

STEM

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The event was created by teachers and showcased projects students have been working on for months, said ECESD Coordinator Marco Arellano.

About 200 students from Wilson Junior High School, Kennedy Middle School and De Anza Magnet participated, and friends, family and members of the public were invited to check out their work Tuesday.

STEM fields are a growing job market, Arel-

lano noted, and the district "definitely wants to encourage kids at an early age and prepare them for the leading jobs the market has for us."

He also hopes that Valley companies within STEM fields come and join future events to help provide feedback on what the district should target. One parent with a developed interest in astronomy showed off constellations and a large telescope to visitors at STEM Night while the Imperial Valley Desert Museum provided information on geology as well as displayed unique gems and minerals.

"This is no longer just 'open this book and answer the questions time,'" said Mary Gilbert, Wilson Junior High School science teacher. "It's to create, invent and come up with your own ideas ... take something we already have and make it better."

The students chose to create a project from within seven areas of STEM education: environmental/agricultural innovation, reverse engineering, science fiction, invention, robotics and computer science, scientific inquiry or Rube Goldberg.

"I'm really thrilled to see that my kids like science and they did this on their own time, not during class," Gilbert added.

The event also gave students a chance to develop presentation and speaking skills as they engaged other students or parents to learn about their projects. Some worked in groups while others presented individually.

Wilson eighth-grader Chase Benton completed a reverse engineering project on a musical kaleidoscope for his project. "I just liked it because I

got to see how it works," he said. "I expected there to be a lot more parts but it's much simpler."

Wilson seventh-grade science teacher Jean McGaw marveled at the varied projects that filled the Wilson gym for STEM Night.

With women underrepresented in STEM fields, she said she really enjoys encouraging girls to become interested in those subjects and believes that events like the one Tuesday gives all students a chance to show off their interests in STEM subjects to family and friends.

Nearby, Wilson eighth-grader Ricardo Sedano showed off his brightly lit and fast-moving robotic swing that he created by taking apart a remote control car.

"I like how you learn a lot because if you fail you know how to then do it again the right way," he said. "It's important for students to have the experience ... You could create the next iPad or iPhone."

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TRIAL

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Karen Lim, a senior from Brawley Union High School, earned a total of four medals, the most special of which was the medal for outstanding defense opening, she said.

"I worked really hard and practiced all the time for that because it sets the mood for the trial so it really helps if you kill it in the beginning," Karen said with a smile.

Cazandra Jacobo also made multiple trips up to the stage during the banquet, not only for her solo performance, but for her entire team's effort as well.

Cazandra is part of the Central Union High School Mock Trial team

LEFT: Members of the Brawley Union High School Mock Trial team smile after receiving their second-place medals.



RIGHT: Members of the Central Union High School Mock Trial team smile after receiving their first-place trophy at the Mock Trial Awards Banquet at Frank Wright Middle School in Imperial on Tuesday night. KARINA LOPEZ PHOTOS



that competed in the state competition and finished as runners-up in the event.

"It's surreal," she said with a smile. "I can't get over the fact that we made it so far."

Cazanra said of all her medals she was awarded she appreciated the one the judges gave her for best defense closing.

"It feels really nice to be recognized because it took a lot of hard work," she said.

In her first year as a mock trial member, Kiana Nava also took home a medal earning the title of best clerk.

"Mock trial was something that I always wanted

to try so I did it," the Central freshman said. "I've mostly enjoyed seeing our team grow since the beginning of the year."

Kiana said she was appreciative of the Central teacher and mock trial coaches for helping the students along the way and was already looking

forward to next year.

The annual banquet was hosted by the Imperial County Office of Education, which oversees the competition between the six high schools that had teams this year.

Robin Bates, the Imperial County Mock Trial coordinator, said the ban-

quet was a great way to celebrate all the work of the students who participated in the local competition this year.

"The mock trial caliber in Imperial County is very high and it makes our county winner that much better when they go on to compete at state," she said.

OBITUARIES

ARTHUR WILLIAM DEMARS

Sept. 3, 1922 - Mar. 9, 2015



Long time El Centro resident and business owner, Arthur William DeMars, Sr. passed away March 9, 2015 at the California Veterans Home in Chula Vista, CA where he had lived since 2011.

Art owned and operated I.V. Screen and Awning starting in March 1970. He moved the business to the 4th Street and Hamilton location in 1974 where it remained until he retired December 2011. Prior to opening I.V. Screen and Awning, Art was the manager of the Naval Exchange at the Naval Air Facility El Centro beginning in July 1963. Art retired from the Navy in 1968, after a 26 year distinguished career, having risen to the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer (E9), the highest enlisted rank in the US Navy.

Art was born in Park Falls, Wisconsin on September 3, 1922 to David A. and Barbara E. (Kundinger) DeMars. He grew up on the family farm just south of town and attended school at the one-room Woodland Echo School. In the winter of 1930 Art's father, David, passed away leaving a wife and four small children. With the help of her extended family, Barbara and her children managed to work the farm until it was sold in 2011.

After completing the 8th grade, he had to go to work at a variety of jobs to help support the family - farm hand, lumber jack, mill worker. In November 1941, he joined the US Navy and completed his G.E.D. The attack on Pearl Harbor cut his basic training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center short and he was shipped out to the fleet. For the next five years Art saw duty through out the Pacific Theater of War - Guadalcanal, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Chile, Peru, the Straits of

Magellan, Galapagos Islands, Sandwich Islands, Admiralty Islands and Tokyo, Japan. At one point they escorted HMS Queen Mary. In 1943 he was transferred to the USS Matanikau. Around that time he was assigned to the tailor's shop and took night classes to learn tailoring.

In 1944 he met Dorothy Vopatek who had come west from Minnesota to work at Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego. On July 22, 1945 they were married at St. Joseph's Cathedral in San Diego, CA. Within a few days he shipped out again to the Western Pacific. In route to GUAM they received news of the dropping of the atomic bombs and the end of the war. During his Naval career he was stationed in Rhode Island; Washington D.C.; Key West, FL; San Diego, CA; Seattle and Tacoma, WA; Alameda, CA, Vallejo, CA. El Centro, CA and was a Naval Recruiter in Eau Claire, WI. He served aboard the USS Philadelphia, USS Sampson, USS Matanikau, USS Gilmore, USS Okinagan, USS Vega, and USS Markab. His last ship assignment was aboard the USS Kitty Hawk.

He was a member of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce, the Navy League, VFW, American Legion, and the Fleet Reserve Association. He was an active and dedicated member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in El Centro on it's school board as well as parish council at times. As a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, he served as the Grand Knight of Christ the King Council #3614. He was a past member of the I.V. Hunting and Fishing Club as well as The Desert Golf Association. Art enjoyed many outdoor sports especially playing golf, hunting and fishing and had played on courses around the world during his career in the Navy. He took annual fishing trips to Canada to fish for Northern Pike and Muskie. As an avid reader, he had a particular interest in history and historical novels. Art Also enjoyed music, and was known for his harmonica playing, bringing tunes wherever he went. Art is loved and greatly missed by his family and

many friends.

He was proceeded in death by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy and his son, Arthur J.

He is survived by his sisters, Beatrice (Beanie) Bergdorf of Fifield, WI and Evelyn Bradle of Park Falls WI; as well as by his daughters, Cheryl Hobson (Bob), Kathleen Gonzales (Kenneth), Sue Graham (Ben); grandsons, Matt Hobson (Farrah), Mike Hobson (Adriana), Joseph Gonzales (Aimee), David Gonzales (Josie); and eight great-grandchildren, Isabella, Sarina, Iliana, Isla, Italia, Benjamin, Jaxson and Grady.

The Veterans Home of Chula Vista is planning a military memorial service on Monday, March 30, 2015 at 10 a.m. at 700 E. Naples Ct. Bldg. F, Chula Vista CA. They will honor Art and other resident veterans who passed away in March. Vigil services will be held at Hems Brothers Mortuary, 1975 So. 4th St., in El Centro, CA on Friday, May 15, 2015 from 6 to 9 p.m. Rosary at 7 p.m. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 9 a.m. (Armed Forces Day) at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 795 So. La Brucherie Rd., El Centro, CA. A reception will follow in the St. Mary's social hall. Internment will be at Nola Cemetery in Park Falls, WI later this year.

The DeMars' family is exceptionally grateful for the wonderful care Art had been given over the last four years by the dedicated and professional staff at the Veterans Home.

In lieu of flowers, it is suggested donations be made in the memory of Arthur W. DeMars to the Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation, 700 E. Naples Ct., Chula Vista, CA 91911 or to the Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., United in Charity, One Columbus Plaza, PO Box 1966, New Haven, CT 06509-1966.



FRANCISCO "FRANK" MORENO

Jan. 16, 1928 - Mar. 17, 2015



Frank Moreno passed away Tuesday afternoon, March 17, 2015 of natural causes surrounded by his sister Armida, children, and numerous grandchildren. He was born in Calexico on January 16, 1928 and attended local schools and graduated from Calexico Union High School in 1946 where he was a three year letterman in varsity tennis.

He enlisted the U.S. Navy in 1946 and was honorably discharged as an Aviation Storekeeper Airman in 1948. He was stationed in the Aleutian Islands, AK and Philadelphia, PA. Upon leaving the Navy, he worked for the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A & P) where he worked his way up to store manager. The A & P became Shopping Bag and then later Fazio's Food Stores. He operated stores in Calexico and El Centro, CA.

He married Virginia Carrillo on September 29, 1956 in Calexico and had 5 children, all graduated from San Diego State University. In 1959 he opened the Dubl M Billiard Parlor with his partner, George 'Coqui' Montano, and it was a local hang out for billiard aficionados for close to 30 years. He ran other businesses with his wife, Virginia, namely Bud's Café, Econ-O Wash Laundromat and Ruben's Hacienda in downtown Calexico. He later ventured in to real estate in the 1960's, acquiring properties in Calexico and San Diego. His most famous business venture was opening the old A & P Supermarket on 2nd Street and Heber Avenue in Calexico in 1977 along with his partner, Ray "Chato" Lopez and Coqui Montano. They called it Super Shopping Market. He often established goodwill by providing credit for some of his

customers, delivering groceries to those who didn't have transportation, cashing checks, and providing his clients with VIP service. He loved to help the less fortunate by donating food to many service organizations and sponsoring youth programs. He gave many people their first jobs at the store and taught them responsibility and the importance to continue learning.

He enjoyed playing tennis, shooting pool and traveling to the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club to play the horses. He also enjoyed bar-b-que-ing for family and friends. He was a member of the Calexico Elks Club, Active 20-30 and a founding member of the International Racquet Club.

Visitation will be held Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Calexico. Funeral mass, officiated by Father Campos, will be celebrated Friday morning at 9 a.m., also at the church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fernando and Lupita Moreno and his wife Virginia Carrillo.

He is survived by his brother, Fernando Moreno of Los Angeles, CA; sisters, Armida Esquer of Calexico and Ana Luisa (Alfonso) Vidales of Mexicali, BC; sister-in-law, Teresa Nall of Laguna Beach, CA; brother-in-law Ruben (Cecilia) Carrillo of San Diego, CA; daughter, Rose (Jose Luis) Gerardo of Calexico; sons, Frank (Gabriela) Moreno Jr., John Moreno, Joe (Lorena) Moreno; daughter, Margie (Randy) Robinson all of Calexico; Megan Moreno, Jose Luis Gerardo III, Rozinna Robinson, Ian Farias, Amanda Gerardo, Trevor Robinson, Carlos Moreno Gregory Gerardo, Diego Moreno, Rosella Moreno Alina Moreno, Anaiz Moreno, Coby Robinson Frank Moreno III, Sonny Moreno, Julia Moreno Steven Robinson, April Esquer; numerous nieces and nephews from the Carrillo, Garcia, Nall, Esquer and Vidales families.

ANTONIO VILLA URQUIDES

Nov. 27, 1960 - Mar. 20, 2015



Antonio Villa Urquides, age 54, was born November 27, 1960 and died March 20, 2015 in Brawley surrounded by his loved ones.

Tony was born in El Centro, CA and attended local schools. He was last employed at North County Times in Escondido. Tony was a faithful Raiders fan. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, family, reading, and several other hobbies.

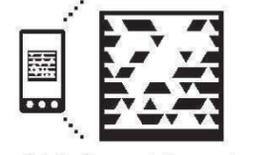
Tony was preceded in death by his parents, Encarnacion and Cecilia Urquides; brother Fred, his wife Martha (the love of his life) and son Richard.

Tony is survived by his son, Tony Jr. (TJ) of Vista, CA; daughter Brandy, Brawley; brothers, Frank (Ofelia) Moraga of Oxnard, CA, Johnny (Belia) Moraga of Mexicali, Norberto Moraga of Monrovia, CA, Robert (Raquel) Urquides of Brawley, and Kenneth Moraga of California; sisters, Nancy (Lorenzo) Garcia, Meri (Arnold) Valencia, Eva (David) Rubio, Carlota Santana, and Josie (Tony) Godinez, all of Brawley, and Helen Ragland of San Diego; four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Tony will be missed by all.

Visitation will be held Thursday, March 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Frye Chapel and Mortuary in Brawley.

Obituaries

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