

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 entré 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/. For information about K'NEX, visit 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-

aign 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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