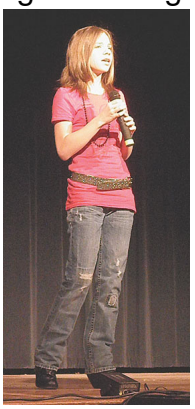
• Special to the Daily Leader Moore, Okla. – Top winners in America's only "little league" of entertainers, the non-profit American Kids Inc., state finals talent competition recently conducted in Moore, represent four towns and two states with top winners coming from Forgan, Turpin and Texhoma, Okla., and Liberal, Kan.



Jordan Urban of Liberal took home a top honor by placing first overall (of all age categories combined) in musical theater vocal. She also took home two gold medals in country and gospel vocal. Sydney Mathews placed with four gold medals in country, gospel, musical theater and serious vocal. Randi Yates of Guymon placed with two silver medals in country and serious vocal. Britney Cannaley of Turpin brought home a silver medal in country vocal. Honors by age and category divisions are as follows: Country vocal – Mathews, gold with honors, Yates, silver in the 12-14 age category; Urban, gold in the 9-11 age category; Brittney Cannaley of Turpin, Okla., silver in the 6-8 age category; Gospel vocal – Urban, gold in the 9-11 age category; Mathews, gold in the 12-14 age category.

Musical theater – Mathews, gold in the 12-14 age category; Urban, gold in the 9-11 age category; Serious vocal – Mathews, gold; Yates, silver in the 12-14 age category

Urban, Mathews and Yates qualified for American Kids National Finals in Branson, Mo., in July that will conclude with an All Star Show at which the top act will win $1,500.

Wendy Keith, local director and Oklahoma Kids alumna may be contacted at (580) 522-1899 or (580) 652-3150. Keith has been working the past year to coordinate Oklahoma Kids, Kansas Kids and Texas Kids. Keith will be organizing performances in the area for the young performers.

American Kids Inc. is celebrating its 28th anniversary in 2010. American Kids is different from other competitions in the performance opportunities given the group's membership outside of the competition, according to Oklahoma State Director Clarence Moore.

"Our members, with guidance from our certified adult volunteers, present a vast number of shows on the local, regional and national level to share their talent gifts for the benefit of others," he said.

For more information call Moore at (918) 512-8044 or go to the Oklahoma Kids Web site at

oklahomakids.us or the national Web site at americankids.com.