

Family

Celebrate freedom by visiting a library

In two days, we will be celebrating Independence Day, the 233rd anniversary of the day this great land became the United States of America.

We now often just refer to it as the Fourth of July. It has become tradition to fly the U.S. flag, have parades, enjoy barbecues and watch fireworks symbolizing the victory in our war for independence. I have always been amazed by the eloquent lines Francis Scott Key penned when he wrote what is now our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In light of what we have seen in the news lately in just three countries, Iran, North Korea, and Myanmar, I think it appropriate that we as citizens of the United States be very grateful we live in a free nation. We need to be thankful for our military men and women who have and continue to fight for our freedoms.

Having lived overseas for 13 years, I have come to have a greater understanding and thankfulness for our nation. We have such great advantages and freedoms here. As you know, people in Iran are dying for their voting rights. North Korea is in an arms race and chicken fight while its people starve.

The people of Myanmar have long faced oppression from an army junta that blocked a free election won by a Burmese woman, Aung San Suu Kyi. And in case you did not know this, Myanmar (or Burma) is probably one of the resource-rich nations in that part of Southeast Asia. Thousands of minority people, largely Christian, continue to be hunted down or are living at the border of Thailand in refugee camps. These people are casually known as displaced persons.

If you have not gotten my drift, I am extremely grateful to be living in the United States. With this in mind, let me recommend that you consider reading a new book in the library, "Plain, Honest Men: The Making of the American Constitution," by Richard Beeman. This excellent book helps the common person to understand how the United States Constitution was written, the events behind it and the characters who crafted it. It may not answer all your questions, but Beeman presents many issues such as gun control, freedom of speech, what some have come to believe is written about in the Constitution, the separation of church and state. It will also discuss such things as representative government, apportionment, state legislatures and much more.

One of my favorite books or CD is "Founding Mothers," by Cokie Roberts. I really enjoyed listening to the CD narrated by Roberts herself. The narration of letters written by Abigail Adams to her husband John Adams was



Melany Wilks

•Library Links

priceless. The description of Martha Washington living in the military camp along with the men in the army gave me pause to really appreciate the sacrifices that both sexes endured for our freedom and independence.

A book that is a bit similar is "Dear First Lady: Letters to the White House," by Dwight Young and Margaret Johnson. This book contains the photographs of the actual letters sent by every day United States citizens to their first ladies. It is really wonderful and easy just to peruse this book.

Another fascinating book is "White House Ghosts: Presidents and Their Speechwriters," by Robert Schlesinger. While you may not come to understand how to make a good speech for a president, you will get a glimpse just how presidents have had help crafting their messages to frame an argument. Some of the book is humorous and it's a quick read.

The last book that I will mention is "33 Questions About American History You're Not Supposed to Ask," by Thomas E. Woods Jr. The author presents arguments about how the history of the United States has been written and framed. Woods challenges the interpretations and political correctness on some of the issues that have been taught to our children and us. I do not advocate for one side or the other; read it, analyze it, consider the arguments for their truths, pick out the good and throw away what you think can be rejected, but please do think and consider the issues.

We live in this great nation where we have the freedom to analyze ideas and principles. Let's not loose the ability to think and consider truths, or we may loose our freedoms to stand for the principles we believe in.

Lest you have not found a choice yet, the Pioneer Memorial Library also has wonderful biographies on the presidents. I find their stories inspirational and enlightening. Take some time and search the library's online catalog on the Internet (www.colbylibrary.com), and you will find a large number covering your favorite president, or one you have not really come to know yet.

The library will be closed on Saturday but open on Sunday. Our summer schedule is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 9 to 8 p.m. Thursday, 9 to 5 p.m. Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

See you at your library!

Picking a cherry pie?



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

When you're a little boy and have a big ladder, cherry picking is no problem. Ten-year-old Mark Faber, son of Josh and Ronda Faber, took advantage of the cool morning today to pick a few cherries. He said he likes to pick cherries because his mom would make a cherry pie. He had his dogs, Sophie and Shorty, along to keep him company while he was on the ladder.

Thomas County Jail

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

- Gordon Donald Parrish, 30, Goodland, June 21, driving under the influence, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, transporting open container, Colby Police Department, released June 23 on bond.
- Michael Lee O'Brien, 35, Colby, June 22, driving under the influence, transporting open container, released June 23 on notice to appear.
- Christopher John Gary, 28,

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.98
Corn (bushel)	\$3.11
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.67
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.15

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com

Diesel program receives tech grant

The Diesel Technology program at Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland received a \$40,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to buy Global Positioning System management equipment.

The college will use the money to develop and expand the program with the addition of a global positioning system component in the curriculum. The courses will mesh well with the electronic component curriculum already in place, said Mandy Johnson, college spokesman. The addition of training and expertise in this new technology will enhance the program and lend yet another area of expertise to a graduating student's resume.

The college is addressing workforce needs in the agriculture, transportation and construction industries, she said. New high-skill

and high-demand technologies are emerging faster than the workforce can find trained technicians to support them.

A geospatial technology such as global positioning is one of the Department of Labor's "high tech initiatives," she said. This means the government forecasts a heavy demand for those who have these skills.

The diesel tech program is already successful in graduating students who enter the workforce in high-skill, high-wage and high-demand jobs. By developing an expanded curriculum, the college hopes to provide workers to meet critical business and industry needs.

With the curriculum in place and the addition of specialized equipment, Johnston said, the college is positioned to expand the program in August 2010.

Picnic will welcome incoming area Jayhawks

The University of Kansas will welcome incoming students and their parents from northwest Kansas at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park.

The KU Alumni Association and its northwest chapter will greet the next generation, offer advice and answer questions.

Area alumni, new students, students interested in the university and parents are invited. Complimentary food and beverages will be served. New Jayhawks will receive a free T-shirt.

The association invited these transfer students and incoming freshmen whose enrollment deposits were received by May 1:

Kristin Cox, Nicholas Howard, Rebecca Howard, Aubrette Stephens and Robert Weiss, Colby; Megan Allen, Brewster; Erica Huntington, Samantha Leitner and Roy Palmer, Atwood; Courtney Sheldon and Tanner Smith, Goodland; Katelin Neuenschwander, Hoxie; and Edward Machen, Quinter.

For information or reservations, go to www.kualumni.org.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

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The Colby Free Press needs an office manager/billing clerk to take a key spot in our front office. This person will do all billing, using a standard bookkeeping program, handle customer calls, direct traffic in our office, co-ordinate customer service, deal with postal issues, work mail, answer phones and generally help run the office. We are looking for someone who likes challenges and knows how to solve problems, work with people and get results. It could be just the job for you. Can be part-time 8-3. Send letter and resume to Steve Haynes, publisher, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas. 67701, or s.haynes@nwkansas.com. eoe m/f/h



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