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New pool wins in landslide

By Kevin Bottrell

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"Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes! We get a new pool!" Jennifer Burr shouted as she heard the news Tuesday night that a three-fourths of 1 percent city sales tax had passed with a huge margin, 74.2 percent "yes" to 25.8 percent "no."

Burr and other members of the Aquatics Committee backing the pool, Colby City Council members and other citizens were waiting at the Thomas County Courthouse Tuesday evening to get the final results of the special election. Earlier that day, the county clerk's office, which oversaw the election, had posted the results of advance voting: 154 for the tax

and 68 against. That was an encouraging sign for supporters of the measure, which was the only issue on this year's ballot.

But it wasn't until about 8 p.m. that the final results came in and the pool backers learned how much of a waterslide the election really was. The final tally, out of the 1,207 total votes: 896 in favor, 311 against.

The sales tax will go into effect on April 1 and run for 10 years, bringing the total sales tax at Colby retailers up to 7.3 percent. The city has estimated that the additional three-fourths of a cent will raise more than \$1 million per year, money which will go to pay off two projects.

The first will be to pay off the existing bonds for the new fire station, completed this summer. The city had planned to use property taxes to pay down the \$2.5 million in bonds in 20 years, but due to a public outcry over the proposed 8-mill increase during the city's budgeting process in August, the council decided to consider its options.

The sales tax, proposed by the Aquatics Committee at a earlier July meeting, will allow the city to pay down the bond in 10 years, officials said, saving the city \$462,300 in interest.

The pool committee chose Aquatic Design Consultants of Louisburg, which designed a facility that will include a "lazy river" float area, "zero depth" entry (no steps), slides and a competition pool with bleachers. The firm estimated the project, including engineering and land purchase, at \$5 million.

The sales tax was approved by the city council in late August and put up for a special election.

The debate captured the attention of



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
City Councilman Jim Brown cast his vote at the Colby Community Building on Tuesday. The new three-fourths of 1 percent sales tax passed with 74.23 percent of the vote.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby resident Steve Juenemann signed in with poll workers Janet Phelps (center) and Frances Ryan to get his ballot in Tuesday's special election. Although the elec-

tion was only for Colby residents, it was overseen by the Thomas County Clerk's office.

Drug find puts brakes on Greyhound stop in Colby

By Vera Sloan

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People may have a little trouble catching a Greyhound bus in Colby after employees at the Bosselman Travel Center found what appeared to be drugs in a restroom

last month.

In fact, unless the line starts another stop here, you may have to drive as far as Hays to catch a ride.

And while Greyhound says it will go back to stopping at the Colby McDonalds, the restaurant's manager says that it's not happen-

ing, and as far as she knows, it won't.

Bosselman officials terminated their agreement following an incident on Oct. 20.

"I was approached by Greyhound recently for permission for the bus to make a stop here," said manager Julie Jensen. "I asked my

supervisor about it, and he said to try it, so we gave them permission to stop here."

Jensen said that after the bus left the travel center that day, she checked the restrooms and found drugs. She said she called the police.

Police Chief Randy Jones said

his department received a call at 4:37 p.m. reporting drugs had been found in one of the restrooms after the bus pulled out, and that Bosselman was canceling its contract with the bus line.

"Officer (Ron) Alexander responded to the call and got rid of the drugs," he added. He said

the report didn't say what kind of drugs or how much.

Jensen said it was the second time the bus had stopped at the Bosselmans location — and the last.

Previously, Greyhound busses

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Characters on parade



JASMINE STEWART/Colby Free Press
Football players, gladiators and X-Men, all lead by Snow White, paraded through the Colby Grade School gym for the annual Halloween Parade on Monday. The parade had been scheduled for Friday, but had to be cancelled because of the school's snow day.

19-year-old Golden Plains grad opens soup-and-salad restaurant

By Andy Heintz

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Stephanie Dice is not your average, run-of-the-mill restaurant owner. The 19-year old graduated from Golden Plains High School in Rexford just last year.

But Dice seems to be taking it all in stride.

She opened her restaurant, Subs, Pizza, Soup, Salad, near Fourth and Franklin in downtown Colby, on Oct. 26. It's open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Dice sat down in one of the booths and talked about her new restaurant Tuesday afternoon. For being a newcomer to the restaurant business, she showed no signs of stress while talking about her first few weeks in the business.

She said her first week had been very busy, but the staff already has developed an everyday routine. "Every morning, we chop fresh deli meat, bread

and cheeses," she said.

The Golden Plains graduate said that a lot comes with owning a restaurant.

"Young people wanting to start their own business need to be strong-minded and they need to have a lot of faith in what they're doing," she said.

Stephanie's staff comprises friends and family members, but she said she will eventually be looking for extra help, maybe after the first of the year.

"I wanted to get in the swing of things first," Dice said. "I wanted to be comfortable with the way everything works before I hire anybody else."

The owner said she wants to bring more variety to the restaurant scene in Colby. The town was becoming too dominated by chain restaurants like McDonalds, Arbys and Burger King, she said.

"I want small towns to be like they were in old times, when it was all about community," Dice said. "I wanted to see more local restaurants in Colby

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S. Dice

Briefly

County offers flu vaccine

The Thomas County Health Department has received 100 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine. The department will have a clinic from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday at its office, 350 S. Range Ave. Finance Administrator Kasiah Rothchild said the department will also have the H1N1 vaccine available for children 6 months to 5 years, children 5 to 18 with chronic health problems and pregnant women. For information, call the flu line at 460-4599 or 460-4596.

Trivia night Thursday at library

The Pioneer Memorial Library plans a Trivia Pursuit Night at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. 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, crackers, popcorn, veggies and the like to munch on. A prize will be given for the winners. For questions, call 460-4470.

Transit bus' day to be brief Friday

The Thomas County transportation van will run only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. For information, call County Clerk Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

Singles' dance Friday in Colby

A singles and couples dance is planned from 7:30 to 11:30 Friday at the Casa de Burritos, 310 N. Franklin, in Colby. Granny Z will be the musician. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 855-2341.

Women to mark World Community

The Colby chapter of Church Women United plans a lunch and worship service for World Community Day at noon Friday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. This ecumenical movement brings together Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox women across the United States, said Pastor Carol Rahn.

World Community Day focuses on peace and justice in global society. For information, call Rahn at 462-6342.

Trinity youths selling greenery

The Trinity Lutheran Youth are selling fresh greens and accessories to arrive the week of Nov. 30, just in time for holiday decorating. Choose from among wreaths, garland centerpieces or a living tree. There is a new "Wintergreen Wreath" design this year. Orders can be shipped. Deadline is Sunday. To order or for information, call Raenette Martin at 462-3400 or Linda Pabst at 462-3497.

Thanksgiving dinner Sunday

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will have an old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinner from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the church basement. Members will serve turkey, ham and all the fixin's. Donations will

be accepted. For information, call Pat Erickson at 460-7167.

Seniors plan potluck Monday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Monday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible with an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.



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