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### **AROUND THE TOWN; New park pavilion showcases students' work, honors late mayor**

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Maybe good design can change the world -- at least a little bit at a time. The latest piece of changed land is on the far Northwest Side, at Raymond Russell Park, just past Camp Bullis.

At the park, architecture students from UTSA designed and rebuilt a pavilion and patio. And much of their construction materials came from the old structure.

Not bad for a class project.

On Wednesday, there was a dedication ceremony for the pavilion.

The project began a couple of years ago. Back then, the students' instructor, Diane Hays, and architect John Grable came to Commissioner Lyle Larson and pitched the idea of having students work on it for free.

This is only the first of several projects to redesign the entire park.

Commissioners Court already has approved a master plan. Next week, Hays and her students are presenting a more detailed version of the next phase.

#### Namesake

The design wasn't the only important part of the structure. Now, it's known as the E.L. "Boots" Gaubatz Pavilion. It's named after Gaubatz, the only mayor whom Fair Oaks Ranch had known until very recently.

He served as mayor from the time of the city's founding in 1987 until he died in September.

And, as it turns out, Wednesday's dedication was as much of an event to remember him as to thank the students.

#### Big bucks

A different type of successful news from UTSA:

This year's annual President's Dinner raised almost \$4.6 million.

Tuesday's event honored technology entrepreneur David A. Spencer, and posthumously honored oil and gas industry pioneer and philanthropist Irene Stimson Wischer.

The money will help fund scholarships at the university.

Major congratulations.

25 years

Happy anniversary to UTSA's Minority Business Enterprise Center.

This week, the organization is conducting its 25th annual Minority Enterprise Development Week. It's called MED Week for short.

Today, the office at UTSA is hosting an awards ceremony to honor local entrepreneurs.

Yes, we're including lots of UTSA-related items today. Hey, there's a lot of stuff going on over there.

New Year's already?

It's never too early to start planning New Year's Eve, and this morning is bringing an announcement about the Night in Vienna Concert.

This year, it's happening under the auspices of the San Antonio Opera and is going to include a special guest -- Vikki Carr.

The musicians are coming from the San Antonio Opera Orchestra and the San Antonio Symphony.

More details coming.

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