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❖ Seasons Greetings ❖



File photo

Following one of Eugene's snowfalls, a University student hits the slopes outside Hamilton Complex.

**Dreaming of a white Christmas**

Those of us not voyaging to Aspen or St. Moritz might hope that it will snow in Eugene this Dec. 25.

Such thoughts aren't that ridiculous. It has happened. Christmas snow fell four times in the last 75 years: in 1952, 1954, 1964 and 1983 to be exact.

*'There's nothing that I see going on in the floor of the valley that would give us a white Christmas.'*

— Rick Wagner  
National Weather Service

A one-inch layer fell in 1983, leaving a total of three inches on the ground for Christmas day. Disbelievers can check the Dec. 25, 1983 Register-Guard for a story titled, "Storm brings rare white Christmas."

They will also find news about a record-breaking 14-degree temperature, about law enforcers surprised by calm and prudent motorists and about disappointment at Willamette Pass Ski area. No one



File photo

University students catch a slippery, post-snowstorm ride on the back of a friend's car.

was able to reach the resort because Highway 58 was closed.

What are the chances for snowy flakes this Christmas? "We shouldn't have white Christmases," said Rick Wagner of the National Weather Service. "We have a moderate rain climate. We don't get too hot, and we don't get too cold."

When pressed further, Wagner said, "It's impossible to tell. There's nothing that I

see going on in the floor of the valley that would give us a white Christmas.

"We have the best of both worlds," he said, since we often have snow available 30-40 minutes away. "We don't have to shovel it, but we can visit it any time we want."

All the same, there was snow on the ground last winter and it has snowed on Christmas before. Let's just wait and see.

— Jacqueline Woge

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