

ROBOTS from page 1A

The LEGO competition presents competitors with a real-world based scientific challenge and requires them to employ research, coding, problem solving and engineering to solve the challenge problems.

This year, a mixed grade group of students are preparing to compete in the LEGO competition, which will be held today at Oregon State University.

Jaimisyn Kopilec is the middle school's math intervention and robotics instructor and she will be overseeing the trip to Corvallis.

"This is a group of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders who are competing in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge at Oregon State University," she said. "We've got about 20 students and it's a full day. ... We get assigned a table to hang out at and practice tables to work on throughout the day."

The first portion of the challenge is to complete as many tasks as possible in 2.5 minutes.

The team also has to present their robots to the judges and be prepared to discuss an important aspect of the competition: the core values at the base of all of the work done during the challenge. These values are

discovery, innovation, impact, inclusion and teamwork.

"The judges will want the students to explain how they exemplified these values during the semester," Kopilec said. "From what I understand, they will be presenting some sort of theoretical problem and the students will need to use these core values to work through it and they won't have any time to prepare for it."

Another aspect of the challenge is the inclusion of an overall theme that will positively impact the communities where the students live.

"This year the theme is 'City Shapers,' and the students are supposed to take a public open space or building that needs improvement or redesigning and work with that space. We have one team that is creating an outdoor event space somewhere in the Gallagher Park area where the city has an old public works building," Kopilec said.

The students attending Kopilec's class on Thursday were energized and eager to make the trip to OSU.

Mason Jung was one of the most active members of the group and he was eager to share details of the work being done.

"What you are seeing here is an endurance course," he said.

"For these robots, we need and coders. We need people that can program and people that can build. There are two parts to every robot. The programmer will program the robot to do things and the engineer needs to build a project that will work with the robot."

The enthusiasm shown by Jung and all of his classmates was clear when discussing the work and time they have invested, and the student's teacher seemed to appreciate the growth of the team over the semester.

"There was one day about a month into it where I just watched this collaboration happening very naturally," Kopilec said. "To see these kids that didn't know each other before working together, it was just beautiful."

The Intel Oregon FIRST LEGO League Qualifying Tournament is being held Dec. 7 and 8 at Oregon State University in Corvallis. For more information, visit ortop.org/fll/fll-team-resources/corvallis-intel-oregon-first-lego-league-tournament.

Jung said, "I'm really excited because it's my first time competing and I'm ready. Our robot is ready. Our engineering is a little off, but I can fix that because I'm one of the engineers."

BOWLS from page 1A

One of the most successful fundraising events that the organization coordinates each year is the "Empty Bowls" artisan sale, which is modeled after similar events held in cities across the nation. Over the past decade, it has become one of this area's primary sources of funding for, with local artists creating and donating hundreds of unique bowls to sell to the public during that time.

Judy Plumery, board chairperson for Florence Food Share and the Empty Bowls event, said it is one of her personal fundraising favorites.

"I'm a fan of this event, especially because it speaks to our core value of alleviating hunger. When you enter the Florence Events Center and see hundreds of beautiful — but empty — bowls, you can't help but think about all of the people in our community who wonder on a weekly basis if they will be able to stretch their food budget to feed their families," she said.

Another important aspect of the experience for Plumery is the willingness of the community to turn out every year to support the fundraiser.

"I'm struck by how the community comes together to make this fun event happen," she said.

"The many artists who donate their talents, the restaurants who offer a free cup of soup during December for each bowl purchased, the volunteers who donate their time to organize and run the event and the customers who purchase bowls for themselves or as Christmas presents — all knowing that their purchase not only gives joy to the recipient, but feeds a hungry family."

The Empty Bowl event will continue Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.

For information about Florence Food Share, visit www.florencefoodshare.org.

Rev. Miller talks about Advent with Unitarians

On Sunday, Dec. 8, starting at 10 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF), Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller will deliver the message titled, "Coming Toward the Nature of Prophetic Wisdom."

"The annual winter holiday season is upon us. Advertisers encourage us to shop for gifts. Regular meetings are canceled because there are too many parties and family events. What's it all about?" Miller asked. "Advent" means 'coming toward.' What's coming toward us? What

are we coming toward?" She will discuss why this is the name of the days leading up to Christmas, Dec. 25.

"What does prophecy have to do with it? What does it mean for us now and in the future?"

These are some of the questions Miller will explore in this Sunday's presentation.

FUUF is located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road and is wheelchair accessible. Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle.

Lutherans hold Advent services on Wednesdays

New Life Lutheran Church in Florence will be having short Wednesday evening services starting at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 11 and 18 as people wait for the celebration of Christmas.

In the series called "Wounded and Waiting for Christmas," these Advent services will center on waiting and watching

for God in the midst of wounds — whether they be from loss or heartbreak, are from fear around current events or are even from the church itself.

New Life Lutheran Church is at 2100 Spruce St. For more information, visit www.florencenewlife.lutheran.org or call 541-997-8113.

St. Andrew's plans annual Christmas services

The community is invited to celebrate Christmas with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in December.

Sunday, Dec. 22, is the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Eucharists at 8 a.m. for Rite I and 10 a.m. for Rite II, with music.

On Tuesday, Dec. 24, there will be a 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with the King's College, Cambridge Festival of Nine Lessons, carols and the Holy Eucharist, Rite II.

The Christmas Day Eucharist is at 10 a.m., also Rite II with Christmas hymns.

St. Andrew's is located at 2135 19th St. in Florence.

Siuslaw News



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| <p>COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
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Sunday School, 9:30a.m. - Worship, 10:45
Wed. Prayer - 6:00 p.m. - Wed. Ministries 1-8 Grade 7 p.m.</p> | <p>FOURSQUARE CHURCH
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Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Family Connections
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florencecrossroadag.org • office@florencecrossroadag.org</p> | <p>NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.
21st & Spruce Street -- 997-8113
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www.florencenewlife.lutheran.org</p> |
| <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC
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www.churchofchristflorence.org</p> | <p>RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, L.C.M.S.
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| <p>FLORENCE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
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