

# Day in the Lifecontest, murder mystery keep library busy

The library is booked for the first week in March.

Saturday, March 5 is going to be a busy day for the Friends of the Library.

*The Day in the Life of Thomas County* photo contest winners will be displayed in the conference room on that Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m.

After a quick dinner, plan on coming back to the library for the first-ever Murder Mystery. The cast of eight characters in the Murder Mystery will be performed by the following community members:

- Celebrated author Agatha Mystery - Rhonda McLaughlin
- Publisher Dell Doubleday — Keith Coplin
- Bookseller Dalton B. Walden — Jeff Horlacher
- Cynical book critic Page Turner — Donna Jennings
- Local politician Ron Bonzo — Charles Schwanke
- Chief of police Sam Slayed —



## Jeff Friesen

### •Library Link

Brice Barton

- Trashy mini-series star Alexa Dynasty — Gina Jennings
- Head librarian Books — Jeff Friesen

Tickets will be available at the library until Friday, March 4.

On Wednesday, March 2 at noon Nathalie Higerd will be presenting a book review on *Candle in the Darkness* by Lynn Austin for Booked for Lunch. Lunch will be served so don't miss it!

As usual, we have a number of new books out this month. At the top of this list is the latest book from Robert Crais, *The Forgotten Man*. Elvis Cole is a member of the

LAPD.

Things are as normal as can be expected from a Los Angeles cop until Elvis receives an early morning phone call about a dying man claiming to be his father.

Having never met his father, Elvis is eager to understand more about his father while at the same time suspicious about the true identity of the man. Unfortunately the dying man dies within minutes of the phone call and Elvis is left searching trying to solve the mystery.

The drama unfolds when Elvis discovers the dead man has been harboring a terrible secret. The se-

cret probably has a lot to do with the psychopath killer that is now hunting Elvis.

On a different note, try *The Old Iron Road: An Epic of Rails, Roads, and the Urge to go West* by David Haward Bain.

Author David Bain and his family packed up in the summer of 2000 and headed west. The goal: to discover the West. In this book David traces some of the most significant events and people that are located

in the American West.

His travels and writings include retracing the entire route of the first transcontinental railroad as well as parts of the Oregon and California trails.

Along the way he researches and documents many of the ghost towns, battlegrounds, river ports, train yards, museums, deserts, and diners that he encounters. Bain also writes about his encounters with people that range from historic to

contemporary including Mark Twain and Calamity Jan to Henry Fonda and Marlon Brando. Enjoy.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. 4th and open seven days a week. The winter hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information contact the library at 460-4470. As always, we are here to serve you.

## Board investigates abortion death

TOPEKA (AP) — State regulators are investigating a report that a patient from Dr. George Tiller's abortion clinic in Wichita died last month, according to a letter from the head of the state Board of Healing Arts made public earlier this week by an anti-abortion group.

The letter from Larry Buening, executive director of the board, to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, was in response to a letter Sebelius had sent the week before calling for an investigation into the reported death at Tiller's clinic. Buening said in his letter that the board had opened an investigation.

Both letters were released by Kansans for Life, the state's largest anti-abortion group, during a Statehouse news conference.

The abortion opponents said the letters confirmed that a patient from Tiller's clinic died, but a spokeswoman for Sebelius and the board's executive director said only that a death had been reported.

Clinic spokeswoman Julie Burkhardt said federal privacy laws prevent it from revealing details about patient care.

"Women and families have a right to believe that their health care providers will not make unauthorized disclosure of their medical records," Burkhardt said in a state-

ment. "It is outrageous that Kansans for Life and those who curry its favor seek to invade the personal lives and medical records of women to further their own political agendas."

Kansans for Life also called on Attorney General Phill Kline's office to investigate the reported death.

Kansans for Life argued that board is too close to Sebelius, an abortion rights supporter. Kline opposes abortion.

Eric Rucker, Kline's chief of staff, said: "We will consider their request."

For more than a decade, Tiller's clinic has been the target of anti-abortion protests because the doctor performs late-term abortions.

The report that a woman died on or about Jan. 13 came from Operation Rescue, an anti-abortion group.

Kansans for Life officials said they had no information about the patient or the circumstances of the reported death.

Buening declined to discuss the board's investigation, beyond confirming that it received information about a death, that Sebelius sent a letter and he replied to it.

Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran confirmed that the governor asked the board to investigate

the allegations.

In her letter, Sebelius asked whether the clinic's medical procedures complied with accepted medical standards and Kansas law. She also asked whether a bill to set minimum health and safety standards — which she vetoed in 2003 — would have prevented the patient's death.

In his reply, Buening wrote that the board received information about a patient death on Jan. 26 and that an investigation was initiated.

However, Kansans for Life does not believe the board will conduct a thorough investigation, said Mary Kay Culp, the group's executive director.

In the past, the group has criticized the board as being too lax in regulating abortion doctors.

Culp also noted that Buening's wife, Vicki, is Sebelius' director of constituent services.

Also, Tiller contributed more than \$10,000 total to Sebelius campaigns for insurance commissioner in 1994 and 1998 and governor in 2002, according to campaign finance records.

Larry Buening noted that he has been the board's executive director since 1992, a decade before Sebelius' election as governor.

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