

Hard to believe it's January already

Hard to believe it is already Jan. 4. As Mrs. Briney said at our visit that evening, someone told her it was Friday. She replied that Thursday was here soon enough.

She was then telling me what was on deck for the remainder of the week. She seems very content with her new residence at the Wheat Ridge complex. I then briefly visited Leila Sturrock.

I also visited Christie Schiefen, Elaine Thompson and Grace Jensen at the hospital. They all seem to be doing much better.

Grace is looking forward to returning home this weekend if her daughter gets in from Denver. Elaine had her leg x-rayed Thursday and will know the results in a couple of days.

Christie is getting therapy on both her shoulder and her legs. They've given her a walker with a support for her broken wrist.

They hope to have her up and able to walk short trips in the next few days. So all in all, they seem to be on the mend.

It was nice today, so I changed my banner on my front porch from the nativity scene to my Valentine one. Speaking of front porch, my dog, Casey, has become attached to the little black and white kitten.

So much so that he's to the point of messing around until the kitten gets in the house. They nuzzle each other and the kitten strokes the dog's face and rubs its body on the dog and purrs a mile a minute. I've got news for them, NO CAT IN THE HOUSE.

Casey chases all the other cats that find their way onto the porch, but stops short of chasing the little black and white one. I thought he



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• goodland gazette

was "hard of seeing," as my niece told her mother one day when my sister was looking for something, right in front of her, and crabbing about its not being at hand. Kids say the darnedest things. Martha had yelled at them earlier in the day as they were fussing with each other about one thing or another. She used the expression, "Are you hard of hearing, I told you kids to stop that and settle down." Out of the mouth of babes, you never know what you'll hear.

Most of the Christmas and New Year's parties are history. Many families got together and now all the kids are back in school, except for the college kids who have a few more days before school resumes.

One large family gathering took place on the Saturday before Christmas when all but two of Rose Mary McKee's family got together at the assisted living center where she is a resident.

Knowing all of her family, it was fun to see all the kids and their families. She was so happy that on Sunday when I ate lunch at the center, she kept asking me if I had seen this one or the other.

I've known the McKees for sometime and saw her kids grow up and marry, as well as some of her grandkids and now they have given her great grandkids. Makes me feel like I must be getting older. I had lunch

with my friend, Eva Briney, that Sunday. I had been visiting Mrs. Briney on Saturday evening when the kids started to come in.

Birthday greetings, actually belated ones, to Sheri Mull on Jan. 2 and to Jimmy Schiefen on Jan. 3. I know of no anniversaries but best wishes to any who are having one or have had one the past week or so.

Well, the official retirement date is Jan. 31. That date will see the closure of Dr. Beynon's dental office. Hard to believe the time is at hand. It's something I knew would be coming, but I was always hoping for another year or so. He's not only been my employer, but my best friend, almost like a brother. Whenever I needed him, for whatever reason, he was there for me. It will seem strange not to be around him five days a week. None of us are sure of the future. As he says, we don't know what it will be like as we've never tried it before.

I'm doing this late because I didn't get my church work done as I got the wrong information and will have to wait till Saturday to finish the work. I did do all of the little jobs, so I will have only the bulletin to do on Saturday. I went to visit my sick and older friends before going home after I finished doing those little time consuming jobs.

No other notes around so I will shut this down. Hope the ribbon pushes out one more column, as they've not found me the ribbon that I need yet. On that note, take care 'till next week.

Business donates to local causes

WAL-MART, from Page 1

said, "who feel positive about Wal-Mart being in town. A majority of people feel positive."

After Wal-Mart moved to Goodland in 1997, two other grocery stores and one discount store here have closed. Schroller said Wal-Mart can't be blamed.

The IGA store closed in March 1998 and the Bogaarts-owned Jubilee Foods and Gibson's Discount Store, which filled a now-empty building east of Wal-Mart, shut down in September 1999.

IGA and Jubilee stores were closing across the nation, Schroller said, because of problems with the parent companies, and the customers closed Gibson's.

"The customers chose where they were going to shop," he said.

Wal-Mart is an asset to small towns, Schroller said, because it is able to put money back into the community. He said there are some organizations the store donates to every year, and some that receive money for special projects.

Being near gas field doesn't help cost

ULYSSES (AP)—Residents in this southwest Kansas town expected to pay bargain prices for natural gas this winter because the city owns two gas wells and is located near one of the oldest gas fields in the Midwest.

But residents were wrong. "We're sitting right on top of the supply, and it still costs," Ulysses City Administrator Bill Powers said this week. "We hear a lot of rumbling and grumbling."

Much like the rest of the nation, gas bills in Ulysses have almost doubled since last year, Powers said.

Over the past year, Schroller said, Wal-Mart gave out a total of \$9,000 in matching grants — where the store matched money an organization raised up to a certain amount — and \$5,000 in "bonus," or regular grants.

He said the store handed out \$9,000 of its own profits to schools, churches, 4-H clubs, the city and other organizations and donated \$3,000 in food and clothing to Genesis — a group in Goodland that collects food, clothing and toys for the less fortunate.

Schroller said Wal-Mart awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Jessica Nelson, who graduated from high school last year, and \$500 to Byron Tedford, who was named teacher of the year by the Goodland School District.

For the store's annual "Christmas Charity Appeal," he said, Wal-Mart donated a percentage of its sales between 6 a.m. and noon on Friday, Dec. 1, a total of \$1,039, to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter.

Store employees and Goodland business owners raised \$3,500 for the World War II memorial to be built in

Washington D.C., Schroller said, and Wal-Mart helped children involved in the annual Sunflower Festival raise \$700 for a kiddie pool at the site of the city's new swimming pool.

He said employees raised \$4,500 for churches, schools and organizations last year by volunteering their time. In the Volunteerism Always Pays program, Schroller said, Wal-Mart donates \$100 to a group for which an employee volunteered 15 hours in a quarter.

He said the store gave money to organizations in Wallace County, where there is one full-service grocery store, and a church in Sharon Springs. He said Wal-Mart plans to donate money in Burlington, Colo., from where the store draws a lot of its customers.

Schroller said most of the organizations that receive money are non-profit and are in the 501C3 tax bracket, but Wal-Mart tries to be as fair as possible with the grant money.

"We try to mix it up every year," he said, "so we're not giving always to the same people."

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