

Brewster students experience the arts

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Keeping music students exposed to the performing arts is a top priority for one Brewster School teacher and she took 28 students to Denver earlier this week to do just that.

Alice Collett has taught kindergarten through grade 12 music for the past four years. Having grown up on the East Coast, Collett decided to share her love for fine arts with her students.

Collett took students from grades 6 to 12 to Disney's production of "The Lion King" at Temple Buell Theatre in Denver.

"We are trying to get students involved in fine arts," Collett said. "They look forward to it every year."

Prior to Collett becoming the music instructor, only one professional production was attended by students of Brewster School. That took place in 1998, when a field trip

"It's a different level of performance so they can see what choices they have."

Alice Collett,
Brewster teacher

to Denver allowed students to see "Les Miserable."

In the past four years, Collett and her music students have traveled extensively to see performances such as "Phantom of the Opera" in Denver; "South Pacific" in Garden City; "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" in Goodland; and to Wichita for the European percussion group called Stomp.

Sunday's trip was sponsored by the Brewster Women's Beta Study Group, as well as student organized fundraisers.

The school district furnished the

transportation.

Collett said taking the students to fine arts performances is a "life learning process" she wants her students to have.

"It's a different level of performance so they can see what choices they have," she said.

Megan Allen, senior at Brewster High School, said she enjoyed the field trip.

"It was a lot of fun and I liked it," she said.

"It was important to me to see real performers with real sets."

A member of the band playing

clarinet, Allen said the experiences of going to professional shows has created a love for fine arts which she will carry over to her adulthood.

Seventh grader Brenna McKee also enjoyed the performance.

A vocal student and band member playing saxophone, McKee said while she would go again on a field trip she was uncertain whether she would attend professional shows as an adult.

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According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, the accident took place at 5:30 a.m. about

12 miles west of Colby. Royce Jay Williams, 58, of Black Hawk, S.D., was driving west when the 2006 Peterbilt semi he was driving went off into the north ditch. Williams overcorrected, causing


the truck to roll several times.

The truck came to rest on its top in the ditch.

Williams was ejected from the vehicle, and was not wearing a seatbelt.

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