

INSIDE:**Highlights**

Learn about
Vermillion's past ■ p. 2

Welcome Table will meet Jan. 11

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Jan. 11 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. The Jan. 11 meal will be sponsored and served by The United Methodist Church Women. Thank you to The Civic Council for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

Cancer group meets Jan. 13

A cancer support group will meet 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the Al Neuarth Media Center conference room.

The education component of the meeting will be provided by Ashley Herrity, RN, of Sanford Vermillion's Chemotherapy Services.

Seeking support from others who have a connection to the disease of cancer can be a huge benefit for everyone involved. Support groups provide an opportunity to share feelings, ideas, resources, and often provide important education for survivors, friends, family members and caregivers.

The cancer support group meetings will be held in Vermillion on the second Wednesday of every month. For more information, call (605) 638-8461.

Yankton Co. cow has infected bovine TB

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The South Dakota Animal Industry Board says a 3-year-old cow from a Yankton County herd has been infected with bovine tuberculosis.

State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven (OH'dih-koh-ven) says the herd was quarantined for additional testing and all necessary precautions are being taken.

State and federal animal health officials are testing herds that had contact with the affected herd or with animals purchased from the herd.

The board says the positive test presents no food safety risk.

Speech contest set for Jan. 17

District 7 of the South Dakota American Legion, announces its high school oratorical "Constitutional Speech Contest" will be held at Tripp at the American Legion Post Home, Jan. 17, at 1:30 p.m. Storm date is Jan. 24, same time and place.

District 7 is made up of Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, and Yankton counties. This contest is for the Post contest winners.

For more information, contact Chairman Jim Hornstra at (605) 369-5555. The winner of the district contest will go on to the Area 1 contest at Centerville, Saturday Jan. 30, at 2 p.m. Storm date is Feb. 6, same time and place.

City agrees to zoning change, with an added delay

By David Lias
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The Vermillion City Council decided Monday to alter the course of what appeared to be a routine zoning change of a neighborhood located near downtown.

After lengthy discussion, the residential property located south of Kidder Street, between Church and Market streets, will have its zoning changed from R-2 to R-1. In a compromise, however, aldermen agreed to the change as long as it didn't go into effect until July.

At one point in the discussion, it appeared that the zoning change was in jeopardy, even though it was approved on its first reading last month.

"At our last meeting, we decided to rezone this particular neighborhood from R-2 to R-1," Alderman Mary Edelen said, who voted for the zoning change at the city council's Dec. 21, 2009 meeting.

"I really don't like the saying, but if it ain't broke, don't fix it," she said at Jan. 4's city council meeting, as aldermen were considering the second reading and final approval of the zoning amendment. "I'm not sure this neighborhood is broken, or that the potential for it to be broken is there. We have not seen any great changes in the neighborhood, or seen people doing things that we in the community or in the neighborhood would not approve of."

"So if it's not broken, why are we fixing it?" Edelen said. "I'm now really questioning the need or the desire of some of the neighbors to change

this neighborhood from R-2 to R-1."

The Vermillion City Council has given initial approval to the zoning change Dec. 21. If given final approval, 29 residential properties located near the downtown area

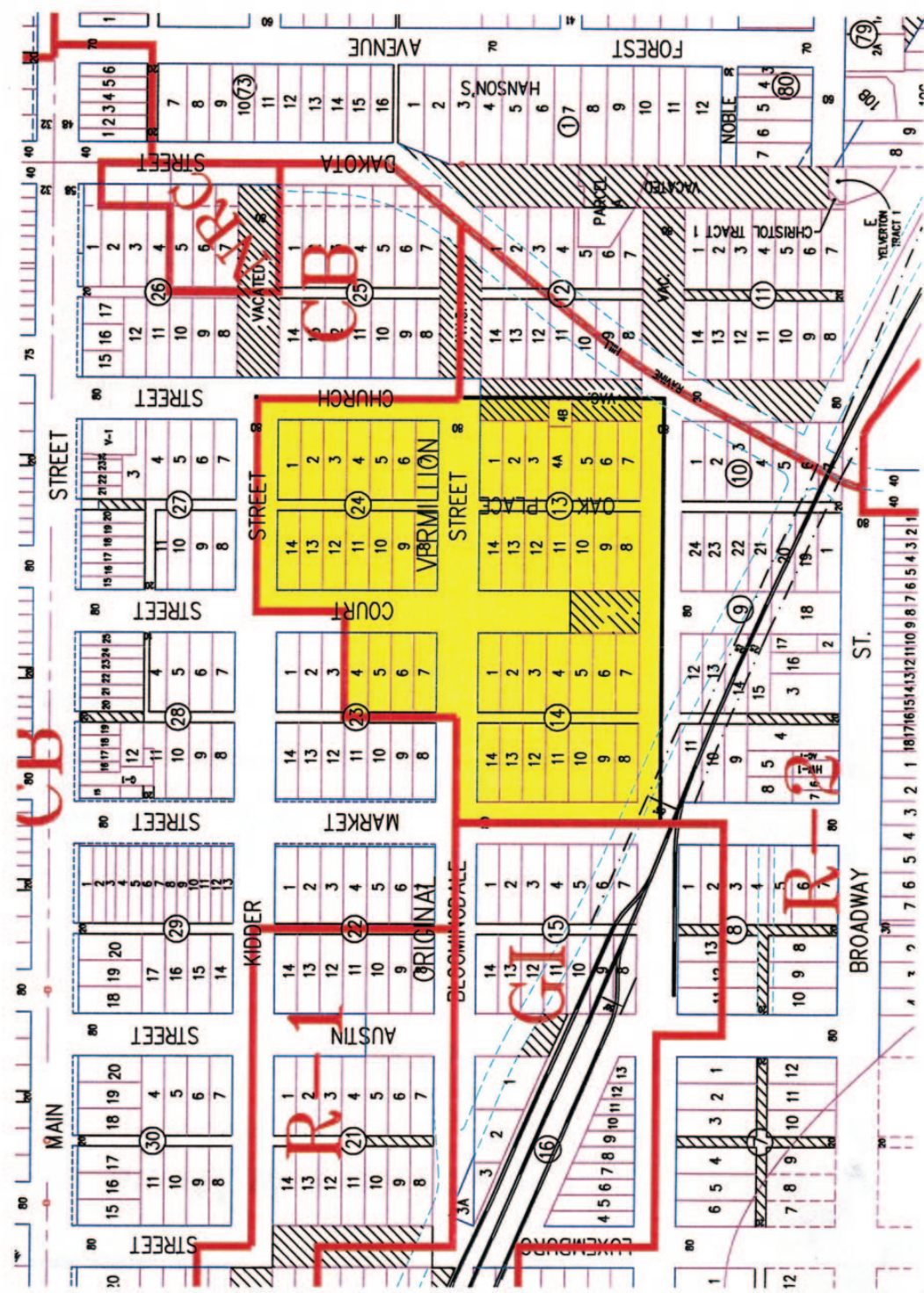
The action follows the filing of a petition signed by 48 percent of the property owners that reside in the area, who have requested that the zoning of the area be amended from its current R-2 residential to R-1 single family residential.

The primary difference between the two residential zoning districts is that R-2 allows multi-family structures of up to four dwellings, and R-1 is reserved for single family homes, and does not allow duplexes or four-plexes.

"Is there a particular issue that came up that precipitated the taking around of the petition to make this change?" Edelen said. "Were there scare tactics used for some of the neighbors when petitions were taken around? These are all questions that I have, and I don't live in that neighborhood, so no one came knocking at my door. But, there were people who told me that some scare tactics were used, and I don't think that it's relevant, or it's fair."

Before Edelen spoke, residents and property owners from the affected neighborhood addressed the city council, voicing both support and opposition to the proposed zoning change.

"There continues to be people who are in favor of it, and those opposed to it, but nothing much has changed since the first reading," said



Residential property located south of Kidder Street, between Church and Market streets, will have its zoning changed from R-2 to R-1. In a compromise, however, the Vermillion City Council decided Monday to approve the change as long as it didn't go into effect until July.

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ELCA discusses gay clergy

By Randy Dockendorg
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Congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) are allowed — but not required — to seek pastors who are in committed same-sex relationships, an ELCA bishop said Monday.

Bishop David Zellmer of the South Dakota Synod held a conversation with about 100 persons at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion. The gathering drew both pastors and laymen from southeastern South Dakota.

Much of the discussion focused on the Churchwide Assembly's adoption last August of the ELCA's 10th Social Statement on human sexuality. The statement included the ability for people in publicly accountable, life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as pastors or other rostered leaders such as associate pastors and deacons.

"Congregations will be allowed to continue calling who they want," Zellmer said. "If they don't want a gay man or woman in a public relationship to serve the church, they don't have to do it. We won't force you to take a pastor you don't want."

ELCA churches retain the right to choose their pastors, unlike some denominations where a bishop assigns clergy to parishes, Zellmer said.

"(Our) congregations always have the ability to decide who serves them," he said. "Some want to put a



The Rev. David Zellmer, Bishop of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Church of America (ELCA) leads a discussion of the August 2009 churchwide assembly's adoption of its social statement on human sexuality. The public meeting was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion Monday night. (Photo by David Lias)

fence around the synod. In my opinion, we cannot do that. It would take the authority away from congregations to get who they want (as a pastor)."

Zellmer said he is not aware of a South Dakota congregation that wants to call a gay or lesbian as pastor. However, some parishes nationwide may choose or seek gay clergy, he said.

"We are asked to be accepting (of gay clergy) but not asked to be embracing," he said. "We have made room in the church for the 100 to 150 congregations (nationwide) to

call the (gay) person they want to serve them."

Allowing gay pastors in same-sex relationships will impact all ELCA clergy, Zellmer said. Congregations can ask pastors and other rostered leaders about their sexual orientation and relationships, he said.

"I told the pastors, you need to get comfortable with getting asked about your sexuality," the bishop said.

The ELCA conducts background checks to ensure no sexual misconduct, Zellmer said.

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Joanne Allen and her daughter, Sierra, join scores of other people who walked laps on the DakotaDome track Sunday afternoon, Jan. 25, 2009 during last year's Relay For Life. Joanne and Sierra view luminaria placed at edge of the track to honor both cancer survivors and those whose lives were cut short by the disease. (Photo by David Lias)

Relay For Life fights cancer on Jan. 31

Let's "Make Cancer a Thing of the Past."

That's the theme for this year's Clay County Relay For Life, scheduled to be held from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. The Clay County Chapter of the American Cancer Society and the USD Chapter of Colleges Against Cancer are gearing up to promote awareness, encourage healthy lifestyles, share information and raise funds to fight the many forms of cancer.

Here's how it works. Community members, from USD and throughout the county, form teams of up to 15 people to raise money and walk around the track during the event. Teams pre-register by calling Wess Pravecek at 624-5352 (teams may register at the event, but T-shirts may not be available). Doors open at noon so teams can sign in, turn in money and set up a "camp site" resting area for their group at the Dome. The event gets under way at 1 p.m. as area cancer survivors walk around the track. Then, teams join them for the rest of the afternoon. Participants can learn more about cancer at information booths

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