

# K'NEX judges dig dinosaur designs

**KIM WILLIAMS**

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Dmitri and Julia Furman are proud of their son, Josef. He's one of the 2011 K'NEXpert Search winners for his model "Dinosaurs Together."

"In early September, my wife and I entered our son's creation into the International K'NEX contest called K'NEXperts 2011," Dmitri said. "We never mentioned the contest to Josef again so not to disappoint him in case he was not selected by K'NEX judges to be in the top 10."

The Furman's were excited to hear that Josef's creation made it into the top 10.

"It made us very proud and made Josef very excited about the recognition that his creation has received," Dmitri said. "Being selected into Top 10 has opened a chance for Josef to fulfill his dream to tour K'NEX facilities in Pennsylvania and meeting the K'NEX creator himself, Joel Glickman."

Josef is a third grader at Barksdale Elementary. He spent his entire summer break working on his K'NEX model. It took about 3 months and 1411 pieces to complete, and he ran into several challenges along the way in his design process.

"I asked myself 'How are you supposed to keep all these pieces so closely smudged together without

having to force it to brake or something?' Josef said. "I was challenged a lot with my big dinosaur because I had to find a way to keep his neck up without him falling over. And then I thought 'how can I stop this thing from falling over so much and then I just put on the most simplest piece of the whole thing, but the most useful piece too because it keeps the neck from not falling apart."

His design is a model of 4 dinosaurs: a pteranodon, chasmosaurus, velociraptor and a diplodocus.

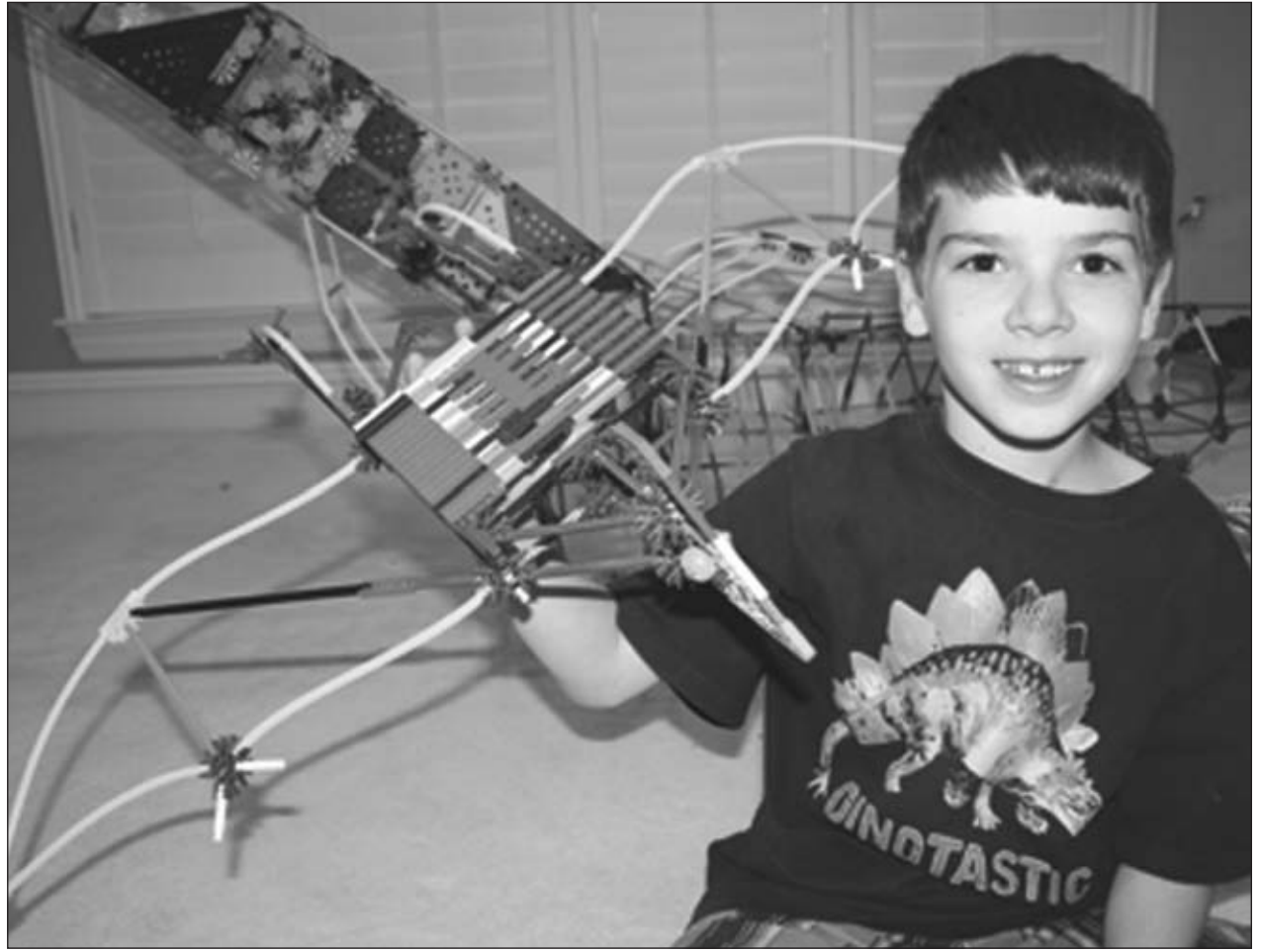
"He made a model of dinosaurs because he is really into paleontology," Julia said.

She explained that as an official K'NEXpert Josef gets an invitation for a private tour of the factory, lunch with the designers, and a choice of K'nex products any time during 2011.

"He will also have a page with his profile posted on their website on November 12th as part of 2011 K'NEXpert panel," Julia said. "He will also receive K'NEX product prototypes during the year and will provide his feedback to the company."

The nationwide search asks kids ages 5-12 to submit original designs made entirely out of K'NEX pieces. This year, three grand prize winners and seven finalists were chosen from three age categories.

According to the K'NEX



KIM WILLIAMS / STAFF PHOTO

K'NEXpert, 8-year-old Josef Furman, won a spot on the 2011 panel with his Dinosaurs Together model. As panel member, he will tour the K'NEX facilities in Pennsylvania and meet the K'NEX creator.

website, 10 Semi-Finalists per age category were chosen by panels of K'NEX judges, comprised entirely of K'NEX employees, who based their decision on the 50 percent creativity, 25 percent uniqueness and 25 percent detail demonstrated in the entry. There were 30 semi-finalists chosen and then public votes within a seven day period deter-

mined the top three winners for each category.

Josef has been playing with K'NEX since he was about 3-years-old. The entrée criteria required the designs to be original, and his model is just that. Even one of them is motorized and moves wiggles it's tail.

"I want to be a scientist—a paleontologist who runs all around the world to

study fossils," Josef said. "Maybe I can discover something new."

"The K'NEXpert contest is the highlight of our year," said K'NEX President Michael Araten. "K'NEX fans consistently surpass our expectations with their creativity and innovation, building elaborate works of art."

As a finalist Josef will re-

ceive a U.S. savings bonds totaling \$1,000 for college and assorted prizes throughout the year, including building sets and a special birthday surprise.

For information on Josef's K'NEX creations, visit [josefsknexcreations.wordpress.com/2010/10/11/knex-knexperts-contest/](http://josefsknexcreations.wordpress.com/2010/10/11/knex-knexperts-contest/). For information about K'NEX, visit [knex.com](http://knex.com).

## Collin County GOP members celebrate large scale local victories

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mayor from Houston, only receiving 42 percent of the vote. Perry had a wider margin of victory in Collin County receiving 64 percent and White only receiving 33 percent of the vote.

Perry was helped locally

by a Plano friend, Craig Keeland, who pulled together a fund-raising rally at Glen Eagles Country Club that brought in the largest number of dollars ever in a Collin County event. More than \$300,000 were sent to Perry's cam-

paign coffers from Keeland's event.

Local Democrats know they have an up hill battle to fight when campaigning in the county. Shawn Stevens said the vote came down to what was happening on the national level

and how it transferred to the local level. He said local politicians were voted against simply because they are in the same party as certain national politicians and not because of the message they had.

"The election the voters were concerned about the direction of the nation and the Democrats were perceived as being in charge on a national level and the voters expressed their concern by even voting against local Democrats," Stevens said. "I am proud and thankful for the hard work of our local democratic volunteers that went out there and put their hearts into turning out the democratic vote."

While taking their lumps in 2010 Democrats remain optimistic for the future.

"2012 will be here before you know it and we will continue building the ground work building our local democratic politicians," Stevens said.

### Collin County Ballot Results

Votes cast: 157,399  
Percent of registered: 37.07 percent

#### Straight ticket party votes

Total Votes 97,129  
**Republican:** 708,44  
72.94 percent  
**Democrat:** 25,464  
26.22 percent  
**Libertarian:** 698  
.72 percent  
**Green:** 123  
.13 percent

**U.S. Representative, District 3**  
Sam Johnson  
Republican

**U.S. Representative, District 4**  
Ralph M. Hall  
Republican

**Governor**  
Rick Perry  
Republican

**Lieutenant Governor**  
David Dewhurst  
Republican

**Attorney General**  
Greg Abbott  
Republican

**State Senator, District 8**  
Florence Shapiro  
Republican

**State Republican representative, District 66**  
Van Taylor  
Republican

**State Republican representative, District 67**  
Jerry Madden  
Republican

**State Republican representative, District 70**  
Ken Paxton  
Republican

**State Republican representative, District 89**  
Jodie Laubenberg  
Republican

**Chief Justice, 5th Court of Appeals District**  
Carolyn Wright  
Republican

**Justice, 5th Court of Appeals District, Place 4**  
Lana Myers  
Republican

**Justice, 5th Court of Appeals District, Place 7**  
Michael J. O'Neill  
Republican

**Justice, 5th Court of Appeals District, Place 12 - Unexpired Term**  
Robert M. Fillmore  
Republican

**District Judge, 219th Judicial District**  
Scott J. Becker  
Republican

**District Judge, 296th Judicial District**  
John R. Roach Jr.  
Republican

**District Judge, 366th Judicial District**  
Ray Wheelless  
Republican

**District Judge, 417th Judicial District**  
Cyndi McCrann  
Wheelless  
Republican

**District Judge, 429th Judicial District**  
Jill Willis  
Republican

**Criminal District Attorney**

Greg Willis  
Republican

**County Judge**  
Keith Self  
Republican

**Judge, County Court at Law No. 3**  
Lance S. Baxter  
Republican

**District Clerk**  
Patricia Crigger  
Republican

**County Commissioner, Precinct 2**  
Cheryl Williams  
Republican

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 2**  
John E. Payton  
Republican

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4**  
WM "Mike" Yarbrough  
Republican

#### Unopposed Candidates Declared Elected

**Judge, County Court at Law No. 1**  
Corinne Ann Mason  
Republican

**Judge, County Court at Law No. 2**  
Jerry Lewis  
Republican

**Judge, County Court at Law No. 4**  
David Rippel  
Republican

**Judge, County Court at Law No. 5**  
Dan Wilson  
Republican

**Judge, County Court at Law No. 6**  
Jay Bender  
Republican

**Judge, Probate Court**  
Weldon S. Copeland  
Republican

**County Clerk**  
Stacey Kemp  
Republican

**County Commissioner, Precinct 4**  
Duncan Webb  
Republican

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1**  
Paul Raleeh  
Republican

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2**  
Terry Douglas  
Republican



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