

COMMUNITY NEWS

LANCASTER

Tip a cop fundraiser set

The seventh annual "Cops and Pies" fundraising event will be on Wednesday, April 29, at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1649 West Ave. K.

California Highway Patrol and correctional officers will serve lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. All tips will benefit the Antelope Valley Special Olympics.

For details, call (661) 945-6210.

Head on over to a hoedown

A spring hoedown show and contra dance will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Cedar Centre, 44845 Cedar Ave.

The cost is \$20 per person, \$30 per couple or family. Children 14 and younger, accompanied by an adult, may attend for free.

For details, call (661) 272-5648.

Cruise in for dinner

The Phun Time Cruisers will meet from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Texas Cattle Company, 44206 10th St. West.

For details, call (661) 948-7085.

Vietnam vets invited to speak

Veterans of the Vietnam War who are willing to share their experiences with students in the "Contemporary U.S. History: Vietnam" class at Antelope Valley College can call Ralph Brax at (661) 722-6300, Ext. 6484.

The class meets from 12:30 to 1:50 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Shelter seeks foliage

Native plants, trees, hardware, plywood and other items are needed for the Lancaster Animal Shelter's Big Sunday event on Sunday, May 2, at the shelter, 5210 West Ave. I.

For details, call (661) 723-6090.

QUARTZ HILL

Fundraiser to aid military housing

The Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 3000 will have an Italian dinner fundraiser from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at VFW Post 3000, 4342 West Ave. L.

The cost is \$8. Proceeds will benefit the Fisher Houses at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

For details, call (661) 943-2225.

PALMDALE

Bargain night out

The Palmdale Moose Lodge will serve a baked chicken dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 24, at the lodge, 3101 East Ave. Q, with entertainment afterward.

Donations will be accepted.

For details, call (661) 947-6207.

Workshop offered to professionals

The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley will offer a free one-day training session for professionals in the field of child abuse treatment on Wednesday, April 29, at the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center, 38350 Sierra Highway.

Space is limited and registration is required by Friday. Doors open at 8 a.m.

For details, call (661) 949-1206, Ext. 261.

Spring fashions for review

The Palmdale Woman's Club, 2141 East Ave. Q, is having a "Fashions in Bloom" show featuring styles from Dillard's at noon Saturday, April 25.

Tickets are \$25 and will be sold at the door.

Proceeds fund the club's charities.

For details, call (661) 265-8731.



Mellinda Kyllonen, a senior at Eastside High School, won first place in the mixed media category, Best of Exhibition and an Art Instructors Choice Award at the AVUHSD 24th Annual Student Art Exhibition. JOANNA GARCIA/Valley Press

Award-winning teen artists' work on display

By LIANE M. ROTH Valley Life Editor

"Dynamic; nicely drawn; wow — great use of color; outstanding imagery from such a young artist; just amazing!"

These are a few of the visitors' comments about the student work on display at the 24th annual Antelope Valley Union High School District Art Exhibit, which opened Saturday at the Lancaster Museum & Art Gallery.

This year's student exhibition features 120 pieces of artwork from 116 students within the district. High school art instructors selected pieces they believe to be the best representative art in a variety of media.

The wide range of media used includes oil, ceramic, watercolor, photography, acrylic, mixed media, plaster, charcoal, tempera, glass, pencil, scratchboard, block print, computer art and gourds.

After teachers submitted the pieces to the gallery, judges from Lancaster Museum & Art Gallery Associates, Lancaster Photography Association, Lakes and Valleys Art Guild, Antelope Valley Arts Association, a contingent of high school district teachers, district Superintendent David Vierra and Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris selected their top choices for cash awards and recognition.

The Best of Exhibition awards included \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third places.

First place: Mellinda Kyllonen, Eastside High, "Alice," mixed media; second place: Byron Noffin, Eastside High, "In the Rough," mixed media; and third place: Joshua Charles, Rex Parris High, "Emo," pencil; honorable mention, Myrna Aguinaga, Littlerock High, "Marbled Globe Jar."

AVUHSD Superintendent's Award, \$100: Emily Spangle, Quartz Hill High, "Pensive States," ceramic.

Antelope Valley Allied Arts Association, \$100 award: Quartz Hill High, Isidro Gonzalez, "Tiger," ink.

Lakes and Valleys Art Guild, \$100 award: Eastside High, Jamon Tyus, "A View of Tranquility and Nothingness," mixed media.

Lancaster Photography Association, \$100 award: Jennifer Braddock, Quartz Hill High, "Self-Portrait," photography.

The City of Lancaster Mayor's Choice Award: Edwardo Servin, Palmdale High, "Sounds of Life," photography.

Media category winners:

3-D — first, Desert Wind High, Erica Milo, "Pink," Acrylic — first, Cassandra Ellias, Quartz Hill High, "Kiedis on Fire"; second, Steve Guardado, Palmdale High, "Not Forgotten"; third, Hilda Bautista, Eastside High, "Self-Portrait"; honorable mention, Emmanuel Jimenez, Highland High, "Convict Lake." Aluminum — first, Timberleanne Arden, Lancaster High, "Quail." Assemblage — first, Rosalinda Melgoza, Littlerock High,

"Future Wonder World." Ceramic — first, Myrna Aguinaga, Littlerock High, "Marbled Globe Jar"; second, Uriel Rodriguez, Littlerock High, "Bamboo Plant"; third, Matthew Gonzales, Quartz Hill High, "Celtic Squid"; Honorable mentions, Emily Spangle, Quartz Hill High, "Pensive Statues"; Cheyenne Hamilton, Highland High, "Ocarina." Charcoal — first, Miranda Harned, Quartz Hill High, "Passion"; second, Jorge Pluscencia, Palmdale High, "Alba"; third, Cambrian Dickerson, Eastside High, "Porter-John." Colored pencil — first, Vanessa Andrus, Eastside High, "Jacob"; second, Raquel Davis, Eastside High, "Lady in Red"; third, Victoria Hadden, Lancaster High, "Self-Portrait"; honorable mention, Steve Guardado, Palmdale High, "The Last Drop." Computer art — first, Alex Tinoco, Knight High, "Purple Sky"; second, Huy Nguyen, Palmdale High, "Part of Nature"; third, Nichole Ycaza, Knight High, "Untitled"; honorable mention, Abigail Nibungco, Knight High, "Untitled." Mixed media — first, Mellinda Kyllonen, Eastside High, "Alice"; second, Evan Nixon, Lancaster High, "If I Were A Girl"; third, Jamon Tyus, Eastside High, "A View of Tranquility and Nothingness"; honorable mention, Alycea Tinoyan, Eastside High, "Unspoken." Mixed media 3-D — first, Byron Noffin, Eastside High, "In the Rough"; second, Chyenme Yayaian, Highland High, "Trio"; third, Stephanie Ortega, Lancaster High, "Death Mask." Mosaic — first, Kylie Morales, Quartz Hill High, "Polychromatic"; second, Jennifer Raygoza, Quartz Hill High, "Flower With Crosses"; third, Sky Arellano, Quartz Hill High, "Cupcake"; honorable mention, Chris Perez, Quartz Hill High, "Think Green." Oil — Daina Silvers, Palmdale High, "Serenity"; Paper mache — first, Ricardo Arana, Littlerock High, "Alone On the Island." Pastel — Erika Fedorko, Quartz Hill High, "Greece At Night." Pen and ink — first, Jesus Montes, Rex Parris High, "Quahatemoc's Loss"; second, Isidro Gonzales, Quartz Hill High, "Tiger"; third, Jason Aldaba, Antelope Valley High, "Untitled." Pencil — first, Joshua Charles, Rex Parris High, "Emo"; second, Karina Carlos, Palmdale High, "Britney"; third, Daniela Moran Torres, Eastside High, "Edward Cullen"; honorable mention, Karina Ruvalcava, "Miyavi." Photography — first, Jennifer Braddock, Quartz Hill High, "Self-Portrait"; second, Edwardo Servin, Palmdale High, "Sounds of Life"; third, Josh Berry, Quartz Hill High, "Dystopia"; honorable mention, Tracy Orr, Palmdale High, "Lovedust." Plaster — first, Carol Urquilla, Eastside High, "Fish." Scratchboard — first, Heather Ellis, Eastside High, "Wolf." Screenprint — first, Brian Almonasi, Littlerock High, "Illustrated Girl." Watercolor — first, Eugina Velazco, Quartz Hill High, "Unknown Inspiration."

Art Instructor's Choice Awards: \$75 — Sarah Davis, Quartz Hill High, **See LMAG WINNERS on B8**

Overcoming challenges brings reward

By ALEXA VAUGHN Valley Press Staff Writer

Arriving three months prematurely, Brigitte Dassler of Palmdale was born with severe vision loss and was given only a 5% chance of surviving.

Now a healthy and bright 16-year-old, Brigitte has not let being legally blind in her right eye and with partial vision in her left eye slow her down.

Brigitte is on track for earning a high school diploma and an associate degree by age 19. She aspires to be a fiction writer but said she will make a habit of competing in archery, rock climbing, running, rowing, long jump and shot put at the annual Los Angeles Junior Blind Olympics.

The games are hosted by Junior Blind of America, an organization that serves thousands of individuals and their families through a variety of programs.

The Junior Blind Olympics typically draws about 800 blind or visually impaired children to challenge their physical abilities and overcome sight barriers.

"We got the letter about it in the mail and my mom and my dad encouraged me to do it," Brigitte said. "I get to meet new friends, try new things and accomplish goals that never seemed possible."

Though she has tried swimming, diving and rock climbing,



Brigitte Dassler receives a medal at the fifth annual Junior Blind Olympics in Los Angeles on Saturday. *Contributed*

Brigitte was still cautious about how many events she would compete in before she arrived to register for the games on Saturday.

The teenager said she would only try the archery and rock climbing because the last time she competed for anything was in an academic pentathlon in middle school.

But with her mom's encouragement, Brigitte competed in several events.

"Brigitte has a lot of trust in people and doesn't like to compete with others that much," said Brigitte's mother, also named Brigitte Dassler. "It's a chance for her to meet new people. With opening up new doors come a lot of other opportunities in life."

After finishing the games, Brigitte agreed with her mother. "It was good experience and in each event I didn't care if I got a medal or not. It was just fun," Brigitte said. "I found there were a lot of people that had problems just like me and we could all compete anyway."

To find out more about Junior Blind of America, visit www.juniorblind.org or call (800) 352-2290.

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To get your news on this page, send e-mail to valleylife@avpress.com or call (661) 267-4230



Snake safety tips

Friday's Valley Life Pets



Mock interviews

Next Thursday's Valley Life Young AV