

County buys gravel stacker

By Tom Betz
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The stacker Sherman County purchased last year with the screener now located near Kanorado is working so well the county commissioners approved purchasing a second one to go with the first screener located in the eastern part of the county.

Curt Way, pubic works manager, told the commissioners on Wednesday the stacker and conveyor has worked well to get trucks loaded quicker, and allows the stockpiling of gravel without having to wait for trucks to be available. He suggested the county buy a second one for the other screener and said it is equipped to take a stacker.

He said the price is \$26,213, and some hoses would need to be purchased to connect the stacker. He said the stacker is easier on the screener as well, and it would be possible in the future to run two stackers together to screen two different types of gravel.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked what was in the budget.

Way said he could take it out of special machinery or out of the equipment budget. He said getting the two graders paid off is cutting down on the payments. He said he feels the budget has room as he is looking at replacing a couple of pickups.

He said he is looking at possibly replacing a motor grader, but might wait for next year. However, Way said the county will need to replace a loader.

"The loader we have is costing us a lot," he said.

The loader is a 1972, and probably has 25,000 hours on it.

Commissioner Max Linin asked what the loader might be worth.

"Not sure there would be much," Way said. "I am sure there would be some value."

He said the county has a smaller front end loader (922) that has some value, but said the county needs something like the 930 size as it gets used a lot.

Thomas asked about getting a used loader.

Way said he would look at both a used one and a new one based on the discounts the county gets. He said he would look into it.

On the 1972 loader Way said the county could be looking at around \$30,000 in repairs as it is consuming a lot of oil and running into hydraulic problems.

He said he would like to get something where the county would not have to make payments.

Way said the stacker would be an asset, and that in the new pit it has allowed the stockpiling of gravel. He said the new pit is getting into the good material, and ready to start on County Road 6.

Thomas said having two screening plants has been an asset.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said she would like to see gravel north of Kanorado.

"Coming to a theater soon," Way said.

Linin asked what road and bridge has to spend on equipment.

Way said he thought there was about \$200,000.

Linin said it sounded like the loader was more of a priority than the stacker.

"The stacker is probably more valuable," Way said, "but we can probably handle both."

Strnad said stockpiling would be an advantage, and would keep the process going rather than being shut down by the rains when the pit got filled.

Thomas asked what the county needs to do.

Strnad suggested a compromise and asked Way to get the estimate on the loader by the next meeting on Monday, April 12, and see how the budgets are looking.

Thomas asked Way to give the commissioners an idea of long range needs.

"We sure don't want to over spend," Linin said.

Way said he would get some figures on the possible equipment available.

Sheriff Kevin Butts came in and asked about the alley behind the courthouse. He said something needs to be done, and asked Way if there was a quick fix.

Way said there is not really a quick fix. He said moisture has gotten in under the asphalt west of the Sheriff's office. He said he was not sure what the commissioners want to spend, but if there is an asphalt plant running this summer they could put in hox mix.

"Something is going to have to be done with the sub-grade under the asphalt," he said.

Thomas asked if the road and bridge department could help with that problem.

Way said his crew can cut it out, but would have to get someone to help as the county does not have a laydown machine. He said it would be better than having the holes.

Strnad suggested doing something right now like digging it out and putting millings in.

Way said that might give the commissioners time to make a decision.

The commissioners went into closed session for 15 minutes on a personnel matter with the commissioners, County Attorney Bonnie Selby and County Clerk Janet Rumpel. When the meeting was reopened no action was taken. The commissioners went on to review the employee handbook.

Clothes make the man



Sam Lopez talks to Walt Linthacum at the Nordstrum Trunk Show on Monday, March 29, at the Holiday Inn Express. The trunk show featured suits and custom-made shirts. Dan Brenner of Dan

Brenner Ford helped bring the trunk show to Goodland.

Photo by Josh Harenberg/The Goodland Star-News

College to get iPads for students

Northwest Tech had planned to use the Apple iPod touch as part of the Mobile Learning initiative, but with the announcement of the iPad the decision was made to step up to the iPad.

"Northwest Tech is on the leading edge of technical training and the iPad gives us the ability to augment the learning experience in a way that no other device could," said Dr. Ed Mills, college president. "Northwest Tech is the first college in the

State of Kansas to provide this kind of learning enhancement campus wide for their students."

He said this students will have an Apple iPad as a part of their educational experience.

"This is truly a unique opportunity for the college," he said. "Northwest Tech was launching the iPod touch Mobile Learning initiative this fall on campus but with the announcement of the iPad from Apple, Inc., we have decided to step ahead with

the iPad. Not only will students be able to take advantage of the Northwest Tech iTunes U platform for viewing lectures and demonstrations, they will be able to develop content directly on their iPad.

"From email, iTunes U and eTextbooks to the over 150,000 applications available on the iPad, this truly is a device that will follow them into the industry of their choice."

Northwest Tech teaches the latest and greatest technology including green construction technology, hybrid technology and biodiesel

technology training. The college is exploring other program possibilities in addition to the existing educational programs.

Northwest Kansas Technical College gives students an opportunity to choose their career path — whether it is in business leadership, creative arts and technology, or transportation technology.

For more information or if you would like a tour of the campus, go to www.nwktc.edu or call 1(800) 316-4127 and ask for the Admissions Office.

matters of record

Goodland Police

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

March 22 — 7:13 p.m., 1602 Texas Ave., arrested Rayon Michael McKaskle for domestic battery against Daniele Schmid. Case referred to city attorney.

March 25 — 6:56 p.m., 2160 Commerce Rd., arrested Jay Brutsche for possession of hallucinogenic drug, use or possession of intent to use

drug paraphernalia and contributing to a child's misconduct. Case referred to city attorney.

March 26 — 10:02 a.m., 1901 Cherry Ave., Bubba's Meat Block reported theft.

March 27 — 1:20 a.m., K-27 and Business U.S. 24, arrested Elizandro Lee Villarreal for driving under influence, driving while suspended and no insurance. Case referred to city attorney.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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