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Breathe Well kicks butts

George Nettels student wins county-wide contest

Staff Reports
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PITTSBURG, Kan. — Live Well Crawford County has wrapped up its fifth annual 5th Graders Kick Butts poster contest. Over 450 students designed a poster to help keep people in their lives from smoking. This was the first year that all nine schools in the county participated. Each student was given a blank poster that reads “I need you in my life. Please don’t smoke or vape” and

encouraged to get creative with their design.

Once all entries were submitted, the Breathe Well task force chose one winner from each of the schools. All nine students received a prize package containing an art kit with a carrying case, canvases, sketch book, modeling clay, colored pencils, crayons, a coloring book and a \$20 gift card. They were also given an enlarged 18” x 24” version of their poster to display in their classroom or school.

The winning students of the 2022 contest were: Acelyn Ogle of St. Mary’s; Addy Ulepich of Southeast; Brecken Campbell of George Nettels; Chloe Whitman of Lakeside; Christian Allen of Westside; Emerson Albright

of Frontenac; Josiah Smith of Meadowlark; Kinsley Harris of Girard; and Wyatt Stansbury of Northeast.

Those nine posters were displayed at the Pittsburg ArtWalk, where attendees cast votes on their favorite design. The overall winner, as determined by the most community votes, was Brecken Campbell of George Nettels Elementary. Brecken received the same prize package as the other winners plus an additional \$100 gift card to ArtForms Gallery. Brecken’s design will also be used in a television commercial and featured on the Live Well website.

Contest organizer Matt O’Malley came up with the idea to host an annual poster contest five years

ago as a way to get youth involved in Live Well’s tobacco cessation and prevention efforts.

“As a former smoker of 16 years, I know just how hard it is to quit,” O’Malley said. “Adults don’t listen to other adults who tell them to quit the habit. But maybe, just maybe, when a smoker hears or sees that their child is concerned about them, they may start seeing how their smoking affects those around them. Realizing that you want to live long enough to see your grandkids born, graduate college or get married might just be the motivation it takes for a smoker to break a habit that will likely eventually kill them.”



Brecken Campbell, 5th Grader at George Nettels school and overall winner of annual poster contest.

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