

LEGO® Robotics team wins state berth

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Sisters Middle School's Outlaws LEGO® Robotics team won a berth in state competition with an extraordinarily strong performance in regional First LEGO® League competition last week at Mountain View High School.

Bodie Dachtler, Ella Thorsett, Skylar Wilkins, Holly Lewis and Mathew Riehle will go to state competition in Hillsboro on January 9.

According to their coach, Meghan Flaherty, one of the

remarkable things about this accomplishment is that the students did it on their own. She cheerfully admits, "They didn't have a coach."

Meghan stepped into the role simply to facilitate her son's and his friends' interest. She had no experience herself. She says she organized meetings and "told them to Google it" if they ran into questions. Perhaps unorthodox, but the approach worked. The team took fourth place to get to state, based on their time in getting their LEGO® robot to complete missions.

More significantly, the

team placed second for the Champions' Award, which acknowledged the team's adherence to the core values of First LEGO® League competition. They worked well together on their team project, gave an excellent team interview, and showed persistence in the face of adversity. Those qualities impressed the judges and made their coach proud.

The team raised \$1,000 for new robot "brains," and the Sisters Science Club chipped in \$250 to cover their entry fees at the qualifying competition, for which the team is very grateful.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Outlaws LEGO® robotics team made a very strong showing.

Learn to organize your space

Julie Muller, organizing consultant, life coach and owner of Peace of Mind Organizing Firm, understands the issues her clients face. As a wife and the mother of twins she is familiar with being crunched for time and overburdened with long to-do lists. But Muller believes getting and staying organized can help reduce the everyday stresses that cause anxiety.

"An organized home is your sanctuary, a place for enjoying family, friends and self-reflection," says Muller. Take the first steps in organizing your space with Muller at the Sisters and Downtown Bend Libraries as part of the Know Space series this January. The presentations are free and open to the public. The Sisters Library presentation is set for Wednesday, January 6 at 2 p.m.

After earning a master's degree in education Muller worked as a teacher and administrator. Leaving life in the public schools behind, she launched Peace of Mind Organizing Firm in 2004, where she has worked with clients organizing and creating systems for productivity in their homes and offices. In 2006 she added life coaching

to her list of services, and in 2010 decided to create a platform to connect and educate women. The Chicks Connect movement is dedicated to connecting women, guiding them into action, holding them accountable for personal and professional growth and development, while building a community based on the foundation of love, fun, friendship, service and support.

During her presentation Muller will outline the five-step process of organizing any space.

"Dedicating and scheduling the time to maintain the organizational systems that are put in place is the number-one tip to staying organized," she says.

Muller says the benefits of getting and staying organized is worth the time and effort. "When you are able to move efficiently in your home and office you are able to accomplish even more in a shorter amount of time. When your



PHOTO PROVIDED

Julie Muller can help you get it all together.

space is clear and you have an idea of where you keep everything you are able to focus even more at the task at hand therefore, freeing up even more time for your life passions and the people you love," she says.

For more information about this or other library programs, visit the library website at www.deschuteslibrary.org. People with disabilities needing accommodations (alternative formats, seating or auxiliary aides) should contact Liz at 541-312-1032.

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DUCTLESS HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGY

Recently, Randall Marchington, an expert Mechanical Estimator from Bend Heating, answered questions about the newest high-efficiency ductless heat pump systems on the market.

Q We have heard there is something new in the world of ductless heat pump technology. Would you mind talking about that?

A Sure. Carrier Corporation, one of the largest manufacturers in the heating industry, has recently released the Carrier Infinity ductless heat pump, one-head system. The first thing that comes to my mind is that as we live in a high, dry, cold climate and this new Carrier Infinity system will produce heat to -22°F at 80% capacity output. No other system can work this well for our winters.

Q Well, that is exciting! What else is new?

A One of the newest innovations that Carrier has brought to this technology is the sleek and slim look of these indoor units that also come in white or silver, which allows them to blend into the interior of your home. Not the big bulky things hanging on your wall anymore.

Q Are incentives like rebates and tax credits available when you convert to a ductless heat pump?

A Because we are approaching an energy crisis in the NW, there are incredibly generous incentives available to homeowners that qualify for these systems, totaling as much as \$2,700, which can cut your total investment in half, as well as reducing your utility bill by half, plus they have air conditioning and air filtration to boot!

Q And, about Bend Heating...?

A One thing that I like is that Bend Heating was the 1st "Certified Master Installer" of ductless heat pumps in the area and is Carrier's 1st and oldest factory-authorized dealer in Central Oregon. That means every single homeowner gets a 100% satisfaction guarantee or your money back, written contract from Carrier Corporation themselves.

Q Is the initial investment expensive?

A Not at all, especially when you consider that the money you save on utility bills pays for the investment in as little as a few years in most homes, and the comfort is incredible.

Q What sets Bend Heating apart from other well-known heating companies?

A Bend Heating is the oldest heating company in Central Oregon and has been serving our neighbors heating needs since 1953. We are required to be certified by federal, state and local agencies. We participate in rigorous ongoing training that requires us to perform many different tests to certify the installation is correct. We do all the paperwork for you and make sure it is all in order for the rebates and tax credits.

Q How can people contact you for more information?

A You can contact me at 541-382-1231 or email randall@bendheating.com and I'll be happy to discuss how and if this might work for your home.

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