 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: chance of showers, high 50s. Thursday: chance of thunderstorms, high 60s, low 30s. Friday: dry, high 55-65, low 30s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Watching the day go by



A dog enjoyed the sunny weather and watched cars drive by on Main Street last week while sitting in the front seat of its owner's pickup. The warm weather turned cold this weekend, with a storm dropping an inch

of snow Sunday night, but temperatures are predicted to rise later this week.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Best film  
down to  
the wire

'Gladiator' award  
breaks three-way tie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Oscars were like a sudden-death overtime, with the best-picture announcement a three-way tiebreaker for "Gladiator," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Traffic."

Each film already had taken four Oscars, so it all came down to Sunday night's last award, with the Roman epic "Gladiator" finally prevailing.

Even then, all three films came away with top prizes. "Crouching Tiger's" wins included foreign-language film and original score. Among "Traffic's" honors were best director for Steven Soderbergh, supporting actor for Benicio Del Toro and best adapted screenplay for Stephen Gaghan.

Two guys named Crowe had something to crow about. Russell Crowe took best actor for "Gladiator," and Cameron Crowe won the Oscar for original screenplay for his rock 'n' roll memoir "Almost Famous."

"It's probably appropriate, the feeling when they announce your name for a music movie is psychedelic," Cameron Crowe said back stage.

The sheer physical effort was the hardest part of playing the fallen general Maximus in "Gladiator," Russell Crowe said.

"I was very heavily beaten up on this movie," said Crowe, who also was nominated last year for "The Insider." "We didn't have time to take breaks in production to repair me, so we just had to keep going."

Hollywood's top female star, Julia Roberts, won best actress for "Erin Brockovich" after going 10 years since her last nomination.

Her voice quavering, the giddy Roberts waved off the official Oscar timer trying to limit her acceptance speech, spending several minutes gushing her thanks.

"Everybody tries to shut me up," Roberts said backstage. "It didn't work with my parents. It doesn't work now. A gal's gotta have her moment, that's what I think."

During the ceremony, Roberts forgot to mention the real-life Erin Brockovich, so she made up for it backstage, praising the legal aide who led a court fight over water pollution.

"During my out-of-body experience earlier tonight, I didn't acknowledge her, shamefully. Shamefully," Roberts said. "And really, she is the center of the universe which was our movie."

Amid the box-office hits that dominated the Oscars, there was the small, searing drama "Pollock," which earned the supporting-actress statue for Marcia Gay Harden.

"Pollock" director Ed Harris, a best-actor nominee for the title role, spent a decade trying to make the film biography of painter Jackson Pollock.

Backstage, Harden said she had forgotten to thank former colleagues when she worked as a waitress while trying to land acting jobs.

"I said I would say thank you to all the waiters and waitresses who used to cover my shift for me so I could run down to audition," Harden said.

The only best-picture contender that came away empty-handed was "Chocolat," which lost in all five of its categories.

"Gladiator" had led the field with 12 nominations, followed by 10 for "Crouching Tiger" and five apiece for "Erin Brockovich" and "Traffic." The latter films were both directed by Soderbergh, who had two director nominations.

Ang Lee had seemed the favorite for best director for "Crouching Tiger." Lee had won the Directors Guild of America honor, and it was only the fifth time in the 53-year history of the guild's awards that the winner failed to also take the Oscar.

Some Oscar analysts thought Soderbergh was handicapped with two nominations because he might split his own vote.

The gritty, documentary-style "Traffic" had been widely considered Soderbergh's best chance of the two films to win the directing honor.

Member to give up spot after two terms

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland School Board

Gerald Franklin says in the past eight years, the Goodland School Board has taken a financially strapped, unorganized, out-of-date district and turned it into an educational and technological success.

But the 54-year-old farmer, who is giving up his seat after two four-year terms on the board, said there's always more work to be done and more obstacles to overcome.

With his youngest child Timothy graduating from Goodland High School this year, Franklin said, it's time to give others a chance to improve the school system. He said it's worth it to get involved.

"It's really critical that we have a good school system," he said. "I think everyone should care about good schools."

Three seats on the board will be up for grabs next week, but with incumbent Mike Campbell and board presi-

dent Dick Short running for re-election, Franklin's seat will most likely be filled by Ron Schilling, the only non-incumbent candidate on the ballot. No one else filed for the race.

Franklin and Schilling, an Edson farmer-rancher who served one term on the board before losing his seat to Eric Gray in 1999, share at least one idea of how to improve education here. Both agree that agriculture-related subjects should be taught in schools.

"We're a farm community," Franklin said, "and it's an area that needs to be addressed."

Another problem, he added, is the fact that the district's enrollment is dropping, cutting the budget, while the educational needs of students are changing, demanding new programs.

Superintendent Marvin Selby reported earlier this month that the district's enrollment has dropped 44 students since school started, falling from 1,171 to 1,127.



G. Franklin

Franklin said the board needs to keep its eye on enrollment and improve education for an increasing number of Hispanic students who don't speak English.

The district has organized events designed to bring teachers and Hispanic parents together, he said, but they haven't proved to be successful.

"We haven't been able to unlock that door yet," Franklin said.

Though Franklin has ideas for more improvements, he said he's proud of what the board has accomplished, including strengthening the district's financial position and beefing up cash reserves for building improvements without a big tax hike.

"When I first came on the board," he said, "the district was in poor financial condition. Now it's in a strong position."

The board agreed, Franklin said, that students need to be taught using the latest technology because that's what they'll be using in college and the work world. He said the board worked to create a high-tech district.

"From my personal opinion," he said, "our school system is the leader in technology right now."

Franklin said the board has established a dual-credit program with Colby Community College, so older students can get college credit for advanced work; set reading and math goals for every grade; created a program to help students who have dropped out of school graduate; improved the district's accreditation process; reduced class sizes; and developed renovation and education goals by meeting with teachers and administrators.

He said he attributes the board's success to understanding, compromise and a willingness to work together.

"I would say this is the best board I've ever worked on," Franklin said. "People can disagree and state opinions in a meeting, but walk out and still be friends. There's room for disagreement on the board."

He said administrators, teachers and parents also played a part, supporting the board's decisions and offering suggestions.

Athlete, farmer named person of year at banquet

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County farmer Ralph Duell was named the 2001 Agriculture Person of the Year at the annual farm-city banquet Thursday, where nearly 400 farmers and city people came together for grilled steaks and entertainment.

Last year's person of the year, Dick Short, presented Duell, a 1947 Goodland High School graduate, with the award at the Elks Lodge.

"I am proud to introduce this man," Short said. "He has been awarded the Bankers Award. He had been awarded the Goodyear Award (both for soil conservation work). He is past chairman of the Extension Council. He has been on the conservation board for 33 years."

Short said Duell, who attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins, was an excellent wrestler in high school and is an excellent farmer now.

He said he is still involved in Goodland sports and can make light of any situation.

Duell returned to Sherman County in the early 1950s, Short said, for a job teaching at Edson and country schools. He said he and his wife Wava



Ralph Duell listened to the many stories about his farming and wrestling career told Thursday by Dick Short as he introduced Duell as the 2001 Farm-City Agriculture Person of the Year.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

raised their children, Tom, Tim and Kristi, here.

Short reminisced about Duell's life while the award winner sat in the audience listening and laughing.

"While he was in high school, he was the only Goodland state (wrestling) qualifier as a senior," Short said. "He ran into an opponent who used a head lock, and after losing much blood

from his nose and lips, the state outlawed this move the next year."

He's tough, Short said, but he's always got a smile ready.

"Ralph finds humor in nearly every situation," he said. "When he has a twinkle in his eyes, the family knows he is up to something."

After he received the award and a special hat, Duell said he appreciated the award, but was a little surprised.

"You kind of tricked me a bit," he said. "If I had known this was going to happen, I would have had a story worked up."

Before the presentation, Steve West, chairman of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, welcomed everyone, saying he hoped people would continue to work together for the good of the county.

State Voice of America essay winner Jason Showalter read his winning oration, and said he will be taking it to Washington for the national competition in early April.

Following dinner, Michael Smith, 12, presented some piano selections, including "Over the Rainbow," and the Goodland High School X-Pressos presented several musical numbers including solos by Darin Richardson and Amanda Moore.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.74 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.59  
Loan deficiency payment — 0¢  
Corn — \$1.88 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.78  
Loan deficiency payment — 21¢  
Milo — \$3.02 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$3.85 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.76  
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.14  
Millet — \$6.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$6.40 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.14  
Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$14 (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.

House passes  
budget bill

TOPEKA — The House kicked off this week's work on the state budget by giving tentative approval today to a bill outlining capital improvement projects with little debate.

The House's voice vote advanced the bill to final action. Passage, expected Tuesday, would send the legislation to the Senate.

The bill would set aside nearly \$110 million for construction and renovation projects during the state's 2002 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

It was the first of three budget bills House members were supposed to tackle this week. Another makes changes to the state's current budget, and the third contains most of the 2002 budget.

The Senate approved its capital improvements bill Friday on a 38-1 vote, but it also planned to debate other budget legislation this week.