



A Free Press editorial: You can help walking trail

Plans for a system of walking trails to knit Colby neighborhoods together and promote healthy activity got a big boost in recent weeks, as a coalition of backers put their plans out for public viewing and hooked a big fish.

Walking enthusiasts and people who see the value of a trail system have been enthusiastic in their response.

Farm operator Lon Frahm stepped up with a \$25,000 donation.

As if that were not generous enough, Mr. Frahm issued a challenge to community donors: If people will match his \$25,000 by the end of the month, then he will put up another \$25,000, bringing total contributions to \$75,000. And that will give the trail committee nearly enough

to pay the estimated \$80,000 cost of Phase I.

This first phase includes two quarter-mile loops at the new Colby Aquatic Center, one around the pools themselves, another circling park land to the north where the city plans a playground. The trail group would add an "exersite," with stations to encourage kids and adults to get in shape.

Beyond that, the committee envisions trails stretching south to Colby High School and north into town, possibly using flood-plain greenbelts that wind through the city and other rights of way.

All of that is a ways off, of course. Plans will have to be made, right of way easements

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Couple face hearing for January shooting

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
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A preliminary hearing was held last Friday afternoon in Sherman County District Court and after hearing testimony from six witnesses for the prosecution the judge ruled the state had provided enough evidence to hold the two defendants over for trial for attempting to shoot two state troopers on I-70 in January.

Anthony Patrick seemed to take the news like he expected the decision, but Piper Stout-Briese ap-

peared to be upset and was visibly shaken. She was later taken out of the courtroom by a deputy, and appeared to be crying.

Magistrate Judge Richard Ress of Colby heard the case presented by Nicole Romine, deputy attorney general from the criminal litigation division, against defendants Patrick, 30, and Stout-Briese, 30, for attempted first degree murder, possession of methamphetamine and eluding and fleeing the state troopers.

Patrick was represented by at-

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KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Kids experience history at museum

About 300 area students and adults took a trip to the Prairie Museum of Art and History last Friday for the Prairie Fair. The students learned about how experts dig up artifacts (above) to find out information on the present – with a hands-on demonstration on the museum lawn. They also learned about life cycles (right) upstairs in the Cooper Barn.



Call on me!



CHARLENE KAUS

Colby first graders took a field trip to the Moonlight Gardens on May 4. The students make the trip each year to learn about roots, growing seasons and perennials. They also got to take home one plant each to give as Mother's Day gifts.

College discussing budget cuts

At a special meeting Monday of the Colby Community College Board of Trustees, attention was turned to personnel cuts in an effort to cut the 2011-2012 budget by \$1.03 million. The target budget is \$12.42 million.

The reduction in force under discussion is in addition to \$680,000 in cuts already under consideration which do not involve personnel.

After meeting in extended executive session for a considerable time. The meeting was concluded without action being taken, but a budget discussion is on the agenda for the next regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Thomas Hall board room.

Also on the agenda are changes to the policy manual, a financial report for April and executive sessions to discuss negotiations and non-elected personnel.

Legislature kills immigration plan

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA – Kansas legislators are refusing to move up the starting date for a proof-of-citizenship requirement for people registering to vote for the first time or to give Secretary of State Kris Kobach's office new power to prosecute election fraud cases.

The rejection of those proposals Wednesday by a bipartisan majority in the state Senate is a political defeat for the Republican secretary of state, who took office in January. It came after he successfully pushed for a law designed to combat election fraud, one he touted as model legislation for other states.

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Graduation 2011

Inside this edition
of the Colby Free Press



Briefly

Fitness class planned for moms

"Mommy and Me" baby fitness class will have a free opening class from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, at Fike Park. Pre- and post-natal mothers and their children can come for the class. Dads are welcome too. Signup sheets will be available for the full class. For information, call Jennifer Kramer at 443-5527.

Help plant veggies on Saturday

The Thomas County Coalition is looking for volunteers to help plant vegetables in the Community Garden starting at 9 a.m., Saturday at the K-State Experiment Station. Anyone interested should call the Regional Prevention Center at 460-8177.

Mail carriers taking food

The National Association of Letter Carriers is holding its Stamp Out Hunger food drive on Saturday. Anyone who wishes to donate non-perishable

food items should leave them in a bag at their mailbox. Those with keyed group mailboxes can leave them inside the package locker.

Library to close Monday

Pioneer Memorial Library will close Monday so the staff can attend a funeral. The library will reopen Tuesday. For information, call 460-4470.

Get in free with kids at museum

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is offering free admission to parents who accompany their preschoolers aged 5 and under to the museum from Monday through Friday, May 20. They will have the chance to explore the museum at their leisure and participate in self-directed activities, including dressing up as cowboys, Native Americans, train engineers or pioneer settlers, riding the mechanical horse or stick horses, holding a tea party, helping with "chores" in

the garden and around the houses, playing with toy agricultural machinery, and more. Museum hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 460-4590 or email museumed@st-tel.net.

Sign up for summer program

Colby United Methodist Church will have open enrollment for its Summer Youth Program from 4-6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the church. The program is for children age 3 through sixth grade. It runs Monday to Wednesday each week from June 6 to July 6. For information, call 460-2761.

Kids can fish on May 21

Colby Community College and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will hold a Kids Fishing Derby from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 21, at Villa High Pond. There is no charge, but parents should register by Wednesday. Officials from KDWP

will be assisting and providing information on fishing topics. The college will provide bait. A drawing will be held for several prizes. For information, call Barry Kaaz at 460-5429 or Kathy Britton at 460-5550.

Relay committee plans breakfast

The Thomas County Relay for Life committee will have a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 21, in the Colby Community Building. Tickets can be purchased in advance from any committee member or at the door. The Relay for Life will be from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Friday, June 17, at Dennen Field. For information, call Irene Hartwell at 443-0974.

