



## Domestic terrorism has no place in our society

The assassination Sunday of the abortion doctor George Tiller is an abomination, an act of domestic terrorism which has no place in a supposedly free and open society.

The alleged perpetrator, a 51-year-old from a Kansas City suburb known as an anti-abortion protester, clearly hadn't heard the "Right to Life" message.

In a civilized nation, it can't be acceptable to take the law into your own hands by killing someone you disagree with. The battle over abortion has, and should be, fought in the courts and on the streets outside clinics. It most properly belongs in church. Killing does not.

But this is a disagreement over right and wrong. It is not a matter for the death penalty, no matter how applied.

Eventually, both Dr. Tiller, known as one of three physicians in the country who did late-term abortions, and his killer will have to face judgement before the Son of Man. Their sins and merits will be weighted on that terrible day, and He will decide.

Everyone else would be well to remember that while we can disagree, in this country, we all are allowed to have our own beliefs. It is not up to the rest of us to judge.

Oddly enough, Dr. Tiller's murder may well work against the killer's agenda. Most Americans will be horrified by the slaying in the vestibule of the Lutheran church where the doctor was an usher and his wife sang in the choir.

Such a crime, defiling a church, ignoring ba-

sic rights, is wrong in so many ways. Public reaction is not likely to be in favor of the anti-abortion movement.

Leaders on both sides of the abortion fight were quick to condemn this act. One anti-abortion spokesman said, "He clearly is not one of us."

That is as it should be.

The abortion dispute, seemingly endless since the Supreme Court decided *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973, won't be settled anytime soon. It certainly won't be settled any sooner because of this murder.

No one, whether they believe abortion is justified as birth control, for medical reasons, to save a life or in any circumstances, or that it is never justified at all, should be comfortable with just killing those we disagree with.

That would mean an end to civilized society, to the rule of law and to our basic human rights, for no one with an opinion would ever be safe again.

Dr. Tiller may be a martyr to the abortion cause. He knew he could be in danger; he is said to have usually traveled with a body guard, though apparently not in church.

No matter; his death was not called for.

Those on both sides of this fight can and should join to condemn the slaying and all violence aimed at accomplishing political ends. Swift arrest and punishment will help, but some will see the act as justified by the alleged sins.

But if there is a Right to Life, and a rule of law, that can't be true. — Steve Haynes



## Readers warned about batteries

To the editor:

Friday, I attended the funeral of my great-niece, Elaina Redding (who lived in Fort Lupton, Colo.) She was a happy 2-year-old that I remember always dancing even if there was no music.

The news in Denver has followed her tragic story but I'm writing this in case some of you, here in Kansas, haven't seen or read about it.

Elaina swallowed a button battery, but she didn't die from choking on it. The battery was removed from her esophagus a few hours after she swallowed it, but it had already done irreparable damage.

Eighteen days later, Elaina bled to death from the chemicals that had leaked into her little body, causing burns to her esophagus and aorta.

A nurse explained to Elaina's mother that these batteries should be locked away, just as you would lock away bullets.

Elaina's devastated family is now on a crusade to warn people of the dangers of these batteries. They are commonly used in musical greeting cards, hand-held games, watches, hearing-aids, and oddly enough, children's light-up toothbrushes, vibrating teething toys, and bath toys.

Everyone of us has at least one of these items in our home. Some manufacturing changes need to be made, but until then, we need to be aware of the potentially fatal dangers of these tiny batteries.

## Letters to the Editor

Statistics say only 10 percent of people who swallow these batteries die, but there's no way of knowing if you or your loved one will be in that 10 percent. Do not wait for symptoms if you suspect someone has swallowed a battery...get to the hospital! You only have two to three hours after swallowing before these

start to leak. More information is available on the internet under the name of Elaina Redding or Poison Control/battery poisoning. (note: I assume these could be potentially dangerous to your beloved pets also).

Anna Martinez, Bird City

## Newspaper subscription is enjoyed in Texas

To the editor:

Please renew my subscription for another year. The changes of everything seems to come and go but *The Saint Francis Herald* stays the same, and has been in my life for 80 years this Aug. 28. As a kid, I remember three papers in the house, *The Saint Francis Her-*

*ald*, *Benkelman Post* and *Capper's Weekly*. Naturally, the *Herald* was my choice because I knew all the people and enjoyed reading about them.

Stanley Little Mesquite, Texas

P.S. On Sunday we read the *Rocky Mountain News* from Denver.

## Service receives funding from the city of St. Francis

To the editor:

Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Inc., has received funding from the city of St. Francis in the amount of \$750. These funds will be used to provide direct services to victims

of domestic and sexual violence in Kansas. It is a fortunate community indeed whose governmental officials recognize the need to all of its citizens.

Jennifer Follis NKDSVS, Inc. - advocate

## Park celebration is noteworthy

Letter to the editor:

Dorothy Smedstad and her committee for the Band Shell Restoration Diamond Jubilee Celebration provided an informational and entertaining afternoon in the park. To promote a desire, within the community, to work toward a

common goal is noteworthy.

Also, St. Francis is fortunate that the local city council and county commissioners, working in concert through the years, have had the foresight to protect the existence of the band shell, so unique and reminiscent of another era.

We encourage everyone to support the Restoration Committee in their lofty goal to restore the amphitheater. It is truly the focal point of Sawhill Park.

John and Elaine Kite St. Francis

## Hangin' With Marge

More bad luck

By Margaret Bucholtz



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By this time I have three fingers hurt, arthritis in both hands and a right arm that goes to sleep even when I am not. But I am not a quitter — the yard must go on.

I got a large hole dug for the water feature that we needed to update. The flowers thinned out and placed back around the little pond thing, so it is time to move on.

I wanted to plant some flower seeds, but the area needed cultivated and the little cultivator still is not working. Several years ago, I brought a big cultivator, but gave up running it as it is just too much for me. I had no choice now — I had to get it out and use it!

I got it started and thought I would run it the long way up

to the fence. It took off and was working pretty good until about the time I got to the fence. I used some lever and it went a little faster right into the fence. There I was! I did finally get it so it was still turning but I couldn't get it to move backward. I was so upset that I managed to get the strength to lift in and get it moved to go the other direction.

I carefully checked out which lever was which this time and headed in the next direction. This time when I came to the end and moved the lever it took off faster and I didn't know that machine could go so fast. I am running behind it hanging on with one hand and trying to move any lever I could find. When it hit the road I finally got the engine

killed and could stop.

After I started breathing normal and my arm back in the right socket (just kidding about that), I pushed it back to the right spot and tried it again. It was the same thing only this time I was headed for the burn pile. The thought crossed my mind to just let it run in there and I would strike a match, but once more I got it stopped.

When Kurt got home I asked him if he could maybe cultivate the small area I wanted. He told me he would tomorrow.

I think Monday will be "jammie day." If I never get out of my jammies, I might heal my body and then the yard work will be good again.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



We live in a strange world and times, but still something can happen that leaves you feeling even more rattled. I'm speaking of the murder of Dr. George Tiller in Wichita.

I must qualify myself by stating that I did not agree with Dr. Tiller and I am against late-term abortions. The man was not a saint as far as I'm concerned.

But how can anyone justify his shooting? That the heinous act occurred in a house of worship just adds to the absurdity of it all.

Even though many things don't make sense these days, we want to think that we are an advanced society. But how can this be when men like Timothy McVey blow up innocent children and Federal workers, just to satisfy hatred toward his government? When a kid can sneak

weapons into school to unleash indiscriminate bloodshed upon classmates?

It is one thing to have fanatics from foreign lands hijack commercial planes and fly them into office buildings. We stand back and think that we are above terrorists, that we are more civilized.

Are we?

It is a blessing to live in a country where we can have opposing points-of-view and philosophies. But we can't change other's perspectives by beating it out of them. If we want others to see the sanctity of life, we must respect it ourselves.

**GOD SAYS**  
**He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.**  
**Proverbs 13:20**

**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**  
 (785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001  
 E-mail - sf.herald@nwkans.com

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