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**The Pulse** \$2

HART, TEXAS CASTRO COUNTY VOLUME 1 NUMBER 01 JANUARY 17, 2014

## Website Launched

The Pulse's website has been launched. Neoma Williams, publisher of the online edition and the print edition, will routinely post stories to the website. She said that she is still learning how to manage the website, but it already contains stories and pictures, some of which are in this edition.

If you are interested in subscribing, the website is [www.thepulsenews.net](http://www.thepulsenews.net); select the Subscriber Tab and proceed. Cost is \$30 a year; a dual subscription (print and online) is \$40; and a print-only subscription (monthly) is \$20 a year. Obituaries posted to the online edition are free; there is a charge for obituaries in the print edition.

NOTE: A mail subscription is cheaper per issue (\$1.67) per issue instead of the \$2 newsstand price. Call Neoma Williams at 647-7419 for details on subscribing.

## City Council Votes To Install Water

### Meters At Four Previously No-bill Sites

It was discussed at the City Council meeting on Monday evening that four locations in Hart have no water meters and have not been charged utilities. The Council voted to have meters installed at these locations: Hart Golden Group building, Castro County Pct. 1 Shop, Fire Station and American Legion building. These will be charged commercial rates, and will be billed monthly for water, sewer and trash services.

Also discussed (and tabled) was setting a boundary outside of the City and offer trash pick-up for a fee to those who live within these boundaries. And, the budget was amended.

Mayor Stanley Dyer told the Council that Sheriff Sal Rivera told him that the City has an "old police car" that is in the County's possession, and needs to be picked up. The Council discussed taking the car and the old trash truck to an auction. The legalities of whether to post the sale of these vehicles in a newspaper before offering them for sale at an auction will be investigated.

The Council adopted a resolution to suspend for 90 days a proposed rate increase by Xcel Energy (Southwestern Public Service). The Minnesota-based energy company announced through its Amarillo office on Tuesday they will seek a base rate increase in the 80 cities they serve throughout West Texas.

Council members present were Dyer and Aldermen Wamon Foster, Paul Ramirez and Eliazar Castillo. Absent were Todd Straley and Danny Rodriguez.

## Thank A School Board Member

January is School Board Recognition Month, and Hart ISD is joining other districts across the state to thank these community volunteers for their commitment and contributions to our public schools.

"School board members serve countless hours working to make public education the best it can be for every child," said Les Miller, interim superintendent.

"In a climate of change and challenge, they develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues that affect the entire community and the lives of individual continued to Page 8



**First-place robotics team:** L to r, David Cedillo, Mayra Maldonado and Reymond Holguin. Also pictured is team coach Rob O'Connor.

*photo by Ramona Neudorf*

## Three HHS Teams Place In Top Four In Regional Competition

Hart High School science teacher Robert O'Connor took three teams from Hart High School to Amarillo to compete in the regional Texas Computer Education Association Robotics Arena contest on Saturday. These teams placed first, third and fourth in the Advanced Arena division.

The first-place team members are David Cedillo, Reymond Holguin and Mayra Maldonado. Third-place team members are Cailin Neudorf, Camrie Neudorf and Nathan Rincon. Jaime Rivera, Isaias Barron and Alicia DelaCruz comprise the fourth-place team.

O'Connor said that the students had to design, create and program a Lego-based robot which could assist in search-and-rescue efforts. The robots

had to amass points for completing various tasks, such as sorting and containing hazardous materials, erecting a radio tower, delivering food and medicine and clearing an air drop zone.

State-level competition will be held in mid-April at Deer Park (near Houston).

According to the *Amarillo Globe-News*, 126 students from area school districts, grades 4-12, made up 39 teams that designed and programmed Lego-based robots. The competition, held at the Region 16 service center headquarters, included arena and inventions competitions.

Arena robots were given the specific task of gathering food and medicine—red checkers—and clearing rubble and trash—black checkers—, according to Debbie Boyer, TCEA Area 16

director.

O'Connor's school website page indicates that this school year is the first year that Hart High School has had a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program. Students are learning computer programming basics, progressively complex problem-solving, simple mechanics, team building, public speaking, academic competition and relevant current events to a future career, and more. The robotics class is a STEM curriculum.

According to Wikipedia, STEM is an acronym typically used in addressing education policy and curricula choices in schools from kindergarten through college to improve America's competitiveness in technology development.