



Opinion

Obama, a turning point in American history

The election of Barack Obama as president is a watershed, a turning point in American history in so many ways.

The fact that voters worried far more about the way the country was going than they did about race or religion speaks volumes about how far this nation has come since the Civil Rights era less than 50 years ago.

In 1960, it seemed unimaginable that we could have a Roman Catholic president, despite the fact that the Roman church was the largest denomination in the country. It simply had never happened.

How long ago, how far away that seems today. Now, we have a black president elect with a Muslim name — though it's considered impolite to stress that fact.

Even one short decade ago, who could have imagined.

And the country is looking for President Obama to lead them out of the wilderness.

But that's just part of the story.

Coming as it does at a similar time of economic and social crisis, this election marks an opportunity for the Democratic party that comes but once or twice a century. The only comparable times for the Democrats came with the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, and of Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Under Roosevelt, with majorities in Congress, the party moved to remake the American system, instituting Social Security, union-friendly labor laws, vast new social programs and a belief that the government could solve our every problem.

FDR's legacy is with us even today, when we look to a new president to lead us out of similar problems, though this crisis — so far — is neither as deep nor as permanent as the one he faced.

Lyndon Johnson, in his first term, seemed to be able to do no wrong. In a session, he passed a bundle of New Frontier welfare programs that had languished when John F. Kennedy was alive.

The combination of sympathy for the slain president and Johnson's persuasive powers and knowledge of the Congress was too much for conservatives to resist. He steamrolled the opposition, just as he plowed through the noble but out-of-place Barry Goldwater.

His majority, itself of historic proportions, blinded President Johnson to the growing malaise that would drive him from office. The protester police beat and gassed outside the convention hall in Chicago would hang around to haunt him.

In the end, he squandered his mandate, had few concrete accomplishments in his second term and left a beaten man.

The Republicans, perhaps, had a similar opportunity after the reign of Ronald Reagan. Having vanquished the Soviet Union, ended the Cold War and tamed inflation, the GOP could have reshaped the government in its image.

Instead, it left us with a legacy of even larger deficits, a bloated and out-of-control bureaucracy, a corrupt Congress dedicated only to its own re-election and two wars of uncertain need and purpose.

Instead of an Abraham Lincoln, a Theodore Roosevelt or another Ronald Reagan, the Republicans gave use two George Bushes. You might say they blew the opportunity.

But perilous times make great presidents. Only time will tell how history views Barack Obama, or even George W. Bush.

We can say today, though, that it will be a fascinating four years.

—Steve Haynes



OBAMA OFTEN READS LINCOLN FOR INSPIRATION...

Kids voting deemed a big success

To the editor,

Thank you to the students of St. Francis! I just wanted to write to express my gratitude to all the students who participated in the Kids Vote Kansas Election that was held on Election Day! What a success. It certainly was a grand effort with cooperation from parents, teachers, volunteers and sponsors - congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped out! Ruth Milliken - you are an awesome partner, thank you for your assistance, insight and always being there to help! This town is lucky to have you!

As I tally the votes of the Kids Election to review demographics to share with junior high and high school students, I can't express enough the sense of pride that I feel when I vote. Knowing the kids got the same thrill I did on Election Day is the greatest sense of satisfaction! Students were so excited, some even nervous, to take the ballot into their private voting booth, put their ballot in the box, and receive their "I Voted" sticker. With all the historic meaning of the election and the local gym bond issue, I am glad we could share this experience with our children. This rehearsal for the youth is something St. Francis should be proud of. I am delighted to do my part to help our kids grow up "big and strong!"

I wanted to let St. Francis voters know the results of the Kids Vote on the Gym Bond issue. The kids PASSED the Gym Bond issue 165 to 72! I feel the urgency as a citizen of this community, a business woman, and mother of a future Indian to share this with everyone. The kids matter - our future as a community matters. While a close vote resulted in something different than what many of us wanted, I would like to pass on this message from the students...yes, build that new gym!

We must look to the future and

Letters to the Editor

the promise of another day. St. Francis, take some risks and move forward! Grab the tail of this "wind of change" that's sweeping across the nation and do something for our community!

Mr. Schiltz, the school board, the community builders, Mr. Werner, and anyone who had a hand in getting this gym plan to the public: you did an outstanding job? I was glad to do my part and appreciate the relationships that resulted from the community gatherings and the forum. I look forward to the chance to help again to keep the momentum going and get this done! While some view this as a retirement community - I see it differently. This is our home for my family. Yes, I will retire here someday, but until then, there are many like me already here with our families. I took a risk in returning home nearly eight years ago and I intend to stay. Trust me

when I say that many more would love to take the same risk! We can only do so much individually, but together - the possibilities are endless. Let's open our minds...before it's too late!

St. Francis has been a great home to Preston and me. I am proud of this community. It's so easy to sell St. Francis to outsiders; but we must keep up or else "the sell" will become more difficult for all of us! A gym is only the start of great things. Let's get united and do what we can to make St. Francis "big and strong!"

So whatever the next step is in the new gym process, count me in! I want to step out of my front door and watch things happen - now and for many years to come!

Thank you again, St. Francis...do you hear that wind blowing?

Robin Petersen
St. Francis

Reader enjoys paper

To the editor,

Hello to all of you. I am sending you a check for \$42. Another year has gone by. I enjoy getting the Herald and reading all of it.

You are going to have new improvements for the Village and a new gym. You do have to make more room and get bigger as sports are wonderful in St. Fran-

cis. Everybody will enjoy both of them.

We have had a very nice Indian summer. This last week it has been cooler. Trees are just now losing their beautiful yellow leaves.

Keep up the good paper.
Always
Waunita Fritchel
Loveland, Colo.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: David Butler, St. Francis; Donald McQuillen, St. Francis; Gordon Smith, Greeley, Colo.; Eloise Holliday, Oskaloosa; Gerald Bier, St. Francis; Roger Meitl, St. Francis; Roger Neitzel,

St. Francis; Dennis Weeden, St. Francis; Nancy Follett, St. Francis; Coral Frohlich, Oxford; Jody Gienger, Salina; Joyce Faulkender, St. Francis; Bill Ehrman, St. Francis; Dorothy Chipperfield, Benkelman, Neb.;

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkans.com

We had a bitter-sweet moment last weekend when our son, Trevor, played his last high school football game. It was hard to watch his team fall in the state playoffs, but there is so much good to come of it.

Sports are not the end-all for every kid. Students can be challenged by academics, music, acting and numerous other outlets. Young people can grow and develop from many things.

In football, I've watched Trevor emerge as a team player and a talented individual. I've seen him

pour countless hours and great amounts of energy into carrying a football with power. But more importantly, he has experienced the joy of doing something not everyone can do and doing it well.

When he becomes the member of a group in college, work and society, he will have strengths that others will see. Success on the grid-iron will translate into success in the "real world."

I remember well my high school days. There was a sense of being at the center of my universe while knowing that an unknown

world awaited me. Although I've come a long way, many of the memories still remain fresh.

I'm sure the feeling of uncertainty is the same for Trevor, and all of our kids. But they leave here with many of the tools they will need to explore that new world.

My mother told him that some day he will be able to tell his children and grandchildren about his football days. If experience has taught me anything, it's that time will come before he knows it.

Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The following new books are at the St. Francis Public Library: *Dark Summer* by Iris Johansen; *Engaging In Father Christmas* by Robin Jones Gunn; *Tomorrow's Promise* by Sandra Brown; *Bones* by Jonathan Kellerman; *Rough Weather* by Robert Parker; *A Christmas Star* by Thomas Kincaid; *The Lucky One* by Nicholas Sparks; *Sabrina* by Lori Wick; *The Brass Verdict* by Michael Connelly; *Hot Mahogany* by Stuart Woods; *Delia's Crossing* by V.C. Andrews; *Grace* by Richard Evans; *A Cedar Cove Christmas* by Debbie Macomber; *Heat Lightning* by John Sandford; *Big Russ And Me* by Tim Russert; *Prevention's The Sugar Solution* by Sari Harrar; *Superb Side Dishes*; *Everyday Italian*; *Carrots Love Tomatoes And Rose Love Garlic* by Louise Riotte; *Fitness For Seniors* by Frank W. Caewood; *Terrific Chicken*; *Easy Oven Dishes*; *Betty Crocker Come Home To Dinner*; *The Weight Loss Cure "They" Don't Want You To Know About* by Kevin Trudeau.

The following new books have arrived in the children's department: *Bear Feels Sick* by Karma Wilson; *Dora And The Stuck Truck* by Phoebe Beinstein; *Cam Jansen And The Secret Service Mystery* by David Adler; *Polite As A Princess* by Melissa Arps; *Cam Jansen* by David Adler.

I would like to remind you that there is a good internet source for students in grade school, junior high or high school. Go to the State Library of Kansas website, www.kslib.info. There you will find a link to Homework Kansas. It offers one-

to-one online, interactive tutoring sessions with trained and trusted tutors. It is available to all kindergarten - 12th grade students any day of the week between 4 and 11 p.m.

Subjects include math, science, social studies and English. Tutoring in Spanish is also available.

There are many more resources available on this website from an online version of the Chilton's Auto Repair Manual to the World Book Encyclopedia and audio books and music.

I encourage you to try it.

GOD SAYS

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:8, 9

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Praise the Lord

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

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

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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