



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Student to help design walking trails

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press

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Eight city officials and project coordinators involved with establishing Colby as the "most walkable community in Kansas" got together last Wednesday afternoon at the walking trail site north of the Aquatic Park to discuss plans and meet architecture student Chelsea Hayes, who has joined the team to offer her services, free of charge, and render plans for an amphitheater and pergola.

Welcoming Hayes to the team were Sue Evans, Mike Woofter, Randy Jones, Rick Dickman, Omar Weber, Diann Gerstner, Meagan Carmichael and Kasiah Rothchild.

Hayes said she is finishing up her sixth and final year of school and will graduate in May with a master's degree in architecture from Kansas State University. Her involvement in Colby stems from Sue Evans, who submitted ideas to the university's architecture department in hopes of attracting a student to help with Colby's efforts.

Evans said she received information from the university requesting people around the state to submit their building plans, so students could get involved and gain firsthand experience before graduating. Colby's rough idea was picked up by Hayes, who is looking forward to the opportunity.

"This is a learning experience for Chelsea," said Evans, "and we want her to treat us like a paying client, even though she's helping us for free. She's meeting with us just like she would for a first-time consultation and we are treating her like a regular, professional architect."

For the initial consultation on Wednesday, Hayes met with coordinators and saw the site for the first time.

"What I want to do today is get a better feel for what they mean when they say 'amphitheater' and 'pergola,'" said Hayes. "Those are broad terms that could mean anything, so I want to get a clear picture of what the group wants



Mike Woofter (left) pointed out a possible layout of a proposed dog park to student architect Chelsea Hayes (to his left) Sue Evans and K-State Extension Agent Diann Gerstner along the far north side of the walking trails site near Colby Community College's wind turbine. Police Chief Randy Jones (below left), who spent three months as interim manager for the City of Colby, Building and Code Official Rick Dickman and Public Works Director Omar Weber shared their excitement for the Colby walking trails as plans continue to progress north of the Aquatic Park.

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Colby Free Press

and what they envision as a final product."

Plans for the amphitheater will begin in the center of the walking trail area, said Woofter as he set off on foot towards the spot with the rest of the group in tow. It will be located in a large, grassy valley surrounded by curving sidewalks and low bridges.

He and Evans said a set of four risers, seating between 50 and 100 people that will surround a stage, although there will be plenty more room for people to enjoy entertainment on blankets or lawn chairs, too.

"I want it to look natural," said Evans, "with brick or stone and shade so people can enjoy the performances that'll take place on the stage."

The group shared their thoughts with Hayes about textures and materials they want used, electrical needs and other details. Hayes said she'll take their comments back home to the drawing board where she'll put pencil to paper

and come up with a few options that'll fit Colby's needs and budget.

"Later on, we'll have her give a presentation to the City Council," said Evans, "because we have to get approval from them before moving forward with one of Chelsea's options."

Hayes said her efforts and time spent working with Colby Walking Trails coordinators will be included in her thesis, which focuses on small community enrichment.

"As a class under Professor Todd Gabbard, we are looking at what we can do as designers to boost community morale, improve healthy lifestyles and increase involvement," said Hayes. "Including an amphitheater into Colby's walking trails fits in perfectly with that, so I'm also interested in seeing if it will draw tourism and encourage more, enriched culture here."

"Being a part of a project to

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Christmas light contest gears up

By Christina Beringer

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Autumn only just began on Saturday, but the Colby Promotion Committee has already jumped ahead to winter plans and their annual business and residential Christmas lighting contest.

"This year, we want to give people plenty of time to prepare and decide if they want to participate in the lighting contest," said Sharon Friedlander, Colby Free Press publisher and committee member.

The theme this year, said Friedlander, is "A Merry Little Christmas from A to Z." Nominations need to be submitted by Friday, Dec. 7, by contacting the Colby/Thomas County

Chamber at (785) 460-3401. People can nominate themselves for participation, she said.

Jeff Horlacher will again be recruiting the judges to drive around and look at entries in the two judging categories on the evening of Monday, Dec. 10. The categories are residential and nonresidential.

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College discusses sale of vehicles

The Colby Community College trustees were asked Sept. 17 to accept sealed bids for the vehicles the college wants to sell after Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, received what he thought to be low trade-in proposals from local dealerships.

Kaaz distributed a "Vehicle Bid Summary" showing the vehicles to be traded and their trade-in value as given by local dealerships. Kaaz thought the retail value was higher than what was being offered through the trade-ins.

He asked the board about accepting sealed bids for the vehicles - written bids that are submitted by a deadline and read by the seller at the same time. However, trustee Bill Shields suggested using Purple Wave, an online auction, to market the used vehicles rather than using sealed bids.

College attorney John Gatz recommended that Kaaz investigate other avenues for selling the vehicles and for him to report back to the board at a future

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Kansas State wants to drop nickname

MANHATTAN (AP) - It's Kansas State University, not K-State.

Kansas State President Kirk Schulz says the school wants to improve its national recognition, and dropping the K-State nickname would help.

Schulz told Gov. Sam Brownback and business leaders Monday that the university is moving toward having one brand for the school. He says K-State works for athletics, but in Kentucky and other places, K-State refers to dif-

ferent schools. He says the university needs to be called Kansas State as it seeks to increase its scholarly rankings among national universities.

The Lawrence Journal-World reports (bit.ly/OUirUh) the transition might be difficult. The school's new long-range plan is titled "K-State 2025: A Visionary Plan for Kansas State University."



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Painting school spirit



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Preparations for spirit week started before school for Colby High School teacher Kim Munk (center), who stood outside Leroy's Printing downtown on Sunday afternoon supervising a group of painters. High school students (from left) Shelby

Crampton, Abby Friesen, Walter Vacik and Allie Friesen covered the windows of downtown businesses with instructions to their football team to beat the Holcomb Longhorns on Friday.