



MILITARY GEAR at the museum caught the interest of Isaac Hathaway, left, and Rylan Doyle.

## Children check out museum

By Margaret Bucholtz  
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Seventeen of the Head Start children braved the winter storm Thursday for a field trip to the Cheyenne County Museum.

The children enjoyed each exhibit and had questions for many of the items.

In the first room the cabinet with the military artifacts attracted not only

the boys but also the girls. All knew about the guns, but were intrigued with the hand grenade that was donated by Swede Calnon. The telephones and gas masks that were used in the World War II was the other items that brought up many questions.

As they entered the second room they enjoyed the Indian arrows, but, as most children are intrigued, the stuffed animals were where they spent time

looking at each one.

The old soda fountain, that is located in the backroom is always of interest. Many of the students would have liked to be able to sit down and enjoy an ice cream soda.

The Museum enjoys having the children come, walk down memory lane and learn of the history of Cheyenne County.

## City council prepares for swim season

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The St. Francis City Council meeting was held April 8. Bruce Swihart was present to give a report on the swimming pool.

Lauren Ross will be the pool manager again this year. The full-time lifeguards will be Sheryl Miller; Shaina Gohl; Addie Swihart; Jami Pevler; Holly Keller and Dara Loyd.

Part-time lifeguards are Seth Swihart and Joni Pevler, with Andrea Holzwarth as a substitute.

Miller and Gohl will be the water safety instructors with Miller as the head water safety instructor as well as aquacises.

Mere Knodel will be teaching the lifeguard certification/re-certification class near the end of May. The Red Cross suggests \$150 per student. She will teach for \$50 per student not including materials, which students purchase at roughly \$45, and a \$70 teacher re-certification fee.

Mr. Swihart stated that he is looking forward to another good year for the swimming pool

### KanStep

Councilman Dale Weeks reported on the Kanstep project. The end is in sight, but many jobs need to be completed.

- The floor covering is almost all installed.

- The work outside to be completed is a small amount of time and weather stripping.

- Krien Masonry will soon begin the rock work on the front.

- The large east and west exhaust fans have been installed.

- Lampe Hardware still has some heating/air conditioning to do.

- Bathroom stalls need to be completed.

- Some electrical work needs to be finished.

Dan Hall, architect, was in town last week to do his walk through. The committee continues to work Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturdays. They appreciate all the help and support and encourage volunteers to continue to show up. There is still a lot to complete before the building is move in ready said Mr. Weeks.

They will have a core committee of people who will have their offices at the St. Francis Emergency Building to go over some policy. Several items need to be discussed such as, costs of sharing the electricity, phones and general cleaning. Also it needs to be noted that in the KanStep grant one of the restriction was that the building is not to be used for public use.

### Letter reviewed

A letter received from Craig Schoenrogge concerning a disagreement with the city was reviewed but no action was taken. More information will be available later.

### Police report

Deborah Farland, chief of police, reported on the new policy for the officers being on call. To cover the time that there is not an officer on duty and also in case of emergencies there will be one officer on an "on call" duty. The first rule is he has to be within 15 minutes of work at

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## Board accepts resignations; makes 2008-2009 plans

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Board of Education received two resignations when they met on Friday. After accepting the resignations, they turned to tentative job assignments that will be made for the next school year.

Marsha Kechter resigned from her position as a special education paraprofessional. She had worked

in that position for 13 years. Terri Orth resigned as a special education paraprofessional, a position she had served for 17 years.

The board and administration did not discuss how these positions would be filled. However, as they reviewed the list of teachers, they tentatively agreed to reassign part-time teachers Jennifer Krien, Gloria Cassidy and Sandy Smull

to areas where they were needed — that is, if those teachers agreed to the proposed positions.

If the pre-enrollment of kindergarten students is correct, then Shirley Swihart will have two classes (morning and afternoon). This year, she only had one kindergarten class, then helped in the technology lab and assisted the principal.

Jeff Beims, who teaches social

studies and world history, and coaches junior high football will add head high school basketball coach to his duties. Ward Cassidy was the former coach. Devin Dinkel will change from assistant high school track coach to head high school boys' track coach.

Tim Lambert will be the head high school girls' track coach next year. He is now the head high school boys track coach.

Carla Schiltz has dropped seventh-grade life skills class and will be teaching high school basic math. Picking up the life skill class will be Kaye O'Brien.

The administration said Mrs. O'Brien was excited about teaching the class, having already made plans.

Both Brad Matthies and Robin Petersen have taught industrial arts and computer drafting

(respectively) but their emergency teaching licenses expired. They had stepped up and helped the school out by filling in during the 2007-2008 school year. Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said he had talked to two different teachers concerning the industrial arts position but had nothing to report.

There are several other coaching See PLANS on Page 9



Sawhill Park today



The park after it was built in 1934 - probably when it was dedicated in 1966

## Park celebrates 30 years

By Karen Krien

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Much of Sawhill Park was redone in 1997-1998. This month will mark 30 years since the park was dedicated with Gov. Robert Bennett attending.

The original St. Francis City Park was completed and dedicated in July 1934. It was a Work Projects Administration (WPA) project and cost \$38,000. (See related article).

In 1966, the park was renamed Howard T. Sawhill Park. Mr. Sawhill, a resident of St. Francis, had been responsible for the

original design. Ten years later, in February 1976, a major concern of the members of the community surveyed by PRIDE was the beautification of the community with the focal point being the park.

The PRIDE Committee, comprised of Randy Earl, Robert Grace and Bill Pannbacker, co-chairmen; and Katie Gienger, Elaine Kite, Tony Schmid, Don Topping, Carl Werner and Libby Williams, determined that it was important that the park be restored. That decision was just the

beginning of visiting with city and county groups, organizations and individuals seeking assistance with the huge project.

The St. Francis City Council and Cheyenne County Commissioners started the project off by agreeing to remove the trees, stumps and debris. From there on, it was up to the PRIDE Committee and volunteers to do the work and raise money.

Elaine Kite said that, almost immediately, a beehive of women attach the rock wall and the park to get rid of the weeds. They were See PARK on Page 9

## Park history over the years

Editor's note: The following article was taken in part from the April 27, 1978, issue of The Saint Francis Herald. The writer had searched through newspapers from 1934 to find the information.

The park was in the planning stages in the early 1930s. The park was one of eight Work Projects Administration (WPA) projects going on about the same time. About \$38,000 had been budgeted for the work which employed 209 men at 30 cents

per hour. Other projects included rebuilding a power line from the plant to the business district and several road projects.

St. Francis City Park was dedicated on July 26, 1934. The name was changed on June 16, 1966, to Howard T. Sawhill Park. Mr. Sawhill was responsible for the design work and much of the actual construction.

The trees were there, planted thick in straight rows with nothing but bare ground below and blue sky above.

In one corner was a square red brick building, once the county jail, then a Boy Scout hut. West of it were the remains for the foundation stones where the first courthouse in St. Francis stood.

Originally, it had been intended that the block where the courthouse now stands was to be the park. That was the purpose for which that block was bought, but before anything more than the planting of trees could be done, it was decided to build the See HISTORY on Page 9