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Members of the Tanager boys' soccer team hold the championship trophy high as they celebrate their win Saturday over Harrisburg to claim the Class A crown.

(Photo courtesy of Kari Jo James)

Vermillion High School boys' soccer claims State 'A' crown

By Parker Knox
Sportswriter

Dust off another spot in the trophy case at Vermillion High School!

Another Tanager team wears the mantle of state champions after the VHS boys' soccer team won a dramatic overtime thriller Saturday afternoon in Rapid City, edging Harrisburg, 2-1, in the Class "A" tournament finale.

Following in the path blazed to glory by the VHS baseball team in May, the soccer Tanagers completed a remarkable undefeated season in a

game that was not the least bit typical of Vermillion games this fall.

The Tanagers, during their eight-game regular season, quieted the local critics of soccer who say the sport is boring because there's hardly ever any scoring. They scored in double digits four times, outscored their opponents 66-9 and had only one dangerously close contest – a 2-1 win over Harrisburg last month.

In the state tournament as the No. 1 seed, the Tanagers continued to slam home goal after goal, beating Hot Springs 9-3 in the Thursday

quarterfinals, then taking the measure of Sturgis by a 6-2 count in the semifinals. Sturgis, the No. 4 seed, had lost to the Tanagers last month by a 6-3 score.

But there was no comfort zone, no margin for error in the championship tilt on Saturday. Harrisburg, the No. 2 seed which had posted shutouts of 6-0 over Custer and 1-0 over Huron to reach the finals, and Vermillion were destined to play each other, and they didn't disappoint the fans at the Sioux

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The VHS Tanager State "A" Championship boys' soccer team were special guests at the Vermillion City Council meeting Monday night. A proclamation issued by the city council recognized the team for its teamwork, courage and determination.

(Photo courtesy of Kari Jo James)

Study: Vermillion has 'virtually' no housing market

By Travis Gulbrandson
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That is one of the findings in a study commissioned by the city this summer, and which was presented to the city council in a special meeting Monday afternoon.

"You're going to have to act. You won't be able to keep doing the same thing and stay on the high road," said Mark Lautman, CEcD, CRE, who presented the findings to the council.

In July the city council pledged \$35,000 toward the Workforce Housing Analysis, which was completed by Community Housing Laboratory of New Mexico, with \$30,000 toward the study itself, plus an estimated \$5,000 in reimbursable expenses.

Issues such as the attraction of talent, as well as the development of a strategy for improvement were among the components of the study.

Lautman said that because of the lack of a housing market, the community is suffering in several areas.

"You've lost a lot of economic opportunities in the past ... but the real harm is, with shortage in supply you end up with prices going up," he said. "That costs everybody. It costs families, it costs the workers' productivity, it costs the employers' productivity. It has an impact on the community's economy."

"If you don't solve the workforce housing issue, all of your economic development efforts are going to be for naught," he said.

Lautman said that this is a problem he's seeing all across the country right now due to ongoing problems in the economy.

Lack of housing isn't the only problem, he said.

"Every employer we talked to complained bitterly about their inability to attract talent and keep talent," Lautman said. "They all said it was getting worse, and we think the labor climate in general is going to make that even tougher."

"So, it's the biggest threat to the community's economic well-being and its ability to maintain its character and improve over the next couple of decades," he said.

The report features a number of recommendations which advance toward solving the problem.

The first of these is getting a workforce housing market started with the aid of a developer "who is

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City council congrats state soccer champs

By Travis Gulbrandson
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The Vermillion City Council extended its congratulations to the champion Vermillion High School boys' soccer team at its regular meeting Monday night.

The soccer Tanagers won the Class "A" soccer title after defeating Harrisburg 2-1 in overtime Oct. 13.

They were recognized by the city in part because they "supported one another, demonstrating teamwork, courage and determination throughout the entire season," said council member Steve Ward, who read the official proclamation.

Head coach Curt Nelson also was recognized for his efforts.

"Your guidance and hard work demonstrate your commitment to the team and the community, and for this

we commend you," Ward read.

Nelson and the members of the team were on hand Monday night during the reading of the proclamation, and the coach thanked the players, assistant coaches, parents and other groups whom he said contributed toward the team's 12-0 undefeated season.

"All those efforts really combined and really contributed to helping us achieve our end goal, which was winning the state title," he said. "I wish everybody could have (seen) the championship game this past Saturday. It was an absolute battle, a really hard-fought, physical game."

"I'm really proud of the way all the guys stepped up and really played their hearts out," Nelson said. "Nothing like this comes easy, and it's well deserved by all these boys and everybody that helped them along the way."