BUSTED
Felony convictions record broken, THC to blame

Collegian photo illustration by EMILY SEATON

SEE FELONY ON A8
Horses for Heroes program gallops through its third year

ANDREW RASMUSSEN
News & Opinion Editor

Just three years ago, a collaborative effort between the Veterans Affairs Office and the animal science department brought the start of a new type of therapeutic activity to campus. Now, the program has been awarded a $22,600 grant from the National Veterans Affairs Adaptive Sports Grant Program.

“We hope these purchases will create an opportunity to diversify our participants in the Horses for Heroes program,” said Connie Johnson, the Coordinator for Veterans Affairs, in an SDSU news release.

The grant will be used to purchase accessibility equipment, such as a ramp, para-plegic saddles and helmets.

Horses for Heroes introduces veterans on campus and in the community to the world of horse riding, regardless of skill level.

The program consists of six to seven, two-hour sessions beginning with introductions to the horses, then building up to various types of riding. Participants are taught how to properly take care of the horse, saddle up and ride.

Horses for Heroes began with eight participants and has since grown to 12, noted Russ Chavez, the Director for Veterans Affairs.

The total number of participants is partially reliant on the capacity of the animal science program to assist in the teaching, according to Chavez. There have been individuals on standby for the program in the past.

“Our goal is (to have) good mental health programs for our veterans,” Chavez said.

A counselor from the Wellness Center’s Counseling Services joins participants in the sessions as an additional resource.

New this year will be special coins granted to participants of the Horses for Heroes program as a form of recognition.

“We couldn’t do Horses for Heroes without Jen (Eide, the equine teacher and facility manager) and her staff,” Johnson said. “They’ve been great since our office approached them regarding this collaboration opportunity three years ago.”

Chavez sees this program as a unique opportunity for the SDSU Veterans Affairs Office to provide a service to veterans that utilizes campus resources — something that other veteran service groups don’t have the opportunity to do.
Student organizations receive cuts from Students’ Association

ANDREW RASMUSSEN
News & Opinion Editor

Amid declining enrollment and increasing costs, the Students’ Association Senate has implemented a formal philosophy for student organization funding and special requests.

Overall, SA has cut funding to student organizations by $64,353.70 from fiscal year (FY) 2019 to FY20. Some of this money was reallocated into funds that student organizations have access to throughout the year.

Many clubs had their general allocation substantially reduced in the last budget, including a complete halt in funding to the Geography Club, a $4,796 reduction to the Hobo Day Committee, a $23,000 cut to the School of Performing Arts, a $15,901.20 decrease to the University Program Council and many other reductions for clubs on the SA general budget.

In FY20 SA assigned $7,349.50 to the Special Allocation fund. Those funds are used for campus organizations that can apply for funding for a specific project or event.

Students currently pay $47.25 per credit hour in General Activity Fees (GAF), $2.40 of which is allocated to student organizations.

Stricter budgeting and allocations come during a time of financial uncertainty for SA primarily due to the decreased enrollment, which means fewer students paying GAF.

“You really love their purpose, you love what they are doing and you just have to take the emotion side out of it and stick to that philosophy, which I think we saw with the last special allocation request that came through,” SA Vice President Corey Berscheit said following the Oct. 28 SA meeting in which the senate heard a request from the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club.

“It is too soon to tell if an additional round of cuts will take place in the year to come, SA Finance Chair Jesse Carlson said.

“It’s all to be determined – which is scary. But who knows, it could go either way,” Carlson said regarding the tier-two budget that funds student organizations and other SA initiatives.

The SA Finance Committee established a budgeting philosophy to help guide them through allocating funds to student organizations.

“We are asking all of these other organizations to cut, how can we do that internally?” Berscheit said. “We did cut the office assistant position.”

The two-page guide created by the SA Finance Committee lays out recommendations for what SA will and will not fund when it comes to student organizations.

A large factor in special allocations is the amount of fundraising the organization conducts and membership dues. The budget philosophy states SA does not want to fund more than 50% of the total budget for an organization.

Read the full story on sdsucollegian.com.
South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem proposed a $4.94 billion state budget for fiscal year 2021 and highlighted the anti-meth campaign, special education and disaster relief.

During Noem's campaign, a key pillar of her candidacy was refusal to increase taxes. By proposing cuts to the budget rather than a tax increase to make up for the shortfall, she holds true to that promise.

Following the $449,000 “Meth. We’re On It.” campaign, Noem proposed an increase of over $3 million for meth treatment services and $145,000 to have two full-time criminal analysts specializing in narcotic cases in the state.

This increased effort to combat the devastation of meth in our state tells us that Noem is putting her money where her mouth is, which is a welcomed sight.

Noem also furthered disaster relief after flooding overtook much of the Midwest, proposing new full-time employees and over $62,000 to assist with administering the $17 million the state received from the federal government this summer.

In addition to rebuilding after the disasters seen this summer, Noem looks to keep building on cutting-edge industries and helping connect communities across the state. Noem proposed $5 million for the development of 5G internet in the state through the Connect South Dakota initiative.

Investing in faster, more reliable internet service is huge for rural school districts and will impact the way our communities connect.

Alongside these increases, Noem proposed an increase of nearly $14 million for state aid to special education and millions to South Dakota Board of Regents schools for expansions, like a $5 million investment in the University of South Dakota’s new health services building.

We support many elements of Noem's proposed budget. However, Noem didn’t address a glaring problem in the state: needs-based scholarships.

It’s no secret that the state of South Dakota is far behind the nation when it comes to these scholarships.

According to the Students' Association Resolution 19-05-R, South Dakota provides $8.49 per student dollar.

In comparison to neighboring states, we aren’t even close, to put it lightly.

Iowa puts $4,058 toward these students, Minnesota gives $2,105, North Dakota $1,664 and Nebraska $1,225.

It doesn't stop there, though.

When it comes to Pell Grant recipients, the numbers have an even bigger disparity.

Need-based funding per Pell recipient is $17 in South Dakota, but surrounding states blow that number out of the water.

Nebraska gives $562, while Iowa puts forth $863. Those are the two states in the area that don't give a thousand dollars toward Pell-eligible recipients. North Dakota gives $1,081, Colorado sits in third with $1,263, followed by Minnesota's $2,109 and Wyoming takes the cake with $2,620.

To us at The Collegian, it is disappointing to see the governor fail to address this glaring issue. We feel that Gov. Noem's proposed budget had many bright spots. However, we also feel that she must address the needs of those seeking an education in our state.

The Collegian Editorial Board meets weekly and agrees on the issue of the editorial. The editorial represents the opinion of The Collegian.
Emergency call boxes: the ‘direct line’ to UPD

KENDAL SCHREIER
Reporter

In 1998, 14 emergency call boxes were installed around campus. After 20 years and the release of the Guardian app, the boxes have become less commonly used and more of a mystery to students.

University Police Deputy Chief Michael L. Kilber still recognizes their importance today.

When the boxes were installed, cell phones were not prevalent. If a student didn’t have a means of calling, the emergency boxes provided a direct line to the University Police Department as students walked between dorms and parking lots.

Now, the emergency call boxes help UPD cover more ground and ensure safety around campus. Though the Guardian app is growing in popularity, if a student’s phone were to die or they did not have enough time to pull out their phone, the call boxes are always a stable backup.

When a student activates a call box, it skips dispatch and directly alerts all officers on duty, making the boxes a very efficient way to get help.

The call boxes have been known to prevent incidents, said the Deputy Chief of Police Kilber. There have been instances where perpetrators fled the scene because a call box was activated.

“Contacting dispatch takes too much time,” Kilber said. “The second you hit that button, an emergency alert is sent over police radio.”

Currently, there are 31 call boxes with two more waiting to be relocated. As the campus continues to grow and develop, UPD also continues to update and add more call boxes as necessary. One of the officers on campus is trained in crime prevention through environmental design, and part of his job is to decide where the boxes are most effective.

UPD is the only accredited campus police department in South Dakota and every bordering state. To achieve accreditation, officers must go through a three-year process with a full audit of the department.

Part of an officer’s accreditation and training by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators is to test the emergency call boxes monthly. Officers are sent out, push the buttons and make sure the correct location is being transmitted.

“We have to be working to be ever-evolving in the approaches of public safety,” Kilber said. “Someday call boxes may become obsolete, but by the time that happens, we hope to have two more systems in place.”

Collegian photo by FRANKIE HERRERA
Call box 106 located outside of Wagner is one of many emergency police boxes located around campus.

Exaltation! Dance and Choral Company presents the Twenty-first Annual A Christmas Celebration

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Gov. Kristi Noem proposes lean budget for FY2021

PIERRE — Tax relief for South Dakotans will mean a lean budget year for the state.

During her annual budget address, Gov. Kristi Noem noted that a change in federal law would prevent South Dakota from continuing to collect sales tax on internet use. When that change goes into effect in July of next year, the state will lose $20 million in revenue. Municipalities are projected to lose $10 million.

“This will provide permanent tax relief for families and businesses who currently pay the government for simply accessing the internet,” Noem told a joint session of the Legislature on Tuesday. “That’s great news for South Dakota families and also a lean budget year for the state.”

Noem’s proposed $4.9 billion budget for FY2021 includes $1.7 billion in general funds, $1.7 billion in federal funds and $1.4 billion in other funds.

The loss of $20 million in internet tax revenue will be felt hardest in the area of ongoing revenue. Data that Noem shared with lawmakers showed that in the past five budgets, South Dakota has had an average of $52 million in increased revenue. After adjustments, the FY2021 projection for new, ongoing revenue is $22.7 million.

In addition to the $22.7 million projected in ongoing revenue, Noem also called for spending $18.5 million in one-time funds including $16.7 million from the budget reserve.

During the last legislative session, when Noem made her first budget speech to the Legislature, she proposed 2.5% increases for state employee salaries, Medicare providers and education. At that time, Noem said, “These three must rise together.”

In Noem’s proposed budget for FY2021, those three will stay flat together as she has offered no increases. During a news conference after her budget speech, Noem said that just a 1 percent increase in those areas would cost $16 million.

Using ongoing and one-time revenue, Noem’s budget includes a $5.1 million upgrade in the State Radio system, $5 million in grants for upgrading internet connectivity and $5 million for the construction of a new School of Health Sciences building at the University of South Dakota. Her budget also calls for funding school districts to account for increases in enrollment and enhancements in the family leave policy for state employees.

Her budget also includes a $14 million increase in special education funding and $3.7 million for meth treatment and enforcement.

After a year highlighted by tornados and flooding, Noem also proposed a new method of tackling disaster relief.

“Starting with the 2019 disasters, we will now offer loans to cities, counties, townships and tribes from the emergency and disaster fund,” Noem said.

At her press conference Noem explained that the state loans through its disaster relief fund would allow local governments to get right to work on disaster relief projects while they wait for FEMA funding. When the federal funding comes in, local governments would use that to pay off the state loan.

While she said she remains upbeat about South Dakota’s economic future, Noem said South Dakota is buffeted by the same “headwinds” that other states face: slow growth in the world economy and uncertainty about the 2020 elections and ongoing trade negotiations.

“As of today we can expect continued positive economic development,” Noem said, “but we have to remain vigilant, especially given recent slow revenue growth.”

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How to fix unhealthy habits students develop in college

LIFESTYLES

Haley Halvorson
Reporter

When students first arrive at college and throughout the next four years, they have more freedom in the choices they make when it comes to what their next meal will be.

It's not uncommon for students to make mistakes, whether it's skipping a meal to study or not looking for healthier options at the various campus dining choices. Here are some of the common nutrition and health lifestyle mistakes students make and possible ways to fix them.

Excessive snacking

For some students, feeling like there is not enough time for a meal often leads to continuously snacking on foods like chips, cookies or Cheez-Its. In moderation these items aren't bad, but replacing a meal with snacks isn't a healthy choice.

"Excessive snacking leads to excessive calories. There are snacks that are healthier, such as fruit or carrots or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich," Kendra Kattelmann, professor and health and nutritional science department head, said.

"The problem people have is, in your mind, you think, 'Oh, I missed dinner, I can snack.' Most people get more calories in that snacking concept than they do if they had a regular meal."

Skipping meals

When a big test or finals approach, time for studying can seem to take over scheduled mealtimes. For students like junior animal science and pre-veterinary major Renae Kayser, a busy schedule seems to get in the way of a typical mealtime.

"I skip breakfast a lot. They say it's the most important meal of the day but just getting up and being super tired and not having time – it's just easier to skip," Kayser said. "Sometimes even during noon if I'm super busy with stuff, I won't eat either, then just come home and eat a lot then."

Kattelmann said that this can lead to problems with a student's health, like excessive weight gain by skipping meals and thinking they have to eat more when they do have time.

Getting enough sleep

Starting healthy habits like getting enough sleep early in college can be the beginning of other healthy habits, like eating the right amount of proteins, vegetables and other food groups listed on MyPlate.gov. With the amount of homework and studying that students do, it can be hard to get the recommended eight hours of sleep.

Read the full story on sdsucollegian.com.
Brookings County has seen the highest-recorded number of felony convictions this year with 152 felony drug convictions thus far in 2019.

The growing number of convictions can be attributed to the increased use of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) oil vaporizers, Brookings County State’s Attorney Dan Nelson said.

“This year, 2019, is the highest felony conviction rate in the history of Brookings county, and that’s being driven primarily by THC,” Nelson said.

THC, a chemical derivative of marijuana, is classified as a class 5 felony under South Dakota law.

“For the marijuana user, THC oil is the more attractive drug because it’s more concentrated. You can get higher quicker and easier and so it has definitely replaced the commonly used marijuana,” Nelson said.

Both the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued warnings discouraging the use of THC vaping products.

Officials are seeing higher usage of the concentrated THC oils in comparison to the “leafy green” form of marijuana, Nelson said.

“There is a misconception out there among our young people that just because it is a compound of marijuana, just because THC oil is derived from the marijuana plant, that it is still a misdemeanor,” Nelson said.

“Possession or ingesting of THC oil is not a misdemeanor and will be prosecuted as a felony in Brookings County.”

DAN NELSON
BROOKINGS COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY

Brookings is aggressively targeting the dealers and distributors by utilizing confidential informants in addition to audio and visual surveillance in an effort to crack down on the drug.

Nelson cited the difference in state laws as a reason for its increased usage in South Dakota.

“We are dealing with what other states have legalized,” Nelson said. “It’s cheap, it’s easy to get, it’s easy to conceal.”

Official conviction numbers for 2019 will not be available until after the new year.

However, Nelson confirmed the total number of felony convictions will be the highest in Brookings history.

“When I started four-and-a-half years ago, we might get a marijuana arrest every few weeks, and now it’s probably daily,” Brookings Police Department Officer Sean Doremus said.

Students are moving to THC cartridges over the traditional plant of marijuana because it is easier to conceal, Doremus said. While it may be easier to conceal, the penalties for THC are far worse than those with the plant form of marijuana.

Nelson has a simple message for SDSU students regarding the use of THC vapes:

“THC oil is a very harmful and dangerous drug. The concentrated levels of THC are extremely damaging to your health,” Nelson said. “Possession or ingesting of THC oil is not a misdemeanor and will be prosecuted as a felony in Brookings County.”

Information gathered from NORML.org

SOUTH DAKOTA
Felony, Max 10 years, Max $20,000

NORTH DAKOTA
Felony, Max 5 years, Max $10,000

MINNESOTA
Treated under Marj. Laws
*42.5g or less, Misdemeanor, No jail, Max $200

IOWA
Treated under Marj. Laws
*Any amount (1st offence), Misdemeanor or. Max 6 months, Max $1000

NEBRASKA
Felony, Max 5 years, Max $10,000

WYOMING
0.3 oz or less, Misdemeanor, Max 12 months, Max $1,000
0.3 oz or more, Felony, Max 5 years, Max $10,000

MONTANA
More than 1g Felony, Max 5 years, Max $1,000

COLORADO
1-3 oz, Misdemeanor, Max 6-18 months, Max $5,000

KANSAS
Treated under Marj. Laws
*Any amount, Misdemeanor, Max 6 years, Max $1,000

*Indicated state’s marijuana law and may not directly correlate with THC charges.
THC Laws by State

At a glance

SOUTH DAKOTA
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Information gathered from NORML.org

Collegian graphic by EMILY SEATON
BSA “Culture & Cause” fashion show entertains and educates

JOSIE NELSON
Design Coordinator

Tuesday, Nov. 19, South Dakota State University's Black Student Alliance redefined fashion shows by showcasing people of different cultures and unique styles for the third annual “Culture & Cause” fashion show.

The show offered the audience different pieces of apparel, including designs from SDSU students, modeled by BSA members on the runway.

BSA members continued the fashion show this year in hopes that showcasing their cultural style may answer some questions people have on unique cultural style and awareness.

Nadifa Mahamed was a designer included in the show. She has original designs combining the outline of Africa and South Dakota, symbolizing her connection to both.

“La Galere” is her apparel line, which means “hard time” in French. She explains it as the struggle or the hustle.

“I am inspired to show people that look like me and are from my culture to stand up for themselves and follow their dreams,” Mahamed said.

Marchaman Kunati, another BSA member featured in the show, has a different connection to fashion than others. It has connected her to her mother, who she hasn’t been in contact with since she was born.

A native of Ghana, Kunati came to America at a young age with a family she didn’t know in hopes of a better life. About two years ago, she got a strange call from someone in Ghana who claimed to be her mother.

After finding out the caller was indeed her mother, they learned they had a deeper connection with one another through their enthusiasm for fashion.

“I started drawing my own clothing. I thought maybe I should get a sewing machine,” Kunati said. “But then I got connected with my birth mother so I started sending my ideas to her.”

When Kunati sent her mother designs or ideas she had for African clothing, her mother would make it for her and send it back. Some of these designs were displayed in the fashion show.

Her designs with her mother stood out compared to the other apparel because of the bright African fabric and unique design. Kunati hopes one day to own a multicultural mall and name it after her mother and father. Her goal is to bring attention to different cultures and to honor the unity between her and her parents. She plans to go to Ghana to meet her mother in person next semester.

“Culture & Cause” is a time to showcase different fashion items inspired by minority populations. The club wanted to show their own interpretations of different cultures.

“The show is always student-driven,” said Akeah Aschmeller, the BSA President. “All the money goes right to the Multicultural Center to offer more cultural events.”

Collegian photo by EMILY SEATON

Marchaman Kunati showing her design and her mother’s craft on the stage of the “Culture & Cause” fashion show at Jack’s Place, Nov. 19.
Carhart, why is a utilitarian brand becoming mainstream fashion?

CAMERON SWIER
Fashion Reporter

At a school that is centralized around agriculture, it may not be the oddest thing to see the brand Carhart being worn. But recently, this brand has been making its appearance in the fashion industry and has been worn by those not seeking out its utilitarian purposes.

A quick background: Carhart is a brand that is known for its work clothes, including jackets, coats, overalls, vests, shirts, jeans, fire-resistant clothing and hunting apparel. The brand was founded with the purpose to create durable clothing for manual laborers. The apparel is often seen on construction sites, farms and ranches. The clothing is heavy duty with reinforcing rivets at stress points and a variety of durable fabrics that are resistant to flame, abrasion and water.

So why has Carhart been making its way into street fashion? I recently learned in my fashion promotion class — a class offered in my fashion studies and retail management major — that back in 2013, Carhart did a collaboration with A.P.C., which is a French ready-to-wear brand.

Since then, Carhart has done two more collaborations with this brand. The clothing created from the collaborations combines a touch of style to quality, utilitarian pieces. The publicity Carhart got from a well-known brand in the fashion industry (A.P.C.) led to more popularity in the public eye. All of a sudden, celebrities such as Kanye West, Matthew McConaughey and Rihanna were spotted wearing Carhart. Pretty soon, the public caught on and that is why the brand is currently so popular.

Another reason Carhart may have begun to move to street fashion could have to do with Hip Hop culture. Rappers in the ‘90s began to rap about the realities of street life. With this came the rougher and more working class oriented clothing to match the music. So, Carhart began to be worn as streetwear back in the 1990s. Recently, the ‘90s have been coming back and is currently trendy.

Read the full story on sdsucollegian.com.

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Soil: a climate change hero?

MIKE BREDESON
Research Agroecologist
Ec Dysis Foundation

The world is getting hot. But what does soil have to do with it? Quite a lot, in fact. In the years to come, one of the most important jobs of soil will be to help us recapture the very thing making our world too warm: carbon.

Carbon is made of tiny atoms, yet it is one of the most important building blocks of life. It provides a sort of “backbone” for many of the materials that make up the environment around us — even our own bodies. Without carbon, there would be no trees, no grass, no humans and not much else. How can carbon, so necessary for life, be causing a disaster as big as global warming?

When carbon is stored as dead plant matter in safe places, like the soil or deep in the ground as coal or oil, carbon can’t trap heat in our air. Carbon becomes a problem only after it is transformed into a gas, carbon dioxide (CO2). Once in the air, CO2 molecules absorb energy given off by the sun, trapping this energy near the earth’s surface. You and I experience this newly trapped energy as heat.

We often hear about CO2 being released through burning gasoline in cars or coal in power plants. An underappreciated amount of CO2 in our air has been released from soil. In fact, most agricultural soils now store less than half of the carbon that native prairies did before we started farming.

How does farming release CO2 into the atmosphere? In a word, tillage. Tilling the soil exposes dead plants to bacteria, which rapidly decompose dead vegetation. Carbon held within dead plant tissues is released by bacteria into the air as CO2. Frequent tillage during each growing season results in much less carbon being captured by plants and “pumped” back into the soil. Under this scenario, there is much more carbon being lost than captured.

Less carbon in the soil harms farmers and rural communities in two important ways. First, more CO2 in the atmosphere will result in a warmer earth, causing severe disasters such as global food shortages and dangerous weather extremes. Second, less carbon in the soil makes for poor crop-growing conditions.

Soils with less carbon require considerably more fertilizer to grow healthy crops. Part of the reason why more fertilizer is applied to cropland now than at any other point in history is because soils have less carbon to hold onto nutrients. Loss of these nutrients is bad news for the farmers who pay for this costly input, but also dangerous for humans and other animals that can be harmed by drinking water possessing excess agricultural and residential fertilizer.

There is good news, however. New farming practices which result in more carbon being stored in soils do exist, and they are gaining popularity. Planting into the standing residue of previous crops would have once been a crazy idea, but thanks to improved farming equipment and research, this practice is commonly done without having to till cropland, saving farmers both time and money.

High yielding, mature soybeans that were planted into a living cover crop of cereal rye. The cover crop resulted in a multitude of benefits including capturing carbon, erosion prevention, disease control and uptake of nutrients that would have otherwise been lost into ground and surface waters.

Green: an important color for Christmas

JENNIFER McLAUGHLIN
Columnist

Excitement abounds, wrapping paper flies and gifts are received. Christmas is a time for giving and sharing. However, from all this generosity and joy comes an excess of trash.

According to the EPA, 25% more waste is generated during the holiday season. Luckily, there are multiple ways we can make our Christmas green but still enjoy the gift of giving. Here are some tips to help you go green this Christmas.

Consider the gifts you give. Many items come protected in an excessive amount of packaging. When given the choice between similar items with different packaging, choose the one with less. This helps reduce your Christmas waste and tells businesses that waste reduction is important to you.

Homemade gifts add a special touch to any present and don’t come with extra packaging. Log onto Pinterest and plan away! Maybe even upcycle an unused item from your place into something the gift receiver could use. Now talk about waste reduction!

Consider donating to a charity in honor of the gift recipient. Not only does this save materials and help a wonderful cause, but it can also be meaningful to the honoree.

Do you ever feel like you are buying a gift for someone just to give them something? Many times a kind note, extra hug or special visit can mean the world to people. In this season of love, consider an extra act of kindness as your gift.

When it comes to wrapping, I agree that there is nothing more fun than tearing paper to get into a present; however, most wrapping paper is not recyclable. So, instead of purchasing wrapping paper this year, look for other paper sources that could be put to a new use and be recycled once the present is unwrapped. Newspaper is an easy substitute. Other neat ways to wrap options could be old maps or calendar pages.

Gift bags are great for reusability. They come in all sorts of colors, designs and sizes. Many of them can work for multiple occasions. Tissue paper used to hide the gift inside can be reused or recycled!

Many other reusable options exist. Mason jars and a little tissue paper inside look great. Do you have extra bandanas or cloth laying around your room? Wrap your present for your crafty aunt or uncle in this, and they may even be able to re-use the fabric in a future project. Still want to be greener? Knit or make a scarf, then use it as wrapping paper for your gift.

No matter how you green your Christmas this year, I hope you have a wonderful time with family and friends. Stay warm and spread peace. Merry Christmas!
Jacks, Panthers meet again for quarterfinal spot

In first meeting, SDSU downed UNI 38-7

JAKOB KING
Sports Reporter

In its first game of a hopefully deep playoff run, South Dakota State will rematch Missouri Valley Football Conference rival Northern Iowa Saturday at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The first time the two teams played was a regular season game, but it had playoff implications. The Jackrabbits were coming off their third loss of the season and were on the brink of losing a chance at a first-round bye.

But the Jacks forced four turnovers and quarterback Keaton Heide threw just one incomplete pass en route to a 38-7 win. The dominant victory over the favored Panthers was enough to propel the Jacks to a top-eight seed despite losing their season finale a week later to the University of South Dakota.

Had the result of the first game been flipped, the Panthers would have likely earned the first-round bye, and the Jacks would have had to play on Thanksgiving weekend. Instead, UNI hosted the University of San Diego in the first round and won 17-3.

This time around, the stakes are much greater: win or go home.

There’s a common belief that it’s hard to beat the same team twice in a single season, but SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier doesn’t fully buy into that.

“We take every game by itself. We don’t talk about the last game if we’re facing a common opponent,” Stiegelmeier said. “For us, why would we not play our best football? Our senior class, we’re in the playoffs, we’ve worked so hard — some guys for five years. Why not? Why would we think about something that would prevent that?”

He also said the coaching staff is expecting to see a lot of the same things from UNI they did in the first meeting. Though, there will be a few major differences in who will be on the field this time around.

UNI returns its leading receiver, Isaiah Weston (41 catches, 1,040 yards, 10 touchdowns), and second-leading rusher, Tyler Hoosman (380 yards and four touchdowns). Both players were out with injuries the first time the Panthers traveled to Brookings.

“We don't (expect to see a lot of different things),” Stiegelmeier said. “We think they’ve got a lot of things within their package already. So, we’ll see a variety, especially on defense. They do a really good job changing things up.”

On the Jacks’ injury front, Stiegelmeier says running backs Pierre Strong Jr. and C.J. Wilson are both questionable. The Jacks running game has been noticeably less threatening since their top two rushers went down, but Stiegelmeier says neither player will be 100%, even if they’re cleared to play.

“There’s no doubt that those two guys are difference makers when they’re healthy,” Stiegelmeier said of the running back duo. “They won’t be totally healthy — neither one of them — if they play. So, that ability to go the length of the field still may not be there. But I think in terms of depth, in terms of different running styles, in terms of explosive outside type plays, I think both of those guys bring a different element to our offense.”

Saturday’s game will mark the first career playoff start for redshirt quarterback Keaton Heide. For the season, Heide has completed 71% of his passes for 905 yards with six touchdowns and two interceptions — the bulk coming in the four games he’s started since coming in for the injured J’Bore Gibbs.

“I believe he’s gotten better every day,” Stiegelmeier said. “He doesn’t miss a beat in practice. ... Our coaching staff is very confident in him.”

Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m. at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium. Television coverage can be found on ESPN3. Radio coverage will be provided by 90.7 KSDJ and additional live coverage can be found on Twitter through @CollegianSports.
Jackrabbit women's basketball joins elite company

LANDON DIERKS
Sports Editor

Fourteen.
That’s how many of the 351 Division I women’s basketball programs have won at least 1,000 games in their histories, with South Dakota State becoming the most recent addition to that short list over Thanksgiving in Mexico.

The Jackrabbits’ 65-59 triumph over Notre Dame Nov. 29 at the Cancun Challenge was win No. 1,000.

“This one feels really special,” junior Tylee Irwin said after the game. “Against such a good team and in such a special place. It’s really exciting and I’m really happy for our team.”

Coincidentally, Notre Dame was the most recent member of the 1,000-win club before SDSU, reaching the milestone in the first game of its 2019-20 season back on Nov. 5.

Add in the holiday atmosphere, the tournament’s location in a popular vacation destination and the contingent of Jackrabbit Nation that traveled to support the team across the three-day tournament, and that is a win that won’t be soon forgotten.

“These are shared experiences between teammates, coaching staff and fans as well — they’re here sharing in this memory,” said SDSU head coach Aaron Johnston of the Cancun trip and milestone win. “A lot of them were here today and they’ll remember a good win against Notre Dame. They’ll remember it being the 1,000th win, and it’ll be something that stays with them for a while.”

Johnston was also quick to mention everything that has led his program to the 1,000 win mark.

“A lot of people — coaches, athletes, administrators — over the years have helped make that possible,” Johnston said in a radio interview following the milestone victory. “It doesn’t happen with one recruiting class or one coaching staff or one athletic director. It happens with a variety of people over many years.”

While that’s true, there’s no denying Johnston’s profound impact on the program. He has a career win percentage of .749 — winning 474 games spanning the past 20-plus seasons. In 19 complete seasons as the Jacks’ head coach, Johnston has averaged nearly 24.5 wins per season.

The two Jackrabbits who have been with the program the longest, Megan Bultsma and Tagyn Larson, have only been in Brookings long enough to see 82 wins. But things like age and experience don’t matter.

All the members of the current roster, as well as every Jackrabbit dating back to the program’s first season in 1966, can enjoy this achievement as culmination of 53 years of work.

“To be in that group is a great honor, but it encompasses an awful lot of people,” Johnston said. “Everybody that follows women’s basketball and our program should be really proud today.”

Collegian photo by BECCA YMKER

South Dakota State senior guard Rylie Cascio Jensen dribbles the ball up the court against Dakota Wesleyan Nov. 15 at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D.
Linebacker co-captains lead SDSU’s defense

JAKOB KING
Sports Reporter

For a defense to have the kind of success that South Dakota State has had this season, its two best linebackers need to have a good on-field relationship, but it certainly doesn’t hurt when they’re good friends off the field as well.

That’s the case with Christian Rozeboom and Logan Backhaus — the top two tacklers on the Jackrabbits’ eighth-ranked defense in the Football Championship Subdivision. Their playing relationship is what everyone sees, but according to their head coach, their friendship goes beyond the boundaries of the football field.

“I think they’re somewhat different personalities, but when they put ‘linebacker’ on their shirt, they become one heartbeat,” said head coach John Stiegelmeier. “They sit together in meetings in the back of the room, they make jokes, they eat their sunflower seeds, all that stuff. They’ve just bonded through all the hard work and all the blood, sweat and tears. Really, our whole linebacker group is like that, but those two guys especially.”

That bond started before they ever put on a Jackrabbit uniform.

The two linebackers took similar paths to SDSU, both playing their high school football in northwest Iowa. The pair even went head-to-head twice when Backhaus was a junior and Rozeboom was a senior.

When Backhaus took his official visit to SDSU, Rozeboom was his host.

“The past couple years I’ve gotten closer to (Rozeboom), just with his roommates being friends of mine. I was over at their house all the time just hanging out,” Backhaus said. “Our relationship definitely goes beyond the football field. That helps us on the field.”

Another similarity between the two: neither received much attention from colleges — a surprising fact when you consider the success they’ve had at one of the top programs in FCS. In Rozeboom’s case, SDSU was his only Division I offer.

It goes without saying that Rozeboom has likely made numerous programs rethink their decision to not recruit him. During the Nov. 9 contest against Illinois State, he became the all-time tackler in Jackrabbit history.

“Just proving people wrong has felt good,” Rozeboom said. “Not that I really cared about what other people said about me, but just proving people wrong and making my family, people from my hometown, my high school coaches who believed in me all along and the coaches here proud for taking a chance on me because I wasn’t very heavily recruited.”

Despite his success, he certainly hasn’t let it go to his head. Rozeboom attributes part of the success he’s had to the great players he’s been around during his five years at SDSU — especially Backhaus, his defensive co-captain.

“He’s a super smart kid on the field,” Rozeboom said of Backhaus. “We’ve helped each other out on the field, making checks together. Having conversations and having it not be one-sided. He knows what he’s doing just as well as anyone else on the field. He makes checks that maybe I don’t see and he picks up on. He’s really good at that kind of stuff.”

The versatile Backhaus has a high school basketball career in his background, and he’s been able to bring that athleticism with him to college football. He’s tallied four interceptions so far this season, which leads the team. Stiegelmeier says that Backhaus’s athleticism allows him to stay on the field in passing downs when most teams would substitute in a defensive back.

“Normally you substitute nickel package (five defensive backs instead of four) to cover receivers — we don’t,” Stiegelmeier said. “In nickel, we have our same personnel out there. He runs very well, he’s very good at his technique, he understands leverage. Sometimes you play outside because you’ve got help inside. Sometimes you don’t have help, so you have to know that. He’s just a very, very smart football player.”

Smart, hard-working football players — leaders and dedicated students. Those are traits that Stiegelmeier used to describe the linebacker duo, and those valuable traits led him to start both of them as redshirt freshmen — something both players were very proud of.

“Oh even if I wasn’t the most athletic or the best tackler, they were able to trust me because I wasn’t making simple mistakes during practice — I was doing everything right,” Backhaus said. “They just threw me in there, and I just took the position and ran with it. It meant a lot to have the coaches trust me and put me out there. It was obviously good to have Christian out there.”

That decision definitely has paid off.

Rozeboom has led the team in tackles each of his four years in the starting lineup, while Backhaus had been in the top five in the last two years while intercepting eight passes in his career.

Now the two defensive captains are preparing for a playoff run.

Backhaus warns anyone who doubts this team’s ability to make a run in the playoffs to be wary of counting them out so soon.

“If you’re a real Jackrabbit fan, you know how this team is,” Backhaus said. “We don’t really think about what outsiders think — we try to think about what we need to do every day to get 1-0 every day. Two years ago, we went 1-3 in our first MVFC games and came back and made it to the semi-finals. If you’re counting us out already, that’s the wrong move.”
November sports: a brief recap

JAKOB KING  
Sports Reporter

Cross Country
Both of South Dakota State’s cross country teams finished their seasons in the top five of the Summit League.

Led by a first-place finish from Joseph Minor-Williams, South Dakota State’s men’s cross country team won its fourth consecutive Summit League Championship. Nov. 2 in Fargo, North Dakota.

The Jacks’ runners made up the entire top-six in the final results. They followed that with a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Midwest Regional in Stillwater, Oklahoma, which meant they barely missed out on a chance to qualify for the NCAA Championship meet.

The women posted a third-place finish at the Summit League Championships led by a second-place finish from first-team All-Summit League runner Anna Donnay. They were also invited to the Midwest Regional, where they finished 16th out of 33 teams.

Swim and Dive
The men’s and women’s swim teams competed in two events in the month of November.

They began with a two-day Quad Dual event in Sioux Falls. Mitchell Raihle led the men to a 3-2 finish at the event. Raihle won gold in the 100-meter swim and qualified for NCAA Zones.

Emily Pincus won both the 200 and 500-meter swims on day one and led the women to a 5-2 record at the event. They followed that with an exhibition win in Brookings over Omaha University.

The women finished first out of eight teams at the Augustana Invite, while the men finished second out of four teams.

The women will be back in action Jan. 17 in Ames, Iowa, while the men will next swim on Jan. 18 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Equestrian
In the only competition of the month, the SDSU equestrian team defeated Minnesota-Crookston 16-2.

Samantha Husecker led the team to a 3-1 win in Fences, Rylee Streit led a 5-0 sweep in Horsemanship, Claire Garduno scored 84 on the Flat and Natalie Gydesen finished the event by earning Most Outstanding Player honors in Reining.

They will look to build on the victory when they travel to Blythewood, South Carolina, on Jan. 31 to take on the University of South Carolina.