

District 3: Road and Bridge Report Don Hawthorne, County Commissioner District 3 The first two months of the year have passed quickly and busily. We responded to quite a lot of calls about trees down in the road ways and in, or near, right of ways. This was due to the drought we experienced, and now strong winds are blowing them down.

We have started to get some roads ready to be oil and chipped this summer. We have completed "G" Street between 1

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and 2

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Streets in Cache. This is part of a larger project that is in cooperation with the City and Comanche Nation Transportation Department. Starting March 14

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, T& G Construction will begin the resurfacing of the streets east of 1

st

Street.

We are currently preparing Paint Road from the railroad tracks north to Rogers Lane ready to be oil and chipped this summer. We also recycled the street by the low income housing in Chattanooga.

We recycled Tennessee and 34

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Streets near Lawton, but in our District. We put in a tin horn and fixed the bar ditches so it will drain better.

Responding to a number of requests to put the center stripe on the bridges on Cache Road, we went out for bid. The low bidder used a hand pushed striper with a string line. As a result, the center lines aren't very straight, but they are marked. It was about a third of the cost of the bid for a machine striper, but we will most likely go with a machine striper next time for a better result.

We rented a crack sealer again this year to use on our asphalt roads. Sealing the cracks extends the life of the roads, sealing out the water from getting down in the road surface and allowing the freezing temperature to then break up the asphalt.

At the request of the schools, we took several loads of gravel to the Indianoma and Chatty FFA barns. Some of our crew helped the Comanche County Fair Grounds with clearing out the dirt from the exhibition building following the horse and livestock shows and we hauled off the wood chips from the hog and goat shows.

The abandoned truss bridge over Sandy Creek on Holsey Acres Road was washed into the creek by the May 23 flood. We salvaged it and sold it as scrap iron and got over \$1,100 for it. I tried to sell it a number of years ago and only got an \$800 bid. Now we have it out of the creek and a little money in our operating fund.

We are continuing to work with FEMA and have most of the damage caused by the May 23rd

flood repaired and have received reimbursement for most of it. However, we are still working with them to try to close out the projects from the 2009 ice storm. FEMA owes District 3 about \$850,000 for the work done on damage related to that storm.

It has been tradition that the County digs the graves in the rural and small town cemeteries. Since January 1, we have dug 15 graves. There is no charge for this service, unless it falls on a weekend where we have to pay overtime. The funeral home in charge contacts the County when this service is needed.

If you have questions or concerns, I can be contacted at don.hawthorne@comanchecounty.us or you may phone the County Barn at 580-429-3217.