



## O'Connor Teachers First-ever Robotics Class

Rob O'Connor, HHS science teacher, has brought a new class to Hart ISD, Robotics.

HHS science teacher Rob O'Connor, center, and some of his Robotics team members (Alicia dela Cruz, Cailin Neudorf and Camrie Neudorf), present a program on the new class to Hart school board members and administrators on Monday evening.

Robotics deals with robots, which actually seem to be everywhere if you think about it. They are used in surgery, manufacturing, defusing bombs, in the form of drones, etc.

Robotics involves computer programming, and is a resource for teaching STEM skills: science, technology, engineering and math.

It allows students to think out of the box. Students collaborate on problem-solving and troubleshooting.

At an area contest in Amarillo this year, three Hart teams placed, first, second and third. Some of these team members travelled to Houston recently for the state competition.

Hart's robotics classes built two kits out of the required material, Legos. All kids statewide were required to use Legos. The kits cost \$300 each.

The students programmed the robots to maneuver in settings represented by checkers and PVC pillars.

Three of the team members who went to Houston, along with O'Connor, presented their robots to the school board and to some administrators Monday evening.

O'Connor said that the students got to experience Johnson Space Center, and also some got their first look at the ocean, the Gulf of Mexico.

And, O'Connor said they went to a seafood restaurant, and tried some calamari, or octopus.

## Deer Season In Castro County

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An archery-only open season and 16-day general season for mule deer in Knox County were also added. The Commission also clarified that use of antlerless mule deer permits would not count against a hunter's county bag limit, nor require an antlerless mule deer tag from a hunting license. In addition, the use of the permit was extended to be used in archery season with archery equipment only.

"Antlerless permits for mule deer are issued at a conservative rate; so that they won't adversely impact the population. General season antlerless mule deer permits will be issued for Cottle, Motley and Hall counties, where mule deer are more abundant, but taking a few does won't hurt the population," said Richardson.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission also approved extending squirrel hunting season in 51 East Texas counties to the end of February and permit the use of air rifles meeting minimum standards of 600 fps (feet per second) muzzle velocity, fired from the shoulder (no handguns) and having projectiles of at least .177 caliber. The Commission also eliminated bag and possession limits on squirrel in 12 counties in north-central Texas.

In other Commission action, effective for the spring 2015 season, turkey hunters in East Texas can use mobile technology for mandatory reporting of harvested Eastern turkeys. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is developing a mobile app and a web-based harvest reporting form to facilitate the process electronically.

In addition, a provision prohibiting possession of firearms while hunting deer or turkey during an open archery season has been removed. Lawful archery equipment remains the only means authorized to take deer or turkey during archery season.

Also, the Commission clarified that holders of a valid Texas Lifetime Hunting License must still acquire and use tags annually where tagging of harvested game is required.

The Commission also shortened by one month the current year-round open season for desert bighorn sheep and eliminated the requirement of a landowner affidavit for skulls and horns found in the wild. Persons who find desert bighorn sheep skulls or horns and wish to lawfully possess, must still notify the department within 48 hours and make arrangements to have them plugged.

All regulation changes take effect Sept. 1, 2014.

## Weather Whys: Hail and Green Skies

**Q:** Why does the sky sometimes look green during a thunderstorm?

**A:** It's a question that has been asked for centuries and is still not fully answered, says Brent McRoberts <<http://atmo.tamu.edu/profile/BMcRoberts>> of Texas A&M University. "We know the ancient Greeks reported seeing green skies during thunderstorms, and sailors for hundreds of years have written about green skies," McRoberts explains. "The most popular theory is that thunderstorms contain a lot of water – often in the form of hail – and this water or ice tends to scatter green light during the strong updrafts that occur in severe storms. That's why many people say the sky appears green right before a hailstorm."

**Q:** Does the sky look green during a tornado?

**A:** It can, says McRoberts, but not always so. "Often the sky appears almost black during a tornado, but sometimes there are greenish-looking tints to the clouds," he adds. "Many tornadoes have hail right around them. What we do know for sure is that green skies do exist, but they are fairly rare. They may or may not contain a tornado, and they may or may not contain hail. We do know that they are almost always an indicator of severe weather, often very dangerous weather, so if you see a thunderstorm approaching and the sky appears to look green, you should take cover immediately."

## A Positive Habit Of Happy People

**Avoid making excuses - it's easy to blame others for your life's failures, but doing so means you're unlikely to rise past them. Happy people take responsibility for their mistakes and missteps, then use the failure as an opportunity to change for the better.**