

## Death penalty must be carefully considered

If there was ever a case where the death penalty must be carefully considered, it is the one taking shape in Colorado right now.

Prosecutors are deciding whether to pursue the death penalty in the case of James Holmes, who is accused of 166 counts of murder and attempted murder in last year's theater shooting in Aurora.

Colorado has been on something of a liberal binge lately, passing laws legalizing marijuana and making movements toward allowing same-sex unions. However, the death penalty still exists in Colorado. The state has executed just one person (in 1997), and there are three people sitting on death row now, but it remains an option.

The death penalty is something that should never be imposed lightly. It is the extreme and final measure of punishment available under the law, and should only be enacted in the most extreme of cases and should be carefully considered in every case.

The problem in this case comes from the defense, which has said in court documents that it may pursue an insanity defense. Most states as well as the federal courts have been reluctant to order executions for the mentally ill and are more likely to order treatment. However, the time when mental health treatment benefits society in cases like this is before something like the Aurora or Sandy

Hook shootings occur. After the fact, it does little good. Even if Holmes were found insane by the court, can you imagine there were any circumstances where they would allow him back into society? What good would rehabilitation do.

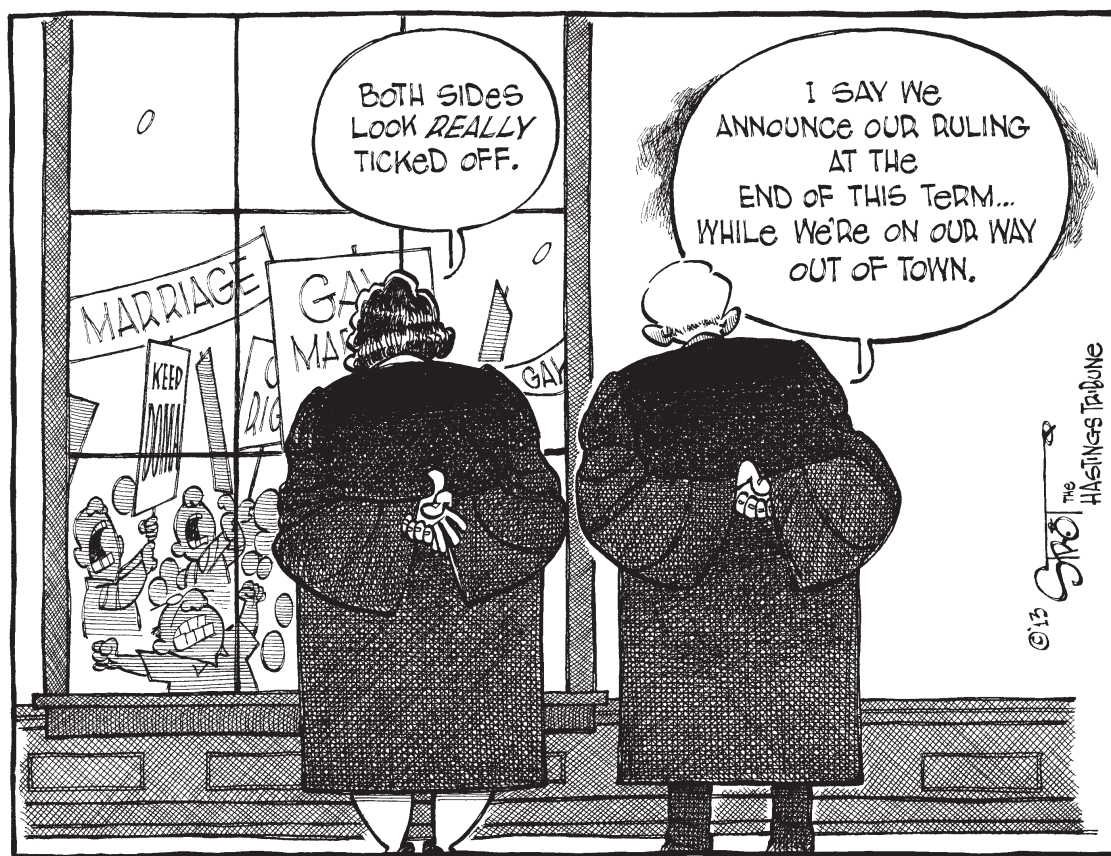
This isn't Holmes' only method of defense. The prosecution has rejected an offer by the defendant to plead guilty and accept life in prison. They called it a tactic designed to generate publicity.

Society has a right to protect itself from those who would harm it. Crimes like mass shootings are incredibly harmful to society beyond the victims and their immediate families. How many people stayed away from the movies after Aurora? How many parents kept their kids home from school after Columbine? How many schools have tried to become fortresses after Sandy Hook. These terrorist acts rip at the very fabric of our way of life.

We must do all we can to try and prevent these crimes without infringing on the freedoms of law abiding citizens, but when one happens, what then? No punishment will bring back those who died, but society must still mete out punishment.

The death penalty is not the only option in this or any other case, but it should remain one of the options.

-Kevin Bottrell



## Legislative News

Notes of interest

Some quick notes of interest: Senate Bill 68 passed the House - that should mean that we can get our CDL license renewals at our local courthouse in the near future.

This week the House passed a bill allowing drug screenings for the beneficiaries of welfare and unemployment benefits if there is a reasonable suspicion of drug usage. The goal is to help welfare and unemployment benefit recipients reenter the workforce and find sustainable employment. Benefits for children of recipients who test positive would continue to be paid through a third-party payee who also would have to submit to a drug test.

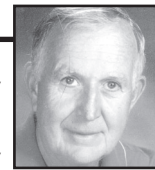
The House passed a bill this past week updating concealed-carry laws to allow for transfers from other states that meet or exceed license requirements in Kansas.

An important issue that is a great example of how conference committees work: Last week, the Senate approved S Sub HB2052, a bill concerning guns in public buildings that would require school boards to either allow concealed carry in school, provide extensive security measures or get a four year exemption by adopting an alternative security plan. The House version of this legislation, HB 2055, exempts school districts from this requirement. Both bills allow school boards to permit employees with concealed-carry licenses to bring weapons into schools regardless of whether the school is posted to prohibit guns. The House can either agree to the Senate version or request a conference committee to discuss the differences and support its own position.

This week is going to be a very difficult week. I believe that we will try to pass a budget and a tax plan before we get out of here Friday. Friday is the official "turn around"

day. We do not return until May 8. I get to come back two days in April to work with the Appropriations Committee to finalize the budget bill. This has been a long session. I have not had the opportunity to be home very often and I am looking

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

forward to Northwest Kansas. I will be out in the district several times in April and you can always contact me at ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov.

## Photo Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or new happening that we should attend, please call 332-3162.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can be there. Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event. Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser prints of photos which have run in The Herald or Times are available, first come, first served. Special-order laser prints of photos will be available at \$3 each.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed: Heidi Tice, St. Francis; Cynthia Bancroft, Plano, Texas; Marvin Orth, St. Francis; Roger Orth, St. Francis; Butch Ewing, St. Francis; Dolores Wiley, St. Francis; Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis; Ron O'Leary, Topeka; Jake Trembly, Cozad, Neb.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Baseball and spring have a great deal in common. It's probably no coincidence that they begin at the same time.

As Mother Nature sheds her dry blanket of winter and life begins to appear once more, so each new season of baseball starts. Hope springs eternal, even for Chicago Cub fans.

An interesting story came to my attention. When the 1984 movie The Natural, with Robert Redford, was made most knew it was based on a 1952 book by Bernard Malamud. But did you know that the story was true?

In the late 1940s the Cubs had a talented first baseman named Eddie Waitkus. He had many fans in Chicago, but none was more devoted than 19-year-old

Ruth Ann Steinhagen. She went to as many games as possible at Wrigley Field to watch and adore Waitkus and even decorated her bedroom as a shrine to the ball player.

But when he was traded to the Philadelphia Phillies Miss Steinhagen could not stand Waitkus not wearing a Cub's uniform.

In 1949 when the Phillies came to town she found out they were staying at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Ruth Ann reserved her own room and sent a note to Waitkus saying she needed to meet with him on an urgent matter.

Of course he went to her room and she had him sit in a chair. Next the young lady walked to the closet to get a "surprise for him."

## Hangin' With Marge

Making My Own Hand Lotion

By Margaret Bucholtz



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I am sure most of you have heard of the website Pinterest. If you are a member of it you have found that it is the most time-consuming thing since Facebook. I, for one, was shown what it was about by one of my daughters-in-law. She even helped me sign up, but I knew that I would not use it and didn't for several months.

Then one time when Kurt and I were in Wichita she shared some hand lotion with me. I loved it and she told me, "The recipe is on Pinterest." I was hooked and asked her what I needed to get to make it and I would pick those items up on the way home.

She told me what I needed but I made a big mistake and didn't write it down. On the way home I told Kurt we needed to stop at a Dollar Store. That way I could get what I needed cheaper there than

anywhere else.

As luck would have it, I wore myself out talking about it and slept through any town that might have had a Dollar Store. Of course he pretended that he forgot about needing to stop and shop. That is a man thing.

A few days later I went to a Dollar Store and picked up what I thought I needed. I got two jugs of baby lotion, two tubes of vitamin D oil, and a large jar of Vaseline. Proud of myself I went home and then looked up how to make it. Well, that is when I realized I should have looked it up before I went.

The baby lotion was right but when I really looked at the bottles I had brought only one of them was lotion the other was baby bath soap. (I sure hope that lady that checked me out didn't think I

was having another baby.)

It wasn't vitamin D oil it was supposed to be a tube of Vitamin D lotion. With just the one little jar of baby lotion right I was out of luck.

I am a stubborn person however and I mixed up the lotion, Vaseline and emptied three other bottles of some kind of butter lotion just so I could say, "I made my own lotion!"

As for the Pinterest it is a good site but I have to believe that it was designed by men to keep their wives busy and their mouths shut so we don't interfere with their TV.



## 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 \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 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.-noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

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**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 9 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

**United Methodist**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Warren Cico  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 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.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos  
1st Sunday of the month  
Morning Mass 8:30 am  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8:00 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.  
Communion 3rd Sunday

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor James McCurdy  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**First Christian Church**  
Pastor Jeff Landers  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Church Service 10 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 Randy Nelson  
Church 332-2928  
Parsonage 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 1st Sunday

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald

