



## Perris Press Release

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### Perris Honors Art Contest Winners

Louis Bentley says he's not surprised that he did well on the art contest sponsored by the City of Perris as part of the recent Fred T. Perris Day celebration.

After all, the contest combined history and art, two of his favorite subjects at school.

Louis, 16, a sophomore at Rancho Verde High School, took top honors in the art contest for his sketch in pencil that featured a man on horse, a train, an airplane and several historic buildings.

Downtown. For his efforts, the soft-spoken Louis earned a medallion presented by Mayor Daryl Busch, lunch with the Mayor and a \$35 gift certificate to Tilly's clothing store. City Manager

Richard Belmudez, Executive Assistant Marilyn Fernholz, Human Resources and Risk Manager Isabel Lugo and Administrative Assistant Tammy Bianco also attended the luncheon.

"I wanted to draw something that shows the pride of Perris," Louis said. "I am pleased and surprised to have received a lunch invitation from the Mayor and City Manager."

Alex Castillo, a Lakeside Middle School student, took first place among the middle-schoolers who entered the art contest. Others who took part in the contest included Tanjanique Blair, of Rancho Verde High School and Destiny Rodriguez, Diana Gonzalez and Victoria Bidwell, all of Lakeside Middle School.

Louis was born in Saginaw, Mi., and moved to Perris about 11 years ago when his family decided to head out west. He is one of four children in the family and in addition to his art work, runs in the 440-meter relays. He said he heard about the Perris Art Contest, which was held in conjunction with the City's ongoing Centennial celebration, from his art teacher, William Burgess.

He said he spent about three days conceiving the winning poster and putting his vision to paper. He says he does a lot of his sketching in a loft in the family home in the Village of Avalon on Perris' north side.

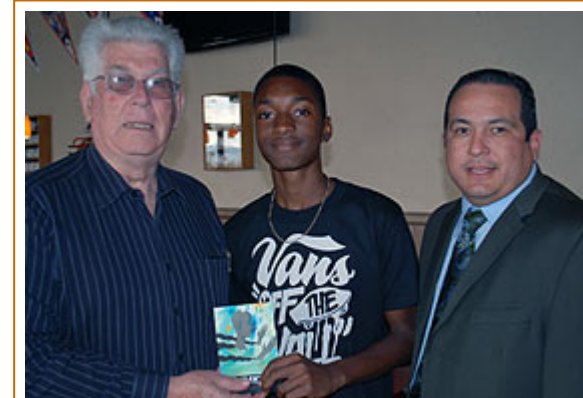
In addition to poster, Louis' other artwork includes movie characters, like the creature from "Predator." He said he would like to pursue a career as a graphic artist upon completing college.

Mayor Busch said he came away with a great deal of respect for Louis both as a young man and artist. The teen-ager, Busch said, handled himself like a pro while answering questions from himself, the City Manager and other members of City staff.

"I am very impressed that his hopes and desires include continuing involvement in art," Busch said. "The artwork he created for the City of Perris centennial celebration was really great. It showed a lot of thought and talent."



Mayor Daryl Busch with the winner's of the Fred T. Perris Day Art Contest at a recent City Council meeting.



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch presents Louis Bentley with a gift certificate from Tilly's during a luncheon this week.



Louis Bentley's award winning design.