

New K-State ambassador group includes sophomore from Oakley

Hannah Abell, a sophomore in elementary education from Oakley, is among 23 Kansas State University students to form the inaugural group of K-State Libraries ambassadors.

From both undergraduate and graduate programs, ambassadors will serve two-year terms as advocates and representatives for K-State Libraries at social, cul-

tural and fund-raising activities. They also provide feedback on the libraries' initiatives and services and advocate for the need and views of the student body.

"We are excited to launch the K-State Libraries ambassador program with this diverse group of outstanding students," said Adriana Gonzalez, faculty and graduate services department

head for the libraries. "The ambassadors will serve in a role of advocacy, guidance and idea-sharing to further enhance the libraries' mission to elevate academic success. Their direct connection to our K-State student body will provide the K-State Libraries with insight from the student perspective in meeting their needs."

Water park to open world-class slide

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — At something like 17 stories tall, a water slide opening this spring in the Midwest is being touted as a contender for the fastest in the world.

The Schlitterbahn water park and resort company is keeping the ride's exact height a secret until an official measuring event this spring, *The Kansas City Star* (bit.ly/1iuNzW6) reports. But officials promise it will exceed the height of the current world-record-holding slide — the Insano, Portuguese for Insane — at Beach Park outside

the city of Fortaleza, Brazil. Riders on the Brazilian slide have been clocked at 65 mph — a speed Schlitterbahn vows it can top.

Thrill seekers will get their first chance to ride the Verrückt — German for insane — when the Kansas water park opens May 23. The company hopes the ride will become a destination attraction.

"We have always been family friendly, but this will attract those adrenaline junkies who are always looking for that next biggest, coolest thrill," said Layne Pitcher, the park's director of marketing and

sales.

After a 264-step climb to the deck at the top of the tower, riders will hurtle downward in four-person inflatable rafts. At the bottom of the initial plummet, riders will confront a five-story hill. They will be propelled up and over that hill for the final descent to the ride's finish.

Jeff Henry, a Schlitterbahn co-owner who designed the ride, said in a news release that the new slide would be a "game changer" for the industry.

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