

Tohnna Thompson held her son Jonah in her arms Monday. She raced to Texas to pick up her four sons after they were found with their father last week. Jonah was sick with tonsillitis and an ear infection.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

# Boys stayed in camper

**KIDNAPPING, from Page 1**

bushes. They were cooped up in the camper most of the time, and couldn't all go out at once.

On the way home, Tohnna's mother Marge Quast said, Jonah and Job kept asking for milk.

"Mo' milk, mo' milk," she said, "that's what they kept saying."

The boys told her the camper was parked in a McDonald's parking lot, Tohnna said, and they sometimes got cereal and milk. But when they had to move, the kids said they didn't get milk anymore.

They missed their mom while they were gone, the boys said, and are glad to be home. But they miss their dad now.

"They are torn," Albers said.

His teacher explained what is happening to his father, Jaeger said, by saying that like kids who don't listen to their parents are sent to their room, adults who don't obey the laws are sent to jail.

But this isn't the first time Mark has kidnapped his children, Tohnna said, as he also took his two older children, who are now 15 and 16.

The boys e-mailed their older brother and sister, she said, and found that they have more in common than they realize.

The older children live with their mother in North Carolina, Tohnna said, and the boys would like to visit and get to know them better.

She, her mother and her brother left Goodland Monday afternoon, Jan. 28, Tohnna said, when they were told the boys were found. They arrived in Bastrop, Texas, on Tuesday morning, Quast said, and it was 80 degrees.

After collecting the boys and their things, Tohnna said, they started to drive home. They stayed overnight in Waco, Texas, she said, and in Hays and arrived home Thursday morning.

Then the family moved to a bigger house on Saturday, she said, so the boys will have more room to play.

A friend of their father's helped

Mark carry some of his and the boys' possessions out of Goodland, Tohnna said, but left them in Bastrop and went to Alabama on his own when Mark ran out of money. Mark has the possessions in storage, she said, and would not let her have a key to get the boys' things.

Their bikes and other things will have to be replaced, she said, but they are just things. The boys could not be replaced, she said, and she is glad to have them back.

Mark and the boys were found by the Bastrop County Sheriff's Department after an anonymous caller told them that a man was wrapping the children in a blanket to move them from a Blazer to a camper. She thought it looked suspicious.

She knows it was a woman, Tohnna said, but wishes she knew her name so she could thank her. She is very grateful the woman called the police, Tohnna said.

"I thank her from the bottom of my heart," Tohnna said.

# Sorting the trash is everyone's problem and business

**TRASH, from Page 1**

one each for construction waste, metal, concrete, and burnable wood. This should help stop people from throwing non-approved materials in the dumpsters.

The city and county will also work together to educate people what the landfill can and cannot handle. The county commissioners gave out a list of items which won't be accepted as part of the municipal solid waste that is buried in the landfill, including construction and demolition waste, appliances, metal, tires, noxious weeds, and paints or varnishes. Large metal objects have their own pit, as do construction and demolition, tires, compost, brick and concrete, and municipal waste.

The county decided it will publish the list and make it available to the public. City Commissioner Curtis Hurd wants to send a list with utility bills every month, describing how to get rid of each kind of trash.

County Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the solid waste system can take anything except household hazardous waste, which includes paints and stains, oil, gasoline, and weed killer. Thomas County picks this material up three times a year.

The county said they are not worried about very small amounts of mixture in the pits. "If three shingles fall off a roof and the owner puts it in the dumpster, it's not going to be a big deal," County Commissioner Mitch Tiede said. "That's not what we're

worried about. We know we can't police it 100 percent.

One piece of wood in municipal waste is not a big problem, either. If it ends up in municipal waste, Tiede said the county workers will take it out and put it in the construction pit. He said it's only when a large amount of a load is mixed will they call the city to come out and sort it.

"We're not that picky," Tiede said. "We're just interested in keeping the bulk of it out. People are just going to have to pay attention to what goes in the dumpsters."

Simon said city workers might get called to the landfill twice a week to sort, or not at all. It just depends on what goes in the loads. He says it is worse in the spring, when a lot of people move out of town. He said when workers on other projects have to stop what they are doing to go sort.

The county said there are four full-time employees at the transfer station, and Billinger asked if the county could sort a mixed load if it comes in, and charge the city for it, instead of having city workers off of other jobs.

Tiede said they can't because the county workers are busy running the station.

"We're working towards not having that problem in the first place," he added.

"If we educate people it, won't be a problem," said County Commissioner Kevin Rasure.

The city will pick up items which cannot go into the dumpsters, like tree branches or furniture, but people have to call for service. Pickman said the trucks can't just go down the alleys and pick up items, because in the past they have taken people's property which

looked like trash, and had to pay to replace it.

When yard waste was brought up, Pickman said it cost the city \$60,000 to handle it last year. The city took away all yard dumpsters at the end of last year.

When asked, the county agreed the state will allow them to put grass in the municipal waste pit, but said it takes up air space and creates methane gas. The landfill will last longer if yard waste is not put in.

"And besides, why would you want to pay a tipping fee on grass," Tiede said, "when you can dispose of it for free (in the compost pile)."

Simon said the city tries to sort other waste out of yard dumpsters before it gets to the transfer station, and takes out what it can. The biggest problem is people throwing tree branches in the yellow dumpsters.

City Commissioners Hurd and Blume wanted to know why the county does not charge a tipping fee to everybody, not just commercial haulers.

Chuck Frankenfeld, chairman of the county commissioners, said they figured the \$150-per-household solid waste fee was taking care of individual users.

"All Sherman county pays \$150 solid waste fee," Blume said. "Not everyone pays tipping fees."

"I don't see a problem with it," Frankenfeld said. "People in the county choose whether or not to use a commercial hauler. If they take it themselves, they don't have to pay."

Frankenfeld asked how the city came up with the \$3 fee the city calls the "county tipping fee"

"We're just charging what it will cost," Billinger said. The city expects

the fee to bring in \$120,000-\$130,000, he said, which is what they project the landfill tipping fee will cost the city.

During the audience question-and-answer period, Steven Duell said there should be a way for the county to handle noxious weeds, and said there needs to be some way to dispose of stickers.

Frankenfeld said they'll talk about it and see what they come up with.

Another member of the audience wanted to know if the four dumpsters put out at the dump could be duplicated in town.

Pickman said city trucks would have a hard time hauling it because they would be damaged trying to crush the waste.

Warren Bahe suggested the city and county look into getting an incinerator. Curt Way, county public works director, said the cost of fuel would be a concern, and maintenance would be atrocious.

Larry Hrhig asked if it was possible to build a pit which wouldn't leach, so anything could be put into it.

Frankenfeld said with the plastic liners they have in them, they shouldn't leach, but there is always possibility they will, which is why they have to be careful what goes in the pits.

Mike Campbell said the four dumpsters should be in every alley, along with municipal waste and yard waste. He said some people can't take yard waste out to the landfill.

Gary Ginther said people are upset at a lot of ordinances which have passed lately, so they are "dumping on the trash."

"You people have to remember you work for us," he said.

He said he felt he was being punished because a few people couldn't control their yard dumpsters.

"You were one of the few who took care and policed yours," Pickman said. "Then why can't I keep it?" Ginther said.

John Golden suggested the city change the terms used on its billing, from solid waste fee to trash pick-up. He also said if the city gets back to using the yard dumpsters, one person should sign for it. That person would be responsible for the dumpster and would give out lists of do's and don't's to other people who would use it.

Blume read a letter from a man who couldn't be at the meeting. It suggested adding a \$3-5 fee to everyone's bill and using that to hire two people to work at the landfill sorting loads.

Curt Way, county public works di-

rector finished by saying the situation was a little alien for everybody.

"We are used to throwing everything in our landfill," he said, "but this is the system we (the county) have, and we will follow the guidelines."

Blume thanked everybody for coming out and said there is still work to do.

"We're all going to have to get involved and work together," he said.

## Ruling encourages 'students to cheat'

PIPER (AP) — Former high school teacher Christine Pelton wasted no time after discovering that nearly a fifth of her biology students had plagiarized their semester projects from the Internet.

She had received her rural Kansas district's backing before when she accused students of cheating, and she expected it again this time after failing all 28 accused sophomores.

Her principal and superintendent agreed: it was plagiarism and the students should get no credit. But after parents complained, the Piper school board ordered her to go easier on the guilty.

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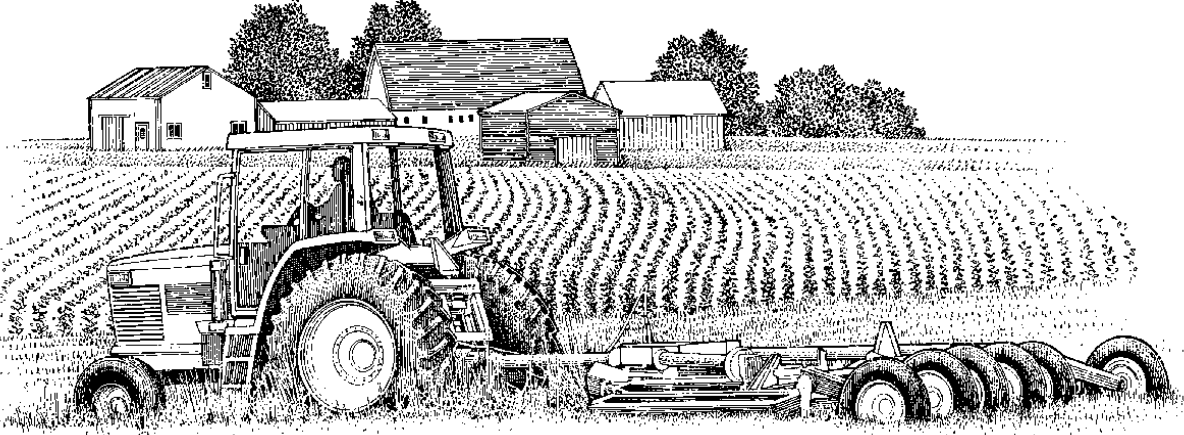
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**This issue will run February 22, Ad deadline will be February 14th  
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