

Brawley High Students Sweep Young Artists Competition

By

Max Lemuz

The 51st Congressional District of the State of California had their 19th annual young artists competition on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. The event took place at the Old Post Office Pavilion on 5th Street in El Centro.

The Halls were decked with different art pieces of many high school artist's best work. As parents and art enthusiasts looked at the young artist's work, the Southwest High School jazz ensemble played their music.

As the theatre area began to fill up, MCs Nick Ciletti and Rachel Elzufon from KYMA introduced the sponsors and host Congressman Bob Filner arrived.

"All of the artists here tonight have done a wonderful job and deserve praise for helping keep the arts alive in schools," said Ciletti.

The artists were then called onto the stage to get their certificates for participating in the event. Students from more than 5 schools in the district participated, however, the only students to



GRAND PRIZE WINNER Kennedy Ravelo from Brawley Union High School stands with Congressman Filner as the sponsors award her prize. Her art teacher Mr. Lopez and MCs Nick Ciletti and Rachel Elzufon stand by showing their support of the arts. *Photos by Max Lemuz.*

show up to the ceremony were from Brawley Union High School. They were accompanied by their art teacher Mr. Lopez who was very proud of them. "All of my class did a great job with their pieces and I just wish all of them could win," said Lopez.

The three winners all won gift

baskets with items like Padres tickets, Zoo passes, and gift cards. The grand prize winner, however, won a trip for two to Washington D.C. to attend a ceremony where their artwork would be placed in the Capitol building for an entire year.

The winners of the event were as follows:

Third Place: Alba Gonzalez

Second Place: Christine Austin

First Place: Kennedy Ravelo

Ravelo based her winning drawing off of the forbidden romance in "Dante's Inferno" and took her a time consuming eleven weeks to complete.

"I am so excited for winning and I plan on continuing art after high school. I would definitely like to make it a profession," said Ravelo.

Congressman Filner finished off the night saying, "I am very proud of the young people that participated in this event. It makes me see a bright outlook for the future. And through all of the recent cutbacks with art programs, these children prove the importance of preserving these programs."



SECOND PLACE WINNER Christine Austin shows off her daring self portrait to the crowd that depicts snakes emerging from the roots of her hair.