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Vermillion

PLAIN TALK

Serving our readers since 1884.

Friday, July 19, 2013
Volume 128, Issue 29
USPS 657-720



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Musical has a local feel



Actors rehearse a dance scene Thursday, July 11 as they prepare to stage the musical "Robin Hood: Spirit of the Greene" in Vermillion. The unique, homegrown musical, first presented 10 years ago, begins a four-day run July 19.

(Photo by David Lias)

By David Lias

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A unique musical experience awaits local lovers of the stage when the Vermillion Community Theatre (VCT) begins its four-day run of "Robin Hood: Spirit of the Greene" on Friday, July 19.

The VCT is dusting off a production first crafted 10 years ago by four Vermillion men who learned something in the process.

When it comes to writing scripts, music and lyrics, they've found a way to be successful.

"This was our first effort at writing a full-blown summer musical back in 2003," said Steve

Miller, during a break in rehearsal Thursday at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center. "We've actually written three since then."

Steve Miller, David L. Miller, who no longer resides in Vermillion, Anthony Burbach, and George Schlenker pooled their talents, time and considerable creativity to craft the musical.

"The four of us decided a year early (in 2002) that we were going to write a show, and one of my jobs was to choose a story that was fairly well known so that we weren't starting from scratch," Miller said. "We wanted to start with a story that people

had some familiarity with.

"So I actually drafted three different storyboards for three different familiar stories, and the team chose Robin Hood, and so that's what we began to work on," he said.

The story of Robin Hood takes place in Sherwood Forest during medieval times. It features castles, royalty, yeoman and archers, but Miller notes the story and its setting have a special appeal that South Dakotans can identify with.

"Robin Hood is actually, in many ways, very rural and agrarian - it's a battle of the haves and the have-nots, and big business and big church and big money versus

Robin Hood, the rich and the poor," he said. "It may not be so much agriculture, but the wood, the green has this sense of the setting. The spirit of that magical green is the centerpiece of the show."

After the four men decided to base the musical on the story of Robin Hood, Miller created a more specific storyboard to serve as a guide.

"Each of the four of us brought our gifts and our ideas, and once it started to expand, we began to make assignments," Miller said. "Some of us were more toward the music, and some of us were more toward the

script. Dan Miller was a good scriptwriter, so he did more in that area. Anthony and George and I were more into the music. I do a lot of lyrics, and so I did a lot of those kinds of things."

As the four men's work progressed, it kept evolving.

"It was a lot of fun. The story made several changes as it went along," Miller said, "including what I would call our surprise ending which isn't the traditional Robin Hood ending but I'm not going to tell you what that is."

It took approximately a year for the four men to craft the

SHOW, Page 07

Roegiers walks away with \$50K

By David Lias

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Burbank native Doug Roegiers made it to the final round of the premiere episode of the musical talent show "The Winner Is," which aired at 8 p.m. Thursday, July 11, on NBC.

Roegiers, one of six singers competing for a \$1 million prize, walked away with \$50,000.

His style channels back to the days of the Big Band Swing era and his loyal fans know him as 'The Crooner.' He also performs with a nine-piece swing band Phat Cat Swinger.

"The Winner Is" mixes a singing competition with the strategy of a game

NBC, Page 07

City creates TIF for Bliss Pointe

By Travis Gulbrandson

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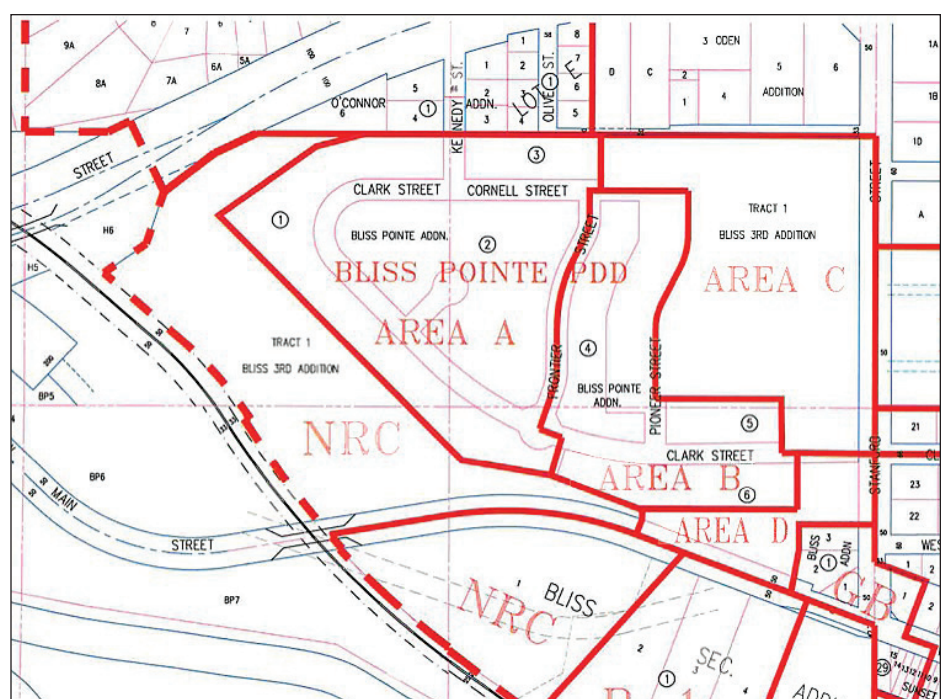
Developments are progressing rapidly with the proposed Bliss Pointe development district.

On Monday, the Vermillion City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance establishing the district and created a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for blocks one through six.

In April, the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company (VCDC) closed on the purchase of approximately 30 acres of developable farmland as a solution to the shortage of affordable single-family housing in the community.

"The VCDC has gone to great lengths to address the housing needs of the community," said city engineer Jose Dominguez Monday night. "The development of the Bliss land will have a significant impact on housing options for families looking to relocate in Vermillion."

The land in question extends approximately from Cherry Street to Main Street, and west to the railroad



The 30-acre tract of land that will make up the Bliss Pointe housing development is located on the south-west corner of the city, and extends approximately from Cherry Street to Main Street, and west to the railroad tracks.

(Map courtesy of the City of Vermillion)

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