



Closing the detention camp may be difficult

The new administration may find closing the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, difficult, even with the best of intentions.

For one thing, no one wants most of the prisoners still on the island. It's not widely realized that the Bush administration already has released nearly two-thirds of the 800-some prisoners held at the Navy base over the last eight years.

Some of those determined to be more or less innocent were simply sent home, but that won't work for many.

No one wants the real bad guys, like the militants now on trial this week who not only admit their complicity with the 2001 attacks and the bombing of the USS Cole, but say they want Uncle Sam to provide a martyr's death for them.

Even if we wanted to release these guys, who'd take them?

Then there are more than a few prisoners who can't go home because their own countries won't take them back. Others can't be sent home because they'd likely face death, torture or worse.

This applies to a dozen or so Chinese Muslim militants captured in Afghanistan. They have asked to come to the U.S. for political asylum, but for diplomatic reasons the U.S. government is reluctant to do that. It would upset relations with the communist government.

Sending them home is likewise unacceptable. Their government might well put them on trial as traitors. Their lawyers say they

have no future there.

What will happen to them, no one knows. As members of an oppressed minority who admit having trained to take terrorist action at home, they're kind of a hot commodity. They claim only friendship for America and Americans, but it's hard to see even the new administration allowing them to come here.

Of the 275 remaining prisoners, many others will have trouble finding a place to rest. That's why many of them remain on the island.

And if the administration has any thoughts about bringing them to the mainland, either for trial or to hold them after conviction, no one here wants them either. Both Kansas senators promised to fight any attempt to build a prison for them at Leavenworth, for instance. Economic development be damned.

This week, Sen. Sam Brownback introduced a bill to require the administration to get permission from Congress before they move any prisoners anywhere in the U.S. It's likely that no state will want them, since they represent a potential target for al-Qaida or other terrorists.

We think Guantanamo Bay has outlived its usefulness and should be closed. It represents a symbol of ill treatment and playing fast and loose with human rights this country would be best to put behind it.

But solutions will be hard to come by. The administration may find that its ambitious one-year timeline is rather optimistic.

— Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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These days everything seems to be about "change."

It's as if all that has happened in America to this point is somehow flawed and should be replaced. Well, I know of one thing that needs to remain exactly as it is.

Last week I attended a funeral for one of the few who remain of a rare breed: a World War II vet.

I didn't know Henry Schirmer before the service, but afterwards I felt a certain understanding of him and his time here.

Henry had a full life doing many of the simple things that make an

ordinary man so extraordinary. He was a father, husband, farmer, neighbor and for many years taught Sunday school.

But what struck me was how this quiet, unassuming citizen had given his all when his country needed his help. He was under General George S. Patton, in the 3rd Army, for four campaigns that liberated Europe from the Nazi grip.

Beyond that, Henry received the Bronze Star for trying to save another soldier's life. The only higher honor for a military member is the Congressional Medal of Honor.

So, as this humble farmer was laid to rest, a honor guard from Ft. Riley fired a 21-gun-salute, played taps and presented his daughter with the neatly, folded American flag that had draped his casket.

Our country is moving forward into uncharted waters, but the sacrifices of the brave men and women who have gotten us to this embarkation point should not be forgotten. That kind of service to country is something that can't be improved upon and requires no change.

Singing of the national anthem between the games is questioned

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
In past years the national anthem at the varsity basketball games has been performed by the pep band which doesn't start playing until half-time of the

girls' game. Because of this I understood why the song was not done until prior to the start of the boys game. I, along with quite a few other people, have wondered why this had to be the case.

Recently, students have started to perform the national anthem and they do an awesome job. Still, it is not being sung until prior to the boys game. I am

wondering if there is a specific reason this is done following the girls' game and not at the start of the evening? All other schools that we compete against seem to have a way of starting the evening with the national anthem and I think that it should become a practice in St. Francis as well.

Vickie Coates
St. Francis

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GOD SAYS

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

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News From the Past

5 years ago - 2003
The St. Francis boys basketball team won the consolation division of the Sagebrush Tournament. Michael Raile was one of five players chosen for the All-Tournament team.

The eighth grade boys won the final game of the junior high boys basketball season. Ted Crabtree scored 17 points to pace the winners.

The Indians won their third wrestling tournament of the year when they placed first in the Wray Invitational.

15 years ago - 1993
St. Francis has three new teachers this year although two of them are familiar faces around town. Kaye O'Brien is the new librarian and Kathy Rainbolt is a new third grade teacher. Ted Busse is new to St. Francis but comes from neighboring Goodland. He will be teaching physical education in the grade school and freshman boys health. Busse will also be an assistant football and basketball coach.

The Tri-State Engine and Thresher Show Queen Thelma Hendricks, was crowned on Thursday, July 29.

Jerry Renk, Theater Committee chairman, reported that the recent production of *Fiddler On the Roof*

grossed a total of \$9,700 which, after expenditures, paid for many of the expenses of getting the stage area finished.

Bankwest had the grand champion float in the Cheyenne County Fair Parade. The theme for the float was "Scouting for the Best Bank."

The flashing stoplight at the high school has been moved north to the middle of the block. This change is the result of the new addition which was built.

Earning end-of-the-season swimming awards were Tom Weaver, Andy Poling, Eli Luke and Mike Wolters.

45 years ago - 1963
Ken Caywood and Lewis Evins were named to the first team on the Topeka Daily Capital's all Northwest Kansas area football team. Cliff Raile and Bob Moberly made the second team and Ernie Luders and Gary Pershall made honorable mention.

The junior class at the high school will present a three-act play, *Who Killed Aunt Caroline*, at the high school on Dec. 9.

Kenneth Bandel took over management of the Mobil Service Station on Highway 36 from Mr. Bud Ewing. Mr. Ewing will continue to operate the Mobil tank-wagon service.

The new Equity Hardware building was completed last month and is now open for business. It is located on the corner south of the Equity Grocery.

50 years ago - 1959
The Cheyenne County State Bank's total capital funds now total more than \$175,000.

Total bank deposits in Cheyenne County reached an all-time high when at the close of business on Dec. 31, deposits of the three Cheyenne County banks reached \$7,504,477.22.

Congressman Wint Smith said he had been advised by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield that a new post office has been authorized for St. Francis. It will be located on the northeast corner of Adams Street and Washington Avenue.

The Van Burrus, T.T. Lockard and Cliff Keeler homes were awarded first prizes in the residence Christmas decorating contest. Hancock Motor Co., won the first prize in the business division of the contest.

M.M. Erickson of Bird City was re-elected chairman of the Cheyenne County Commissioners. Other commissioners are August Zwegardt and Weaver Lindsten.

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.

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

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.

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
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 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.

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

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
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Eve. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Communion 1st Sunday
of the month

St. Francis
Equity

St. Francis
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