

Weather

Amphitheater plan for pool

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"If you build it, they will come." Council President Fred Taylor answered.

City Manager Tyson McGreer told the council members that Hayes, Evans and Carmichael were only looking for the council's approval for the project, and that they understand they have to find the money on their own.

If they did not like it, McGreer said, "Tell her now before she raises however much it costs."

The council members did not vote to approve the amphitheater, but no one objected to it.

Hayes stayed in Colby Wednesday to gather up support for the project, although no one

from the public came to a presentation from noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. A handful showed up from 5 p.m. to 6 at the Pioneer Memorial Library to hear her presentation, but she, Carmichael and Evans had a more difficult time selling the amphitheater and its earthen walls at that meeting.

After watching a short video of University of Kansas students in Lawrence making a rammed-earth wall about 120 feet long, Librarian Melanie Wilks asked if any one in Colby would be willing to make one of these walls.

Hayes said she spoke with Mike Woofter, owner of Woofter Construction and Irrigation, who told her he has tamping

tools for ramming the earth.

"As long as it lasts, that's what I care about," Wilks said, "I don't want five years, and rain falling on it and having it melt."

Lon Frahm, who Evans said was one of the people who originally proposed having an amphitheater, took issue with the design of the walls.

"Is there a reason it's not symmetrical?" Lon Frahm asked Hayes.

She answered that two of the walls are symmetrical, but that her professor liked the design better after she took the symmetry out of it.

"You think it relates to any of the structures around it and nearby?" he asked.

Hayes answered that people

she talked to about the amphitheater said they wanted something natural looking.

"What I was trying to do here was create something completely unique to Colby," she said.

Evans said she had contacted Hayes after speaking with Todd Gabbard, a professor at K-State, trying find students who could work on an amphitheater here. Graves oversees a group of architects working in small Kansas towns, including Greensburg, Eureka and Cuba.

"I did a ton of research on Colby," Hayes said at the council meeting.

She said she visited the walking trail loop Sept. 19 with a small group, including Evans and Woofter.

Exchange snub could be costly

From "HEALTH," Page 1

that they can look at it and say, 'How can we do this in a way that works for us?'"

About half the nearly 30 million uninsured people expected to gain coverage under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul would do so through Medicaid. Its expansion would cover low-income people making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, about \$15,860 for an individual.

Middle-class people who don't have coverage at their jobs will be able to purchase private insurance in new state markets, helped by new federal tax credits. The big push to sign up the uninsured starts this fall, and coverage takes effect Jan. 1.

As originally written, the Affordable Care Act required states to accept the Medicaid expansion as a condition of staying in the program. Last summer's Supreme Court decision gave each state the right to decide. While that pleased many governors, it also created complications by opening the door to unintended consequences.

So far, 20 mostly blue states, plus the Dis-

trict of Columbia, have accepted the expansion.

Thirteen GOP-led states have declined. They say Medicaid already is too costly, and they don't trust Washington to keep its promise of generous funding for the expansion, which would mainly help low-income adults with no children at home.

Concerns about unintended consequences could make the most difference in 17 states still weighing options.

A look at some potential side effects:

• **The Employer Glitch:** States that don't expand Medicaid leave more businesses exposed to tax penalties, according to a recent study by Brian Haile, Jackson Hewitt's senior vice president for tax policy. He estimates the fines could top \$1 billion a year.

Under the law, employers with 50 or more workers that don't offer coverage face penalties if just one of their workers gets subsidized private insurance through the new state markets. But employers wouldn't face fines for workers who get Medicaid.

• **The Immigrant Quirk:** Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican, called attention

this year to this politically awkward problem when she proposed that her state accept the Medicaid expansion.

Under the health law, U.S. citizens below the poverty line - \$11,490 for an individual, \$23,550 for a family of four - can only get coverage through the Medicaid expansion. But lawfully present immigrants who are also below the poverty level are eligible for subsidized private insurance.

Congress wrote the legislation that way to avoid controversy associated with trying to change previous laws that require legal immigrants to wait five years before they can qualify for Medicaid.

• **The Fairness Argument:** Under the law, U.S. citizens below the poverty line can only get taxpayer-subsidized coverage by going into Medicaid. But other low-income people making just enough to put them over the poverty line can get subsidized private insurance through the new state markets.

An individual making \$11,700 a year would be able to get a policy. But someone making \$300 less would be out of luck, dependent on charity care.

School leaders train for emergencies

From "SCHOOL," Page 1

KBI agents. Krannawitter pointed out that all employees, even the janitors, should be included in the planning.

In other business:

• Gabel reported that the school had several students in the top 25 ranking for the Great Western Activities Conference art show.

• Krannawitter said that the kindergarten pre-enrollment meeting was to be last Tuesday morning, adding that 54 showed up at pre-screenings, and if past experience is any indication, more kids will come for the meeting. (He said later that between 50 and 60 turned out.)

There are 183 kids in the afterschool program which started

March 25, and 125 generally show up each day.

• Ross reported that over 90 kids on the middle-school track team went to Phillipsburg on Monday. So many are on the team, he said, that teachers have been combining classes.

Ross said his students read about 1,600 books in one week using the program myON reader, which allows them to read books on a computer.

• Jeff Wallingford, high school principal, said the school held a netsmart assembly on technology on May 25 for all the high-school students. There were solos and ensembles with the high school's band and choir April 6 in Oberlin.

Top students were honored at the Goodland Elks Lodge on

April 3 by the Kansas Honor Program, sponsored by the university of Kansas. Alex Juenemann will be at the 25th annual Kansas Governor's Award ceremony.

• Curriculum Director Diana Wieland reported that Megan Carmichael with the Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition is helping to write grant applications for the school. Reading specialists in the district met recently, and there was to be another meeting last week-end of the Northwest Kansas Perkins Consortium, consisting of Colby, St. Francis, Cheylin, Oberlin, Goodland and Atwood school districts, which work on getting federal grant money, but it was cancelled because of the weather.

• Superintendent Terrel Harrison said the state Legislature will be back in session on Thursday, May 2, and the district will not know more about bills that might affect schools until then. Board Vice President Tracy Rogers said he recently heard about issues dealing with the government at a meeting of the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley.

• Heard Shawn Stephens with the Colby Booster Club ask permission to build a canopy over the southeast entrance of the gym. Stephens pointed out that the entrance is somewhat hard for visitors to find right now, but the board asked her to make sure that the canopy wouldn't collapse from the weight of snow falling off the school roof.

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the next edition. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Baptist Church invites everyone to free lunch

Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend to a free "Joyful Blessings" lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church, Webster and Grant. For information, call Radonda Buford at 462-2804.

Salon plans benefit to help with medical bills

Image Makers will hold a "cutathon" benefit for Danielle Wolf, a former stylist at the salon who has cancer, from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday to raise money to help pay for her medical treatments. Walk-ins are encouraged or customers can make an appointment by calling 460-4247.

Dogs may be available at Colby Animal Clinic

The Colby Animal Clinic has two dogs, a male chihuahua and a neutered male brown-and-red mix stray with a John Deere collar, both under 2 years. They were found running together. Call 460-8621 or stop by 810 E. Fourth St.

City now separating grass clippings, trash

The City of Colby asks people to start separating grass from household trash today. Leave clippings unbagged in a tipper can marked "Grass" and have all cans to the curb by 8 a.m. on your trash day. For information, call Omar Weber at the Public Works Department, 460-4420.

Master Gardeners offer educational sessions

Thomas County Master Gardeners will offer several sessions on gardening Tuesday at the Thomas County Office Complex. At 5:30 p.m., Julie Niehage, a Golden Prairie Extension District agent, will be giving tips and tricks for growing great tomatoes. At 6:15 p.m., Jim Strine, northwest area Extension forester, will demonstrate tree pruning and planting and talk about tree care. At 7:30 p.m., Niehage will talk about the Top 40 annual plants. A light meal will be provided or you can bring a brown bag. For information, call the county Extension office at 460-4582.

Anthropology group plans Archaeology Day

The High Plains Chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association will hold its third annual Archaeology Day from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave. Activities and displays will include a Plains Indian camp, archaeological excavation, atlatl toss, prehistoric artifacts and a "bottle detective" activity. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for kids under 16. Call Ann Miner at 460-4590 for information.

Weather forecast table with columns for Day, High/Low, and Precipitation.

LOCAL TV Listings logo with 'Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS' text.

TV Listings for Tuesday Evening, April 23, 2013. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and channel names.

Wednesday Evening April 24, 2013

TV Listings for Wednesday Evening, April 24, 2013. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and channel names.

American Profile advertisement: 'We Celebrate Hometown Life. Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.' Includes a grid of program listings.