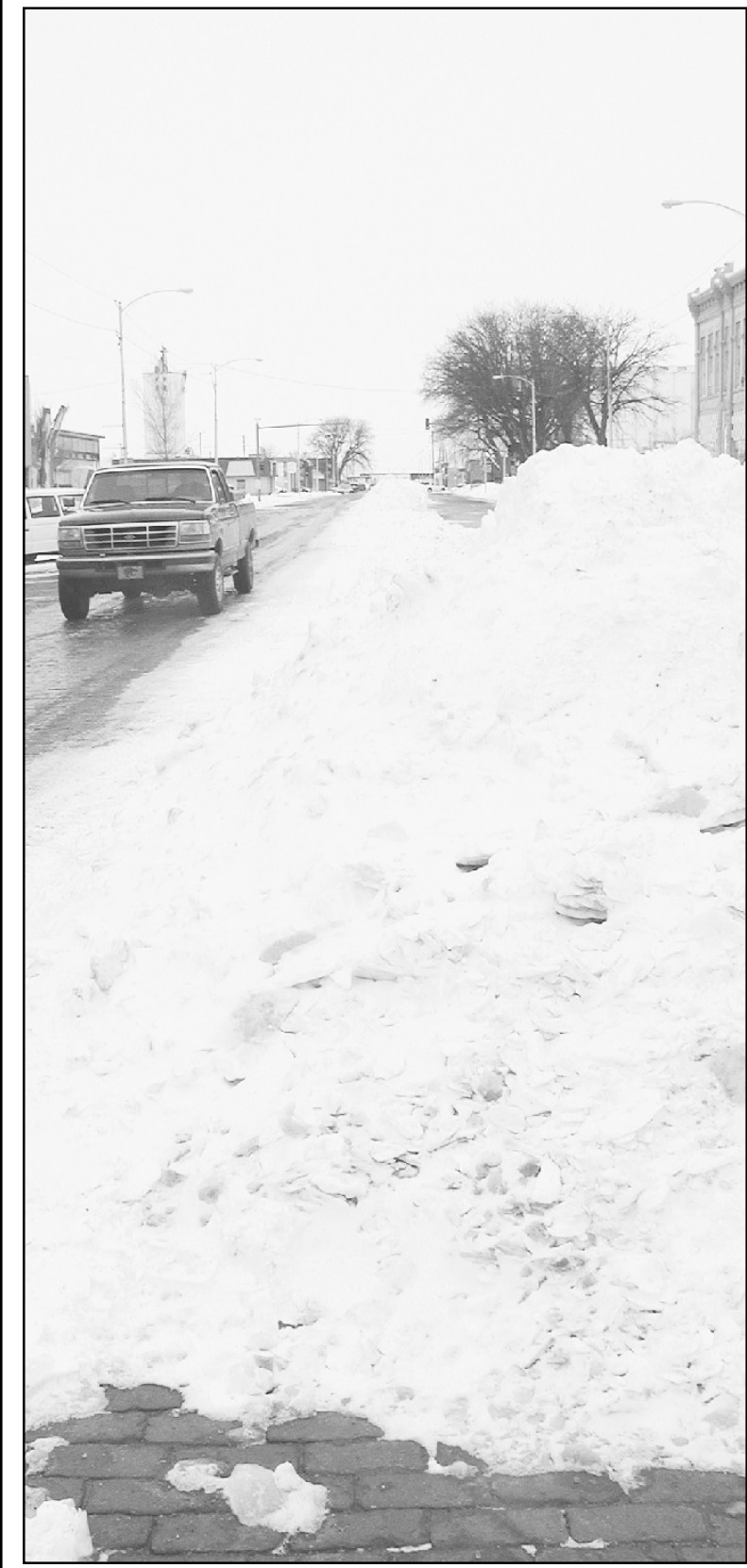


Piled deep and wide



City crews pile snow into the middle of streets and eventually haul it off to city property. This pile is down the center of Main between 12th and 13th streets. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Snowfall in January exceeds last year

SNOW, from Page 1

week, and more is expected for Monday.

This winter is already snowier than the past two, Boyle said, and the snowiest months are still to come.

More than 20 inches of snow has fallen so far this season, he said, compared with 19.7 for all of last winter. He said the average snowfall in Goodland is about 37 inches, but the past few years have been abnormally dry.

This winter has also been colder,

County to talk about supplemental insurance

The Sherman County commissioners are scheduled to meet with an insurance representative to talk about supplemental insurance for county employees at Wednesday's county commission meeting.

Kelley Milliken, a representative of AFLAC, will discuss details of the plan.

Evelyn Ward, president of the Sherman County Historical Society, will update the commissioners on what the society has been done in the last year and discuss its budget. Since commissioners Kevin Rasure and Mitch Tiede were recently elected, this will help them understand what is going on with the society.

In other business, commissioners are to:

- Appoint members to the board of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau. This decision is to be based on a list of recommended members with at least six of 10 being from

the motel business.

- Go over a contract for removal of metal from the county landfill.
 - Discuss the annual salary resolution for county employees that was delayed from the last meeting so they could see if any of the salary ranges need to be changed.
 - Renew the fire extinguisher maintenance agreement.
 - Finalize details of farm leases on county land. The commissioners decided they want to look at changing the leases to a cash basis rather than a crop share basis as it is now. The matter was tabled from their last meeting.
 - Appoint a member to the Area Agency on Aging board to replace Charles Whelen, who resigned.
 - Go into closed session to discuss personnel and review employee evaluations.
- The commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday in the commissioner's room at the courthouse.

Committee renews lottery

TOPEKA (AP) — Efforts to keep the Kansas Lottery alive cleared a major hurdle when a House committee recommended passage of a bill to renew the games for six years.

The 11-8 vote Monday by the House Federal and State Affairs Committee came after it cut the proposed renewal to July 1, 2008, rather than July 1, 2012, as proposed in the original bill.

Unless renewed, the lottery, approved by voters 1986, will cease to exist on July 1, 2002.

Lawmakers say they need to act this year because the agency would need a year to pay off expenses and shut down

operations.

"People didn't feel comfortable with a longer period of time. We need to continue to monitor the lottery on a regular basis," Chairman Doug Mays, R-Topeka, said after the vote.

Mays said the House likely will debate the bill this week. He predicted it would pass by a narrow margin, as it did when the lottery was renewed in 1990 and again in 1995.

A major reason for renewing the lottery is the money it brings to the state.

The lottery is expected to raise \$60 million for the 2002 budget year, which begins July 1.

Boyle said, bringing the coldest November on record and a December that was three degrees colder than those in the past.

Wolak said the mild winters have gotten people used to having clear streets.

"It used to be no big thing," he said, "but people have gotten out of the habit of driving on snowy streets."

That means more complaints for the city.

"Citizens call to tell us about slick spots," Wolak said. "That's good because we can't be everywhere. We appreciate citizens' patience. We know it's a nuisance."

After it snowed most of the day Saturday, he said, workers started clearing roads at 6 a.m. Sunday, and were out at 5 a.m. Monday morning moving

snow around.

With harsh weather continuing today, Wolak said, it could be a while before the snow on streets is cleared away.

He said a cold, snowy winter is not only hard on drivers, but is expensive for the city.

"It costs money to move snow," he said. "Personnel, equipment, fuel, overtime."

Wolak added that even when the snow is gone, the bad weather will continue to annoy drivers.

"This type of weather creates a problem for the streets," Wolak said. "It deteriorates the road. Citizens will see more potholes come spring."

That means more complaints for the crew. But Wolak said he doesn't mind. "It's part of the job," he said.

How turf handles winter

Kansas turf grasses have been spoiled in recent years with the relatively mild winters we've experienced. The effects of very cold temperatures on turfgrass have thus been less of a concern to us until this fall and winter, when Mother Nature has shown a real ornery streak.

There is good news and bad news for turfgrass with the conditions we've had. The good news is that we did not immediately progress from mild fall temperatures to very cold temperatures. Because of this, turf grasses (particularly warm-season grasses) have had a chance to slow their growth, send critical resources to storage tissues like roots or rhizomes, and generally acclimate to cold conditions. While this acclimation buffers turfgrasses against sudden snaps of very cold temperatures, sustained cold like we had in December can still damage turfgrass plants. There are two means by which this can happen.

Absolute minimum temperatures can affect turfgrasses by causing freezing of liquid within plant tissues. In response to freezing conditions, turfgrass plants will localize ice forma-

tion to spaces between cells to keep the cell contents from freezing up. Sustained cold can overpower this defense and, if ice forms within plant cells, death is imminent. A second consequence of winter cold that is a real concern for turf grasses is winter desiccation. This comes from continual losses of water during winter conditions and can be serious if dry or windy conditions prevail. While we had conditions recently to promote winter damage, the presence of snow cover served as an effective insulator to both absolute cold and desiccation. Snow creates a physical buffer to cold and temperatures can actually remain above freezing under the snow due to turfgrass metabolic activity.

The bottom line for us is that snowfall which precedes a sustained cold snap should minimize any potential winter injury occurring in our turf grasses and help moisturize the soil and therefore help avoid further winter desiccation injury.



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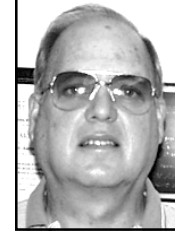
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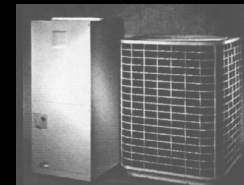
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