

# Carpenter switched to building homes for birds



Curtis Hurd (left) showed how he uses a power drill in his shop for woodworking and miniature building projects. Among the fruits of his labor are Bird City (below) and Beverly's Bird Condo (above).  
Photos by Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Star-News

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

A retired Goodland building contractor has switched to smaller homes — much smaller homes.

And they made a good solution to his wife's gripe about an empty shelf along the south side of their deck in the back yard.

Curtis Hurd, who bought out his father's construction company in 1965 and operated it for 30 years, has kept busy in his retirement, remodeling kitchens, repairing furniture, doing decks — and building bird houses.

Among his creations is a bird condo in his front yard, a gift for his wife Beverly, with a "hot tub" in the back. He also created "Bird City" along the rail of the back deck to fill in an area that didn't work out for potted plants.

It was too hot for the plants there, Hurd said, but Beverly said they needed something.

So Bird City, complete with a church, outhouses and the Bird Drop Saloon, was born.

The buildings have holes and posts for birds in the back, Hurd said, but Bird City is something of a ghost town — not many birds have

visited and none seem to have set up permanent residence.

The condo seems equally uninhabited, though a sign out front advertises condos for rent from Beverly E. Hurd L.L.C.

"L.L.C. normally stands for Limited Liability Company," Curtis said, "but in this case, it stands for lots of love, Curtis."

A third-generation Sherman County resident, Curtis said both of his grandparents were homesteaders here. His father was a building contractor from 1928-65.

Hurd built his and Beverly's home in the '60s and has added on since. He has made a workshop that formerly was a playroom for the kids, a television room and his wife's office. It's always evolving, he said.

Hurd served on the city commission for four years before being defeated in the April 2003 election. He serves on the board of the Sherman County Historical Society.

He has made a proposal to the historical society for the restoration of spindles on the porches and gingerbread trim to the Ennis-Handy House and plans to donate the labor for the project.



# Greyhound replacements may bring service to Goodland

**By Kathryn Gurfinkel**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Greyhound Lines seems determined to abandon Goodland, but people who went to a tri-state economic development meeting last Friday in Sterling, Colo., heard that other firms may step in.

Representatives at the Tri-State Initiative for Economic Development meeting learned that Greyhound's route plan was hitting even harder in Colorado and in Nebraska, where the company is closing all of its stops except for ones in Lincoln and Omaha.

Bob Barry, manager and part owner of the Sinclair station off of K-27 which is the Greyhound stop here, said he learned that the bus company is pulling out of even larger stops in Nebraska and Colorado. The firm says it will save millions by keeping buses rolling rather than stopping along the freeway.

"They're dropping routes up there that make more money than ours," he said.

Carolyn Applegate, Sherman County Economic Development director, said the main discussion was not about routes on Interstate

70, but about the loss of routes in northern Colorado and into Nebraska. She said the transportation problem is greater for many communities north of Goodland. Although we worry most about our town, she said, Nebraska may face more of a hardship.

Barry said Greyhound is actually increasing runs along I-70 while eliminating the stops. He said cutting stops will help the company to streamline its routes and offer faster times.

"From what everybody said," Barry said. "Greyhound made their

decision and it wasn't going to change."

The cut will affect several business in town that receive shipments from the buses, he said, and the Sinclair station will lose sales.

"It generates me three, four or five hundred dollars per month in income," Barry said, "plus what passengers spend. Somedays I get a lot of income from it."

Although he has little hope of keeping the bus service, Barry said he is optimistic that he can find a way to offer transportation to and from Goodland.

Applegate said several bus companies, including Burlington Trailways, Arrow Stagelines and Coach USA, attended the tri-state meeting and one of them may pick up service where Greyhound left off.

Barry said at the session he met Lea Holtorf, who runs Dashabout Roadrunner, a by-appointment-only scheduled shuttle service. He said she makes regular trips to Children's Hospital and the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Denver. Although she does not carry any freight, she told him she was willing to stop in town to pick

up passengers who call and make reservations 24 hours ahead.

Barry said he also was looking into starting up his own shuttle service through the Sinclair Station.

"We've got a couple of things we're working on," he said. "It depends on how much feedback we get."

Since the station already has a permit for tow trucks, he said, adding a shuttle bus might be easy. He said they are just toying with different ideas to see what might work.

"We'll get something going," Barry said. "I'm sure."

# School board approves \$7 million budget

**By Greg Stover**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The Goodland School Board approved a \$7 million proposed budget for the 2004-2005 school year Monday night and set a public hearing for noon Tuesday, Aug. 10.

The hearing will be held at the district office, 1312 Main Ave. A copy of the budget is on Page 12 of today's *Goodland Star-News*.

The total budget is \$7,079,028, which is \$213,704 less than last year. Declining enrollment is the major reason for the drop, said Superintendent Marvin Selby.

The budget provides for 84 teachers next year, four less than last. The positions include one each in music, American history, physical education and third grade.

Selby said another factor affecting the budget is that state has not raised the base spending allowed per student since the 2001-2002 school year, when it was \$3,870. The amount was cut to \$3,863 last year and will remain there next year.

People who want to raise objections to the budget or who have questions are invited to attend the hearing and tell the school board, said Selby. People can look a copy of the detailed budget at the district office, he said, and copies will be

available at the hearing.

Sharon Gregory, principal at Central Elementary School, who also oversees the district's testing assessment program, reported at the meeting Monday that all five Goodland schools and the district as a whole achieved their goals for "adequate yearly progress" in all areas this year. The progress reports are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which includes penalties for schools that do not meet standards.

Gregory said part of the reason for the district's success is that the students worked hard on their problem-solving skills. She said the students took advantage of the practice tests that are available on the Internet, using the same format as the actual tests.

This allowed students to become confident in their ability to use the tools available with the test, which helped them focus on the problem rather than be distracted trying to figure out how to use the tools. Gregory said overall the students did well but there are some areas that need work.

Selby said he was pleased with the results.

"Sharon has done a great job in working with the staff to help pre-

pare the students for the tests," he said. "She also has done a good job working with the teachers to ensure that state standards are met."

Selby said progress has to continue.

"The bar will go up," he said.

In the superintendent's report, Selby said some leaks had been reported in the roof at West Elementary, which is under warranty. He said Roof Masters out of Colby, representing the contractor, came out for an inspection Monday and later made the repairs.

Selby also asked the board if he could look into building a greenhouse over the band room in the northeast corner of the high school. The first question to be answered is whether that part of the building will support a greenhouse. Selby said he will contact Glen Strait, an architect out of Colby, to examine the support structure. Strait was the

architect for the additions to the Max Jones Fieldhouse and the remodeling of the high school science department.

The greenhouse would be used by the science department for school projects.

In other business, the board:

- Voted unanimously to hire Vicki Killingsworth as head cook at Central Elementary, Jann Gillespie as the head cook at Grant Junior High, Julie Roanne as a three-hour cook at Grant, Elaine Lawson as a three-hour cook at North Elementary and Ken Siruta as a bus driver.

- Decided to have a "back-to-school" breakfast this year, instead of a dinner. The breakfast will at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug 24, at the high school cafeteria.

The meeting, which started at 7 p.m., adjourned at 8:25. The next regular meeting will be 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 9, at the district office.

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual.

## New Listing



**613 West 9th...**This quaint home has been totally updated! New thermal pane windows, new central heat and air, new exterior doors, new carpet, dishwasher, double oven, cooktop, newer refrigerator, new vanity and sink in bath plus new privacy fence and 24x42' metal garage. Open floor plan with large living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bath. \$55,000. Please call Donna Moore to take a look at this "ready-to-move-into" home!



**531 West 10th...** Spacious 2 story home with partial basement. Main floor has formal living room, family room, dining room, kitchen with stove and dishwasher, large laundry room, bath and huge 13.6' x 24' master bedroom. The second floor offers 3 more bedrooms and a full bath. Some of the extras include big garage, new roof, new fence, some new windows and carpet. \$90,000. Please let Donna Moore show you this home!



**117 East 5th...**Here's the chance to have your own inground pool for those hot summer days! Brick home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished basement, double car attached garage plus shop area. \$90,000. Please ask Donna to show you this home today!

Cynthia Butts, 899-3944; Donna Moore 899-6159.  
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