



HURRICANE MATTHEW MENACES FLORIDA; CARIBBEAN RECOVERING, PAGES A6 & B10

# Robot Wars

Robotics teams compete during UTRGV's HESTEC event



PHOTOS BY JASON HOEKEMA/THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

**Above:** Students and judges watch as a robot navigates along a black-lined maze Thursday at Jacob Brown Auditorium in Brownsville. **Right:** AJ Sotelo of Edinburg South Middle School watches as his group's robot perform in a weight-pulling event Thursday.

BY FRANK GARZA  
 STAFF WRITER



**MYBROWNSVILLEHERALD.COM**

Visit the UTRGV HESTEC website for more information.

It took several redesigns before the South Middle School team's robot was ready for competition at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley HESTEC Robotics Day.

AJ Sotelo, one of the team members, said the gear system — something that would allow the robot to move quickly — took the longest time to figure out.

"Most teams here don't have a gear system in their

robot," Sotelo said. Because the robotics competition tests the robots in four different areas, it was important that their system be adaptable. That is where the idea for an interchangeable system came about, Sotelo said.

"The tracer competition requires the robot to go straight and not turn, so we found out a way to move the wheels in a way that it

wouldn't swerve," Sotelo said.

Under the direction of their robotics sponsor, Timothy Do, Sotelo and teammates Jayden Rodriguez, Ryan Galvan, Diego Cortez and Brian Rodriguez felt more than ready to go and win.

The team has had previous experience attending other robotics competitions, they said.

PLEASE SEE **ROBOTS, A4**



## Poverty levels decline in Texas

Less change on families relying on food stamps

BY ALEXA URA  
 THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Although incomes have been rising and poverty declining in Texas, there's been less change in the share of households relying on food stamps, new U.S. Census data shows.

In 2015, 12.5 percent of Texas households used the program, down from 13.1 percent in 2014. The drop of about 43,000 households was less significant than the overall drops in individual and household poverty from 2014 to 2015. The disparity underscores that economic recovery has not reached all poor people and that the need for food assistance is not limited to those living in poverty, nutrition advocates and researchers said.

People facing the most dire financial circumstances are "probably the ones whose boats are last to rise," said Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas.

"Just the fact that people are on SNAP over the poverty line is an indicator that even over the poverty line people aren't earning enough to feed their families," Cole added.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, provides assistance to almost 1.2 million Texas households through Lone Star cards that can be used like credit cards at stores that accept food stamps.

PLEASE SEE **POVERTY, A4**



Visit [TalkPoverty](http://www.mybrownsvilleherald.com) website for TX poverty rate.

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Good Morning!  
 Thank you for reading today's edition of The Brownsville Herald

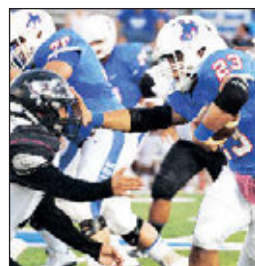


**SPORTS**

**ANOTHER OBSTACLE**

Porter faced Donna North at Sams Memorial Stadium in Week 7 of the high school football season.

➤ **PAGE B1**



**LOCAL**

**NEW TREND**

MAC's popular makeup line featuring Tejano artist Selena Quintanilla went on sale Thursday morning in Dillard's at Sunrise Mall.

➤ **PAGE A2**



**BUSINESS**

**CHANGE**

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. plans to slow its new store openings and pour more money into its online efforts, technology and store remodels, the company said Thursday.

➤ **PAGE C1**



Amusements.....	<b>B8</b>	Classified.....	<b>C2</b>	Editorial.....	<b>A8</b>	Sports.....	<b>B1</b>
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High 90°  
 Low 74°



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# OBITUARIES



**IRMA HERNANDEZ**

AUSTIN — Irma Hernandez entered into eternal rest on October 4, 2016, surrounded by her children in Austin, Texas. Irma was an adored mother, beloved wife, and loyal friend. She will be truly missed by all.

Irma was born on September 2, 1939 in Brownsville, Texas, daughter of Liborio and Lydia Flores. She was a dedicated administrative professional, and also a "Bunco Babe" who loved games, music, movies, and sharing a good time

with others.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Juan Hernandez. Survivors include daughter, Melva Avalos; son, Jaime Hernandez; sisters, Elvira Pina and Carlota Florence, and brother, Liborio Flores, Jr.

Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. with a Rosary to be recited at 7 p.m. today, Friday, October 7, 2016 at Garza Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral Mass will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Interment will follow to Buena Vista Burial Park.

You may send your condolences or sign the guest book at [garzamemorialfh@gmail.com](mailto:garzamemorialfh@gmail.com)

Arrangements have been entrusted to Garza Memorial Funeral Home, 1025 E. Jackson St. Brownsville, TX. (956) 542-5511.



**LETICIA ROSEMBAUN**

BROWNSVILLE — On the morning of October 5, 2016 "Lety" passed away peacefully at her residence after a brief and admirable battle against cancer. She is now rejoicing with her beloved mother: Alejandra Luna De Onate, father: Jose Antonio Onate, sisters: Alina Patino, Delia Patino Rivera, brother: Antonio Patino.

Left to cherish her loving memory is her husband of 45 years Heriberto Rosembaun, children; Erika Escamilla (Carlos), Heidi Rosembaun (Victor), Heriberto Rosembaun Jr., her sister: Dolores Onate De Salazar, 8 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, numerous nephews and nieces.

She was a devoted parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church and provided 25 years of service at St. Mary's Catholic School in which she

enjoyed and loved her 2nd family, the children and staff. She impacted many peoples live by her generosity and was loved by everyone she met. Passions in life were her family and shopping.

A very Special "Thank you" to Dr. Veronica Guerrero, Dr. Cristian Ellis and Valley Regional staff, and Safe Heaven Hospice staff, Carolina Rodriguez, Gracie Hernandez and Gabriel Yado for all the love and care at her moment of need.

Visitation will be held on Friday October 7, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. with a Rosary at 7 p.m. at Funeraria Del Angel Buena Vista.

Mass will be held on Saturday October 8, 2016 at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 1 p.m. Followed by committal service at RoseLawn Memorial Garden.

Pallbearers will be: Jose Antonio Salazar, Ricardo Salazar, Heberto Rivera, Sergio Moore, Luis Eloa.

Honorary Pallbearers: Carlos Sr. Carlos Jr, Eric, Brandon Escamilla, Victor Pareja.

You may view the obituary of Leticia Rosembaun at [www.MeM.com](http://www.MeM.com).

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Funeraria Del Angel Buena Vista, cemeteries, and mausoleums. 125 McDavitt Blvd., Brownsville, Texas 78521 (956) 5415400. Dignity Memorial Provider.

# POVERTY

FROM PAGE A1

The need for food stamps increased significantly during the 2008 economic recession. But as the economy has recovered, SNAP rolls have been slow to fall both nationally and in Texas. The share of Texas households on food stamps peaked at 14.3 percent in 2012 — up from 9.5 percent in 2008. By contrast, the share of households below the official poverty line has dropped slightly below 2008 level.

"Just having people move out of poverty isn't necessarily moving" people out of the income eligibility range for SNAP, said state demographer Lloyd Potter.

In fact, only about half of households receiving food stamps were below the poverty level in 2015. A family of four would generally need to make \$40,104 or less now to qualify for food stamps. By contrast, a family of four with two children would be classified as poor if their income is less than \$24,036.

The median household income in Texas last year

was \$55,653 — up almost 5 percent from 2014. While the median household income for households on food stamps also increased, it was much lower: \$22,488.

Additionally, some areas of the state didn't see people move out of poverty despite overall economic gains. Roughly a third of the state's 25 metropolitan areas actually saw their poverty rates increase in 2015, and the share of people living in poverty in more than half of the state's metro areas surpassed the state average.

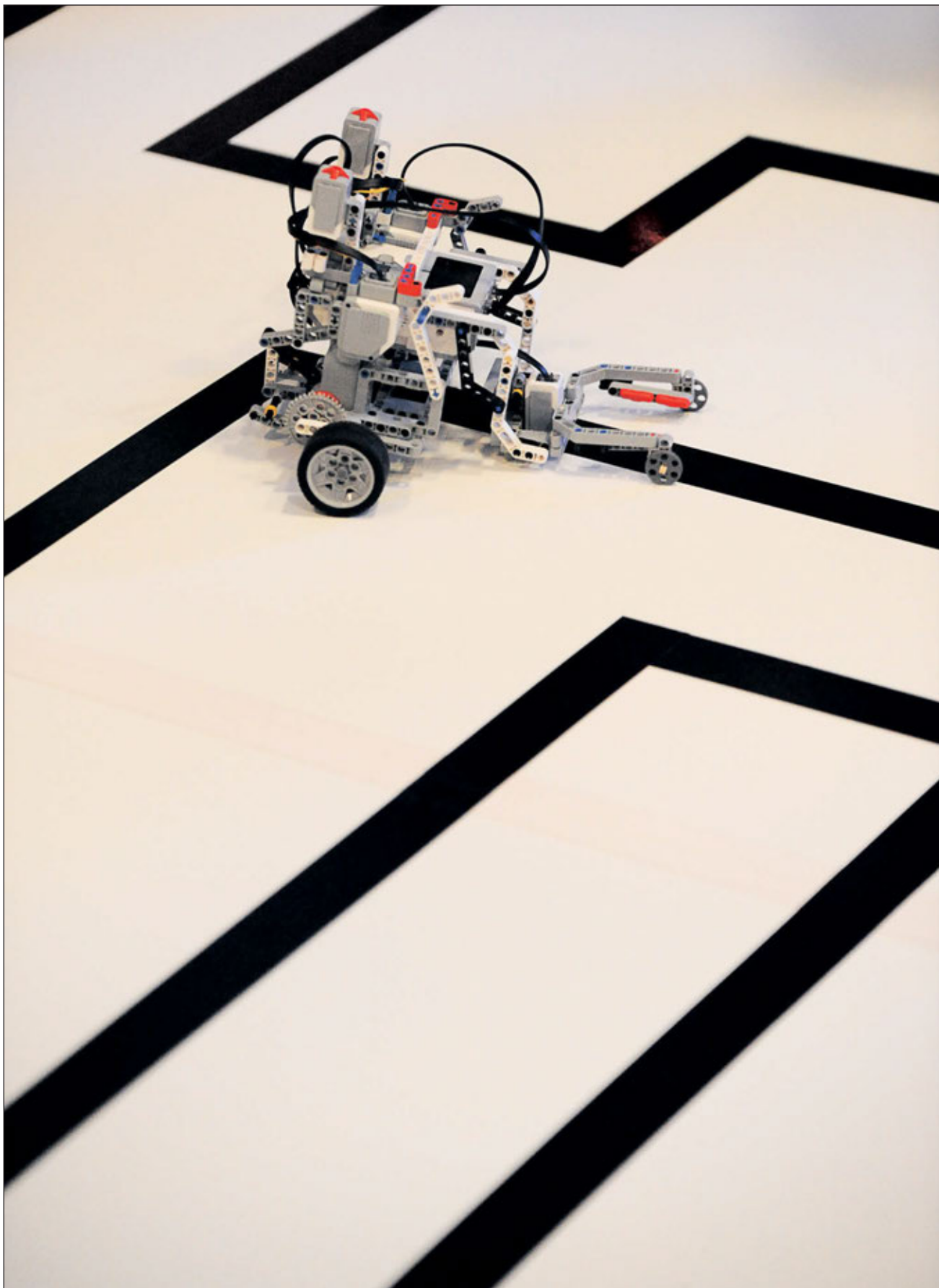
South Texas metro areas, which are predominantly Hispanic, remained among the poorest areas of the state, with poverty rates double the state figure.

Half of the Texas households that received food stamps in 2015 were considered Hispanic households.

Overall, black and Hispanic households were far more likely to receive food stamps than white households.

Nutrition advocates are claiming success when it comes to reducing the share of Texas households who live with "food insecurity," meaning their access to adequate food is limited by lack of money and other resources.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY



PHOTOS BY JASON HOEKEMA/THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

**Above:** A robot navigates itself along a black-lined maze Thursday at Jacob Brown Auditorium in Brownsville. **Below:** Robots compete in a dragrace Thursday at Jacob Brown Auditorium.

# ROBOTS

FROM PAGE A1

The Roma High School team also has attended other competitions but, unlike some of the other 62 competitors, it had less than three weeks to build its robot.

"We had to put a lot of our free time into it and spend hours after school to get it completed," said Eleazar Serna, team member.

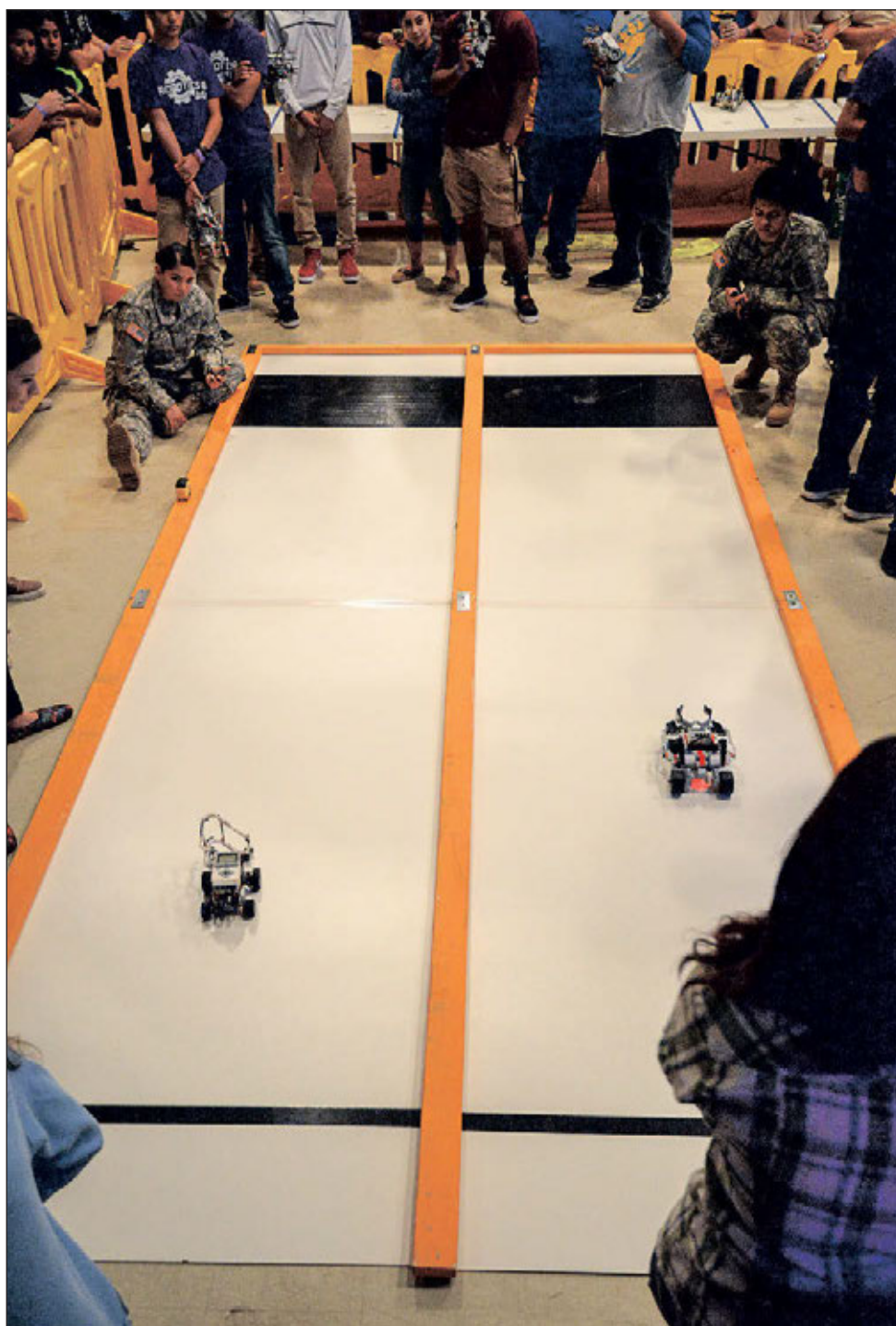
The group finished the robot in one week, spending the rest of the days leading up to the competition fine-tuning its performance.

"Basically, we tried to make it equally good for all courses," Serna said. "We all put in an equal amount of effort, and everyone did their part."

The competition was set up in a "quadrathlon" format, so that four teams would compete at once, said Milton Hernandez, the event coordinator.

The students competing are sixth-graders to high school seniors, Hernandez said.

"Every time they send us pictures, I am blown away by their designs. I never would have considered designing it that way," Hernandez said. "Some of these kids have never ever touched robotics."



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BROWNSVILLE

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