

Outlaw Robotics advances

Sisters Outlaw Robotics team 8023 placed fourth out of 24 teams in a tough competition at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech League Championship on January 16 in Hood River.

The team now advances to the next level, the FTC Oregon Super Qualifier Tournament, February 13-14 in Hillsboro.

Coach Jirka Novotny said, "This is a great achievement especially for our young team of four freshmen and two 7th-graders: David Novotny, Spencer Bordonaro, Tyler Wonderly, Wyatt Adams, Corbin Johnson and Aiden Cummings. We're a small community team with limited means up against strong competitors who have outstanding support and big corporate sponsors."

The Outlaw Robotics team earned the Motivate Award, which celebrates teams that show team spirit and enthusiasm. The judges described Sisters Outlaw Robotics team as "a big voice in a small community," valuing the team's enthusiasm, inclusiveness, mentoring of younger teams, and involvement within the community. The team also received the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Outlaw Robotics was honored for skill and spirit.

3rd-place Inspire Award. Teams receiving this award serve as an inspiration to what the FIRST Tech program and the young minds involved can accomplish.

“ This is a great achievement, especially for our young team... — Coach Jirka Novotny ”

All members of the Sisters Outlaw Robotics team thanked their sponsors for supporting their team: ORTOP, Sisters

Science Club, Tim Wonderly Painting Co., Sisters Bakery, Peak Performance Physical Therapy of Redmond, Catherine Zwicker and Pacwest Custom Homes. The robotic team is seeking additional sponsors to help them cover expenses for the upcoming tournament in February. Contact them at www.sistersrobotics.com.

"We also want to thank all of our parents for their encouragements and everyday support," said captain David Novotny on behalf of all of the team members.

The Sisters Outlaw Robotics team will be at the Sisters Science Fair next month.

Obituary

Irvin Wayne Black

June 29, 1929 – January 5, 2016

Irvin Wayne Black of Sisters passed away on January 5, 2016 at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. He was 86.

Irvin was born June 29, 1929 in Wheeler, Kansas, to Ernest and Carrie Black. He grew up in Clatskanie and attended Westport High School, where he excelled in football and baseball. After graduating in 1949, he joined the U.S. Army, fighting in the Korean War where he received the Bronze Star and the U.N. Service Medal.

Irvin spent most of his career working at Oregon Transfer/Metro Heavy Machinery as foreman, transporting the impossible. After retiring he continued consulting for them.

On December 28, 1951, Irvin married his high school sweetheart, Christine Brazeale in Westport. They spent many years living in Tigard, raising their four children. Upon retiring, they moved to Sisters to be closer to family. They were well-known by the student athletes of Sisters High School, as the 12th man, home and away, always standing and cheering at football, soccer, and volleyball games and everything in between. They were known to all the kids as "Gramps and Grandma." They did volunteer work for Meals-on-Wheels and



driving the senior bus for the elderly.

Irvin loved the outdoors, especially fishing, camping, four-wheeling, trail riding and gaming with the horses. His favorite pastime was spending time with his wife, Christine, at the Oregon Coast. Their 15 minutes of fame came when they were chosen to be extras in the making of the movie "Free Willy."

Irvin is survived by his four children, Elaine (Richard) Church of Sisters; Greg (Micheline) Black of Gaston; Sue (Tom) of Montana; and Peggy (Bill) Koch, also of Sisters. Grandchildren include Travis (Aubrey), Cody, Rory, and Nicholas Koch; Jennifer, Stephanie and Melissa Church; and three great-grandchildren, Will, Zoe, and Hayley Koch.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Christine.

Chess players shine at tournament

On January 23 Sisters Middle School (SMS) students Ashton King, Matthew Falconer, Emily Huber (6th-graders), and Brody Lofdahl and Sasha Komar (8th-graders), represented Sisters Middle School at the annual Chess for Success Regional Chess Tournament held at Ridgeview High School in Redmond.

They won first place as a team, which qualifies them to advance to the state

tournament. In addition, Brody Lofdahl and Ashton King won their age bracket, which allows them to compete at State as individuals.

The State Team Tournament will be held April 8 and the State Individual Tournament will be held April 9 in Portland.

The SMS Chess Club meets Wednesday mornings before school and is coached by high school sophomore Ethan Ferwalt.



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Brody Lofdahl, Mary Kay Ferwalt (team facilitator), Sasha Komar, Emily Huber, Ashton King, Matthew Falconer and Chess for Success Regional Director Dave Brouillard.

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