



## Plan to appoint judges might work, given time

After the noise and the hubris pass, we'll see how Gov. Sam Brownback's selection process for state appeals judges works. It'll be a good test for when someone puts forth a constitutional amendment to apply the same change to the state Supreme Court.

The governor's plan, approved last year by the Legislature, applies so far only to nominees to the state Court of Appeals. No one is under any illusions, however, that the high court will not be the next target for change.

Conservatives have been more than disgusted with the old process, adopted in the 1950s after the infamous "triple play" pulled off by former Gov. Fred Hall, who arranged his own appointment to the Supreme Court after losing the Republican primary for re-election.

The process eliminated that sort of high jinx, but it put control in the choices in the hands of a small group of lawyers. These people have produced judges mostly cut from the same cloth over the last half century. Few, if any, were conservative; most, like those making the selections, were from the "moderate" faction of the Republican party.

The new process is straightforward, more or less copied from the procedure used under the federal Constitution: The governor appoints whomever he desires, and the state Senate gets to confirm (or not) the appointments, giving elected representatives of the people some say.

Remember, before the "modernization," voters got to elect judges to statewide office, including the Supreme Court. The changes may have cut

the governor out, but they also eliminated any say for voters in choosing judges. Sure, we get to vote yes or no on "retention" every few years, and could kick a judge out of office, but that's never happened. Voters likely would remove a judge only for grievous cause.

The new system actually promises a greater diversity in the views of judges, as governors change and each one contributes to the process. Sam Brownback, after all, won't be governor forever. The Senate will have a chance to eliminate any obviously poor choice, and could block any shady maneuvers.

Democratic governors likely will appoint more liberal members of their own party to the bench, as would "moderate" Republicans. History shows us we're likely to see men and women with many views occupy the governor's office over the decades.

Right now, the only people who are complaining about the new system are the groups that held the power up until now, the lawyers (to some extent) and the bunch that got to name all the judges without any public say.

So we'll see how it goes. The governor has a responsibility to all Kansans to pick wise and thoughtful judges, whatever their personal views. We should expect that.

A system copied from the U.S. Constitution can't be all that bad, and giving the voters and the elected representatives more say can't be a terrible thing, in theory anyway. Let's see how it actually works.

- Steve Haynes



## The Gardener

### Gardener published in magazine

It must have been at least 25 years ago when I wrote a garden-related article and fired it off to *Flower and Garden* magazine, hoping they would publish it. The "pink slip" came in the mail within a month, thanking me for thinking of them. So, I did what any persistent gardener would do. I made a few minor changes to my story, and sent it to *Gardens For All* magazine to see what they thought of it.

In a couple of weeks, I received a letter from the editor of *Gardens For All*, informing me that my submission would be published in next month's edition. The note was accompanied by a check for \$100. Sure enough, there was my article in next month's magazine, slightly edited for length, and illustrated by a very talented artist with the ability to sketch the important facets of my story. I can't find my copy of that magazine now, and in fact, the magazine is no longer in publication.

Charged up by my sudden journalistic success, I began writing and recording a short daily vignette garden program and mailed it to consenting radio stations who played it each day on their air and sent me \$20 a month for my trouble before I tired of the effort.

Now, I write these little weekly things for a few of our best weekly newspapers and a lot of friends and relatives, and I do it for nothing other than the satisfaction of spreading the

word about the most popular American pastime. Your feedback to what I write is my remuneration.

Anyway, that article that was published by *Gardens For All* magazine was my story about making sauerkraut. I remembered that episode with the magazine, and the other writing encounters, because today, I am canning this year's kraut crop that has been diligently fermenting in my crock for some 11 days now. It is indeed strongly flavored, and extremely crunchy. A little of it will be held out for immediate use. The bratwurst is patiently standing by!

The sauerkraut this year is the product of a bumper crop of cabbage out in the backyard. My variety of choice is Megaton, and it certainly lived up to its name this year. Several heads topped the scales at 12 pounds, and one of them weighed 14 pounds. It took only three heads to fill my small crock to the brim.

It seems that most years, I

have difficulty coaxing my home-grown cabbage plants to maturity because of the dreaded little green animals called cabbage worms. But this year, they were delightfully a no-show. I credit my good fortune to several late frosts which apparently wiped out the Diamondback Moths who are responsible for laying the eggs that hatch into those little green worms with huge appetites.

Certainly, not everybody likes sauerkraut. Seems like most folks would just as soon stay as far away from it as possible. But I love the stuff! After all, one day many years ago, it resulted in providing me with a hundred bucks! And now, I can't even find the magazine to prove it!



## Casey's Comments

### Writer asks 'why?'

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

appearance in the Middle East? Are people being blown up somehow "better" than being gassed?

It sounds as if we have finally found some common ground with the Russians in convincing Syrian President Assad in handing over his chemical weapons to the United Nations.

I hope this is true so we do not have to pursue a policy of too many "whys."

### Why Syria?

As our president stands poised, despite lacking the support of the American people, to order a military strike on the Middle-Eastern country, I keep asking myself "why?"

Atrocities are committed daily in this world by man upon weaker men, women and children. This is nothing new. When these terrible things happen it is appropriate for a nation such as ours, with a moral basis, to oppose such occurrences.

But why should we throw our support to the Syrian rebels? With the 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11 massacre this week, how do we know that the same forces that plotted against us are not involved with this revolutionary cause? What will make the Syrian rebels anymore dependable to America than the rebels in Libya and Egypt?

Also, why will firing missiles that are certainly going to kill Syrian civilians help our

## Remembering grandparents

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor, Did we miss it?

Last Sunday was Grandparents Day. I know most of my grand kids were too busy in their own lives to remember it. It's not like they don't love us or communicate with us. But, not that much is made of Grandparents Day. Were it not for our leader in our local Right to Life group who seems to know and remember everything, we might have also forgotten Grandparents Day. As a small gesture of our appreciation for our seniors, we met at Good Sam on Sunday afternoon and shared root beer floats with them. We really have a community of great older people and that helps us appreciate life from cradle to the grave. Our seniors have so much to offer. They are a blessing to the rest of us. I hope we will continue to make Grandparents Day important to all of us for a couple of reasons. First, we all need that connection with older life. We can learn so much about coping with life by listening to our elders. They

knew what it was like to not have a convenient grocery store! They knew how to make things stretch in hard times - information we may all need more and more. Secondly, our seniors help us understand the value of life from beginning to end. Many people really do not appreciate life. Government leaders may cry crocodile tears about one thousand Syrians being gassed and mention is often made of the four hundred being children. Why do many of these same leaders not resist the destruction of four

thousand unborn children every day in our own nation who die by means of abortion? If you didn't get the chance Sunday, you still have time to share with some older person, your grandparent or someone else's. They exhibit life at the other end. I can still hear a special person in my life as she quoted, "Grow old along with me. The best of life is yet to be" I think she was right, and the more time I spend with our seniors, I know she was.

Norman Morrow  
St. Francis

## Honor Roll

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8:30 a.m. - noon - 1:00-

<p><b>Church of Christ</b> 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p>	<p><b>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church</b> 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</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 2nd &amp; 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.</p>
<p><b>United Methodist Church</b> Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Warren Cico Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Salem Lutheran Church</b> 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p><b>St. Francis Community Church</b> 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 &amp; Communion - Every 2nd Sunday Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b> 423-650-5663 • 3rd &amp; Adams Pastor James McCurdy Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p><b>Solid Rock Baptist Church</b> 412 S. Denison Welcomes You! Pastor Allen Coon Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC</b> 202 N. College Pastor Randy Nelson Church 332-2928 Parsonage 332-2312 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday</p>
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