Area

Man remains missing after one year; sheriff looks for new leads

By TOM BETZ

The Goodland Star-News A year after the disappearance of

a 44-year-old Goodland man, a new sheriff wants to reacquaint the public with the case, hoping he might stir up a fresh lead. "I want to

try some new things we

haven't tried in the past," said Sheriff Kevin Butts. "I have talked to the mother and step-father and assured them I will try to find out what might have happened last year."

On Nov. 24, 2003, Sherman County sheriff's deputies got a call about 5:30 p.m. on an argument at the home of Mark Peden, 6940 County Road 19, about 3 1/2 miles north of Goodland. On the phone, Marci Peden told dispatchers her husband was in an argument with a man holding a knife. She said her husband had a shotgun.

Jimmy McClelland, 5920 County Road 14, allegedly the man with a knife in the argument, reportedly ran from the scene. He has been missing since that night.

Many rumors have circulated since McClelland's disappearance last year. Some had him found dead in the creekbed near Kanorado.

Others said McClelland had checked into a treatment center. hitched a ride to Denver or caught a train headed west.

Sheriff Butts knows there has been a lot of speculation about what happened, mostly because of the high interest in the case and the number of friends McClelland had. He said the department has followed up on every report without finding anything.

Many people, including members of his family, now believe McClelland is dead, but that his body may never be found. Family members have ideas about who was responsible, and feel that the former sheriff did not do everything he could have.

One reason some think McClelland might have run away before deputies arrived that night was that he was on probation for a drug conviction, and because he had a knife, he might have had his probation revoked and had to spend time in prison. However, family members

believe even the threat of prison Peden in front of the shop. would not have stopped McClelland from at least calling home to see if it was OK to return.

"I don't believe the threat of prison was that great," Sheriff Butts said. "This was his first drug offense, and I do not believe that would have kept McClelland away this long without some contact with his family.'

Other things complicate the investigation, including the fact that they felt were his tracks heading to a woman who was with McClelland that night, the only witness to the after a quarter of a mile. fight other than the Pedens, died just four months later.

Details of the events of that night and the argument are pretty onesided, and that leaves room for rumors to develop. Butts said he is McClelland's sister, Tammie Skrdlooking at all the information and lant, where she lived with Leonard may consider a search warrant for the Peden property.

"We know McClelland and Peden had an argument," former Sheriff Doug Whitson said last year. 'We do not know exactly what it was about. McClelland apparently deputy arrived.'

Whitson said Deputy Burton away. Mark Peden told him Mc-Clelland had run away.

Sheriff Butts said Sunday that the Pedens said the scuffle took place near a shop south of their house. They claimed McClelland had come at Marci with a large knife. Mark Peden said he had a shotgun and fired it three times over Mc-Clelland's head. When that did not with the gun.

Heather Marie Bissett, 42, Goodland, was with McClelland, a former Union Pacific railroad track worker. Butts said Bissett and McClelland had met while both were in a rehab program, and the couple was living together at a rural home.

Bissett apparently was pushed down in the scuffle. Butts said she had driven off in McClelland's yellow pickup before deputies arrived. Deputies found her in the pickup about a mile south of Pedens' and charged her with drunk driving. Butts said she had no idea what had left.

Whitson said Bissett told deputies she had told McClelland to get in the truck, and when he didn't, she lated the terms of the sentence. That drove off, leaving him talking to could mean he would face prison

Bissett died suddenly of pneumonia Monday, March 29, at the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Deputies searched around Peden's house that night until about 3 a.m., and they went back out again the next day with dogs and a plane. The search did not turn up any sign of McClelland. Whitson said the deputies found a set of footprints the southwest, but they lost them

Whitson said the footprints were not from anyone involved in the search, but there was no proof they belonged to McClelland.

Butts said he went to the home of Barnes about 3 1/2 miles north of Pedens', and asked if she had seen him. Butts said he spent some time on a nearby hill watching with a night vision scope to see if Mc-Clelland was heading to his sister's.

"I saw some deer and other anitook off running on foot before the mals," Butts said, "but no sign of any person."

A couple of weeks later, 17 vol-Pianalto, the first officer to arrive, unteers and eight deputies walked, did not see McClelland running rode and flew a seven-mile section of Beaver Creek southwest of Peden's shop, hoping to find clues to the disappearance. At the end of the day, Whitson said at least he felt the search proved McClelland was not lying in a field in that area.

Since then, the sheriff's office has followed up on a series of rumors, but there has not been any contact from McClelland. Opinions are stop him, he told officers, he hit him split about whether he may be alive and hiding.

> Whitson said he listed McClelland in the National Crime Information computer in January for breaking probation because of his disappearance. Whitson said it was a way to get him in the nationwide criminal computer system to give his disappearance the broadest possible exposure. Missing person cases don't get that kind of treatment.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said in January that McClelland had been sentenced on Nov. 3, 2003, on charges of unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance, and possession of a narcotic with intent to sell happened to McClelland after she within 1,000 feet of a school. She said he was transferred to Community Corrections, and agreed that McClelland's disappearance vio-

Family afraid man is no longer alive

Day by day, the family of a night he disappeared Nov. 24, 2003, at a rural home loses hope of ever seeing him again.

As the holidays pass, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and soon another Christmas—his wife and his mother admit they're no longer sure Jimmy McClelland, 44, is alive.

The family, unsure that the Sherman County sheriff's office touched all the bases in its investigation, has asked for help from other agencies and even an outside investigator.

The missing man's aunt, Marie Edwards, who helped with a search last year, said she believed if he was hiding, McClelland would have called home by Christmas. Next month will mark the second Christmas since his disappearance.

The fact that Mark Peden, who admitted firing a shotgun in an ar-

time if he returned, she said.

McClelland and his wife Elaine, 40, were among six people arrested on Jan. 8, 2003, and charged with the cultivation of marijuana, possession of narcotics and drug paraphernalia, and manufacturing of methamphetamine.

Selby said McClelland's attorney, Paul Oller of Hays, arranged with the Union Pacific to reinstate him and to allow him to participate in their drug rehabilitation program, which he completed in the summer of 2003. Though he was reinstated, the railroad laid him off last November because they did not have any work.

Some people believe Jimmy McClelland is alive and will be found through a traffic stop somewhere in the country.

"I don't know what to tell his mother," Sheriff Butts said. "We need to find out what happened to bring this to a conclusion.

"Just not knowing is terrible for the family. I want to get Jimmy's picture out again, and maybe someone will remember something.

The sightings have slowed down, but we will follow up on everything. I know that Jan and Elaine

Goodland man missing for more was the last person to see than a year now after an argument McClelland alive makes him a leading suspect in the minds of many family members.

"The bottom line is that Peden is the last person who saw Jimmy alive," said Jan McClelland, Jimmy's mother, a cook at the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Whitson said he and a KBI investigator talked to Peden and his wife Marci, and they have no reason to doubt their story. Peden agreed at one point to take a polygraph test, but a couple of days before it was to happen, Whitson said, he backed out. Jan McClelland said she is hoping and praying that the new sheriff, Kevin Butts, will turn up something

"There are a lot of things that don't add up right," she said Friday.

Jan McClelland said she was disappointed in how the investigation was handled last year, and that she gument with McClelland the has turned to others outside the

County Sheriff Ray Lee of St. Francis offered to help, and he had talked to over 100 people in Sherman County about the missing man. She said Lee called the

sheriff's department for help.

She said former Cheyenne

something more done. "We sent the KBI all the infor-In March, former Sheriff Doug mation," she added, "but we never heard a thing."

KBI and the FBI to try to get

While his mother has hope of finding Jimmy alive, she is no longer certain.

"Maybe he's alive somewhere," she said, "but I don't think so. It is a hard thing to say."

Jan McClelland said she was upset more was not done within the first few days, and thought a more thorough search of the farm should have been conducted.

"I don't have any respect for Doug Whitson," she said. "I liked him, but was disappointed that he did not get a search warrant for Peden's home."

He said the case if far from being solved, and he is hoping with the

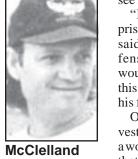
Butts said he hopes that keeping the case fresh in people's minds will find the answers.

(McClelland) have checked out a produce a new lead. couple of sightings where people thought they saw Jimmy, and there public's help there, may be some was nothing."

new facts that give him a chance to



TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS



WEEKDAYS

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC	News	-	Good Morning America			Mak- eover	Judge- Brown	The View		Million- aire	News	
KSNK/NBC (9)	News Cor	nt'd	Today		· · ·				Live With Regis and Kelly		In the Heat of the Night	
KBSL/CBS	News				The Early	Show	The 700 C	lub	The Price	Is Right	The Young and the Restless	
K15CG 3	BBC World	Yoga Body Caillou Electric		Beren. Bears	Barney, Friends	Sesame Street		Dragon Tales	Beren. Bears	Mister Rogers	Teletub- bies	
WGN 13	Chang- ing	Chang- Believer Happy Happy ng Voice Days Days			Hillbil- lies	Hillbil- lies	Matlock		In the Heat of the Night		Magnum, P.I.	
NICK 29	Oddpar- ents	Jimmy Neutron	Rugrats	Spon- geBob	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Miss Spider	Lazy Town	Backyar- digans	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Little Bill
FAM 30	Spider- Man	Digimon- Digital	Power Rangers			Living the Life	The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls		Full House	Full House
USA 31	Texas Ranger	Varied	ried Movie			Varied	Nash Bridges	Varied	The District	Varied	The District	Varied
TBS (37)	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Movie			Dawson's Creek		Dawson's Creek		Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	
TNT 38	The Prete	nder	Angel	Charmed		ER		ER		Judging Amy		
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Assignme Discovery		Double Agents		Designer Designer Guys Guys		New Detectives: Forensic Science	
A&E (47)	Biography Movie		Movie	Varied Pro	Varied Programs		Murder, She Wrote		Third Watch		City Confidential	
ESPN (49)	SportsCenter		SportsCe	nter	Sports- Varied Center		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Sports- Center	Varied
HBO (7)	Movie Varied Pro		ograms		•		•		Movie	Varied		
DISN (17)	Koala Brothers	The Wiggles	Higgly- town	JoJo's Circus	The Wiggles	Stanley	Rolie Polie	PB&J Otter	Out of the Box	The Wiggles	Koala Brothers	Higgly- town
MAX 21	Movie Cont'd	Varied Pro	ograms									

WEEKDAYS

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC	All My Chi	ildren	One Life to Live		General Hospital		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	The Jane Pauley Show		News	ABC Wid News
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News	Inside Edition	Days of o	Days of our Lives		Passions The Ins		Jeop- ardy!	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		News	NBC News
KBSL/CBS	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the World Turns		Guiding Light		Dr. Phil		Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News
K15CG 3	Reading Rainbow	Lions	Varied Pro	Varied Programs		Clifford- Red	Post- cards	Arthur	Maya & Miguel	Cyber- chase	Zoom	Busi- ness
WGN 13	News Rockford File		Files	Magnum,	Magnum, P.I. America's Funnie Home Videos			Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Home Improve.	Will & Grace	
NICK 29	Backyar- digans	Lazy Town	Thorn- berrys	Rocket Power	Rugrats	Rugrats	Oddpar- ents	Jimmy Neutron	Spon- geBob	U-Pick	Hey Arnold!	Rugrats
FAM 30	Family Matters	Family Matters	Step by Step	Step by Step	Boy Mts. World	Boy Mts. World	Full House	Full House	Gilmore G	more Girls 7th Heaven		en .
USA (31)	JAG	Varied	Movie		•	Varied	Movie	•	Varied Pro		ograms	
TBS (37)	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Yes, Dear	Yes, Dear	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
TNT (38)	Judging A	lmy	NYPD Blu	e	Law & Ore	der Law & Order			Angel		Charmed	
DSC (42)	Surprise k	oy Design	Surprise I	oy Design	Double A	gents	Monster Garage		Monster House		American Chopper	
A&E (47)	American	Justice	Movie	Varied Pro	ograms		Murder, She Wrote		Third Watch		City Confidential	
ESPN (49)	Varied Programs					NFL's Greatest	Varied	NFL Live	Around the Horn	Interrup- tion	SportsCe	nter
HBO (7)	Movie Cont'd	Varied Pro	ograms					-			-	
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	Winnie- Pooh	House of Mouse	House of Mouse	Recess	Lilo & Stitch	Recess	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Lizzie McGuire
MAX (21)	Movie Cont'd						Movie	ovie Varied Programs				

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 2

	6 PM	6 :3 0	7 PM	7:3 0	8 PM	8:3 0	9 PM	9:3 0	10 PM	10 :3 0	11 PM	11 :3 0
KLBY/ABC	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	Extreme M (N) (CC)			life as we know it Natural Disasters (N) (CC)		Live (N)	News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News	Wheel of Fortune	Joey (N) (CC)	Will & Grace			ER A Shot in the Dark (N) (CC)		Ne ws	lews The Tonig (N) (CC)		Late Night (N)
KBSL/CBS	News (CC)	Friends Pilot (CC)	Survivor: Islands of				Without a Trace Wannabe (CC)		News (CC)	Late Show Tyra Banks; Lyle Lovett.		Late Late
K15CG 3		NewsHour Sur h Jim Lehrer (N) flow		Kansas Spotlight			Chris Isaa Christmas			Keeping Up	Charlie Ro (CC)	os e (N)
WGN 13	Will & Grace	Home Improve.	Movie: Revenge of th (1984, Comedy) Robe				WGN New (CC)	vsatNine Becker (CC)		Becker Cooked		
NICK 29	Jimmy Neutron	Oddpar- ents	Spon₋ geBob	Sabrina- Witch	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Rose - anne	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
FAM 30	The Year Santa Cla		Santa Claus Is Coming to Town Reindeer-Island of Misfit					Whose The 700 Club (CC) Family Family Line? Matters Matters				Family Matters
USA 31	JAG Critic Condition	al	Law & Order: SVU Movie: The Siege ★★½ (1998, Su hunt down terrorists in New York.					uspense) 1 Denzel Wa	Washington. (CC) ★ (1999) (CC)			
TBS 37)	Ray- mond	Ray- mond	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Family Guy (CC)	Family Movie: Lethal Weapon 4 ★★ (1998, Guy (CC) Action) (PA) Mel Gibson. (CC) (DVS)				
TNT 38	Law & Ord Values (CO								etball: Cle Pepsi Cente	aliers at Denver C)		
DSC (42)	Monster N	lation (N)	No Oppor Wasted (N		Big Vacuum (N) American (Old-school				tunity	Big Vacuum		
A&E (47)	American A Family S			Files A sc azine. (CC	heme to bribe a Th e First 4 Bones; Par					Cold Case Files (CC)		
ESPN 49	Sports- Center	College Fo Detroit. (Li		d-American	Conference Final Teams TBA.		SportsCe	ter (Live) (CC)		Rome- Burning	Outside- Lines	
HBO (7)	(5:15) Mov to Run ★★				Movie: Daredevil ** (2 Action) Ben Affleck. (CC			Oc e an's 12	Real Sex Xtra	Real Sex Xtra	Inside the	NFL (CC)
DISN 17	Sister, Sister	That's₋ Raven		non: Z3 (20 ction) <i>Kirste</i>	04, en Storms.	That's₋ Raven	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	Even Stevens	Boy Mts. World	Proud Family	That's₋ Raven
MAX 21	(5:00) Mov Matrix ★★				lotice ★★½ andra Bullo				(2003) Co w with Che		Movie: Crimson Tide ★★★ (1995)	

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 3

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	8 Simple Rules	Com- plete	Hope & Faith (N)	Less- Perfect	Billy Grah Kansas Cit		News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kii (N) (CC)	mmel Live
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News	Wheel of Fortune			Third Watch Rat Bastard (N) (CC) Investigation		ion (CC)	News The Tonig (N) (CC)		ht Show	Late Night (N)	
KBSL/CBS	News (CC)	Friends (CC)		Frosty Returns			vs. The World Brian uchi. (N) (CC)		News (CC)	Late Shov	v (N) (CC)	Late Late
K15CG 3	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Wash. Week	Wall- Fortune	Market- Market	Timeless	Tractors (C	C)	BBC World	Red Green	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)	
WGN 13	Will & Grace	Home Improve.		e 'Burbs (1 ruined by v			Feed the (Children	Becker Becker (CC) (CC)		Home Delivery	
NICK 29	Jimmy Neutron	Oddpar- ents	Danny Phantom	Teenage Robot	Spon- geBob	Oddpar- ents	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Rose- anne
FAM (30)	Rudolph's Shiny New Year					Whose Line?	Whose Line?				Paid Program	
USA 31	Law & Order: SVU					Monk Mr. Monk and Law & Ore the Other Woman			der: SVU Monk Mr. Monk and the Other Woman			
TBS 37)	Ray- mond	Ray- mond	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)			2 (2002, Co (Premiere) (2 (2002, Comedy) Eddie Murphy. (CC)	
TNT 38	Law & Ord Custody (C		Law & Ord the Influen		2004 NAS	CAR Nexte	l Cup Awa	rds Specia	i (CC)		Movie: Driven ★1/2 (2001) (CC)	
DSC (42)	Monster N	lation (N)	American High Rolle		Southern Steel Part American Hot Rod 1 (N) Rat Rod Build-Off 3			American High Rolle		Southern Steel Part		
A&E (47)	American Vanished (Biography Reiner Rot		Movie: Th cheeky ad	e: The Princess Bride ★★★ (1987) Ro ky adaptation of the William Goldman n			b Reiner's Amer. ovel. (CC) Justice		Biography Rob Reiner Rob Reiner.	
ESPN (49)	Sports- Center	NBA		etball: Det C Center. (L		at San Anto				ana Pacers (Live) (CC)	at Sacramento	
HBO (7)	Inside the NFL (CC) Movie: Master and C the World ***½ (20							Family Bonds	Real Sex Xtra	Chris Roc (CC)	ck: Never Scared	
DISN (17)	Phil of Future	That's- Raven	Movie: 10 Vil has des	2 Dalmatia	ns (2000) C other puppy	ruella De -skin coat.						That's- Raven
MAX (21)		vie: Matchs 3) Nicolas C	tick Men Cage. (CC)	Movie: Na (2003) Ma			Movie: Bad Boys II ** (2003, Action) Two detectives Erotic battle a drug kingpin in Miami. <i>Martin Lawrence</i> . (CC)					