

# The Community Page



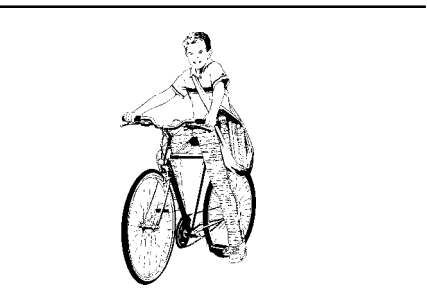
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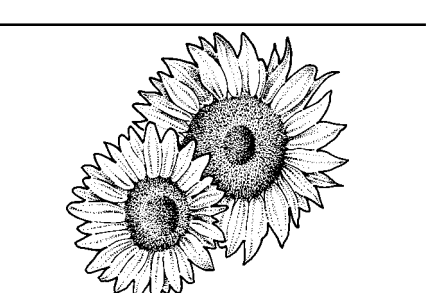



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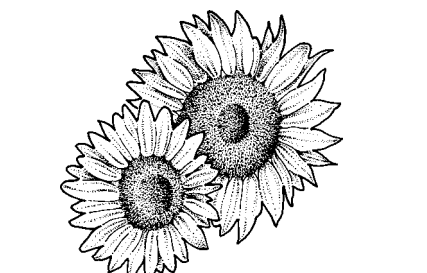
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*New Year's celebrated many ways, better future is common theme*

Some may be eager to ring in a new year, while others are still wondering what happened to the old one.

Recent New Year's traditions include festivities, merriment, well wishes and football. Some look forward to the ball dropping in Times Square, and "Auld Lang Syne," which means "the good old days," stirs wistful memories in many.

Over the years and around the world, New Year's has been celebrated at different times of the year, due to different calendars.

It has been associated with harvest festivals, hoping for a fertile harvest for the next year, and its traditions have included eating "lucky" foods, stripping the king and

making resolutions.

In Babylonia, the area that is now Iraq, the New Year's festival was held in the spring. The king was stripped of his clothes and sent away, and for a few days everyone could do just what they liked.

Then the king returned in a grand procession, dressed in fine robes. Then, everyone had to return to work and behave properly.

With the new year upon us, many in the area are making resolutions, while others have thrown in the towel, resolving only to not make resolutions they can't keep. (See article below.)

Resolutions aren't new to Goodland, of course, but come out of many traditions of the past from around the world.

*Losing weight to going to the museum; resolutions promise better year*

Asking people for their New Year's resolutions often elicits a big laugh, and the responses range from the old stand-by, to lose weight, to the touching, to be a better friend or to help others.

**Jo Simmons**, manager of the Goodland Churches Thrift Store, said she doesn't usually make resolutions, so she won't break them, while **Kevin Rasure**, manager of Rasure Lumber and a Sherman County commissioner, said he doesn't usually have time.

"Life goes too quick sometimes," Rasure said. "I'm usually too busy finishing up the old year to think about the new."

**Dean Terry**, manager of Dollar General, said his personal resolution is to lose weight, a resolution he said has not succeeded in the past. Terry said for the store, he has resolved to serve customers better, adding that he has visions for the store he wants to see happen.

Terry also said he would like to be more involved in his church and the community.

**Dianna Briney**, administrative assistant at Goodland Regional Medical Center, said she usually resolves to lose weight but doesn't succeed. She has decided to resolve that 2005 be an even better year than 2004.

**Tina Goodwin**, director of the Carnegie Arts Center, said her perennial resolution has been to get in better shape, a goal yet to be achieved. She has resolved to take her family to the museum in Denver more next year. Explaining the resolution, Goodwin said they went to see the Egyptian exhibit at the Museum of Nature and Science, and it would cost little more for the family to have an annual membership than to pay for the one trip. So they have a membership for next year, and she resolves to use it.

What do you resolve to do when you don't need to lose weight, are already walking every day and deliver mail rain, snow, sleet and shine?

Mail carrier **George VanVleet** said he resolves to never have an enemy. He said last year he resolved to lift weights at least three times a week and is still doing it.

**LaVaughn Becker**, a volunteer at the thrift store, said she hadn't made a resolution yet, but while trying to decide what Christmas gift to get for a woman who has

everything, she decided maybe the best gift would be to resolve to visit the woman more often.

Becker said she once resolved not to eat chocolate for a month and succeeded, but as soon as the month was over, she had to have some.

**Jackie Baumfalk**, co-owner of McB's Motor and Radiator Repair, said she doesn't usually make resolutions because she doesn't usually keep them. But she resolved for 2005 to have a good year and said it would be good to resolve that the war be over.

Those who bowed out of making resolutions include City Clerk **Mary Volk**, who said she usually comes up with them at the last minute.

"That's probably why I don't keep them," she said.

**Donna Price**, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, said she has never made a New Year's resolution, adding that she tries to plan in smaller time periods rather than biting off the whole chunk.

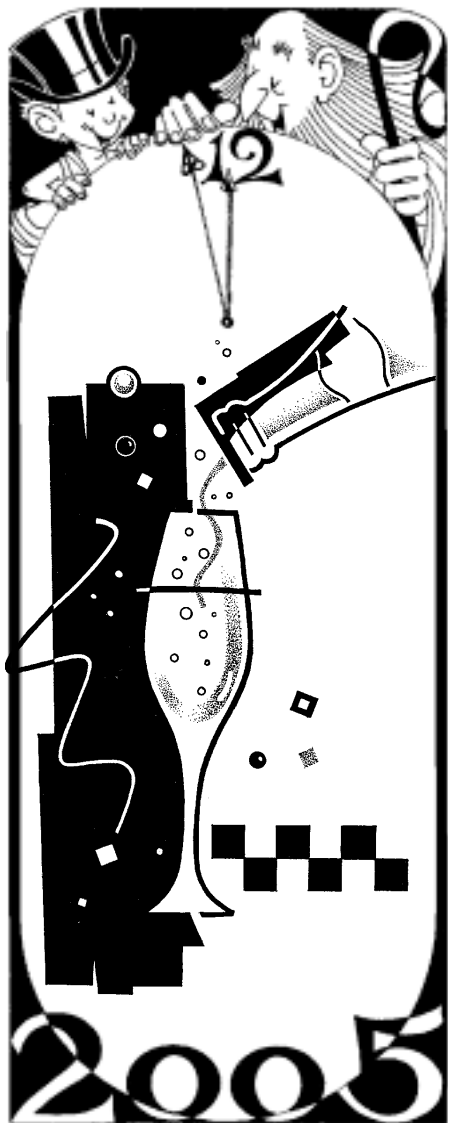
**Pat Schiefen**, copy editor for *The Goodland Star-News*, said, "Why bother? Nobody lives up to them anyway."



The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah and is a holy time when people think of things they have done wrong in the past, and they promise to do better in the future.

In Vietnam, the New Year is celebrated between Jan. 21 and Feb. 19, the exact day changing from year to year. The people believe there is a god in every home, and at the New Year, this god travels to heaven. There he will say how good or bad each member of the family has been in the past year.

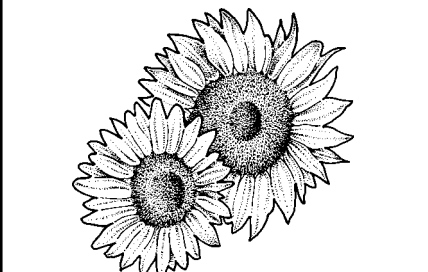
(Information on New Year's traditions are found at [www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/7214/newyear.htm](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/7214/newyear.htm) and [wilstar.com/holidays/newyear.htm](http://wilstar.com/holidays/newyear.htm).)




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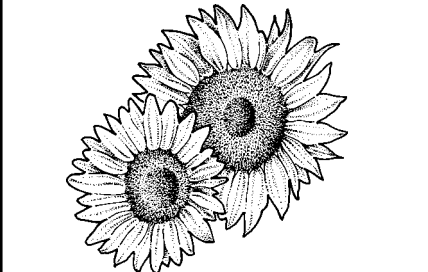
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