

Kansas people need say in choosing state's judges

The decision to open up interviews conducted with candidates for Court of Appeals and Supreme Court vacancies in Kansas is a step in the right direction, a good move, a fine idea.

It doesn't, however, change the fact that in Kansas, appellate judges are chosen in a process that is by nature elitist, inbred and undemocratic.

Appeals judges, and district judges in most large counties, are chosen by committees dominated by and chosen by, mostly, lawyers. While they supposedly represent the voters in this process, the members of these panels are anything but representative.

Kansas used to elect its judges. We still elect district judges in most areas, outside the metro areas, and the process works pretty well out here. Judges seldom if ever come under attack for their decisions, though they surely must weigh public attitudes when deciding cases.

The electoral system, with judges running by party and seats open for contest every four years, allows for change when a judge is not responsive to the public. Usually, this means poor public service or erratic decisions. A decision to oust a judge is rare, but voters have done it.

Appeals judges are another matter. Once appointed by the governor, they answer to no man, short of committing some impeachable offense. As we've seen with presidents, impeachment

is reserved for truly bad officials, not for those with whom we disagree.

While district judges may have to keep an eye on the voters, appeals judges simply do not. While they are supposed to stand for "retention" every four or six years, the fact is, no Kansas judge or justice has been voted out of office since the state adopted the so-called "Missouri" plan of choosing its judges.

This has led to some poor law, where judges have substituted their own infinite wisdom for that of the Legislature and governor, making budget decisions and more or less taking over the state's education finance system.

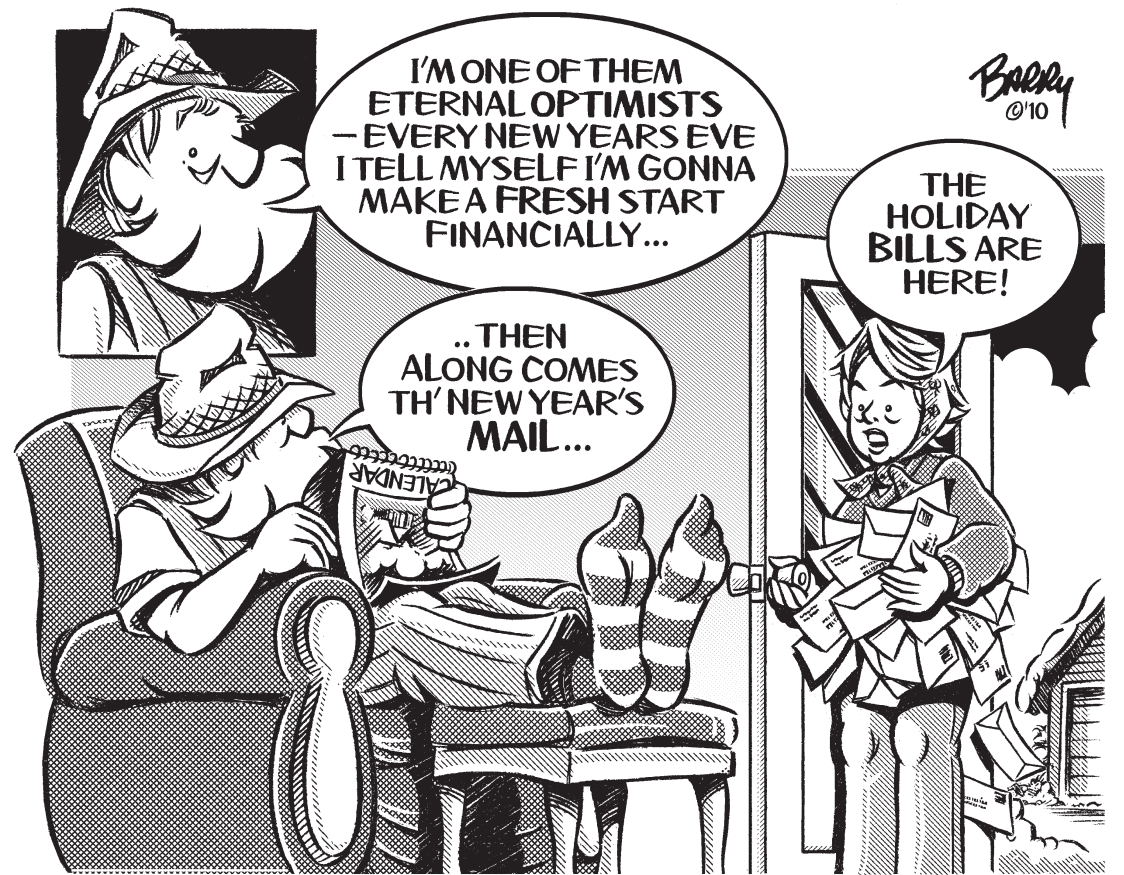
Well, voters could throw the rascals out, you say?

We ask why they have to put up with rascals when they could be choosing their own judges, as once was the case.

In fact, today, it's hard to see the reason we switched at all. But a return to some sort of sanity in judicial selection would be a good thing. If we're not going to trust the voters to select judges, at the least, the state Senate ought to have veto power over the governor's choices, as it does with most appointments.

Open interviews are a start. But in the end, why not just let the voters decide?

- Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Why is it that at the end of the year it seems so many famous people have died? I guess the list of characters that touch our lives through TV, radio, magazines, newspapers, movies and the Internet do have a way of adding up. And no matter how rich and important someone is, they still meet their end.

I'm certainly not making light of other people's deaths. In fact, it gives me something to write about throughout the year. It just amazes

me to look at the roll call of celebrities who left life's stage in 2010.

Tony Curtis, Merlin Olsen, Patricia Neal, Peter Graves, Mitch Miller, Eddie Fisher, Fess Parker, Dennis Hopper, Art Linkletter and Jimmy Dean make up a few. This is just a short collection, but not a bad "Who's Who."

One individual in particular caught my attention. A very talented singer, dancer and actress by the name of Lena Horne, who died at the age of 92 on May 9.

My dad had a story about how,

during World War II, he and some other Navy sailors were on leave. They made it to a U.S.O. show and were sitting at a table near the stage.

Lena Horne was entertaining the men with a song and walked out near his table. She sat on the lap of one of his lucky shipmates. My old man never forgot that moment.

Happy New Year!

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Lorraine Seaman, St. Francis; Don Keeker, St. Francis; Garrett Sundstrom, St. Francis; Ranchland Livestock, Wray, Colo.; Mark Cooper, St. Francis; Opal Seaman, Goodland; Vernie Cornbellick, Littleton, Colo.; C. Smull, Salina; Merle Moberly, St. Francis; Lee Russ, Junction City; B. June Smith, Portland, Ore.; Terry Corder, St. Francis; Carol Wolters, St. Francis; Mary Lou Murphy, Broomfield, Colo.; Bill Pannbacker, Washington; Ella Mae Schleppe, Broomfield, Colo.; George Evinger, Towanda; Richard Horwege, Norfolk, Va.;

Jack Rieb, Goodland; Jack Maupin Haigler, Neb.; David Sowers, St. Francis; Toni Landenberger, St. Francis; Keith Shoemaker, Oakley; Mrs. B. Bartholoma, Prescott Valley, Ariz.; Dorothy Hankins, St. Francis; Marsha Magley, St. Francis; Jim and Jeanne Dunn, St. Francis; Tina Kehl, Bird City; Dennis Habiger, St. Francis; Tammy Grice, St. Francis; Dr. Melvin Dunn, St. Francis; Van Burrus, St. Francis; Glori Milne, St. Francis; Jo Hagney, St. Francis; Lorence Youngquist, St. Francis; Uplinger Farms, Great Bend; Don Topping, Springfield, Mo.; Harold Connett, St. Francis; Forrest Crum, St. Francis; Rob Schiltz, St. Francis; Kent Kechter, St. Francis; Travis Kechter, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Linda Hilt, Atwood;

Keith Peter, St. Francis; Marion and Betty Miller, St. Francis; Vernice Williams, Lakewood, Colo.; Alice Lampe, St. Francis; John Lampe, St. Francis; Homesteader Motel, St. Francis; Ken Roberson, St. Francis; Diane Roberson, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Ramona Raile, St. Francis; Darla Raile, Salina; Gerald Lauer, St. Francis; Della Morris, Holland, Conn.; Lawrence Schleppe, Copan, Okla.; Don Love, St. Francis; Thelma Sherlock, Goodland;

Kirk Grizzell, Macksville; Rod Young, Bird City; Brad Richard, St. Francis; Roger Lauer, St. Francis; Harold Nolan, St. Francis; Harland Rogers, St. Francis; Blake McCall, Baldwin; Tom Smull, St. Francis; Dale and Sherry Chaffin, Hays; Larry Carmichael, St. Francis; Warren Cook, St. Francis.

Great Tips

• Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.

• To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake vigorously as the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave your artificial flowers looking like new! Works like a charm!

• To easily remove burnt food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stove-top.

GOD SAYS

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:1-2

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News From the Past

15 years ago - 1995
Gordon and Carol Ross were present at the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce meeting to explain their new businesses. The Rosses have established Ross Manufacturing, a cattle castrating banding production.

40 years ago - 1970
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hinze, who last week announced they had taken over the management of the Bay Cafe, have announced this week they have completed arrangements to take over the operation of the service station as well.

60 years ago - 1950
New safety zone markers have been installed at two intersections, one block each way from the city grade school.

20 years ago - 1990
Cheyenne County Young Woman of the Year, Patty Pittman, of St. Francis traveled to Belleville last week where she was a participant in the state contest. Patty did very well with her talent number, a comical tap routine, placing in the top 10.

Returning letter winners include Dan Keller, Ed Knodel, Harvey Barnhart, Marlin Burr and Steve Hale. Gary Nickal is the coach.

Precession Engine and Machine Service of St. Francis has announced that they have moved all of their equipment and now are set up and in operation at the shop at Majestic Service on Highway 36 St. Francis.

The Wheeler Equity Elevator, a Cheyenne County landmark, built in 1910, had its head house, torn off this week and now the rest of the building will be taken down piece-by-piece. The elevator has not held grain for the last five years but when it did it held 34,000 bushels.

Major Bender, of the Kansas Military District, was present at the meeting of Company C 353 Reg. of the Reserve Unit in St. Francis on Wednesday night. The Major stated he was very pleased with the attendance at all meetings.

The City Grade School will present a Christmas operetta on Dec. 21, entitled "Surprise Christmas." The cast includes the entire fifth, through eighth grades of the city school under the direction of Mr. Edwin Henry, music instructor.

At the end of the two-day Maytag Cooking School at the Veterans Hall, more than 1,500 persons had registered.

The long awaited new combination ambulance and hearse arrived for the Riddell Mortuary this week and was put in service Saturday.

The Safeway ad in the Dec. 28 issue of The Herald has smoked hams at 55 cents a pound; potatoes for 29 cents for 10 pounds; cigarettes at 19 cents a package or \$1.87 a carton, Pepsi-Cola, 12-ounce bottle for 7 cents and grapefruit 8 cents a pound.

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 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Gildewell, 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.
Communion 3rd Sunday

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.
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

St. Francis Equity

Saint Francis Herald

Knodel Funeral Home
202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131