

Belle Plaine Middle School Robotics Team Advances to World Championship



Students from Belle Plaine Middle School made a strong showing this season in robotics competition, with two teams qualifying for the Kansas State Robotics Competition and one student advancing to the global stage.

The state competition was held March 6 and sponsored by Textron Aviation in Wichita, where 32 teams from across Kansas competed. Belle Plaine Middle School was represented by two teams: Corvex Corax and Phoenix Force.

The Corvex Corax team — made up of Laina Peppard, Travis Hablutzel and Odin Phares — earned its state qualification by winning the

Skills competition at the PVMS Robo Battle. Phoenix Force, led by Zander Adams, secured a spot through a strong Skills score at the CMA Celestial Showdown Last Chance Competition.

Both teams competed at state and were praised for their sportsmanship and representation of the school throughout the season. Coaches Chantal Kirby and Issac Phillips, along with head coach Michelle Randolph, guided the teams through months of building, coding, testing and refining their robots.

Out of the 32 teams com-

state competitions, earning invitations based on tournament wins, skills rankings or judged awards.

At the world event, students design, build and program robots to complete complex engineering challenges and compete against top teams from dozens of countries. The competition also celebrates STEM education and innovation, allowing students to meet peers from around the world and showcase their engineering skills.

With Adams now preparing to represent Belle Plaine on the international stage, supporters say the achievement



Legal Notice
(Published in the Belle Plaine News / Oxford Register on Thursday March 12, 2026 and Thursday March 19, 2026)

Erin L. Zoglmann # 27594
Chief Deputy County Attorney
501 N. Washington, Suite G07
Wellington, KS 67152
(620) 326-7941
ezoglmann@co.sumner.ks.us

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
IN THE INTEREST OF: ALLEARA MARI JONES
Case No. SU-2025-JC-000013
DOB: XX/XX/2009 A Female child

NOTICE OF HEARING-Publication
Pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2237

TO: DANIEL MARRILA AND UNKNOWN FATHERS and all other persons who are or may be concerned
You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court alleging that the child named above is a Child in Need of Care. The Court may find that the parents are unfit by reason or conduct or condition which renders the parents unable to care properly for a child, the conduct or condition is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future, the parental rights of the parent should be terminated, and a permanent custodian should be appointed for the child.
A hearing on the petition is scheduled for the 25 th day of March, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. □ p.m. At the hearing the Court may issue orders relating to the care, custody and control of the child. The hearing will determine if the parents should be deprived of their parental rights and the right to custody of the child.

The parent(s), and any other person having legal custody are required to appear before this Court on the date and time shown, or to file your written response to the petition with the Clerk of the District Court prior to that time. Failure to respond or to appear before the Court at the time shown will not prevent the Court from entering judgment as requested in the petition, finding that the child is a Child in Need of Care, removing the child from the custody of parent, parents or any other present legal custodian until further order of the Court, or finding the parents unfit, and entering an order permanently terminating the parents' parental rights.

An attorney has been appointed as guardian *ad litem* for the child: Matthew B. Metcalf, Sumner County Courthouse. You have the right to appear before the Court and be heard personally, either with or without an attorney. The Court will appoint an attorney for any parent who desires an attorney but is financially unable to hire one. The Court may order one or both parents to pay child support.

Date and time of hearing: Wednesday March 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. □ p.m.
Place of hearing: Sumner County Courthouse, 501 North Washington, Wellington, KS 67152
IT IS SO ISSUED.



peting, Phoenix Force — led by Adams — qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championship, which will be held April 21–30 in St. Louis at the America's Center Convention Complex.

The VEX Robotics World Championship is considered the largest robotics competition in the world, bringing together more than 2,400 teams from around the globe to compete in several divisions and determine the season's champions.

Teams qualify through strong performances at regional and

highlights the dedication of the students and coaches behind the school's robotics program. School leaders say they hope to see these middle school competitors continue their robotics journey in high school competitions in the years ahead.

Top left: L-R Coach Chantal Kirby, Head Coach Michelle Randolph, Travis Hablutzel, Laina Peppard, Odin Phares, and Coach Issac Phillips, state tournament for Kansas robotics competition, photos courtesy of Deb Phares.

Top right: Zander Adams, photo courtesy of Brad Haas.

Legal Notice
(Published in the Belle Plaine News / Oxford Register on Thursday March 12, 2026)

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AND TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED: SUMNER COUNTY BOARD OF FLOODPLAIN APPEALS AGENDA

April 8, 2026, 6:30 P.M.
Raymond Frye Complex
320 N Jefferson, Wellington, Kansas

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
- C. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS.
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.
- F. PRESENTATION OF REQUESTS AND PETITIONS.
- G. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES.
- H. REPORTS OF BOARD OFFICERS AND RELATED PERSONNEL.
- I. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS.
- J. OLD BUSINESS.
- K. NEW BUSINESS. Election of Officers
- L. ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NEXT AGENDA.
- M. ADJOURNMENT.

The Front (South) door will be unlocked fifteen(15) minutes prior to the meeting.
DATE: March 2, 2026
PREPARED BY: M. Templeton
APPROVED BY: B. Fleming /S/

Trivia Answer:

The Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost), according to the legend that Saint Patrick used the shamrock to illustrate the concept to potential converts. It can also symbolize love, hope, and faith.

Do you have trivia that we should include in a future edition?
Send it to
NewsBellePlaine@gmail.com!

Glen and Patricia Burdue Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Glen and Patricia Burdue celebrated their 50th Anniversary this last weekend. The Belle Plaine couple were treated to a party with family and friends for the occasion.

Courtesy Photo

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- Sunflower State Spelling Bee - Salina, KS
• March 21, 2026
- Kansas State Battle of the Books - Emporia, KS
• May 8, 2026
- Kansas Civic Games - Topeka, KS
• October 29

Contact the Kansas Press Association today to learn more about these exciting volunteer opportunities

785-271-5304

www.kspress.com

SMART INVEST KS

SUSPICIOUS OF AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY?

Protect you and your investments from fraud by learning about scams and schemes at
SmartInvestKS.gov.

SmartInvestKS.gov | KDOI.Complaints@ks.gov