

USD defeats
No. 1 EWU
Page 05

Vermillion

PLAIN TALK

Volume 126, Issue 37
USPS 657-720



Friday,
September 16, 2011
75¢

© 2011 YANKTON MEDIA, INC., all rights reserved

www.plaintalk.net

ALSO INSIDE:
▲ Marketplace celebrates fall, Page 03
▲ Tanager defeat Tea Area in OT Thriller Page 06

Serving our readers since 1884.

Hot off the grill

Food, fun sizzle at Ribs, Rods and Rock 'n Roll



By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

"Hey, look at this," said the man standing behind the large vendor booth located at the corner of Main and Market streets in downtown Vermillion Saturday night.

He opened the door to what appeared to be a stainless steel cabinet. Hanging inside the cabinet were 100 slabs of freshly smoked pork ribs ready to be grilled.

Jon Bigalk, the owner of Willingham's World Championship BBQ of Memphis, TN, had to move quickly. Saturday night, in the closing hours of the seventh annual Ribs, Rods 'n Roll event in Vermillion, Main Street and Market Street were filled with people.

Many of them were hungry, waiting in line at his booth to order up some barbecue.

Jon, however, first had to talk for a moment about his family, and about the unique cabinet holding all of those ribs.

"This was invented by John Willingham," he said. "Mr. Willingham is my uncle. The ribs that I'm showing you here are in his Willingham's Wham Turbo Cooker that he invented and patented in 1981. This is the very first patented barbecue cooker in the world."

Willingham's invention is so unique that the original one that was built 20 years ago is now in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.

"He'll be 80 years old in May," Jon said, speaking fondly of his uncle, part of an earlier generation that began Willingham's World Championship BBQ. "He's just a great man; and also invented, along with my Aunt Marjorie, the Wham Seasoning. That's the Memphis dry rub that makes us so unique from everyone else."

The ribs and other items prepared by Jon and his crew at last

■ RIBS, Page 14



ABOVE: LEFT: Jon Bigalk, co-owner of Willingham's World Champion BBQ of Nashville, TN, prepares to remove 100 slabs of freshly-smoked ribs from the "Willingham's Wham Turbo Cooker," invented by his uncle, John Willingham, in 1981. "My uncle is a great man, and he also invented the Wham seasoning, the Memphis dry rub that makes us so unique from everybody else," Jon said. ABOVE RIGHT: Stewart Jennings, a crew member of Willingham's World Champion BBQ of Nashville, TN, finishes up cooking a batch of ribs for lines of hungry customers in downtown Vermillion Saturday during the annual Ribs, Rods & Rock 'n Roll event.

(Photos by David Lias)

Forum: Deeper discussions key to alleviating fear post-9/11

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Life in the post-9/11 United States has been as defined by the conversations its citizens have not had as by the ones they have.

This was the consensus reached by participants in "9/11: 10 Years After," which took place Monday as part of the regular International Forum series in Farber Hall at the University of South Dakota.

One of the big issues that has arisen in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center, as well as the U.S.'s ongoing War on Terror is the fine line between justice and vengeance – a point discussed by the Rev. Steve Miller, pastor

of Vermillion's United Church of Christ and USD professor.

"Justice is a tradition in all of the Judeo/Christian/Islamic faiths, and the idea that people are responsible and how are we going to make someone responsible," Miller said. "But, what happens in that fine line when we cross over from asking for justice and becoming vengeful? I don't hear us talking a lot about that."

Miller said he was reminded of this after the recent killing of Osama Bin Laden.

"It happened, and I think most of us thought, 'OK, that's a good thing,'" he said. "But I didn't hear a lot of public discourse about whether,



Dr. Benno Wymar, Dr. Shane Nordyke and the Rev. Steve Miller discuss the many impacts the Sept. 11 attacks have had on the United States over the past decade. The conversation was held Monday as part of the regular International Forum series in Farber Hall at the University of South Dakota.

(Photo by David Lias)

■ 9/11, Page 06

Life celebrated at 5th annual Nikki's Fund 5K and forum

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

The evening of Wednesday, Sept. 7, was poignant for Janine Harris.

Not only did it fall during the fifth annual year of the Nikki's Fund 5K – an event Harris established in memory of her daughter, who committed suicide in 2005 – it would have been her daughter's birthday.

"My daughter would have been 27 today," Harris said during a forum that evening. "I still cry. I still have my days, I still have my moments. But I also feel empowered by her. I feel her all the time, and I think of her every day."


Nikki's Fund 5K Run/Walk for Suicide Awareness takes place as part of National Suicide Prevention week on the University of South Dakota campus, and raises awareness and money for USD students in crisis situations.

The run/walk itself took place Saturday, Sept. 10 at Prentiss Park.

As part of the yearly program, author Eric Marcus hosted "Surviving Suicide: Living Life in the Aftermath of a Loved One's Suicide," which featured a forum discussion with local and area residents who lost close family members to suicide.


The program took place in Old Main on the USD campus. Among other books, Marcus is the author of "Why Suicide?"

■ NIKKI, Page 06



**So Much Care,
For Your Family**

Call to schedule an appointment with
**BOARD CERTIFIED
FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN,
CHARLES C. YELVERTON, M.D.**



VERMILLION MEDICAL CLINIC®
101 South Plum Street • Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-8643 • www.vermillionmedicalclinic.com