

# Cherry St. Dollar Store Now Open

BY SARAH WETZEL  
For the Plain Talk

Those in Vermillion missing the Dollar Tree have a new place they can shop. Cherry St. Dollar next to Davis Pharmacy on Cherry St. provides a similar range of products and prices as a typical dollar store.

"We have a few products that are over a dollar but very few," said co-owner Dennis Whipple. "Ninety-nine point nine percent of it is a dollar."

The range of products available for only a dollar has astounded Whipple as he has searched for products for the store.

"We have some snacks two for a dollar and the theatre-type candies," he said. "We have toys for cats and dogs which have also been selling quite well. We've got party supplies, all the balloons we'll be putting in. We just got our helium in. We've got the cups, the plates, the napkins, bags to put your gifts in, wrapping paper, back to school supplies. We actually have some backpacks in here. They're more than a dollar. We have arts and crafts, baby items, hair supplies, candles, shampoo, conditioner, body oil, all that type of stuff, toothpaste, brushes, toys for the kids, food stuff, cleaning supplies, all the foils, garbage bags, all the houseware type goods. Spatulas and spoons we have a whole wall for that. We have a section of sewing with threads and needles. We have another section of bowls and plates. We have the candies of course. We have eye-glasses for a buck and sunglasses for a dollar which is actually one of the top sellers."

Whipple, former owner of the Vermillion



SARAH WETZEL/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion is home to a new dollar store on Cherry Street.

Dairy Queen teamed up with former employee Sarah Stewart to make this happen.

Together they hope to create a business that will not only provide products at low prices but also employment once things get off the ground.

"I've got people that want to work here and I've told them I can't hire them till our sales go up a little bit," he said. "Once we get more sales we'll be happy to put more staff on."

Though Whipple said sales haven't merited hiring more employees yet, he is optimistic since the store has only been open a few weeks.

"People are just getting to know we're in town by word of mouth," he said. "We just got our sign up and most of our products are in now. We'll have our first ad this coming week. Things are just getting rolling. Hopefully by word of mouth and seeing the advertisements we'll get people into the

dollar store."

According to Whipple, the future of the business should be clearer when the holidays roll around.

"We've had eight feet of cards in here for 50 cents each or two for a dollar," he said. "At Christmas time we might put in more than eight feet of cards in because we have room, maybe a couple of spare racks. We'll have all the products on hand and hopefully a lot of Christmas cards and so hopefully by then people will know that we're around."

According to Whipple, the most enjoyable part of starting Cherry St. Dollar has been discovering actually how many products can be sold for only a dollar.

"I've been amazed at what you can get at factory retail for a dollar," he said. "It's impressive. We've got all these school supplies and they all retail for a dollar. We have a little three foot section here of cosmetics of eyeshadow, eye pencils, lip gloss, nail polish and it all sells for a dollar."

Whipple and Stewart turn to suppliers who acquire the products.

"The thing about it is we might have an item one time and then the next time you go to the supplier to get it, it could be gone," he said. "I think they buy what they can get for the best price in bulk. You never know what's going to be on hand."

Luckily some products are there to stay. "The people who do the cards have been in business for years so the cards might change but we'll always have the same quality cards," Whipple. "The balloons and the foil and all that, that will be all pretty much the same, maybe differences in design."

## Play

From Page 1

"The first book is pretty much Act One and then Mary Poppins comes back for the second book which is pretty much Act Two," she said. "The adventures are similar. The books have way more magic and places than we could ever get onstage. It was interesting to see how the characters, how they changed."

Hisek stumbled upon fascinating differences which helped in her directing choices.

"The books are helpful for finding the relationships more and trying to understand the choices that were made in creating this musical," she said. "Bert was only mentioned maybe like once or twice in the book and he was just a chimney sweep I believe. It's interesting how that one character stuck out in some way and he becomes this narrating force, this companion to Mary Poppins, this Jack of all trades and that was really interesting to me in developing that and seeing how that role has developed and how it's changed over the various courses of creating Mary Poppins for the book and then the film and now this."

The fact that Mary Poppins is so iconic as a film and to some a book presents a challenge for a musical director.

"I feel like so many of us that have seen the movie and there's a smaller handful that have actually read the books," Hisek said. "Mary Poppins and the characters of the Banks family and all they entail have become a part of our culture in a way that we didn't even realize. For those of us who know the film and the books when you hear that name your mind automatically goes to a certain look or a certain sound or a certain moment and it's the idea of how close to the book and movies do we want to be or do we want to create it our own. It's finding that balance between putting our own twist on it and staying true to the author and the film because the writers for this musical did a nice job of putting those two together."

With the Broadway show and the recent film 'Saving Mr. Banks' Hisek said she feels the story of Mary Poppins has been rejuvenated, making it available and ac-

cessible to more people.

"Now younger generations who might not have known the movie or read the books seem to have a new interest in it again so we're going through this wonderful cycle and we're bringing that into this community," she said. "There's so many of us that are experiencing it for the first time and there are some of us who are reliving it again and what I love about this musical is that it's such a great adaptation of both the book and the film."

Another challenge and blessing is the lack of previous productions to compare to.

"The rights have just now started coming out for community theatres, for regional theatres, for universities," Hisek said. "That is a huge challenge to do that because as a designer you want to look at how others have done something or you can't figure out how something works and you want to see what they've done."

As a director, though, Hisek doesn't mind not having many other productions to look at.

"When I'm working on a show I try very hard not to look at other productions and how they do it," she said. "I feel like for me doing the research on a show isn't about past productions but the history of it and what connections I feel and that's where my research comes from."

Yet another challenge is the title character.

"I think for this production the biggest challenge is Mary Poppins herself and what comes with her," Hisek said. "The iconic look, how she's supposed to stand onstage but also all these magical tricks that need to happen. It's not just one moment. Mary Poppins is full of magic, full of wonder and that's what we have to try to create in a way that is believable, that is appealing, that is practically perfect. For me that's the biggest challenge."

Though the particulars will be unveiled with the opening of the show, Hisek said audiences will not be disappointed in the special effects of the show thanks to a great design team.

"She'll have her carpet bag and she'll have her moment of cleaning up," she said. "I'm just as excited as everybody else to see how it goes. Jill who's our prop designer, she basically was creating as she went. She didn't have any foundation.



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The Vermillion Community Theatre's production of Mary Poppins opens tonight (Thursday) and runs through Monday with performances at 7:30 p.m. today, Saturday and Monday and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

It was all her knowledge of how can I do this, what can I accomplish and then her just playing around and figuring out how to take care of the rest."

All the effort is worth it in the end according to Hisek.

"For all of the trials and struggles and decisions of how close we want to be and how much we want to make it our own, it's been a very energizing and worthwhile production," she said. "Stressful but exciting. I think those go hand in hand. You know you have to get through some hurdles and have some moments of stress and then getting past that and sitting back and going, that's pretty cool."

According to Hisek, her work with VCT and the members with the Vermillion community has stood out from other productions she has done.

"Oliver and Mary Poppins have been by far my biggest casts," she said. "There's something very rewarding with working with the community theatre. When you're at the University or professional level you're working with

people who know this is what they want to do, this is their career. With community theatre it is always very refreshing and exciting because those that are involved with the community theatre, they want to be there because they love it. They are working jobs eight to five and yet they come in for three to four hour rehearsals and they come in with energy and excitement and commitment and it's so exciting because when I see the cast have that I just can't help but feed off of it which encourages me even more to make sure they are getting everything they can out of it."

"I can't wait for our community to see this and to hear and see their responses to the magic and to the community that has gone up on stage and is telling this story and the community members who have been backstage because honestly they're the ones that have really created this magic."

The magic doesn't just happen on stage according to Hisek.

"I have seen friendships grow," she said. "We live in Vermillion which is a small

town but how many people do you actually know? We get into this environment with 70 of us, 80 of us especially now for this week and all of a sudden you realize you don't know that many people and this place has brought about that element. I think that's absolutely wonderful."

It's an effect that lasts throughout the year.

"Last year for Oliver people became friends and I had college students who were in Oliver go to some of the high school productions because they met friends through Oliver and wanted to go support them and see what they were doing," Hisek said. "And the same thing, they were coming to USD and the musical concerts. Just one simple show in the community every year in the summer brings about new relationships and that's what's so cool to me with community theatre, watching everyone come

together."

And coming together is exactly the message of the show which comes through loud and clear.

"What do you value in life?" Hisek said. "Is it money? Is it family? Is it respect? Is it authority? Is it laughter? [Mary Poppins] isn't there to save the kids. She isn't there to make sure Jane and Michael go from snotty children to well behaved children. She's there to connect the family and I think you see that better in this production than anything."

For more information visit [vermillioncommunitytheatre.org](http://vermillioncommunitytheatre.org).

**PLAIN TALK CLASSIFIEDS WORK FOR YOU!**  
605-624-4429

**SANFORD** Currently has the following opportunity available.  
Webster  
**SIGN ON BONUSES OFFERED**  
REGISTERED NURSE-Full time position and includes rotating shifts, weekends and holidays. A \$10,000 sign on bonus for a 2 year full time work commitment to Sanford Hospital Webster- job code 233012.  
REGISTERED NURSE-Part time position and includes rotating shifts, weekends and holidays. A \$5,000 sign on bonus for a 2 year part time work commitment to Sanford Hospital Webster- job code 232567.  
To view a complete position description and apply online, visit [www.sanfordhealth.org](http://www.sanfordhealth.org), and refer to job code.  
Sanford Health EOE

**Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
**Harvey Mount**  
**August 21, 2015**  
Love,  
Your Family

**DRUNK DRIVING**  
**The Vermillion Police Department will be increasing enforcement activities for impaired driving**  
**August 19<sup>th</sup> - September 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER**

**Make Yourself At Home**  
*In a safe, secure and beautiful lease house.*  
**MECKLING HOUSE**  
**Now Leasing for 2015**  
**New Premier Student Housing**  
**Facility Maximum Occupants: 22**  
• 5-Single Room w/half bath \$300/mo (shower & tub close by)  
• 7-Single Room w/full bath \$350/mo  
• 2-Suites (2 occup) w/full bath \$500/mo Jacuzzi Tub  
• 1-House w/3 bedrooms \$850/mo Family or 3 individuals  
**All areas have access to lounge area, kitchens, exercise room, and sand volleyball court.**  
*Quiet country living all just 10 minutes West of USD Campus or 15 minutes East of MMC Campus on 4-lane Hwy!! Preference given to grad students.*  
**For more information**  
**Call 605.350.0413**