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The
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Wednesday
 October 23, 2013
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 Fergus Falls, Minn.

Football



Zach Stich/Daily Journal

Fergus Falls' Dane Ringquist (31) stiff-arms an Albany defender in Tuesday's Section 8AAAA playoff game. The Otters fell to the Huskies 34-21, for complete coverage of area football playoff games see page 9.

Otters one and done

By Zach Stich
 Daily Journal

The fourth-seeded Fergus Falls Otters were unable to capitalize on its home field advantage Tuesday as the fifth seeded Albany Huskies ended Fergus' season with a 34-21

loss in the Section 8AAAA playoffs.

The Huskies rush attack yielded 355 yards on the ground and five touchdowns as it upset the home team to move to the section semifinal against Detroit Lakes at 7 p.m. Saturday.

In other action, the Underwood

Rockets, Otter Tail Central Bulldogs, Pelican Rapids Vikings and Perham Yellowjackets all advanced to Saturday's semifinal action, while the Rothsay Tigers, Ashby Arrows and West Central Area Knights were ousted from post-season play.



Heather Rule/Daily Journal

Mejra Babic, left, holds 1-year-old Irfan, son of Rezija Saric, who is holding her daughter Majra, 2, Wednesday in a local hotel room. Their family of nine has stayed there since fire destroyed their house on Vernon Avenue Saturday night.

1 hour after family leaves, fire starts

By Heather Rule
 Daily Journal

Nine people whose Vernon Avenue home was lost to an electrical fire Saturday night were in the house until about an hour before a passer-by reported the blaze. Now they're left to contemplate their brush with danger — and to figure out where they are going to live.

The family had just moved to a hotel for the night because of a sewer back-up in their rental house's basement, resident Rezija Saric said.

On the night of the fire, another resident, Mejra Babic, had repeatedly said, "something smells, something's burning," but Saric had figured that it was the chicken they were cooking. The sewage smell was unbearable, Saric said, so they headed for the hotel with just enough clothes for a couple days.

They learned about the fire when police came to the hotel.

"We're really lucky that we weren't there," Saric said. "If we were just sitting there cooking and stuff, what would happen then? All we know is that we're lucky that we got out of the house alive."

See **Family** — Page 3

Robotics team diversity lends creativity to project

By Chris Reinos
 Daily Journal

Tucked in a corner of WestRidge Mall, just past the movie theater, is a nondescript storefront that looks like many of the others that inhabit the mall.

But what goes on in this space is unlike anything else at WestRidge.

The Central Lakes Robotics Team has made this space their headquarters while preparing for the 2013 BEST Robotics competition at North Dakota State University. Work for the competition began Sept. 21 and the team will travel to the two-day competition on Nov. 1, leaving a little over a week for the team to finish the many facets of the competition.

"We're doing really well," David Grotberg said. "We're definitely much farther ahead than I have been on the previous team I was involved with."

Grotberg, 16, is in his third year competing at Best Robotics. The previous two years, he worked with a team made up exclusively of home-schooled kids, but the team numbers started dwindling and Grotberg began looking for a new team.

He opened up the pool to include Kennedy School students and now has a 14-person team comprised of home schoolers and KSS students, a mixture of kids that Grotberg said has been beneficial to the work.

"It definitely broadens the personality range," he said. "We're not all coming from the same schooling area. I like it this way better because we're getting more students involved that have specific interests."

EDUCATION

Because there are several elements required for the competition, the team has divided the workload. Grotberg serves as a sort of director of operations, overseeing each element of the project and making sure things run smoothly.

Anna Doric, a relative newcomer to the group who joined about two weeks ago, has been working on the group's research paper and helping David's sister Elizabeth with the table display.

One of the KSS students, Kallan Sandahl, has worked on building parts for the robot and will lead the team's flag presentation at the competition.

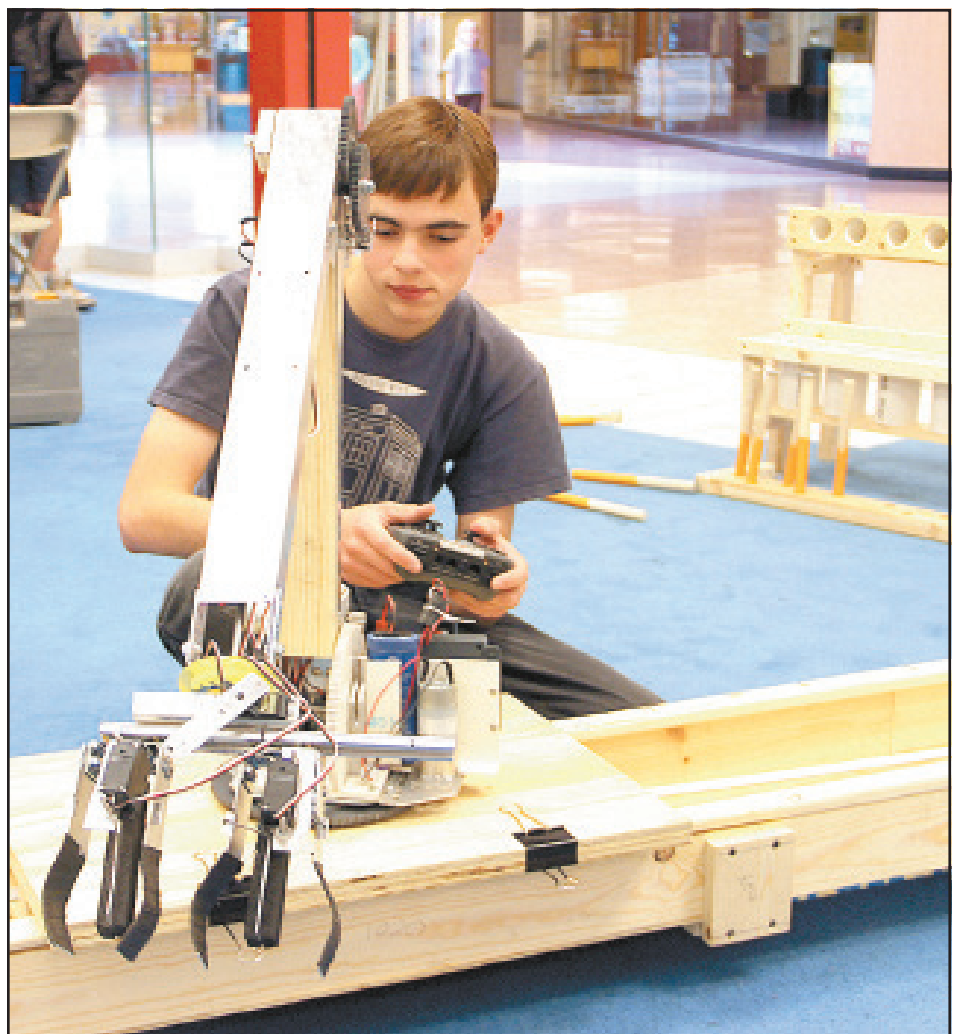
"It's nice to know that I have helped contribute to the robot," Sandahl said.

The competition has a complex scoring system. For the robot portion, teams must use their robot to place dowels in containers, place clothes-hangers on pegs and place styrofoam pieces into a board to symbolize assembling a processor, David Grotberg said.

But the competition is not just about the robot. There is also the table display, research paper, a 30-page engineering notebook, marketing presentation and a team spirit and sportsmanship score. All of these different facets will be added together to come up with a final score.

Last year, Grotberg's team came in first place in the local and regional competitions. Last year's trophy sits in the window display of the team's headquarters this year, providing motivation to match or ex-

See **Robotics** — Page 3



Chris Reinos/Daily Journal

David Grotberg, who serves as leader for the Central Lakes Robotics team, said the team's robot is 95 percent completed for the Nov. 1 Best Robotics competition in North Dakota.

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YESTERDAY:
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PRECIPITATION: .0

OBITUARIES
 In today's Journal, **Page 2**

- Norman Feay, 90, Fergus Falls
- Bun Fischer, 92 Barrett
- Ralph Langston, 92, Fergus Falls
- Duane Loewen, 75, Fargo
- Ronald Kujala, 66, New York Mills
- Truman Strand, 92, formerly of Pelican Rapids



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