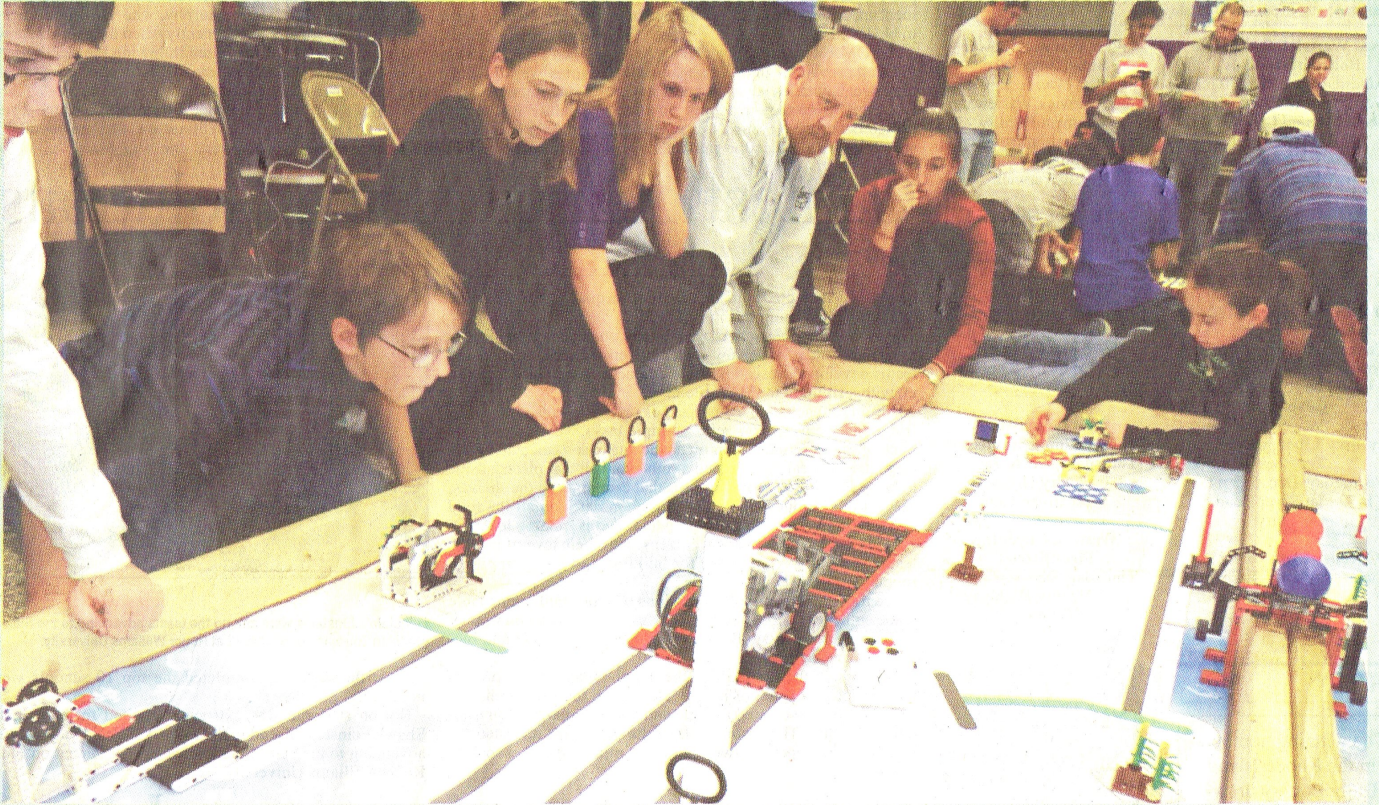


LEGO LEGENDS



Submitted Photo

Members of Coventry's Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School robotics club were hard at work over the weekend, competing in the LEGO League Senior Solutions Qualifier Tournaments in Warren.

Contest lets Feinstein robotics club show off and make state finals

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COVENTRY — Several students from the robotics club at Alan Shawn Feinstein (ASF) Middle School will be moving onto the State Championship Tournament after competing in a LEGO competition this past weekend.

More than 100 elementary and middle school students from Rhode Island gathered at Kickemuit Middle School in Warren Saturday for the first LEGO League Senior Solutions Qualifier Tournament. LEGO League is a hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) enrichment program that combines robotics with a research project.

Coventry competed against various local schools including Barrington Middle School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Bristol, Edward R. Martin Middle School, East Providence, Narragansett Pier School, Narragansett, Boy Scout Troop 333, New Bedford, Providence After School Alliance,

Providence, Wheeler School, Providence, Kickemuit Middle School, Bristol and Portsmouth Middle School, Portsmouth.

Coach of the ASF team Rebecca Horton explained that this is the first time a qualifier competition has been held. Because more teams signed up to compete than ever

See **CONTEST**, Page A-2

Contest themed 'senior solutions'

Continued from Page A-1

before, whoever placed in the top 10 at the qualifier would move on to the state championship.

With the theme being Senior Solutions, students had to identify a problem that affects many senior citizens. Once identified, the teams developed, researched and contacted specialists to come up with a solution to the problem.

Horton said her team, comprised of seven students, designed a fridge that helps seniors with multiple tasks. The fridge keeps track of calories, tracks their medicine intake and calculates what they should be eating. She said a conveyor belt was placed inside to bring food out to senior citizens that cannot reach the shelves. She said the fridge also tracks expiration dates on all the food and sends out orders to the store when food is running low.

Along with helping senior citizens with their inventions, the teams were also responsible for building and programming a robot.

The robot had to complete missions on a pre-built game table made entirely of LEGO elements, which focused on concepts of gerontology — the study of the social, psychological and biological aspects of aging.

Horton said the first half of the day the team had to present their fridge to a panel of judges, along with their research. She said the students created a jingle and a skit to make the presentation exciting. The second half of the day teams and their robots had to compete in two-and-a-half minute matches to earn points.



Submitted Photo

Feinstein's Einsteins were among the teams advancing to the State Championship Tournament on Jan. 12 at Roger Williams University.

Once the day was completed the top 10 schools were announced.

Horton said she was extremely excited to learn that Alan Shawn Feinstein placed in the top 10. She said they will now be advancing to the State Championship Tournament on Jan. 12 at Roger Williams University.