

Pershing MS Wins Top UIL District Academic Awards

Pershing Middle School won top University Interscholastic League District Awards at the Houston Independent School District UIL Finals on Saturday, May 6.

Pershing 6th grader Angelina Pascali won the 1st Place Science Award; Mary Balthazar, 8th grader Art student who was accepted into HSD's High School for Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) starting next Fall, was awarded the District's top spot in Art; and 6th grader Taryn Morris brought home the top District medal in Maps, Graphs, and Charts.

Pershing Results:

2016-2017 HISD UIL Finals
6th Grade: Angelina Pascali [1st place Science], Ladi Onu [4th place Dictionary Skills], 5th place Calculator Applications, 6th place Listening Skills], Brandon Sun [3rd place Calculator Applications], Claire Assad [4th place Spelling], 5th Place Dictionary *See Pershing page 12*



Pershing Middle School's UIL team.

News & Notes

May 9, 2017

Congregation Emanu El Seeks Clothing for Emergency Aid Coalition

Congregation Emanu El is a founding member of the Emergency Aid Coalition, which provides food and clothing to low-income families and individuals in Harris County. The EAC recently informed its partner agencies that it has several specific needs to help its clients. These needs include men's jeans and khaki pants (especially waist sizes 30-34), men's shoes, men's t-shirts (casual & dress), shopping bags and women's larger size items (including blouses, pants, skirts and dresses).

If you have items to donate, bring them to Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunbelt Blvd., from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The synagogue has collection bins within the Rotunda entrance along the west side of the building where EAC representatives collect the items.

For more information, call (713) 529-5771 or e-mail Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanu-houston.org.



Students Raise \$4,200 for American Heart Association

St. Vincent de Paul Physical Education Director Mikki Burns is shown with elementary students in grades 2-5 who had the opportunity to jump rope, shoot hoops and raise funds in support of the American Heart Association of Houston during March. The students raised over \$4,200 for the American Heart Association. The Houston Dynamo and Houston Rockets supported their efforts with complimentary game tickets for students who met certain fundraising levels. All money raised helps support cardiovascular research and education, saving lives in our community and across the nation.

Mom's Spa Day

Sunday, May 21, the City of West University Parks and Recreation Department will host its seventh annual Mom's Spa Day. The moms of West U. and their guests are invited to come out to Colonial Park Pool, 4130 Byron, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. to be pampered poolside. Moms can indulge in a relaxing morning at the pool for a well-deserved break. There will be opportunities to win gifts and prizes from the vendors. Enjoy breakfast as you visit with businesses that cater to the local area. Finally, get a facial and take a dip in the kid-free pool! Registration is \$10 for West U. residents, \$15 for non-resident guests (limit one per resident), and registration is complimentary for 2017 Colonial Park Pool membership holders. For more information, call (713) 662-7420.

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Village NEWS

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New City Council Elected in West U.

By Ben Ballanant

West University Mayor Susan Sample won reelection in a landslide.

She tallied more votes in the three-way race than she did when she ran unopposed two years ago (1,283) and more than seven times the amount of support second

place Sonny Brandtner received. The 1,939 votes cast for Susan dwarfed not only the combined support of her two competitors, 269 for Brandtner and 132 for Greg Micek, but also the total ballots cast in the previous election two years ago (around

1,800).

Among the pool of eight candidates running for city council spots the top four take the seats. The theme here seemed to be new faces getting votes as Kellye Burke, Bob Higley, and top vote recipient Wayne Franklin will all be first time council mem-

bers. Rounding out the four- some is incumbent Mardi Turner.

The new council will be sworn in at the beginning of next month on Thursday, June 1, currently scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

West University Place resident Brooke Michelle has just won the Best Female Pop Artist and Best New Teen Artist of the Year at The Indie Channel Music Awards held two weekends ago, in Hollywood California. Brooke is the Lead Singer for The Writers in the Round Spotlight Band in West University Place.

Brooke, an honor student at School, is 14 years old and a prolific singer and songwriter. "A lot of my songs aren't necessarily about me or about my life. They're about a family member that went through something or a friend who likes a boy," she chuckles. "I can't remember a time when I didn't sing. I've been singing my whole life and I joined my school choir in the 3rd grade," she says. She also started taking guitar lessons at WTR in the fifth grade. Brooke's eighth grade year is almost over and she is headed to St. next year, where she will continue her musical journey. She dreams of becoming a recording artist and works hard to bring that song to life.



Brooke Michelle

Indie Channel Music Awards Go to West U. Musician: Best Female Pop Artist & Best New Teen Artist

She has performed with WTR Spotlight Band at Main Street Theater, Ovarions Night Club, Colonial Park, and at the Edloe Street Cafe. She has also performed at House of Blues, White Oak Music Hall and more.

Brooke will be performing in Arts for Autism, a benefit concert that supports the ADK Foundation, on

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June 19 at the Gershwin Theater on Broadway in New York City, playing the role of Eliza in the junior production of *Hamilton*.

Brooke has performed vocally at many community events, including National Charity League event for West University Seniors, Southwest Football League, West University Jazz Festival, West University Little League, The Challenger Organization, countless benefits and showcases as well as radio shows. One of her favorite things to do is to sing The National Anthem at community events.

Brooke's love for music extends to the theatre and she is a part of TUTS Humphreys School of Musical Theater. She has had several lead roles in school musicals, as well as in the ensemble cast of "Rent" at The Grand Opera House at age eleven.

She says musical theatre experience influences her work. Other influences and inspirations are current pop songs she hears on the radio. Stars Arianna Grande and The Weeknd are her two favorites. At this year's Houston Rodeo she went to see Fifth Harmony.

She says that while she writes pop music, some are pop-jazz and others are pop-country. She is flexible to the needs and demands of the songs she writes.

In addition to school and performing, Brooke volunteers with her mother through the National Charity League, a league that serves the community while fostering mother-daughter relationships. Brooke has given over 30 hours of her time this past year to various philanthropies through NCL; most have been spent supporting Texas Children's Hospital. She also serves her school and parish community by singing in choir, as well as a volunteer guitar and vocal teacher for young children at Writers in the Round music studio, and as a Cheer/Dance coach for Southwest Football League Cheer.



Brooke Michelle with her mom and dad on the red carpet at the IMC Awards in Hollywood.

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Brooke plays guitar, a little bit of piano and the ukulele. She is a volunteer and summer music-camp Counselor at WTR. Brooke enjoys spending time with her brother, cousins and friends, listening to music, bike riding and going to the beach. Meanwhile, she fits in band practice with her mates, John Meinert and Mary Shannon McConaty, as many Saturdays as they can.

For more information about Brooke you can visit wtr.org or her website at www.brookemichelle.com.

Taryn Morris [1st Place Maps, Graphs, and Charts, 3rd Place Oral Reading, 5th Place Spelling], Ava Gami [2nd place Spelling, 2nd Place Maps, Graphs, and Charts, 5th Place Math, 4th Place Number Sense]

7th Grade - David Dzul [3rd Place Music Memory, 4th Place Listening Skills]

8th Grade - Mary Balthazar [1st Place Art, 6th Place Listening Skills], Tajh Mason [6th Place Impromptu Speaking]

Pershing's 6th grade UIL parent

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coach was Dr. Candace Tenbrink [Ava Gami's mom]. Pershing teacher coaches included Mrs. Midyette and Ms. Bossette, and UIL Coordinator Dr. Galloway.

University Interscholastic League offers the most comprehensive academic competition in the nation. The program was created in 1910 by The University of Texas at Austin to challenge and motivate students to master specific skills beyond the standard academic curriculum. More than half a million students from school districts across the U.S. compete in the academic contests each year.

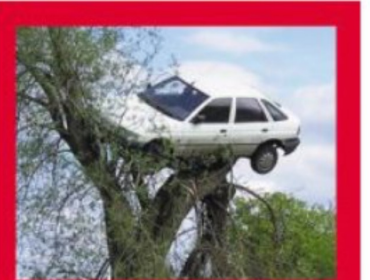
Conversations on Creation

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church continues *Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation*, an environmental education web meeting series whose theme in 2017 is *Connections between People and Nature*.

On May 21 at 6 p.m., Sr. Damien Marie Savino, Dean of Sciences & Sustainability at Aquinas College in Michigan, will speak on *Endocrine Disruptors*.

To join this online conversation, contact Lisa Brenskelle at gcs.lrc@gmail.com.

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