



## Sainty seniors receive diplomas

Twenty-eight St. Francis Community High School seniors graduated Sunday afternoon.

Kendall Day, 1995 St. Francis high school graduate, spoke to the seniors and audience.

Most of you seniors, he said, were babies or hadn't been born the year I graduated, he said. In 1995, we hadn't heard of internet and, while we had heard of cell phones, we didn't know of anyone who owned one.

The more things change, he said, the more they stay the same! St. Francis is a good place to call home. Here, everyone waves even if they don't know you! Park Hill (Restaurant) still has the best beef and cheese sopapilla in the world! And, the St. Francis community still supports any good sports teams' efforts.

While in college, he said, he found he liked Italian studies which he majored in, noting that his dad didn't think much of his major. However, because he liked it, he found he worked harder in that subject. Find something you like to do, he encouraged the seniors.

While at Kansas University, he volunteered wherever possible, introduced himself to everybody and pursued his interests. Take the challenge to see new sites, new places and make new friends, he said.

He also encouraged the seniors to take every opportunity to travel. He had been able to travel to Italy where he spent a summer. This opened the door to other opportunities.

He ended by telling the seniors



**KENDALL DAY, former St. Francis student, was the speaker at the graduation ceremony on Sunday.**

that, wherever you find yourself, give of yourself and improve the community you live in.

Now we are entering a new world, said Caitlin Northrup, class vice president, and we should not be afraid. She talked about the poem, "The Road Not Taken," by Robert Frost, repeating "I took the

one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference." She suggested that her classmates should not take the easy way.

Class president, Sam Reed, said he had come to St. Francis when he was in the third grade. You, my classmates, he said, accepted

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**LEXI HILT was serious about the events of the day and the future which is before her after graduation.**

Herald staff photos by Tim Burr

## Village lease on the table again

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met with Randy Fitzgerald, the Good Samaritan Society director of operations, and Jeff Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village administrator, on Tuesday, May 15, concerning a lease between the county and the Society. The result of the meeting was to have Mr. Fitzgerald work with the county attorney to come up with a lease that will meet with the approval of both the Society and the county.

The tone of the meeting appeared to be of negotiations between two parties on different sides. At an earlier meeting, there was concern that people might not come to the Village if they thought it was going to close.... Dale Patton, commissioner, had said that closing the Village is not the intent of the commissioners - We just need to work out the details.

Also present representing the Village Advisory Board were Ken Quigley, Elmer Kellner, Pastor Tom Bailey and Dr. Mary Beth Miller.

Much of the discussion centered around Point 9 of the proposed lease. The wording states Cheyenne County "will provide the amount of not less than \$200,000 per year during the 5-year period of the lease.

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, asked, "How do we go about the transition process?"

The first lease draft, she said was for the county to pay \$100,000 on an annual basis for 5 years with profit sharing.

At the next meeting, the Society said they would transfer the nursing home facility and the apartments for \$1 only if Phase Four, which was the independent living complex, was completed.

The next meeting, which was

really not a meeting but a message from Mr. Fitzgerald, who said that the Society would not agree to any profit sharing.

Now, Mrs. Gilliland said, we have a draft or working copy of a lease which states that the Society wants \$200,000 a year, no profit sharing and the county will pay the insurance.

Terry Miller, county clerk, had called several other clerks in neighboring counties for information on what that county paid for county-owned nursing homes that Good Samaritan Society leased.

The clerk in Decatur County reported that the Society pays the insurance and the county holds all memorial donations. Currently, Decatur County is giving the Society 1/2 mill or not quite \$20,000. The Society does ask for more money if the air conditioning or boiler needs repaired or replaced or if there are other such breakdowns.

In Rawlins County, the county's insurance insures the building, but the county holds that money out of the budgeted money that is to go to the Society. The budget for the Society is \$120,037 but the mill levy supplied to the Society is 3/4 mill to one mill. Currently, that amount is \$23,200.

Sherman County does not pay for the facility's insurance. They give \$20,000 per year to the Society. The county keeps a "Health Care Fund" and put \$20,000 in to that fund for possible future needs to operate.

So, said Mrs. Gilliland, we own the building (after the Society sells it for \$1) but we are paying you to lease it - this will be hard to sell to the taxpayers.

But, Mr. Fitzgerald said, the society has never owned these properties in the other counties - we have always just leased them.

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## Council votes to increase rates

It's been coming for awhile now and, at the St. Francis City Council meeting on Monday, May 14, the price increase on electricity was made official with the passing of Ordinance 584.

The ordinance increases the price of electricity to 12.25 cents per kilowatt, which is approximately an 11 percent increase. The last time electricity prices increased was in November 2010, which raised the prices to 11 cents per kilowatt.

This ordinance is temporary and expected to be reviewed before May 2013, as rates from Sunflower/Prairie Land will be better known and the city's

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) power allotment will continue to decrease from what, at one time, was approximately 66 percent of the city's needs to an estimated 10 percent.

The price increase is necessary due to the increased costs of electricity under the new power agreement with Sunflower/Prairie Land. It also allows the city to maintain its historical 15-year revenue margin.

"If anyone has any questions or concerns, please give city superintendent, J.R. Landenberger, a call at 332-3142," said Michael Day, city attorney.

## Students move to first grade

On Friday, 22 kindergarten students were awarded their kindergarten graduation certificates. The young students marched into the elementary school gym dressed in caps and gowns, performed several entertaining songs for the audience, and then were awarded their promotion certificates.

Students being promoted included: Sidney Allard, Michael Bala, London Breeze, Lacey Brummett, Rhonald Cabiquin, Aiden Fernandez, Dodge Fromholtz, Zoey Hankins, Connor Hathaway, Holly Herrara, Deija Kabureck, Nate Leibbrandt, Makaila Matthies, Myron Miller, Jacki Milliken, Kaylee Moberly, Colton Raile, Jake Rath, Dawson Rose, Jordan Smull, Ian Taylor, and Ashton Vaughn.



**KINDERGARTEN ROCKS - Students were having a good time playing their instruments. Pictured, back row: Kaylee Moberly, Dodge Fromholtz, Aiden Fernandez, Rhonald Cabiquin, Sidney Allard; middle row: Lacey Brummett, Makaila Matthies, Dawson Rose, Deija Kabureck, Ian Taylor, Jacki Milliken; front row: Michael Bala, Colton Raile, Myron Miller.**

Herald staff photo by Nathan Fiala