



**GOOD MORNING**  
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## Tiny inventions



Photo by Mild Du

Pierce Ascherman works on his Club Invention project as Kellen Lalaem takes a peek from behind during a recent 4-H sponsored Club Invention class. Below, Lincoln Geurts, left and Anthony Enga test their inventions on the floor.

### Class inspires youths to think science — build robots

By Deb Gau  
dgau@marshallindependent.com

MARSHALL — The machines that Club Invention students put together were tiny — about the size of toy cars. But there was something special about the little robots. They could drive themselves, using light sensors to find their way around.

In July, area youth in Club Invention got some hands-on learning about transportation technology.

"The kids learned about how sensors work," said Sam Jens, Lyon County 4-H youth development educator.

After building their "Optibots," they put them to the test with obstacle courses.

Club Invention was one of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)



programs offered this summer through Lyon County 4-H and Marshall Community Services. Jens said Club Invention was created by the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

The goal of the club is to help promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The Optibots were one part of this year's Club Invention. The small robots are designed to sense and follow a

black line on the ground, Jens said. Kids tested out whether the Optibot would follow any other colors and types of lines, and later built courses for the bots to drive through. The Optibots weren't the only project Club Invention members worked on. In a different unit, kids took on the roles of superheroes joining a team of inventors.

"It's a program where they go through and learn about the patent process and inventing," Jens said. In addition to learning about engineering and inventors, Club Invention members also developed their own inventions to try and pick up slime.

Jens said this has been the second summer Club Invention was offered, and young people have enjoyed the program.

"They have great curriculum and great STEM activities," Jens said of the program.



AP photo

As seen on a computer screen from a DVD prepared by Al-Sahab production, al-Qaida's Ayman al-Zawahiri speaks in Islamabad, Pakistan, on June 20, 2006.

## 'Terrorist leader is no more'

### Biden hopes killing of al-Qaida leader will bring comfort to 9/11 victims

By Matthew Lee, Nomaan Merchant, Mike Balsamo and James Laporte  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden announced Monday that al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Kabul, an operation he said delivered justice and hopefully "one more measure of closure" to families of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

The president said in an evening address from the White House that U.S. intelligence officials tracked al-Zawahiri to a home in downtown Kabul where he was hiding out with his family. The president approved the operation last week and it was carried out Sunday.

Al-Zawahiri and the better-known Osama bin Laden plotted the 9/11 attacks that brought many ordinary Americans their first knowledge of al-Qaida. Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan on May 2, 2011, in operation carried out by U.S. Navy SEALs after a nearly decade-long hunt.

As for Al-Zawahiri, Biden said, "He

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## Indiana man killed in Hwy. 23 motorcycle crash

By Deb Gau  
dgau@marshallindependent.com

RUSSELL — An Indiana man was killed in a motorcycle crash along Minnesota Highway 23 on Saturday night, the Minnesota State Patrol said.

Dustin Edward Lehman, 44, of Lafayette, Indiana, died after his motorcycle crashed into the ditch near the intersection of 150th Street and Highway 23, south of Russell.

The crash was reported at 10:11 p.m. Lehman was riding a 2020 Harley Davidson northbound on Highway 23 when he left the roadway and entered the ditch, the State Patrol said.

Lehman was not wearing a helmet, the State Patrol said. He was transported to Avera Marshall Medical Center.

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office, Balaton Fire and EMS, North Memorial Ambulance, and Russell Fire and First Responders all responded at the crash scene.

## Weekend house fire causes damage in Yellow Medicine Co.

By Deb Gau  
dgau@marshallindependent.com

A fire destroyed the attic level of a house in Yellow Medicine County on Sunday morning, Granite Falls Fire and Rescue said in a news release.

Firefighters from Clarkfield, Hanley Falls, Boyd, Cottonwood and Granite Falls all worked to put the fire out and help salvage parts of the home and the residents' belongings, the Granite Falls Fire Department said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Clarkfield Fire Department and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office, the news release said.

The release did not give details on the address of the house. Around 10:45 a.m. Sunday, the Granite Falls fire department was paged for mutual aid with the Clarkfield fire department to the house fire.

A volunteer firefighter who was passing by had noticed the fire, reported it, and

rescued a family dog from the house, the release said. The homeowners were not at home.

The attic of the house collapsed as the fire spread, the news release said. Firefighters from five departments worked together to extinguish the blaze.

In a post on its Facebook page, the Granite Falls Fire Department said the scene was especially challenging, with hot weather and a fire that had likely been seated deeply in the home's attic for some time.



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### LOCALLY

#### Maggie Jean Invitational to be held Aug. 8

The Maggie Jean Invitational will be held Aug. 8 at the Marshall Golf Club. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start and registration starts at noon. The \$100 per golfer registration fee includes 18-hole green fees, cart and food. Money raised goes to producing "Boxes of Blessings" delivered to mothers and families who have recently suffered a pregnancy or infant loss. These boxes include mementos, baby hat and blanket, faith-based journal/devotional and resources. To sign up, go to [maggiejeanfoundation.com](http://maggiejeanfoundation.com) or contact Nancy Blanchard at 507-829-4905.

### WEATHER

**TODAY:**  
Mostly sunny  
High: 98



**WEDNESDAY:**  
Partly cloudy  
High: 86

More details on 5A

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