

# Digging out in Hoxie



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Charlie Ostmeyer and his son, Troy, spent part of Sunday afternoon helping friends dig out from the ice and snow storm which blanketed much of northwest Kansas. According to officials in Topeka, the storm left a reported 50,000 people without power and prompted GovKatheleen Sebelius to declare a disaster emergency for 39 western Kansas counties.

# Family talks with insults, fighting

Dear Dr. Brothers: I'm writing to you about a family in our neighborhood.

I don't mean to be nosy, but I can't help hearing about all their business because they are constantly yelling at one another. If they aren't yelling (they spend a lot of time in their yard and garage), they are just bickering and calling one another names, saying "shut up," etc.

This goes for the parents and the two teenage children.

They tell each other how they are being driven crazy, and how annoying each is.

My question to you is, if they know how annoying this is, why the heck don't they stop it?

No one else around here acts like this, and I wonder if it is fulfilling some kind of sick need.

— B.E.

**Dear B.E.:** It is interesting how some families communicate almost exclusively by yelling, fighting and insulting each other.

It might look to the casual outsider like these types of folks are heading to divorce court or court-ordered family counseling — which might not be a bad idea.

But what the casual outsider doesn't always realize is that this kind of angry dance is often a carefully orchestrated ballet in which each family member has an expected role, and each outburst and insult is actually reassuring to the others, who in turn give their own nasty rendition of an expected response.

To the confused outsider, this looks like a really awful situation, from which bad feelings and bad relationships must invariably result. While they are often at least civil to outsiders, such families of-



Dr. Joyce Brothers

## ● Ask Dr. Brothers

ten have trouble expressing loving or positive feelings, and this is the way they relate.

If any of them were to drop out of this confrontational game, I believe the others would wonder what was wrong — and why their sibling or parent or children didn't care anymore.

My best advice to you is to remain mute on the sidelines — this is strictly a family affair.

Dear Dr. Brothers: When my aunt died recently, my uncle told the cousins that we could come and clean out the house, because he was moving into an assisted-living facility. (They have no kids.)

I assumed we would split up everything fairly and maybe plan a tag sale with the rest or sort it out for charity.

But when we met, my three cousins went berserk, going through the house, grabbing everything in sight and taking it to their SUVs, then throwing the rest of the things in the trash.

I was so surprised, and they now want to know why I am mad at them. What should I say?

— P.V.

**Dear P.V.:** It is clear that your cousins aren't the most sensitive bunch.

So I don't think you need to worry too much about hurting their feelings when you tell them

about themselves!

Seriously, it seems that you didn't really know what to expect from your relatives, because it is not often that people find themselves in this kind of situation — one in which cleaning out a house is an emotion-laden task, best suited to those with a respect for the objects and the people who have come before.

Perhaps it would have been better to hire someone to go through the house first and organize everything as you wished.

The problem is that your cousins treated the entire venture as a flea-market treasure hunt and couldn't see beyond their immediate gratification.

Obviously, next time you would do things differently. I don't think you owe your cousins much of an explanation as to why you are upset.

If you care about maintaining good relations with them, you could simply explain that you were sad that your aunt passed away and that your uncle would probably be unhappy if he knew about the way their things were scattered about or discarded, and that you wished that the family could have handled it better.

If you don't care about family unity, you could tell your cousins they were insensitive and crass. It's up to you.

# Weird crimes in 2006

# Wichita police say they saw their share

WICHITA (AP) — Warning: The following crime stories are true, ripped from the pages of Wichita police reports in 2006. Laugh at your own risk.

A woman came to the back door of a local fast-food restaurant and ordered a corn dog. When the waitress arrived with the order, police reported, a second woman wearing a black mask and wielding a gun walked up and demanded money.

The caper had a fatal flaw, however.

The waitress recognized the woman with the gun, police said. She had stopped in earlier that day to apply for jobs and talked at length with the waitress.

Then there were the two masked robbers who walked into the Dillons at 13th and Woodlawn early one June morning, forced their way into the cashier's cage and demanded money.

The cashier recognized one of them as a fellow employee, police said. He showed up for his shift later that morning — driving the same vehicle witnesses say was used in the robbery — and was arrested. Several times each year, Wichita

police say, there are cases in which ... well, let's just say folks didn't think things all the way through.

One man claimed he had been robbed by two people armed with handguns, Capt. Darrell Haynes said.

They demanded that he give them his motorcycle and keys and sign the title over to them.

But police found out that he had thrown a party at his house and bought large amounts of crack for everyone there. He spent \$12,000 in less than 24 hours, then signed over his new motorcycle for still more crack.

Another time, a woman called police to report that a man forced her at gunpoint to give him money at the business where she worked, then took her to the cooler, tried to rape her and locked her inside.

She said she struggled to escape for 45 minutes, then remembered she had a cell phone. So she called police.

When police arrived, they could not get into the business — so the half-naked woman came to the door to let them in.

During her interview the next

day, she could not explain how she could let the officers in the door if she was locked inside the cooler. She confessed she had taken the money herself to pay for an attorney.

Then there was the 24-year-old man who summoned police in December, reporting that he had been the victim of an armed robbery.

What was stolen?

A pound of marijuana, worth about \$1,100, that he had been trying to sell at his home.

But the buyer pulled out a sawed-off shotgun and stole the marijuana, the victim told authorities after calling 911.

"I guess there's no honor amongst dopers," Haynes said.

The victim was booked into Sedgwick County Jail on several charges, including possession with the intent to sell drugs.

Metal thefts soared in 2006 as the price of copper surged, and one attempted theft in particular had a shocking twist.

Someone broke into a warehouse

See "CRIMES," page 7

# 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 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.