

Volunteers box food for needy



Wallace Hansen and his helper, Jessica Johnson, put food in boxes for Genesis on Thursday. About 160 boxes were given out Saturday to needy families in Sherman County, said director Linda Pfau. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

County buying \$250,000 grader

By Tom Betz
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The Sherman County Road and Bridge Department is getting a new motor grader, trading in a 1996 model for a Caterpillar demonstrator through Martin Tractor of Colby in a deal the commissioners agreed to on last Tuesday.

Curt Way, county public works director, brought Dustin Daniels of Martin Tractor, a new salesman in this area, to the meeting Dec. 11.

Daniels said he was proposing to take the older 140H model grader on trade for a new 140M demonstrator that Martin Tractor has in their fleet.

He said the price for the grader is \$244,740, but that the company would allow about a 3 percent discount — about \$7,300 — because the grader has about 100 hours on it.

“We want to be fair,” Daniels said. “Sherman County has been a good supporter of Caterpillar and Martin Tractor.”

He said Martin will take the 1996 140H model for \$90,000, and with the discount, that would bring the price of the new grader down to \$147,389.

Daniels said the grader comes with a five-year or 5,000 hour warranty, starting after the hours on the machine now, plus “VIP” coverage for filters and inspections.

He said this is a new model, totally changed from the H series. There is no steering wheel and everything is run by a joy stick. Research shows there is 70 percent less operator strain, he said, making for a safer operation.

He said the grader weighs about two tons more, and has about 20 more horsepower at the top end. The cab is on rubber mounts to reduce vibration, he said, and the

noise level is half again lower than the old H, allowing the driver to hear more.

Way said the price is actually a bit less than the last one the county got, when they traded in a G model. Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked how many hours were on the one the county was going to trade.

Way said it is close to 11,000, adding that he tries to trade them when they have about 10,000 to 11,000 hours.

Thomas asked Steve Goodman, road and bridge supervisor, if the new grader works with the laptop computer the county purchased to help with maintenance. Goodman said it will and that Caterpillar sends updates for the program.

Way said some of the grader operators went over to Colby for a demonstration day and got to work on a simulator with the joy stick. He said the operators said it was easy to get into the operation. Daniels said Martin would provide training.

Rasure asked Way if he was going to get another grader next year.

Way said he is to look at a loader or maybe another grader. He said they may pick out one of the other graders that is not necessarily the oldest to trade. Goodman said there are three or four graders with about 9,000 hours.

Way said he was planning to make a down payment of about \$47,000 and borrow the rest on a lease-purchase of \$100,000 starting next year.

He said he would go ahead and pay off one of the machines that has two payments left. That would keep the department to having three payments.

Thomas and Rasure agreed to Way’s proposal and Way said he would get bids on the lease from the banks and get back to the com-

Family known for water, running

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Scheopner family been known for years in the Goodland area for their Culligan water business, but in Garden City, they are known for running.

The Garden City Telegram had a feature article in its Saturday, Nov. 24, issue about John Scheopner, son of Clarence Scheopner, 91, and the late Clara Scheopner of Goodland, and his daughter, son and daughter-in-law.

John Scheopner, 52, of Garden City; daughter Jamie Ellis, 24, Holcomb; and son Travis, 33, and daughter-in-law, Tameka Scheopner, 32, of Wichita enjoyed running together the day after Thanksgiving, the paper reported, taking a five-mile trek, starting at 10:15 a.m., that wound through Lee Richardson Zoo and back to John and Liz Scheopner’s home on Pats Drive.

Travis is a member and head cycling and assistant triathlon coach for the Kansas chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training, the article said. The team gives people a way to combine competing in a marathon, triathlon or “century ride” (100 miles by bicycle) with providing support to more than 670,000



John Scheopner with his father Clarence

Americans living with some type of blood cancer.

“Every family has their own thing,” Travis told the Telegram, adding that running and exercising together is his family’s thing.

John and his brother Andy have always been runners, Clarence Scheopner said; they competed against each other all through school. At track meets, he said, one would win, then the other.

John has continued with his running, he said; he works in an office and needs the exercise, while Andy gets plenty of exercise on the basketball court.

Andy teaches physical education in the Goodland schools and coaches basketball in Weskan. He gets out of school here at 3 p.m., Clarence said, and then goes to Weskan to coach. The Coyotes, who play in Class 1A, were pretty proud to get third at the Topside Tip-off Tournament in Goodland against some bigger schools, he said.

John runs a water-softener business in Garden City, Clarence said, an independent company that has its own plant to process bottled water. They take all the solids out and run it through a tank to take care of bacteria, he said, and then put oxygen

back in.

That’s why truly bottled water tastes better than filtered water, he said, because they put the oxygen back in.

Clarence started the Culligan business in Goodland in 1948, he said, and then bought the company in Garden City about 30 years ago when it got into financial trouble. His son Richard runs the one here, he said, and John the one in Garden City. Between the two, he said, they pretty well take care of western Kansas’ water and a great deal of eastern Colorado’s. He said it’s appropriate his sons went into that field.

“I started when Richard was born,” Clarence said. “That’s all he’s ever known.”

Besides being water-oriented, the family was also education-oriented.

“I was on the school board for many years,” Clarence said, adding that his wife was a teacher.

Besides Andy, Clarence also has a daughter Cathy and some grandchildren who teach, and his daughter Phyllis is the vice president of strategic development at Morgan Community College in Fort Morgan, Colo.

“She’s getting ready to retire,” he said. “That makes me feel old.”

Teen passengers can get tickets for no seat belts

Teenage passengers who aren’t buckled up can expect a ticket from Kansas Highway Patrol troopers starting next month.

The state’s seat belt law was changed by the Legislature to require all drivers and all passengers 14 to 17 to buckle up at all times, regardless of where they are sitting in the car.

The change is an addition to the existing state law requiring that children up to age 8, weighing less than 80 pounds or less than 4 feet, 9 inches, tall, must be in a child safety restraining seat. Children 8, but under the age of 14, weighing more than 80 pounds and more than 4 feet 9 inches tall must wear a safety belt.

The Highway Patrol has been issuing warnings since the law went

into effect in July, but beginning in January, troopers will write tickets to teens who are not buckled up.

Under the law, the driver may not be the one getting the ticket, said Highway Patrol Lt. Art Wilburn, but those teenagers who are not buckled up could get a ticket. He said the driver can be ticketed for not wearing a seat belt under the existing state law, but the new change will affect other teenagers who are riding in the car without a seat belt.

The law allows the officers to pull a driver over and write a ticket solely for the seat belt violation. The fine is \$60, including court costs.

“Seat belts save lives. It’s that simple,” said patrol Superintendent William R. Seck. “Highway Patrol troopers are dedicated to saving lives through enforcement and education. Recent amendments to our seat belt law demonstrate the state’s commitment to protecting the lives of our teens.”

Motor vehicle accident are the leading cause of death for youth age 15 to 18, he said. Changes in the seat belt law were designed to protect drivers, in particular young, inexperienced drivers. And with the likeli-

hood of teen drivers being involved in a crash, it is particularly important for this age group to buckle up.

“It takes five seconds or less to buckle your seat belt, which could make the difference of a lifetime,” said Deb Miller, state secretary of transportation. “Positive habits instilled in us as children follow us through our teen years and into adulthood. Adults should lead children by example by buckling up every trip, every time they ride in a vehicle and by asking other adults to do the same.”

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Goodland Police

The following incidents have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

Dec. 3 — 11:08 a.m., 1228 Grand Ave., Casey Hatfield reported a burglary and theft.

Dec. 4 — 8:12 a.m., 1016 W.

business U.S. 24, Short and Son’s Trucking reported criminal damage to property and theft.

Dec. 6 — 12:52 p.m., 1209 Cherry Ave., arrested a juvenile for resisting arrest and battery against police officer William Fulcher. Case referred to county attorney.

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