

Girl Scouts badges move toward 'ambitious leadership'

Girl Scouts of America announced this week 24 new badges available to girls.

The badges are designed to foster "ambitious leadership" in crucial skills and job categories, many of them still dominated by men.

"In a year of unprecedented global change, our country's need for strong, broad-minded, and decisive leadership has never been greater," according to a Girl Scout press release.

Among the new badges:

- Entrepreneurship (grades K-12). Girls develop an entrepreneurial mindset as they engage in age-appropriate ex-



ercises that help them create and pitch a product or service that solves a problem. They build their own business plan and think about topics like production, cost, profit, marketing, and competition.

- STEM Career Exploration (grades 2-8). Girls explore their career interests and connect them to STEM

Anxiety: UO curriculum could be national model

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about mental health."

The curriculum, called *Attune-Ed*, is based on a pilot project using a concept called "trauma-informed mindfulness" funded by Oregon Community Foundation and which has been under way for three years at Lincoln Middle School in Cottage Grove.

"We're attempting to reach rural middle school students and teachers," Kelly said. "The rates of trauma are not necessarily different in these areas, but their access to resources is more limited."

The grant will allow the team to adapt the written curriculum being used in Cottage Grove into a web-based mod-

el in order to more efficiently disseminate it nationwide without requiring significant one-on-one instruction.

"Trifioa is coming in with the technology lens, Lori and Shin Shin have developed this from a psychologist's perspective, and I will conduct the research," Kelly said.

The program teaches students to better read their emotions and determine when they are outside of their "window of tolerance," which can include displays of anger or sadness or bouts of high energy.

Teachers help students figure out mindful steps they can take to get back "inside that window," whether it's

fields—particularly computer science, nature/environmental science, engineering, design, health, and agriculture—that can help them address the pressing issues of our time and change the world.

- Automotive Engineering (grades K-5). Girls learn about designing, engineering, and manufacturing vehicles, as well as the future of mobility.

They design their own vehicles, test prototypes, learn about design thinking, create their own assembly line manufacturing process, and more.

getting some exercise, guided imagery, progressive muscle relaxation strategies or deep breathing.

"We teach about self-awareness and what takes you out and what gets you back into your window," Kelly said.

It's also meant for teachers to better manage their own stresses and hit a reset button in their classroom.

The trauma-informed component recognizes that many students and teachers have a history of trauma.

The program isn't meant to address that but instead recognize it may be a source of what has pushed them outside their window of tolerance.

completed in close quarters.

EXTRA BENEFITS END

The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program ended July 25.

The program was created through passage of the federal CARES Act, and gave Oregonians eligible for unemployment benefits an extra \$600 per week.

Since the program began

March 29, the Oregon Employment Department paid out more than \$2 billion in extra pandemic benefits.

"This is going to have a significant impact on Oregon families and communities," said David Gerstenfeld, the department's acting director.

"Just last week, the department paid the extra \$600 to more than 130,000 Oregonians."

Letter to the editor

Questions remain on flood control

According to my records, the established history of the Eighth Street Dam is as follows:

The tide gates were permanently removed in 2015 and cannot be replaced as they originally were.

In December 2015, there was flooding up to within a few inches of entering some of the homes located on the river inside Warrenton city limits.

The Skipanon Water Control District had a written charter that required them to prevent flooding above all other considerations.

Oregon Water Control regulations, which govern every water control district in Oregon, specifically state that tide gates could not be left open (let alone permanently removed) to facilitate fish passage on dams created to prevent property damage from flooding.

The mayor of Warrenton stated at a public meeting that residents on the river were responsible to obtain insurance to protect themselves from flooding as the city felt it had no responsibility for preventing flooding even though the Eighth Street Dam is in the center of the city.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden sent me a letter that I forwarded to the city manager stating that the status of the Eighth Street Dam is a local issue that the federal government will not take any position on.

The Skipanon Water Control District is attempting to legally disband.

Unresolved are the following issues:

If a future flooding event inside the city limits of Warrenton causes substantial damage to property along the

river, who is responsible for repair/replacement?

If removing the tide gates was illegal based on the Skipanon Water Control District charter and Oregon Water Control Districts operating regulations, who has financial liability if serious flooding occurs?

FEMA denied many flood claims after Hurricane Sandy because property owners had made illegal property modifications that invalidated their policies. Courts later upheld the denials.

Skipanon Water Control District board members can be sued as individuals if they knowingly broke the law when taking actions that led to economic loss, according to Oregon law.

Is the city free of economic responsibility since it could have challenged the Skipanon Water Control District in court when commissioners disagreed with the removal of the tide gates after they saw what happened in December 2015?

I do not know how many tort lawyers would want to dive into the potential legal swamp described above. We won't know how the court will judge future liability until an actual legal case is brought by a property owner who suffers substantial economic loss because FEMA declines to pay a claim.

In my judgment, all parties have the potential to win or lose a court case. If there is no future flooding worse than December 2015, there is no need for anyone to be concerned. If there is a bad flooding event, then everyone mentioned in this memo should be concerned.

Scott Widdicombe

Warrenton