

Opinion

Closing the detention camp may be difficult

The new administration may find closing the have no future there. 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 lowing them to come here.

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

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 year timeline is rather optimistic. on trial as traitors. Their lawyers say they

scmccormick@nwkansas.com

These days everything seems to

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 al-

Of the 275 remaining prisoners, many others Some of those determined to be more or less 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-

– Steve Haynes



News From the Past

5 years ago - 2003

of the Sagebrush Tournament. Michael Raile was one of five players chosen for the All-Tournament

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

wrestling tournament of the year when they placed first in the Wray Invitational.

15 years ago - 1993

St. Francis has three new teach- and Mike Wolters. ers this year although two of them are familiar faces around town. third grade teacher. Ted Busse is grade school and freshman boys made honorable mention. health. Busse will also be an assistant football and basketball coach.

The Tri-State Engine and Thresher Show Queen Thelma the high school on Dec. 9. Hendricks, was crowned on Thursday, July 29.

grossed a total of \$9,700 which, service. The St. Francis boys basketball after expenditures, paid for many team won the consolation division of the expenses of getting the building was completed last month 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 The Indians won their third 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

45 years ago - 1963

Ken Caywood and Lewis Evins Kaye O'Brien is the new librar- were named to the first team on ian and Kathy Rainbolt is a new the Topeka Daily Capital's all Northwest Kansas area football new to St. Francis but comes from team. Cliff Raile and Bob Moberneighboring Goodland. He will be ly made the second team and teaching physical education in the Ernie Luders and Gary Pershall

The junior class at the high school will present a three-act play, Who Killed Aunt Caroline, at

Kenneth Bandel took over man-Jerry Renk, Theater Committee tion on Highway 36 from Mr. Bud enne County Commissioners. chairman, reported that the recent Ewing. Mr. Ewing will continue Other commissioners are August

The new Equity Hardware 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 agement of the Mobil Service Sta- re-elected chairman of the Cheyproduction of Fiddler On the Roof to operate the Mobil tank-wagon Zweygardt and Weaver Lindsten.

be about "change." er, neighbor and for many years It's as if all that has happened in taught Sunday school. America to this point is somehow But what struck me was how this quiet, unassuming citizen had given his all when his country needed

Casey's Comments

ordinary man so extraordinary.

He was a father, husband, farm-

flawed and should be replaced. Well, I know of one thing that needs to remain exactly as it is. his help. He was under General Last week I attended a funeral George S. Patton, in the 3rd Army, for one of the few who remain of a for four campaigns that liberated rare breed: a World War II vet. Europe from the Nazi grip.

I didn't know Henry Schirmer Beyond that, Henry received before the service, but afterwards I felt a certain understanding of Henry had a full life doing many

the Bronze Star for trying to save another soldier's life. The only higher honor for a military member is the Congressional Medal of of the simple things that make an 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.

Casey

McCormick

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

Dear Editor,

him and his time here.

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

-Honor Roll-

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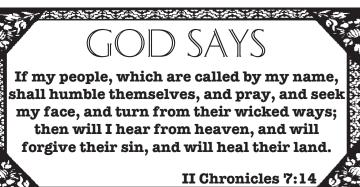
-Letters to the Editor-

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 startjob. Still, it is not being sung until prior to the boys game. I am

girls' game. Because of this I un- wondering if there is a specific derstood why the song was not 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 ed to perform the national an- and I think that it should become them and they do an awesome a practice in St. Francis as well. Vickie Coates

St. Francis



Jenkins, Chesterfield, Va.

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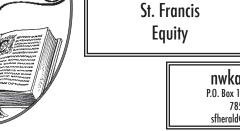
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St. Francis

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