

## Lions Club to host concert during 2012 Brady Days

Written by Deb Egenberger  
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Events are just beginning to fall into place for the 2012 Brady Days with a concert planned during the three-day celebration Aug. 3-5.

The Brady Lions Club will host 17-year-old Alexa Whipple of Arapahoe in concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4, at the school.

Whipple is the great-granddaughter of the late Karl and Margaret Whipple, longtime Brady residents who ran Karl's Conoco and were active members of the Lions Club.

Her other great-grandparents, Glen and Harriet Barnes, lived in Gothenburg.

Alexa Whipple is quickly becoming known as a song stylist whose repertoire and abilities cover several genres.

She recently released her second CD titled, "Beautiful Day," which features five original songs with traditional country, gospel and yodeling tunes.

Although still in high school, Alexa has already received numerous awards for her talents.

She was inducted into the 2011 Junior Hall of Fame and was named songwriter of the year by the Nebraska Country Music Foundation (NCMF).

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In 2007, Alexa was the youngest ever to receive the Entertainer of the Year award from the NCMF.

She also received the Contemporary Country Music CD of the Year Award from the National Traditional Rural Roots Commission and earned the title of yodeling champion at the Old-Time Country and Bluegrass Festival in LeMars, IA, in 2010.

Last year, Alexa was selected from more than 2,000 auditions in Branson, MO, for the Shotgun Red Variety Show which will air in June on RFD-TV national television.

This year, she will be the spotlight entertainer at three county fairs and a main stage performer at the Nebraska State Fair.

Alexa has enjoyed music for as long as she can remember and hopes to someday have a career in the music business.

She made her first trip to Nashville, TN, in January and spent time with Wilbur Rimes, father of the well-known LeAnn Rimes, and she performed on the General Jackson Showboat.

She also met up with Grammy-nominated record producer Rich Chudacoff, Grammy award winning songwriter Brent Maher, vocal coach Janet Kenyon and internationally renowned musician and producer Steve Ivey.

During her concert in Brady, Alexa will have a harmony group called "Three 4 All" backing her. Members include Cindy Beohler, Curtis Pfiel and Michael Jones.

