

## McCain, Obama spar but no clear knockout

When the two principle candidates for president took the stage Friday night in Mississippi, some people expected it to be a definitive show and produce a clear winner.

Just getting to the debate produced some pressure, with Sen. John McCain saying earlier he wanted the event delayed because of the country's financial crisis. He had vowed to suspend his campaign to return to Washington to work on a solution.

Sen. Barack Obama scored some points when he said he did not see a reason to delay the debate, as neither he nor McCain were central figures in the negotiations. In a jibe at McCain, he said as a president he would have to be able to handle more than one thing at a time.

Both men flew down to Mississippi on Friday, and put Oxford on the presidential history map with the first debate of this campaign.

Many had expected this to be McCain's debate from the start, as it was supposed to be on foreign policy, which is not considered Obama's forte. However, with the financial crisis on everyone's mind, moderator Jim Lehrer gave both men an opportunity to talk about what they would do as president if faced with such a situation.

The first 40 minutes were spent on the economy, with Obama making some points, but McCain kept hammering away at wasteful spending in Washington.

In the second half, which turned more to the foreign arena, McCain appeared to be more comfortable, but Obama was able to make some major points on Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the end, both men appeared with their wives and shook hands with many of the people who attended.

Neither scored any kind of major knockout, and as

you would expect, both later claimed they'd won. McCain's staff put out a press release saying he had won almost before the debate was over.

It was something of a setback for the Arizona senator, who has fallen off the pace and is back to trailing Obama in most of the national polls by 2 to 9 points.

This week, the two vice presidential candidates will face off in St. Louis, and a lot of people will be interested to see how well Alaska Gov. Sara Palin has been prepared for the meeting with Sen. Joe Biden. Palin's entry a month ago as McCain's partner gave the Republicans a big bounce coming out of the convention in St. Paul, but questions have apparently softened that effect.

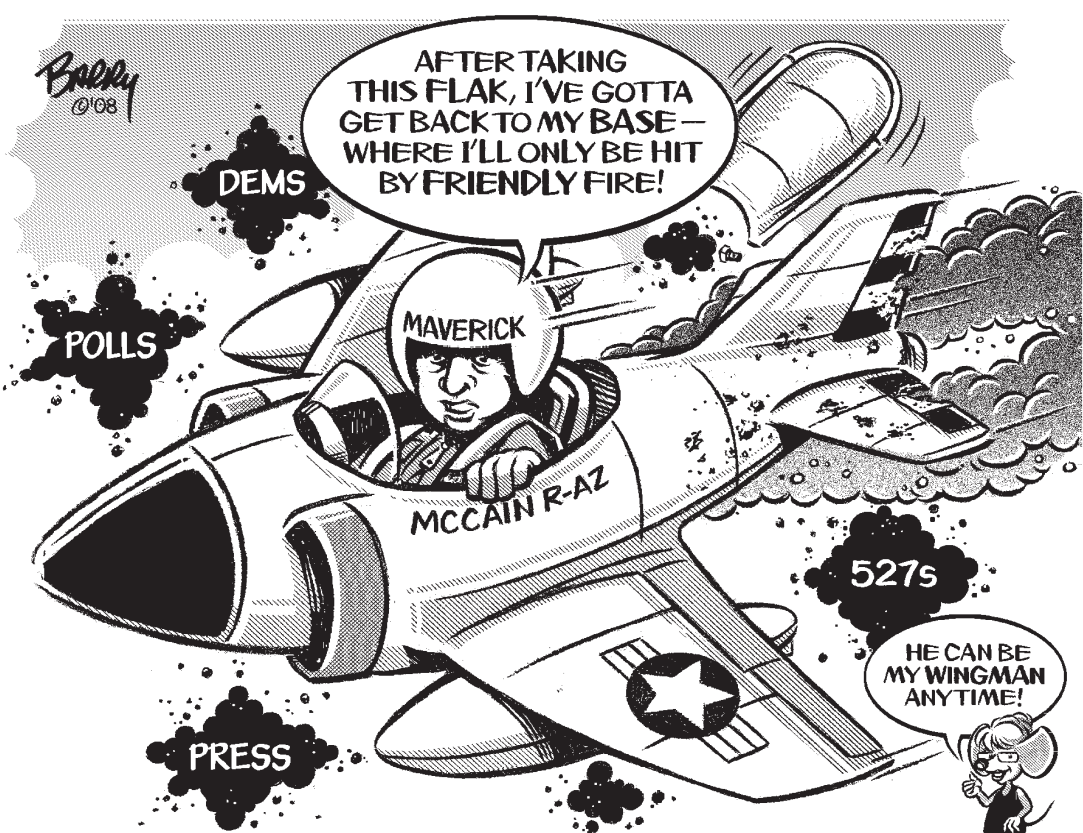
Thursday's debate, starting at 7 p.m. at Washington University in St. Louis, will be moderated by Public Broadcasting's Gwen Ifill.

There will be two more debates between McCain and Obama before the election, and some experts think a lot of the undecided voters may wait until the last debate to decide who to support when they vote on Tuesday, Nov. 4. The second debate will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at Belmont University in Nashville, moderated by NBC's Tom Brokaw. The final event will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., moderated by CBS's Bob Schieffer.

Friday, many experts and many of the national polls give Obama the win. Being on top in the polls, the Illinois senator has to be careful not to give McCain a big opening, and being behind, McCain wants to be more aggressive and find a way to get Obama to give him that.

The debates are not really high drama, but as a part of the American political process, they are an interesting exercise to watch.

— Tom Betz



GOP FAITHFUL DISAGREE WITH MCCAIN ON THE BAILOUT—100 TO 1...

## Youth involved in voting process

### Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Election time is quickly approaching! We write to you in efforts to help spread the word to parents and students of St. Francis USD 297 prior to Nov. 4. Again this General Election, Kids Vote Kansas will be a part of our community and a presence at the polling site. And what better time? We feel honored as registered voters to be able to participate in one of the most important elections of our time. If not in the nation's history. It's time to let our voices be heard on the national level as well as state and local, even on the gym bond issue. We encourage each adult to take the time to vote as well as involving our youth!

Kansas Vote for Kids' mission is to increase lifelong voter participation by educating Kansas' elementary and secondary students and involving them in the voting process. To fulfill this mission, Kids Voting Kansas, Inc., is a grassroots, non-partisan, non-profit organization that

encourages student involvement through community and school partnerships in order to fulfill its mission. This organization is a solution to citizen apathy and poor voter turnout. Kids Voting Kansas sparks a renewed interest in American democracy. Students are not only exposed to the basics of an election, they also experience information gathering, decision making and empowerment of voting. This organization started in 1992 with seven communities and now involves over 200,000 students in 50 communities.

On Election Day, kids will vote along side their parents or guardians. The result is an increase in voter education and participation by voters of all ages. Though not counted in the official vote, student votes are tallied and reported in the media as the clear choice of the next generation of voters. We look forward to seeing each child vote! Ruth and I will be meeting with students

of all ages, giving students the knowledge of this opportunity and the power of choice on Election Day. Parents, remember, to involve your children and bring them to VOTE! It will give each of you the chance to be heard on Election day.

As the Election draws near, we thank all of those families and businesses who have sponsored this event. We also seek volunteers to help run the polling booth for the students while they are not in class: 7-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. at the Peace Lutheran Church. If you are interested, please contact Ruth or I. We'd love to have your help as we make a difference in America's future! We greatly appreciate your generosity and dedication! Please watch for reminders of Election day so everyone can make their voices be heard!

Thank you for your support  
Robin Petersen and Ruth Milliken  
Co-chairs, Kids Voting Kansas

## New gym is not just about sports

Dear Editor,

Once again we, the citizens of Cheyenne County, are being asked for a new updated project. This one is for the St. Francis High School.

We need to consider what this will mean for us and the future children. Having had four children and five grandchildren (with more to come) graduate from this school, I have an interest in our future.

St. Francis school system is one of the best in the state. In 2006-2007 we were rated at 5 percent in the state of Kansas in reading and math academics through the Kansas Assess-

ments, and received the Governor Achievement Award in our junior high and high school.

Every student has the opportunity to go on to college if they choose. Our school works very hard at getting scholarships for students.

Are sports something that is on the high priority list? I believe it is because for some students it is the sports that not only earns them scholarships, but it also helps to keep them on track with their grades.

At one time, I felt that sports might not teach kids a lot, but as I grew older I can see that it helps build self esteem and lead-

ership and also teaches them how working together as a team, they are more apt to succeed in a job in later years.

As a town that is slowly losing population we need to think of what we have that might bring new families here. Having a good school will be one of those things.

The taxes are something we all have to pay and raising them to meet this need is worthwhile.

Margaret Bucholtz  
St. Francis



## Hangin' With Marge

### Cleaning House

By Margaret Bucholtz  
margeb@cityofstfrancis.net

This weekend I decided it was way past time for a house cleaning at the old farm home. I am one of those that, when I clean, I always start in the same room and go to the next one.

I read a book written by Peg Bratton called "I Hate Housekeeping." The one thing that has always stood out in my mind was she told that you never start in the same room because you are bound to peter out and it will always be in the last room. Before long you have to saw it off because you can't get through it.

Well that is kind of what I had done. I had a room in my basement that was just a catch all and anything I didn't know what to do with

I would just toss it in there.

That was the room I started in. When I do something like this, I move everything out and then start putting it back. It wouldn't have been so bad but as I was doing this I decided to also clean out my computer room.

Lexi came out and we worked at even getting more stuff pulled out. When it came time to move some filing cabinets I told her just to wait a minute and she said, "Grandma, don't tell me you have a moving dolly in the house." Sure enough I did have and it came in handy.

By the time Kurt got home last night there was not only no place to sit, but he could barely get by everything to get to the shower. I just told him it might be like this for a

couple more days, but I would get it picked up.

This morning I got up early to make the coffee and couldn't find the coffee pot. Then I remembered I had carried it downstairs. After hunting for my glasses so I could see and searching through everything I still couldn't find it.

Panic was getting pretty high on my list and I came upstairs to wake up Kurt to announce I couldn't find the pot. Just before I went into the bedroom I looked over at the counter in the kitchen and there it was.

Now that I have found the coffee pot it might not hurt to leave the basement mess a little longer than a couple of days.



By Margaret Bucholtz

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Another American legend has made his exit from the stage of life. Paul Newman (Jan. 26, 1925 - Sept. 26, 2008) lost his battle with lung cancer.

Newman is best known as a big screen actor. Whether he was teaming up with Robert Redford in movies such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* or *The Sting*, or on his own in *Cool Hand Luke* or *Judge Roy Bean*, he was an unforgettable presence.

But he was much more than an actor. His loves included race cars and charities for sick children. Newman put his face on a successful line of salad dressings and pop corn, with 100 percent of the profits going to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, an organization with 11 camps around the world for seriously ill kids.

What I admire most about the man is that he was one of the many individuals who answered the call of duty during W.W.II.

Newman joined the Navy with

hopes of being a pilot. However his color blindness relegated him to being a radio operator and gunner on torpedo planes. He was on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Bunker Hill during the Battle of Okinawa.

After the war he earned a degree from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

I have a funny story. A high school friend of mine studied at Kenyon in the 1970s. One day she was leaving the school's library and started walking down the long flight of steps. She noticed two

men walking up at the same time. My friend began a long yawn that lasted halfway down the stairs. As she closed her mouth she opened her eyes to see the two men laughing at her. One was the college president and the other was Paul Newman.

Just like we will never forget Paul Newman, I'm sure he never forgot the embarrassed college undergraduate.

**GOD SAYS**  
Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.  
Matthew 11:28

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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.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**United Methodist Church**  
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**  
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Jerry Nowack  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11 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  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Eve. Bible Study 7 p.m.  
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

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*Praise the Lord*