

-St. Francis News-

Sylvia Queen was a Tuesday visitor of LaVera Beringer.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, Larry Beringer of Sharon Springs came to get his mother, LaVera, and take her to the Wesleyan Church in Sharon Springs. There they met Brenda Beringer and James and Lisa Burk and family of LaCrosse.

Later they went to the home of Larry and Brenda for a good Christmas dinner. Other guests were Pastor Bill and Lois Ball of Sharon Springs and Brett and Jill Beringer, Zekke and Titus of Goodland.

Larry brought LaVera back to St. Francis that evening.

Alice Raile of Oxford arrived in St. Francis on Christmas Day (Monday) and visited until Thursday. Larry Beringer came to see Alice and LaVera on Monday and the three of them enjoyed dinner at LaVera's home.

Milton and Betty Lampe were Christmas Holiday guests of Kirk and Debbie Grizzell of Macksville from Friday, Dec. 22 to Sunday, Dec. 24.

Other guests were Travis Grizzell and Kristen Allen from Hays and Kyle Grizzell of Pratt.

Holiday house guests of Wilma Lampe were Barb Stevanson of Austin, Texas, last Thursday night and Dennis and Debbie Floyd of Seattle, Wash., from Friday to Wednesday of Christmas week.

A Christmas gathering and Floyd family reunion was held Saturday, Dec. 23, at the home of Kerby and Gina Krien, Chase and Afton of rural Bird City. A delicious dinner was enjoyed by all followed by a photo session with a photographer that came to the home to do a family portrait.

A gift exchange was then held around the Christmas tree. The hosts had a surprise activity planned next when all loaded up for a hayrack ride into Bird City where they did caroling and delivered fruit baskets to several homes.

For those who could stay longer in the evening, a video trivia game was played along with enjoying snacks and hors d'oeuvres.

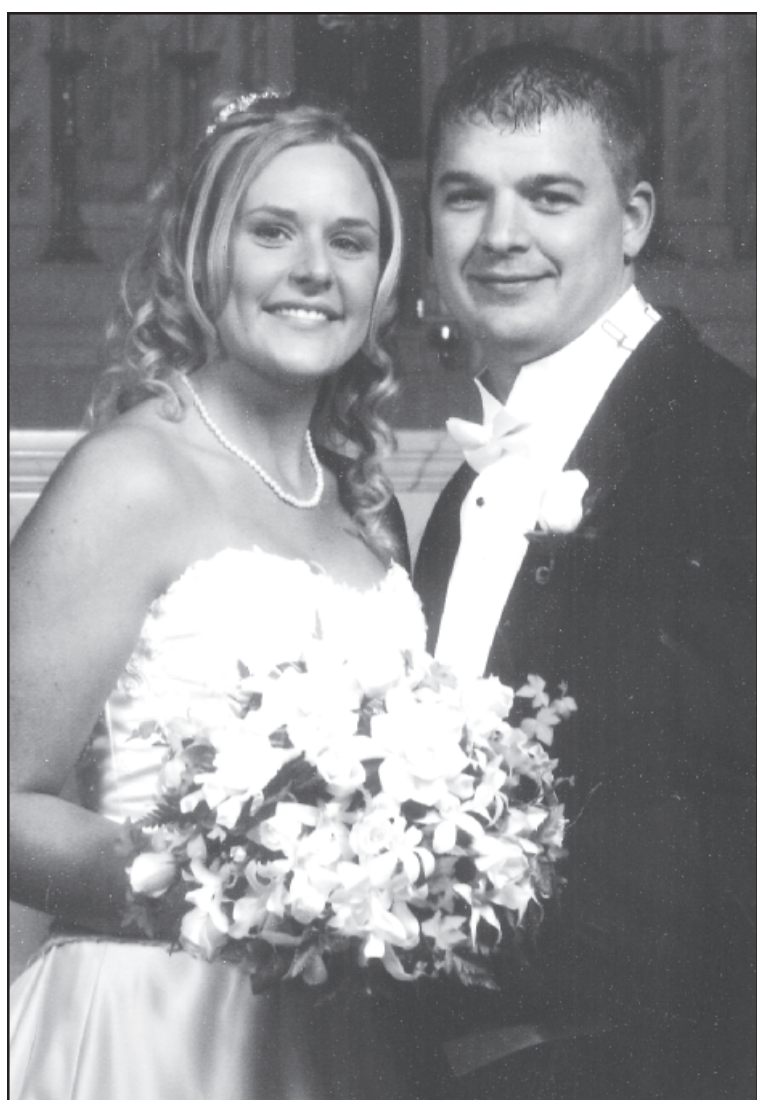
Those present, besides the host family, were Dennis and Debbie Floyd of Seattle, Linda and Larry Gutsch, Lance and Annie Gutsch and Gatsby, Lara and Chris Firman and Leah Gutsch and Mike Lehrburger of Denver; also Barb Stevanson of Austin and Wilma Lampe.

—Book Review—

Book review from
St. Francis Public Library
Lethal Justice
By Fern Michaels

Alexis was a successful broker whose career was on the rise. But that was before she was wrongly imprisoned for fraud. Suddenly her life was destroyed: convicted and thrown into prison for a year while the true criminals, Arden Gillespie and Roland Sullivan, spent the profits from the scam on themselves.

It is time for the next revenge mission of the Sisterhood - a vigilante organization whose aim is to avenge crimes which were not punished by the legal system. The Sisterhood need the aid of an old friend, Anna Ryland de Silva, to succeed with their plan. But she has been a recluse since the tragic death of her family years ago. Can the women persuade Anna that it is worth helping them to nail Alexis's fraudsters? It is a risky assignment and they are all aware there is a high price to pay if they are found out.



Mr. and Mrs. Brian Foster

Couple exchange vows in ceremony held in Victoria

St. Fidelis Cathedral in Victoria was the setting for the Oct. 28, 2006, wedding of Christie Holzwarth and Brian Foster. Father Charles Polifka officiated at the double-ring ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Randy and Barb Holzwarth, St. Francis, and Eldon and Beth Foster, Great Bend.

Greenery and white bows lined the aisles and large arrangements of white gladiolas, snap dragons, stargazer lillies and dendrobium orchids enhanced the front of the sanctuary.

The ceremony began with Sage Harris, cousin of the bride, singing "The Rose" as both mothers were escorted into the church. The Glorianna Quartet, Hays, played "Cannon" and "Trumpet Voluntary" as the bridesmaids and bride walked down the aisle. Talley Morrow, St. Francis, sang "I Have Loved You," "When You Say Nothing At All" and "When Love is Found" during the full mass ceremony.

Readers were Kent Kechter, St. Francis, and Kent Kaiser, Bushton. Ushers were Jon Zwegardt, Evans, Colo., Kyle Buffington, Hays, Karl Kaiser and Ryan Habiger, both of Bushton.

Given in marriage by her father, Christie wore an Alfred Angelo strapless satin gown with schiffli lace and beading on the bodice. The castillion train was also adorned with schiffli lace and beading detail. Her two-tiered veil of bridal illusion shimmered with pearls. Christie wore a pearl necklace, a gift from her father, and carried a lace handkerchief that her mother and grandmother carried at their weddings. Christie's bouquet included white sweetheart roses, gardenias and dendrobium orchids.

Tommi Berning, Marienthal, served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Sunne Day, Oklahoma City, Tori Sieben, Manhattan, Keri

Suppes, Hays and Kirbe Riedel, Lawrence. They wore floor-length strapless gowns of purple satin. Each carried a simple bouquet of dendrobium orchids.

Stacey Dougherty, Great Bend, served as best man. Groomsmen were Mark Gepner and Mark Breuer, both of Kansas City, Chad Suppes, Hays, and Brian Holzwarth, St. Francis.

Kaitlyn Suppes, niece of the groom, and Zachery Berning, were adorable as the flower girl and ring bearer.

Following the ceremony, a dinner, reception and dance was held at the Fanchon Ballroom in Hays. Reception hosts were Keith and Linda Shoemaker, Oakley, and Curtis and Kathy Hitschmann, Great Bend. Reception greeters were Kayla Kaiser and Sarah Habiger, both of Bushton. Savannah and Sage Harris, Fort Worth, Texas, handed out bubbles.

The four-tier, nine-layer cake was baked and decorated by Shirley Zwegardt and was accented with purple and white flowers. The top emblems were initials of the couple covered with rhinestones.

Assisting with serving punch and cake were Stacey Riedel, Fort Worth, Mary Bier and Bonnie Stuart, St. Francis, Donita Baird, Brewster and Jeri Zwegardt, Colby. Heather, Sowers, Colby, and Ashlee Rhea, Topeka, were in charge of the guest book and programs.

Following a honeymoon trip to St. Lucia, the newlyweds are at home in Emporia.

Christie is a graduate of St. Francis Community High School and the University of Nebraska-Kearney. She is currently employed by Newman Regional Health.

Brian is a graduate of Great Bend High School and Kansas State University. He is employed by BG Consultants as a design engineer.

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 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 McIlnay	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:

- St. Francis —
 Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office City Office
 St. Francis Equity Co-op
- Bird City —
 City Office Frontier Equity
- SRS Agents —
 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**