



**A BROKEN LEG did not stop Kaedra Dixson from playing her trumpet.**

*Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett*

## Blizzard conditions shorten the commissioners meeting

**By Karen Krien**

A winter storm had already arrived when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday and a meeting which already had a short agenda, was even shorter.

Sheriff Troy Gardner said he had suggested that the law enforcement agreement between the county and Bird City remain at the same amount — \$2,500 per month. The agreement has not increased for four years. The sheriff and council had talked about adding another officer but, now with the expected additional costs in 911 dispatch, the city may need to pay more.

Sheriff Gardner said the department was able to make ends meet at this point and it would be better to see what the additional costs were going to be. The contract was signed.

Sheriff Gardner recommended that

### Clup Clip

#### McDonald Garden Club

The McDonald Garden Club held their December meeting and cookie party on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the McDonald Senior Center. Guests of the club were Karlyne Atchison, Eleanor Swihart, Phyllis Wingfield, Betty Lewis and Diane Montgomery. Diane indicated that she will join the club as a new member.

Joan Tongish opened the meeting and welcomed the guests. Margie Hubbard led the group in prayer. Roll call answers were "Christmas Decorating Ideas" and 12 members gave their answers. The minutes and treasurer's reports were given.

Following a short business meeting, members filled cookie tins with all of the variety of cookies. There were 30 tins packed and delivered to friends and shut-ins. Six fruit plates were prepared for diabetics. Five tins of cookies and a fruit plate were taken to the Good Samaritan Home in Atwood. After all tins were packed and labeled, members enjoyed eating cookies with coffee and hot cider.

Margie Hubbard provided the December arrangement "Winter Wonderland" which was used as a centerpiece on the cookie table. It featured evergreens, pine cones and snow-tipped line material.

The Jan. 10 meeting will be with Vera Kacirek with Betty Knappas co-hostess. Joan and Margie hope to have the 2007 yearbooks completed to pass out.

the commissioners agree to send officer Tom Raile to two schools: An arson school held in Wyoming which will be one-week long; and an advanced on-hands crime scene course which would be held in Pueblo, Colo.

He said he had checked in Kansas for similar classes but there were none. Both Wyoming and Pueblo are not much further than where most classes are held in Kansas.

He thought the arson class was important because if there is a fire where arson is suspected, having a trained person could determine if it is necessary to have fire officials come to the scene.

The commissioners agreed to let Mr. Raile attend both classes.

#### New grader

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the 1993 140G road grader has had fuel problems through the years. He thought that the equipment was "nickel and diming" the county and suggested that the commissioners start planning for a new grader to replace the 1993 grader. The grader is not the oldest as the county also has one-1990; two 1991 graders; and one 1995 grader.

He had looked into the cost of a replacement and it will be around

\$130,592 with trade in. No decision was made.

Mr. Flemming said the new grader which was approved last month, had come in.

#### In other business

In other business:

- The prescription bill for Raymond DeAragon, prisoner in the Goodland Bastille, was \$894 for the month. However, the commissioners noted that the next prescription will be filled at Krien Pharmacy in St. Francis instead of through the Bastille's prescription source.

- Terry Miller, election officer, said he had purchased 15 voting booths for \$975. The booths had cost one-half the original price.

- A request for a \$5,342 pandemic flu grant was signed.

- Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, asked that each active emergency medical technician be given a \$50 in scrip bonus. The money will be taken from the Memorial Fund.

- After discussion, the commissioners agreed to have Clerk Miller take over the work of the county's cafeteria plan. Commissioner Brubaker had done this job for the approximately 12 years.

## Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

**Bison**  
Rx compounding & Therapy

James E. Hampton, RPh, PCCA Member  
416 State Street, Suite A  
Atwood, Kansas 67730  
(785) 626-3237 • (800) 696-3214  
Bison Rxcompounding@atwoodtv.net

Customized prescriptions for patients with unique medical situations requiring unique medical solutions.

**Residential & Commercial ROOFING**  
Local DURO-LAST Contractor  
**Murray Roofing**

740 E. 4th Colby, KS 67701 785-462-6908 800-794-3204

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**THE WORLD'S BEST ROOF**

Duro-Last Roofing, Inc.  
Jeff Dreiling/Sales

**FLANDERS GUTTERING**  
"A better way to go"

• 5 inch seamless guttering • Roofing  
• Windows • Soffit and Fascia  
FREE ESTIMATES

**SPECIALIZING IN:  
CALL FOR SPRING SPECIALS!**

785-694-2865 or 785-462-0632

**WESTERN KANSAS CENTER FOR COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL DIAGNOSIS & REHABILITATION**

460-3999 or toll free 1-866-305-3999

Jeffrey M. Royle, D.D.S.  
1690 W. 4th • Colby, KS

## Intent of Merger Consolidation

The Boards of Directors of Frontier Equity and CO-AG, Inc., along with the independent auditing firm of Lindburg & Vogel, have conducted a thorough study of the companies and strongly recommend a vote in favor of merging the two companies together into a new cooperative named Frontier Ag, Inc. This recommendation is based on the following facts:

#### 1. Why merge?

- Spread risk over larger trade area.
- More efficient use of facilities, equipment and personnel by the combined cooperative.
- Better utilization of capital expenditures funds.
- Continued cooperative ownership/control and preservation of members' equity.
- Size/Volume – better opportunities to negotiate product prices and costs.
- Ability to attract, hire, train, promote and retain the best and brightest employees.
- Create a position of strength to withstand the pressures of competitive Regional and National businesses that are trying to envelop our business and eliminate local control.
- Substantial decrease in interest and insurance costs.

#### 2. Who are we merging with?

- CO-AG, Inc. with locations in Breton, Grinnell, Menlo, Mingo, Page City, Seguin, Winona, and Oakley.
- Frontier Equity Exchange Association with locations in Atwood, Bird City, Brewster, Goodland, McDonald, and Ruleton.

#### 3. What will be the name of the cooperative?

- Frontier Ag, Inc.

#### 4. When will the merger be effective?

- The merger will be effective on March 1st, 2007.

#### 5. What will be the fiscal year end of the cooperative?

- The fiscal year end will be February 28th.

#### 6. What percentage of "yes" votes is required to approve this merger proposal?

- Kansas cooperative statutes require a 2/3rds favorable majority vote of both cooperatives.
- This is 2/3rds of the voting members present at the meeting called for such purpose.

#### 7. Who will be the General Manager?

- Brad Cowan will be the General Manager of the combined cooperative.

#### 8. Where will the mailing address of Frontier Ag be?

- The mailing address of the new cooperative will be 415 W 2nd Oakley, Kansas, 67748.
- Administrative functions will continue in the existing main offices.

#### 9. Who will be on the Board of Directors?

- The new Board of Directors will be expanded to a 10 person board.
- The initial Board representation for the combined cooperative will be 5 directors from the Frontier Equity Board and 5 directors from the CO-AG Board, as well as 2 associate directors from each Board.

#### 10. Is either cooperative in financial trouble?

- NO.
- Both cooperatives have been impacted over the past 6 out of 7 years due to drought conditions.
- Both cooperatives are coming off of good years, but prior to that have sustained losses; however, at present, both are fiscally sound.

#### 11. How will the equity in each cooperative be handled?

- A \$2,000 common stock membership will be required. Currently Frontier Equity requires a \$1,000 common stock membership and CO-AG has a \$2000 common stock requirement. The initial stock purchase will be \$100 for new members.
- Equities will continue to be revolved at the discretion of the Board of Directors based on the overall company's profitability. This merger will greatly enhance the opportunities to do so.
- Currently both retire equities in the following order:  
1) Estates; 2) Age of patron

#### 12. What services do both cooperatives provide?

- Today, both have full service operations including grain, fertilizer, chemicals, custom application, seed, feed, petroleum, and shop facilities.
- Frontier Equity has a convenience store and Carquest parts store.
- CO-AG also has a country grain procurement business and information technology fee business.

#### 13. Will any services be discontinued?

- No services will be discontinued.

#### 14. Where can I sell my grain, receive my grain settlement and pay my bill?

- You will be able to sell your grain, receive grain settlements and pay your bill at the same locations that you transact business today.

#### 15. Will I still be able to charge my purchases?

- Yes, all patrons in good credit standing will continue to be able to charge goods and services.

#### 16. Will there be any price differential between locations?

- Yes, the price of commodities, inputs and supplies will be determined by freight rates similar to how it is handled today.

#### 17. When will the informational meetings be?

- The informational meeting schedule is as follows:
  - In Goodland, 6pm MST at the Goodland Elks Lodge @ 1523 Arcade on January 31st, 2007.
  - In Oakley, 6pm CST at the NWKESC on January 29th, 2007.

#### 18. When will the vote be?

- The merger vote will be on February 7th, 2007:
  - Oakley: 4-6pm CST at the NWKESC in Oakley.
  - Goodland: 6-8pm MST at the Goodland Elks Lodge @ 1523 Arcade.
- Written notice of the meeting will be mailed with the time and location.

#### Questions??? Contact a Board Member or General Manager

CO-AG		Frontier Equity	
Richard Epard	462-2989	Brent Linin	899-6124
Murray Baalman	824-3485	Tim Livengood	899-3482
Robert Abell	824-3373	Albert Rall	694-2791
Harold Koster	675-3857	Alan Townsend	899-5829
Mark Myers	462-7727	Kenny Davis	890-5333
Victor Schwarz	855-2213	John Deeds	734-2586
Joe McInay	462-2012	Gordon Hawkins	626-3613
Mike Stephens	672-3626	Ted Zielke	332-2463
Dennis Engel	672-3635	Larry Gutsch	899-3043



**CO-AG**  
415 W. 2nd - Oakley, Kans.

1202 W Hwy 24 - Goodland, Kans.

## Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

Rising energy costs have created difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of your energy bill is now available for income-qualified applicants.

**CCEAP Applications will be available starting Tuesday, December 26, 2006 at the following locations:**

<b>St. Francis</b>	
☐ Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office	☐ City Office
☐ St. Francis Equity Co-op	
<b>Bird City</b>	
☐ City Office	☐ Frontier Equity
<b>SRS Agents</b>	
☐ Goodland	☐ Colby

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P.O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

Program sponsored by: **Priority Oil & Gas LLC**  
and **Energy Outreach Colorado**