

District 3: Road and Bridge Report Don Hawthorne, County Commissioner District 3 Holiday leave is over and it's been back to work catching up on getting roads back into shape. Of the four years I've been in office, we have had snow and/or ice over the Christmas Holidays each year. We sanded hills, bridges and intersections. Even though the snow and ice did not stay long, we did make it safer for morning travelers.

Road Forman, Kenny Kinder and I met with leaders from the Comanche Nation Transportation Department concerning resurfacing streets on the east side of Cache. At our latest meeting, the engineer from CEC Engineering met with us to discuss design and project costs. The work on the streets will begin later this coming summer.

Responding to a concern about the entrance into Neugebauer Acres, the crew put in a wider tinhorn, removed loose gravel, and graded the road so it would drain better.

At the request of the Town of Faxon, we patched their streets and we are recycling 2
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Street in Chattanooga, at their request. The street will be resurfaced later this year. We also hauled a load of screenings for the Town of Medicine Park.

The drought has been hard on our roads, particularly those that are asphalt. We have rented a crack sealing machine and have had a crew working most of the winter filling cracks. This prevents water from getting to them, freezing and causing more damage. Job Corp Road was our latest repair and crack seal project.

Working with local schools, we hauled a load of screenings to the Chattanooga FFA barn, and a load of special "Choctaw Mix" dirt for the Cache baseball diamond infield.

We worked our first fire of the new year by providing a motor grader to cut fire breaks at a wildfire northwest of Indianahoma. The dry grass, low humidity, and strong winds is the perfect formula for serious wildfires. If these conditions continue, the County will have to impose a burn ban. Even without a burn ban, residents of Comanche County need to be very careful when burning outside.

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Street status: We have finish preparing the sup grade, and T & G Construction is putting down 8 inches of aggregate and once this is all down, they will lay 7 inches of asphalt. After the road surface is down, we will finish the bar ditches and pull the dirt up to the road grade. We are currently advertizing for bids to have the sod laid on the bare surfaces.

Kenny and I met with Pecan Valley North Homeowners Association to discuss speed limits on Cache Road, repair to their streets, and drainage problems. We are working in Pecan Valley South to repair bad spots in their streets.

If you have questions or concerns, I can be contacted at don.hawthorne@comanchecounty.us or you may phone the Courthouse or County Barn and I will return your call.

You can access this report monthly on the county web site as well as the County Times. The official web site www.comanchecounty.us is maintained by the Comanche County Public Information Office.