

# Kansas ranks among the worst in nation for seatbelt use

The Kansas Department of Transportation wants to remind all motorists to buckle up and drive safely. *The Click It or Ticket Buckle Up America Week!* and law enforcement mobilization wave is May 24-

June 6. *Click it or Ticket Buckle Up America!* Week is being promoted in Kansas with safety belt check lanes and child passenger safety check up events.

These events bring together all

aspects of the safety belt program in Kansas; education, enforcement and awareness.

"Kansas currently ranks 46th in the nation in seatbelt usage and that's unacceptable," the Secretary

of Transportation Deb Miller. The *Click It or Ticket* effort by law enforcement will send a message to Kansas that we are serious about increasing seatbelt usage to save

lives." The state's transportation department and its partners work to raise awareness that unbuckled drivers and passengers are at risk, she said.

"We believe the best way to prevent these needless tragedies is through education and strong support for enforcement of Kansas' laws."

## Awards go to many students

The following Colby High School seniors were recognized with special awards or scholarships during a ceremony held earlier this month.

Those students were (in alphabetical order) were:

- Whitney Colette Adams-academic certificate, letter and pin.

- Collin Lee Bielser-academic certificate, letter and pin; \$800 Colby Community College band scholarship; U.S. Achievement Academy National English Merit Award, National Honor Roll Certificate and All American Scholar Award; \$1,000 Schwan's scholarship.

- Casey Jo Boeger-Fort Hays State University Bronze Academic Award.

- Michelle Elaine Bremenkamp-academic certificate, letter and pin; Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship; Thomas County 4-H Scholarship Endowment; presidential leadership scholarship; March Rotary student of the month; NW Kansas Corn Growers scholarship; NW District FFA Food Science Proficiency Award.

- Shalin Lee Brogan-academic certificate, letter and pin; Kansas Honor Scholar; Fort Hays State University Hays City Silver Award; Kansas and Kansas City Ambassadors of Music.

- Shane Matthew Carter-academic certificate, letter and pin; Phoebe E. Harkins Memorial Award \$500; Bill Beck Award \$100; Fort Hays State University Bronze

Academic Award; Fort Hays State University Hays City Silver Award.

- Joshua S. Cox-academic certificate, letter and pin; Kansas Honor Scholar; Congressional nomination to West Point; Principle appointment to U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; \$800 Colby Community College band scholarship.

- Amber Nicole Dempewolf-Hospitality and Tourism Management program; competitive scholarship; LMP scholarship; cheer-leading scholarship; third place national LMP competition; first place LMP national competition; Mason Scholarship.

- Erika Marie Erickson-academic certificate, letter and pin; President's Education Award; Kansas Board of Regents Kansas State Scholar; \$3,000 Dane G. Hansen Scholarship; American Mathematics Competition; Kansas Honor Scholar; Who's Who Among American High School Students; National Merit Scholarship Program; U.S. Achievement Academy Scholarship Finalist; Thomas County 4-H Scholarship Endowment; Daughters of the American Revolution; Governor's scholar award-Crowell Book Award; Accepted to M.I.T.; KU tuition grant for \$1,500; KU \$3,000 Merit Scholarship; National Honor Society; National Society of High School Scholars.

- Christopher Ryan Gatz-Goodland Rotary Club Scholarship/Northwest Kansas Technical College \$250 scholarship.

- Christopher Thomas Gordon-Fort Hays State University Hays City Silver Award.

- Crystal Dawn Herschberger-academic certificate, letter and pin; Kansas Honor Scholar; Presidential academic award for \$1,000 from Emporia State University; first place state LMP competition; third place national LMP competition; \$500 San Diego State University scholarship; \$4,000 scholarship from the University of Houston; Johnson and Wales \$3,000 scholarship.

- Joshua John Houtz-academic certificate, letter and pin; President's Education Award; Who's Who Among American High School Students; U.S. Achievement Academy National Honor Roll; Fort Hays State University Academic Gold Award; Fort Hays award of excellence in info. net and technology; Fort Hays Gold Award; Fort Hays Hays City Silver Award; \$725 semester and ACT bonus and \$150.

- Matthew Joseph Hull-academic certificate, letter and pin.

- Lisa L. Jones-academic certificate, letter and pin.

- Sarah Dawn Karlin-Kansas Board of Regents Kansas State Scholar; Fort Hays State University Hays City Silver Award.

- Theodore Kellen Kleinsorge-President's Education Award; Kansas Board of Regents Kansas State Scholar; \$5,000 Dane G. Hansen

See "AWARDS," page 7

## Abby suggests grandmother should include step-grandchild too; student needs counselor

From "ABBY," page 5

My daughter recently remarried, and I don't even know her step-daughter. Am I expected to buy her gifts just like my own grandchildren?

—STEP-GRANNY IN TENNESSEE

**DEAR STEP-GRANNY:** To skimp on gifts for the new addition to your family would be a false economy. Welcome her, get to know her, and treat her like family because that is what she is now. If you discriminate on special occasions, the child will be hurt, her father will feel resentful, and you will put your daughter into an awkward situation. I strongly advise against it.

**DEAR ABBY:** Although I'm a junior in high school, I'm not old enough to handle all the problems in my family. I think a counselor might help me feel better, but Mother won't hear of it.

When I find the courage to try to talk to her, she just says, "Later, honey, I'm busy now!" She doesn't really hear what I'm saying. She's always on the computer and looks like she's hypnotized or something. I would call my dad, but we don't have the money for long-distance calls.

I used to be able to talk to my uncle, but he's in jail now, and I'm not even allowed to mention his name. My friends dismiss my prob-



**Abigail Van Buren**

• Dear Abby

lems when I try to talk to them, so I stopped telling them. My aunt and my grandma hate each other, so I can't talk to them. My aunt has even threatened to kill Grandma.

Last week, I went to the home of a new friend, but it made me very sad. They aren't like my family at all.

They were eating together and laughing. I started to cry because I know my family will never be like that.

I had a dream that I reached out my hand, but no one was there. Please help me. — LOST AND ALONE IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR LOST AND ALONE:** Before I answer your question, let me point out that you are an intelligent and sensitive girl. You may think you are alone in having this problem, but I have received letters from many other girls in exactly your situation — with mothers who are preoccupied or absent entirely.

It's time to put on your thinking cap. Is there any adult in your life whom you can confide in — a teacher, a neighbor, a school counselor, the mother of one of your friends? Are there activities you can join (school clubs, Girl

Scouts, etc.) that will put you in contact with nurturing female role models? Perhaps one of them could e-mail your mother to shut down her computer and live up to the responsibility she assumed when she gave birth to you.

Whatever you do, DO NOT GIVE UP.

Although your mother, aunt and grandmother may not be the picture-perfect family you wish for, that doesn't mean you will never have one. The lessons you are learning today can one day make you a much more effective parent than the one you have, and you can create the family you yearn for.

*Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.*

Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

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