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CHASKA HERALD

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PHOTO BY ALEX CHHITH

Jenna September was nominated for a number of national art awards from the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

Local student sweeps art competition

BY ALEX CHHITH
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Jenna September has never been on a road trip across America.

In fact, the 18-year-old Chaska High School student spent most of her life in South Africa, where she was born. September moved to the Clover Ridge neighborhood in 2016 and, after reading a friend's short story about driving

across the United States, was inspired.

The teen began drawing five girls preparing to take a trip across America on her tablet. The cartoon-like piece represents what she hopes will be a future trip with her friends after graduating, September said.

The piece, called "Road Trip," took a month to complete and is now nominated for an American Voices & Visions medal, one of Scholastic Art and Writing Awards' highest honors. Only five are selected each year from Minnesota for the medal, said Chaska High School Art Teacher Christina Keith, who teaches September.

In the painting, there are girls of various ethnicities. One sitting on the ground has a map in front of her, two others paint the group's big green van, another with purple hair hangs her head out of the driver seat window, and a girl with long curly black hair lounges on top of the vehicle with a radio and coffee nearby.

"They're a diverse group of girls," September said. "It is representative of what I was used to, my group of friends as well and people of different cultures."

Art to 5 >

"She's motivated, dedicated and hard working."

Art teacher Christina Keith



PHOTO BY LARA BOCKENSTEDT

SouthWest Station is at 13500 Technology Drive in Eden Prairie. As construction kicks in for the SWLRT Green Line extension, SouthWest Transit will continue to provide service at the Eden Prairie site.

It's Prime time now

Ridership changes at SouthWest Transit

BY LARA BOCKENSTEDT
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The way southwest metro residents commuted changed in 2018, and SouthWest Transit CEO Len Simich anticipates further shifts this year.

Following a strong showing of 2,074 special event rides on Feb. 3, the day before the Super Bowl was held in downtown Minneapolis, SouthWest saw ridership of its Express lines dip by 4 percent over 2018, according to an annual report.

Through annual surveys and focus groups, Simich said the reason had to do with work schedule flexibility. The Express lines include commuter-friendly routes to

Transit to 4 >

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