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Fraternity Boxes for Charity

By Elyse Brightman
The Plain Talk

Punches were thrown and blood was spewing between brothers Thursday night all in the name of charity as the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity at the University of South Dakota held its annual boxing "Fight Night" fundraiser.

This year marked the 30th annual event which was able to raise \$3,900 with all the money donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to support the fight against childhood cancers.

Families who go to St. Jude never have to pay for treatments, food or travel. The hospital was founded in 1962 and has increased the survival rate for childhood cancers from 20-80 percent.

Tau Kappa Epsilon took over the event in the



The Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity boxed last week for its annual fundraiser in hopes of raising money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

early 2000's from USD's Alpha Tau Omega after the school's chapter closed its doors.

"The founder (of St. Jude), Danny Thomas, was a TKE back in the day," said USD junior Anthony Gosch, a member of TKE

one of the planners for the event. "So, when we adopted 'Fight Night' from Alpha Tau Omega we chose St. Jude."

The event started in 1984 to raise money for United Cerebral Palsy. Jody Hamois, who was a

member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the captain and coach of the USD boxing club, came up with the idea.

"Our house needed a signature event so I proposed the idea of a boxing night," Hamois said. "It promotes the sport as well as the charity."

In 1985, the fundraiser was switched from a fall event to a spring event meaning it skipped a calendar year.

"Fight Night" has been in a number of different venues including the school's dining hall, the Dakota Dome and the Charcoal Lounge before finding a place at the National Guard Armory.

Though it's seen its share of challenges, Hamois is still impressed with the commitment put into the

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Students at Jolley Elementary reached their goal of reading one million minutes collectively and held a pep rally in honor of that at the Dakota Dome. The Jolley kids were able to watch a video of themselves on the big screen in the Dome and hang out with Charlie Coyote.

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Jolley Readers = Million Minutes

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

Students at Jolley Elementary have done it again.

These second through fifth graders reached their goal of reading one million minutes collectively last week with the help of the Mens and Womens Basketball teams from the University of South Dakota.

To celebrate, the Jolley kids were treated to recess and a pep rally Tuesday with the basketball players at the Dakota Dome on the USD campus.

"We are so proud of you guys," said Kelly Stewart, a member of the Womens team during the rally. "That was a huge goal but you guys did it and more importantly you did it together. I know that a lot

of you are great readers but to be honest to read a million minutes on your own would be near impossible so you really had to come together and I couldn't be more proud."

Throughout the school year students would log the minutes they read each week outside of school and turn them in to the USD athletes who visited their school each week.

The athletes in turn cheered them on and participated in activities to keep the kids motivated.

"They would play 'beat the yotes' in every classroom every week," said Principal Sue Galvin. "They would tell them a book they had read that week and if the athletes hadn't

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The Greater Good

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

Many wouldn't need to, nor even, know that a Dakota Senior Meals or Meals on Wheels program exists.

That's because those who usually require the service are either elderly or someone with special needs unable to get around efficiently on their own.

In Vermillion, the Main Street Center, 320 West Main St., is home to the meals program that works independently from the center.

Senior citizens, including those with some physical special needs, can either come to the center for a lunch serving from 12-1 p.m. Monday-Friday or can sign up to be a part of the Meals on Wheels program. People can, and do, start arriving around 11 a.m. for lunch.

They do serve a breakfast once a month.

Sharon Birgholtz came in last May as the program's new head cook and program director and she says



Sharon Birgholtz, center, the head cook and program director for Dakota Senior Meals, takes time to serve lunch last Monday to a number of attendees at the Main Street Center.

ALAN DALE / THE PLAIN TALK

that currently they are averaging 79 meals a day that go out to Vermillion senior citizens at Town Square, via Meals on Wheels or at the center.

Dakota Senior Meals

pays the center to run its program out of the facility.

"We usually do about 20-some meals a day that go to the Meals on Wheels program directly and then we have how many ever we

serve here every day," Birgholtz said. "Some people come in on the bus, some people that walk, some that

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Tale of Online Rummage Sales

By Sonia Hernandez
For the Plain Talk

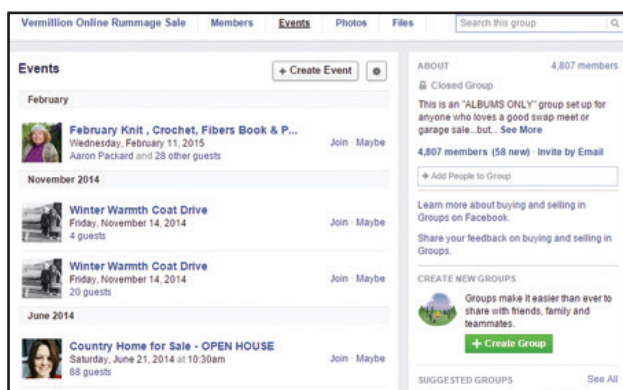
Haley Molzen of Vermillion needed an easy way to get rid of her old baby clothes. She decided to start a Facebook page where she could post items online for her friends and family. As the page reached local Facebook users, membership began to grow - marking the humble beginnings of the Vermillion Online Rummage Sale.

"Three years ago, I started the page by adding 80 friends," says Molzen. "It quickly grew, and now I'm adding 110-150 people a week."

Molzen screens the site to make sure members remain local and to keep out spammers. The page now has more than 4,800 members, and continues to evolve.

"It has become very eclectic," says Molzen. "You can find specialty foods, homemade artwork, and local offers - there are so many different ways people use it."

Molzen says "in search of" posts, also known as ISOs, have become very common. The needs of these members vary widely, and they post to the page in search of all sorts of things.



A look at Vermillion Online Rummage Sales and its Facebook page that is easy to find.

COURTESY PHOTO

"We had one girl who was down on her luck and needed help," says Molzen. "She got a lot of responses

from locals who wanted to make donations to her."

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The Gum Numb group pulled off a spectacular presentation to the judges at the final round of their Shark Tank competition last weekend, placing first in the high school division.

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

SHARK TANK TURNS TREASURE TROVE

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

Could one handle the pressure of a shark tank? Vermillion High School Freshmen proved last Wednesday, March 25 that they most certainly could.

Four teams from Vermillion High School competed in the final round of their Shark Tank challenge with the i2i Business Innovation Competition at the Beacom School of Business of the University of South Dakota Campus.

Three of them left with a prize. Heleigh Melstad, Madisen Lavin and Madisen Martinez wowed everyone by placing first with their product, Gum

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Blessed Easter

