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JASMINE STEWART / Colby Free Press

Lions Club member Gary Sloan (above), helping with the Colby Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby on Saturday, placed race cars on the track as Eric Schuette watched. Sloan and Matthew Barnum (below) then released the lever to start the race at the annual Scouting event.

Scouts busy at age 99

By Marj Brown

Colby Free Press

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The Boy Scouts of America will celebrate their 99th birthday Sunday, and Colby Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts plan to wear their uniforms to church.

The Scouts also will wear their uniforms to school on Wednesday and Scout leaders will wear their uniforms to work.

Scoutmaster for Troop 140 is Mike Larmer and the Cubmaster for Pack 140 is Gary Schuette. Alan Sager leads Troop 141 and Andy Rose is Scoutmaster of Troop 89.

Boy Scout Week will be celebrated from Sunday through next Saturday, Feb. 14.

"The celebration actually started last Saturday when the Cub Scouts held a Pinewood Derby in the Sacred Heart Gym," Schuette said. The Cubs built little wooden cars, only 7 inches long and about 2 inches high, to race on fixed-lane tracks. It's a Cub Scout tradition that dates back many years.

From Friday, Feb. 20, to Sunday, Feb. 22, the Boy Scouts will join other area Scouts in St. Frances for a Klondike Derby, Schuette said.

"This is a camping weekend," he said, "but if the weather doesn't cooperate, there's a



building where they can go for shelter.

"The boys will bring their dog sleds filled with their camping equipment and while there, they will work as teams to complete different tasks such as fire starting and tent building."

As any parent who has had a

son in Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts knows, learning to take care of themselves and others in wilderness situations, to work with and get along with others and learning respect for God and Country is, and has always been, an important part of Boy Scout training and education.

Thieves take gear from college offices

Someone got into two buildings at Colby Community College overnight and made off with a pile of television and electronic equipment.

College spokesman Debbie Schwanke said no sign of forced entry or damage to any doors was reported. Police Chief Randy Jones said officers were trying to follow up on what few leads they have.

The thefts were at the Health Sciences building, where two video projectors used in "smart" classrooms were missing, and at the television department in Ferguson Hall. There, the thieves made off with small "flip" video cameras, she said, but left more expensive cameras that might be harder to sell or use at home.

Also missing were a 22-inch computer monitor, three iPod music players, a BluRay disk player and other items. Schwanke said the thieves left comput-

ers and other expensive equipment in the room.

While in Ferguson, she said, they took a 37-inch television, some cash from a fund raiser and an autographed baseball from the office of Ryan Carter, the school's baseball coach.

The college is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to arrest of the criminals, Schwanke said. Anyone with information should call the Colby Police at 460-4460.

Officers planned to meet Thursday night with custodians and others who had been in the building Tuesday night to take statements. Jones said they are following the normal process in such an investigation, hoping to turn up some leads.

"Hopefully, anybody who has some information or sees any of these items will give us a call," the chief said.

New building going up for Farm Credit on Range

Range site to consolidate two old offices

By Andy Heintz

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A new office for farm Farm Credit of Western Kansas at the corner of College Drive and Range Avenue should be done by fall.

President Larry Maxwell said the building is still in its early stages.

"The dirt work is done and most of the concrete work is done," he said.

The firm had to decide if it wanted to expand the two buildings it had or build a new one, Maxwell said. It turned out to be a lot more efficient to build a new building, he said.

The credit operation wound up with two buildings about seven blocks apart, at 1055 S. Range and 375 S. Range, after the 2001 merger of Federal Land Bank and the Production Credit Association, said Maxwell.

The new building will be bigger than the two old ones, he said, he said the two existing buildings will be sold.

"The building will be 14,000 square feet," he said.

The parking at the new building will be a lot more convenient for customers — especially for farmers with trailers hitched to the back of their rigs — said Maxwell.

The lots at the current buildings make parking a struggle for people with trailers, he said. He said they



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

A Woofter Construction employee worked on building the new Farm Credit Building at the northwest corner of Range Avenue and College Drive.

have trouble turning around.

Maxwell said he will be happy to have all of his staff in the same building.

Woofter Construction is doing the job, he said.

"I'm pleased to be working with a local contractor," said Maxwell.

Congress gives old televisions four-month reprieve from digital

WASHINGTON (AP) — After weeks of debate, Congress voted late Wednesday to give consumers four more months to prepare for the transition from analog to digital television.

The House voted 264-158 to postpone the shutdown of analog signals to June 12, to address growing concerns that too many Americans won't be ready by the

Feb. 17 deadline that Congress set three years ago. The Senate passed the measure unanimously last week and the bill now heads to President Barack Obama.

The change is required because digital signals are more efficient than the old ones. Ending analog broadcasts will free up space in the nation's airwaves for commercial wireless services and emergency-

response networks.

The delay is a victory for the Obama administration and Democrats in Congress, who maintain that the previous administration mismanaged efforts to ensure that all consumers — particularly poor, rural and minority Americans — will be prepared for the switchover.

The Nielsen Co. estimates that more

than 6.5 million U.S. households that rely on analog sets to pick up over-the-air broadcast signals still are not ready. People who subscribe to cable or satellite television or have a newer set with a digital tuner will not be affected.

"The passage of this bipartisan legislation means that millions of Americans will have the time they need to prepare

for the conversion," said White House spokeswoman Amy Brundage said.

Wednesday's vote came one week after House Republicans blocked the bill under a special fast-track procedure that required two-thirds support to pass. This time, the bill passed the House under a regular floor vote, which requires just a majority.

Briefly

Sealant, fluoride clinic for kids

Students in the dental hygienist program at Colby Community College will hold a sealant and fluoride clinic for kids 6 to 12 from 1-5 p.m. Friday in the Health Sciences Building on campus. Cost is \$7 per tooth for the first four teeth, with no charge for additional teeth. Parents can make an appointment by calling (785) 460-5438, but walk-ins are welcome.

Music Boosters to sell soup

The Colby Music Boosters plan a soup supper during the Colby-Oberlin basketball games from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday at the Community Building. Home-

made chili, chicken noodle soup, desserts and drinks will be available for a donation.

Cancer society offers daffodils

Once again, the American Cancer Society selling flowers for its Daffodil Days fund raiser. Colby project leader Kim Barnett will be taking orders at home, 462-2997, at work, 460-2761, or by e-mail at umcolby@st-tel.net. Prices include a flower bunch for \$10, a "sunshine bouquet" for \$15, a bear and a bunch for \$25, a half case (25 bunches) for \$225 and a full case (50 bunches) for \$350. Deadline for ordering is March 1.

Sign up now for food package

Registration is open for the Prairie Land Food Program until Friday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth. Delivery will be Saturday, Feb. 21, at

the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call Gene Griffen at 460-3579.

Learn 'concealed carry' rules

Colby Community College, working with Profire professional instructors, will offer Kansas "concealed-carry" handgun training 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Student Union. For information, call Barry Kaaz at (785) 460-5429.

Cheerleaders back Red Cross

The Colby High School cheerleaders plan a soup and chili feed as a fund raiser for the Thomas County Red Cross from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Colby United Methodist Church. A donation also covers desserts and tea. Displays will highlight chapter volunteers' efforts. For information, call manager Sherry White at 462-7161.

Remote-control racing is back

Racing for Christ with remote control cars will resume at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Colby First Baptist Church. Races are held the second and fourth Sundays of each month. A remote control car will be given away in April. Contenders need to be present to learn how to win. Anyone 10 years and up is invited. For questions, call Kent Higerd at 462-3440.

Commodity handout Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1-2 p.m. Monday at the Retired Senior Volunteers Program office in Fike Park. Eligibility is based on federal income guidelines. Those not able to attend may send a signed permission slip. Commodities include peaches, rolled oats, peanut butter, egg noodles, canned beef, apple juice, raisins and beans. For questions, call 462-6744.

