## **Oberlin students** win awards in writing contest

Three Oberlin Elementary third graders found out on Thursday that they had won awards for short stories

A representative from Smoky Hills Public Television came the school to present students with a trophy, backpack, book and

DVD of "Reading Rainbow" for first through third grades. All the students who entered the

contest received a certificate. Oberlin winners were Justice Harris, first place; Braden Wasson, second; and Ara Marine, honorable

mention. Justice's story will advance to the national competition. Here are the winning stories.

"Dodge City Rangers" By JUSTICE HARRIS

First-place winner Once there were two Dodge City rangers. Our names were Justice and Myles. We were good buddies.

One day we got a call that the Sarsaparilla Gang had robbed a bank, so we went there and found somebody who had seen the gang. We asked them to describe them.

They said, "There were three of them. One had a name tag. It said, Dan."

"I remember him from school. He was a dumb one," said Myles.

"There were two other guys," said

"Describe them," Justice said. "He was drinking from a sarsaparilla bottle. They called him Pete.

They called the leader Hank.'

"I remember Hank in school," said Justice. "He was so smart he could figure out a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle in five minutes,"

"I remember Pete in school," said Myles. "He was the sharpest

We found out that they were stealing cattle and they robbed a train with a million dollars on it. On their last job, they robbed a bank of three gold bricks.

Another day came. We kept finding sarsaparilla bottles that had Dan's name on them. So, we followed the trail. The bottles led to a

"We just missed them," said Jus-

"Let's go back to town," said

The town was still buzzing about the Sarsaparilla Gang stealing the three gold bricks. We went back to the canyon. This time we found a cave. We saw them in the cave, but

they didn't see us. Sarsaparilla Gang went back to town. We went in the cave. We saw all the cattle, gold and money bags. We hid behind some rocks in the

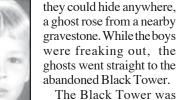
Soon Hank came in. BOOM! Myles bopped him on the head with a sarsaparillas bottle. We tied him up. Then Pete and Dan walked in at the same time. BOOM! BOOM! We each bopped one on the head and tied them up.

We turned the cattle, gold and money bags in. Then we turned the Sarsaparilla Gang in. Finally we celebrated by ordering two big sar-

## "Ghost Graveyard" **By BRADEN WASSON**

Jim and Jerry were making prank calls and they got caught. The two

them. That's when things went



an old storage house that was covered with cob-

"Let's follow them," ordered Jerry

They went up to the gate.

"No good" said Jim. "Who owns this dump?" asked

"Follow me" said Jim.

They went to the cottage and got the key. They ran to the Tower and put the key in the lock. Jim pushed the door open and ran inside.

"There!" shouted Jerry.

They carefully walked behind the

The ghosts and the boys entered a room containing potions. A ghost reached for a potion that would bring him back to life. Jerry swiped the potion from the ghost and the ghost started chasing him.

'What's that?" asked Jim. He

"Is that a tablet? Let's get out of here!" shouted Jerry. They ran all the way to the grave-

yard with the ghosts following. Jim read the tablet, "Evil disap-

pear, you are going to the world from whence you came.' A portal opened in two of the

gravestones and the ghosts were sucked in and never returned. "Champ to the Rescue!"

> By ARA MARINE Honorable Mention

Lake Champlain is a deep lake. There are people who claim to have seen a monster living in it that has a long neck, a turtle's shell and fins. Jonathon loved to tell his cousins stories about that monster named Champ. One night, Jonathon, Josh and

Ara were sitting on a log by the campfire overlooking the lake. Jonathon was telling a Champ story. He said, "One night I was hiking in the woods by Lake Champlain when...'

"When what?" Ara asked, but CRACK! SPLASH! He was gone! So was part of the log he'd been sitting on.

'What happened?" Josh asked

"I don't know," Ara said. The cousins saw a big tail disappear into the water. They both paused.

Josh shouted, "We have to get a

"We can use Uncle John's boat. Let's go!" Ara said.

Ara and Josh rode around the lake. Then they saw Jonathon riding on Champ's back. They were heading for shore.

"Wait. Is he riding on Champ?" Ara asked.

"It looks that way to me," said "Hi guys!" Jonathon said. "It's

OK. He's good!" "Okay," we said. Then we went back to the beach. Jonathon told us "The log broke. I fell off the cliff into the lake. Underwater I saw

Champ! I was so scared, but

Champ lifted me on his back." "Oh, Champ is good?" Ara said. "Oh, yeah!" he said. "He saved

**SATURDAY MORNING**, members of the Oberlin Girl ers downtown as a service project for both groups. Also Scouts, including Maria Geishler, and the Oberlin Camp of assisting was Bette Wurm of McCook (above), grand-

the Modern Woodmen of America put flowers in the plant-mother of Miranda Long. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Traffic to detour around highway work Work on the project will be done The detour is meant to take traf-

The project to rebuild U.S. 36 ager for the department in Norton. from Fairway Drive to Penn Avenue could start this week, with traffic on U.S. 83 detoured around the area.

The Oberlin City Council applied for the project through the Kansas Department of Transportation, with the state paying all but about \$46,000 of the estimated \$1,197,385 cost, said Kristen Brands, district public affairs manThe project includes repaving the

intersection of the two highways with concrete, which will continue east to Neill Avenue, she said. From there to Penn Avenue, the old pavement will be milled down and repaved with new asphalt. The highway will be widened by two feet and get new concrete curb and guttering, said Ms. Brands.

by Venture Corp. of Great Bend, fic around the intersection," said with Patton Concrete of Lindsborg Travis Scott, construction engineer doing the concrete work. for the department, adding that the A detour will take traffic on U.S. speed limit through the area will be

83 west on Elm Street and north on reduced to 20 mph. Fairway for about a month, Ms. Brands said.

Mr. Scott said traffic will run 'head-to-head," with two lanes A temporary road, or shoo-fly, closed at a time, on U.S. 36. The next to Stellars Auto Sales will carry whole project should be completed traffic around the work. by fall.

City to review crisis plan

The Oberlin City Council will revisit the city's emergency response plan when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

The council started to work on the plan at a special meeting last week, but didn't have a finished document to adopt.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council also will look over a lease renewal for the country club for the golf course property. It is the same lease that the city has now for the property, he said.

The council will also decide on pay request No. 7 for work on the waste water treatment plant for \$242,000.

The meeting will be held down-



