



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Accident on Interstate 70



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

A pickup landed upside down in the westbound lanes of Interstate 70 about 3:25 p.m. Friday after it and a westbound sport-utility collided about four miles west of Brewster. The Mercedes

wound up in the grassy median. Sherman County sheriff's Deputy Asa Stiles was taking measurements for his report, which was not available Monday, but one occupant of the pickup ap-

parently was taken to the Goodland Regional Medical Center by ambulance. A Thomas County ambulance was sent to the scene along with a sheriff's deputy, but neither was needed.

## 'Booster to Belts' to be offered at Colby schools

"Booster to Belts" presentations will be given at two Colby schools Wednesday on the importance of protecting children on the road, sponsored by Smart Start Northwest Kansas and the state Traffic Safety Resource Office.

Crash-test dummies Vince and Larry will talk to students, faculty, parents and caregivers at 9:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart School and in the Colby Grade School auditorium at 2:30 p.m. Prizes will be given and everyone will have a chance to ask questions.

"Booster to Belts" is a motivational presentation which encourage the use of booster seats and offers information on traffic safety for parents.

Safety advocates agree that safety belts alone cannot adequately protect children between 4 and 9 who weigh less than 80 pounds and are less than 4 foot, 9

inches tall, said Smart Start family support coordinator Denise Singer.

They also agree that children put into adult safety belts too soon risk serious injury and even death.

Singer said that when a child who needs to be in a booster seat uses a lap-and-shoulder belt, the belt hits the child too high on the stomach and neck.

"The booster seat allows the belt to be positioned at the pelvic bone and properly across the chest," she said. "When a child does not use a booster seat, they want to slouch so their legs can bend at the seat, which makes the lap belt hit even higher, off the pelvic bone and onto the stomach.

"When the shoulder belt does not fit properly, the child wants to put it behind their back. All of these improper uses can cause much more severe injuries

in a collision."

Singer said that, ideally, a child should be big enough to sit all the way back in a seat and bend their knees comfortably over the edge without slouching before switching to a seat belt.

To prevent children from sitting in a dangerous position, she said, booster seats should be used to position the adult safety belt properly on the child's body so it rides low and snug and crosses the chest between the neck and shoulder.

Before 2006, Kansas was among 22 states where the law left children 4 to 9 inadequately protected when traveling in vehicles, Singer said, even though traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children in that age range.

Kansas legislators changed that with the Child

Passenger Safety Act, which requires children under the age of 4 to be in an approved child safety seat or booster seat unless the child meets the age, height and weight requirements for a regular seat belt. Singer said a violation carries a \$60 fine plus court costs.

Singer said Smart Start has been a certified inspection station for child and booster seats since 2006.

Last year, the agency received training for the "Booster to Belts" program. She said Tod Hileman, public resource officer for the Kansas Highway Patrol, assisted in their training and will help give the presentations on Wednesday.

## Colby High students share 19 art awards

By Christina Beringer

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Art students from Colby High School dominated at the 18th Annual Western Kansas Scholastic Art Competition and Exhibition, with 19 out of 22 entries winning awards and a Colby senior, Brenna McKee, taking a "best of show" award.

The exhibit is on view at the Stauth Memorial Museum in Montezuma until Sunday when it will close with an awards ceremony and reception for the winning students in the museum's community room.

The exhibit includes over 250 works in categories including photography, sculpture, metals, glass, drawings, paintings, ceramics, graphics and more. Students in seventh grade through 12th grade from 31 Kansas counties were eligible to compete, said Donna Roberts, Colby High art teacher and visual arts mentor.

Of these, five were chosen for the American Vision best of show award.

"The American Vision awards are chosen by the four judges from

the Gold Key winners, which make up 5 percent of the entries," Roberts said. "Then, 10 percent are chosen for Silver Keys and 20 percent are Merit Award winners.

"We participate in five or six shows every year, and this is a really important show for us. The works that received American Vision recognition or Gold Keys will be sent to New York to be judged against thousands of other works from around the nation."

She said students are allowed only three entries each, and she chooses works for inclusion in shows based on what she believes is the highest quality. Roberts said she tries to include pieces in as many categories as possible. Most of them are from her advanced art class and created by seniors, juniors and a few sophomores.

She said McKee received one of five Vision Awards for a batik and two merit awards, one for a charcoal and another for an acrylic. Twelve other Colby students received awards.

Gold Key winners include junior Kenzie Curry, collage; senior Madison Gawith, pastel; and senior Emilea Finley, one for an oil wash and another for a batik.

Silver Keys went to Finley,



DONNA ROBERTS/Colby High School

Colby High School seniors (from left) Katie Zerr, Madison Gawith and Brenna McKee shared thoughts about their work during advanced art class. The three were recognized for their work at the

Western Kansas Scholastic Art Competition in Montezuma. Zerr and Gawith each received two awards and McKee three, including a "best of show."

