

COUNCIL:

COUNCIL CLASHES ON MEASURE NOT BEING SENT TO POPULAR VOTE.

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It also isn't enough to finance the two upcoming projects that catalyzed Monday's debate.

The utility authority is planning to begin a \$40 million renovation of the water system in town, which Bartley described during the meeting as "absolutely necessary."

The second project would be to construct a new power plant in town, which will generate revenue from the Grand River Dam Authority.

The plant would cost about \$70 million, City Attorney John Dorman said. This project is responsible for the time limit.

The argument wasn't about whether to increase the debt, but how to go about it.

The contract states that the trust, which is a separate entity from the city, can borrow more than 10 percent for four

specific exceptions, such as funding ongoing projects that become more expensive than expected.

Anytime the trust wants to incur more debt, if the reasons don't fall under the exclusive umbrella, a popular vote is required, according to the contract.

A resolution to add a fifth exception was the topic of heated debate Monday.

The fifth exception would allow the board to bypass a popular vote if it approves a debt increase by a supermajor-

ity, or 60 percent.

Going around the popular vote would ease the process, making it more efficient and fast, Bartley said after the meeting. It also saves money.

"Voting is expensive," he said.

The resolution's failure Monday night does not mark the end of the discussion, he said after meeting.

"It will be rehashed," he said. "It will be coming back for a vote."

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ELVIS:

IGUANA NEARLY REACHES 20 YEARS OF AGE.

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Elvis, who was named after the "King of Rock 'n' Roll," was known for having quite the personality.

Despite meeting thousands of people over the course of his lifetime, Elvis never bit or harmed a single student, Harmon said.

"He was a fantastic and most expressive and sweet iguana," said Aimee Buzzard, a zoology senior.

As an iguana, Elvis was able to change the color of his skin depending on the temperature outdoors. On certain days he would even turn bright orange.

One of Elvis' favorite activities was swimming, Harmon said.

"Elvis was obsessed with his little pool. He would go swimming at least one hour a day," she said.

His favorite place to relax was the black granite in front of the library fountain, where he could people-watch and occasionally try to sneak a swim in the fountain, Harmon said.

No matter where he was, Elvis always looked forward to greeting all of the OSU students in the zoology department, she said.

During school breaks, Elvis' caretakers noticed a slight depression come over Elvis.

"Like clockwork, the first day of school perked him right up," Harmon said.

The mascot has quite the reputation in the zoology department. He even has a Facebook page for himself to keep his fan base updated on his whereabouts and interesting iguana facts.

"He knew he was a handsome iguana," Buzzard said.

When Elvis was born, he was a mere 6 inches, and ended up growing to be nearly 5 feet at his time of death.

Elvis lived to be 19 1/2 years old, which is a remarkable age for an iguana in captivity, Harmon said.

"Captive animals live to be only five to seven years due to kidney failure because people don't know exactly how to feed them," French said.

Elvis made many appearances around Stillwater during his lifetime. He was a part of the grand opening of the Wondertorium and was always involved with the National Lab Day hosted by OSU.

He even helped raise funds for the OSU Foundation. His caretakers would give him non-toxic paint and let him paint on canvases, which were then sold to raise money for the Elvis and Friends Zoology Animal Care Fund.

For now, Elvis' home will remain the way it has been as people mourn the loss of a friend, a listener and a family member.

"We do need time to process before we think about replacing him with another animal," Harmon said.

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Organization pushes for sustainability

Net Impact hosts semester-long sustainability event.

By ALEX STROHM Staff Reporter

A plastic bottle rolls across the lawn when a student bends down to pick up the trash and recycle it — taking one step to make a big impact.

Net Impact, an international nonprofit organization, is hosting a semester-long contest called Small Steps, Big Wins on college campuses across the nation. Oklahoma State University is participating in the challenge through its campus chapter, said Shelby Hansen, the president of OSU's Net Impact chapter.

Although OSU is in third place, there is still time to win.

In order to gain points, students create an account at smallsteps.netimpact.org and keep a log of actions they do

throughout the day. Each action is a positive step toward sustainability. Whether it's taking a shorter shower, recycling bottles or turning off excess lights, students have the ability to make a difference and even earn prizes like gift cards for racking up the most points.

Hansen said she believes this challenge is a great way for OSU to be represented as an environmentally conscious community.

"Students are going to benefit from this, and I truly believe that," she said. "It's help on help on help with no cost to you."

Students are not only competing for OSU, but they are also helping nonprofit causes of their choice.

As more actions are completed, money is donated to the nonprofits to which students wish to give, such as the American Red Cross and World Wildlife Fund.

So far, OSU has raised about \$415 and reduced about 1,450 pounds of CO2,

collectively.

Hansen said she believes the more students who are involved and truly participating, the better OSU will be overall.

"Many people don't know that Net Impact was providing the only clean water source for the first four weeks of school," Hansen said.

She said the chapter continues to create awareness on campus.

Shawn Simic, the vice president of communications for OSU's Net Impact chapter, said the organization helps students have an outlet for their ideas in how to make OSU more sustainable.

"The atmosphere is close to an idea incubator for how we can make the campus more sustainable," Simic said. "The real job of the executives is helping facilitate that and make these ideas grow."

Simic said the impact through sustainable resources is unlimited. He described how he became involved in Net Impact and the experience and opportunities he has

received.

"The one thing that really drew me to it was the fact that I wasn't going to sit and listen to a speaker," Simic said. "It gave me the opportunity to truly impact the campus and community and be part of something bigger."

As the Small Steps, Big Wins challenge continues throughout the semester, Hansen and Simic agreed that students have every chance to make a difference.

"Small Steps, Big Wins is a social media sustainability," Hansen said. "You get to see the impact you are having on the world and the impact you are having on yourself."

Net Impact meets once a month on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Spears School of Business Room 234.

To connect with the chapter, follow it on Twitter @NetImpact_OSU and join OSU's team for the Small Steps, Big Wins challenge at smallsteps.netimpact.org.

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New student organization donates food to charities

By LOGAN SMITH Staff Reporter

A recently approved student organization at Oklahoma State University is providing for the local Stillwater community through a unique program.

Originally started three years ago by Brentley Lindsey, Cowboy Kitchen delivered leftover foods solely to Mission of Hope, which is a local homeless shelter that serves Stillwater families in need.

With progress being made within the organization, Mission of Hope found itself having leftovers that would go to waste.

In response, Cowboy Kitchen expanded its program and now donates to The Salvation Army as well.

The Salvation Army helps to benefit Cowboy Kitchen by supplying the local Stillwater families first before taking the leftovers to surrounding cities.

comes from Oklahoma State University Dining Services and home football games because of leftovers from buffets.

Recently, local businesses such as Old School Bagel Cafe and Panera Bread have also provided donations.

The program is making plans to ask more local restaurants to participate in the near future, Andrew Cole said.

Cole is now the Cowboy Kitchen director after taking over for Lindsey.

The Student Government Association recently approved Cowboy Kitchen as an official student organization.

Cole said he encourages students to get involved and can now contact him through the SGA office.

OSU students can also contact Cole by phone 405-401-1034 or email at andrew.f.cole@okstate.edu.

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UNITED:

WELLNESS WALK EARNED ABOUT \$4,000 FOR UNITED WAY.

From Page 1

About \$1,000 was raised Saturday from parking for the Kansas State football game, Carter said.

Carter said she encour-

ages students who would like to support the OSU campaign should attend these fundraising events, or pick up a pledge card at the Stillwater United Way office to make a donation.

For more information on the OSU United Way campaign, visit unitedway.okstate.edu.

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