

# BONDUEL

FROM A1

Originally known as Trader Charlie's Bar & Motel, the business thrived during the 1960s and 1970s under owner Charlie Hillenbrand and his wife, Lillian.

Village archives indicate that Hillenbrand sold the business in the mid-1970s to Dave Basterash, who changed the operation's name to The Viking.

Another former customer, Arlene Grunewald, recalls having dinner and enjoying herself there when the business was doing well and the property was maintained nicely.

"It was a lovely place," she said. "It started out

great, but then it fell apart."

County tax records indicate that Krezinski acquired the property in 2008. With an assessed value of about \$90,000, Krezinski has been paying about \$2,000 a year in property taxes on the 1 1/4-acre property.

Neighbors report that the motel and restaurant operation gradually slowed down in business, and the condition of the property deteriorated noticeably in recent years.

"They don't do anything with it," said Jesse Bartelt, who operates the neighboring J&B's Oil & Repair shop.

Krezinski reportedly moved out of town last year, and the property to-

day appears littered with overgrown lawns, broken signs and abandoned vehicles.

"It's awful. I just get sick over it," said Grunewald, who lives nearby.

Bonduel police discovered the condition of the buildings recently after investigating a report that someone had broken into one of the motel rooms and was living there without permission. When officers found evidence of flooding, mold and other problems, they contacted the health department.

Health officials inspected the property and reported finding 2 to 3 feet of standing water, several dead rodents, feces from rodents and cats, mounds of trash, moldy carpets

and ceilings, and buckling ceiling tiles.

The health department condemned the property, effective May 6, posting orange placards on the property declaring it off-limits to anyone. The action means the owners must submit a plan within 30 days to either fix the problems or demolish the buildings.

Wussow said she is unsure what the future holds, indicating that officials have tried unsuccessfully to contact Krezinski.

Recalling a time in the '70s when Trader Charlie's was a popular spot, Wussow said: "It used to be a happening joint. It's just taken its toll now in time."