

Youth

Tri-County Educational Service Center Literary Contest

'The Red Circle' wins second in short story

Each year students from area high schools participate in the Literary Contest sponsored by Tri-County Educational Service Center. In short story, second-place winner was Kearstin Hickey, Ashland High School.

"The Red Circle"

By KEARSTIN HICKEY

I was at a birthday party. A lame birthday party, but a party all the same. Sheldon was turning seven and he thought we were best friends. I didn't really like him, but birthday parties mean cake. So of course I said "Yes Sheldon. I'd be delighted to attend," with the smile of a cherub, and here I was.

"Alright kids!" his mother called. "Who wants to play games?" Everyone, including me, screamed because we all knew what Sheldon's favorite game was. Twister. Not only did he talk about it all the time, he also had every version of Twister known to man. Putting the "Twister Moves" and "Twister Travel Set" aside, we played old school, with the big mat and spinner.

I was one of the first ones to jump on the mat. I didn't waste time looking around me to see who my competitors were. I only hoped I didn't get stuck with playing with the chubby kid because we all know that chubby kids are the best Twister players. Not only do they naturally

take up more space on the mat, they can just knock everyone down and win every time. Anyway, I just wanted to play.

"Left foot green!" Sheldon's mom made a fabulous caller. Her voice vibrated in our young ears. This move was easy enough, only one circle away.

"Right hand yellow!" I bent down and reached. Someone's foot was in my way. But no problem, I just wove my hand around the kid's foot and smacked it on the yellow circle.

"Right foot, blue." Now I really had to reach. My toes just barely grazed the edge of the blue circle. I stretched and waited impatiently for the next order. It was taking forever.

"Left hand red." Oh no. This wasn't good. I reached as far as my six-year-old body would let me and ... someone else's hand came right down on the red circle I was going for. I immediately fell, taking an innocent victim down with me. I followed the hand of the circle thief up the arm, the neck and the face. It was Sheldon, the birthday boy himself.

"I'm so sorry!" he pleaded with me, his hand still glued to the stolen circle and his party hat askew. No. Sorry wasn't good enough. Even if it was his birthday, I belted out a war cry, and tackled Sheldon to the ground. The other kids flew off the mat, seeking safety from my six-year-old fists.

"Nicholas!" Sheldon's mother yelled at me, using my your-in-trouble name. I didn't care. I was too busy getting revenge on that dirty, scheming, lying jerk. Then I heard the front door open.

"I'm here to pick up Nick for his dentist ... oh my God! Nicholas, get off him!" My mother ran to me, her heels clicking, and scooped me up. I was kicking the air, eyes closed, nose bloody. My mother carried me out to the car, strapped me in the backseat, and threw a Kleenex at me, only saying "Wipe the blood off your nose."

Looking out the car window, I smiled to myself. Maybe it wasn't such a lame party after all.

Youth briefs

Brown graduates from homeschool program



Brown

WOOSTER — Michelle Brown, daughter of Kim Brown and Chris (Denise) Brown, all of Wooster, graduated from Treca High School (a homeschool program) in June. She is the granddaughter of Shirley Painter and Pat and Bill Brown, all of Wooster.

Local delegates chosen during Buckeye Girls State

WOOSTER — The 2008 American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State program has been the scene of campaign slogans, songs, and all types of promotions on the campus of Ashland University.

Local delegates were: Kristen Priest, city fire chief, Wooster; Amanda Gessel, city fire chief, Wooster; Chloe Long, project manager, county commissioners, Wooster; Jenny Shoots, state superintendent of public instruction, Wooster; Clarissa Hodge, city school board member, Wooster; Phoebe Long, judicial attorney, Wooster; Alisha Dunn, municipal court clerk, Doylestown; Lauren Case, clerk of court of common pleas, Doylestown; Destiny Remenaric, city school board member, Doylestown; Devon Williams, state senator,

West Salem; Alison McGinnis, city police officer, West Salem; Mekka Clark, attorney, state lottery commission, West Salem; Ashley Comer, director of office of management and budget, Rittman; Samantha Lapehn, assistant senate journal clerk, Rittman; and Whitney Miller, deputy sheriff, Mount Eaton.

Girl Scouts honor girls, adults

WOOSTER — For the 77th year, Wooster Girl Scouts held a memorial service to honor girls and adults who had been active in Girl Scouting.

The service held at Wooster Cemetery included representatives of Girl Scout troops and members of the families of some of the 49 Girl Scouts remembered.

The service in the restored cemetery chapel opened with the presentation of the American flag by bearer Courtney Nolt, Senior Troop No. 1022. Color guards were Adriane Reamsnider and Faith Dravenstott, both of Brownie Troop No. 1839. Scout-in-charge of the ceremony was Maggie Eby, Senior Troop No. 1022.

Following the pledge, the Scouts and guests sang "America the Beautiful." A poem was read by Laura McCready, Senior Troop No. 1022.

The names of the girls and adults remembered were read by Margaret Reiman and the "Hymn of Scouting" was sung in memory of the honored Scouts and as a rededication to the Promise each has taken.

Kathy Ridenour, Senior Troop No. 1022, offered a prayer and the service concluded

with the singing of "Taps" followed with an echo "Taps" by Laura McCready and the retiring of the American flag.

Following the service a geranium was planted on each Scout's gravesite, at the chapel or given to a member of the Scout's family.

Wayne County Cloverbuds take field trip to COSI

WOOSTER — On June 19, 28 Cloverbuds took a trip to COSI in Columbus. They saw a steel dinosaur that with a simple turn of a wheel activated pulleys and made the head lift and mouth open, and a musical harp without strings that was played by laser light. Cloverbuds learned all about Newton's three laws of motion when they experimented with different types of rockets. They made bottle rockets that shot 100 feet in the air, straw rockets, tube rockets, and the favorite, Alka Seltzer film canister rockets.

The 4-H's "traveled through the ocean," and explored submarines and shipwrecks, and wandered through space picking up "space rocks" with a rover.

Helping out with the trip were Stephen Heppie, the 4-H program assistant; Mel Kauffman, the summer 4-H program assistant; and members of the Junior Fair Board who acted as counselors: Jared Bardall, Michaela Donley, Brooke Dye, Natalie Gray, Eileen Gress, Kara Henry, Tessa Hershey, Bethany Kaufman, Brandon Meier, Zach Noble, Heidi Schwanger, Katie Shoup and Lacey Uhler.



Submitted photo

CAMP VI-SION — Designed to introduce children to the concept of giving back to the community, the third annual Camp Vi-Sion was held June 18 at the Viola Startzman Free Clinic in Wooster. Participating were Erin O'Donnell (front left), Evan O'Brien, Ryan Zimmerman, Rebekah Shipper (back left), Adam Zimmerman, Brooke Hemphill, Adam O'Brien and Mike Shipper. Campers helped with creating patient charts, cleaning the lobby, folding brochures and pulling weeds. Campers had a chance to tour the facility and learn what the Free Clinic does. For information, contact Cyndi O'Donnell at 330-262-2500, Ext. 104, or e-mail codonnell@startzmanfreeclinic.org.

On campus

Named AU valedictorian

ASHLAND — Wooster resident **Trisha Akers** was named valedictorian at Ashland University during commencement exercises on May 9.

Akers graduated summa cum laude, Gamma Alpha Kappa, with a bachelor of science in business administration degree with a major in marketing. AU's valedictorian achieved a 4.0 grade point average.

A 2005 Northwestern High School graduate, Akers is the daughter of Danny and Jennie Akers.

Outside the classroom, Akers was a member of Students in Free Enterprise and during her senior year was co-editor of the Executive Eagle newsletter for AU's Dauch College of Business and Economics. Akers served several internships, including working at the J.M. Smucker Co. in Orrville in the summer of 2008. She has been offered a position there as a marketing analyst.

Receives psychology award

BEREA — **Lorin Pringle** of Creston received the Pitcher Psychology Award at the 2009 Ovation ceremony at Baldwin-Wallace College. This award, established by Dr. Robert and Molly Pitcher, is given to a sophomore or junior psychology major for outstanding academic achievement and contribution to the department and to the college. Robert Pitcher was a B-W professor and dean.

Pringle, daughter of Lorri



Pringle

and Don Pringle, is a junior at B-W majoring in psychology. On campus she is a student research coordinator for the psychology department, president of Promoting Our Women's Resources & Experiences, and a member of Student Ambassadors, Psychology Club, Mere Images, Omicron Delta Kappa, Pi Gamma Mu and Psi Chi. Pringle is a 2006 Norwayne High School graduate.

Earns President's award

NELSONVILLE — **Kara Schwanger** of Wooster is among 29 students named to the 2009 President's List Award at Hocking College. Scholaristic achievement and leadership abilities help to determine who is honored with the prestigious recognition that is given to less than one-half of 1 percent of the student population.

Schwanger is a first-year wildlife sciences student. She was recognized May 26 during a banquet hosted by Hocking College President John Light and attended by the Hocking College Board of Trustees and administrators.

The Trustees' Award recipient will be selected from among President's List honorees and will be announced during the June 14 commencement ceremonies.

Receives two awards

MARIETTA — Marietta College student **Ashley M. Holcomb** of West Salem was awarded The Sharon Rouse Memorial Prize and introduced as a new member of

Omicron Delta Kappa at the Spring Honors Convocation.

The Sharon Rouse Memorial Prize is awarded by the Department of Psychology faculty each year to a student of psychology who has high ethical standards, a dedication to serving others and a distinguished record in an area of psychology.

Omicron Delta Kappa is the National Leadership Honorary that recognizes achievement in scholarship, athletics, campus and community service, social and religious activities, journalism, speech, mass media and the creative performing arts. Members must be in the upper 35 percent in scholarship of the college and must show leadership in the above areas.

A graduate of Northwestern High School, Holcomb is a psychology major. She is the daughter of Roberta and David Holcomb.

Earns leadership award

MARIETTA — Marietta College student **Emma K. Vierheller** of Orrville was awarded The Sherrill & Diana Drake Cleland Leadership Award at the Spring Honors Convocation.

The award enables students to participate in leadership experiences off campus. Individual awards will be used to defray expenses associated with a relevant leadership conference, an approved internship, or a study abroad quarter focusing on leadership. Recipients must have completed their first semester at Marietta College, have successfully completed their first leadership course, and must hold at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

A graduate of Orrville High School, Vierheller is a mathematics major. She is the daughter of Michele and Timothy Vierheller.

Tween-teen parents work to ward off summer boredom

By MEGAN K. SCOTT
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Kiley Krzyzek is going to be a counselor-in-training for a month this summer. She'll do choir camp for a week.

But it's the rest of the time the 14-year-old wants to fill up, the weeks when there is nothing going on.

"At first, it's a big relief to be off from school without extra work and stress," said Kiley, of West Hartford, Conn. "But then it gets to be too boring. You find yourself watching TV too much, on the computer too much."

Many parents of tweens and young teens are looking to beat summer boredom as the economy puts pricey specialty camps and residential camps out of reach. Residential camps cost anywhere from \$325-\$1,200 a week, according to the American Camp Association. And some day camps charge for counselor-in-training programs for young teens.

Since they are old enough to stay home, some parents who need to cut costs say enrolling their kids in programs for most of the summer is not an option.

Anne Wear, 42, of High Point, N.C., said she can only afford to send her almost 13-year-old daughter to day camp for five weeks; the rest of the summer she'll remain at home. Wear recently took a 20 percent pay cut and has two younger children; one will be going to day care, the other to camp.

"With my pay cut and the economy the way it is, we can't afford to do more than that," said Wear, who works in public relations.

Summer is tough for tweens and young teens, experts say. Kids in that 12-15 age range are old enough to stay home but too young to drive or

get jobs other than things like baby-sitting and mowing lawns.

But while it can be easy and cheaper to leave kids home to entertain themselves when parents are working, too much unstructured time can lead to boredom, which is a constant complaint from tweens and young teens, said Denise Restauri, founder and CEO of AllyKatz.com, a social networking site for girls ages 10 to 15.

Kids want to be active, said Restauri, and many are so overprogrammed they don't know what to do with free time.

That can turn into a lot of television watching, computer playing and texting.

Lee Ann Fleming, 46, of Centennial, Colo., who has a son turning 12 next week, said she found a local program this summer for kids ages 11 to 14, but can afford to send him only a couple of days a week.

Fleming works from home, so she can supervise somewhat, but there will be stretches where she will be working.

"He'll read a lot. He'll draw," she said. "There'll probably be too much time watching mindless television. I don't know what else to do."

Allison Minnick, 49, a stay-at-home mom in Littleton, Colo., worries her 13-year-old son is too attached to his cell phone (texting) and iPod Touch (playing games).

Her son likes to skateboard with friends in the grocery store parking lot, which she is not crazy about either. She signed him up for baseball two nights a week and is considering a boxing class. In the meantime, her 11-year-old is going to cheer camp for a week and taking English riding lessons.

Suzanna Narducci, co-founder of TweenParent.com,

a site for parents of preteens, suggests parents look for activities that are specific to children's interests, whether it's music, art or science.

Her 12-year-old daughter is going to sleepaway camp for four weeks and her 9-year-old is doing a day science camp program at a local university.

"We are hoping to go on vacation for part of the summer," said Narducci, of New York City. "Otherwise the kids will hang out here and we will explore the city."

That kind of balance, downtime and activities, is good for tweens, who need a break from school and shouldn't be programmed all summer long, said Carol Weston, advice columnist for Girls' Life magazine.

Summer is a great time for them to develop new skills, especially if there is something they want to learn, she said.

Not to mention too much time on their hands can lead to trouble, said tween and teen expert Annie Fox. "Anything seems like a good idea because there is nothing happening."

Young teens are trying to find activities to fill their summer weeks.

Courtney Mansfield, 12, of Rye Brook, N.Y., is going to visit a cousin in Ireland and unlike last summer, many of her friends will be around (they say they are too old for camp, she says.) She said last summer, she read, watched Disney and played on the computer.

But even with a more action-filled summer, she's usually glad when school starts again.

"In the beginning of summer, I am really happy to be out of school," she said. "But at the end I get really anxious and want to go back."