

lights, cameras, competition

Advanced A/V submits films to AYF

Tons of time. Plenty of computer space. Blood, sweat and tears. This is what Advanced A/V classes put into their UIL films.

"Mark Twain said the two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you decide what you want to do," Julian Montez said. "Our film did really well with lots of superiors and an excellent. The judges said it was too intense a film, but we had a fantastic cast, and managed to finish shooting in a week."

After months of work, the students submitted three videos to the UIL Austin

Young Filmmakers festival: *Candyland* by Chris Bengtson and Jason Rhodes; *Shifter* by Griffin Chambers; and *Afterlife* by Thomas Blanks and Julian Montez.

All three submissions made it to the top 100 out of 600 films submitted. *Afterlife* made it to the semifinals, the top 44 out of 600.

"It took a really long time to film," Chambers said. "There were a lot of days when we didn't want to do it, but did it anyway because we knew the finished product would be worth it. I'm happy to have made it to the top 100."



Photo by Steve Sotke



Photo by Steve Sotke

Professional Filmmaking Chris Bengtson films a movie in advanced audio video production class. This class allowed students a creative outlet for ideas and heated discussions. Bengtson and Jason Rhodes submitted *Candyland* to the UIL Austin Young Filmmakers competition. "It felt good reading the reviews," Bengtson said. Photo by Steve Sotke



Photo by Steve Sotke



Photo by Steve Sotke



Photo by Steve Sotke

finding your center.

WHAT DO YOU FOCUS ALL YOUR TIME ON?

"I focus my life on friendships because failure is only a failure if you don't have friends."
— anthony lam "

"I've been focusing a lot of time on golf because I would like to turn pro sometime in the near future."
— william kim "



Photo by Steve Junetson (Creative Commons)

bringing home the bacon

2 students take grand champion swine at TCYS

With the musty smell of livestock and the rumble of people, the Travis County Youth Show was on. Almost 40 students showed animals ranging from steers to chickens, as well showing off their crafting and cooking abilities.

"I made strawberry-jalapeno jam from an old family recipe," said Colin Rhue, 12, jam champion. "I was nervous to see how my jam would do, but I was confident I would win like the past three years."

McNeil had plenty of good animal showings as well with several of them placing first or named breed champion.

"I showed my goat Stanley," Mia Woodall said. "I am very competitive, so I just went for it. I worked really hard for this show, and I'm really glad it paid off. I placed first in class 8."

In the Durco division, Ian Kaderka showed first which was named Grand Champion.

"I was surprised when I won, because small pigs don't tend to do very well."
— sarahthe loney*

"I was surprised to win because there was a lot of good competition," Kaderka said.

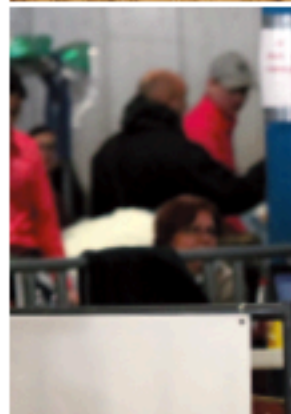
Taking Grand Champion in the Yorkshire division, Sarahthe Loney showed her pig, Hamlet. "I was extremely nervous and surprised when I won, because small pigs don't tend to do very well," Loney said.

With a total of 24 ribbons this year — destroying last year's 14 — the contestants prepared well for this show.

"The students' efforts in raising their animals was very apparent in this show," ag teacher Larry Whitenk said. "All the students did great, taking the suggestions I had to help them get ready. It was an exceptional group."



Photo by Steve Sotke



Strut That Stuff! Showing her goat at the Travis County Youth Show, Karl Kiefer competes for first place. "My favorite part is creating awesome memories," Kiefer said. "It's great to be able to grow close with all the animals." Kiefer won first place in her class. Photo by Steve Sotke

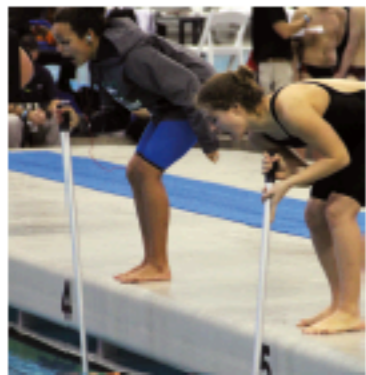
"I focus on bettering myself as an individual and living life as I should being a teenager."
— claire o'connor "

"I focus a lot of my time on volleyball. I'm hoping I could get a scholarship when I'm a senior."
— nat bames "

"I focus my time on dancing since it's a big part of my life. There's not a day where you won't see me dancing."
— abigayle garcia "

"The center of my life in high school are my friends because it's fun."
— rachel yedavalli "

Scream and Shout As McNeil swimmers race to the end of their event, Tori McMillan and Mackenzie Glava count how many laps their teammates have swum. "My favorite part about swim is being close to the team," McMillan said. "I like being able to have a good experience with all the team members." Photo by Kyle Stewart



Nick Shorper Photo by Kyle Stewart



Head First Diving off at the preliminary 500 during the district meet, Kate Shomper swims with all her might. "All the seniors constantly cheered each other on, and we were really sad when we realized this was the last meet of our swimming career," Shomper said. Photo by Kyle Stewart

life in the fastlane

Swimmers end season with state qualifiers

Swimming was not an easy sport, anyone on the team could tell you that. From waking up at 6 a.m. to swimming outdoors in sub-freezing temperatures, somehow it was all worth it in the end.

"I've been swimming since I was six years old," Mackenzie Glava said. "I swam on Stingrays with coach [Johnny] Foss, and I was so happy when I found out I'd be swimming with him at McNeil. It's bittersweet finishing my season. I think Coach Foss is a great coach and I wouldn't be where I am today without him."

Even though Foss coaches high school swimming and soccer, he still found time in his schedule to coach summer league and fill his immense passion he has for the sport.

With a great coach to guide 20+ girls to yet another first place finish at district, Foss went above and beyond to ensure his team's success.

"This year our boy's relay made it to state and I'm so thankful for everything Foss has done to help us get there," Josh Harris said. "There were some tough practices with the below-freezing weather and moments when I just wanted to leave, but you have to push through it and your hard work will pay off."

With many shining moments throughout the season, the entire team spread that positive energy and mentally prepared themselves for the regional meet.

Region IV was the fastest region in the state of Texas for swimming. Only eight call ups were allowed to advance to state and the girls 200 freestyle relay fell short, being the 9th call up in Texas.

"It was a tough moment for me and the girls," Glava said. "It's my senior year and I really wanted us to make it to state. It sucks missing 8th call up by .2 seconds."

Being the toughest region in the state, it was hard to advance to finals, let alone state. However Ross Sullivan did both. "I've been swimming since I could walk," Sullivan said. "Being able to swim at state again was a great accomplishment in my books."

With a relay and 100 yard freestyle swim at state, Foss was more than ecstatic for his swimmers.

"They worked hard for it," Foss said. "I tried to guide them in the right direction but ultimately it's up to them whether or not they'll do something extraordinary."



Clayde Gibbs Photo by Kyle Stewart



Daniel Sitt Photo by Kyle Stewart



Delaney Oakes Photo by Kyle Stewart



Hug it Out During the district meet at UT, Sarah Sullivan hugs Abree Gluff after finishing her last race as a senior. "I was proud of [Gluff] for completing her breast stroke with her best time," Sullivan said. Gluff placed 10th in the race. Photo by Kyle Stewart

Making a Splash At the Round Rock pool, Alexandra Shamblin swims in one of the first swim meets of the year. "Relays are the best because you can get your best times. Also, you get to watch part of the event," Shamblin said. Photo by Rebecca Mitchell

finding your center.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN IN HIGH SCHOOL?

"When I graduate from high school I hope that I can take away memories to tell my children when I'm old and wrinkly."
— Haley Birt "

"I haven't lived here very long but I hope when I leave McNeil I can take away a good impression of Austin and the people that are in it."
— Sarah Taylor "



Photo by Eric Ruff (Creative Commons)

"When I leave high school I hope that I have been able to decide what I want to make of my life."
— Natalie Kelly "

"I hope that when I leave high school I can see that it shaped me into a person who is ready to face the world or to face those aliens that are out there."
— Kayla Redd "

"High school has shown me what I want to study in college so I would say my high school years have been successful."
— Kate Shomper "

"I would like to be able to talk to people, so I can have a more successful life."
— Haley Craven "

startingline

Friday Football Frenzy

- 9-10:30 a.m.: Get the trunks packed with all equipment needed for the game. Also, help the athletes with any injuries.
- 2 p.m.: Trainer lunches
- 4:30 p.m.: Athletes come in to get taped for the game, such as wrists, shins and ankles. Also wounds get covered to ensure they don't open during the game.
- 5:15 p.m.: Load the bus and head to the game. Water bottles and pre-game drinks ready.
- 7 p.m.: Kick off



Yarning to Win At the senior night for basketball, trainers Whitney BellTM and Emily SchnurerTM fill up water bottles for the players. "I like being able to help out with sports and earn the athletes' trust," Bell said. "I hope to do training in college and this is a good way to get started." After college, Bell hopes to start a career in professional sports training. *Photo by Katie*

Water Girls Helping with the Nav Relays, sports trainers Cat BuechlerTM and Sarah RobichauxTM bring water jugs to the event. "Football and soccer games are my favorite to train for," Robichaux said. "Football games are full of energy and soccer has a fun atmosphere." The trainers patched up runners in the med tent during the relays. *Photo by Katie*



Dylan SommerTM Photo by Katie



STM Academy in the trainers' room, Brenda GuerraTM treats the injured shoulder of K.J. AllenTM. "The trainers alleviate some of the pain we get," Allen said. "My worst injury that I've had from football is a broken collarbone." *Photo by Katie*



Sarah RobichauxTM, Cat BuechlerTM Photo by Katie



ice, ice baby

Trainers prepare for future jobs

Waking up has to be the hardest thing for students to have to deal with every morning. Even before the sun rose, student trainers gathered together at 6 a.m. to prepare for the morning practices.

Although it was an obstacle that occurred every football game, the trainers overcame for their passion. "Getting up so early was tough, but we made it really fun. Game days were always the best," Brenda GuerraTM said.

Many of the students first began as trainers to get an insight of their future passions. Wanting to be physical therapists, a lot of trainers used the resources given to grow the skills that they needed. This included how to deal with game-related injuries, multitasking, time management and handling stressful situations.

Being in high school didn't stop the trainers from what they were able to do. They were an important factor during games and helped students on a daily basis from sports-related injuries.

The end of football season this didn't mean that the trainers were done with their duties. Now that soccer and track started, the trainers dealt with more games and challenges.

Although being a trainer had its downs, it also created memories that centered on the importance of what a trainer was.

"The greatest memory that I have had this year was when we walked on the field at the homecoming game. All of the seniors were there and it's a memory to remember everyone that's leaving," Dylan SommerTM said.

finding your center.

WHAT IS THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE?

“The center of my life right now is my job and school but mainly my job because I feel that it would further my life rather than school because I'm not really learning what I want to do in life at school.”
— Megan WarrickTM

“The main focus of my life is furthering my dream to do a long term mission in the Middle East after I graduate from college.”
— Alyssa ProulxTM

“The center of my high school career is track. I can't imagine not running. It's become part of my lifestyle.”
— Sierra HammondTM

“The most important things to me are my education and having the chance to play my cello. Growing up Asian, my people value education a lot. My parents are immigrants and didn't have the chance to get much of an education, so they're passing the missed opportunity down to me.”
— Jessica LauTM

“The center of my life is just being happy and doing whatever I want without being stressed.”
— Dylan ColesTM

“The one goal I mostly want to keep is to keep all my friends that I have now for the rest of my life.”
— Hannah SunstromTM

“The center of my life is orange juice. I love it so much. Sometimes I eat it with cucumbers, too.”
— Austin LiTM



Team Players While at the Victoria Tournament, Leilani McDaniel¹¹, Kaylie Ivester¹² and Nicole Neves¹² smile for the camera. "The hardest part about golf is keeping my head together after a bad hole and not letting it affect my overall golf game," Ivester said. The girls' team placed fourth overall. Photo by Matt Hoover

Can You Hold the Flag At the Concan tournament, Nicole Neves¹² putts to gain a better score than the other competition. "The most challenging part of golf is the mental aspect and fighting myself to stay calm," Neves said. Photo by Matt Hoover



Staving it Down Reading the put at the Waco Tournament, William Kim¹² focuses on what needs to get done. "The most rewarding part of golf is seeing the good results slowly, but surely," Kim said. Photo by Matt Hoover

Looking Sharp After fighting the bitter cold in the Concan tournament, the varsity boys celebrate their third place finish. "The best part about golf is how independent it is," Dane Garcia¹¹ said. "It's all on you." Photo by Matt Hoover



a perfect season

Golfers reflect on endeavors

The golf team enjoyed a great amount of success over the past season. The journey, however, was no walk in the park. In order to sustain the success, team members had to continue their persistence on both the practice course and in competition.

"We all had to work hard and work well as a team to perform like we did in competition," Ashley Neves¹² said. "The team doing good is attributable to practice."

The golfers weren't alone in their strive for success, however, as coach Matt Hoover¹⁸ served an integral role in the cultivation and development of their talent and work ethic.

"Coach Hoover is good about persisting and encouraging us to practice harder; he knows us as individuals and what we need to work on and has a good attitude," Leilani McDaniel¹¹ said. "We worked harder and

better as a team and began scoring more than we used to."

While the golf team's accomplishments were quite the feat, they tended to be overshadowed by some of the more

prestigious sports. With that, the golf players contend, asserting that they deserve an equal share of the spotlight.

"Don't forget about the golf team," Nicole Neves¹² said. "We do good things that go unnoticed. Golf rocks."

"We worked harder and better as a team and began scoring more than we used to."

— Leilani McDaniel¹¹



concentrated efforts

In golf, I've learned how to work with different people and that not every day will be good but you have to tough it out."

— Kaylie Ivester¹²

The best thing about playing golf is how peaceful playing can be; it's you and the course."

— William Kim¹²

One in a Million Competing in the Northside Invitational at Concan Golf Club, Lauren Kim¹² sinks a hole in one. "I was very shocked when I made it, because hole in ones are very rare," Kim said. Kim's hole in one created a record for the school. Photo by Matt Hoover



finding your center.

WHAT DO YOU FOCUS ALL YOUR TIME ON?

"I spend my time running hurdles for track and participating in HOSA."

— miki roman¹¹

"I'm planning on going to pharmacy school after I graduate and so I spend a lot of time at internships at hospitals and shadowing there."

— judy kim¹¹

"I am usually doing something school related, especially with taking AP History this year and other classes that can be challenging."

— emily johnson¹¹



"I spend a lot of my time right now focusing on film class because I want to go into film after high school."

— christopher bengson¹¹

"I try to prioritize very well and get my important work done first so I can handle other things. I see a lot of reminders, and I like to get things done completely and give it my all."

— haleigh paterson¹¹

"I spend a lot of my time studying so that I can graduate with nice grades. With all my credits, I want to go to a nice college and have a good career."

— eshita velani¹¹

LAX is the Max: After the Westwood game, the Mavs show off the Wild West trophy. "These two past seasons were tough," Chase Stone¹⁹ said. "We struggled to work together. We wanted to beat Westwood, and the only way to do that was if we worked cohesively together." Photo by Aleky Davidson

Trophy Team: Trying to steal the ball from an opponent, Austin Whitlow¹⁹ attempts to win back the Wild West trophy from Westwood. "It was tied until the last two minutes until we scored two goals in a row," Whitlow said. "After every game we reward ourselves by going to Whataburger." Photo by Aleky Davidson



stick it to the man

Lacrosse boys rejoice with Wild West Trophy win

Although every game throughout the year was important for the boys' lacrosse team, the game against the Westwood Warriors easily topped the list. By winning back the Wild West Trophy, the boys' effort paid off. Although the Mavericks won the trophy this year, they weren't always so successful in winning the game. "We got the trophy sophomore year, lost it junior, and got it back this year," Austin Whitlow¹⁹ said. "It's a big deal because our biggest rival is Westwood." The win was a pivotal point, especially for the seniors, since they get to graduate

knowing that they won the Wild West Trophy back for the team. "It felt rewarding for all our hard work to be paid off and to take back the trophy," Whitlow said. The trophy showed the boys how determined they were to win. The game against Westwood wasn't the only rewarding game for the lacrosse game. The boys dedicated themselves to win their games and to head to playoffs. "I will never forget the game where we were down 1-3 with Bowie High School and then came back to win 11-7," Jamie Delahun¹⁹ said.

"The season has been great and we hope to get to state and win. The best part of the lacrosse team is playing with my teammates that I have been with for years."

— Jamie Delahun¹⁹

concentrated efforts

"I have to pick up the balls, set up the goals and do stuff that seniors don't. But my teammates are nice and I get a lot of playing time."
— Jeff Borlinghaus¹⁹

"The hardest thing is getting up for practice at 7 a.m. The strongest thing about the team is always being positive."
— Ryan Bass¹⁹

"We play too lacrosse and I get better every time I go. Lacrosse made me try harder in school so I can be there for my team."
— Ash Randall¹⁹

"It feels good to be with the same people that you've been with for four years. My favorite memory is taking selfies in the showers."
— Olan Brown¹⁹



Neck and Neck: During the game against Westwood, Matthew Lutz¹⁹ guards the ball and successfully wins possession. "This game was personally my favorite because our team played well together," Lutz said. The boys worked hard and beat Westwood. Photo by Aleky Davidson

finding your center.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN IN HIGH SCHOOL?

"I want to learn about the world and our history. I think history is really cool."
— Nicole McDavid¹⁹

"I hope that when I leave high school that I can feel like I learned something useful to help me find a good paying job."
— Sara Miller¹⁹

"I hope to gain a good education and learn new information that will help me for the rest of my life in all aspects. I want to also pick up good communication skills and create a memorable experience that I can always remember."
— Deevika Sharma¹⁹

"I hope to be smart, to conquer my fears and have the best four years of my life."
— Cameron Romero¹⁹

"Preparation for college is the main thing. Preparation for a future, preparation for what I will become is what I want most out of high school."
— Wendy Yoon¹⁹

"I want to gain experience in reading and math. In high school, I did Special Olympics in tennis, bowling, and basketball."
— Rachel Yednapati¹⁹

"I want to learn how to be a successful person."
— Raegen Hollins¹⁹

