



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Aaron Higerd (above) waited to start a 15-minute remote-control car race in the basement of the First Baptist Church on Sunday. Henry Schuette (left) and Eric Schuette (below) used a little "body English" as they drove their remote-control cars during a race.

Races keep kids hopping

Church sponsoring regular car sessions

By Andy Heintz

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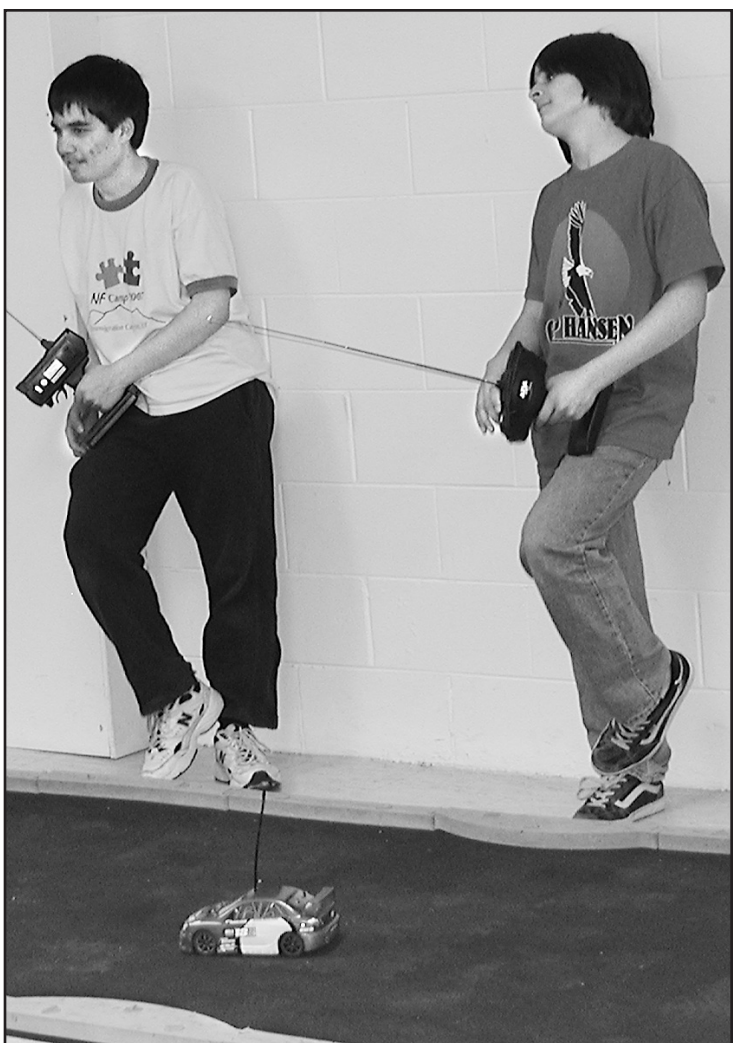
Cars crashed into rails and occasionally into each other Sunday afternoon, but nobody got a ticket. In fact there were no police officers anywhere in sight.

These cars were being driven not on Colby's streets, but around scale tracks set up in the basement of the Colby First Baptist Church.

Remote-control "Racing for Christ" began its third season at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, said sponsor Kent Higerd. The program draws drivers 10 and older to race remote-controlled cars in a Christian atmosphere, he said. The sessions include religious education and races.

Higerd said the program isn't just for members of the church. Everyone 10 and older is welcome. The sessions start at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of every month except for holidays. They end no later than 5 p.m., said Higerd.

Six people raced cars at the church on Sunday: Henry Schuette, Colby Minchow, Aaron Higerd, Eric Schuette, Andy Heintz and Matt Minchow. The six were split into groups of three, and both had in three five-minute races. To end the day, all



six, except for Heintz, who was replaced by Kent Higerd, had a 15-minute race. A computer records how many laps each car does in each race.

In the final event, cars sped around track as their controllers tried to rack up laps. Cars crashed into each other and ramed into the rails. The cars left the rails, which sometimes came apart, leaving the track looking like a road that had been neglected for decades.

Cars would jump the rails and end up on the tile floor, where they would sit until the driver or some benevolent friend placed

them back on the tracks.

All the participants, except one hopeless and suddenly humble journalist, really knew how to drive the cars as they zigged and zagged around the curves.

The cars used in the races are 1/18th size, said Higerd. He said he bought them from Tower Hobby, a store based in Illinois. Higerd said he paid about \$150 per car. He got the tracks from RCP Tracks, which specializes in making race tracks for remote-controlled cars.

Anyone interested in participating at future events can call Higerd at 462-3440.

Sebelius rumors keep Capitol abuzz

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson said today that he's "ready to serve" if Gov. Kathleen Sebelius leaves for a job in Washington, but he still won't run for governor in 2010.

The Statehouse continued to buzz with speculation about Sebelius. A senior official in President Barack Obama's administration has said she's a top candidate, maybe the top candidate, for the job of secretary of health and human services.

Parkinson said he and Sebelius have discussed the possibility but added that he has no information about her chances beyond what he's read. Sebelius' departure would elevate Parkinson to governor automatically.

"I really am not going to comment on what the governor may or may not do," Parkinson said dur-

ing an interview, "but I do want to say this: The primary job of a lieutenant governor is to be ready to be governor, if that situation ever arises, and I want folks to know that, if it's this week or next week, or under any circumstances, I'm ready to serve."

Sebelius is a contender for the health job because Obama's first pick, former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, withdrew over questions about his failure to pay all his taxes in recent years.

Last month, before Daschle withdrew, Parkinson announced that he does not plan to run for governor in 2010. Many Democrats had considered him the party's leading candidate, but Parkinson said he wants to return to private business.

He said Monday that he won't reconsider, even if he becomes governor.

Sebelius is serving her second term, and the state constitution

prevents her from running again. Sen. Sam Brownback and Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh are running as Republicans.

Parkinson is a lawyer, but his most recent financial disclosure form, filed with the state in April, shows that he and his wife are half-owners of two Olathe nursing homes and officers of an elder care company, Ad Astra Development.

"I look forward to returning to the private sector," Parkinson said. "It's a decision I didn't make lightly, and it's a decision I won't change."

Rep. Bob Grant, a Cherokee Democrat, said he couldn't resist raising the issue while his legislative pages posed for a picture Monday with the governor.

"I even asked her, 'When are you going to DC?'" Grant said afterward. "She said, 'See you later.'"

Store moving next door

Inlow Furniture hires student crew

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press

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Inlow Furniture is moving ...

but not far.

The store, which has been at 455 N. Franklin, is moving next door to 445 N. Franklin, the building which most recently housed Buffalo Creek, a women's clothing store.

The city helped Embark Healthcare, a firm which stores medical records for people, buy the original Inlow building. The company hopes to occupy the former furniture store after remodeling, probably sometime before summer.

"We are excited about staying downtown," said store owner Donna Inlow, "and really excited that Embark will be doing business downtown."

With the help of a crew of college students, the Inlows are working early and late to complete the move. They expect to be moved by next Sunday, she said.

The store plans to keep most of the lines they have now, Inlow said, and will enlarge on some. Plans are underway to increase the design services by adding people to paint, hang wallpaper and in-



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Helping with the more fragile end of the short-distance move for Inlow Furniture, Kelsie Johnson, a Colby Community College student, cautiously placed fine china into a cabinet Thursday.

stall floor coverings.

Inlow said she plans to renovate the upstairs, but for now, space is limited. The store will be having a "garage sale" with garage sale prices, starting today and running to closing time Friday, she said.

Inlow said she believes in Colby's business community, adding that last year was her best ever.

"We don't just sit here and count money," she said. "It's hard work, but we're not afraid of hard work."

Big program aims to help merchants

By Vera Sloan

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At 6 foot, 3 inches, and tipping the scale at well over 300 pounds, John Dehn is a big man.

He calls himself corporate director of new media resources and sales for Nor'West Newspapers and the Colby Free Press, and that's a big title. His big

plan is to help businesses in northwest Kansas make money by using big, new technology.

Dehn (that's pronounced Den) has the credentials to do that. His background is in Internet technology. He was hired by Nor'West, which operates the Free Press and five other area newspapers, in June

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Briefly

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

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. Tuesday 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.

Catholic speaker talks Tuesday

Matthew Kelley, a *New York Times* best-selling author and motivational speaker, will talk on "Is Catholicism Still Relevant?" at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Colby High School auditorium. He is in town on a parish mission with Sacred Heart Catholic Church. There is,

no fee, but an offering will be taken. For information, call the church at 462-2179.

Eat soup, watch Trojans play

The Colby Community College Farm Bureau Club plans a soup supper at the Trojans-Dodge City basketball game at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Community Building. They will be serving chili, chicken-noodle and potato soup for a donation. For questions, call President Shea Henderson at (308) 760-5459 or sponsor Marcy Ward at (785) 460-5465.

Sorority selling soup at game

Kappa Upsilon sorority will hold a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, before the Colby Eagles-Dodge City basketball game at the Community

Building. They will be serving chili, chicken-noodle and vegetable soup with homemade cinnamon rolls and cookies, to benefit Puddle Duck Preschool.

Library offers books for sale

Pioneer Memorial Library will hold its annual Book Lovers sale in the basement from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Come and browse and buy from a wide selection of used books.

Dance team to help parents

The Colby High Dance Team wants to babysit for you on Valentine's Day. Bring your child, age 3 to 10, to the Community Building from 6 to 9 p.m. for open gym, games, snacks and movies. Cost is \$10 per child. The money may be used for a trip to the Liberty Bowl in Memphis next year. For informa-

tion, call coach Denita Rodgers at 460-1325.

Church plans Valentine dinner

The Colby Berean Church plans a Valentine Banquet from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the Heartland Christian School, 1995 W. Fourth St. Babysitting is available at the church, 1000 S. Franklin, for a donation. Tickets, including dinner and entertainment, are available for \$12 at 890 S. Range, or call 460-0550 or 462-7219 before Thursday.

Free tax help at library

Free tax help will be available for with low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays through April at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The program is sponsored by American Association of Retired Persons. Call 460-2645 for information.

