

Trojan Tribune



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News From Ouray High School

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Childhood Pastime to Robotic Competition

by Cliona Pasek

For some kids, legos are just your everyday toy. For five Ouray Elementary students, however, legos are a way to create ideas that could change our world. On December 2nd, five 4th grade students, Jenna Williams, Ella "Blu" Vann, Ella Skoloda, Cavan Pasek, and Keaton Nelson traveled to Durango to participate in a Lego Robotics Competition.

"Ever since I was little, my father had me play with his old legos. Then it had advanced to the EV3 Lego Mindstorms. I knew that legos were fun so I knew this activity would be fun," said Cavan Pasek on his history with legos.

This all started with the Pinhead institute when they offered to give this program free for the students. Pinhead donated the robot, the legos, a coach, and an entry into the tournament. Mrs. Taylor Chase, G/T coordinator, explained that, "Essentially, as they offered to pay for all this stuff, I was like, 'I will hop on board!' Because I knew this will be a great opportunity especially for our younger students that don't get a chance to do extracurriculars."

An email from Mrs. Chase informed the parents that Pinhead was offering this program and asked if they were interested. After they discussed everything, the kids got right to work gathering together every Monday after school to build their creations. Cavan and Keaton were chosen to be the primary programmers while Jenna, Ella Blu and Ella made the poster board and built their

robots. Together, they would build their missions for the competition.

"We didn't have anything. So we were just trying to decide what we were going to do at first," Ella Skoloda said.

Eventually, ideas started to form and a robot was formed. Sadly, it broke down in November, which Keaton Nelson said was "really sad."

On the day of the competition, the five entered in four of the categories including Practice Rounds, Core Values, Teamwork and Robot Designs.

"Core values was fun, trying to get those pipes to work," said Ella Skoloda, "We had these half pipes and marbles and we had to keep the marble moving. We only had three of the pipes, so we had to keep it going."

The competition held schools from all over, including students from Durango, Telluride and Norwood. A total of 27 teams participated and the five students spoke of some of their favorite teams names. This included the Radioactive Gummy Bears as well as Arbie's and the Salty Turtles. The tournament brought a variety of ages with the oldest being 9th graders while the Ouray team was the youngest.

At the end, they came out with a total of 120 points, just five off from qualifying for the state competition. If some other team drops out, then they will be able to travel to state and continue their "lego-filled" journey.

Diving Into Animal Anatomy

by Mackenzie Gibbs

"The insides of this worm look like ramen!" exclaimed a student as they dug through the guts of a roundworm. "That comment was not necessary in any way," said another as they said goodbye to ever eating Top Ramen again.

As the first semester of this school year draws to a close, so does the College Biology 102 class. Over the course of the semester, the 11 students in this class have learned about plant anatomy, cell biology, and the evolution of life. The last couple weeks are going to be spent dissecting organisms from starfish to crayfish to sharks.

"When this class first started, I was concerned that it was going to be too difficult," said junior Ry Gould. "But now that we're almost to the end of the class, I am so glad that I didn't drop it. We've learned so much cool stuff and it was really worth it."

The class, however, was still pretty rigorous. "I love College Bio but I'm sorta relieved that we're so close to ending," said junior Ella Colpitts. "It's been a lot of work and the tests always give me a

bit of stress."

Now that the students have taken all 3 unit tests, all that is left for them is one final, which Ms Ballard promises will be just as short as a regular test, and more dissections than they could ever want.

"I am so excited to dissect the shark," said junior Alannah Wister. "It's gonna be so nice to be able to do this during part of finals week. It's almost stress relieving."

The class will also be conducting a DNA paternity lab in which they will be loading gels and injecting real DNA, just like what is conducted in professional investigatory environments. "Hopefully it works," said Ms Ballard. "The DNA has been in my freezer for a couple years so it might have denatured."

These hands-on lab experiences serve not only as a fun educational activity but also as a professional preview for some students. "I really want to go into some medical field," said junior Abbie Link. "This is like informal training for me."



Calendar

Thursday, December 14

5:30 pm - HS Bball @ home vs Dove Creek

Friday, December 15

4:00 pm - HS Bball in Mancos

Saturday, December 16

4:00 pm - HS Bball in Plateau Valley

Monday, December 18

3:00 pm - KB in Ridgway

Tuesday, December 19

5:30 pm - PATT Holiday Pasta Bar

Wednesday, December 20

5:00 pm - 3rd/4th Grade Theater Evening

Students Try for Internships

by Ally King

This week, seven Ouray High School juniors were interviewed for 2018 Pinhead summer Internship. "It's an amazing opportunity that Pinhead offers," said junior Abbie Link. "Students get to contribute to research in a scientific field that interests them." Pinhead connects students to research facilities, arranges interviews, and, if the student is accepted, offers scholarships to cover travel, room, and board for the term of the internship.

The internships are available to approximately 25 juniors on the western slope of Colorado each year.

"I was super nervous beforehand," said junior Natty Valenzuela. Natty was interviewed for neuroscience and criminal psychology. "I really enjoy learning about the human brain," said Natty. "It's such a complex organ." Natty hopes that she gets the internship so she is able to decide if this is the right field to pursue after high school.

Some students have had their eyes on Pinhead internships for quite awhile. "It has been something I wanted to do since I was a freshman," said Abbie Link.

Abbie was very prepared for the interview and she believes the interview was "very good and productive." Abbie interviewed for medical sciences. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for students," said Abbie.

These internships are great because "being able to work hands on in a field helps a student decide if this is a career she wants to pursue," said Abbie

One student who got to go on an internship last year was senior Elizabeth Williams. "It was really fun and I got to live by myself for 6 weeks in Washington, DC," she said. She applied for public health and was one of the first students last year to be accepted in the internship program.

"Half of the time I shadowed doctors in different clinics, and half the time I helped the Rodham Institute with their educational programming," Elizabeth said. She enjoyed the experience because there were "a lot of passionate people who enjoyed their jobs." Elizabeth gives this message to students who applied: "Enjoy the experience and take pride in the work that you're doing while you're there."

"We had a good outcome of students who applied for the Pinhead Internship," said superintendent Mr. Pankow. Ouray is the first school to be interviewed for the 2018 internships. "I hope all of the students get picked for the internship," said Mr. Pankow. By his predictions a good outcome for the school would be about "4-5 students." "They are all very bright students," said Mr. Pankow "they deserve every spot on the list."

Goodies for a Good Cause

by Caeley Eddy

The scent of cookies float into your nose as you walk into the cafeteria. It is December 14th, during the High School basketball game against Dove Creek. The entry fee is only \$5, and guess what: if you win, you get half the entry pot! NJHS is setting all of this up for the dZi Foundation, a Ridgway-based non-profit that helps to build schools and houses in Nepal.

NJHS students are excited to make a difference in the world through this fundraiser. "It's to mainly raise money," said 8th grade NJHS member River Manley. "I think it's a fun and collaborative way to raise funds. We set a high goal this year too at \$750. I know some middle schoolers are participating, but we haven't checked the Elementary sign up sheets yet. I'm doing it because why not, I get to bake and it's for a good cause too."

Anyone in any part of the school can join in on the fun. To join you need to bake something delicious. "If you want to enter a baked item it is \$5, and random people can come and buy a ticket. They can use that ticket to taste the food that people make. If you really like the food you hole punch a piece of paper, then use that to vote," said River.

"I'm helping the students focus on their activity to make it as easy to implement as possible," said 5th grade teacher Mrs. Phylis. The funds from the bake-off will go straight to the dZi Foundation, and then to the people in Nepal so they can use it for schools and community structuring. So every contribution counts toward a new building in Nepal for kids.

"I might compete, it will be fun and it's for a good cause," said 7th grader D.C. Miller.