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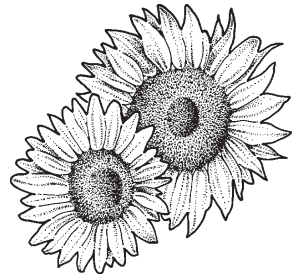
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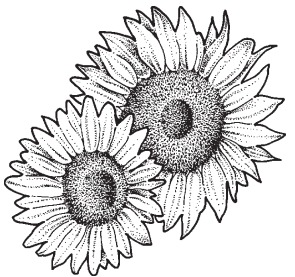


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Emily Smith, 5, waited as Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Joe Greene leaned over to check her car seat Saturday, Feb. 15, 2005, at a "check lane" at Lonny's Quality Auto Body.

Business honored for help with clinics

By Pat Schiefen
pschiefen@nwkansas.com

The Kansas High Patrol recently honored Nancy Kear of Lonny's Quality Auto Body with a Citizen's Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the trooper's effort to encourage people to have and install special child safety seats.

Each February for the last five years the troopers have had a special child seat safety and installation clinic in February at Lonny's.

"Nancy has been a big supporter of the program and has allowed us to hold the clinic in her shop," said Lt. Kevin Winston of Goodland.

Keeping babies and small kids safe in cars is the top priority of the Child Passenger Safety Week in February, said Roxy Cabral, Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect director, of the Regional Prevention Center. Children 4 to 8 who use booster seats are 59 percent less likely to be injured in an accident than kids who are only in a safety

belt, she said. She said a study by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia found that kids 4 to 8 are generally too small for adult safety belts, and these kids need a boost to make sure the belt fits securely across their chests, and low and snug across their hips. This helps prevent internal injuries, neck, head and spinal injuries and ejection and death in a crash.

She said the National Highway Traffic Safety Association estimates only 10 to 20 percent of kids in this age group ride in booster seats.

"As children grow," she said, "how they sit safely in a car, truck, van or SUV changes. Parents and drivers simply need to remember these four steps."

- Use rear-facing infant seats in the back seat from birth to at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds.

- Use forward-facing toddler seats in the back seat from age 1 and 20 pounds to about 4 and 40 pounds.

- Use booster seats in the back seat from

about age 4 to at least 8, or until a child is 4 foot, 9 inches tall.

- Use safety belts in the back seat at age 8 or older or taller than 4 foot 9. Children under 13 should continue to ride in the back seat.

"Some parents or drivers may feel booster seats are a hassle to use or a pain to convince their kids to use," Cabral said, "but protecting the ones you love means getting past the temporary complaints. Use the safety restraints because you love them."

"We have installed numerous, numerous child safety seats," said Lt. Winston. "Found several recalled seats and given out quite a few over the year."

Lt. Winston said the award was not given out very often. Kear received the award on Monday, March 3.

Troopers involved in the clinic have been Winston, Joe Greene, Josh McQuitty, Terry Rieger, Mihn Huynh and Andy Shippers. The Sherman County Sheriff's officers have also helped with the clinic.



Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Joe Greene and Lt. Kevin Winston, both of Goodland, gave Nancy Kear of Lonny's Quality Auto Body her award for her help in child safety car seat clinics recently.

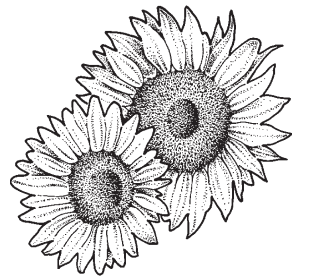
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