

Homeowners given 90 days to fix up or tear down

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Homeowners of the three houses considered unsafe have 90 days to either begin fixing up their property or the city will have it torn down the commission decided on Monday.

The commission held hearings on the house at 526 W. 16th, owned by Jimmy Clift; 204 W. 16th, owned by Robert Duane Cowan; and 510 W. 15th, owned by Louis B. and Diana D. Spinney.

City building inspector Steve Criswell presented the case for considering the homes unsafe, and structural problems with each house.

Criswell said the notice of hearing had been published, and the owners were notified by mail.

He said he had contact from Cowan, who was at the hearing, and from Spinney who came to his office on Monday. Criswell said he had received no contact from Clift.

"The commission has to determine what happens to the property," Criswell said. "The recommendation is to demolish the

house at 526 W. 16th, and give Clift a period of time to tear it down."

"That would be for him to tear it down?" Commissioner Josh Dechant asked.

Criswell said that would depend on the determination of the commission.

"He has made no effort to contact you?" Commissioner John Garcia asked.

Criswell said he had no contact from Clift.

"We are at step number four," said Commissioner Annette Fairbanks. "That says if the structure is determined to be irreparable the commission can declare it unsafe and determine the number of days to have it torn down."

"Is 30 days reasonable?" asked Commissioner Dave Daniels.

"It might be tough with all the snow," City Manager Wayne Hill said. "You could set the 30 days. That would be a starting point if he actually makes contact then we can see what happens."

Criswell said if nothing is done in the time the commission sets, he will come back to the commission with bids to have the prop-

erty torn down.

City Attorney Jeff Mason said the determination of the commission will include the authority for the city to raze the property.

"With the weather maybe we better give him more time," Daniels said.

"I think this time of year 90 days would be reasonable," said Mayor Rick Billinger.

Criswell said he probably couldn't get a bid from a contractor in 30 days with all the snow on the ground.

The commission voted to give Clift 90 days to tear the home down or the city would take bids to tear it down.

On the hearing for the home at 204 W. 16th, owned by Cowan, Criswell said he had been inside it once at the request of someone who was considering buying the home.

"Cowan has about everything in the house to fix it up," Criswell said, "but it has not been done."

"I know it has been quite a while since anything has been done," Cowan said. "We have lots of building materials in the house.

I have had some physical illness and that has hurt me.

"I want to get it fixed up or get it sold to someone who will get it fixed up. I have all new fixtures, doors, windows and sheet rock to get it done.

"How long would it be to get it done?" Billinger asked.

"I want to get along if I can," Cowan said. "I heard 90 days, and that sound like a good starting point. I hope we can work with that."

"You think the 90 days would give you time to get started?" Billinger asked.

"Yes, I will try," Cowan said.

The commission approved giving Cowan 90 days to begin repairing the home.

On the home at 510 W. 15th, owned by Spinney, Criswell said Louis came in to see him on Monday, and said he was not going to come to the meeting because he did not expect the city to give him enough time to get the house repaired.

Criswell said this house was taken through district court and there was an order allowing the city to demolish the home, but he said that was before he came to work

for the city.

"Does that order stay with the property?" Dechant asked.

"No," Mason said. "If it was worked out before then this is the proper step."

Billinger asked Criswell how much time Spinney wanted, and Criswell said two years.

"There is no going back after the 90 days?" Dechant asked.

"That would be up to the commission," Criswell said.

"It is not a drop-dead situation," Mason said, "but it is pretty close."

The commission declared the home unsafe and gave the owners 90 days to repair or remove it.

Hill said he thought this was a good step in addressing some of the dilapidated houses in the city, and that the city will continue to bring these to the commission.

Criswell said he had a list of about 15 houses that he is working on, and some of those will probably be brought to the commission if the owners don't handle the problems.

Kanorado to hold primary; no contests for school, city

The Tuesday deadline for people to throw their names in the hat for school and city offices means the only a primary will be for Kanorado mayor.

The primary election for the mayor of Kanorado will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27. Three people are running for the mayor's position, Wanetta Webber, Dennis Korbelik and Sandra Bagley. The primary will cut the field to two for the regular election to be held on Tuesday, April 3.

The Goodland School District has four seats up for election. The

seats are held by President Jane Philbrick, Fritz Doke, Marty Melia and Andrew House.

Philbrick and House filed for re-election, and new candidates who filed were John Hendrich and Chuck Wilkens.

On the Goodland city commission three incumbents filed for the three seats. Dave Daniels, Annette Fairbanks and Rick Billinger filed for re-election. The top two on the election ballot will win four-year terms and the third will win a two-year term.

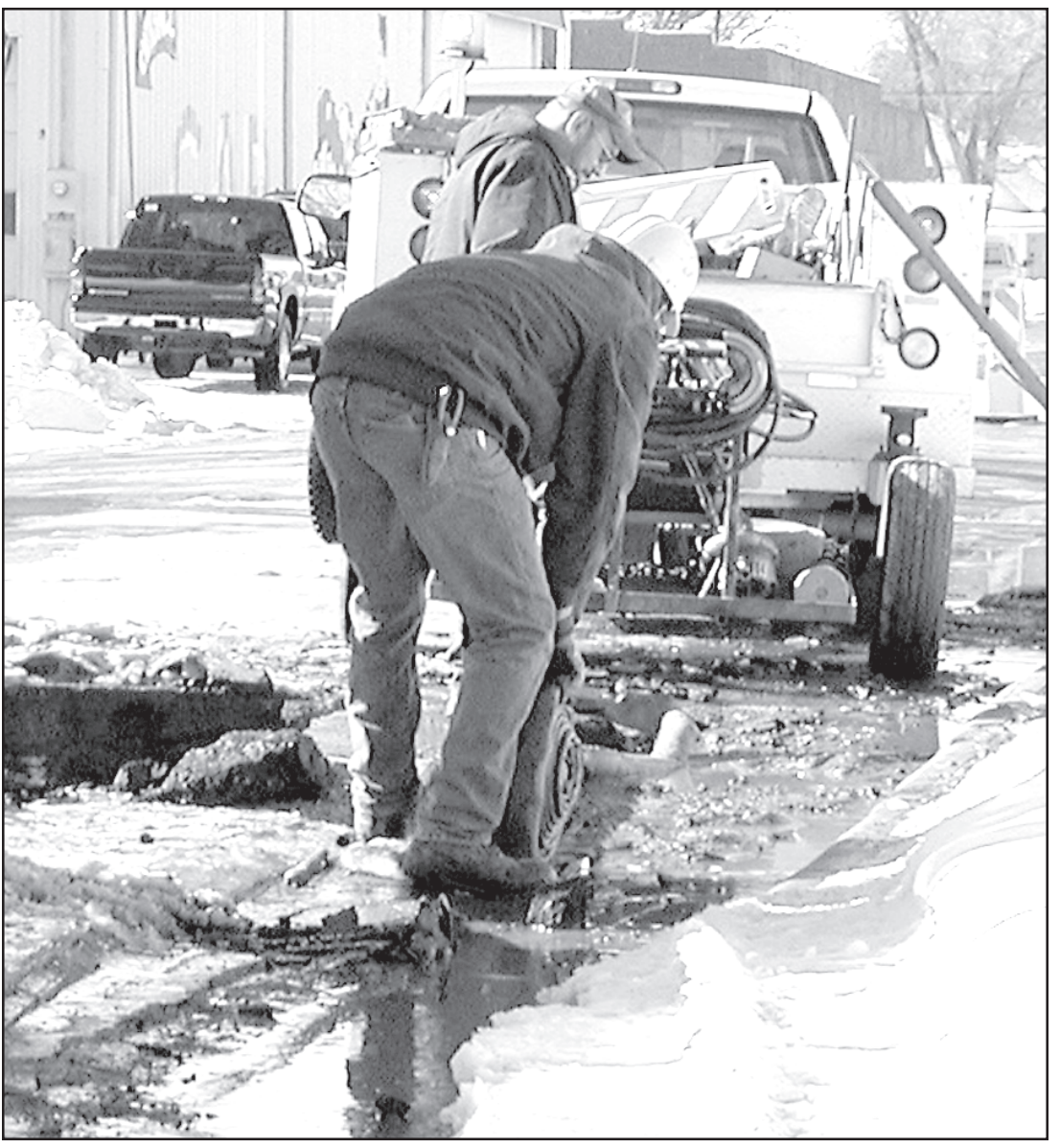
Colleen Duell was the person

who filed for the seat on the Sunflower Extension District to represent Sherman County. The extension district includes Sherman, Wallace and Cheyenne Counties.

Four people are running for the Kanorado City council. Gerald Webber, Deb Fahey, Larry Wilkerson and Cody Pettibone filed for the two council seats.

Four people filed for the Brewster School District Rod Gilley, Bonnie Holm, Don Allen and Willard Crumrine. There are four seats open on the school board,

Cold weather breaks water line



City of Goodland Public Works Director Rich Simon and another employee rolled up a hose after a water main was dug up between Main and Broadway on 14th Street on Wednesday. Recent cold, ice and snow caused the water main to freeze and break.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

No injuries when school vehicle rolls

One of two nine-passenger vehicles returning from a junior varsity wrestling match Saturday evening held at Atwood rolled on its way back to Goodland on I-70 just east of the Sherman County line.

The two vehicles were traveling in tandem when a truck passed the

second one and with the snowy and icy conditions the vehicle rolled, said Goodland Superintendent Shelly Angelos at the school board meeting on Monday. She said the four students in the vehicle had their seat belts on and were not injured. The driver was uninjured.

No one was taken to the hospital, she said. Another vehicle was in route from the school district to pick the students up, but the students and driver arrived in the wrecker.

We were very fortunate that no one was hurt, Angelos said.

Decision on veterans' clinic may be made soon

A decision has not been made yet, and area veterans are encouraged to get on the phone and tell the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver they want a new outreach clinic opened in Goodland.

Three High Plains communities are in the running for one new veterans outreach clinic that will be opened this year to serve a nine-county area, the department's Rocky Mountain Region said in December: Yuma and Burlington in Colorado or Goodland.

Veterans are being urged to call the regional office in Denver at (866) 301-9626 to register their support for the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

"We are not taking a vote," said Astrid Frier, Denver Veterans Affairs office manager, "but we are getting a lot of calls especially from

the Goodland area. I don't think they have made a decision yet.

"I suppose you want it located in Goodland."

The announcement about the new clinic came from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson in Washington in mid December.

The agency said 4,000 veterans in the nine-county area, the new clinic will serve, are more than an hour's drive from a government health care. Because 44 percent of the area's population is 65 or older, it is

difficult for many to visit a distant facility, especially in the winter, Nicholson said.

The Denver office has said the clinic is to be opened in the next few months; a decision on the town could be made this month.

"I'd like to see them get 5,000 calls from Sherman County," said Jay Jolly, Goodland hospital administrator. "We are very much behind it and would like to see Goodland get the clinic."

Taste of Home tickets.
Call 899-2338

student of the week



Name: Eryn Topliff
Parents: Randy & Jeannie Topliff
Grade: Junior
Age: 17
We've nominated this student because: she is a quiet classroom leader who, if she sees something that needs to be done, she simply does it. Her initiative in and out of the classroom, her integrity and her polite demeanor make Eryn a high achiever and a very pleasant asset in the classroom.
Student Comment: The best aspect of school life is you get to see your friends you don't always see during the summer, and just being able to hang out with them. My favorite subject is vocal. The

things I will remember most about GHS after graduation are all the good times I had on sports trips and all the friendships I had in high school.

Activities involved in at school: Golf, Les Chantes, and GAA.
My choice of movies, books, and games: Some of my favorite movies are "Step Up," "Saw I & II," "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," "The Bone Collector," and about anything with a good scare. My favorite book is "The House Next Door" by Richie Tankersley Cusick. My all time favorite game is DDR (Dance Dance Revolution).
After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to college and receive a degree in the field I choose.
And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Hopefully be pursuing my career, settling down with a family and living life to its full potential.
Favorite Quote: "Never be bullied into silence, never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of yourself, define yourself."
- Harvey Fiersteine

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. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.



The Goodland Star-News

and The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors welcome

SmitteO Video

1018 Main Street, Goodland, Kan.

The Smith Family: Gary, Deb, Tanner, Keegan, So SmitteO's VideO's is a family affair and what Taylen and Kelbey are now the new owners of our local video store and they call it that of Goodland, Kansas? The video store will still be offering tanning packages 7 days of the week with the hours of operation the same as SmitteO's VideO's. Joining the family are the gals that work the store on a more regular basis. They are Toni Espinoza, Brittney Espinoza, Karen Rodriguez, Nikki Quain and Jessica Bauman. The hours of operation are Sunday - Thursday 11am - 9pm, Mountain Standard Time (MST) and Friday and Saturday 11am-10pm MST.

are walk-ins. Punchcards are back! Rent 10 videos and receive the 11th one free! There are other specials in the works, so keep your eyes and ears open because with this family... anything is possible!

Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.

John D. Ferris, MD
will be at:
291 15th Street
Burlington, CO

Sat., Feb. 3
Tues., Feb. 6

For information or appointment, call
1-800-593-0009

American Communications

726 W. Hwy 24 - Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-2426