

DON'T ROCK THE BOAT BABY!! 'Guys and Dolls' rehearsals have begun with the cast meeting several times a week. The musical will be presented on March 25 and 26 at the high school in St. Francis. Above, Gavin Smull follows the lines in one of the acts. Right, Sam Marin gives directions while the rest of the cast sways to the music. Cast, left to right, are Art Krueger, Kip Wiese, Bruce Swihart and Deonn Wiese. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



All members need to study information — then go vote

By Karen Krien

The vote to merge or not to merge will start at 5 p.m. on Tuesday at the fairgrounds in St. Francis.

This is one last meeting for questions and answers before members who are present vote on whether or not to merge with Frontier Equity in Goodland. Since the first meeting held Feb. 2, there has been one other meeting for St. Francis Equity members. There has also been some people voicing concern that this may not be the best thing for the cooperative business or St. Francis.

Pete Gienger said he thought that by merging with Frontier, it would be like pounding another nail in the town's coffin.

There is also the question that why would St. Francis want to merge with a company which, two years ago, had a \$2 million loss?

However, Equity manager Tim Burr said the company hired to study the Equity's financial state recommended a merger with a company similar to the Equity's business. The study indicated that Frontier Equity, based in Goodland with other locations in Brewster, Edson, Bird City and McDonald would be a good merger.

The vote to merge not only involves St. Francis Equity patrons but also those of Frontier Equity. Of those patrons who show up to vote, there must be a majority of two-thirds to finalize the agreement. It is possible that Frontier Equity patrons may not want to absorb a business which is not financially sound. It is also true that some St. Francis Equity members feel that the business can survive.

Managers of the Wheeler Equity, Dale Weeks, and Bartlett's, Doug Ross, said they had no comment as to how the merger of the Equity would affect them.

An outside comment was made that competition is always good.

One of the selling points of the merger is that the St. Francis business will benefit by being able to participate in bulk purchases in fertilizer, petroleum and grain.

Dale Rath, Equity board member, when contacted, said he is opposed to the merger. He said that in two years, the tubes (three new grain elevators) will be paid for. He would like to see the board, manager and members investigate other alternatives before jumping in with Frontier.

Manager Burr has said more than once that whatever the vote is, the board will go on from there.

"The important thing is to come to the meeting on Tuesday and vote," he said.

3-on-3 basketball tournament sponsored during FFA Week

The Cheylin Future Farmers of America chapter had a busy week last week.

Monday was "Drive a farm vehicle to school day." The bitter cold temperatures discouraged most, but one student's ride was a semi tractor.

Tuesday was donuts with the faculty for members, Wednesday was "Wear your work clothes to school day", Thursday was "Cherry Crisp Day", where members shared with the other high school students.

The week also included a "Kiss the pig" contest. Jars with pictures of teachers and students were placed in the office. To vote, money was placed in the jar of your choice. Mr. Grippin and Jessica Marshall were the winners. Proceeds totaling \$68 from the contest were donated to the food pantries in Bird City and McDonald.

On Saturday the group hosted a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in McDonald, with over 15 teams competing.

The winners in the second grade

and under were: first place, The Blue Indians; second place, The Butterflies.

Third and fourth grade girls: first place, Triple Threat from Goodland; second place, The Brewster Dawgs; third place, The Lady Bugs from Cheylin.

Third and Fourth grade boys: first place, The Scooby Doos from Cheylin; second place, The Trailblazers from Rexford; third place, The Martians from Cheylin.

Fifth and Sixth grade boys: first place, Goodland Mustangs; second place, The Milkshakes from Cheylin; third place, The Mean Machines from Cheylin.

Seventh and Eighth grade: There was only one girls team so they competed in the boys division placing fourth. Boys first place: The Blue Comets from Cheylin; second place, The Strasburg Indians; third place, The Cougars from Cheylin.

School Menu

Monday, March 6 Breakfast: French toast, cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch: Taco Salad, salad bar, vegetables, fruit, dessert, milk	Wednesday, March 8 Breakfast: Hash browns, sausage links, cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch: 4th Grade menu; baked potato bar with chili, cheese, etc., salad bar, bread, kiwi, strawberries and bananas, dirt pudding, milk
Tuesday, March 7 Breakfast: Ham patty, cereal, toast, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken patty, rice and gravy, salad bar, fruit, bread, milk	Thursday, March 9 Spring Break- No School

FORMER GOLDEN WHOLESALE/HARDWARE INVENTORY LIQUIDATION AUCTION

Sun., March 12
10 a.m. CT

Auction Site: Western Auction & Real Estate Auction Pavilion, W HWY 36, St. Francis
PLUMBING – ELECTRICAL – LAWN & GARDEN – ELECTRICAL – HARDWARE TOOLS
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES – LOTS OF MISCELLANEOUS

Automotive & Farm Supplies
Radiator Hose; Electric Fuel Pump; Grease Guns; Tire Repair Items; Patches, Chemicals, Talc, Tools; Fence Chargers; Auto. Supplies in Tin Cans: Quick Motor Flush, STP Stop Leak, Trans-Seal, STP Oil Treatment, STP Radiator Flush, STP Diesel Treatment; Tin Cans of: Castle Tune Up, Max Resin Coat, Stewart Warner Oil Deterg., Z4 Motor Additive, Dutch Boy Tinting Comp., Diesel Fuel Conditioner; Barrel & Tank Measure Tapes; Helicoil Rethreading Kits; 3/8 Drive Speed Handles; Head Lamp; Halogen Head lamp; Halogen Low Beam Head lamp; Suburban Head lamp, Levolt; Ciruline Lamp; Misc. Color Lights; Sealed Beam Lamps; Auto Head Lamps; Spot-Gro Fixture; 150 Spotlight; Plastic Insulators for Fencing; GE & SY Auto Lamps; Welding Gloves; MANY Gloves; Gas Spout; Glad Rags; Chamois; Brake Fluid Pump; Wire Brushes; Gas Can Tube; Oil Cans; Ice Scrapers; Reichert Float.

Lawn & Garden
Garden Caddy; Propane Weed Burner; Rakes; Hoe/Shovel Handles; Manure Forks; Pitch Forks; Cultivators; Vintage Wire Garden Fence; Cushions; Waterers; Many of Items!

Misc.
Goggles; Sight Gauge & Glasses; Welding Helmet; Vintage Gal. Jars; Trash Bags; Coverall Storage Bags; Battery Testers; Battery Brushes; Tool Belts; Chaulking Guns; Wire Brushes; Mop Heads; Turnbuckles; Floodlight Covers; Thermos Handles; Leak Stoppers; Water Cans; Ice Chest Drainers; Blue Ice; Refreezable Ice Jugs; Water Jugs; Lunch Bags; Gas Cans; Squeeze Buckets; Paper Cup Dispenser; Water Can; Minnow Buckets; Cooler Chest; Brushes; Mops & Mop Heads; Bug Sponges; Bowl Brushes; Bug Sprayers; Rolls of Plastic; Misc. Newspaper Bundler; Dolly for Recycling Bins; Recycling Bin; Service Dispenser.

Tools, Parts, Supplies
Hudson Sprayer & Parts; Metal Sprayer & Cart; Metal Pump Sprayers; Bug Duster Sprayers; Sprayer Cans; Keyhole Saws; Disston Saws; End Nippers; Rasps; Proto Tools: All Sizes & Sockets; Ratchets, Box End Wrenches, Open End Wrench, Combo Wrenches, Very Large Wrenches; Challenger, Proto Tools Wrenches; Williams Tools Wrenches; Greenlee Crimper; Greenlee Elec. Tools; Vintage Allway Tools; Countertop Saw Display w/ Saws; Vintage Allway Tools; Saw Display w/ Saws; Vintage Rainbow Oil Cans; MANY Files; Plumb Rehandle Kits for Hammers; Lots of Handles: Hammers, File, Ax, Hatchet; Auto Fuse Holder Display; Galvanized Wheeling Buckets; Galvanized; JL Buckets; Galvanized Funnels; Every Screwdriver Imaginable; Folding Rulers; Large Gate Bolts & Hinges; Grinding Wheels.


Makita Saw Blades: 7- 1/4, 8-1/4, 10, 12, 14; 12" Cut off Blades; 12" Metal Cut off Blades; Rivets; Uniprise Piper; Solder Kit; Solder; Wood Handle Hammers; MANY Washers: Flat, Lock & Split; Wrenches: Socket, Open End, Box; MANY Screws, Many Sizes; Barrels of Bolts; Boxes of Bolts, All Sizes & Grades; Stove Bolts; Eye; Bolts; Hook Bolts; Turnbuckles; Cotter Pins; Vintage Parts & Bolts, Metal & Tin; Sheffield Bolt Wooden Crates, NEW; Hinges, Many Sizes; Sockets in MANY sizes: Shallow, Deep, Impact; Ratchets; Breaker Bars; End, Combination; Hacksaw Blades; Keyhole Blades; Marking Crayons in Box; Putty Knives; Auger Bits for Brace; Vintage Dial Phones, Black 4 line; Hand Scythe; Time Clock; Bucket Vents; Picture Hangers; Square; Nuts; Bit Kits; MANY Wrenches, MANY Sizes; Linkfix Pliers; Drill Bits; Auger Bits; Core Bits; Roller Chain & Links.

Plumbing & Electrical
Brass Valves & Fittings; Vacuum Breakers for plumbing; Copper Fittings All Shapes & Sizes; Vintage Elec. Wiring Parts; Vintage Light Fixtures; MANY Light Bulbs; Spools of Wire Cable, Various Sizes & Lengths; Electrician Hammers; Battery Pliers; 6 Volt Taper Charger; 2" PVC Water; Valve; Direct Transformer Unit; Wall Faucets; Drill Index; Wall Plates; Replacement Drain Plugs; 40, 60 Watt Tubes; 200 Watt Reg Base; Misc. Decorator Bulbs; 100 Watt Floodlights; Reflector 120 watt; Misc. Spotlights; Twin Tube Lamps; Sodium Lamps; Slimlite 75 watt Bulbs; Reflector Lamp 300 Watt; 40 watt Mercury Lamp; 215 & 250 watt; Mercury Lights; MANY TUBES & BULBS!!

MANY MORE ITEMS IN LARGE QUANTITIES – PLAN TO ATTEND!

Auctioneer's Note: 1st of several inventory liquidation auctions to be held for the former Golden Wholesale/Hardware, Colby, KS. Plan now to attend this trip back through time. Many multiples, duplicates, discontinued items, antiques & collectibles will sell. There is definitely something for everyone at this auction. For those of you that are familiar with the former Golden Wholesale business you can relate to the unlimited inventory that this auction will have to offer. Many items are in their original packaging and will offer lines of plumbing, electrical, mechanical, hardware items. **PLAN NOW ATTEND THIS AUCTION AS THERE WERE TOOOOOOOOOO MANY ITEMS TO LIST AS THE BOXES WERE IN ROWS & ROWS.** Additional photos will be available for viewing on the internet once we have the opportunity to begin displaying the items for auction.

TERMS: Cash or Good Check. Not responsible for theft or accident. All items sell to the highest bidder "as is where is." Buyer is responsible to pay for all items regardless of faults day of sale. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material. Lunch will be served.



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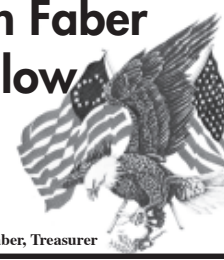
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LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL MEETING


with Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer & Rep. John Faber
Attorney General Phil Kline will follow
8-9 a.m. ~ Saturday, March 4
Dusty Farmer Restuarant ~ St. Francis



Paid for by Ostmeyer for Senate, Lori Edward, Treasurer & Rep. John Faber, Myrna Faber, Treasurer

•• NOTICE ••

Frontier Equity will be providing TRANSPORTATION from the Bird City Office to the Goodland Office for the merger vote on MARCH 7th and will leave 6:30 p.m. CT.



Please RSVP to 785-734-2331 by March 6th if you plan on riding.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the St. Francis Mercantile Equity Exchange will be held on **Tuesday, March 7, 2006**, in the **4-H Building at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds in St. Francis, Kansas**. A brief informational meeting will begin at **5:00 p.m. CST**, with the business vote to immediately follow. This location will be open for voting from 5-7:00 p.m. CST.

The voting members will vote on whether or not to merge with Frontier Equity, headquartered in Goodland, Kansas. **The Board of Directors of both companies, along with the auditing firm of Lindburg & Vogel and the consulting firm of ProValue, have conducted a thorough study of the companies and the proposed merger, and recommend a vote in favor of this merger.**

We urge your attendance and participation. This is an important strategic decision for the St. Francis Equity, in which you have a vote. As always, thank you for your consideration of this matter, and your patronage of the cooperative.

Respectfully submitted, Ted Zielke
Secretary of the Board of Directors
St. Francis Mercantile Equity Exchange