

from our viewpoint...

# After one year, his ideas are growing

About two years ago, a young man flashed onto the scene in Goodland with a lot of ideas and energy. The high-paced way Schyler Goodwin approached everything made some people nervous. It exhausted those trying to keep up with him.

For those who got to know him, he was always planning the next big project that would put Sherman County on the map. He's gone, off to law school. We know he is as busy and energetic in his pursuit of a law degree as he was in awakening the younger people of his hometown.

Looking at some of the ideas he fostered, we see that many others have taken on the vision he had and continue to move things forward. Some ideas have fallen by the wayside, but are not totally forgotten. They may surface again in modified form.

Today, the Sherman County Economic Development Council, the Sherman County Community Foundation and the joint grant writing program are examples of the good ideas he spread.

We are pleased to see the city, county and school board are approving the continuation of the grant-writing program. Nine grants were submitted in the first year, and so far one has been approved for the city. While this has not brought in the millions Goodwin envisioned, it has made an impact on the efforts to attract money to projects in Sherman County.

The Economic Development Council has been in operation for about one year, and the office has been open for six months. There have not been a flood of new businesses, but things are moving along. The council got the county's micro loan program off dead center.

The efforts of the council are a matter of public record, and their meetings are announced and open to the public. An effort is being made to keep the public informed of what the executive director is working on without compromising confidential information.

Carolyn Applegate, the economic development director, has been working with companies that have contacted her office about the Apple Trail truck stop. The business has been closed for over two years. It was foreclosed by a New York bank through the bankruptcy process.

Applegate in her capacity as the economic development contact has provided what information she has access to, and on occasion driven people around the city and the property. She has reported on this at public council which were reported in *The Goodland Star-News*.

In the last few weeks, a complaint was sent to the state Real Estate Commission questioning the efforts of the development director. The complaint, filed by a Goodland real estate person, alleged that the act of driving at person around the Apple Trail property amounted to an attempt to sell real estate without a license. In the letter, the real estate person tried to infer that the complaint was being filed on behalf of the Goodland Board of Realtors.

Despite the protests of the investigator, who told Applegate she had no right to see the letter of complaint, it was sent to her office because it is a public document.

This attempt to discredit the development office may not fly, but it wastes the time of those who are trying to bring some development to the county.

This will not be the last effort to stop the momentum of the programs Goodwin helped start a year ago. We hope when he — or someone like him — next comes our way we have an opportunity to gather a few more good ideas. — *Tom Betz*

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## Time for more feline fables

I haven't told any cat tails, er tales, for a while, so here's the latest on the Haynes felines.

Youngest daughter finished her grades and packed up for a summer in Colorado. She farmed out the classroom gerbils and fish, but dumped her two gray cats in individual carriers and showed up on Mom and Dad's doorstep on a bright, sunny day last week.

Since she had decided to go visit a great aunt in Denver on the way to Creede, which is in southern Colorado, she asked us to take the cats with us as we were headed out to open the house.

Youngest daughter's cats are spooky, but they have both spent considerable time at our home.

Come to think of it, all our children's animals (except oldest daughter's birds) have spent considerable time at our place over the years.

She let both cats out of their carriers and we all settled in for the night. We would all leave about noon the next day — youngest daughter for Denver, us for Creede.

In the morning, only one cat could be found. We searched the whole house. Someone



**cynthia haynes**  
• open season

thought they saw something move under a stairway in the basement, but no one could get back there and it was getting time to go if we were going to get to Creede before midnight.

We took off with one cat. Daughter continued to search, but soon had to leave also. We called our catsitter and warned her that there should be one yellow female, one Siamese male, one gray and white female and one gray female of skittish disposition.

Don't let the gray one out, please, we said.

We all worried all weekend as to whether there would be four cats or only three when we returned.

We were half right. There were only three cats at the back door when we came home on Saturday night. There was a white and gray

one. There was a Siamese. And, there was a very lonely gray kitty wondering where Mom and her playmate had gone.

There was no April Alice. Our yellow cat, the one we picked up when she was pregnant a year ago and carried home, was gone.

Cats just don't seem to return when they disappear — at least ours don't. April Alice is a home-loving cat. She doesn't stray much and she doesn't spend the night outside if she can help it.

I was devastated. My only hope was that she had gotten caught in someone's garage.

In the morning when I got to the back door, there was April Alice. The neighbors reported her flying out of their garage the minute they opened the door.

Sometimes miracles do happen.

My only problem now is the fourth cat. But that too will solve itself. Youngest daughter has to return to Lawrence for a teachers' meeting in two weeks. She can pick up her cat on her way back to Colorado.

Until then, we're a four-cat family, with little chance that any two of them can get along.

## How we know the Bible is from God - part 2

Many people wonder how it is possible to be sure the Bible is from God. In my last column, published in the Tuesday, June 17, issue of *The Goodland Star-News*, I shared how the Bible's internal harmony in revealing God's personality and its detail and accuracy show that it is from God.

This week, I will show how the Bible's divine wisdom and its survival despite opposition show it to be from God.

The Bible contains many examples of God's wisdom, advice superior to human wisdom. Proverbs 13:24 warns: "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."

In an effort to put an end to abusive discipline, well-meaning psychologists some years ago began advising parents not to discipline their children. Discipline stifles their development, some so-called experts claimed.

But time proved the wisdom of the Bible's admonition at Hebrews 12:11: "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Another gem of wisdom is found at Proverbs 13:20: "He who walks with wise men becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

How many examples can you think of when someone has gotten in trouble because of the influence of peers or hanging around with someone who got into trouble? A friend told me a Mexican saying which, translated into English, is, "Show me your friends, and I'll show you who you are."

The influence of associates clearly can be for a person's good or bad, as the Bible says. But so many people even today either think the good will influence the bad or don't want to



**sharon corcoran**  
• use it or lose it

recognize that influence at all.

Although the Bible was completed nearly 2,000 years ago, its advice is still good. Meanwhile, human wisdom changes from month to month or year to year with the current trends.

This divine wisdom, recorded for humans, has had a hard fight to survive. The Bible's survival despite opposition shows that it is from God and, thus, had His protection.

When the writing of the Bible began, Israel, the nation whose members recorded and preserved the first part of the Bible, was just one small nation among many in the Middle East.

In Moses' day, Pharaoh ordered the murder of all newborn baby boys of the Israelites, an attempted genocide. If his orders had been carried out, the future nation of people who recorded the early books of the Bible would have been wiped out.

When the Jews were under Persian rule, another attempt was made to wipe them out. The plot to get a law passed to exterminate the Jews is recorded at Esther 3:1-15.

The nation was divided into two kingdoms and then the northern kingdom was nearly wiped out by the Assyrian Empire, and the southern kingdom was destroyed by Babylon, the survivors being taken into captivity.

Nations around Israel worshipped many gods and wrote religious literature at the same time as the Bible was recorded. What happened to those writings? They were forgotten, and the languages they were written in became extinct.

Archaeologists recently uncovered the Akadian legend of Gilgamesh from Mesopotamia and the Ras Shamra epics, written in Ugaritic, a language formerly spoken in what is now northern Syria. These writings were done on stone or clay tablets, while the Bible was written on papyrus, a much more destructible material.

Yet the Bible, including the earliest books, have continued to be read down until our time and are still widely read.

The earliest manuscripts have not survived down to our day, but numerous copies were written out by hand up until the printing press was developed.

How was the Bible's accuracy insured during those millenniums of hand-copying? Scribes had the work of copying and had to use properly authenticated copies as their master texts and meticulously check each letter before copying it.

Despite the likelihood of human error, the oldest manuscripts of the Bible that have been found, compared with recent translations, show that it has been recorded accurately.

Despite such efforts to wipe out the people who recorded, copied and preserved the Bible, the fact that early copies were done on a destructible material and the possibility of human error during hand-copying and translation, the Bible has been preserved accurately. How?

Genesis 18:14 asks, "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, in the spring, and Sarah will have a son."

The God who created heaven and earth and who miraculously helped Sarah to have a child in her old age used some of His power to preserve the Bible despite all odds. It is His message, and He wanted to be sure we had a chance to read it.

## garfield

