



DON'T ROCK THE BOAT BABY!! 'Guys and Dolls' rehearsals has 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



Members travel to Topeka Feb. 15

Seven members of the local chapter of AARP 1739 spent Wednesday, Feb. 15., in Topeka. This was the annual AARP Kansas Day at the Capitol.

Ten buses were sent out across the state to pick up the people along with several cars and vans going. The seven local members drove to Hays Tuesday evening and traveled on with a bus load of 55 to Topeka early Wednesday morning.

According to officials contacted, there were approximately 550 in attendance at the meeting and noon luncheon.

Two bills being strongly supported by AARP participants were Senate Bill 490 "Long Term

Care Bill of Rights" and Senate Bill 491 "Nursing Home Residents' Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) Adequacy Act." It was pointed out that it has been 18 years since Kansas has raised the \$30 a month or \$1 a day allowance and Kansas is one of 11 states that has not raided the Personal Needs Allowance in that time. Members were all given T-Shirts to wear saying "\$1 A Day Is Not O.K. Raise the P.N.A."

Many members attended the Committee meeting on this bill and it was passed in committee to raise the amount to \$60 a month. It will now be taken up in the House and Senate but is expected to pass.

Some of the local members visited the gallery and watched Representatives in session. All visited Senator Ralph Ostmeyer's office for visitation and pictures. Representative John Faber's office was visited and some information left with his secretary as he was on the floor at that time and not available.

The noon luncheon was held at the Ramada Inn where a "Tax Payers Bill of Rights Video" was being played. Marin Turner, state director, introduced the keynote speaker, Governor Kathleen Sebelius. Several other short speeches and presentations were made and the meeting was adjourned.

Those attending from here were Clarence Iliff, Wilma Lampe, ErvaGene DeAragon, Bud Houtman, Gladys Cullum, Bob and Bobbi Poorman. All returned by bus to Hays and drove on home Wednesday evening.

-Interesting Facts-

- Close to two-thirds of the movies currently made in Hollywood received an "R" rating.
- Before the continents as we know them today were formed, the earth's land mass was joined in a single "supercontinent: called Pangea.

Student receives college scholarship

Samantha Marin, a senior at St. Francis Community High School, was awarded Kansas State University's Foundation Scholarship during ceremonies Feb. 10 at Kansas State. The award was presented by Pat Bosco, Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Dean of Student Life.

During Kansas State's annual Scholarship Day, stu-

dents and their parents were guests of the university at a banquet. Throughout the day, they attended meetings with academic deans and student life officials.



Marin

MERGER FACT SHEET

ST. FRANCIS EQUITY and FRONTIER EQUITY

- 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.
 - Ability to attract, hire, train, promote and retain the best and brightest employees.
- 2.) Who are we merging with?
 - The St. Francis Mercantile Equity Exchange (St. Francis) with locations at St. Francis and Haigler, NE will merge into Frontier Equity Exchange Association with locations at Atwood, Bird City, Brewster, Goodland, McDonald and Ruleton.
- 3.) What will be the name of the cooperative?
 - Frontier Equity Exchange Association.
- 4.) When will the merger be effective?
 - The merger will be effective on April 1, 2006.
- 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.) Where will the main administrative office be located?
 - The main administrative office will be located at Goodland.
- 8.) Who will be on the Board of Directors?
 - The new Board of Directors will be expanded to a 9 person board and reduced over time to a 7 person board; At the 2006 annual meeting, the board will be reduced to a 8 person board with the board returning to 7 directors at the 2007 annual meeting.
 - The initial Board representation for the combined cooperative will be the existing 7 directors from the Frontier Board and 2 directors from the St. Francis board.
- 9.) Is either cooperative in financial trouble?
 - Both cooperatives have been impacted over the past five years due to drought conditions and St. Francis has not been able to overcome the significant grain volume losses. St. Francis has experienced significant operational losses during the past three years.
- 10.) How will the equity in each cooperative be handled?
 - St. Francis has net loss carry forwards that will be distributed to members, then allocated equities will be transferred to Frontier on a dollar for dollar basis.
 - A \$1,000 common stock membership will be required. Currently, both St. Francis and Frontier require a \$1,000 common stock membership.
 - Equities will continue to be retired at the discretion of the Board of Directors based on the overall company's profitability.
 - Currently, Frontier retires equities in the following order: 1) Estates; 2) Age of patron & percentage pool.
- 11.) Will any services be discontinued?
 - Today, Frontier has full service operations including grain, fertilizer, chemicals, custom application, seed, feed, petroleum, shop, convenience store and Carquest. Frontier believes these services are necessary and plans to operate the St. Francis and Haigler facilities similar to their other locations.
- 12.) 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.
- 13.) 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.
- 14.) 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.
- 15.) When will the vote be?
 - The merger vote will be March 7, 2006

YOU +  = 

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman, Wallace, and Cheyenne Counties



Bowl For Kids' Sake 2006 Saturday, April 1st

Cheyenne Bowl □ 709 S. Quincy

Teams: 1 Team Captain + 3 other members

Starts at 11am

First National Bank

Cheyenne Bowl

Poling Chiropractic & Family Health Center

Saint Francis Herald

BBBS of Sherman, Wallace & Cheyenne

(785) 890-3665 (785) 852-5301

Team Deadline: March 17, 2006