



Happy Birthday America!



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COLBY FREE PRESS

Land of the free, home of the brave

Revolutionary War has local ties

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The motto is “God, Home and Country.”

And to the Daughters of the American Revolution, July 4 is about more than fireworks and hot dogs.

Sharee Fromholtz, of Colby, is a member of the John Athey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Members must trace their lineage back to an ancestor who fought in the Revolutionary War.

The club’s purpose is to make sure people do not forget the American Revolution and what it stands for. They also work on conservation and historic preservation.

“People need to remember the real reason for the holiday,” she said.

Fromholtz grew up in Oakley, but that is not where her interest in the group developed.

As a child, her family lived in Trinidad, Colo.. While there, she saw a statue of a mother and child. The statues were commissioned by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution to mark the Santa Fe Trail.

Fromholtz was driven to find out more.

Her father, Mervin Zabriskie Slawson, served in World War II as an instructor at a Colorado camp. While he was at war, Fromholtz lived with her grandparents.

When the chapter held a meeting a few years ago in Colby, she decided to see if she could come up with the necessary ancestry. In her case, the ancestor turned up on her father’s side.

Fromholtz’ ancestor is Christian Zabriskie. Zabriskie was born in September 1754, in Paramus, N.J., and later served in the Pennsylvania military during the war. He later bought a farm and was also a justice of the peace. He died Sept. 26, 1830.

“He was a patriot,” she said.

A relative did Fromholtz’s genealogy, making her job a little easier. A member starts with herself, then backtracks with her parents, grandparents and so on. Many forms have to be filled out to prove ancestry.

“It’s very detailed,” she said. “They’re very thorough.”

Her application took a couple of years to process.

Once one family member has the footwork done, it opens the door for others in the same family to join.

“You float right in,” she said. “There’s a lot of people that can do it.”

Fromholtz said she was “fortunate” to have a family interested in its own history.

“I was glad I had access to getting some of those records,” she said.

She said people need to remember the real reason behind the Fourth of July, and the club works

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Historian remembers Gem family

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Independence Day is not only a time to celebrate with picnics, parades, fireworks and more, but it’s also a time to remember those who made this “the land of the free.”

In Colby, Lynn Barnett, was one of those people, sacrificing his life in war to protect his country.

It was for that reason, said Darrell Landau of Oberlin, although having never met Barnett, that Thomas Countians might remember him.

“When compiling information for another military member,” Landau said, “I noticed that Lynn Barnett was from Colby — next door and a high school league member to my hometown of Oberlin.”

Landau said it was “quite possible” that Barnett and he played football on opposing teams.

A farm boy from Gem, Barnett was born April 25, 1919, about three miles north of Colby. As one of



Lynn Barnett at Chanute Field with daughter, Marylynn. His wife, Marianna was originally from Urbana, Ill.

seven sons, his parents Lester and Adele kept the boys busy on the farm, according to information pro-

vided.

During WW II, five sons entered military service. The eldest son, Samuel, was shot down over Mar-seilles, France, and buried there.

The second oldest, Lynn, joined the service in May 1945 operating a B-29 Bomber over Kyushu, Japan. He was also shot down and his body was never recovered.

Many in Colby might even know Lynn and Samuel Barnett without even realizing it. Whenever the Veterans of Foreign Wars group in Colby meets, it is at Barnett Post #6882, named for the two brothers. Lynn graduated from Colby High School in 1937

In addition, both brothers have a memorial tombstone at Beulah Cemetery.

In offering a tribute, Landau became the historian for the 19th Bomb Group, which was Barnett’s group during the war. As part of the

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Free Press offers chunk of change

As the fireworks light up the sky Wednesday in Colby, the pocket change in your pocket could be a lot heavier.

The Colby Free Press will play “Cointest” at about 4 p.m. at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Coin-test will be held in conjunction with other activities at the fairgrounds.

Here’s how Cointest works
People are asked to write their name and hometown on the entry form. Entry forms are in the June 20 Country Advocate and the June 29 Free Press.

The Free Press will have entry forms available at the fairgrounds.

“We want even more people to have a chance to play and win,” said John Van Nostrand, publisher of the *Colby Free Press*.

“But you have got to be at the fair-grounds for your chance to play and win.”

Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Please write legibly.

Forty-three of the entries will be randomly selected. People who submitted an entry form must be present to play and win.

To avoid having trouble with multiple people with the same name from different towns people are asked to bring photo ID to the contest.

The 43 people will be divided into five groups of eight and one group of three. Each group will have a coin-flip tournament. Those who call heads and it lands tails, is out of the contest.

The winner from each group will then be in the final round and flip tournament for the grand prize of \$231.

“How we will do this is a lot of fun and will have lots of anticipation as the number dwindles down to see who wins the grand prize,” Van Nostrand said.

Other Coincasts sponsors are Peoples Bank, First National Bank, Farm Credit of Western Kansas; Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. — Jim Oliver; Edward Jones investment — Darryl Henry; Colby radio stations KXXX/KQLS; Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and Colby Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Games, free food before fireworks

Colby High Plains Lions Club will also be celebrating Independence Day with a free supper,



games and even a dunk tank at 4 p.m. at the 4-H Building at fair-grounds, will be there for the public’s enjoyment, said Lion Roger Hale. The Lion Leo Club will be involved in the evening events, as well.

Wal-Mart is also joining in by hosting a bake sale by Wal-Mart associates, raffling off a \$25 gift card, offering snow cones, prizes and more.

Those events will be held at the store’s parking lot.

Tickets can be purchased at the fairgrounds starting at 1 p.m. to play games like the bean bag toss, water balloon toss, tricycle race, a fishing game and others.

Amber Bona from the jewelry department at Wal-Mart is largely responsible for the events that Wal-Mart will be hosting Wednesday. She said that all proceeds will help the Children’s Miracle Network and the Genesis Food Bank.

Non-perishable food items will translate into free tickets and go to Genesis. Otherwise, cost is 25 cents per ticket or five for \$1.

Bona said that the Colby High School dance team will be doing face painting and the “smiley guy” will be making an appearance.

In addition, the public is invited to a free concert sponsored by the Lions Club.

A group of senior citizens from Rexford called the Red Barn Gang will be playing a concert at 4 p.m. and again at 5 p.m.

This is the second annual event that the Lions Club has done for Independence Day, and Mead said that it looks like next year will be even bigger.

“We just want to thank everyone who is helping with it,” said Mead.

For more information, call Mead at (785) 462-2422 or the Chamber of Commerce at (785) 460-3401.

Tanks a lot!



FILE PHOTO

April McAdams of Colby fixed the seat on a dunk tank at the first High Plains Lions Club July 4 celebration at the Thomas County Fairgrounds last year. The club is holding the event again

Wednesday, starting at 4 p.m. with a hot dog feed, games, and entertainment. It will be followed by the Kiwanis fireworks display at about 10:15 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

Oil and water turn Kansas town slimy

COFFEYVILLE (AP) — The flood is bad enough, engulfing homes to the rooftops and turning neighborhoods into floating junkyards of children’s toys and family heirlooms.

The floodwaters here also carry some of the 42,000 gallons of crude oil that spilled from the Coffeyville Resources refinery on Sunday, coating everything they touch with a slimy, smelly layer of goo.

“My question is how are they going to get all that oil out of the environment,” said Mary Burge, a heart surgery patient who was forced to breathe from her portable oxygen tank because the petroleum odor Monday was so strong it could be detected by helicopters passing overhead.

The oil spill, caused by a malfunction while the refinery was shutting down in advance of the

flooding, has concerned federal and state officials as they monitor the slick’s progress down the Verdigris River toward drinking water sources and recreation areas in Oklahoma. It also presents another hurdle to Coffeyville leaders as they map out long-term flood recovery efforts that now must deal with the toxic sludge.

Jim Miller, Montgomery County emergency manager, said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had teams on the scene and was monitoring the oil as it snaked through town, leaving greasy stains where it receded from lawns and buildings.

Sharon Watson, spokeswoman for the Kansas adjutant general, said the EPA and state officials would work with officials at the refinery to measure the amount of contamination and help the refinery in clean-

ing up. In the meantime, however, Watson said, “We’re asking everyone to avoid the floodwaters.”

That wasn’t an option for Fire Department Capt. Mike Mansfield, who rescued eight dogs from water-logged homes Monday. He said all the dogs found outside were covered in oil.

The oil was floating downriver toward Oklahoma and that state’s Oologah Lake, about 30 miles northeast of Tulsa, said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Kansas state adjutant. Oklahoma officials were optimistic the spill would dissipate before it reached the lake, which provides flood control, drinking water and recreation.

“There are nine public water supplies along the Verdigris and the Oologah Lake, and none of them are currently affected,” said Skylar McElhane, a spokeswoman for

Oklahoma’s Department of Environmental Quality. Tulsa is among the cities that get water from Oologah.

The oil spill just added to the misery caused by widespread flooding for thousands of evacuees in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Eleven deaths have been blamed on the storms and flooding in Texas, where two men are missing. In North Little Rock, Ark., about 30 homes were evacuated Monday after a faulty drainage system caused flooding up to six feet deep in some spots.

The full extent of the economic costs may not be known for some time. Weeks of heavy rains have dampened recreational activities across the Plains, slowing business at parks and tourist destinations and leaving campsites and hiking trails waterlogged.