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Tip of the week: It is best to provide your employer written notice of an on-the-job injury, even if you don't intend to file for a workers compensation claim right away.

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UA Local 290 to host robotics competition kickoff Jan. 5

The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition will kick off in Oregon Jan. 5 at the Tualatin training facility of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290.

FIRST is a nationwide competition that challenges teams of young people and their professional mentors to build a robot using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules.

On kick-off day, NASA broadcasts via satellite the new game for the year. Teams are then given six weeks to build their robots using skills in engineering, mathematics, technology and science.

The robots are scored at a regional contest and winners advance to a national finals.

Local 290 is setting up a special area at its training center for teams to test their creations throughout the six-week construction process. "It's a great opportunity for us to show off our state-of-the-art facility and also to share it with area high schools," said Local 290 Business Manager John Endicott.

The regional finals will be held Feb. 28 through March 1 at Portland's Memorial Coliseum. The Jan. 5 kick-off event goes from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to everyone.

Iron Workers #29 elects officers

Kevin Jensen has been re-elected financial secretary-treasurer of Portland-based Iron Workers Local 29. He ran unopposed.

Also re-elected was President Jim Pauley.

Joe Bowers was elected vice president while Jamie Maygra and Pauley were elected business agents.

Kevin Soto was elected recording secretary and Mike Newton was elected sergeant-at-arms.

Elected to the Executive Committee

were Ray Gragg, Ray Fisher, John Winters, Kevin Crocker and Neal Ryan.

Elected to the Examining Committee were Bowers, Joe Fields and Robert Clerihew. Trustees elected were Clerihew, Steve Mahoney and Trini Iglesias.

Pauley and Maygra also were elected delegates to the Iron Workers District Council.

All terms are for three years. The new officers will be installed at the regular union meeting Jan. 3.

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