

Mayor suggests toss of coin on bids

TRACTOR, from Page 1

budget for this year.” Simon said he had waited as long as he could. Billinger asked if there were any other deviations in the bids. Simon said the first one from Yost and the one from Witzel and Rhea were out because they did not have specified transmission. Yost said the reason he gave two bids was to show what was available. Simon said the remote hydraulics was not on the specifications, but would be good to have. Ron Lucas of Goodland Greenline said on his tractor the hydraulics were a standard feature. Yost said the hydraulics could be added at a later time. “Horsepower can change,” Billinger said. “Do we always specify one number. It would seem better to ask for a range.” Simon said when he sends out specs there is a line that says “We hope you will bid on the equipment to and we want to give you a chance to give us the best you can.” Billinger asked if all the tractors being bid were diesel. Simon said they were, and said with the fun he has had with the mowers he would not get another gas one. For the first of at least three attempts Billinger asked the other commissioners what they thought and waited for one to make a motion. Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she was not sure what to do saying she was not familiar with this type of equipment. Both Lucas and Yost said delivery would be in January. “I am glad we got three local bidders,” Dechant said, “and that

we have two of them here to talk about it.” Fairbanks said she wanted to be clear about the remote hydraulics and said that the John Deere came with them and it would add \$700 to the cost of the tractor from Yost making it cost \$20,300 to bring the two bids within \$280. “This is where is it not fun with two good dealers and close bids,” Billinger said. “What if we flip a coin.” Lucas said he would say that the tractor bid by Yost was two horsepower under the specifications. Fairbanks said she would assume they are both quality products. Yost said his was all American made, and Lucas said both tractors were made in Georgia. “To stick with the specs it does make it difficult,” Fairbanks said. “I feel we need to go with the specs.” Daniels said he agreed with Fairbanks and that they should go with the specifications. Commissioner John Garcia asked Simon what his opinion was and Simon said he recommended the John Deere. Simon said he tries to spread the bids around and that each of the two bidders have won recent bids from the city. “We have towed the line on other things,” Fairbanks said. “This is the worst part of this job.” “We have had some cars that were not the right specs,” Daniels said, “and we did not take them.” “Does somebody want to make a motion,” Billinger said. Daniels made the motion to accept the bid from Goodland Greenline seconded by Fairbanks. When Volk called the roll it was 4-0 and Billinger said he wanted to abstain because he wanted to flip a coin to make the choice.

Paintball battles



Northwest Kansas Technical College President Ken Clouse (above right) helped Jordan McCombs with his red arm band as Jacob Schnabel (left) got his paintball gun loaded with about 200 rounds. Schnabel (right photo) was captain of the winning Team England Saturday morning.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Army band tickets available

BAND, from Page 1

Brendan Fulcher, Trumpet and Katelyn Lammers, French Horn. Sergeant First Class John Lake, advance tour coordinator, said this was a new program for the band, and that it has worked well to give young people a chance to play with the nationally recognized professional military band. “The high school students who have volunteered for the program were excited about the opportunity, and many of their families have been in to get extra tickets,” said Tom Betz, Star-News editor. Sgt. 1st Class Lake said another addition to the concert tour programs this year is that the band’s commander and conductor, Colonel Thomas H. Palmatier of Ballston Spa, N.Y., is planning to talk to

the audience at Max Jones before the concert begins. Lake said the Fieldhouse doors will open at 6 p.m. to let people get to their seats before Col. Palmatier speaks about 15 to 20 minutes before the concert begins at 7 p.m. Palmatier is the ninth director in the Field Band’s history. Colonel Palmatier brings to this command more than 20 years experience in military music. For additional information about the Field Band’s performance please contact the Star-News (785) 899-2338. The concert is free to the public, but people need to get tickets from *The Goodland Star-News*. (Tickets not handed out before the concert will be available at the door on concert night at Max Jones Fieldhouse.)

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