

Kids Korner

Fifth Grader Designs Billboard Displayed In Maryland

TANEYTOWN, Md. — They're not many fifth graders who design billboards and have the honor of having their name attached to it. But this is exactly what happened to Amy T. Ridinger of Taneytown.

Her billboard is located along Railroad Ave. (Rt. 27) in Westminster, Md.

Amy's claim to fame began when Cpl. Michael Bible visited 19 elementary schools in Carroll Co., Maryland. He taught students a course on seat belt safety. At the end of the program, a Safety Poster Contest was held. To create a poster, each student was required to use the words, "Safety Is Only A

Click Away, BUCKLE UP!"

From 1,146 posters entered from the 19 schools, Amy's was declared the county winner.

Amy said, "I made the seat belt purple because it's my favorite color. I put smiles on it because you should be happy and glad you are wearing a seat belt, if you are ever in a crash. I put a heart on the buckles, because if you love someone enough you will buckle them up too."

Amy said that the Westminster City Police Department had an awards program, which included videos on seat belts and air bags, and the correct way to use them.

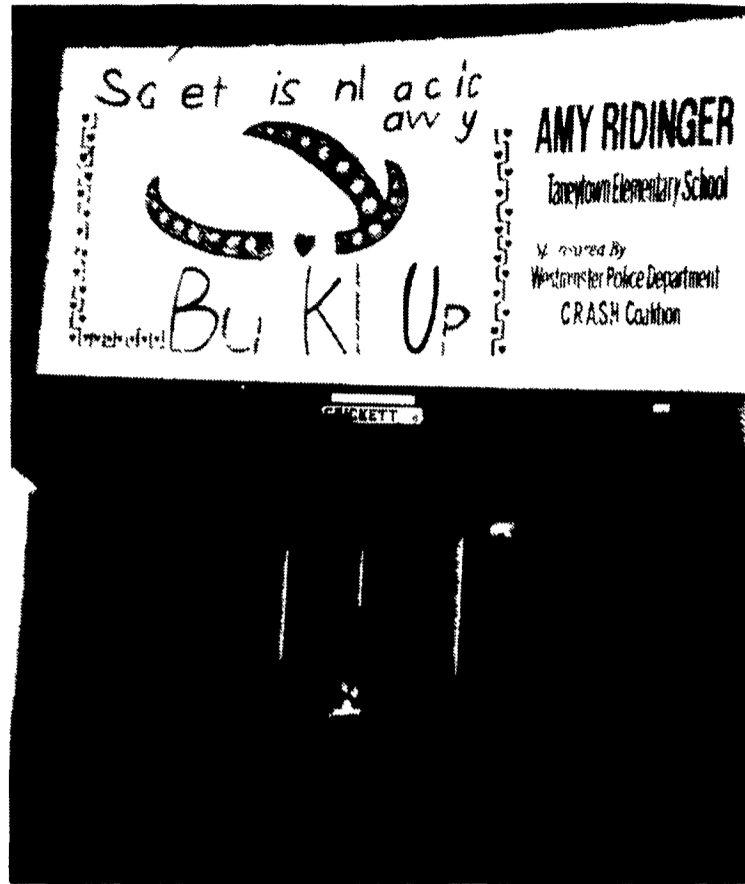
Also guest speaker, Spring Car Racer Judd Shepard showed a short video of a car crash.

Amy received a trophy and her poster was sent to North Carolina then back to Crickett Ltd. in Red Lion to be made into a billboard.

When the billboard was hung, Amy was pictured standing underneath it.

Amy attends Taneytown Elementary School where Mrs. Lisa Blevins is her teacher. Her parents are Teresa and Arthur Ridinger of Taneytown, Md.

Amy reminds our readers, "Safety is only a click away, so BUCKLE UP!"



Amy Ridinger stands beneath the billboard that was painted with the poster she designed. The billboard hangs along Railroad Ave., Rt. 27 in Westminster, Md.



Amy Ridinger receives congratulations for winning the Safety Poster Contest out of 1,146 entries. Back row from left are Cpl. Michael Bible, community education officer; Chief of Police Sam Leppo, Larry McKinney, principal; and Lisa Blevins, fifth grade teacher of Taneytown Elementary School.



Children's Book Explains The Harvest

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — Cris Peterson, a resident of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, has written a new picture book for children photographed by Alvis Uptis and published by Boyds Mills Press.

"Harvest Year" documents many of the fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy products, seafood, and poultry produced in various regions of our country in a month-to-month format. Ms. Peterson writes with a first-hand appreciation for the circle of life on American farms and clearly presents her story to young readers.

"It's important for children and adults to appreciate the incredible abundance and diversity of American agriculture," she says. "It's one of our country's greatest strengths and a bit of a miracle."

Ms. Peterson's other book for Boyds Mill Press, "Extra Cheese, Please!" also beautifully photographed by Alvis Uptis, focuses on the process of making cheese, from the birth of a calf to the topping on a pizza. The book won the Wisconsin Library Association Children's Book Award for Out-

standing Achievement and the Ohio Farm Bureau Women's Award for Children's Literature.

Cris Peterson, her husband, Gary, and their three children — Ben, Matt, and Caroline — grow corn, oats, and hay and milk 50 cows on their 300-acre Grantsburg farm, which has been in Gary's family since 1877.

"My writing career began when I gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a newborn calf and I knew I had a good story," she says. "The calf lived and after a dozen re-writes the story sold. Both were named 'Breathless'."

Born in Minneapolis, Cris Peterson earned a bachelor of science degree in education from the University of Minnesota. In addition to writing, farming, and parenting, she reviews children's books in her nationally syndicated column, "Huckleberry Bookshelf," and frequently speaks to school students and farm groups.

"Harvest Year" and other Boyds Mills Press books are available from your local bookseller or Boyds Mills Press.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why do people put salt on the roads?
To melt the ice!
But before we talk about melting ice, we need to talk about how ice is made. Water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Our scientist friends call this water's freezing point. Ice makes the roads dangerous to drive on and sidewalks dangerous to walk on. That's where the salt comes in!
Salt dissolves in water. When you dissolve anything in water, the freezing point of the water gets lower. That means the temperature has to get even colder to freeze.
So, when people put salt on ice, the salt melts the first layer of ice into a salt and water mixture. The water doesn't refreeze because the salt lowered the freezing point to below the temperature outside. That lets the salt melt the rest of the ice until all that is left is salty water.
There is a downside, though. The salt can hurt plants that live near the road or sidewalk, and fish and frogs don't like salt water that gets into streams and ponds. Salt also speeds up rust on cars and bridges. But in cold places, people put up with the extra rust to prevent car crashes and bruised elbows.
Scientifically yours, Twig

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
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