

New landfill cell may add 12 years

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 Digging the next cell at the county landfill southwest of the city should add 12 to 13 years to its capacity, Sherman County commissioners learned Friday.

A letter from Mark McMullen of American Environmental Consulting, who has been working with the county on the landfill since it was designed, said that digging the next cell will extend the life to an estimated 18.2 years.

Digging two cells would extend the life to a total of 27 years, the letter said.

McMullen is estimating 4,000 tons of refuse going to the landfill each year, with 35 percent of the space taken up by cover soil, not refuse.

He estimated the cost of digging a new cell to be \$30,000-\$40,000, which is about the same price as the first cell. Adding the third cell would cost less than the first two, he said, but only adds about 8 years to the total life of the landfill.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said looking at the estimates from McMullen, the bailer project is a must to extend the life of the landfill.

Sheriff buys dishwasher

SHERIFF, from Page 1

Doug Whitson bought, but it is not big enough to give us space to stock up when there is a sale on the TV dinners we buy."

He said they are averaging 30 meals a day, and he feels a chest type freezer would help.

"I am going to talk to the company that supplies the schools to see if they would deliver to the Bastille," he said.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked about the number of inmates that are not Sherman County's.

Butts said he has three now, but that number changes frequently.

Rasure asked about the capacity, and Butts said it is 27.

"I have been close in the past few weeks," Butts said. "In one day, they brought in 18, and we were scrambling to find housing."

The commissioners approved the purchase of the dishwasher, and told Butts to look into the cost of the chest freezer.

Mary Messamore was at the meeting, and Rasure asked her and Butts about the status of the 911 computer system and the sheriff's server.

Messamore said the 911 software has been installed, but she is not satisfied with how it is operating. The upgrade is to improve the global tracking system, especially for cell phone calls. She said the system at the sheriff's office has not been compatible with dispatch for several years. Butts said the server at the

Commissioners Chuck Thomas and Kevin Rasure agreed that a bailer would help extend the landfill beyond McMullen's estimates.

In February, the commissioners and Public Works Manager Curt Way heard a proposal on a new bailer from the Harris Corp. of Mart, Texas, being sold by the Glen L. DeHart company of St. Louis. The bailer would come from a plant in Peachtree City, Ga.

"We've talked about the bailer project," Rasure said, "and I believe we all feel it is the way to go. I think we should authorize Curt to negotiate with the bailer company to see the best price he can get."

Thomas agreed, noting that it will take about eight months or more to get the bailer.

"I believe we have the basic design of what we want," Tiede said. "It is time to go ahead, and getting the bailer. Removing the cardboard will have a great effect on the landfill."

Tiede said he would tell Way to begin the negotiations for the bailer. He said the county should look at digging one new cell rather than the two.

No decision was reached on a new cell, however.

sheriff's department is working. Deputy Burton Pinalto has been keeping it alive.

Rasure said he had been talking to Tracy Purvis of S&T Communications, who is doing much of the county computer maintenance.

"He wants to be sure that whatever upgrade is put in the sheriff's department, it will be compatible with what is in the dispatch system," Rasure said.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked about the contract with Purvis, saying he seems to be a bit overworked. He wondered if S&T was trying to get Purvis some help.

"Yes," Butts said, "they are trying to hire my deputy."

Bomb kills Goodland man

BOMB, from Page 1

Wood, Mo.

Lutters, a crane operator, said he volunteered for active duty because of a deal he made with Varney that if one was activated the other would volunteer to go with him.

"I live life for the experiences," Lutters said at the time.

Lutters said he thought tense situations he experienced from working at Kit Carson Correctional Facility for 3 1/2 years and at a prison riot last summer in Fowler, Colo., would help make his adjustment to a hostile environment easier.

Lutters reported to Pittsburg at the end of September, and was shipped to Iraq in January after three months of training at Fort Sill, Okla.



Jillian Parker (top right) sang to entertain the crowd at the Wednesday. Evelyn Berry (below) sampled the teas after giving Wheatridge Acres Retirement Community Spring Tea on a talk on tea. Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Wheatridge spring tea offers hot stuff for all

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Whether you prefer leaves or bags, cold or hot, green, black or red, the Wheatridge Acres Retirement Community's Spring Tea had a cup of the hot stuff for everyone Wednesday morning.

To go with their fancy teas, residents came decked out in their spring best, some wearing hats.

The tea started at 10:30 a.m. with a singer Jillian Parker, a Goodland High School sophomore, accompanied on the piano by her mother GERALYN.

After the entertainment, Evelyn Berry gave a talk about tea.

She explained the difference between high tea, tea taken with a meal at noon, and afternoon tea. She said in English tradition, high tea was taken by the working class and afternoon tea was celebrated mostly by the upper class.

She said that since tea was so

expensive, many people kept it in locked boxes.

She had a display of a traditional afternoon tea setting with two china cups, a teapot and scones.

Berry taught the residents how to make tea for two and encouraged everyone to take time for tea. She said they should get out their good china and invite a friend over for tea and conversation.

"A paper cup won't do," she joked.

Carol Baum brought a few calendars that she left for the residents. She said she got the calendars as a 'thank you' after helping someone find historical documents.

After the presentations, residents had carrot cake, lemon scones and deviled eggs.

The group stayed to chat and enjoy the tea.



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Notorious 'Fleagle Gang' Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt

True crime from the roaring 20s, "The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint," begins with a brazen daylight bank robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men are dead, and the robbers escaped.

The author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains.

Knott Just Books of Goodland, Kan. will hold a book signing from 2-5 p.m. on Friday, May 20. Bookstore owner, Linda Knott, said people can call 890-7105 to reserve a book. She said several people have called or come in to reserve the book and purchase the copies she has been ordering.

"It seems to have stirred up some interest," she said.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the case which hinges on a single fingerprint found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI and new boss J. Edgar Hoover play a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The book includes photos taken from the court files and places where the gang robbed banks.

A U.S. Navy journalist and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Betz started his career delivering papers for his family's newspaper in Lamar, Colo., winning the first of numerous journalism awards as a teenager.

The Fleagle Gang robbed banks and trains in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., Pittsburg, Calif. and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

Three gang members — Ralph Fleagle, George Abshire and Howard Royston — were "jerked up" at the Colorado Penitentiary a little over two years after committing the Colorado bank robbery. The fourth, Jake Fleagle, was shot on a train in Branson, Mo. in Oct. 1930.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at **Knott Just Books** in Goodland (Call 890-7105). A book signing is planned for 2-5 p.m., Friday, May 20.

Betz will be signing books from 9-11 a.m., Saturday, May 21, at The Barry Patch in Lamar, Colo., which is the site of the original First National Bank of Lamar. The book is available at the **Finney County Museum** in Garden City, and online from the publisher Authorhouse.com, and other book stores.

Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.

