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Pool queries answered at town hall

By Andy Heintz

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Colby citizens at a "town-hall" meeting Tuesday on a proposed sales tax increase had plenty of questions for the City Council and Kevin McElyea, an engineer for Aquatic Design Consultants:

Where would it be? What would it cost? How big? What features? How much would it cost to get in? How many lifeguards would it need? How much for the land? And why a sales tax?

The \$5 million pool and water park will be built if voters approve a three-fourths-of-a-cent sales tax increase in a special elections Tuesday. Voters will be asked whether to levy the tax in the city for 10 years beginning April 1 to pay off the city's new fire station and a pool.

Several members of the committee involved in lobbying for a pool and hiring Aquatic Design Consultants were on hand at the meeting, in the Little Theater at the Community Building. The committee includes city Manager Carolyn Armstrong, councilmen Tim Hutfles, Jim Brown and Patrick Mallory and several citizens.

Maybe the biggest question left unanswered was "where?"

Mallory said the council hasn't decided where to build the pool, but they are looking at several places, including east of the Colby Recreation Complex, north or south or east of Colby High School and north of the railroad tracks on Franklin north of downtown.

Councilmen Tim Hutfles said the pool committee hopes to build the pool as close to where families live as possible, someplace kids

could get to by riding a bike.

Armstrong said the pool has always been "the best baby-sitting service in town."

McElyea said the pool would require more lifeguards and the operating budget would be 50 to 75 percent more than the one for today's pool.

McElyea gave a computer presentation that showed what the proposed aquatics center would look like. The sketch included a 25-meter, six-lane competition pool with floatable objects kids could climb on, low and high diving boards and a separate recreation pool with zero-depth entry (no stairs or ladder needed), a "lazy river" float area, four slides (toddler, family, inner tube and speed), a spray/play area for younger kids, and a floatable obstacle course.

The new pool also will have heated water (a problem with the old pool), several shady areas and a group rental area where people could pay to have a party. McElyea said with prices down, this was a great time to build a pool in terms of costs.

McElyea said the 25-meter pool could be used for the swim club events, swim lessons, aquatic aerobics classes, and for people who just want to swim laps. He said bleachers would be built around the pool so people attending meets would have somewhere to sit.

Ask about fees, he said he'd have to come up with an answer.

Terry Ray asked the council if any preference would be shown to local contractors and suppliers when it came time to build the pool. Hutfles said building a pool

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'Welcome to the Jungle'



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Colby Grade School third graders made up a jungle full of animals Monday for their presentation of "Welcome to the Jungle," a musical from Aesop's famous fable. The jungle animals proclaimed their story had a moral and their story had a heart, because an act of kindness never goes unnoticed. In the story, Maliki, the mighty, mean, most ferocious king of the jungle

(played by Alex Ferguson) captured Panya the mouse (Paige Schroer) for waking him up, and was going to eat the poor little mouse until Panya promised to help Maliki some day. The kindness was not forgotten, the mouse helped the lion, and as all fables go, the story ended well.

Gem women joins Silver Haired Legislature

By Vera Sloan

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From home extension agent to farm wife to Kansas Silver Haired legislator, Virginia Hopper of Gem always manages to stay busy.

Hopper, who said she came to Colby right out of Kansas State University to serve as the

county extension agent, met and married farmer Audy Hopper two years later.

After the death of her husband, she still lives on the farm, and makes a lot of the decisions affecting the operation. She has recently added the Silver Haired Legislature to her schedule.

Hopper said she was appointed to represent Thomas County by Greg Hoover of the Area Agency on Aging to fill the unexpired term of

Rosalie Seemann, who resigned earlier this year.

The Silver Haired Legislature is an arm of the state Department of Aging, and each county has one representative except for the four largest, which are each allowed six each.

The legislature, organized in 1985, meets to

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Lyssa Beard, manager for the Colby Community College volleyball team, sold T-shirts to people for \$10 on "Dig Pink" night at the Community Building before the Lady Trojans volleyball match on Monday.

Salon, foundation join for breast cancer benefit

By Andy Heintz

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Uptown Style and Saloon teamed up Monday with a new group, the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope, to raise money for people with breast cancer.

Everything Uptown made from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday went to the foundation's wig fund, said Melinda Cheney, co-owner and massage therapist. The fund will allow the organization to buy wigs for people who have chemotherapy, who often lose their hair.

Uptown offered haircuts, maintenance and polish manicures for the discount price of \$10 on Monday. The costs normally ranges from \$15 to \$20, Cheney said.

They raised about \$500, she said, and the business also joined other companies and citizens to sponsor a silent auction organized by the Lady Trojans' volleyball team from Colby Community College.

The auction took place that night after the Lady Trojans' last home game of the year against the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture from Cur-

tis. The team wore pink shirts to promote breast care awareness during the match. Students also sported pink attire as they cheered on the Lady Trojans. The event was dubbed "Dig Pink."

Tiffany Mader, another co-owner of Uptown, said six or seven Lady Trojans got haircuts on Monday to help raise money for the cause. Several Uptown employees helped with the project: Sarah Redmon and Ali Leavitt did manicures and haircuts, while Megan Zerr and Lindsay Barnett did haircuts.

The foundation has been organizing for the past six or seven months, said coordinator Pat Sloan of Homeland Realty. It plans to help people with cancer in the nine counties of northwest Kansas.

Sloan said the group is raising money so people with cancer can pay for things like wigs, medicine, hotels and fuel. She said the money each person gets will depend on what they need.

Kami Booi said several people in the group had worked with the American Cancer Society in the past before they decided to form a separate group. She said they wanted to make sure 100 percent of the money they raise would stay here in north-

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Briefly

For latest flu info, call 460-4599

A hot line for answers to questions on seasonal influenza and the H1N1 flu strain will be available throughout the flu season at (785) 460-4599. The Thomas County Health Department said information about the status and availability of vaccines, priority groups and the like will be available at this number.

Hospital auxiliary needs help

The Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for volunteers to greet visitors, operate the gift shop and help patients and their families, among other things. To become involved, call Tama Unger at (785) 460-1214 or Mary Smith at (785) 462-3387.

Come get a scare at soccer house

The American Youth Soccer Organization will have a haunted house from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, 7 to midnight Friday and 8 to midnight on Saturday

at 660 N. Franklin Ave. There will be a matinee for kids 11 and under from 5 to 7 p.m. on Halloween. Admission will be \$3 for kids under 12, \$5 for everyone 12 and over and \$2 at the matinee, or \$1 with a food item for Genesis-Thomas County food bank. All proceeds go to the soccer group. For information, call Emily Griffin at 460-0467.

Halloween bash for kids 13, under

Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Thomas County Community Foundation and the Modern Woodmen will hold a Halloween Bash for kids 13 and under from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. There will be food, prizes, games and lots of fun, said Diane Stithem of Big Brothers Big Sisters. For information, call Stithem at 460-9125.

Coaches offer coffee, talk

Join the Colby High School football staff for "Coffee with the Coaches" at 9 a.m. Saturday and every Saturday after home and away games at the Sports Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles' Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

ers, popcorn, veggies and the like to munch on. A prize will be given for the winners. For questions, to call 460-4470.

Brewster church plans turkey feed

The Brewster United Methodist Church will hold its annual Thanksgiving turkey supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday at the church, 202 Nebraska. Donations will be accepted. For information, call Nadine Kammer at (785) 694-2456.

Trivia night planned at library

The Pioneer Memorial Library plans a Trivia Pursuit Night at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5. Get your team of six to eight players together or call the library to join a team of random players. Each team will bring snack food for a potluck of chips, crack-

Food bank taking applications

Genesis-Thomas County food bank has forms available for families who will need food baskets this holiday season. Forms can be picked up from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Genesis office, 350 S. Range Ave. Suite 13. Applications are due by Tuesday, Nov. 10. For information, call Genesis at 460-7930.



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