

Opinion

No one has a good plan for pulling out of Iraq

Will it be OK if we just pull out of Iraq? No one in the Middle East thinks so, though nearly everyone there agrees we should get out. It's hard to find anyone who thinks the U.S. invasion was well advised, well planned or even necessary, not here, not in Europe, not in the Arab lands. Harder still is finding someone with a good plan for getting us out without leaving the Iraqis to civil war or worse. The administration really doesn't have a plan, probably never did. The Democrats don't have one, other than trying to cut off money for the war. And we're not getting much solid advice from Europe, from our allies or elsewhere. Meantime, the threat of radical Muslim terrorism looms even larger. That's the shame of it; with all the expense, bother and pain, we don't seem to have bought more than a respite from al-Qaida. The latest video threat from that corner features a weary Osama bin Laden praising martyrdom, though still not volunteering himself. His organization is on the rebound. This is not a pretty picture. An American pull-out, regional experts say, would leave Iraq in turmoil. A Taliban-style government likely would dominate in the central area around Baghdad, exposing citizens there to the horrors of intolerance and despotism. In the north, Kurds would form their own state, immediately drawing the ire — maybe worse —

of Turkey. That'd be a threat the Turks, long beset by problems with minority Kurds on their side of the border, would have trouble ignoring. A Turkish invasion of northern Iran would be more than likely, and that could set off a regional war involving many countries. It's not hard to envision the entire Middle East in flames, from Gaza and Lebanon to Afghanistan, all fueled by Iranian oil, money and arms. In any scenario, the religious government in Theran might emerge as the predominant, nuclear-armed influence in the entire region. That is not a good omen for freedom-loving people nearby. American is damned if we do, damned if we don't. There's no future for us to stay in Iraq, yet the consequences of leaving could be great. Careful planning and great unity are required, but the Democrats, having tasted blood in the last election, just want us out. The situation calls for a return to the days when "politics stopped at the water's edge," but that's not likely, making a good outcome even more remote. It's true, eventually we just left Vietnam and today, it seems to matter little that our troops were ever there. Just don't say that to our former allies there, what's left of them, or to the millions who lost something in that God-forsaken Asian land. Yet we face another such catastrophe.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

10 years ago - 1997

Erin Day was crown Cheyenne County Junior Miss on Saturday. Trista Krieh was the first runner up and Kaycee Frewen was the second runner up.

Jenny Busse of Cheyenne County outdistanced all female runners in the 2.5 mile (4K) women's division of the Northwest Kansas County Challenge Race on July 4 at Lake Atwood.

The St. Francis city clerk reports that there is not enough money in the theater fund to pay the bills to keep the theater open. Anyone who supports the theater should plan on attending the next city council meeting.

Many residents are planning on attending the Kansas Shrine Bowl which is being played at Hays. Jim Keller, a 1997 graduate of St. Francis Community High School and former Indian football player, has been chosen to participate on the West team.

Kansas is getting a new area telephone code in the northern half of the state. The code will change from 913 to 785.

Members of the City Council voted to help the theater meet its expenses by paying for the utilities. The crowd at the meeting was so large the council had to move the meeting to the theater.

35 years ago - 1972

The Lawn Ridge congregation and the St. Francis congregation of the United Methodist Church unanimously voted merger at their respective services on Sunday.

Kenneth Holliman was installed at the new president of the St. Francis Lions Club.

40 years ago - 1967

Steve Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Miller, traveled to Chicago where he was a member of the Kansas Lions International Band. The Citizens State Bank of St. Francis has announced the hiring of Loren G. Uhrig as their Agricultural Representative.

Cheyenne County 4-H'ers Jeanne Maring and Bill Keller were selected to attend the Citizenship Short Course in Washington, D.C.

Eagle Scout Richard Cram, age 15, will be attending the first World Jamboree of Boy Scouting to be

held in this country. He is a member of local Explorer Post 120. The 15,000 Scout from all over the world will meet in Farragut State Park in Idaho.

75 years ago - 1932

Theater goers can now attend the Electric Theater Shows at a new low price. The new price is 10 cents for all children under 12 and 30 cents for adults for Friday and Saturday and 35 cents for adults on Sunday and Thursday.

The Burd Brothers are announcing the opening of their new filling station on the highway just south of Wheeler.

The board of county commissioners has made quite a slash for the levy for next year's taxes. The people have been asking for the relief from the tax burden so some items have been eliminated from the budget and others lowered.

O.L. Deardoff has opened up a new produce business in the old Commercial Hotel Building. Associated with him and having charge of the cream department is Leeman Barnes.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



It's the dog days of summer for sure! We find ourselves in the middle of July and the heat is on. Temperatures hover around the three digits each afternoon. As usual, many complain about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

I wonder why we have such short memories. Wasn't last year a lot like this? And how about the year before and the one before that? If we didn't have hot months, we wouldn't have many crops and gardens. Also, how would we know it was time for the county fair and

steam engine show? So enjoy the warm weather and all it brings. Because there is only one certainty when it comes to weather, before you know it, it'll change.

Museum closed during visit

To the editor: I am writing this letter in response to the letter to the editor that was received from Milton Lampe in regard to the St. Francis Museum. I recently had the opportunity to visit St. Francis on the occasion of my husband's 50th class reunion. It was the first time that I was able to

experience a visit to St. Francis and Cheyenne County, Kan. I had a wonderful time being able to witness my husband's roots and being able to experience the history of the region. I left St. Francis with many fond memories of the people that I met and a great appreciation of the history of the area. One of the highlights of the trip for me was the bus tour through the area with Tobe Zwegardt.

I have been a genealogist for 40 years, and I so enjoyed being able to wander through the local cemetery and glean more information in regard to the Lockard family. I had so looked forward to visiting the Local museum in hopes that I could glimpse a bit more of the history of the area and maybe even discover something more of the Lockard genealogy.

I was so pleased to be able to spend time in the St. Francis Public Library, and I had a wonderful opportunity to meet the librarian, who was more than willing to assist me in locating materials relating to the history of the county and the genealogical materials that were available. Unfortunately, this was not the case in regard to the museum. My husband and I were in St. Francis for seven days, and on each of those days we discovered that the doors of the museum were locked.

I am questioning the fact that there is a museum in St. Francis where the townspeople, as well as out of town visitors are unable to access it.

Barbara Lockard Olympia, Wash.

Letters to the Editor

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GOD SAYS

Seek the Lord, and his strength: see his face ever more. Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth.

Psalms 105:4, 5

Extension Notes

High humidity can be a real 'drag'

The phrase is used over and over again - "it's not the heat, it's the humidity." But what exactly does that mean?

Relative humidity actually is a relative measure, said Mary Knapp, State of Kansas climatologist. The amount means it varies with the temperature.

This elusive value, however, can be a day-to-day concern. Relative humidity can affect humans' mood and well-being.

"The effects are worst when it's high or low," Ms. Knapp said. "All relative humidity is, though, is the

amount of air-borne water vapor needed to reach the saturation point - in other words, to condense and become rain, snow or fog.

"The warmer the temperature is, the more moisture the condensing process requires. During summer, 50 percent relative humidity means a whole lot more water than it does in the winter."

Indoor, as well as outdoor air temperatures can affect its effects, she said.

Most air conditioners, for example, take in hot summer air. Be-

cause they cool it, they also raise its relative humidity.

"As a result, people may develop a 'wet' cough, even when the relative humidity outdoors isn't too bad. Other typical effects of high humidity can be irritability, red eyes and a general feeling of tiredness," Ms. Knapp said.

The reverse often happens in winter, she said. Most furnaces take in cold outdoor air, heat it and thus lower its humidity level. The results then can range from static electricity to dry skin.

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