

**School news**  
In Detroit Lakes schools, the daily announcements are a high-tech team effort by students.  
Page 1C



**INSIDE**  
**Stuart Little**  
A national touring theater will bring its popular show to the Holmes Theatre on Saturday.  
Page 6B



# the Tribune

Informing Becker County for over 100 years

## Forecast

 <b>TODAY</b> Slight chance of showers High:50 Low:31	 <b>THURSDAY</b> Mostly cloudy High:52 Low:36	 <b>FRIDAY</b> Chance of showers High:51 Low:35	 <b>SATURDAY</b> Mostly cloudy High:50 Low:37	 <b>SUNDAY</b> Chance of rain High:50 Low:38
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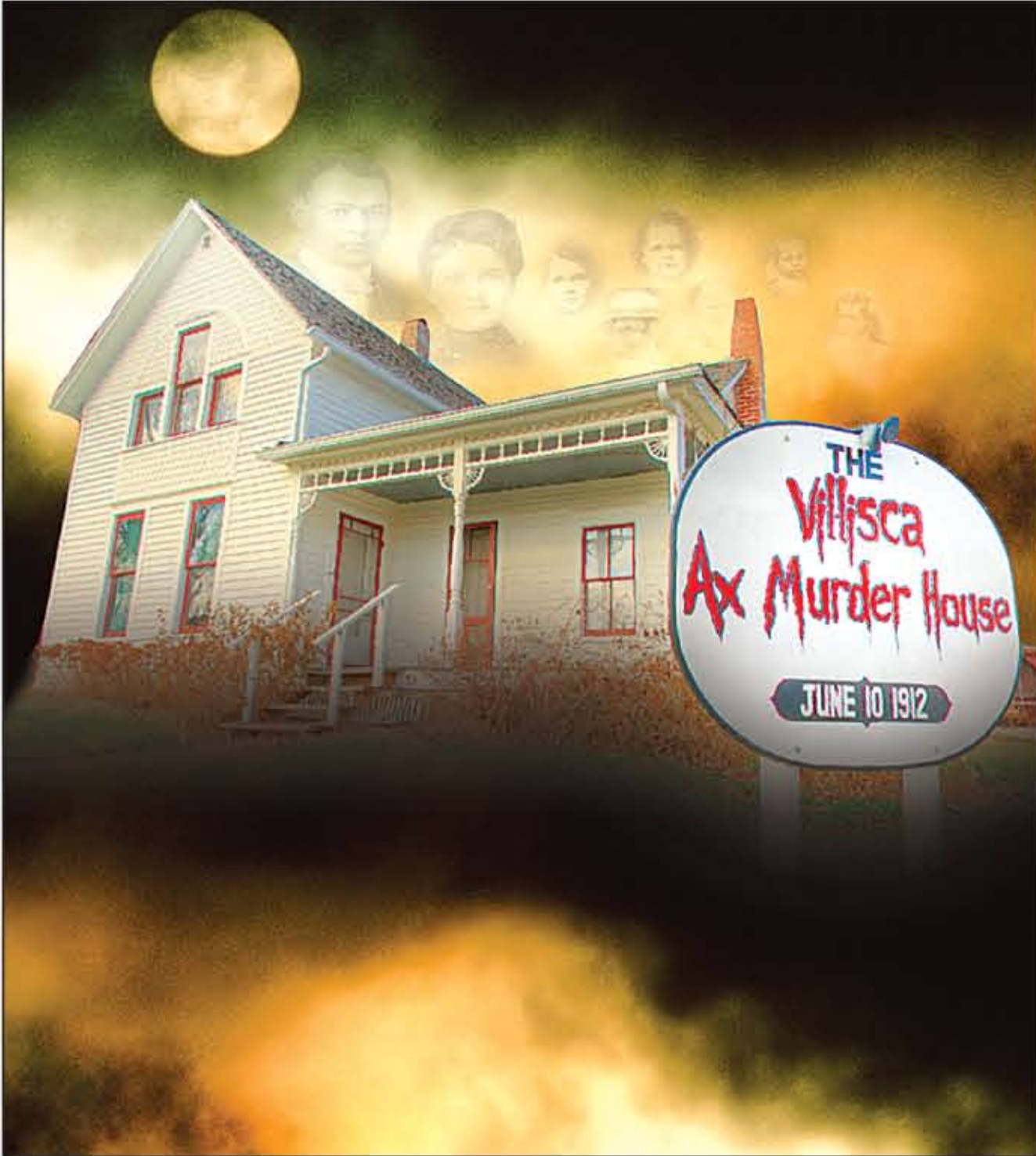


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARA LEITHEISER

ONE OF THE WORST MASS MURDERS IN U.S. HISTORY occurred at this house in a small town in Iowa.

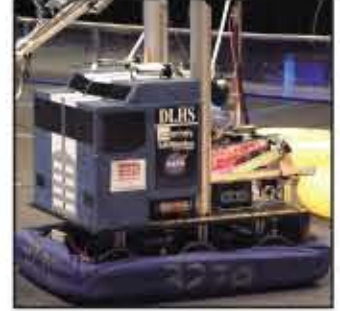
## TIME TO DANCE 'THE ROBOT'

# DL Robotics team is best in state

BY PAULA QUAM  
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They have only been in existence for two years, but the Detroit Lakes High School Robotics team, known as QWERTY Team 3278, has already added a state championship to its resumé.

"I don't think any of us could breathe for like 30 minutes," said senior and QWERTY captain Patrick Link of winning the title,



**THIS ROBOT** was built by Detroit Lakes High School students, who won the state championship this year and will advance to nationals.

**ROBOTICS** to page 11A >

## CAN'T GET NO SATISFACTION

# Business leaders clash over parking

BY PIPPI MAYFIELD  
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When the Downtown Crossing developers stood and talked about their project, reassuring the downtown Detroit Lakes business community they want to bring more success to town, the audience seemed happy. But when discussion turned to paying for the parking assessment, the mood took a downward turn.

Monday afternoon, downtown business owners filled the Detroit Lakes City Hall to hear Jim Buus and Jeff Schlossman dis-

cuss their upcoming project, and to be told they will still be paying an assessment for the parking lot. How much that assessment is, though, could vary slightly.

### The project

"We're willing to take the risk and we're hoping you'll take the risk with us," Schlossman said of the Downtown Crossing project.

Buus said the project started about three years ago, a rather small project with 30,000 square feet of

**PARKING** to page 7A >

## NO MORE 'THUFFERING THUCATASH'

# Helping kids with speech, language

BY PIPPI MAYFIELD  
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One thing teachers Rhonda Bakke and Terese LaDue can say for sure is there is variety in their line of work.

The two women work with speech and language development for ages birth to 7 years in the Detroit Lakes School District.

They see a variety of kids, in a variety of settings, a variety of times, making a variety of sounds while playing a variety of

games to keep the kids interested.

"We play games with reinforcers," LaDue said with a laugh. "Our jobs are really fun. Most of the time."

Bakke and LaDue work with children on articulation, fluency, or stuttering, and voice, for instance if it's hoarse or raspy.

"Where your tongue needs to be, how your lips need to be," LaDue said of making certain sounds.

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## THROUGH 'NETS FOR LIFE' FUNDRAISER

# DL church helps save African kids

BY VICKI GERDES  
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Typically, the Christian practice of observing the Lenten season involves giving up a treasured luxury — such as a favorite food — for the 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday.

But the original concept of Lent had a deeper meaning... it was a period of self-examination, and an opportunity for long-standing Christians to review their lives and renew their commitment to their be-

liefs.

At St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Detroit Lakes, the congregation has embraced the spirit of that original concept by embarking on a new mission project that officially launched on Ash Wednesday, March 9 — also known as the first day of Lent.

That mission project, part of a nationwide campaign known as "Nets for Life," involves raising funds for the purchase of

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## ADS

- > L&M Fleet Supply: page 5A
- > Alcohol Awareness Week: page 9A
- > DLCC - See what's showing: pages 11A & 6B
- > Nereson - Spring Sizzler: page 12A
- > Burger King: Insert

# THE WORST OF THE WORST

## Paranormal group to tackle house with dark history

BY BRIAN WIERIMA  
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It's a case that still shocks people almost 99 years later, and makes the infamous Lizzy Borden ax murders look like child's play.

What has come to be known as the Villisca Axe Murder House is the site of one of the most heinous crimes one could perpetrate — and it's the next destination for the Midwest Paranormal Files research team Sunday, April 10.

A crew of six will leave Detroit Lakes and travel eight hours south to Villisca, Iowa, to spend the night in what is one of the most infamous murder houses in America.

A live webcast is planned during the investigation on the dl-online.com website, starting at 7

**ONLINE EXTRA**

For the full story and more photos, check out dl-online.com. Our web site will also feature a live streaming of the upcoming paranormal investigation at the Villisca ax murder house.

fore the sun rose.

That's why a neighbor thought the house was strangely quiet on the morning of June 10, 1912.

In fact, it was much too quiet, as neighbor Mary Peckham realized.

Peckham started to hang her laundry at 5 a.m. and by 7 a.m., she still had seen no signs of any movement coming from the Moores'.

After knocking on the door and receiving no response, she telephoned Josiah's brother, Ross Moore.

What he found was the end of innocence in Villisca.

Lying in their beds were two adults and six children, all murdered with the same ax.

The victims were Josiah Moore, 43, and his wife, Sarah Montgomery Moore, 39 — found in their upstairs bedroom.

Their four children were in the other upstairs bedroom. The ax ended the lives of Herman, 11, Katherine, 9, Boyd, 7, and Paul, 5.

Two other children, family friends who had been staying the night, were found in a downstairs bedroom — Lena Stillinger, 12, and her sister Ina, 8.

News of the mass murder hit the nation with a massive media wave, even knocking the sinking of the 'Titanic' off the front pages of newspapers across the United States.

But the savage murders and that night of chaos was just the beginning of one of the most intriguing and darkest days in U.S. history.

How could an entire family be slaughtered, with minimal signs of struggle, and no noises that woke nearby neighbors?

Not that there was any shortage of suspects — there were a surprising number of them, but only one man was ever brought to trial, and he was acquitted.

It didn't help that the crime scene was hopelessly spoiled by crowds who tramped through the house. There was even a report that a piece of Josiah's skull was taken by one of townsfolk as a souvenir.

The town's peace officer, Hank Horton, can perhaps be excused for not better controlling the crime scene: The use of fingerprint identification had only come into use by law enforcement in major cities a few years earlier.

But by the time M.W. McClaughry made it to Villisca as a fingerprint expert, the house was so badly contaminated, no useful fingerprints were lifted.

### The murders, scene and impending investigation

What Ross Moore witnessed inside his brother's house was gruesome indeed.

But the investigation after the murders were committed was just as gruesome.

It was theorized by investigators at the time that the intruder broke

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