

weather report

86°
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:33 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:08 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:31 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 72 degrees

• Humidity 34 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds northwest 10 mph

• Barometer 30.19 inches and steady

• Record High 101° (1943)

• Record Low 38° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High 91°

Low 64°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear, low 60s, winds light and variable. Tomorrow: Sunny, high mid 90s, low 60-65, winds southwest light.

Extended Forecast

Friday through Sunday: chance of thunderstorms, high 90s, low 60-65.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.41 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.17

Loan deficiency payment — 28¢

Corn — \$1.54 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.41

Loan deficiency pmnt. — 58¢

Milo — \$2.38 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.80 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.97

Loan deficiency payment — 93¢

Millet — \$7.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.30 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmnt. — \$4.30

Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

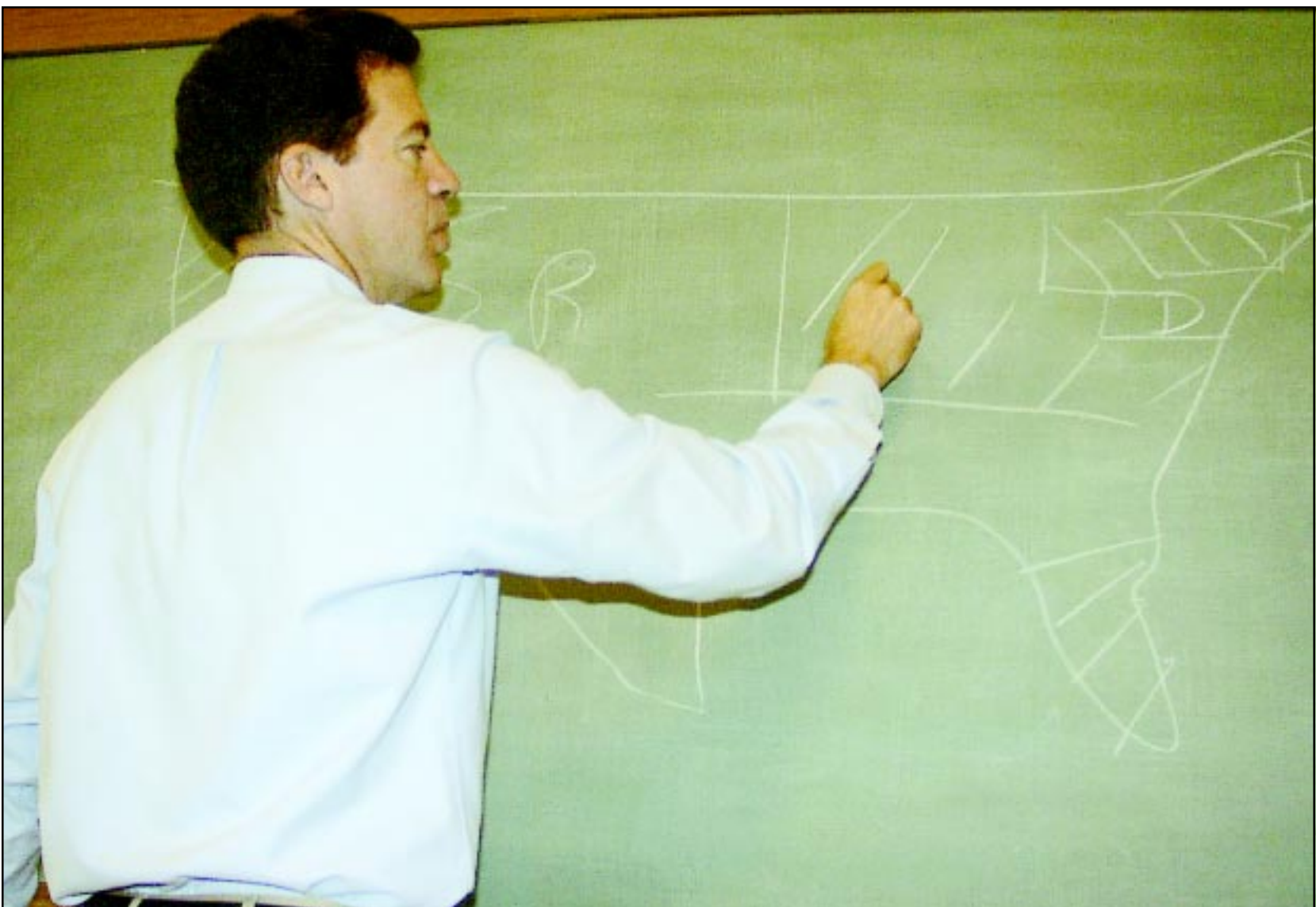
Man adopted victim's child

OLATHE — The daughter of one of the six women John Edward Robinson Sr. is accused of killing was adopted by Robinson's brother and sister-in-law, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

A hearing on motions filed in the Kansas case against Robinson was scheduled for Wednesday in Johnson County District Court. Among names added to the witness list on Tuesday was that of the daughter of Lisa Stasi, a young woman who disappeared in January 1985.

The Kansas City Star reported Wednesday that the child, known as Tiffany, now 15, has grown up as "Heather Robinson."

Lisa Stasi's body has never been found, but prosecutors have charged Robinson with killing her. He is charged with killing five other women whose bodies were found stuffed into barrels.



U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback explained to people at a meeting in St. Francis Tuesday how he expects parts of the country to vote this year. The senator, a Republican, said it will be hard for the GOP to win a majority of voters in California.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Stockmen say they're getting cheated

U.S. senator listens to woes, says he'll help

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

When U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback met with two state lawmakers, farmers and about 15 others on Tuesday at the St. Francis courthouse, the discussion ran the gamut from the presidential race to violence in America to child labor laws.

But emotions spiked as the hour-long meeting started winding down, when state Rep. John Faber, who farms north of Brewster, said he wanted to turn the talk to farming issues.

Faber, a Republican who represents the 120th District in the Kansas House, told the senator that bankers say many northwest Kansas farmers and ranchers, facing bottom-of-the-barrel commodity prices, will find they are penniless after paying income taxes next spring.

"The fact is we are still going broke out here," he said, adding that large meat-packing firms are taking advantage of and deceiving farmers and ranchers through unfair contracts.

Other farmer-ranchers, mostly members of the rebel Kansas Cattlemen's Association, chimed in, saying that packing giants are violating the federal Packers and Stockyards Act, which says packers aren't allowed to own livestock for more than 14 days prior to slaughter or show preference for one cattle feeder over another.

Mike Callicrate, owner of Callicrate Feed Yard in Cheyenne County, said big packers are getting around the 1921 act's stipulations through long-term contracts with feeders and the use of "captive cattle supplies." These practices keep cattle prices down, he said, which means trouble for all ranchers.



Sen. Sam Brownback talked with Mike Callicrate, owner of Callicrate Feed Yard in St. Francis, before the meeting, which dealt with problems cattle feeders are having with large packing firms. The senator said he is spending the August recess visiting cities in Kansas.

He explained later that captive cattle supplies means in a contract with a feeder, a packer schedules the date the feeder will deliver the cattle, so no matter what the market price that day, the packer will own the product then.

Dave Bowman, a Brewster farmer-stockman who sits on the cattlemen's association's board, said certain feed yards are getting top dollar, while many St. Francis area cattlemen slowly go broke — which will eventually cause the entire town to "dry up and blow away."

"The little independent cattle feeders are dead," he said.

Sen. Brownback, who is a former state secretary of agriculture but is not on the agriculture committee, said he would get in touch with people who can help farmers and ranchers here.

He said that on average, Kansas farmers get half of their annual gross income from the federal government, which gives farmers money every year to make up for low prices.

He told Rep. Faber and state Sen. Stan Clark, an Oakley Republican —

both members of a populist coalition of rural lawmakers that want to help family farmers by controlling big agri-businesses like the packers — that he would get officials to come meet with rural lawmakers.

"We'll have you poke and prod," said Brownback, who grew up on a farm near Parker and supported Clark in his re-election bid.

He added that he will put the farmers and ranchers in touch will a federal official who will work for them. But,

See SENATOR, Page 4

Drug-case hearing delayed

A preliminary hearing Monday for an Ohio couple arrested this month for possession of marijuana has been continued until 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 23.

Joseph F. Clark, 36, and Zandra Finnell, 18, both from Cincinnati, were arrested on Aug. 6 with charges of possession of a hallucinogenic drug with intent to sell, conspiracy to commit possession of marijuana with intent to sell, unlawful use of communication facility and no drug tax stamp.

The couple was pulled over for speeding by Trooper Mike Skyler, who asked for permission to search the car. In the trunk, the patrolman found what appeared to be 25 pounds of marijuana.

Their preliminary hearing was postponed because lawyers for the defense requested more time.

The hearing was delayed on an agreed-to continuance, said Leslie Beims of Vignery and Mason in Goodland, who is representing Clark.

She said that an agreed-to continuance means that all of the parties including the prosecutor, County Attorney Bonnie Selby, agreed to move the preliminary hearing to a later date. Selby would not comment.

Both defendants are out on \$15,000 bond.

Recycling will start curbside

Man's past programs have left doubters

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

A new recycling program will start up soon in Goodland for a small monthly fee, but there may be some questions as to how it will work out.

Jeremiah Wickham of Kansas Recycled Resources put out fliers about the curbside recycling program, which is to begin Sept. 1.

The flier says that city residents can leave their recyclable items in front of their houses weekly in burlap bean bags, which will be furnished by Wickham. The service will cost \$2.50 per month, he said. To sign up, call 899-6869.

The program will accept newspapers, magazines, junk mail, paper bags, No. 1 and No. 2 plastic bottles, plastic bags, glass containers, aluminum and steel cans, paperboard (such as cereal boxes and tissue boxes), cardboard and car batteries. The items will not need to be sorted, either, the flier says.

Wickham, who has been in the recycling business for 14 years, had a recycling business for 10 years in the old Edgell's building at the east edge of Goodland on Business U.S. 24. People could bring in glass, aluminum and tin cans, newspapers, cardboard and plastic.

The business closed in 1999 because of zoning changes, Wickham said.

The city told him he needed to put a six-foot fence up around his business and that he needed to be in an industrial zone rather than a commercial zone because he was considered a salvage dealer.

Wickham said he is doing what he loves to do and looks forward to doing it.

"I absolutely love it," he said. "This is not a short term commitment. We will do this (curbside recycling) unless the city comes up with a plan to replace it."

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city had no problem with Wickham's operation of his former Goodland business, but had a lot of complaints from people about the condition of the property. Some said it was beginning to look like another landfill, he said.

As for the curbside recycling, Pickman said since Wickham has never done it in Goodland, there's no way to judge his operation until the city sees how it works.

Pickman said the city supports any recycling program that cuts the trash load going into the landfill, regardless of who it is, as long as it's a productive and viable operation.

"We would encourage him to do his best and we hope that it's well supported," he said.

Wickham had been living near Denver, but recently moved to a home in northern Sherman County, out toward Bird City. His past operations have left some doubters among city and recycling officials, but Wickham said he is running his program successfully in Colby, Oakley and Dighton.

He drives one of the trucks, making pickups along with other drivers.

"I love doing it because it makes so many people happy," Wickham said.

Ray Lariviere of Lamar, Colo., administrator of the Southeast and East Central Colorado Recycling Association, a non-profit recycling program in Prowers County, Colo., which has been in place for about eight years, said a few towns where Wickham started recycling programs have joined their recycling program after things didn't work out with Wickham's programs.

One of those was Springfield, Colo., where Wickham started a program about five or six years ago.

Jay Suhler, mayor of Springfield, said he thought Wickham had a good idea, but just didn't schedule timely pickups. He said the people in the town really took to the program and they wound with a 40-by-100-foot barn full of items to be recycled.

The barn belonged to Suhler, who

See RECYCLING, Page 4

Commissioners avoid tax increase with cuts

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

It took over an hour of looking at department budgets, but Sherman Commissioners reached an agreement Tuesday on where to cut \$63,000 needed to keep the 2001 county budget down to their goal, with no tax increase.

During Tuesday's regular meeting, the commissioners decided which departments would take the cuts, but are leaving it up to the department heads to decide which line items to slash to get their total down to what the commissioners have suggested.

"We will also give the department heads an opportunity to meet with us to explain why they need the additional money," said Commission Chairman Kenny Davis. "This is not the final decision, and if we need to add more, that can be done."

The commissioners expect to review the changes at the final meeting of the month on Thursday, Aug. 31. If all the changes are approved, they will set a budget hearing for early September.

Suggested cuts were \$20,000 in com-

See COUNTY, Page 4