



**SAFETY FIRST** — Laurens District High Senior Marissa Wideman, left, speaks with safety judges at the FIRST Palmetto Regional in Myrtle Beach, where LDHS Robotz Garage Team 4451 was part of the winning alliance, which included partners Cyber Tribe Team 4020 from Kingsport, Tenn., and Rat Rods Robotics Team 5022 from Jonesborough, Tenn. Later this spring the team will travel to FIRST 2019 World Championships in Houston.

## LCSD 55 sponsors STEM Saturday initiative

Laurens County School District 55 (LCSD 55) is sponsoring a STEM Saturday initiative, which includes fun hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities that foster general awareness about STEM and encourage children in grades three to eight to recognize that "STEM is everywhere." STEM Saturday will continue meeting every Saturday through the first week in April.

LCSD 55 is providing transportation, breakfast, and lunch for participating students. "I am so excited to offer this opportunity to our students. Kids love STEM activities because they are engaging, challenging, and fun. It is a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning," said Laurie Seawright, LCSD 55's English Language Arts/Social Studies Coordinator.

Participants in grades three through five will go through a mechanical engineering adventure each Saturday with a focus on the laws of motion through their Motion Commotion Unit. These

classes will take students into the land of moving things. They experience the epic battle between inertia (a resistance to a change in motion) and the different types of motion (e.g., at rest, constant velocity, or accelerating). Participants in grades six through eight will work on a robotics unit, which will help prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow.

Lea Severin, LCSD 55's Math/Science Coordinator stated, "We are so excited to have the STEM Saturday activities for our students in grades three to eight! They will be engaged in science, technology, engineering, and math/inquiry/research lessons to become college and career ready for future job opportunities."

Dr. Ameca Thomas, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning said, I am so excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our students in LCSD 55. These STEM activities are sure to get students moving and thinking! The lessons are designed to encourage student interaction with real-world activi-

ties, provide hands-on experiences, as well as provide experiential learning activities that push students to investigate, understand, and create solutions while focusing on the 4Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity). The students will also be engaged in read-alouds and articles connected to the lessons. By integrating literacy and STEM together, we are working to develop literacy skills while exposing participants to the wonderful world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics!

The STEM disciplines require the interpretation of technical texts, a vast knowledge of content specific vocabulary, critical thinking, and the ability to communicate these complex concepts to others verbally and in writing. The program develops all of these skills through literacy-based instruction. By integrating literacy and STEM, children can become strong readers while exploring topics that may pique their interest in STEM.

## March yard, garden tips

Watch out for:

**Lawns**  
White grubs - March begins the cycle of treatment for grub problems in your lawn. The bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, etc.) does a nice job on Japanese Beetle grubs, but it does take a little time to build up in the soil. *Bacillus thuringiensis* does not, however, control other types of grubs. See [http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/esps/factsheets/turforn/white\\_grub\\_management\\_in\\_turfgrass\\_to09.html](http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/esps/factsheets/turforn/white_grub_management_in_turfgrass_to09.html), White Grub Management in Turfgrass for more information.

Things to do:

**Flowers**  
Pruning - March is a nice time to prune your repeat-blooming roses such as floribunda and hybrid tea roses, just as the buds break dormancy. Do not prune your once-flowering roses now, but instead prune them after the bloom. See <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/f lowers/hgic1173.html>, Pruning Roses for more information.

**Lawns**

Fertilizer - it's time for application of nitrogen for Bermuda grass and zoysia-grass lawns that have been overseeded for the winter. Follow the recommendations on your soil test report for your lawn. Don't fertilize centipede or St. Augustine yet, nor warm-season lawns that were not overseeded. See <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/lawns/hgic1201.html>, Fertilizing Lawns for more information.

Crabgrass and goosegrass - make the initial attack on your war with these weeds this month. You will need an application of a pre-emergent herbicide this month and again in June. See <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2300.html> Grassy Weeds for more information.

Wild garlic and wild onion - March is the time for the second herbicide application for these two problems if you have them in your yard. See <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2311.html>, Wild Garlic and Wild Onion for information on herbicides and rates of application.

Henbit - this nice little lawn weed can be a problem. Treat now to prevent its return this summer. See <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2321.html>, Henbit for more information.

Nutsedge or "nutgrass" - nutsedge is very difficult to control. There are two main types in our area - purple and yellow. You must identify which you have before you begin treatment. Herbicides must be applied when the nutsedge is actively growing, which means decent soil moisture and warm conditions. See <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2312.html>, Nutsedge for more information.

Trampweed - if you saw this fluffy-looking weed last summer and fall, now is the time to treat your yard to prevent its return. This should be your second treatment if you have a cool-season lawn. Treat your warm-season lawn in November and February. See <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2319.html>, Annual Trampweed for more information.

Irrigation - now is a good time to inspect your irrigation system for repairs and upgrades. You should also scan your automatic timer's manual to re-familiarize yourself with how to set times. See the Home and Garden Center's link at <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/other/irrigation/> irrigation publications for more information.

**Ponds**

Pond fertilization - if your

pond needs fertilization this month is a good time. Do not fertilize within four to six weeks of liming the pond. See <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/other/landscaping/hgic1710.html> Fertilizing Recreational Fish Ponds for more information.

**Vegetables**

Vegetables - Some planting times for more common vegetables. Go to <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/vegetables/gardening/hgic1256.html> Planning a Garden for a full list and planting depths and spacings):

- Asparagus crowns — early February to late March
- Cabbage — Feb. 15 to April 1
- Carrots — March 1-15
- Lettuce — March 1-15
- Irish Potatoes — March 15-30
- Turnips — Feb. 20 to April 1

All pamphlets referenced in this calendar may be found online at <http://www.clemson.edu/hgic/> <http://www.clemson.edu/hgic/>

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