

Dallas High robotics team to compete on worldwide stage

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — At the beginning of the year, the members of Team ramRod, a Dallas High School robotics team, told coach Lee Jones they were going to qualify for the world championship. "I chuckled a little bit," Jones recalls of his reaction.

After all, that should be the goal of every team at the start of the season.

This team, seniors Ben Rounds, Jake Shryer and Jacob Reimer, was serious about those lofty expectations, even though this is their first robotics season.

"We had a steep learning curve," Shryer said. "We had to learn as much as we could from other teams, copy what they were doing."

Perhaps it's an understatement to say they are quick learners, because now they are the first team from Dallas High to qualify for the VEX World Championship. This year the competition is held in Louisville, Ky., starting on April 15.

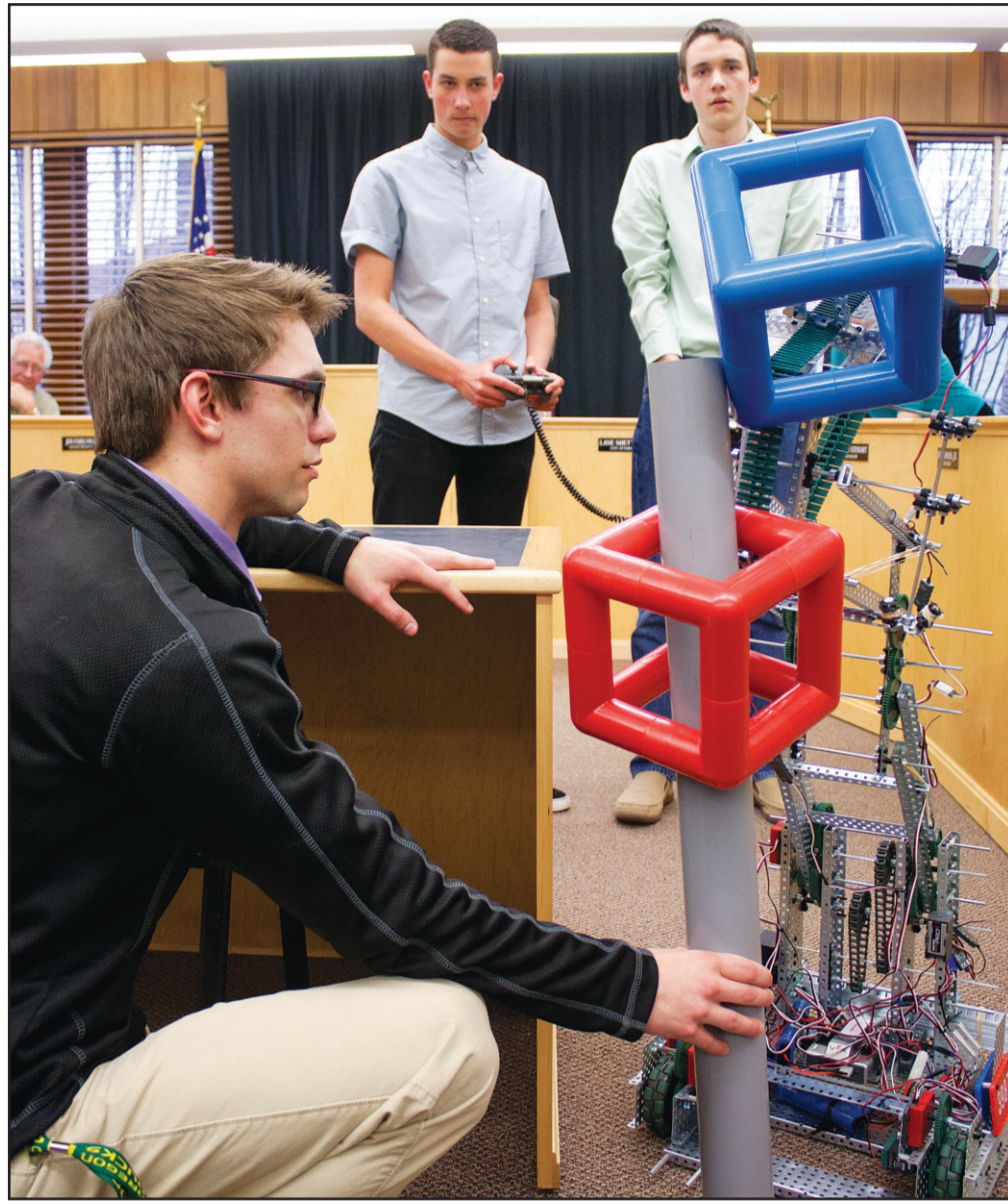
Early in the season, they didn't know how challenging their goal was, but as the year progressed, so did the team.

Jones said it isn't just beginners' luck with these guys. He said many teams begin building their robot in September for the first competition in December and don't make many changes after that. Team ramRod wasn't satisfied with version 1.0 of its robot.

"They are always improving, building, evaluating what could be better," he said.

Another of the team's strengths is collaborating with other teams during competition.

Teams have to form alliances during tournaments, so evaluating other team's strengths isn't just good competitive strategy, it's the



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Ben Rounds, front, Jake Shryer, center, and Jacob Reimer run a demonstration of their robot Monday night during Dallas' city council meeting.

key to success.

"You have to have a good partner to do well," Reimer said.

Team ramRod chose its collaborators well in its last two tournaments, a qualifying competition held at Dallas High School, followed by the VEX Robotics State Championship, where it was part of the winning alliance.

Reimer described state competition as "intense." "It was a make or break

moment for us," Reimer said. "It was our last competition — nerve-wrecking, but fun."

The team expects worlds to be just as stressful as state, if not more so.

"There's always something happening," Reimer said. "If we are not competing, we are working on our robot. If we are not doing that, we are scouting other teams."

As far as competition is

concerned, the team isn't sure what to expect. The best teams and robots from throughout the world will be there.

The trio, and Jones, wants to be sure to take a break from competition to check out the different designs and strategies.

"I'm really excited to see robots from everywhere," Shryer said. "I've never done anything like this."

See VEX, Page 17A

SCHOOL NOTES

Concert to raise money for band trip

INDEPENDENCE — The Central High School band will present "New Orleans: Birthplace of American Music" in support of its upcoming tour to New Orleans.

The concert will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday. The evening will feature live music from Central's Jazz Band, Western Oregon University's all-star tribute to the band Cake, and the Symbiotic Quintet.

A silent auction will feature autographed CDs, hotel resort and weekend getaways, musical instruments and other items. Tickets are \$10 and available at Central High.

For more information: Ed Propst, epropst@central.k12.or.us.

Kinder registration opens Saturday

INDEPENDENCE — A districtwide kindergarten registration fair for Central School District will be on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Henry Hill Educational Services Center in the gym.

The center is located at 750 S. Fifth St., in Independence.

Students and families will be able to register for kindergarten, eat lunch, receive a free book, meet the kindergarten teachers and receive a T-shirt from their new school. All children turning 5 years old by Sept. 1 are encouraged to sign up for kindergarten.

Parents should bring their child's birth certificate and immunization record, if possible.

For more information: Central School District office, 503-838-0030.

Dragon Run returns on Saturday

DALLAS — Registration is open for the eighth-annual Dragon Run which takes place Saturday.

The Dragon Run is a fun run with proceeds supporting the Dallas Education Foundation. The event is open to runners or walkers of all ages with various distances: ¼ mile, ½ mile, 1 mile and 1 ½ mile or 3.1 miles. Races begin at 10 a.m.

The cost is \$20 for the 3.1-mile run and \$15 for all other distances. There is a group discount of \$3 per runner for groups of four or more if forms are turned in together.

The course runs between LaCreole Middle School, Whitworth Elementary School and Dallas High School. Each distance is assigned a starting point along the main course.

For online registration, visit www.run-sign-up.com/DragonRun. For more information: <http://www.dsd2.org/DragonRun>.

Tickets on sale KVCS PTO auction

KINGS VALLEY — Tickets are now available for Kings Valley Charter School Parent-Teacher Organization Great Outdoors Dinner and Auction.

The fundraiser is scheduled for May 2 at Corvallis Elks Lodge, 1400 N. Ninth St., Corvallis. Tickets are \$16.50 per person.

Contact Glenda Bush or Jennie Wilder at the KVCS office, 541-929-2134 to purchase tickets. To purchase tickets online, go to kvcstop.org.

To see items that have been donated, go to kvcstop.org.

Inkblot to host poetry slam April 15

DALLAS — Dallas High School's literary publication, Inkblot, is hosting a poetry slam Wednesday (April 15) from 6 to 8 p.m.

The slam will be in DHS' Little Theater, 1250 SE Holman Ave., Dallas and is open to poets of any age and skill level. Competitors will be scored and given feedback by judges.

For more information: www.facebook.com/InkblotLiteraryArtsMagazine.

See SCHOOL NOTES, Page 17A

capitol WEST VALLEY
CERTIFIED • PRE-OWNED • SERVICE

CAPITOL AUTO WEST VALLEY

THE VALLEY'S LARGEST INVENTORY OF PRE-OWNED VEHICLES!

<p>STK#W1228A VIN#DU531127</p> <p>2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS SATELLITE RADIO • HEATED SEATS</p> <p>\$12,888</p>	<p>STK#S532895B VIN#G112961</p> <p>2006 DODGE RAM 2500 SLT/SPORT 5.7L V8 • HEATED MIRRORS • 4X4</p> <p>\$21,888</p>	<p>STK#Z6266B VIN#405327</p> <p>2002 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 5.3L V8 • A/C</p> <p>\$7,288</p>	<p>STK#S571872A1 VIN#Z334944</p> <p>2001 CHEVROLET 2500 HD LT 6.0L V8 • 4X2 • POWER</p> <p>\$12,988</p>
<p>STK#5289860A VIN#8090714</p> <p>2005 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L 3.5L V6 • 3RD ROW • LOADED</p> <p>\$7,788</p>	<p>STK#W1231A VIN#AJ110791</p> <p>2010 GMC ACADIA SLT-2 3RD ROW • AWD • LOADED</p> <p>\$22,188</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p>2 Years or 24k Miles Complimentary Service! <small>*Must have services performed at any Capitol Auto Group location. See dealership for details.</small></p> <p>FULL VEHICLE SERVICE & MAINTENANCE</p> <p>SERVICE SPECIAL 20% OFF! <small>SERVICE OF YOUR CHOICE! Present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Max discount of \$150.00. Exp. 4/30/15</small></p> <p>Lube Oil & Filter \$11.00 OFF! <small>SYNTHETIC OIL! Includes a Free Multi-Point Inspection! Present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Expires 4/30/15.</small></p> <p>Lube Oil & Filter \$9.00 OFF! <small>CONVENTIONAL OIL! Includes a Free Multi-Point Inspection! Present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Synthetic oil extra. Expires 4/30/15.</small></p> </div>	
<p>STK#W1240A VIN#5821790</p> <p>2005 SATURN VUE V6 AWD • ALUMINUM WHEELS</p> <p>\$6,988</p>	<p><small>* Subject to prior sale. Prices do not include license fees, title fees and \$100 Doc fees. All financing on approved credit, with Tier 3 and above credit rating. All sale prices on in stock units only. Expires 4/15/15.</small></p>		

Sales: (503) 623-6686
Service: (888) 480-2074

Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9am. to 6pm.
Service Mon. - Fri. 7:30 - 5:30
812 SE. Jefferson St. Dallas

cap-westvalley.com