

In Memory of...

Pastor D.J. Dickey

July 15, 1941 - February 11, 2017

Pastor D.J. Dickey, 75, a former longtime resident of the Vernonia community, late of Portland, died Saturday, February 11, 2017 at his home. A Graveside Service will be held on Friday, February 17, 2017 at 12:00 noon at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery, 2080 Bridge Street, Vernonia. A Celebration of Life Service will follow at 3:00 pm to be held in the Vernonia High School, 1000 Missouri Ave, Vernonia. Arrangements are entrusted to Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia.



Tharis E. King Reiff

December 19, 1924 - February 9, 2017

Tharis E. King Reiff, 92, formerly of Vernonia, late of Beaverton, died Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the Rose Lane Adult Foster Care Home in Beaverton. A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 11:00 am at the Vernonia Christian Church, 410 North Street, Vernonia. Concluding Burial Rites & Interment will follow at 2:00 pm at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery, 2080 Bridge Street, Vernonia. Arrangements are entrusted to Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia.



Vernonia Robotics Programs *continued from page 11*

several design adjustments to their robot during the build process. "We've tried many things, and finally just came up with a solution to one problem, and that was really great!" says Leach.

Leach says part of the competition involves working within an alliance of several other teams. "We've been at this for three years now and there are usually smaller tasks in the competition for rookie teams and then there are the bigger tasks for more experienced teams. We like to have a broad range of tasks we can do so we can score a lot of points and be more helpful to the other teams in our alliances."

A big focus of FIRST competitions is on cooperation and sportsmanship, and the program encourages competing teams to work together, share ideas and knowledge, and help each other.

Leach says she often scouts other teams at the competitions in order to know the capabilities of their competitors and help find good alliance partners. "I ask them what their robots can do and also watch them during their matches," says Leach. "Scouting has always been fun for me because I get to meet a lot of people from around the Oregon community or even from around the world if we advance that far in the competition."

Leach explained the robot's computer program uses two cell phones, with one on the robot to accept the signal from the other phone which is connected to the computer controllers. "The programming goes through the wireless connection of the phones," explains Leach. "The command phone has button commands programmed in and when we push the buttons, it tells the robot what to do. It uses smart phone technology that the younger generation are used to using, and opens their eyes to see what cell phones can actually do."

The FTC competition challenge is announced every year in early September, and regional competitions start at the end of January. The entire season

wraps up in March for those fortunate enough to make it to the national competition in St. Louis, Missouri.

The FRC challenge this year, "Steamworks" is a steampunk themed event that invites teams to prepare a steamship for flight and offers teams the opportunity to score points three different ways:

through collecting balls (fuel for the steamship), delivering gears to operate it, and then attaching to the steamship by grabbing and climbing a rope in preparation for the flight's launch, which signals the end of the competition.

The Vernonia FRC team, the Loggerbots, are currently building their robot, which needs to be completed by February 21, and preparing for their competitions on March 23-25 at Clackamas Academy of Industrial Science, and on March 3-April 1 in Lake Oswego. They have been severely hampered by weather cancellations at the school and are behind schedule on their project, but are working hard to get ready for the upcoming competitions.

Sean Coffey is a sophomore and co-captain of the Loggerbots, along with senior Kaitlyn Eyrrick. Coffey explained what the Loggerbots were working on in the school shop building on Saturday, February 11. "One of our robot's jobs is to gather gears so we've designed a pocket that the gears slide into and then the robot drives it up to a peg on the ship where a human player lifts it up and places it on the ship," explains Coffey. "We need to get 12 gears on the ship to complete the task. The big twist this year is that we have a defined volume that the robot has to fit in; which is entirely different from other years when there was just a perimeter the base had to fit in."

Other mentors of the FRC program include Brett Costley, Robin Larson, and Robbie Brewer.

"This year's team is young," says mentor Eyrrick. "I am certain we will have a functional, and low tech robot. Not nearly as flashy as the past. But that is all part of the learning process as well."

The Vernonia robotics programs are giving local students a great opportunity to learn real world skills, that include technical knowledge, along with important interpersonal skills.

"I love that robotics is about cooperating, working with others and gracious professionalism," says Eyrrick.



Above: Sean Coffey explains the FRC challenge for this year with Nick Costley. Below: Ransom Smith and Ellie Brewer work on the FRC robot while mentor Robin Larson looks on.



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