

If you're dreaming of a 'White Christmas' it likely will be brown

SNOW, from Page 1

recalled.

Alberta Hayden, another long-time Goodland resident, said although she doesn't recall details of Christmas Day 1941, she does remember being separated from her future husband, Ed, for a few weeks.

Ed lived in Sherman County and Alberta lived in Wallace County, just five miles apart, but she said, they couldn't get together because of the weather.

"He couldn't get to come see me for a long time," she said. "We didn't get out to go to places much for a long time. It was really snowed up."

Snow did fall on Christmas more recently, with a tenth of an inch drifting from the sky in 2000. In 1997, 5 inches were measured here and 2 inches were recorded just a year later. From 1982 to 1985, we had several white holidays, proving that it isn't impossible to see snow.

"They're just kind of few and far between," said Floyd.

Normally, he said, snow starts to fall here after the first of the year. He said March is historically the snowiest month, with January and February close behind.

So far, Goodland has seen 3.7 inches of snow, compared to an average of around 11 inches for this time

of year. But Floyd said it was warmer than normal in October and November, producing more rain than snow.

The yearly average snowfall is 41.8 inches for the entire winter.

For the short term, Floyd said he didn't expect much moisture in the next couple of weeks. We should see highs around 57 for today and in the mid 40s through next week with partly cloudy skies. He added the forecast doesn't indicate any real chance of snow for Christmas, unless something changes.

"The outlook through the 22nd calls for dry weather," he said, "unless something happens right in the 11th hour."

More rainfall may indicate end of drought

With better than average rainfall this fall, Goodland might be coming out of a three-year drought.

Dave Floyd, meteorologist for the National Weather Service here, said the extra rain has helped out.

"We are making a dent in our drought," he said.

As of Thursday, the precipitation total for the year was up to 21.38 inches, 1.78 inches above normal.

December has, however, been drier than normal

with rainfall amounts at 0.02 of in. inch. The month is normally dry with an average total of 0.45 of an inch.

Floyd said the year to date number is roughly 7.5 inches above rainfall totals here last year.

Although Goodland is still classified in a drought, he said, we may be turning a corner with the added moisture.

"It has really helped replenish the subsoil," he said.

Trash, yard waste rates may rise 8 percent

TRASH, from Page 1

Rasure said he felt the county could continue to help with the cost of picking up the rollouts by paying In the Can \$3 per month for each yard waste rollout.

Redlin said there were 40 new large lawn waste containers this year, bringing the total up to 133, and there were over 160 rollouts.

Thomas made a motion to approve the committee recommendations and to continue the county subsidy on the yard waste rollouts.

It passes unanimously.

Betz said the committee discussed the problem of cleaning up alleys, and said the recommendation was that the city consider an ordinance to allow the alleys to be cleaned, allowing material left in the right-of-way to be hauled away.

Past efforts to clean up the alleys have run into problems because homeowners have put stuff in the right-of-way and then complained when it was hauled off to the dump.

The county commissioners agreed that this recommendation

should be forwarded to the city for consideration.

Redlin told the committee there are some alleys in the city where the trucks had trouble because of low hanging tree branches, and wondered who's responsibility it would be to cut these back.

Committee member Dave Daniels, a city commissioner, said that the city utility department handles trees that are growing in the power lines, but he did not know what the rules were on trees in the alleys.

Santa, Grinch part of special show

SHOW, from Page 1

Jamie Gittinger.

Eight Santas and one elf joined nine reindeer for "Santa Claus Rock." The Santas were Parker Seick, Garrett Geist, Mikail Freeman, Ricky Bacasegua, Tyler Fisher, McKenzie Purvis, Curtis Ross and Jason Cowan. The elf was Jaron Rables, and the reindeer were Morgan Powell, Blaine Luther, Albert Mouchette, Cappi Thomas, Shawn Reiter, Skylar Williams, Garrett Nemechek, Kalyn Weber and Gage Espinosa.

The concert finished with "Light the Candles," "Comet" and "Heart of America."

Students were from the classes of Deanne Burkett, Mary Frazier and Myron Tedford.

Band members were Ann Aguirre, Garza, Nicole Hendrich, Jacee Herl, Powell, Rutz-Cross, Sloan, Titus, Williams and Winston on clarinet. Percussionists were Avelar, Mouchette, Oharah and Sieck. Saxophone players were Ricky Bacasegua, Reed Bellamy, Priscila Ledesma, Peden and Alex Rangel.

Trombone players were Cassandra Battistoni, Fisher and Nemechek. Trumpet players were J.J. Farris, Freeman, Brendan Fulcher, Linin, Luther, Shawn Rieter and Sloan Ruhs. Dallas DeLaRosa and Ragels were on French horns. Flute players were Garrett, Samantha Gutierrez, Hestilow, Jolly, Thomas and Thornburg. Laine Herl was on baritone.

Other choir members were Aguirre, Battistoni, Jaime Flores, Jacob Garcia, Gutierrez, Dolores Montoya, Rangel, Ryan Hillmer, Brendan Fulcher and Seth Stramel.

Christmas on Us grand prize drawing Saturday

DRAWING, from Page 1

- You must be 18 to participate.
- Employees of participating businesses are not eligible at their workplace, but can collect tickets from other sponsors. *Star-News* employees are not eligible.
- All prizes will be awarded in scrip, which can be spent *only* at participating businesses.

- Today is the last day to collect tickets. Winners must be present at the grand prize drawing and be able to show their winning ticket.
- Winners of major prizes must provide their tax identification number, and agree to be interviewed and photographed for publication in the newspaper.

Participating businesses are Garcia's Home Furnishings and Ap-

pliance, Mr. Jim's His & Hers Shop, S&T Communications, Elliott's, Miller's Electronics, American Communications, Mann's Jewelry, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Knott Just Books, Mobile Connections, Jacque's Hallmark, Frontier Equity Exchange, Goodland Greenline, McClung's Appliance, El Dorado, Kear's Quality Liquor, Eagle Cable TV and *The Star-News*.

New equipment needed

SURGEON, from Page 1

She said the hospital officials and staff are looking forward to the surgeon's arrival. He and his wife Heidi have a new baby, McCants said, a son named Brock and are community-oriented people.

The foundation is conducting its 19th annual "Caring Kind" fund drive this month. The foundation received a \$10,000 "lead" gift from a local family, Schields said, that will go toward surgical equipment.

Over the past 18 years, he said, the campaign has helped to raise over \$140,000 for equipment, scholarships and new medical services at the hospital.

Last year, Schields said, gifts helped launch a new urinary incontinence program through the hospital's

physical therapy department.

This year's campaign is targeted for surgical equipment, he said, but gifts can be designated for any use.

Gifts to the foundation may be tax deductible, he said. Gifts of \$250 or more will be recognized on a Tree of Gifts, while all Caring Kind donations will be permanently recognized on a donor plaque across from the hospital's display cases.

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