

- Daily Leader staff report

A Liberal youth was sent to Southwest Medical Center following a two-vehicle accident Thursday evening.

The wreck occurred around 8:50 p.m. when Ricardo I. Mendoza, 17, of Liberal, was westbound on U.S. Highway 54, about 1.7 miles east of Seward County Road P, according to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol.

At the same time, Orlando Sustaita, 31, of Chamberino, N.M., was driving eastbound on U.S.-54, when Mendoza's vehicle, a 1996 Chevy pickup, went left of center and struck the 2005 Freightliner semi tractor driven by Sustaita.

Mendoza was taken to SWMC, and the KHP said he sustained disabling injuries. His condition is not known as of press time. Sustaita did not suffer any injuries in the accident.

Seat belts were equipped and in use in both vehicles.