

Goodland family suffers murder/suicide tragedy

By Kathryn Burke

A murder-suicide took the lives of two long-time Goodland residents Sunday.

Richard, 75, and Donna, 69, Hurd were found dead at their home at 102 Broadway around 8:35 p.m.

Their grandson, Chris, discovered the bodies and called police to the scene.

Goodland Police Chief Ray Smee said the two died of gunshot wounds and the preliminary data points to Richard taking Donna's life and then his own.

"In cases like this," he said, "there is just not a lot of information."

Chief Smee said detectives were still unsure of what actually happened and with no witnesses they may never know the whole story.

"With this type of situation," he said, "all your witnesses are gone, so I don't speculate at all."

Richard Hurd, a third generation resident born and raised in Sherman County, was a retired parts salesman for Shores Bros Auto Supply.

His first cousin Curtis Hurd said Richard was a friend of everybody. "He was a very jovial person," he added, "he loved to visit."

Richard was a Navy veteran and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Although Richard was suffering from diabetes and had recently gone to Hays for a minor surgery, Curtis said the couple seemed to be healthy.

"As far as I know," he said, "They were in pretty good health."

He said he spoke with Richard

only a few days before the shooting and he didn't notice anything out of the ordinary.

"He didn't seem to be upset over anything," Curtis said.

Donna (Hayden) Hurd was born in Sherman County to Charles and Elvertine Hayden. The family lived in Wallace County but she graduated from Goodland High School in 1953.

Hurd worked for several law offices and then in the county treasurer's office until her retirement last December.

"They were enjoying retirement," said Hurd's former co-worker and newly elected county treasurer Iris Scheopner.

Hurd's older sister Charlene (Hayden) Kramer said she liked working for the county, but the long days were hard.

"She enjoyed working," she said, "but she was getting tired."

Scheopner said Hurd still worked in the office to fill in sometimes and was even helping out with taxes last month.

"She was real easy going," remembered Scheopner. "She had a good sense of humor."

"She was always pleasant," added Shelby Miller, Hurd's former boss and county treasurer. "Everyone liked to work with her."

She said everyone at the office was shocked to hear the news since they had seen Hurd so recently.

"We're just devastated in here," she said.

Kramer said Richard and Donna went to church every Saturday night at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. She said Donna was involved with the Goodland Arts Council, too.

Chief Smee said the Goodland Police Department, the Sherman County Sheriff's Department and the Kansas Bureau of Investigations were all investigating the case.

He said on Monday almost all of the family had been notified of the shooting and the Hurd's sons Tim, of Raymore, Mo., and Mike, Kansas City, Mo., were on their way to town.

Kramer said although she hadn't spoken to many family members, she knew everyone was shocked at the shooting.

"I'm so shocked myself," she said. "I can't believe it."

She said Chris Hurd, the grandson who discovered the bodies, was still very upset Monday. Hurd is a new student in the automotive technology program at Northwest Kansas Technical College.

"Their grandson is broken up," she said. "He can't talk."

The couple had been married for almost 50 years and had two sons, two grandsons, one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter.

"She was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother," said Kramer. "Everybody that knew Donna loved her. She was a very lovable person."

Memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday at the Catholic Church in Goodland.



SORTING CLOTHES— Cynthia Poling, Betty Loudon, Sherry Schultz and Reva Pownell, volunteers, are getting the clothes at the thrift shop folded and displayed .

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Thrift Shop plans sack sale

The United Methodist Church Thrift Shop is located at 104 West Webster, St. Francis, on the second floor of the Educational Building.

The shop features good used clothing for men, women and children. There are also shoes, some bedding, linens and coats, along with decorating and gift items. The prices are very low.

The Thrift Shop is manned by volunteer women and the profit goes to church missions.

"So many people benefit from

this project," said Betty Loudon, volunteer. "Surprise yourself and come up to see it for yourself."

Not only do the volunteers give of their time, but the youth of the church transport the many bags of off-season clothes to storage for donation to the Goodwill. Last spring, the Lions Club members loaded and hauled a huge amount of clothes to Garden City in conjunction with their annual Goodwill pick up.

Good, clean clothes as well as

bedding, towels, linens, spreads and other such items are in great demand and needed at the Thrift Shop. People having such items to donate should leave them at the church Educational Building, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The volunteers ask that the items be brought upstairs and put in the designated boxes.

Sack Sale

The Thrift Shop will have a "Sack Sale" on Thursday. In other words, everything the shopper can put in his/her sack for only \$2.

St. Francis News

Wilma Lampe enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Chris and Lara Firman in Denver.

Other family members attending

were Linda Gutsch of Denver and Leah Gutsch and friend Mike. A fun time was spent after dinner playing charades in front of the fire place.

— Outdoors With Chuck —

Deer season started last Wednesday. And, as usual, I set forth on opening morning with optimism, headed for one of my "good" spots. By 2 p.m., I had seen nothing, so went exploring in a new area. I found what had to be the main dining room for most of the whitetails in Kansas!

By the time I got home, like John Kerry, I had a PLAN. Next morning, I left extra early, parked a mile from the spot, and sneaked in, in the dark. The sun came up, good shooting light, and I looked into the cornfield, and there I saw — nothing.

I sat for about an hour and decided to leave. I stepped into a short grass pasture, for easier walking,

took about 10 steps, and saw eight whitetails walking toward me. There was NO cover so I sat down in the snow and became a sphinx.

The lead doe walked within 15 yards of me looked me over and went under the fence to feed. The rest of them followed. I harvested, with a good clean shot, a dandy buck at the extreme range of 32 FEET!

I love it when a plan comes together, even when its not exactly the way you planned it.

From "Hunters" Chuck Kribs

Club Clip

Lions Club

The regular meeting of the St. Francis Lions Club was held at The Windmill Restaurant on Monday, Nov. 22. Dorothy Kellner, first vice president, presided in the absence of Elmer Kellner, president. She opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Norman Morrow gave the invocation and the drawing was won by jack Million.

Clarence Iliff, Elmer Kellner and Rueben Schultz were absent because they delivered "Roscoe" the rooster to the Goodland Lions Club, who met the same evening.

Milton Lampe was in charge of the program and introduced Andrea Blair and Shaina Gohl, students at St. Francis community High School. They told of their experiences as participants in the Lions State Band at the Lions State Convention in Wichita last June.

Mary Morrow served as acting secretary in the absence of Deb Patton. Dennis Merklin was Tail Twister in the absence of Dale Patton and Paul Rainbolt was Lion Tamer in the absence of Rueben Schultz.

It was announced that the Dec. 13

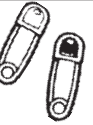
meeting will be the Christmas meeting with spouses as special guests and the program will be presented by a musical group from the high school under the direction of Debbie Fiala. Members are to notify Elmer and Dorothy Kellner whether their spouses will be in attendance by Dec. 8.

Dorothy and Elmer Kellner had visited the Norton Lions Club on Nov. 16.

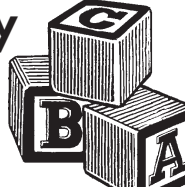


CHILDREN'S VOICES WILL BE HEARD— The United Methodist Church Children's Christmas program will be presenting the Story of Christmas at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. Following the program, there will be a time of sharing, fellowship and Christmas tea in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome.

Photo courtesy of Elaine Kite



Your Invited to a
Come & Go Baby Shower
 for
Kayla Weber & Baby Boy
 Saturday, Dec. 11
 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 St. Francis Public Library



Christmas Open House
featuring
Home Interiors & Gifts
 Tues., Dec. 14 • 12:00-3:00 p.m.
 at the St. Francis Equity Meeting Room

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 our thoughts turn gratefully
 to those who have made
 our progress possible.
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MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
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 December 15, 16 and 17
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