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# PLAIN TALK

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Volume 127, Issue 49  
USPS 657-720



Friday,  
December 14, 2012  
**75¢**



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**Parade of Lights:**

Vermillion residents braved the cold for the fourth annual Parade of Lights, which traveled down Main Street past Ratingen Platz on Dec. 7. More than a dozen floats were featured in the parade, the theme of which was "The Spirit of Christmas." The parade concluded with the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus and the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree. Following the parade, Mr. and Mrs. Claus met with their young admirers in the basement of the Clay County Courthouse. The youths also decorated ornaments to take home, and stockings to be sent to a soldier overseas as part of the Stockings for Soldiers program. The parade was sponsored by the Special Events Committee of the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company, while the Stockings for Soldiers event was sponsored by the Vermillion Public Library.

(Photos by Travis Gulbrandson)

## Feds in N.J. arrest former USD student who sparked bomb scare

By David Lias

[david.lias@plaintalk.net](mailto:david.lias@plaintalk.net)

A former University of South Dakota student from Essex County, NJ was arrested Wednesday morning, Dec. 5, on charges related to a January 2012 bomb scare in Coyote Village, a student housing complex on the USD campus.

Anthony Nicholas Gallo, 20, has been charged with transportation of explosive materials without a license or permit issued by the U.S. Attorney General. He appeared Dec. 5 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Falk in Newark, NJ federal court.

**Court appearance**

The Associated Press reported Dec. 5 that during Gallo's first appearance in a Newark federal courtroom that afternoon, attorney Steven Martino said Gallo did not pose a danger to anyone and questioned why, if he had posed a serious threat, federal authorities waited 10 months to arrest him.

"Anthony is a good kid, and we'll show what they (the government) are portraying him as is not what he is," Martino said. Joyce Malliet, an assistant U.S. Attorney

for the District of New Jersey, argued for keeping Gallo in custody, saying he was seemingly obsessed with building and detonating explosives and had bragged in graphic detail on Facebook about his alleged exploits.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Falk said he didn't have enough information on the case to make a decision, and ordered Gallo to remain in federal custody until a custody hearing could be held Friday.

Gallo, handcuffed and smiling at his parents in court, didn't speak other than to acknowledge to the judge that he understood his rights.

Currently a student at Bergen County Community College, Gallo had been enrolled at the University of South Dakota from the fall of 2011 until his withdrawal on Jan. 17, according to USD spokesman Phillip Carter.

According to the complaint, on Jan. 8, 2012, Gallo traveled to Pennsylvania with potassium chlorate and magnesium in a PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipe, planning to cause an explosion. According to a release from Matthew Reilly, public affairs officer of the U.S. Attorney in the District of New

Jersey, Gallo never applied for the requisite user permit or license that would allow him to transport chlorate explosive mixtures.

On Jan. 19, 2012, Gallo was admitted to the emergency room of a hospital in New Jersey for burn injuries from another potassium chlorate explosion.

**Call from parent**

On Feb. 7, 2012, one of Gallo's parents contacted officials at USD in Vermillion requesting that Gallo's belongings be packed and stored for either subsequent pick-up or shipment back to his home address in North Caldwell, as he would not be returning to the university.

Upon discovery of various unidentifiable chemicals in Gallo's room at Coyote Village by a resident assistant, law enforcement was alerted, and various incendiary mixtures and materials, including improvised thermite and red iron oxide, were recovered.

Campus police and the Vermillion Police Department, along with authorities from Sioux Falls, quickly appeared at the scene

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## New USD Veterans Center fulfills students' needs

By Travis Gulbrandson

[travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net](mailto:travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net)

It has only been a few weeks, but since the new Student Veterans Resource Center opened on the USD campus, it has rarely been empty.

"It's rare that I'm the only one here studying," said Eric Gage, former president of the USD Veterans Club. "This room is probably one of the biggest deals for veterans on campus that I can think of."

Located at the Temporary Student Center, the room had its official ribbon-cutting Nov. 13 and offers student veterans a venue to study, interact or just take a break between classes.

"Veterans can come and do their homework, print off a study guide, have a cup of coffee, get benefit information and just feel safe and belong," Gage said. "It's quiet here, and everybody here is in this room for a reason. It's not that we're

trying to segregate ourselves from everybody else, but in a common space it can be very loud. It's very uncomfortable, and veterans don't like to be in crowds.

"We each have our own unique needs and things we have to deal with, and in this room, it's safe," he said.

If a student veteran has gone there once, they most likely will be there again – and often – Gage said.

"Everybody is welcome," he said. "Even if it's somebody you've never met before, you strike up a conversation because you know you have things in common with that person."

USD's veterans coordinator Jason Dean said the acquisition of the room is the culmination of 10 years of work in assisting the university in the implementation of other veteran-related programs.

The first of these was the

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