



Opinion

However you look at it Gaza situation is crazy

However you look at it, the situation in Gaza is crazy.

Opposing tribes are killing each other, as they have since the dawn of time in the Middle East, only now these "nations" have rockets, drone aircraft, tanks and high explosives.

Crazy. The militant Hamas group took over the Gaza strip last year, shooting, torturing and tossing from the roofs of high-rise buildings their more moderate opponents and former partners from the once-militant Fatah movement.

So much for brotherly love. Since then, the militants have aimed a steady rocket barrage at Israel, press reports show, while quelling crime and unrest with killing and torture. Terrorists bomb the only border crossing into Israel even as people demonstrate to have it open, and the Israeli army comes across the border to hunt militants, warning the natives to stay inside.

Sometimes, the troops and the villagers know each other by name, the Israelis say.

The U.S. looks askance at the Hamas regime, which we officially brand as a terrorist movement.

The militants say they'd like to return to power sharing with Fatah, but that could cost the West Bank government western support.

And the Bush administration sees violence in Gaza as interfering with its last-minute peace initiative.

No one is very happy, least of all the people of Gaza, who live under a Taliban-style regime and suffer from constant Israeli bombardment

and incursion.

The blockade means there's little trade and no way to make money. Gasoline is scarce (people use vegetable oil to fuel their cars, when they can get it) and for lack of maintenance, failed sewage treatment plants spill tons of pollution into the Mediterranean.

Gaza is but a symbol for the failure of peace in the Mideast, where the history of war and death goes back beyond Genesis. Every recent U.S. president has attempted to broker peace at least twice, at the start of his administration, when hopes are high, and at the end, when legacy seems important.

Mr. Bush has done no better, but no worse, than anyone else, but progress had been made over the years. Fighting seems to be down on the borders other than Gaza.

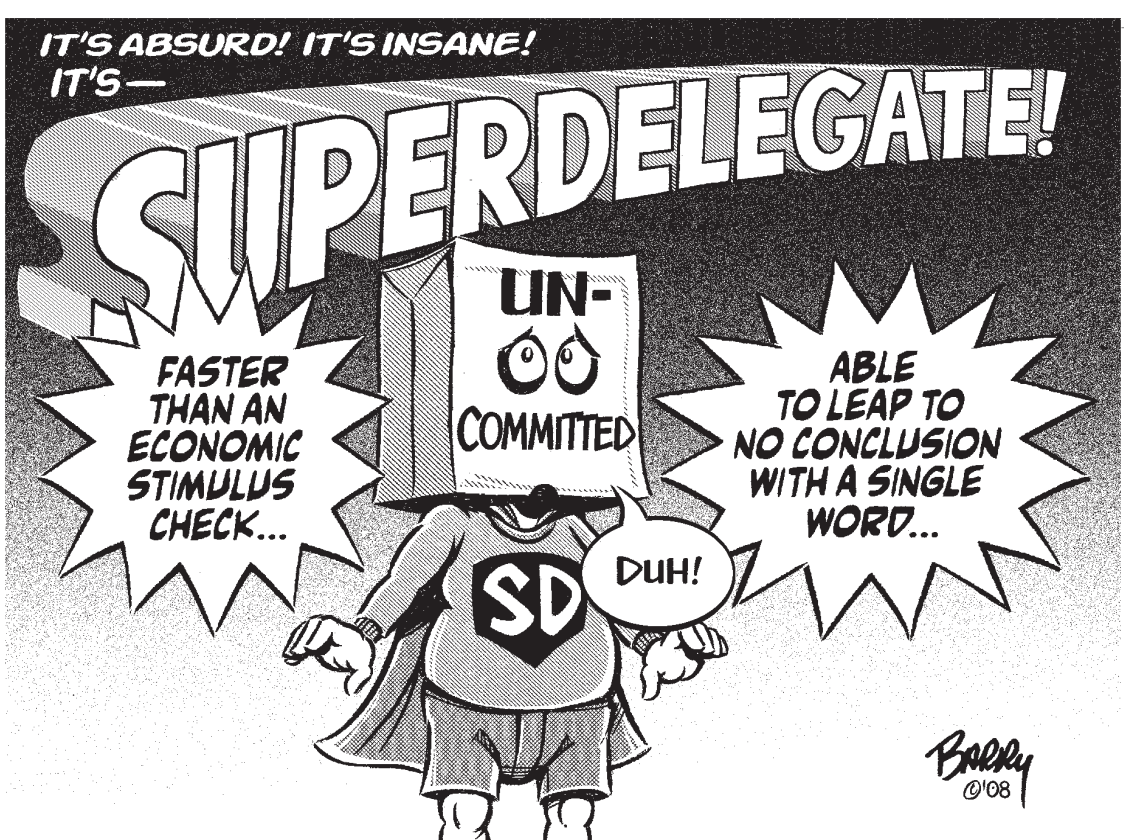
It's mostly the people who live there, natives and displaced Palestinians, who suffer the results of decisions made by the militants and the world's governments. The price they pay seems terrible, akin to that paid by innocent Iraqis.

We wish the administration had a handle on this situation, but it's not likely anything will change, this year or next year, when a new president and a new secretary of state will try their hand at the Mideast.

Perhaps it's not reasonable to expect this to end after only 10,000 years, but there's always hope.

The innocents who suffer, in the Mideast and around the world, deserve better, so we must try.

— Steve Haynes



DEMOCRAT NOMINATING PROCESS THWARTED BY INDECISION

News From the Past

25 years ago - 1983

Cliff Keeler took over for his term as mayor on May 3. New councilmen include Glen Henderson and Ed Bucholtz. Voted in as new president of the council was Don Kramer.

An estimated 200 people toured the new medical clinic building at an open house.

Scott Carmichael has been hired as the head football coach for the Indian football team.

Libby Curry, Cheyenne County Extension Agent, presented a plaque to the Pleasant Hill 4-H Club in recognition of winning the State People-to-People Award.

Eleven girls are vying for the Northwest Kansas Junior Miss crown. Contestant include Christy Brown, Tyra Miller, Angela Leach, Darla Knapp, Carol Knorr, Marla Rogers, Angie Sherlock, Laura Hartman, Sherrie White, Melinda Klie and Donna Lippert.

The ribbon cutting to complete the change from Sunflower Savings to Columbia Savings was held at the office on Friday morning.

The Neville United Methodist Church permanently closed its doors on May 29. The church has been in operation since the 1880s.

46 years ago - 1963 Royce Gienger from St. Francis, a Future Farmer of America at Cheyenne County Community High School, was awarded the State Farmer degree at the 35th annual convention of the Kansas Association of FFA Monday night.

Three music students from the high school and their instructor, Mr. Canniff, were flown to Dodge City last Saturday by Ernie Bressler of Bird City, to participate in the State Music Festival.

W.E. "Ernie" Tourslee and Warren Gienger were sworn in as new members of the St. Francis City Council.

Sainty came in fourth in the Northwest Kansas League track meet held at Norton. Senior sprinter J.C. Hixon set a new league and school record in the 100-yard dash and recorded the fastest time in the state this year with a 9.7 clocking. He also won the 220-yard dash. Marvin Doggett ran the finest mile race of his career to upset the favorites and win the event. Howard Ewing of St. Francis tied for first in the pole vault and the 880-yard relay team (Gary Neitzel, Ron Popp, Dennis Holliday and Hixon) also won first.

60 years ago - 1948 Mrs. Lynn Horwege is the new president of the St. Francis PTA. The outgoing president is Mrs. Richard Daniels.

Workmen have erected a steel fence around the Foster Lumber Yard this week. During the past weeks they have made a new lumber shed to the south of the new office building.

Continued improvements are being made on Main Street. This week men began running cement to fill in the gap between the sidewalk and the curbing in the block between Jones' and Nixon's.

A program and dedication ceremonies for the newly completed grandstand and flood lights for the ball diamond at Fairgrounds Park will be held May 20.

There are 54 seniors in the class of 1948. The class motto is "Knowledge is Our Power and God is Our Strength."

The Lawn Ridge Methodist Church has had extensive improvements made and will be re-dedicated on May 23.

Officials for the Burlington Railroad made an inspection of the company's property here with regard to an establishment of a rail head at this point to handle materials for the Bonny Dam.

100 years ago - 1908 Room and board is \$4 a week at the Eagle Hotel.

The open-air concert given by our concert band on the street last Friday evening was really very fine and was enjoyed by a large percent of our people.

Frank Benkelman of this city completed his first year's study at the Kansas City pharmaceutical college.

E. Sanford of Argenta, Ark., arrived in the city with his wife last week and has accepted a permanent position in the St. Francis Steam Laundry.

The Ramblers met with Mrs. J.A. Day Wednesday afternoon. The subject was "The Old Santa Fe Trail."

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Hangin' With Marge

Garden Planted

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.net When Kurt and I left for Memorial Day weekend I asked Casey and Leslie to go out and water the flowers and check on the dogs.

When I asked I immediately thought of the time I took care of their yard and pulled what I thought were weeds, but it turned out I pulled out a little tree and some flowers. I quickly added, "Don't worry about the weeds in my flowers I'll take care of that."

Leslie asked me about my garden and I told her I hadn't planted it yet so not to worry about it.

When we arrived home, the first

thing we saw at our corner was a "Re-elect Phil Kline" sign. Kurt asked, "What is that there for?" I told him not to worry that I figured Casey had put it up. Just in case you have driven by, the answer is, "Yes, I know that it is four years old, but I have left it there."

After unpacking I went out to check my flowers and was really surprised when I rounded the corner and there in my garden was the prettiest, straight rows. There were little steaks with signs on them at the beginning of each row. They were labeled with turnips, carrots, squash and radishes. There were

also 10 tomato cages, but I didn't see any tomatoes.

Leslie called to see if I had looked at the garden and I told her how wonderful it looked. I didn't tell her that I wasn't planning on some of the vegetables, but I thanked her anyway.

Everyday I checked my garden but nothing was growing. Finally they broke down and told me they really didn't plant a thing.

This weekend Kurt and I planted our garden, and I sure was glad they told me or I would have thought the little grub worms had gotten it all.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkansans.com It's funny how something can have meaning to one generation and not to another.

Leslie and I have gotten our back garden to the point that we are proud of how it looks. It has taken a few years of planting, moving plants and replanting to get the design right. We've also had a lot of help from family members with concrete pavers and bringing in dirt to fill an old cement pond.

Some of the main features now are the stone fireplace that is covered with ivy, the footpath that separates different ground cover and the tree shaded patio that acts like a dinner plate for the bird seed that gets jostled from the two feeders above.

Right now our roses and peonies are in full bloom and it won't be long until we have cosmos, geraniums and mums, too.

Back to the generational thing.

Leslie's sister sent her an interesting Christmas present last year. She found a set of drive-in movie speakers on Ebay. The sisters have fun memories of pulling away from their movie parking space with the speaker still hanging on the window. Realizing their mistake, they would drive a little way and throw the dismantled property into the roadside ditch.

We mounted Leslie's speakers on a post and set it up in the gar-

den. It makes a great conversation piece.

When our daughter, Lexi, and one of her friends stopped by we asked what they thought of our speakers. The other girl looked at them for a few minutes in wonder. Having never been to a drive-in movie, she couldn't fathom what they were for.

GOD SAYS
The Lord looketh from heaven;
he beholdeth all the sons of men.
From the place of his habitation
he looketh upon all the inhabitants
of the earth.
Psalms 33:13, 14

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 502 W. Spencer
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 Morning Worship 10 a.m.
 Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
 625 S. River • 332-2680
 Fr. Roger Meitl
 Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
 Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
 Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
 2nd & Scott • 332-3921
 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
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 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
 Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist
 Church Office 332-2292,
 Church 332-2254,
 512 S. Scott
 Pastor Morita Truman
 Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
 332-3002
 Pastor Chris Farmer
 No Sunday School until Sept.
 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Community Church
 332-3150
 204 N. Quincy Street
 www.sfccfamily.com
 Pastor: David Butler
 Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 Potluck & Communion -
 Every 2nd Sunday
 Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
 412 S. Denison
 Welcomes You!
 Pastor Allen Coon
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30
 Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
 202 N. College
 Pastor Ken Hart
 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
 Prayer Time 8:45 a.m.
 Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
 Pastor Mike Larson
 Sabbath School 9:30
 Morning Worship 10:45

First Christian Church
 Pastor Jeff Landers
 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
 Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
 Church Service 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Equity

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