

KBI agent talks about ways crimes are solved in the state

By AMIE KENDRICK

For the Free Press

Colby Shakespeare Club met at the home of Amie Kendrick for their Dec. 12 Christmas meeting.

Guest Mark Kendrick presented a program on his job as a Kansas Bureau of Investigation Special Agent. He discussed that he currently assists local law enforcement in the surrounding nine counties, and only assists if asked. He showed bloodstain patterns to illustrate how they are used to solve crimes and assaults.

Mathematics is used to determine exact location of crime committed. Luminol is also an agent used to detect blood that cannot be seen with the naked eye. DNA is also

now one in a trillion persons accurate for determining whether the accused was present at the crime scene.

Nine weeks used to be the turnaround time for the crime lab; now it is only one to one and a half weeks. Mark also discussed the drug activity briefly in the immediate area.

He said we are no worse, but no better, than other areas and that drugs are too easy to get hold of for them not to be prevalent here. However, there are still more good people around than bad, and he doesn't have to worry about job security.

President Kathy Calliham called the meeting to order and members

recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Club Collect in unison. Nine members answered roll call with a Christmas memory, good or bad. Minutes from the Nov. 14 meeting were approved as read. Correspondence received was a thank you from Genesis Thomas County for the \$20 donation Shakespeare Club had given last month.

Under unfinished business, Kathy reported that Phyllis Elliott, Joyce Hansen, Ruth Lowenthal, and she attended the Pi Gamma meeting and program, which was Frahm's high school foreign exchange student from Thailand.

She was very interesting and so friendly and outgoing. Motion was made and carried to adjourn. Joyce Hansen will host the January 9th meeting with Amie Kendrick as her co-hostess.

Members are asked to bring their items for the Northwest Kansas Shelter out of Hays, whose spokesperson will be the program that day.

Colby's Sorosis Club visits the Pioneer Library

The Sorosis Club of Colby held their Jan. 9 meeting at the Pioneer Memorial Library with Donna Pflasterer, hostess.

A short business meeting was held, and roll call was answered by members telling of a book they remembered that they would like to re-read.

JoAnne Sunderman had been scheduled to give a book review, but had been called out of town so Margaret Denneler gave a summary of the book "Cold Mountain." This is a book which has been given a lot of attention lately and has been made into a film. It relates to

people's lives in the Civil War days.

This book and the roll call responses reminded the Sorosis Club members of their motto, "Literature is the Expression of Society."

Members took time too, to look over pictures on display at the library which were taken Oct. 24, 2003 depicting "A Day in the Life of Thomas County."

A display that ranges from activities to buildings, to animals and people pictures.

The meeting adjourned with a reminder that the next meeting will be Feb. 13 at the home of Lucy Davis.

New year brings new ways to stay connected with legislature

The gifts have been unwrapped, the food has been consumed and the Holiday parties are complete. It's official, January has arrived and with it the beginning of the 2004 Legislative session in Topeka, said Ryan Wright, special assistant to Lynn Jenkins, state treasurer.

Each year 125 representatives and 40 senators from the Kansas House and Senate descend on our Capitol city to address the needs of Kansans and establish a budget for the next year. For about 90 days, these citizen legislators hold hearings, debate policy and make new laws.

"Legislators represent you in Topeka. As a former lawmaker myself, I enjoyed hearing from citizens and benefiting from their knowledge," he said.

"It's important legislators know how you feel about various issues. As legislators begin to debate these pressing matters you will, no doubt, want to stay informed and let your representative know where you stand on the issues. To assist you, I have compiled seven helpful suggestions to help you stay connected," Wright said.

1. *Get to know your local senator or representative.*

• If you befriend them before you need their help, your relationship could come in handy when you are faced with a difficult legislative matter.

2. *Stay Connected.*

Write. Call. E-mail. Fax. The only way to be heard is to communicate.

You can write your legislator at: Senator/Representative Name, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1504. You can also call the Capitol operator at (785) 296-0111 during session to get specific information about your representative or you can go online at <http://www.kslegislature.org/>http://www.kslegislature.org to find out just about anything you ever needed to know about the Kansas House or Senate.

3. *Understand the issue.*

The more you know and understand about your issue the better chance you will have to make a strong impact on your legislator. Legislators deal with numerous issues during a typical session so any information you can give them on the specifics of a bill is appreciated.

4. *Arrange for meetings when your legislators are back in the district.*

When legislators are in Topeka, their schedules are extremely busy between committee meetings and session.

By setting up a time to discuss your issue back in the district, you will have a better chance of having their full attention, plus you will be in familiar and comfortable surroundings.

5. *Be honest and accurate.*

When supplying information to your representative ensure that it is correct and relevant and that you stay focused on the issue at hand. If you don't, you run the risk of not being believable and then you will have defeated your entire purpose.

6. *Seal the deal.*

Once you have provided your input on an issue try to get your legislator to commit to voting for your position. If they will not commit, stay in contact with them until they get the information necessary to make a decision.

7. *Respect your legislation.*

Even if you are unable to persuade them on your issue, understand that they represent a vast number of people who all have varying opinions on the issues.

The job of a legislator is to strike a balance between everyone and do what he/she feels is the best for their district. Remember, our system of government is built on compromise so nobody can win 100 percent of the time. Be patient with the system.

"I hope you take time to get to know your legislators and express views on the issues that are important to you, Wright said.

For questions, call him at (785) 296-3171 or visit me online at <http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/>http://www.KansasState-Treasurer.com.

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Welcome to the 2004 Wellness Fair

Saturday, January 17th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Colby Community College Union

Come out and enjoy a fun-filled, educational Saturday morning!

Information/programs for young children and families has been added to this annual event. Various local agencies will be providing activities such as ABC's of Fire Safety, Recipe for the Brain, making a Healthy Lunch, Teeth Exploration, Tongue Zone Activities, Magic Tricks of Safe Hand Washing, Play Dough and a Calming Turtle Activity. Children from Sacred Heart School will present a Bal-A-Vis-X demonstration at 10 a.m. *Tacky the Clown* will be present to entertain with balloon activities. Also offered will be Free Depression Screening for Adults & Children.

Booth Door Prizes and
fabulous grand prizes
will be given away!

ADMISSION

\$5.00; children under 12 are free (must be accompanied by a registered adult).

Free admissions will be awarded at the registration table to the first 50 families.

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