

weather report

23°

at noon



Today

• Sunset, 6:03 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:41 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:04 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 37 degrees
- Humidity 77 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy with light snow
- Winds north 10 m.p.h.
- Barometer 30.19 inches and falling
- Record High 84° (1998)
- Record Low -6° (1965)

Last 24 Hours*

High	36°
Low	20°
Precipitation	.34 or 6.1 inches of snow

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly cloudy, low near 10, winds light and variable. Tomorrow: mostly sunny and warmer, high mid 40s, low upper 20s, light south wind.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: mostly sunny, high 50-55, low upper 20s. Thursday: partly cloudy, high 60-65. Friday: partly cloudy with scattered showers. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

- Wheat — \$2.60 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.50
 - New Crop — \$2.55
 - Corn — \$1.85 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.84
 - Loan deficiency payment — 15¢
 - Milo — \$1.56 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$4.01 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.98
 - Loan deficiency payment — 94¢
 - Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$9.15 cwt.
 - NuSun — \$9.30
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 17¢
 - Confection current — \$16/\$8 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$27
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire



Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Bush's pledges face obstacles

WASHINGTON — Full of free-trade promises overseas, President Bush faces stubborn obstacles to keeping pledges. Washington, he lamented to his Latin American friends, is a place where "people cannot get rid of old habits."

If his trade agenda remains elusive, Bush did appear to succeed — over four days in Mexico, Peru and El Salvador — in assuring hemispheric allies they have not been relegated to the back burner while he goes after terrorists.

Each president to share a stage with Bush testified that he heard him commit to tackling problems beyond terrorism. Peru's Alejandro Toledo saluted his partnership with Bush in fighting drugs. Vicente Fox of Mexico celebrated that, on immigration, he and the president had "found an honest language which is also affectionate and respectful."

Snow strands hundreds of drivers

Wide storm causes accidents, drops six or seven inches here

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

A spring storm dropped an unexpected 6 to 7 inches of snow here on Sunday, causing at least nine accidents, sending 15 to 20 people to the hospital, closing I-70, stranding hundreds — but giving farmers much-needed moisture.

By 2 p.m., there were smashed cars and trucks on their sides or tops along I-70 east of Goodland, as a light snow turned to heavy flakes. No one was seriously injured in the slide-offs.

As it started to pile up and meteorologists began to realize there was more to come, the state closed westbound I-70 in Sherman County — shutting down the highway all the way Hays by 4:30 p.m. Colorado closed the road east of Limon.

Trucks packed parking lots and stranded motorists moved into the hotels, which were soon all full. Groups slept where they could find space — in the National Guard Armory, at two churches in town and in people's living rooms.

Things were pretty much back to normal today. Most people were able to make it to work and students didn't have to worry about getting to school because today is the first day of their week-long spring break.

Aaron Dorn, a meteorologist at Goodland's National Weather Service office, said 6.1 inches of snow fell around the office, but weather observers in the county reported up to 7 inches in areas.

The service's automated tipping bucket at the airport recorded .34 of an inch of moisture, he said, noting that the snow likely held more moisture than usual because the flakes were large and looked wet. Dorn said there were reports of up to half an inch of moisture in spots, adding that the weather service

will do more water equivalent measurements today.

He said the snow likely delivered a good amount of water to thirsty wheat. "Farmers will be liking that," he said, noting that there wasn't much wind to blow the snow off fields or form drifts.

"It's a rarity to get that kind of snowfall without wind whipping it around," he said. "It was real nice."

Dorn said it started snowing in eastern Colorado about 6 a.m. and about 4 inches had fallen in Kit Carson County by 10 a.m. The storm began to expand to the east and north, he said, and flakes started to fall in Sherman County about noon, developing into a heavy snowfall by 2 p.m.

Freezing fog and snow reduced visibility on roads to a quarter of a mile, Dorn said, noting that the service upgraded a winter weather advisory to a winter storm warning for many north-west Kansas counties in the late afternoon.

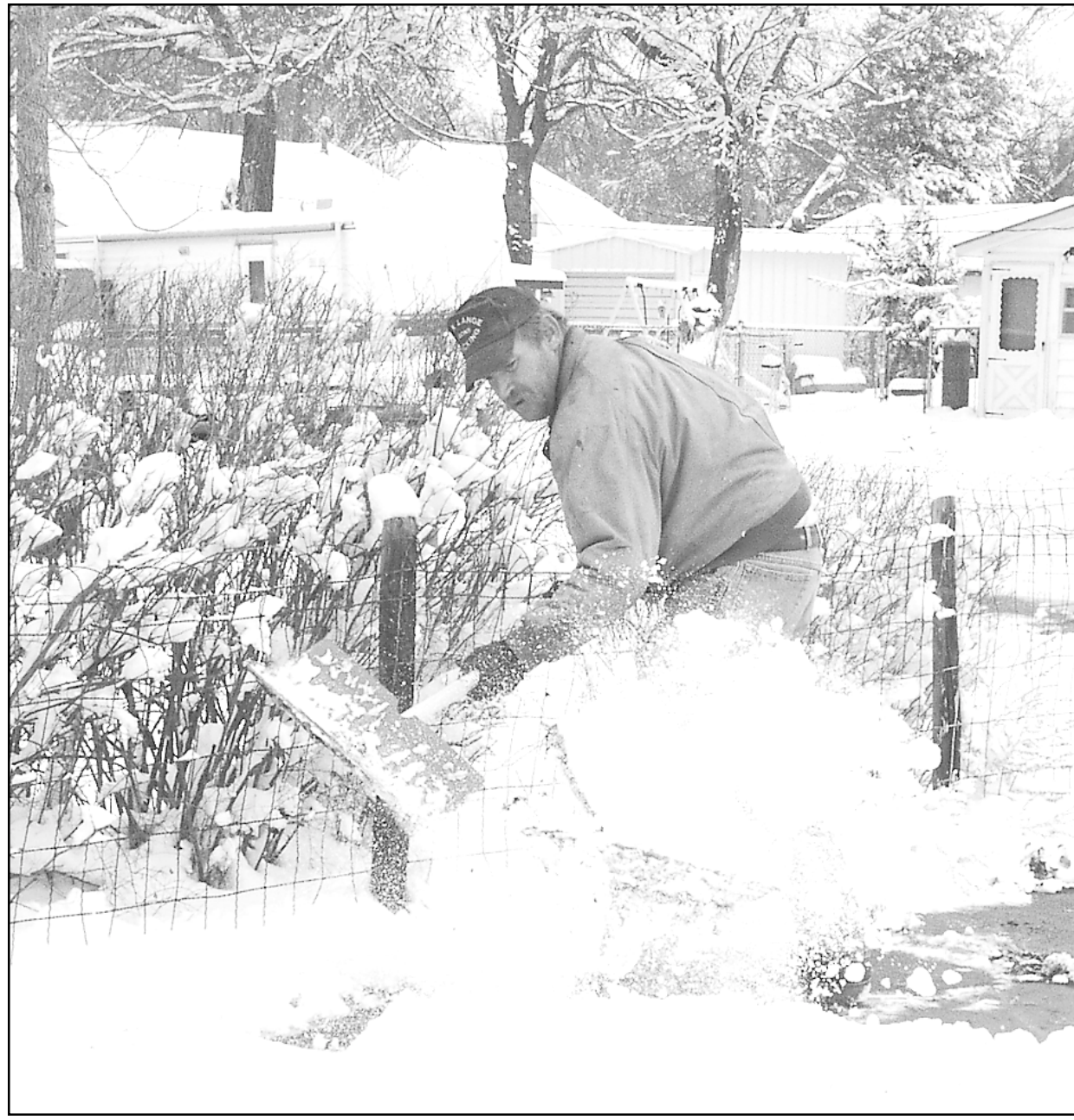
He said most areas received between 3 and 4 inches, but a few counties under the worst part of the storm — including Sherman — really got buried.

He said meteorologists at the office knew some snow would fall, but they weren't certain how much.

"Everything just sort of came together very quickly," he said. A broad low pressure trough over the western U.S., the jet stream and cold air that moved in Saturday night combined to produce the storm.

Lt. Kevin Winston, Kansas Highway Patrol supervisor in Sherman County, said the storm caused eight car accidents on I-70 between noon and 2 p.m. — mostly vehicles sliding off the road or rolling into the ditch. All but one were between two and nine miles east of Goodland.

He said troopers handled six and



Snow flew Monday morning at 1408 Kansas as Jim Lange shoveled his sidewalks of about 6 inches that fell on Goodland on Sunday and overnight.

Photo by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

deputies with the Sherman County Sheriff's Department took two reports. Goodland police said only one minor accident was reported in town.

Winston said six of the eight accidents involved injuries and 15 to 20 people were taken by ambulance to the

Goodland Regional Medical Center. He said there were nine people in one vehicle that rolled off I-70.

More slide-offs were reported this morning, and Winston said troopers hadn't had time to fill out reports on all of the accidents.

Jeff Krall, ambulance service director at the hospital, said there were no serious injuries and no one was admitted. He said the accidents likely happened at low speeds and the snow and

See SNOW, Page 4

Crews start street repaving and traffic light jobs

Workers plan to be done by August 1

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Construction crews put up orange cones and road signs blocking Cattletrail, U.S. 24 and K-27 on Friday so the roads can be repaved and a traffic light installed at the intersection of the two highways.

Donna Binning, construction engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Atwood, said the construction should all be over by Aug. 1. K-27 is down to two lanes through the intersection for the summer, and Old U.S. 24 is closed for about a block to the west.

From Friday morning until early afternoon Trafcon, a subcontractor for the prime contractor, Ritchie Paving, blocked the roads at Cattletrail south of 16th Street, U.S. 24 for a block west of K-27, and K-27 partially for about a block north and south of U.S. 24. Two-way traffic is still allowed on K-27, but



Traffic on K-27 was reduced to two lanes Friday and Cattletrail was blocked off south of 16th street. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

two lanes are blocked off.

The state and federal governments

are footing the bill to put new concrete

on the roads, Binning said, and to put

up a traffic light at the highways' intersection. In May, a new road will be put in between 19th Street and Business U.S. 24 between the Buffalo Inn and Sharon's Taco Place, and 19th Street will be paved for about a block. The city is helping pay for the repaving of Cattletrail, City Manager Ron Pickman said, at a cost of \$175,000.

About the middle of May, Binning said, the work on U.S. 24 will be moved to the east side of K-27, and the road will be blocked there. Cattletrail will be closed until the end of July, she said.

The project is a continuation of last year's work, when K-27 was blocked off and Cherry was shut down, Binning said, and is part of the same contract. It was planned to be a two-year project.

"There's just too much work for it to all to have been done at the same time," she said.

Construction was supposed to have been started Monday, Binning said, but there were some errors in the planning. She doesn't see any problems with the work being done on time, though.

"Hopefully, everything will run smoothly this year," she said.

If the construction isn't done by Aug. 1, Binning said, the prime contractor could be fined \$1,000 a day.

Binning said there are a lot of subcontractors working for Ritchie, but the only area business is Cahoj Earth Moving, based in Atwood. They will do the earth work.

The first step is milling away the pavement, Binning said, grinding up the asphalt so it can be picked up off the road.

Binning isn't sure when that will be done, because the work is done in pieces. One crew will mill a part of the road, she said, and another will come behind it and do the dirt work.

"They will kind of be chasing each other around," she said. "It's hard to put a definite time frame on it."

Binning also said the final layer of pavement will be added to K-27 from the intersection north to the Sherman County line starting Monday. The layer will be put on under traffic, she said, and cars will be stopped as the crews work on the road.

"Cars won't have to wait any longer than 15 minutes, though," she said.

Two blacks join Sidney Poitier with Academy Awards

By David Germain

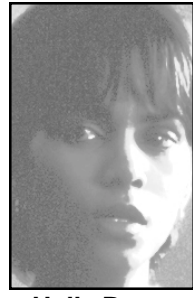
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — On a night when Sidney Poitier described how Hollywood was 53 years ago, the Academy Awards showcased just how different it is today as Halle Berry and Denzel Washington joined Poitier as the only black actors to win Oscars for lead roles.

Berry won Sunday for her part as a death-row widow in "Monster's Ball," and Washington won for "Training Day," in which he dropped his neigey persona to play a flamboyantly corrupt cop.

"I'll always be chasing you, Sidney," Washington said. "I'll always be following in your footsteps. There's nothing I would rather do. God bless you."

Their awards were the emotional highpoints of an evening that included several remembrances for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The final award for best picture, normally the show's main event, seemed anticlimactic by comparison when "A Beautiful Mind" was announced as winner.



Halle Berry



Denzel Washington

With four Oscars, "A Beautiful Mind" dominated the main categories, earning Ron Howard the directing prize, Jennifer Connelly the supporting-actress trophy and Akiva Goldsman the award for adapted screenplay.

Also with four Oscars was the fantasy epic "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," which had led with 13 nominations. It won for best score, cinematography, visual effects and makeup.

Berry sobbed and gasped when she took the stage and launched into a joyful three-minute

speech. She cited black actresses who had helped open doors for minorities in Hollywood, including Lena Horne, Diahann Carroll and Dorothy Dandridge, whom Berry played in an Emmy-winning performance in "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge."

"It's a great night. I never thought it would be possible in my lifetime," Berry said backstage. "I hope this means that they won't see our color. I think that's what makes us so unique. I think that maybe now we'll start to be judged on our merit and our work."

Poitier, who won best actor for 1963's "Lilies of the Field," earned standing ovations from both the Oscar audience and from reporters backstage when he entered the press room to answer questions.

After a series of clips highlighting his career, Poitier delivered an elegant speech thanking "visionary American filmmakers" such as Joseph Mankiewicz, Darryl Zanuck, Stanley Kramer and Norman Jewison.

He also paid tribute to black performers of the

past.

"I accept this award in memory of all the African-American actors and actresses who went before me in the difficult years," Poitier said, "on whose shoulders I was privileged to stand to see where I might go."

Russell Crowe, star of "A Beautiful Mind" and best-actor winner last year for "Gladiator," lost his bid for back-to-back Oscars. Crowe played math genius John Nash in his decades-long struggle with schizophrenia.

"We wouldn't be here if it weren't for Russell Crowe," Howard's producing partner, Brian Grazer, said as he accepted the best-picture Oscar. "His amazing dedication, work ethic and artistry have gotten us here."

Grazer also thanked Nash and wife Alicia, played by Connelly, for inspiring a movie that "has given so many a greater understanding of the vagaries of the mind. ... I hope in some way our movie helps to improve the way we feel about and

See OSCARS, Page 4