Final meeting and vote are Tuesday

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 Burr said the company hired to study those patrons who show up to vote, to how the merger of the Equity years, the tubes (three new grain elmay not be the best thing for the co- the Equity's financial state recomoperative business or St. Francis.

town's coffin.

why would St. Francis want to merger. merge with a company which, two years ago, had a \$2 million loss?

mended a merger with a company Pete Gienger said he thought that similar to the Equity's business. The by merging with Frontier, it would study indicated that Frontier Equity, be like pounding another nail in the based in Goodland with other locations in Brewster, Edson, Bird City There is also the question that and McDonald would be a good

The vote to merge not only in-

there must be a majority of twothirds 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

Managers of the Wheeler Equity, volves St. Francis Equity patrons Dale Weeks, and Bartlett's, Doug

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 However, Equity manager Tim but also those of Frontier Equity. Of Ross, said they had no comment as to the merger. He said that in two vote," he said.

would affect them. An outside com- evators) will be paid for. He would ment was made that competition is like to see the board, manager and members investigate other alternatives before jumping in with Fron-

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

Hospital goes tobacco-free

By Karen Krien

By the end of March, the hospital and clinic campus will become to-

Administrator Les Lacy said after that point, staff will not be able to use tobacco products while they are clocked in or on hospital property. He pointed out that while the tobacco ban was enforceable for employees, the hospital would have to rely on tobacco user's courtesy for nonemployees until the legislature makes smoking on hospital grounds illegal. He indicated that employees off the clock would be able to smoke in their cars. Kansas law currently prohibits smoking inside the hospital.

He talked about placing containers for cigarette/cigar butts at the corners of the hospital property. He said that after the hospital addition was completed, the staff had cleaned up the property and there were nuthought it was better to provide a time. container than to have people dis-

card them on the lawn.

Remodeling and equipment

The remodeling of the physical therapy room in the basement of the hospital and the emergency entrance at the rear is supposed to begin on March 6. This date will mark the beginning of the 180-day count to the end of the project.

In the meantime, the handicap ramp at the front of the hospital has developed some rough spots which could be a tripping hazard. The hospital administrator said that Bill Wilger, hospital maintenance, has painted boards with a paint/sand mixture and, as soon as the weather warms up a little, he will glue the boards on.

The board wondered if it wouldn't be easier to replace the ramp but Administrator Lacy said that the front entrance would become the emergency entrance when the remodeling is started in the rear. merous cigarette butts and he There just would not be enough

See HOSPITAL on Page 9A

Remodeling job is tabled for now

By Sandy Barnhart

The remodeling of the city hall to increase the deductible. was again on the St. Francis City on Feb. 21. Again, the matter was tabled again.

A lengthy discussion took place on finishing the back room of the building. Previously the cost to finish the room was estimated around \$47,000. The council decided to wait until July where some of the finances could be budgeted into next year and they would know more about where the fire station/ambulance project was at.

They also requested that chief of police Troy Gardner ask the Cheyenne County Commissioners if they would consider helping with some of the funds since the majority of the county's sheriff activity is conducted in the city hall building.

Health insurance

In order to keep the city health insurance premium similar to the

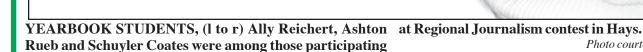
previous year the council approved

The deductible will increase for: Council agenda when members met Single - \$200 to \$500; family - \$400 to \$1,000.

The council also discussed the option of a cafeteria plan for the employees. A cafeteria plan would allow each employee to determine how much of their wages they would like set aside for the year. The funds would be tax deductible and could be used for various reasons including eye glasses, medicine, babysitting, etc. The council tabled the discussion until further informa-

tion could be found. Old city hall building

Dorothy Smestead was present to ask about a lease to purchase the old city hall building. Mrs. Smestead and her husband Randy are interested in the building and garage, but at the present time would like to rent the building until their business is See REMODELING on Page 9A





Loyd

Photo courtesy of the Yearbook class

Sainty students do well at Regionals

The St. Francis Community High School Journalism students traveled to Hays where they participated in the Regional Journalism contest. Of the 24 students attending, 22 will be participating in State competition on May 6.

"I am incredibly proud of the effort given by each student," said Brenda Day, Yearbook ad-

"I know that everyone who competed is qualified to go. I am very happy for those that get the recognition."

Five of the seniors, Jade DeGood, Talisa Voorhies,



Schuyler Coates, Ashley Dowgwillo and McKenzie Grace plan to go into journalism, graphic design or broadcast. Mrs. Day said that through the Yearbook class,



Miller

McKenzie said she likes all of the aspects of journalism and yearbook including taking photos, designing and writing.

"As Yearbook editor, I have a lot sign. they have some exposure to the of input into the Yearbook," she said. "I like the idea of making

something that is going to be around for a long time and people will be looking at our

McKenzie said she enjoys working with Mrs. Day.

"She (Mrs. Day) is a good teacher which is evident by how well we do at contests."

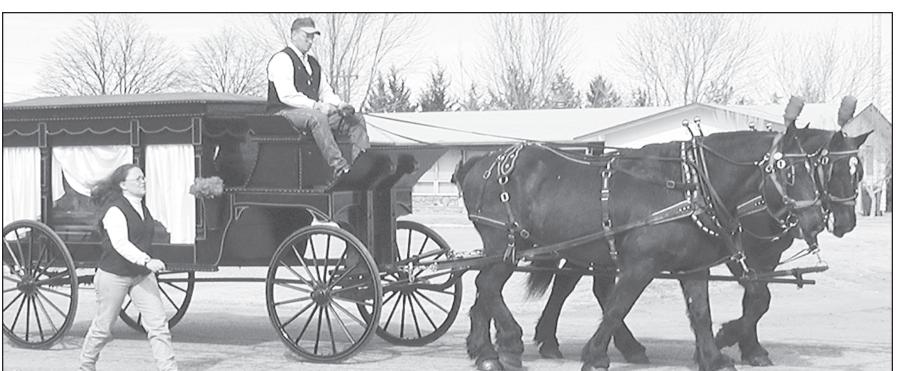
Placers

Those placing first were McKenzie Grace, Editing; Editorial Cartoon, Dara Loyd; News Writing, Grace Hnizdil; and Sheryl Miller, Newspaper De-

See SAINTY on Page 9A

Other winners were:

'The only way for a cowboy to go to heaven,' he said



TIM BAXTER RODE to his final resting place in a horse-drawn hearse. He told his wife Judy that 'it was the only way for a cowboy to go to heaven.'

By Karen Krien

For the last seven months, people in St. Francis and Cheyenne County have been anxiously waiting for Tim Baxter to wake up and be the same smiling, happy guy everyone knew. However, on Friday, he took his last breath with family and friends surrounding him.

His wife Judy said the diagnoses was viral encephalitis but the results of the autopsy were not known.

Mr. Baxter came home from work on Aug. 9 and had a seizure. He was taken to the hospital in St. Francis and immediately flown to a hospital in Hays.

For the last seven months, Mr. Baxter has been hospitalized.

Mr. Baxter was well known as a welder, building many of the corrals on area farms. He also loved to hunt and fish which he was able to turn into an outfit-

He enjoyed building derby cars and Mrs. Baxter was the driver. They won many derbys.

They have two sons, Cody and Jessie. A complete obituary can be found in this issue on Page 5.