

## Liberty Elementary 8th-grader's art picked for Buckeye billboard

by Megan Gordon - Dec. 13, 2010 11:02 AM  
The Arizona Republic

A Liberty Elementary School student's artwork is being displayed on a Buckeye billboard in an effort to stop alcohol distribution to minors.

Buckeye-based Way Out West Coalition, a grass-roots organization that wants to reduce the rate of underage drinking and raise awareness of its consequences, chose a drawing by eighth-grader Chloe Sipes.

[Click to enlarge photo](#)



Chloe's drawing was selected for its message, said Shelly Mowrey, director of Drug Free AZ, a partner of the coalition.

Chloe wrote, "Prevent, don't provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21," next to her drawing of adults crying in front of a blue casket with a teenager inside.

Mowrey said the slogan fit right into the coalition's message.

Christine Jensen, Chloe's art teacher, presented the project to all her seventh- and

eighth-grade students. She said Chloe's drawing was "very striking" and told a story about the consequences of student drinking.

"I just drew something that no one else would draw," Chloe said. "If somebody provides alcohol to a teenager they could drink and drive, and then crash and get hurt really bad. And I don't want that to happen to anyone."

The 13-year-old said she was very surprised to win, and added that her friends think "it can make me famous or something."

The coalition, which started in 2009 by a state-funded grant, wants to strengthen consequences for minors who drink alcohol, increase accountability for adults who enable underage drinking and develop peer leadership among teens.

Details: [wayoutwestcoalition.org](http://wayoutwestcoalition.org).

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