

Girl Scout carnival is big success, in spite of mishap on Saturday

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Four Colby youth involved in organizing the first-ever Girl Scout Cookie Carnival on Sunday were happy with the turn out in spite of a close call on Saturday that could have ended the event before it had a chance to happen.



H. Morgan



T. Diederich

Heather Morgan, Nicol Frahm, Tasha Diederich, and Chandi Reed, who planned the carnival as their Gold Award project, said the carnival was a huge undertaking and needed the help of the entire community.

As the final preparations were being made, said Jo Frahm, one of the leaders, her daughter, Nicol, drove to Chandi's house to gather up the games and other miscellaneous items for the carnival. After loading up and leaving Chandi's house on the corner of Summit and Mission Streets, another vehicle, driven by Charlotte Tessaro, 65, collided with Nicol's Ford Taurus at the unmarked intersection. The two young girls were taken by Thomas County ambulance to Citizens Medical Center where they were treated and

released later in the afternoon with minor bruises and scrapes.

"When Heather heard about the accident," Frahm said, "she jumped right in and took over the set up of the carnival."

"The accident was an unfortunate mishap that thankfully turned out okay," Jo said. "As soon as the neighbors heard the crash, many came running out to help and offer blankets. Nicol, Chandi and the other lady, Charlotte, were all okay thanks to the many good Samaritans who helped."

Even though the accident was a harrowing experience for the four girls, Jo said, the carnival was truly a success in promoting family and community, along with raising awareness of girl scouting and the cookie sales that begin on Friday.

"We've been planning this carnival for three years," said Diederich. "It was fun and a lot of hard work and we're all glad it went over so well."

Nicol said that the idea was to offer an event that families would enjoy and everything at the carnival was free. The concessions, which included nachos, rice krispie treats, brownies and pop,



N. Frahm



C. Reed



Troy Koon was one of many who took part in the cookie eating contest. The participants were asked to eat 10 cookies and the one who ate them the quickest was the winner.



Maura Hansen took 20 minutes to build two rabbits in the cookie building contest. She used cookies, licorice, skittles and more to create her masterpiece.

and all the games didn't cost anything. The only admission price was a can of food that would be donated to Genesis of Thomas County.

"The carnival took a lot of time, but it was worth it to see people having a good time," Heather said. "I want to thank all who helped us and a special thanks to Carol Morgan, Jo Frahm, Kim Diederich and Tina Hansen, our troop leaders."

Chandi said, she too enjoyed seeing the kids have so much fun.

"We couldn't have done this carnival without the donations of so many," Chandi said. "I didn't realize how much help we would get."

What made this carnival different than most was that it was not done as a fundraising event for anyone. "It was strictly for the enjoyment of the community," said Nicol. The two most popular games at Sunday's carnival, Nicol said, included the cookie eating and cookie building events because the kids were involved in groups working

together. The four scouts wanted to thank the following people and businesses for their help to include Sonic, McDonalds, Dairy Queen, Subway, Gem Lions Club, Brewster Lions Club, Rotary, Paul Steele, First National Bank, RSVP, Colby Girl Scout Troops, Montanta Mikes, Pepsi and Colby Bowl. Others were Sunflower Bank, LeRoys Printing, F&M Bank, Colby Service Unit of the Girl Scouts, ABC Cookie Bakery, Morgan Construction, Sunflower Girl Scout Council, Mrs.

Ward Dumler, Brette Pfeifer, Bruce Hansen, People's State Bank, Gold Bank, Billy Jones with National Guard Armory, Colby High School Service Club, Dillons, Hi Plains Coop, Farm and Ranch and the Colby Free Press.

Also included were KSNK, KLBV, KXXX-KQLS, KCGR, Colby Calendar, KTCC, Kathy Kersenbrock Ostermeyer, Colby Theatre and Colby Cinema and Arcade, Farmers Equity Coop, Farm Credit, Linda Taylor, BankWest and Ramada.

Urinary infection guidelines reportedly not followed

CHICAGO (AP)—Doctors may be inflating the costs of treating urinary tract infections — and possibly promoting resistance to antibiotics — by ignoring treatment guidelines, according to a new study.

The study, published in Monday's Archives of Internal Medicine, suggests that doctors are driven by drug company promotions to use newer, more expensive drugs.

"If every drug can work and one drug is promoted more heavily, doctors tend to prescribe the one they've heard more about," said co-author Dr. Elbert Huang, of the University of Chicago.

Researchers from the University of Chicago and Stanford University studied 1,478 cases of patients with urinary tract infections nationwide from 1989 to 1998.

They found that only 24 percent of the patients' prescriptions were written for antibiotics recommended by the Infectious Disease Society of America, down from 48 percent a decade earlier.

Huang said some of the drugs being prescribed are many times more expensive than the recommended medications.

The guidelines call for using trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole,

which costs \$1.79 for a 10-day course. But 30 percent of the cases studied involved prescriptions of nitrofurantoin, such as Macro-dantin, which cost \$20.34 for the same period. Doctors prescribed a third class, fluoroquinolones such as Cipro, to 29 percent of patients, at a cost of \$70.98 for 10 days. Huang said there also is a concern — though "it's very theoretical" — that having several classes of antibiotics in use at the same time might cause infections to become resistant to all those classes at once.

He said the guidelines were established with the idea that the recom-

mended drugs could be used until they were ineffective, and that another class would then take their place.

Dr. Thomas Hooton, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Washington in Seattle who was not involved in the study, said he doesn't fault doctors for choosing alternatives.

"I do it myself," said Hooton. "It really depends on one's point of view. Some say, 'Resistance (to trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole) is increasing, and I want to use the antibiotic that is most likely to succeed.'"

He said West Coast doctors are especially justified in prescribing alternatives because one-third of urinary tract infections there are resistant to the recommended antibiotic. That compares to just 7 percent on the East Coast and 14 percent in the Midwest.

"The debate is, what level of resistance is too high and when do you go to the other antibiotic?" Hooton said.

Deadline approaches for nursing applications

For those interested in the nursing profession, now is the time to apply for admission to the Colby Community College program, said program officials.

"The projected and current demand for nurses promises to bring about competitive salaries, a variety of work environments and job placement possibilities around the world," said Tracy Stark, director of nursing.

The application deadline for admission to the licensed practical nursing program and the registered nursing program is April 1, 2002.

"Colby College offers a comprehensive educational program in nursing," Stark said.

In addition, the satellite campus at

Norton offers the entire curriculum for the licensed practical nursing program. This program can begin after high school graduation and may be completed in one calendar year. At the end of the first year, students have the choice of continuing in the program or exiting. Those who stop after the first year will be eligible to write for the Practical Nurse licensing exam. Re-entry into the program can be sought at any future date. For students who desire a two year plan of study, the second year prepares the student to take the Registered Nurse licensing exam and to receive an Associate Degree in Nursing, she said.

For information, call Stark at (785) 462-3984, ext. 322.

Document ordering data destruction raises legal questions, senator says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The timing of a memo directing the destruction of documents by an accounting firm raises the serious possibility of obstruction of justice, says the chairman of a Senate committee investigating Enron Corp.'s collapse.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said Sunday he was troubled that a lawyer at Arthur Andersen & Co., Enron's accounting firm, in a memo dated Oct. 12, 2001, directed the destruction of Enron documents at a time when Andersen and executives of the energy giant "knew that Enron was in real trouble and the roof was about to collapse on them."

The memo was uncovered by congressional investigators and first reported by Time magazine.

Andersen, one of the nation's biggest and most influential accounting firms, disclosed last week that some documents related to Houston-based Enron had been destroyed, but the company gave no additional details.

On Sunday, after the memo became a subject on the television talk shows, Andersen released a statement acknowledging "there were internal communications that raise questions" in connection with the Enron documents.

"Andersen is committed to getting the facts and taking appropriate actions in the Enron matter," the statement said, adding that "it would be inappropriate to comment further."

Lieberman, whose Governmental Affairs Committee plans the first Senate hearings into the Enron matter Jan. 24, said that at the time of the Andersen memo, executives of both companies knew "a corporate scandal" was brewing.

"So this kind of memo raises very serious questions about whether obstruction of justice occurred," Lieberman said on CBS' "Face the Nation." Four days after the memo, Enron disclosed a third-quarter loss of \$618 million and a week later the Securities and Exchange Commission began an investigation into Enron's use of partnerships to mask losses.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Governmental Affairs investigations subcommittee, said his panel has issued 51 subpoenas and plans to focus on the "deceptive practices" of Enron, and the failure of its auditors to raise flags about the energy company's business practices and of its directors as corporate watchdog.

"Managers (at Enron) lined their pockets with hundreds of millions of dollars of stock sales at the same time a corporation was going under, and the stockholders and employees were holding the bag," Levin said on ABC's "This Week."

Enron filed for bankruptcy on Dec. 2. By then its stock had plummeted from about \$83 a share a year earlier to less than \$1 a share. In recent years many Enron executives sold their stock, though some continued to hold large amounts, worth about \$1.1 billion.

Meanwhile, two top Cabinet officers who were contacted by Enron chief executive Kenneth Lay last fall as the company was struggling to keep its credit rating from falling said they never viewed the matter seriously enough to discuss it with President Bush.

Commerce Secretary Dan Evans said that in a telephone call on Oct. 29, Lay "reached out to me" in search of ways the government might help Enron head off a possible downgrading of its credit rating. "I considered it and said, 'Thank you for the call,'" Evans said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The next day Enron's credit rating, in fact, was downgraded.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill also said Lay called him about the same time, on Oct. 28, but "asked for nothing."

He said Lay gave him a "heads up" that Enron was being scrutinized by ratings agencies and that his company's situation was similar to one that had faced another company in which the Federal Reserve took action to help. Lieberman said that so far there

is no evidence that the Bush administration "was somehow involved in wrongdoing in the collapse of Enron" and he saw no reason for a special counsel to investigate any connection, as some have suggested.

"There's absolutely no evidence that the Bush administration in any way did anything improper," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said on CBS.

But McCain and Lieberman said Enron's vast campaign contributions to Bush as well as to members of Congress raises questions.

"We're all tainted by the millions and millions of dollars that were contributed by Enron executives, which... creates the appearance of impropriety," said McCain, a longtime voice for campaign finance reform.

Since 1990, Enron and its employees contributed \$5.77 million to political campaigns, about three-fourths of it to Republican candidates. About half of the money was spent in the 2000 election, with Bush a major beneficiary. McCain said he received \$9,500 from Enron during two Senate campaigns and Lieberman said he received \$1,000 in 1994.

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