

Some ECISD schools beat state scores

High schools don't surpass TAKS averages

BY ELAINE MARSILIO
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Many Ector County Independent School District elementary

schools performed well on the TAKS tests while only some secondary campuses surpassed the state numbers in certain subjects. Third- through 11th-graders

take the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills tests each year. Students must pass an exit-level exam — administered their 11th-grade year — to graduate from high school.

The Texas Education Agency reported about 3 million Texas students took TAKS this year.

According to the district results, ECISD's Dowling, Murry Fly and Pease elementary

were not able to meet the state average of a 92 percent passing rate for sixth-grade reading. Pease missed by one point.

In sixth-grade math, 20 of the 25 elementaries hit at or above the 79 percent state average.

Among the elementaries, Reagan Magnet Elementary performed the best with seven 100 percent averages from the nine subject grades and subject areas.

The school beat the state averages in all nine areas.

Attempts to reach ECISD Superintendent Wendell Sollis were unsuccessful Monday.

At the junior high level, Nimitz students performed the best out of all six junior highs with 89 percent of its eighth-grade social studies passing — surpassing the state average by two points.

>> See TAKS Page 8A

MORE INSIDE

>> Trustees consider AVID program. | 3A

>> How they scored. | 8A

>> Proposal to do away with TAKS. | 3B

QUICK HITS

Honoring the fallen

In commemoration of National Police Memorial Week, the Odessa law enforcement will pause today to honor officers who've died in the line of duty.

Members of the Ector County Sheriff's Office, Odessa Police Department and other law enforcement agencies will have a memorial service at noon today at the Ector County Courthouse. The Odessa

Fraternal Order of Police will conduct a short memorial service for the 16 officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in the past year throughout Texas, as well as honoring all of those killed in the line of duty who are buried in Odessa.

Local officers honored will be: Ector County Sheriff's Deputy Thad West, killed Feb. 27, 1958; Odessa police Cpl. Gordon "G.T." Toal, killed Aug. 19, 1982; Odessa Officer Scott Stanton Smith, who died Feb. 6, 1988; and Lubbock Officer Rodney Kendricks who died July 8, 2001.

All are buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens. **ON THE NET:** www.nationalcops.org

Teachers fake gunman attack

MURFREESBORO, TENN. Staff members of an elementary school staged a fictitious gun attack on students during a class trip, telling them it was not a drill as the children cried and hid under tables.

The mock attack Thursday night was intended as a learning experience and lasted five minutes during the weeklong trip to a state park, Scales Elementary School Assistant Principal Don Barch, who led the trip, said.

"We got together and discussed what we would have done in a real situation," he said.

But parents of the students were outraged. "The children were in that room in the dark, begging for their lives, because they thought there was someone with a gun after them," said Brandy Cole, whose son went on the trip.

Deep-fried what?

ELDERON, WIS. Around Elderon, Wis., it may be tough to pass up anything deep-fried.

Wisconsinites have deep-fried cheese curds, candy bars and Twinkles. They now have deep-fried livestock testicles, too.

More than 300 people paid \$5 for all-you-can-eat goat, lamb and bull testicles during the ninth annual 'Testicle Festival at Mama's Place Bar and Grill in Elderon in central Wisconsin.

Festival founder Nancy Fenske said the festival grew out of her late husband Roger's birthday party 12 years ago. They decided to have "a nut fry" at Mama's Place.

"What else can you do in a small town?" Fenske said. **ON THE NET:** www.funinked.com/testicle/act.html

>> FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

AUTOS INTO ART



MARK STERKEL/ODESSA AMERICAN

Artist Steve Maloney talks about one of his favorite pieces titled 'Boogie Woogie #3', an homage to artist Piet Mondrian, made of NASCAR sheet metal and acrylic on canvas. This and many of Maloney's other similar artworks can be seen at the Petroleum Museum in the show 'This is Where the Rubber Meets the Road.'

Recycling racing's wrecks

Bumps and crashes inspire NASCAR exhibit

BY DANIEL SKOLFIELD
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MIDLAND Stock cars from the oval track have a new shape in West Texas, but earplugs won't be needed for this NASCAR exhibit.

The autos of speed technology once glimmered on race day, but the leftover remains of high-speed crashes have caught the attention of California artist Steve Maloney.

Maloney, known for his contemporary works of American life and culture, is bringing race fans and art buffs together with his latest exhibit of NASCAR items pieced together.

"This is Where the Rubber Meets the Road" opens today at the Petroleum Museum in Midland, where it will show through Aug. 31.

"All of the pieces took years to make," he said. "The challenge was how to get the materials."

With a love for racing and experience behind the wheel — Maloney said he raced three times in the Mexican

Baja 1,000 — the artist purchased fragments of racecar remains to form his work.

"They cost anywhere from a few dollars to a few hundred," he said. "They've all been in a NASCAR race."

Showing advertising logos and some acrylic paint, Maloney cut and bent the deformed auto parts — complete with tire marks, dents and dings.

Mark Martin may be Maloney's favorite driver on the track, but he said the art assortment doesn't include aspects of the racecars' former handlers.

"I didn't care so much about who the driver was — I was pretty interested in working the art," he said. "This is the bottom line for things."

The complete exhibit of NASCAR art includes 22 different pieces of Maloney's imaginative creation — with some car parts being used in more than one sculpture.

"I'm a recycler in that sense," he said. "The real



MARK STERKEL/ODESSA AMERICAN

Stephen Zapantis, associate director of the Maioney Gallery, dusts 'Purple Sting' one of the NASCAR sheet metal artworks being displayed today through Aug. 31 at the Petroleum Museum in Midland.

challenge was finding pieces and making my own soul language that conveyed what the sport is — it really is the American culture."

Museum Executive Director Kathy Shannon said the colorful NASCAR exhibit would please local racing fans.

"I don't know how to describe it, but it's fun," she said. "I love the one that almost looks like pieces are woven together."

Shannon said the Odessa-Midland area is privileged to have Maloney's work within reach.

"It's a great opportunity to see some artwork that is very different and actually produced from NASCAR," she said.

ON THE NET:
>> Petroleum Museum
www.petroleummuseum.org
>> Exhibit: www.thisiswheretherubbermeetstheroad.com

WANT TO GO?

>> 'This is Where the Rubber Meets the Road' shows today through Aug. 31 at the Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West, Midland.

>> It is included with museum admission — \$8 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, \$6 for children ages 12 to 17, \$5 for children ages 6 to 11 and free for children younger than 6.

>> Steve Maloney will answer questions and give a presentation in a special brown bag, 'Green Flag' event, June 14 at the museum.

>> Call 683-4403.

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INDEX

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