



## Is Barack Obama an American patriot?

Is Barack Obama a patriot? Was he before he started wearing an American flag pin? Does it matter whether he salutes the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem? What about his wife, Michelle? Do we care if she'd ever been proud of her country before her husband's victory in the primaries? Does all that matter? Yes, and maybe no. Everything the candidates say, everything they do, everything their families and friends and supporters do and say, means something.

Sen. Obama didn't used to wear a flag pin, not until opponents started to point that fact out. Now, he wears one some days. That probably says something about how he feels about patriotism and the flag. Or maybe it only says something about how he feels about flag pins. A lot of people don't wear one every day. That includes a lot of politicians. It's a sign Barack Obama is not Lou Dobbs, the anti-immigration CNN commentator. But not a sign, necessarily, that he's anti-American. If he didn't love this country, why would he give up his former life to serve it? His wife's comments, while not exactly politic when you think about them, should not be surprising, coming from a young, activist woman in her situation. She didn't say she didn't love her country. She just said — whether she meant it or not — that she'd never been proud of it before. Probably, she meant

she never had been so proud of it before. And you can't fault her for that. A lot of people might agree. Then there's the comments this weekend by former Gen. Wesley Clark, who disparaged Sen. John McCain's military record by saying it didn't necessarily qualify him to be commander in chief. Gen. Clark, a former NATO commander, probably thinks his experience is superior, but voters have said otherwise. His campaign for president, like Sen. McCain's fighter jet, went down in flames. Capt. McCain, a Navy pilot who spent five years as a prisoner of war after his plane was shot down over Vietnam, took offense. And while it's true that the Arizona senator and probable Republican nominee never advanced to flag rank, as his father had, he has served for years in the U.S. Senate, overseeing in part the nation's foreign affairs. In any event, his military experience far exceeds Sen. Obama's. Who's most qualified to be commander in chief? The voters will have to decide. Our view is that voters will divine something about the Obamas' thinking from their comments and actions. Some will like it, some will not. The same can be said for the candidates' experience. Some may want a leader who's never been in the military, who brings "fresh" thinking to the White House after a few years in the Senate. Others will want a seasoned veteran of both worlds. In November, we'll know. — Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 75 years ago - 1933

Harry Scooby of Atwood, many years a resident of St. Francis, received an appointment as district supervisor of maintenance of highways for the district of northwest Kansas.

Two-hundred and fifty band men will take part in the Tri-State Municipal Band Convention in St. Francis. Eight bands, each playing individual concerts, are to appear on an afternoon program.

A deal has been made whereby A.E. Schilt disposes of his stock and merchandise business to John Kamla, well known farmers of the south table. Pending this, Mr. Schilt is putting on a stock reducing sale at the store. Mr. Schilt has been in the mercantile business for years and has been recognized as one of the town's leading merchants.

Ward Smull received his commission this week and has been sworn in as postmaster at Bird City.

The finishing touches are being made this week on the St. Francis Theater building. The last coat of stucco has been placed on the front of the building and it contained a light-brown coloring.

### 45 years ago - 1963

Dr. R. C. Walz will begin the practice of medicine July 8 when he enters the practice of his father, Dr. T.J. Walz. He and his wife have purchased the Woit home at the corner of Webster and River streets.

Miss Madeline Riddell announced this week that Riddell's Funeral Home in St. Francis has purchased the Trickett Funeral Home in Bird City.

The Lions Club installed new officers at the Monday meeting. Those installed were John Kite, president; Owens Watkins, second vice president; Ed Bucholtz, third vice president; Willard Peter, secretary; Howard Faulkender, treasurer; Warren Gienger and Bud Burnham, two year directors; Loren Bier, Lion Tamer and Tobe Zweggardt, Tail Twister. Don Hall, first vice president was unable to be present.

Marvin Mills of St. Francis is among the Kansas agricultural leaders who will leave next month, on a 21-day People-to-People goodwill tour of European farms, including ones in the Soviet Union.

The Jo-Lene Shop is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Joe Handwek said that his store has

been located in the same place all 20 years.

### 40 years ago - 1968

The beautiful new Christian Church parsonage in St. Francis is now completed and occupied by Reverend John Bartlett and family.

On Saturday, Boy Scouts Bruce Jensen, Johnny Henry, Stanley Burnhan, Steve Hale, Lee Bailey, Randy Goodale, Gary Watkins, Mike Frewen and Chris Andrist along with Scoutmaster John Henry completed a 50-mile hike along the old Butterfield Trail, along with 150 other Scouts and leaders.

Debbie Rieb is the newly installed Honor Queen of the St. Francis Chapter of Job's Daughters. Glorienne Burrus is the Senior Princess and Leanna Gienger the Junior Princess.

More than 60 people attended the Cheyenne County Historical Society meeting held in Bird City. Robert Cram was elected as the new president. Mayzee Schultz is the vice president; Dorothy Finley, the secretary; Manette Henderson, the treasurer and Tobe Zweggardt, Melvin Mast and Galen Evans are on the board of directors.

## Open Season

### The Deep South

By Cynthia Haynes



Remember spelling it out in school — MISSISSIPPI — the Deep South, where stately, tree-shaded antebellum mansions line the roads — and the beach?

Not no more, baby. Our 10th state press association meeting was in Biloxi, Miss., along the Gulf Coast, where three years ago Hurricane Katrina wrecked devastation every bit as bad as that in New Orleans, just a short jaunt down the coast.

Today, people decry the loss of the New Orleans of yesteryear as the city struggles to rebuild its business and commercial base.

Well, it isn't the only one to lose its history.

Along the beach highway, which itself is being rebuilt, scraggly trees try to shade the foundations of mansions truly Gone With the

Wind — and waves.

What has come back are the casinos. Gambling is legal in Mississippi, and the glitzy, ritzy palaces of slot machines and poker spot the landscape.

There are still a few of the old homes, either being renovated or rebuilt. One is Beauvoir, the last home of the first and only president of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis.

Beauvoir (say "bow view," or beautiful view, and it is) was built in 1848 by James Brown, a wealthy plantation owner, as a summer home. The next major owner was Sarah Dorsey, who named it.

In 1877, Mr. Davis rented a side building, once used as a school, from Ms. Dorsey. He planned to spend his remaining years writing his memoirs and telling the tale of the Confederacy.

Later, he purchased the home from Ms. Dorsey, who died shortly after the former president had made his first payment. She left it to him in her will.

The Davis family lived there until his death in 1889. The home went to his spinster daughter Winnie and, when she died, to his widow Varina.

It is said that, although she lived in genteel poverty and was offered up to \$90,000 for the property, she would not sell Beauvoir. She left it as a home for Confederate vet-

erans, their wives and widows. It was used for that from 1903 until the last widows went into a nursing home in 1957. The property was then turned into a memorial to President Davis.

Several hurricanes damaged the property over the years, but Katrina almost did it in. Three days after the storm, photos show the partly roofless building in a shambles. The outbuildings, including the one where Mr. Davis first lived, are gone, along with the porches, and most of the furniture, paintings and memorabilia.

Last week, however, men were reglazing windows, hanging and repainting frescos on the ceilings and walls. Some furniture had been salvaged and refinished and two rocking chairs sat on the wide veranda porch. Beauvoir had taken a hit, but battered and torn, had weathered the storm.

Out front, an equally battered statue of Jefferson Davis stands, staring out over the highway to the beaches of the Gulf.

In Mississippi, people took a long time to come to grips with that unpleasantness with the North and the carpetbaggers who came with Reconstruction. They'll take about that long to come to grips with an equally unpleasant visitor, Miss Katrina, but like Beauvoir, they will.

**GOD SAYS**  
So when they continued asking him,  
he lifted up himself, and said unto  
them, He that is without sin among  
you, let him first cast a stone at her.  
John 8:7

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## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



sc McCormick@nwkans.com I'm sure you've heard about Hoagie's accident.

Scott "Hoagie" Carmichael was injured in a motorcycle crash while he was trying to get to his son, Lucas, who had also gone to the hospital.

To make a long story short, Lucas is fine, but his dad is still in intensive care at St. Anthony Central in Denver. Hoagie, who already had weakened lungs due to

a previous illness, is now getting help from machines to breath and needs his broken ribs to heal.

I'm writing about this because I can relate to where my friend is at. One day I wasn't feeling so well and soon I was at a Denver hospital and very close to death.

Now, because of Hoagie, I know how my loved ones and friends felt. The feeling is helplessness. I wish I could do something to ease his pain and bring Hoagie back to

the way he was. From my own experience I know of one thing that we all can do to help Hoagie. That is to pray for his recovery.

I don't mean to preach. But the power of prayer is amazing. Folks I didn't even know were sending messages out that helped me recover. I can tell you, it works!

**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 11 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 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.

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

**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

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

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

**First Baptist Church**  
2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening  
Service 6:30 p.m.,  
Wed. AWANA Club  
6:30 - 8:00 p.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.

**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.

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**Praise the Lord**