

Oberlin students win awards in writing contest

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

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 the witness.

"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 shooter."

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 canyon.

"We just missed them," said Justice.

"Let's go back to town," said Myles.

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.

We went on top of the cave. The 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 cave.

Soon Hank came in. BOOM! Myles bopped him on the head with a sarsaparilla 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 sarsaparillas.

"Ghost Graveyard"

By BRADEN WASSON

Jim and Jerry were making prank calls and they got caught. The two boys ran to their clubhouse.

"Don't you think they might find us here?" said Jerry.

"Yeah, probably," said Jim.

So they ran to the Town cemetery.

The boys had heard rumors about the cemetery, but didn't believe them. That's when things went wrong. Jim and Jerry were looking for a gravestone to hide behind. Before



J. Harris

they could hide anywhere, a ghost rose from a nearby gravestone. While the boys were freaking out, the ghosts went straight to the abandoned Black Tower.

The Black Tower was an old storage house that was covered with cobwebs.

"Let's follow them," ordered Jerry.

They went up to the gate. "No good" said Jim.

"Who owns this dump?" asked Jerry.

"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 ghosts.

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 picked it up.

"Is that a tablet? Let's get out of here!" shouted Jerry.

They ran all the way to the graveyard with the ghosts following.

Jim read the tablet, "Evil disappear, 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 Ara.

"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 boat!"

"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 Josh.

"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 my life!"

"Let's have some marshmallows and warm up by the fire," suggested Josh. That sounded pretty good to everyone. As they ate the toasted marshmallows, they saw a ripple on the lake.

"Maybe Champ was saying, 'Good night!'" suggested the boys.

"Maybe he is," Ara said.

Planting flower boxes for summer



SATURDAY MORNING, members of the Oberlin Girl Scouts, including Maria Geishler, and the Oberlin Camp of the Modern Woodmen of America put flowers in the planters downtown as a service project for both groups. Also assisting was Bette Wurm of McCook (above), grandmother of Miranda Long. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Traffic to detour around highway work

The project to rebuild U.S. 36 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 manager for the department in Norton.

The 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.

Work on the project will be done by Venture Corp. of Great Bend, with Patton Concrete of Lindsborg doing the concrete work.

A detour will take traffic on U.S. 83 west on Elm Street and north on Fairway for about a month, Ms. Brands said.

A temporary road, or shoo-fly, next to Stellars Auto Sales will carry traffic around the work.

"The detour is meant to take traffic around the intersection," said Travis Scott, construction engineer for the department, adding that the speed limit through the area will be reduced to 20 mph.

Mr. Scott said traffic will run "head-to-head," with two lanes closed at a time, on U.S. 36. The whole project should be completed 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 downstairs at The Gateway. It is open to the public, but will not be on local access cable channel 7.



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