

BICYCLE WINNER



Tommy Staats, a first-grader at West Main School in Ravenna, surveys the new bicycle he was awarded during a bicycle safety assembly following an essay contest sponsored by the law firm of Scanlon & Gearing of Akron. School Principal Jim Boring, left, and attorneys Mark Hilkert and Mike O'Neill look on. The firm selects 10 schools in the Akron area each year to participate. The best essay winners from each grade level were given a bicycle helmet, with a bicycle going to the top winner. Other winners included, Nick Blankshire (second grade), Tia Smith (third grade), Jimmy DeWeese (fourth grade), Amanda Carpenter (fifth grade) and a special scorer's choice award to second-grader Julie Fetters.

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Youngster wins bicycle in helmet safety drawing

NORTON — Mary Peterson, who is 5, has a new bike and helmet. The Grill School kindergarten student's name was drawn from over 700 other entries in a bicycle safety contest sponsored by the Akron Law firm of Scanlon & Gearing.

head injury and 75 percent of all cyclists' deaths involve head injuries. Helmets have been shown to reduce the risk of brain injury by 88 percent and of head injury by 85 percent.

In order to be eligible for the "Buckle up your Brain" contest, children were required to sign a pledge to always wear a helmet while bike riding.

The law firm decided to promote helmet safety after one of its attorneys, Mark Hilkert, had a bicycle accident. Thanks to the helmet he wore, which cracked from front to back, he avoided serious injury. This is the third year the firm has sponsored the contest in 10 area schools.

The New England Journal of Medicine in 1989 reported that one in seven children involved in a bicycle-related accident suffers a



Wearing a big smile, Mary Peterson tries out her new bike and helmet. With her is Michael Del Medico of Scanlon & Gearing L.P.A.