

PHOTO BY JIRKA NOVOTNY

The Sisters Outlaw Robotics Team 8023 took top honors at the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Qualifying Tournament on Saturday, January 21. Pictured are David Novotny, Spencer Bordonaro, and Wyatt Adams.

Robotics team conquers tourney

The Sisters Outlaw Robotics Team 8023 took home top honors from the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Qualifying Tournament, held at Summit High School in Bend on January 21.

After a full day of inspections, presentation and matches, the Outlaw team placed first. They took home two trophies: Winning Alliance, given to the collaborating teams that win the tournament, and Inspire Award, for the team that is both a top competitor and a gracious contender.

Team 8023 is made up of four students from the Sisters area: Wyatt Adams, Spencer Bordonaro, David Novotny and Tyler Wonderly. They are coached by Jirka Novotny, also of Sisters.

The Outlaw robot advances to the FTC Super-Qualifier Tournament in Hillsboro on February 11. The robot will also make a celebrity appearance at the Sisters Science Fair in March.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a non-profit dedicated to encouraging students to pursue their interest in science, technology, engineering and math. Teams work together since game kickoff in September to design and build a robot that will perform a series of tasks. The process emphasizes collaboration, problem-solving, and, on tournament day, grace under pressure. Each team is paired with another team in each match, requiring participants to recognize and exploit the strengths and weaknesses of their allies' robot.

During this year's Velocity Vortex game, a team's robot scores points for shooting Particles, claiming Beacons, raising the Cap Ball of the playing field floor or by capping their Center Vortex.

The Outlaw Robotics Team 8023 appreciates the ongoing support of the Sisters Science Club, Qorvo (technology innovation company

with a branch in Bend) and of the Sisters community members and businesses. Their contributions help purchase robot parts and allow the team members to register and travel to competitions. The team is seeking additional sponsors to allow them to travel to the tournament in Hillsboro.

To learn more about the Outlaw Robotics Team, go to www.sistersrobotics.com.

PAW PRINTS: You can help your arthritic canine companion

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dog in the water will allow joints to move more freely. This is a great non-drug way to improve mobility and relieve pain for your furry friend.

Therapeutic massage can help detect, alleviate, and prevent conditions that can keep your pooch from enjoying the freedom of movement they're supposed to have. And most dogs love a massage! Done by a certified practitioner, this is much more than just a good scratch and belly rub.

In some patients massage therapy can actually accomplish the same results as acupuncture. It can help restore and improve range of motion, agility, and comfort, increasing quality of life.

There are some simple at-home steps that you can do to help your arthritic dog with his arthritis.

You might get a ramp for your furry friend to get in and out of the car, or to avoid steps. You can also lay down runner carpet over hardwood floors to reduce those slip'n'slide moves that

sometimes happen to older dogs with weaker hind ends. Invest in an orthopedic bed to help cushion painful joints. Some dogs appreciate a softer bed, or a raised canvas bed. Keep your pooch trim to reduce the load on weight-bearing joints.

No one wants to see their furry friend getting older or being in pain. And many treatments benefit arthritic dogs, but a combination of therapies can be the best approach.

The key is to find out what works for your dog and your lifestyle and stick with it.

Check with your veterinarian for suggestions about the right treatments to help your arthritic dog.

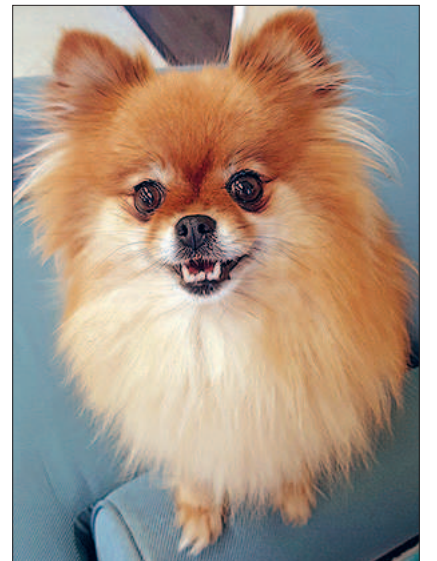


PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Laser therapy has helped Daisy cope with arthritis.

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