

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 138  
NUMBER 174

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

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## State-U: A Rivalry Renewed



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
The student crowd at the University of South Dakota cheers on the Coyotes during a home game this season at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

Area Fans Pumped Up For The USD-SDSU Football Game, Which Is Being Played For The First Time Since 2003

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Let the battle begin. After nearly a decade, fans of both teams are ready for today's revival of the football rivalry between South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota.

The head coaches — Joe Glenn of USD and John Stiegelmeier of SDSU — graduated from their schools and hold their own special rivalry memories.

Glenn, a 1971 USD graduate, played for the Coyotes and returned this year to coach the team. He passionately leads the USD crowd in singing the school song.

But for this game, he's advising his team to take a more somber tone.

"You just have to talk about it, and tell (the players) about how they need to stay focused on the here and now," he said. "Don't get caught up in anything but the game. You have to worry about the job at

hand."

The players have not grown up with the rivalry, but the fans will ignite it, said Glenn, a 2006 Coyote Hall of Fame inductee.

"The alums are the ones that make the game; it's the talk of the state," he said. "The rivalry will go on for everybody. The teams will have to go play, but they represent their students, their faculty and their fans."

"It makes it a great game," he added.

Stiegelmeier has been the Jacks' head coach since 1997.

The Jackrabbits enter the game with a 7-3 record and are seeking to secure a national playoff spot with a win.

"My memories of

the rivalry are in stages," he said.

"When I arrived at SDSU in 1988 (as assistant coach), that was 'the game,'" The fans, the teams, the state of South Dakota, got 'up' for it," he said.

"The next year went to playing each other two



**TODAY**

Join the Press & Dakotan for an online chat during the USD-SDSU football game. Action begins at 1:45 p.m. at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
A South Dakota State flag is brought out during an Oct. 13 home game at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium in Brookings. The Jackrabbits will host USD today (Saturday) at 2 p.m.

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### HUGS ALL AROUND



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
The students at Yankton's Stewart Elementary School capped off their celebration of American Education Week Friday by giving their school building a group hug. The event was coordinated by Principal Jerome Klimisch near the end of the school day as a means of promoting pride in their school and in the quality of education they are receiving.

## Man Sentenced For String Of Area Thefts

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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A 21-year-old Yankton man received a suspended imposition of sentence and five years of probation Friday after pleading guilty to dozens of thefts in the area.

Matthew Eugene Thompson appeared at the Yankton County Courthouse and Safety Center Friday afternoon before Circuit Judge Glen Eng.

Thompson was arrested by the Yankton County Sheriff's Office in September and was charged with grand theft, third-degree

burglary, third-degree intentional damage to property and receiving stolen property. He admitted to approximately 30 incidents of camper and boat battery thefts, as well as gas thefts in Gayville, Irene, Yankton and the Lewis and Clark Lake area. Authorities were able to track Thompson down after speaking with battery dealers.

Several of the charges were dismissed, and Thompson pleaded guilty Oct. 29 to grand theft, a Class 4 felony punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment in the state penitentiary. In addition, a \$20,000 fine may be imposed.

During the hearing Friday, Thompson told the court, "I just feel really bad about what I did."

Defense attorney Luci Youngberg said that, when she first met her client, he was immature and in denial about what he had done. However, since being in jail, "he has grown up quite a bit," she added.

According to Youngberg, Thompson's father died when he was young and his mother was rarely around.

She also pointed out that Thompson was

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## USD Football Players Indicted On Tax Fraud

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Nine people in South Dakota and Florida, including four former University of South Dakota football players and one current team member, have been indicted by a federal grand jury for tax fraud conspiracy and identity theft, prosecutors said Friday.

The defendants are accused of stealing people's identities and filing bogus income tax returns showing about \$1.1 million in refunds due, said Brendan Johnson, the U.S. attorney for South Dakota. The Internal Revenue Service paid fraudulent claims of about \$500,000 before the scheme was uncovered, Johnson said.

Current USD football player Christopher Lundy is among the defendants. The 20-year-old sophomore defensive back from Tampa, Fla., was arrested Thursday in South Dakota along with Terry Liggins, a former track athlete at USD.

Five others were arrested Thursday in the Tampa area, including three former USD football players. Two other suspects had yet to be arrested Friday, according to Johnson.

Lundy and Liggins appeared before a federal magistrate on Thursday, pleaded not guilty and were released pending trial.

The five arrested in Florida appeared before a magistrate judge there Thursday. They were released and ordered to appear in federal court in South Dakota on Dec. 10, Johnson said.

USD spokeswoman Tena Haraldson told The Associated Press no formal disciplinary action has been taken against Lundy but that he will not play Saturday when the team takes on in-state rival South Dakota State "due to the circumstances."

"The university feels it's best for

him not to play," she said. Lundy still is enrolled as a student.

Haraldson said the university has been cooperating in the investigation over the past year.

"We've been aware for some time that there has been an investigation going on," she said. "We didn't know until (Johnson's) press release came out (Friday) who all the names were that were on the list."

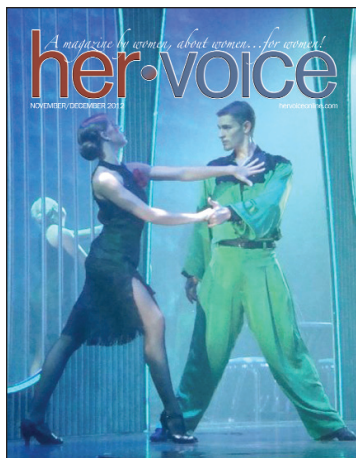
One of the five arrested in Florida, former USD football player Alphonso Valdez, is accused by the IRS of being the leader of the fraud scheme, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. Assistant U.S. Attorney Sara Sweeney told U.S. Magistrate Anthony Porcelli that Valdez recruited students at USD and people he knew in Tampa to gather names, addresses and other identifying information, and used that information to file the fraudulent tax returns.

Sweeney told Porcelli the scam came to light when Valdez used pre-loaded debit cards to withdraw \$900 in cash from an ATM in South Dakota. Valdez tried to hide his identity by wearing sunglasses and a stocking cap, she said. Authorities say people committing tax refund fraud frequently direct that the fraudulent refunds be deposited on debit cards.

Valdez's lawyer said in court that Valdez now plans to attend the University of Tennessee, where he has been accepted on a football scholarship.

The conspiracy charge carries a maximum sentence upon conviction of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The identity theft charge has a maximum punishment of two years in prison.

### INSIDE TODAY



Her Voice

## Gavins Point Dam Repairs Slated To Begin Next Week

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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While the floodwaters of 2011 receded long ago, work continues at Gavins Point Dam to recover from the damage left behind, with the most extensive repairs about to begin.

Officials at the dam are set to start a two-year project next week to repair flood-related damage to the spillway area, according to Gavins Point operations project manager Dave Becker.

"We have quite a bit of flood repair work that's been going on, but now the lion's share of it is about to

get going," he said.

Becker said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected to close the dam's spillway gates around Thanksgiving, which will allow work to begin to fill two large voids under the concrete and to remove a "tremendous amount" of debris from the spillway. The spillway gates will also be repainted and resealed, and new lifting cables and new brakes will be installed.

"It's really just starting now, and it's really going to be a big, two-year project," Becker said.

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### CHAMPS ON PARADE

The Class C2 state champion Hartington Cedar Catholic volleyball team — including, from left, Lexi Steffen, Emily Schremp and Maggie Steffen — were warmly received as they drove through Hartington during the holiday lighted vehicle parade Friday night. The event was held in conjunction with the community's annual Candlelight Christmas celebration. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net). (Kelly Hertz/P&D)