

Prairie Arts Council celebrates creative writing

High school authors honored at Festival of the Written Word

BY GOLDIE RAPP
grapp@bcnews.com

PRINCETON — Students from all over Bureau County took part in the Prairie Arts Council's first-ever creative writing event, Festival of the Written Word, held Monday in Princeton.

The festival featured writing workshops, a panel discussion on getting published, an open mike session, and a creative writing contest judged by local authors. More than 40 students from seven high schools took part in the event.

PAC board member Kevin Shyne, who is also a published author, was chairman of the event and said the budding authors outdid themselves.

"More than anything else, the goal of the festival was to provide an opportunity for young people in our community to celebrate themselves and each

other as creative writers," he said.

The festival was planned and coordinated with English and language arts teachers at Princeton High School, Hall High School, LaMoille High School, Ohio High School, DePue High School, St. Bede Academy and Bureau Valley High School.

The festival was free of charge to student participation. The festival was sponsored by the Prairie Arts Council with generous support from Church Women United and the Illinois Arts Council.

PAC President Steve Esme expressed appreciation of its partnerships with these organizations.

"The festival exemplifies our shared commitment to a wide range of arts programming," he said.

Writers were awarded in the categories of poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction.

First-place winner for poetry was Bethanie Quarton, a junior at Ohio High School; runner-up was Alicia Koogler, a junior at St. Bede Academy; and honorable mention went to Paige Blackburn, a sophomore at Hall High School.

See **WRITING**, Page 17

went to Paige Wagner, a freshman at Bureau Valley High School.

First-place winner for creative nonfiction was Yusra Khan, a sophomore at St. Bede Academy; runner-up was Dylan Benavidez, a sophomore at Bureau Valley High School and Kamryn Kolb, a freshman at Bureau Valley.



BCR photo/Goldie Rapp

The Prairie Arts Council hosted its first-ever Festival of the Written Word event Monday. Students recognized for their writing pieces including Yusra Khan (front row, left), a sophomore at St. Bede Academy; Bethanie Quarton, a junior at Ohio High School; Magdalena Gavina, a sophomore at DePue High School; and Valeria Hernandez, a senior at DePue High School; Alicia Koogler (back row, left) a junior at St. Bede Academy; Dylan Benavidez, a sophomore at Bureau Valley; Paige Blackburn, a sophomore at Hall High School; Paige Wagner, a freshman at Bureau Valley High School; and Kamryn Kolb, a freshman at Bureau Valley.

• WRITING

Continued from Page 3

First-place winner for fiction was Valeria Hernandez, a senior at DePue High School; runner-up was Magdalena Gavina, a sophomore at DePue High School; and honorable mention