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NEWS / Thursday, October 17, 2013

South County Leader 3

Glenpool residents share their thoughts on the failed sales tax ordinance

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According to the Tulsa County Election board, as of 8:18 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8, with all six precincts completely reporting, the city of Glenpool Special Election regarding a sales tax extension failed to pass. Out of 1,018 votes, 49.2 percent voted yes and 50.8 percent voted no. All of the revenue from the sales tax extension, had it passed, would have been used solely for a multi-plex sports facility. The Glenpool City Council passed a resolution Monday, Oct. 7, prior to the election that declared the revenue from the sales tax would have been "used solely for the purpose of

funding all costs associated with the design, construction and operation... of a regional multi-plex sports facility to be owned by the city of Glenpool and for no other purpose," the council agenda stated.

Glenpool residents shared their thoughts on the failed ordinance on the *Glenpool Post* Facebook Page.

Janice Koss summed up her thoughts in four words, "that is so sad."

Sandra Hilliard was upset that more people didn't vote. "You mean out of all the people who live in Glenpool only 1,017 others voted besides me. There are more kids than that enrolled in the elementary school."

Suzanne Howard was not shy in expressing her feel-

ings. "It is pathetic, I can't believe anyone would vote no. Talk about selfish. \$18 over the course of a year in 2018 and our kids could have had wonderful sports complexes and the community could have had actual business. And people wonder why everyone is moving to Jenks. Completely ridiculous that anyone would vote no. Apparently no one wants the community to grow so I guess we will move to a more up and coming town. Too many older no voters for Glenpool to prosper."

Tabitha McClanahan was optimistic about giving it another shot. "Perhaps they can try again soon and more people will get out and vote."

Gerald Whitworth ex-

pressed some confusion regarding a different proposed sports complex. "I would like to attend games at the sports complex that Glenpool borrowed money to build in 2008 if I can find where it was built."

Shasta Tudor said she understood the low voting numbers. "I can't blame people for not voting. The bond wasn't clear cut and there were too many unanswered questions. People were very confused."

Shari Wilder made it clear that she thought there wasn't enough information to vote properly and informed. "I didn't vote. There just wasn't enough info. Didn't hear about it til the signs started popping up and the vote yes signs had no website info. The vote no signs did but I

wanted to see the vote yes side also to know exactly what they were proposing. The vote no side said the sport complex wasn't in the bill which I thought was odd cause they could use the money on other projects. If they do bring it up again they need to get more info out on it."

Jacqueline Triplett-Lund responded to Whitworth's comment on the older sports complex, as well as a few others who mentioned it. "The sports complex previously discussed was a vote for higher property tax and was voted down. That is why you can't find it. This time it was on a sales tax through the county that is about to expire and we as a city we're going to pick it up. Seventy percent of our

sales tax come from non residents. So our surrounding communities were going to help pay for the sports complex. Now the county will probably extend that tax for county purposes and our sports complex will go somewhere probably by Oklahoma City."

Jenny Whisman-Watts blamed misinformation for the end result. "There were just too many wrong comments out there and not enough facts. People just didn't understand the importance of the yes vote." *Editors note: Favoritism was not shown in choosing which comments would be used. Comments about the actual election or the proposed sports facility were used. Any comments directed at a specific person were purposely left out. Visit the Glenpool Post Facebook Page to see all of the comments.*

SAVING, from 1

turning off a computer monitor makes that much difference. According to Taliaferro, one monitor might save a nickel, but with the increase in the number of computers each school has, enough extra energy is used

cost, for electricity, gas, water, sewer, obtained directly from bills, was \$6,099,468. The program savings were \$1,495,431 or 19.69 percent. For readers who like the big terms, the energy reduction impact is 77,052 MMBTU.

"Locally, we are trying to be as efficient as we can"

note saying, "good job." According to School Superintendent Dr. Kyle Wood, the school has saved money by taking some other steps. One of those steps was outsourcing custodial services. Then it was discovered that having one shipping address saved large sums of

square foot that would normally cost \$1.07 per year for temperature control, we are paying 73 cents." Wood added that geothermal has a history of working for a long time, and it was a technology developed in Oklahoma.

"It's local technology created by local folks," he said



enough extra energy is used to pay for someone's lunch. He illustrates that occasionally at a meeting handing everyone a nickel when they walk in the door. Someone is the lucky winner of all the nickels, and it's enough for lunch.

According to a report dated July 2013, expected energy costs, money which would be spent without energy management, for the physical year were \$7,594,899. Actual energy

be as efficient as we can, Taliaferro said recently while giving the *South County Leader* Bixby editor a tour. "I manage the energy systems and then physically go through the buildings. Thirty percent of energy costs are saved just by turning things off."

After checking each classroom, Taliaferro leaves a checklist for the teachers, but he tries to make the experience positive. If he finds nothing, he likes to leave a

dress saved large sums of money.

"We are now paying for delivery to one place," said Wood. That includes having a central freezer.

"Before we were charged on food services, because we were paying for delivery to every site."

Geothermal heating and cooling was expensive to install he continued but has been worth every penny.

"Annual operation costs are less than half. Per

ated by local folks, he said.

The school system also purchased a hybrid car which saves money when staff has meetings out of town. "And they won't drive it as fast, because it won't go as fast," he said.

The new school facilities, and the ones in progress, will be more energy efficient because they are built to be.

New construction in the school is working to save energy and prevent mold.



JO-ANN JENNINGS/SOUTH COUNTY LEADER Kelly Taliaferro, AKA, Captain Kilowatt, is a retired school administrator. Now he checks every school building every night to make certain nothing is left on or leaking. This energy-saving program saved the Bixby School District \$1,495,431 last fiscal year.



G.B. POINDEXTER/NEIGHBOR NEWS

DEMOLITION — The library's property is located at 210 W. Main St., formerly the location of Mill Creek Lumber. Plans are for current structures on the property to be demolished.

FUTURE, from 1

someday in the next five or so years to identify funding that we could build a library the citizens of Jenks deserve," he said.

Shaffer said he expects the location to be a "standard library," but built and designed for the 21st Century.

"Libraries are moving from being book warehouses to being more places where people convene, collaborate and create," he said.

Currently Jenks has a library situated next to Jenks City Hall at 523 W.

B St.

"The library we have in Jenks is very small," Shaffer said, "and the city of Jenks has grown tremendously since that library was first opened, or even when the last addition was done."

According to TCCL reports the library moved into its current location in 1975. The library received an additional 2,000 square feet in 1992 and a renovation in 2003.

When funding is available, plans are for the current building to close and move, both books and staff, into the Main Street location, accord-

ing to Gail Morris, TCCL financial director.

"The property of the current library would then likely undergo some type of property transfer with the city of Jenks, as they own adjacent property, or would be sold," Shaffer said.

The new Main Street property was formerly home to Mill Creek Lumber, which relocated in December 2012.

According to Morris the property falls at just under four acres in size.

Morris said when funding is available the current buildings on the property will be demolished and a

new library structure will be built, though it will not take up the entire property.

The remainder of the property will be developed under the management of TCCL, Morris said.

She said the library system does not yet have specific plans for development but would like to see businesses which would complement the library, such as coffee shops.

"That is just an idea," Morris said. "We have not yet made decisions regarding the issue."

For more information, visit TulsaLibrary.org.

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