Collin County GOP members celebrate large scale local victories

KIM WILLIAMS

Dunizt and Julie Fairman are proud of their son Josef. He’s one of the 10 semifinalists for the K'NEX K'NEXperts 2011 contest.

"In September, my wife and I entered our creation into the International K’NEX Design contest,” Dunizt said. “We never expected the contest to Josef again. He was not selected by a K’NEX judge to be in the top 10."

The Furmans were surprised that Josef’s creation made it into the top 10. "I made it as a personal project. Josef was excited about the recognition that his creation has received," Dunizt said. "Being selected into Top 10 has opened a chance for Josef to add his design to K’NEX facilities in Pennsylvania and meet the K’NEX creators himself."

Josef is a third grader at Barksdale Elementary. He spent his entire summer creating his model for the contest. "I visited K'NEX headquarters, volunteered, and designed a diorama," Josef said. "I made a model of dinosaurs, planetarium, roller coaster and a diorama.”

"I asked myself ‘How are these K’NEX pieces and how do I put them together?’" Josef said. "I was challenged a lot with my design process. It took about 3 months and 1411 pieces to create the K'NEX model. It took about 3 months and 1411 pieces to create the K’NEX model. And then I put the most simple pieces of the whole thing. But the most useful piece to keep the neuron from falling or breaking is a flat piece."

Josef’s design is a model of a neuron, according to Dunizt. "I think it could be translated into paleontology."

"I explained that an official K’NEXperts Josef get an invitation for a private tour of the factory, lunch with the designers, and a chance of K’NEX prototypes any time during 2011. "He will also exchange a page with his profile posted on their website on November 10th as part of K’NEX 2011. It will also receive K’NEX products and receive a K’NEX building kit."

The nationwide search is aimed to find the best new and original designs made entirely of K’NEX pieces. This year, three semi-finalists were chosen for each age category, totaling $1,000 for college savings. According to the K’NEX website, 10 Semi-Finalists’ age category were chosen by panels of K’NEX judges, comprised entirely of K’NEX employees, who based their decision on the 30 percent creativity, 25 percent uniqueness and 45 percent detailed demonstration in the entry. There were 10 semi-finalists chosen and three public votes within a seven day period determined the top three winners for each category. "Josef has been playing K’NEX since he was about 3 years old. The entry required the design to be original and he modelled it in that. It was a complete model. It was of the main characters and a mouse sitting right.

"I want to be a scientist-I want to be a paleontologist who runs all around the world to study fossils," Josef said. "I am so excited."

KIM WILLIAMS / STAFF PHOTO

The voters for the local judicial races voted overwhelming for the local candidates. In the 90th District Court, Judge John H. Roach Jr. received 52,909 votes, Robert M. Fillmore 25,464 votes and John E. Payton 18,489 votes. In the 404th District Court, Judge Timothy Meaux received 59,506 votes, Amanda McClellan 24,685 votes and Patricia Crigger 10,368 votes.

In the 51st District Court, Judge Betty Dickey received 33,270 votes, John R. Roach Jr. 19,551 votes and Michael Araten 14,109 votes.

In the State Representative District 22, Republican Vance McClair received 17,701 votes, Republican Frank Lauer 12,035 votes and Democrat Christopher Archen 730 votes.

In the State Senator District 23, Democrat Frank Martin received 17,627 votes, Republican Robert McCray 10,291 votes and Democrat Curtis Poore 3,711 votes.

In the 107th District Judge election, Democrat John L. Gray received 8,480 votes, Republican Van Taylor 5,504 votes, Republican John E. Payton 1,123 votes and independent Michael J. Hunt 142 votes.

In the 3rd State House District election, Democrat Mary Facundo received 22,411 votes, Republican Shawn Mathis 12,334 votes and independent Frances Dye 1,465 votes.

In the 14th State House District election, Democrat Matt Schaefer received 26,505 votes, Republican Justin Color and independent Michael J. Hunt 1,580 votes.

In the 18th State House District election, Democrat Monica Gonzalez received 33,042 votes and Republican John Mao 23,161 votes.

In the 38th State House District election, Democrat Joe Piarr 23,542 votes, Republican John Bangle 7,185 votes, Republican William Welsch 1,859 votes and independent Guy Bivins 346 votes.

Collin County Ballots Results

Voters cast: 327,389

Total votes: 327,389

Percent of registered: 27.07 percent

Straight ticket party votes

Total Vote: 117,729

Republican: 117,729

Democrat: 1,117

Libertarian: 53

Green: 70

Total: 126,316 votes

Winners: Republican

Collin County Bar Association

Attorney General

Greg Abbott

Republican

John R. Roach Jr.

Republican

Robert M. Fillmore

Republican

Michael Araten

Republican

Christopher Archen

Republican

Van Taylor

Republican

Tommy Davis

Republican

Ronnie Yarbrough

Republican

Shawn Mathis

Republican

Van Taylor

Republican

Robert McCray

Republican

Dana Crigger

Republican

Mary Facundo

Republican

Thomas O'Neil

Republican

Greg Abbott

Republican

Robert McCray

Republican

Mike Daron

Republican

Matt Schaefer

Republican

Mike C. Crist

Republican

Scott A. Dicks

Republican

Michael J. Hunt

Independent

Frances Dye

Independent

Bill Croyle

Independent

Kelly Glenn

Independent

Ollie White

Independent

William G. Wimsatt

Independent

Curtis Poore

Independent

John E. Payton

Independent

Guy Bivins

Independent

Donald Bivins

Independent

Richard Bledsoe

Independent

Van Taylor

Republican

Van Taylor

Republican

Van Taylor

Republican

Van Taylor

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