

It's time for the courts to step out of the finances

It's time for the Kansas courts to step out of the school finance controversy and let things settle down.

The Kansas Supreme Court has scheduled arguments later this month on the latest round in the school-money fiasco. No decision is likely until July, leaving school districts unable to draw up their budgets.

This just can't go on every year.

The Legislature has thrown pretty much every dollar it has at the school finance "crisis." There isn't any more to give, not without robbing other state programs or the taxpayers.

It's not possible to draw up a school finance plan that will please every parent, every district and every administrator. Someone will be unhappy, whatever the Legislature does.

And someone will sue, even after the current lawsuit is settled. They always do, because in recent years, the courts have encouraged them.

It gives the judges more power and increases their influence when they take on cases like this. It's not what courts were intended for, though.

Under the state Constitution, the Legislature is supposed to set taxes and raise money. The Legislature is supposed to decide how that money is spent.

That's because we elect the Legislature, and its members are responsible to us, the voters. Judges are not. They are in office under what amounts to life appointments.

There's a reason the framers wanted those with the power to tax and spend under the people's

thumb: When you split that power from the vote, it quickly becomes abusive.

Kansans have shown again and again that they do not want higher taxes, yet state spending has more than quadrupled (in real dollars, adjusted for inflation) in 40 years.

Without a tax increase, there is only so much money. Every surplus penny in recent years has gone to schools, leaving colleges, roads and other programs to starve. Parents are forced to pay the price in higher tuition, while drivers find more bumps and fewer new roads.

The courts need to remember their place. Even though some groups may not be happy with the way the state's pie is divided, the Legislature has the power to tax, and the right and the responsibility to divide the income.

If some groups — a few school districts, or a few parents — don't like the result, they can go the Legislature and push for more. They can campaign for candidates who promise more. That's our system.

Even if you believe schools deserve more, though, it's wrong for the unelected courts to take power and make that decision.

It's time to put our system back in order. If the courts won't let that happen, then we need to change the way judges are chosen and retained.

The taxpayers can't raise more money just because an elite few, even an elite few judges, want it done. We have to go out and earn it.

— Steve Haynes

St. Francis needs a prayer for rain

The following prayer was sent by former Bird City resident, Kent Chapman, who is now living in Emporia. Mr. Chapman has been in the area looking for relics on the Custer encampment site near Benkelman. He was reminded of a prayer written by William Lindsay White, son of William Allen White, in 1935. The prayer was printed in the *Emporia Gazette* during the Kansas drought of 1935. It is a "Prayer For Rain" and Mr. Chapman said it supposedly worked. He forwarded the shortened version of the poem to be printed in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, noting that this area needs rain in the "worst way."

Letters to the Editor

O Lord, grant us rain

O Lord, in thy mercy grant us rain, and by that we don't mean a shower.

O Lord of Hosts, we want to look out the windows and watch the regiments of close-packed raindrops march diagonally down. We want to hear the gurgle of the gutters under the eaves, and then the sputter of the downspout.

God of Israel, Isaac and Jacob, let it come down so hard, let the drops dance so high that the streets and sidewalks seem covered with a 6-inch fog of spatter-drops. Then let it just keep up for a while, and then

begin to taper off, and then turn right around and get a lot worse, swishing, pounding, splattering, pouring, drenching, the thunder coming — crackity-bam — and the lightning flashing so fast and furious you can't tell which flash goes with which peal of thunder.

Kansas is indeed the promised land, O Lord, and if it gets a break it will flow with milk and honey. But we can't live much longer on promises. So in thine own way in thine own time, make up thy mind, O Lord, and we will bow before thy judgment, and praise thine everlasting name. Amen

Public urged to enjoy river walk

Letter to the editor, If you haven't been down to the River Walk lately, you should and

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Calvin Raile, St. Francis; Barbara Stevanson, Austin, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Chris Haugsness, Topeka; Cheyenne County ASCS, St. Francis; Ken Krien, Bird City; Dr. Pat Stuart, St. Francis; Jason Gardner, Ogallala, Neb.; Justin Gardner, St. Francis; Todd and Rhonda Gardner, Valley Center; Troy Gardner, St. Francis; Vernetta Haack, Bird City; David Penton, St. Francis; Floyd Neitzel, Wichita; Stan Krien, St. Francis; Cindy Burr, Bird City; Toni Landenberger, St. Francis; Inez Bargo, St. Francis; Shawna Blanka, St. Francis; Lester Confer, St. Francis; Dave Flemming, Bird City; R. E. Dodd, St. Francis; Terry Morris, Culbertson, Neb.; Royce Walz, Topeka; Nikki Rose, Olathe; Heidi Rohweder, Hays; Delphine Zweygardt, Albuquerque, N.M.

be enjoying it. As dry as the weather has been, it's still a nice three-quarter mile walk, and return, by the river and trees.

Since it's fenced off, it's still a very pleasant walk. The far end is owned by John Finley, and the main walk and picnic area is owned by Keller Ranch, Inc.

Each year the picnic area is improved to look like a small park. With no rain, water has to be hauled down to water the trees, bushes and flowers.

Last year a maple tree and four bushes were donated by the Join

Hands Organization, and this year they donated a Canadian red cherry and a small aspen tree. Also this year the Goodell Greenhouse donated a clump birch tree, and Saintry Super's donated a maple tree, two roses and two bushes. The rest were all given, planted, watered, pruned and cleaned up by the Milton Lampes, who have done this for 12 years.

There is a rim for a wiener roast, four picnic tables, and lots of shade nearly all day, which welcomes the public to enjoy the area.

Milton Lampe

GOD SAYS

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Psalms 50:15

The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$30 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$34 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$37 elsewhere in U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$25 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

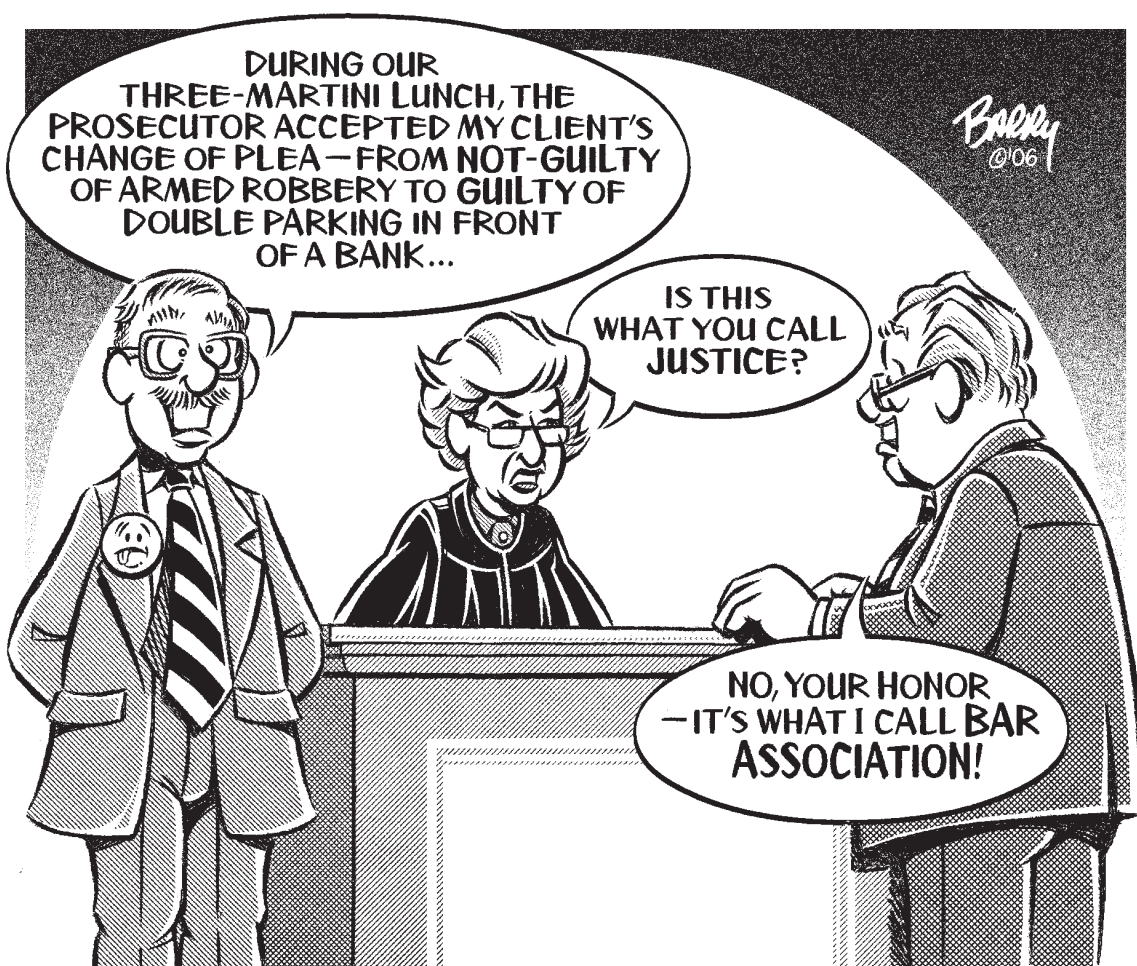


Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001
E-mail - sfherald@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Karen Krien.....Editor/Publisher
Betty Winston.....Sports Editor
Casey McCormick.....Advertising Manager
Sandy Barnhart.....Production
Lezlie McCormick.....Office Manager
Margaret Bucholtz.....Office/Production



News From the Past

25 years ago - 1981

The heart monitoring equipment at the Cheyenne County Hospital has been installed and is operational.

The St. Francis banks have set a tentative date of Sept. 1 of this year to do away with counter checks.

35 years ago - 1971

New officers elected to guide the PTA next year include: Mrs. Raymond Zimbelman, president; Mrs. Cletus Kelley, vice president; Mrs. Quintin Neitzel, secretary and Mrs. Delbert Henderson, treasurer.

Individuals winning blue ribbons at the 4-H Day competition include Tamara and Coleen Brunow, jazz dance; Lesa Landenberger, project talk; Debbie Gorthy, senior demonstration; Cindy Curry, junior demonstration; and Nancy Kramer, piano solo.

Elected to the school board at the recent election were Dr. E.R. Cram, C.W. Keeler, Rodney

Shay and Don Topping.

Wolfe's Auto Parts are celebrating their 10th anniversary with free refreshments and door prizes.

Gerald F. "Jerry" Ingamells, former publisher of the St. Francis Herald suffered a heart attack and died at his home in St. Francis. He and his wife Mildred purchased the Herald from Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Gillespie in May of 1944. He sold the Herald to Hale Publishing Company in August of 1958.

The Chamber of Commerce is holding an auction on Main Street to earn money for their many projects.

40 years ago 1966

St. Francis residents were proud to hear that Lt. Commander Ronald Evans was named one of the nation's new astronauts. Ron the son of Jimmy Evans of St. Francis and Marie Evans was born in St. Francis and attended grade school here before moving to Topeka. Ron was born on Sept. 10, 1933, with Dr. J.H.A. Peck attending. He moved

with his family to Topeka in 1947.

Randy Willt won the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee. Lester Walker placed second and Cheryl Stagner third. Randy and Lester are from the Wheeler Grade School and Cheryl from St. Francis Grade School.

The new St. Francis municipal sewer system is now in full operation and the system is a great improvement for the city. The two main features of the new system are the factory built sewage pumping station which has been installed underground just north of the fairgrounds grandstand and the large settling ponds northeast of St. Francis.

45 years ago - 1961

In the city election, Vern Nolan was named mayor; Art Lueschen, police judge; and Keith Kehmeier, John Grace, Owen Watkins, Warren Cook and Jack Rieb were named to the city council.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

I love that we live in an area where so much natural beauty abounds. Cheyenne County delights the eyes with each seasonal change. Even after several years of drought there are many signs of nature's lasting life.

Another ecosystem close to us are the Colorado Rocky Mountains. As a boy, my family would take many day trips to see their numerous wonders.

Last weekend Lezlie and I sneaked off to celebrate our anniversary. We figured we would just gas up the car and wing it, ending

up where we ended up.

The trip started out well until we reached I-70 at Byers. From there the race was on. We managed to keep pace with the Tony Stewarts, Jeff Gordons and Danica Patricks through Denver. I assured Lez that it would get better once we got to the foot hills. I remembered how it used to be.

But the race wasn't over. The Mario Andrettis and Dale Earnhardts joined in. Trying to keep up with the pack, while more drivers shot and weaved on the Interstate, made for an unnerving experience, especially with the addition of mountain terrain.

By Idaho Springs this guy had had enough! We pulled into the pits and found a room for the night. The next morning I found an opening in the masses that I'm sure kept driving through the night. Peace came when we reached Minturn and we found a road that the "professional" racers didn't know about.

The rest of the mountain trip was relaxing and we were able to enjoy the splendor. It was more of what I remembered, rather than rubbing paint on the track.



By Casey McCormick

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.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
No Sunday School
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Pastor Tony Christians
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

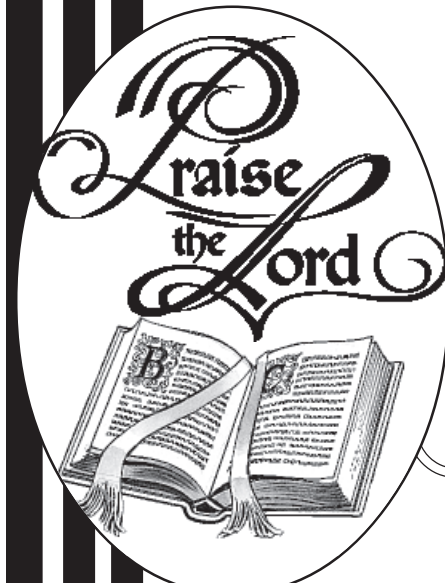
St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jim Martin
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship following

Clough Valley Church of Hope
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
Pastor Jason Howard
332-3152
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT



St. Francis Equity

First National Bank
Member FDIC

nwkansas.com
P.O. Box 1050 • St. Francis
785-332-3162
sfherald@nwkansas.com