President Dunn inspires Bookstore ‘Swap N Shop’

BRIANNA SCHREUERS
Managing Editor

Students can get rid of any T-shirt, hoodie or hat from another university and swap it for credit at The University Bookstore in the first-ever Student’s Swap N Shop.

The Swap N Shop happens Feb. 12 to 16 and allows students with clothing representing other universities to part ways with it in exchange for bookstore credit. The credit is good until Feb. 17, but there is only one coupon per customer.

If students bring in Univer-
sity of South Dakota or North Dakota State University apparel or items, they will receive $20 in store credit. They can get rid of any unwanted T-shirt, hoodie or hat from another university and swap it for $20.

What better way to add a little something if it’s USD or NDSU, said Assistant Director of the Bookstore Amber Healy. “Because they are our rivals and I thought it would be a cool in-

This came about after Healy heard about President Barry Dunn buying a new Jackrabbits hood for a student wearing anoth-
er college’s logo.

Dunn was so excited when I told him about the ‘Swap N Shop’ idea, he started pur-
chasing and giving students SDSU items in 2010 when he was the dean of the College of Agricultural and Biological Sci-
ences. He started because of his previous position at Texas A&M. “I was impressed at the pride students, faculty, staff and alumni had in Texas A&M and how they showed that by wear-
ing the school colors, buying and wearing apparel from their bookstores and proudly displaying the A&M brand in every-
thing from lapel pins to Power-
Point presentations,” Dunn said.

Jonathan Nevicke, music edu-
cation major, remembers when Dunn gave him a South Dakota State University pin at a Stu-
dent Association retreat last se-

Nevicke was wearing a Warren Borg, College of Agriculture and Dunn gave him the pin so he had something to show. “It’s a pretty personal ges-
ture,” he said. “It shows a lot about his character, and shows he’s an outgoing, approachable guy.”

Nevicke wears the pin on his jacket now for “dressy oc-
casions.”

“We all have so much to be proud of,” Dunn said. “And it helps build our campus commu-
nity. It’s a way to lift each oth-
er up.”

Any exchanged items will lay on a table in front of the store, so shoppers can view all the clothing that has been swapped in. Healy plans to donate the items collected, but she doesn’t know where the other college’s clothes will eventually end up.

“I think it would be kind of fun to research and find a group, or [donate to] the Wom-
en’s Abuse Domestic Shelter or somewhere that could benefit from this because I am sure that some of these things are in really good condition,” Healy said.

It’s something we would continue to do President’s Weekend.”

While this event is targeted at students, the Brookings com-
munity has been showing inter-
est as well, Healy said.

Continued to A3

GARETT AMMENDMIK
Editor

Francesca “Frannie” Feekes was grasping the bearings of a farris-
tower toy, when it rambl-
ed to life in May last year, at the Ar-
cher-Coop Grain Co. in Archer, Iowa.

After finishing one side, she was waiting for her coworker to bring a ladder to continue her work.

“I was raised on a farm and you don’t stand around — you find something to do,” Feekes said. “So, I went to get my grease gun.”

Feekes reached for her tools, which laid on the ground near the tender’s rotating power take-
off shaft (PTO). She thought they were a safe enough distance away.

Her hair was in a bun, and when Feekes grabbed her grease gun, the spinning shaft caught hold — taking with it her scalp and both ears.

Paramedics brought her to the hospital, Iowa. There, she was sedated and brought to Sioux Falls, where she spent the next day after surgery to reattach her scalp and both her ears.

Feekes has long-term damage to her hoaring, and planned to come back to campus this semester. However, failed skin grafts and the laborious creation of prosthetic ears have put her plans on hold.

Initially, Feekes was nervous about being back on campus. “I don’t have ears and I wasn’t ready to face my peers living like this,” she said. “Even though we’re adults, people our age can still be really cruel.”

Even adults, Feekes said, have gawked and stared at her, going so far as to ask her inap-
propriate questions about her wounds.

But according to Feekes, her healing is “going really well,” and with the reservations she had for being on campus gone, she’s ready to be a normal per-
son again.”

“T’ve decided to say ‘screw it, let ‘em stare,’” Feekes said. “I’m just going to try to do normal people things, like know how to do dance with my friends.”

According to her long-time friend and agronomy major Cassie Summa, “She’s just who Feekes is — passionate about ag-
culture, faith and family and she doesn’t let anything get her
down.”

“When I went to visit her in the hospital for the first time af-

"We’re really excited for this opportunity," Willis said. "We wanted to better serve our ju-

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

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Volga daycare looking for day-care assistant. 15 – 15 hours/ week. CPS card required. Call 650-8644 for more info/ interview for

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**SPONSORED CONTENT**

Greek Life would like to recognize Jan VanVeldhuizen as Greek Man of the Month for January.

VanVeldhuizen, a freshman entrepreneurial studies major from Sioux Falls, is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and was recently elected to serve as the president of this flagship. He was also recognized in November as Brother of the Month in Lambda Chi Alpha, for his efforts towards the event. In his chapter, scholarship awards and holding a BPA title, VanVeldhuizen said he is "extremely humbled" and honored to receive these recognitions.

Greek Life has impacted me by giving me a second family," he said. "Lambda Chi Alpha is my home away from home," VanVeldhuizen said.

**Q: How do you have a set schedule for each day?**

A: I usually have a long list of things to do, but it can easily get pushed back if an incident occurs. Such as if a pipe were to break underneath your apartments here I would be the one to look into fixing that. You just need to know what's going to happen in this job line.
SA supports international community, BoR employees

EMILY DE WAARD  Editor-in-Chief

Undocumented residents and in- 
ternational students were the cen-
tral topic of discussion at this week’s Students’ Association 
morning meeting.

Students discussed Resolution 
17-13-R opposing Senate Bill 103, which intends to inhibit 
the ability of public institutions of higher ed-
cation, options, or graduated major and captain of the SDSU Step Show. The project was held on 106 PCC.

The housing project has been a group since 2014 and the union was raised by two Jackrabbits. Willis said he is looking at the northwest side of campus, but through student feedback, decided on the south- east area for its closeness to The Union, Wellness Center, athlet- ics facilities and the Performing Arts Center. The new complexes will re-
place State Court family housing. State Village was closed in early 2018, and State Court will be removed this summer.

The university has been re-
building those residents, Willis said. Many chose their own new locations, options, or graduated and moved on from Brookings. Only about a third are coordin-
ating with the university.

The project is considered the first phase of potentially more housing for upper-level students over the next five or more years.

EMMA STAVNES  News Editor

Anyone who wasn’t in the audi-
cence at the Shop N Swap some-
time on the morning of Feb. 12. The event is funny to Katie Dunn, senior nursing major and captain of the men’s step team, said, and his group of five members worked hard to make the 15th anniversary something special.

To celebrate, Storm said they made the show bigger and longer, with new steps and trans-

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ating with the university.

The project is considered the first phase of potentially more housing for upper-level students over the next five or more years.
Students on an Outdoors Program trip hike in Buffalo National Park in Arkansas in March 2017. For the Spring 2018 semester, the program features an array of activities each semester. Justin Parks, coordinator of the Outdoor Program, plans the trips for each semester. With new every outing, he hopes to make them more accessible and enjoyable for all students.

“My job is to get people out- side and provide them the re- sources to do that in a fun, safe, and exciting manner,” he said.

The program is only in its second year, but Parks is confident the program will continue to grow as more students enroll and use its services.

“It think it should grow more, it’s a great program,” said Caleb Kevor, a natural resource law enforcement major. “It’s good to focus on being outdoors.”

With growth comes a wider array of activities each semester. Perhaps the biggest upcoming opportunity for students will be the March 3 to 11 spring break trip to Red River Gorge, in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. Parks has a lot planned for Red River Gorge, and he’s excited to be trying new things and explore the environment.

“It has some beautiful, amaz- ing vistas along with other vistas and valleys,” Parks said.

All paws on deck
Humane Society seeks volunteers, donors to help animals

Lacey (left) is a 7-year-old Cocker Spaniel at the Brookings Regional Humane Society. Lacey is still receiving medication for her illness and is unknown when she will be adoptable. Rhonda Vostad, administrative assistant, hugs Oreo, a domestic short hair, at the Humane Society. Oreo doesn’t do well around other cats and has been at the shelter for some time.

GABRIELLA PREMUS
Reporter

The Brookings Regional Humane Society wouldn’t be here without the Brookings community.

Last November, the people of Brookings stepped up to assist the Humane Society during a financial crisis. Enough money was raised to make it do its next and largest event.

Paws for Wine is 7 to 10:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Swiftdell Center. There will be wine tasting, hors d’oeuvres, live music by Plastic and a silent auction. All proceeds will go to the Humane Society and be matched by a local anonymous donor.

The Humane Society is focusing on helping the animals the best they can, but they need the help of volunteers.

An estimated 1,200 people volunteered their time in 2017. Volunteering can give South Dakota State University students not only gratification, but help with other issues such as stress and depression.

“I suffer from depression and coming here makes me so happy,” volunteer Sal Becoinov said. “Helping and caring for the ani- mals in this atmosphere helps me stay more positive. I truly love this place and I suggest everyone to spend some time here.”

The shelter cares for any- thing from 30 to 50 animals at a time. There is no telling how long it will take for a pet to be adopted, but the younger ani- mals are usually the first to go. Lacey is a 7-year-old Cock- er Spaniel who is new to the Brookings Regional Humane Society. She was brought in earlier this month, by her owners who could no longer care for her.

“Lacey is one of the sweetest dogs we have and the strongest,” said Brett Morey, executive director of the Brookings Regional Humane Society. “All of our ani- mals are great, but Lacey stands out.”

She has several untreated infections, is heartworm posi- tive and will lose her left eye due to the worms. Moore said that throughout all of Lacey’s treat- ment she has kept a happy atti- tude and is friendly with other dogs and visitors.

“Every animal is spayed or neutered and given the neces- sary treatments before being available for adoption,” said Moore. “The Humane Society is working on a plan for her to get the sur- gery and medication she needs, but the cost is high.”

“We love getting supplies do- nated to us, but shipping can be a lot of money. We pay for the expensive treatments some animals need,” Moore said. Lacey has a long recovery ahead of her, but when she is healed and healthy she will be put up for adoption.

Oreo, a domestic short hair, is one of the quietest cats at the humane society. He is six years old and known to be the perfect lap cat.

“He would be a perfect emo- tional support animal,” said Ad- ministrative Assistant Rhonda Vostad. “His favorite thing to do is curl up and snuggle, just what a stressed student would need after a long day.”

Since Oreo was surrendered from animal control, there is not much background information on him. He is shy with oth- ers, but has a couple “room- mates” he gets along with. Because of this, Vostad suggests as- sisting that he be kept in a quiet one-pet home.

“We try to keep all animals happy and healthy,” Moore said. “We try our mission state- ment: to shelter, to protect, to educate and to promote.”

The Outdoor Program at the South Dakota State Wellness Center gives students plenty of opportunities to explore the outdoors through a variety of trips and rentals. The program’s goal is to get students outdoors, and have the students attempt to do it on their own.

SPEENCER THOMPSON
Reporter

The Outdoor Program at the South Dakota State Wellness Center gives students plenty of opportunities to explore out- doors through a variety of trips and rentals. The program’s goal is to get students outdoors, and have the students attempt to do it on their own.

Four upcoming events are planned for this semester. Parks plans on rock climb- ing being one of the main fea- tures of the trip, as the area is renowned for its climbing spots that are suitable for all skill levels. There will also be river paddling down the capes of Red River Gorge.

Parks is still working on the full itinerary for the trip, and he hopes he can fit horseback rid- ing somewhere into the sched- ule.

The all-inclusive trip to Red River Gorge will cost students $450 and nonstudents $600. This includes any necessary gear needed, as well as the basic food cost for the course of the trip. Parks said the trip is meant to be cheaper than if the stu- dents attempted to do it on their own.

The other trips Parks has planned for this semester are typically between one or two days and feature an adventure closer to campus, such as Tins Hollow State Park in northeast South Dakota, near River Valley. Those trips offer a wide vari- ety of activities at different loca- tions, allowing students to connect with each other.

Caroleen Grublock, a business grad- uate assistant, went on a trip last year.

“The thrill and beauty was out of this world,” she said. “I ended up increasing my annual college plan, which helped me meet other students and get to know others in a deep- er way than on-campus interac- tions.”

While the trips seem to be at the forefront of the Outdoor Program, there are other services the program offers to help students.

The program includes many "create your own adventure" trips, in which students plan their own activities, get advice from outdoor services, and travel across to access everything they need through the Outdoor Pro- gram gear rentals. They also of- fer free clinics that help students learn new skills that they might need on their own adventures such as bike maintenance and canoeing.

Parks noted that when the expansion of the Wellness Cen- ter is complete, the Outdoor Program will be moved into a bigger space where it can house all of its camping and decoy rentals. It will be set up in a way that is ideal for the program.

The Outdoor Program’s goal is not only to get students outdoors, but also to help Parks wants students to have the chance to experience it. As the program continues to grow, Parks looks forward to assisting every student an opportunity to experience it. As the program continues to grow, Parks looks forward to assisting every student an opportunity to experience it.
The "Shop Local" movement has taken Brookings by storm, thanks to the Brookings Economic Development Corporation (BEDC). The BEDC helps anyone in Brookings county who is in the process of creating a business by conducting open spaces tours and makerspace workshops, which are hosted to further local entrepreneurs' business plans.

The BEDC helped 145 locals with their entrepreneurial endeavors this past year. One of the many events that the BEDC puts on is the Pop-up Market. The Pop-up Market is a collection of vendors that gather to promote and sell their products. It's a free event for all to attend and participate in. The only stipulation is that vendors cannot have a physical storefront.

Vendors sell everything from homemade jewelry to handcrafted wood projects.

Director of Entrepreneur Support Jennifer Quail said it’s "the one-stop shop to help start businesses."

The three pop-ups in the past have seen a total of 250 community members in attendance, Quail said. All of the vendors in the past have received good feedback and follow up sales from attendees after the events, according to Quail. Vendors are getting a free marketing opportunity and a chance to make great connections as well. Multiple vendors attended more than one pop-up, proving it worth their time.

Quail said the only change the Pop-up Market made from the previous events was changing the dates from May to February, March and April. This change was made to attract more SDSU students.

The first Pop-up Market of the year was Feb. 3 at the Brookings City Recreational Center. There were a total of 16 vendors in attendance, along with plenty of customers. "It's a good place for winter since most of our business is done in the summer at farmers markets," said Lisa Seward of Little Shire Farm.

Seward said the pop-up has benefited her enough that she wouldn't hesitate to attend a future event. "I have been getting out quite a few samples. I think it's a good way of getting people to know the company," she said.

According to the exit survey at the pop-up, attendees received the event very well. The only comments some people had were that they would love to see more vendors involved.

The BEDC also has an event similar to the pop-up, but for young entrepreneurs. They partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Brookings to create opportunities for children to experience what it's like to start a business. This pop-up will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Feb. 24 at the Boys and Girls Club of Brookings. There will be two more Pop-up Markets this year from 9 a.m. to noon March 17 and April 7 in the Brookings City Recreation Center.

Shopping local made easy by Pop-up Market vendors

Jack's Weekly

Horoscopes

A fellow Jackrabbit might need your help. Lend a hand this week.

A new neighbor gives you a chance to enjoy your favorite hobby with another rabbit.

An idea for a weekend getaway emerges. Take time for yourself.

There is romance in the air for you and another rabbit this week.

An odd invite may surprise you, Jackrabbit. Don't hesitate to accept.

Take a picture of this ad and receive $5 off your next entree!

TUESDAYS: BOGO HALF OFF PASTA
WEDNESDAYS: LADIES NIGHT
DRINKS HALF OFF FOR LADIES ALL NIGHT
STARTING AT 3 P.M.

HAPPY HOUR DAILY FROM 3:30-5:30 P.M.
$3 PINTS OF BEER AND
2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1 ON
TOP SHELF LIQUOR

DON’T MISS OUT ON
OUR WEEKLY DISCOUNTS!

LEARN CHINESE ONLINE
Classes offered year-round. Register on Webadvisor.
Northern State University
northernstate.edu

SDSU FACULTY, STUDENTS & ALUMNI
CAN LIST PLENTY OF REASONS TO
BANKEASY.

BUT WHAT’S YOURS?!

#WHYIBANKEASY

THIS WEEK’S SPECIALS

Shelleen Weeks, owner of Do-OverS!, makes homemade charms from recycled metals and sells them during the Brookings Pop-up Market, Feb. 2 and 3 at the Brookings City Recreation Center. The Pop-up Market hosts 16 booths for entrepreneurs from the community.
This year's Black History Month may be the most important out of the last 12 years. This year has been deviously criticized for its lack of diversity and open racism from the President of the United States.

Yes, it should be obvious that Black History Month is important, but it is necessary, now more than ever, to take time and remember the people of color who rose above the enslavement, segregation and violence of the past to pave the way for the future of Black Americans.

There seems to be a popular notion of “letting the past be the past,” but as we’ve seen in recent years, this isn’t the case. Even in the midst of division, fringe-created, great men and women of the black community have stepped up time and again to speak of brotherhood, kindness and rising above the racial divide.

Diversity is of great impor-
tance out of the last 12 years. This administration for its lack of diversity and open racism has been deservingly criticized by the President of the United States.

The Senate, under the leadership of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, which allows them to intensify gridlock which caused the government to shut down in the past few years has been rife with tragedy, from police shootings to hateful rhetoric. Make this Black History Month count by educating yourself on the achievements of African Americans that de-
ter to be celebrated.

Stance:
SDSU students, staff and faculty need to actively take interest in black history.

The Collegian Editorial Board meets weekly and agrees on the issue of the editorial. The editorial represents the opinion of The Collegian.

Another government shutdown if parties can't agree

Budget your spring break plans
LORNA SABOE-WOUNDED HEAD
Guest Columnist

In one month, spring break will be pictures on your phone as a trip, consider implementing a few budgeting strategies. This way you and your friends can have home memories, not buy-
ner’s remorse.

Set a goal

Decide where you want to go and how you are going to get there. Plan how you are going to tackle your goal.

Research

Figure out all the possible costs for your spring break get away. Budget for transportation, food, accommodations and other-

Group getaway

Shop for the best deal and make reservations in advance. Look for discounts or package deals.

Take a day trip

Gather a group of friends to drive to a destination a few hours away. Look for activities in a lo-
dation that interest your group. Share travel expenses to reduce the cost of travel. Focus on the together.

Plan a “staycation”

Invite a group of friends to your home. Involve everyone in planning activities. Cook a meal and provide activities.

College spring break is a time to see friends and drive away from the stress of academics. Remember, time is worth more than the finan-
cial cost. You want to remember spring break 2018 because of the great memories, not because you are paying off student loans. Lorna Saboe-Wounded Head is the SDSU Extension Family Resource Management Field Specialist and can be reached at lorna.wsaboe@sdstate.edu.

Amends

On Jan. 22, a Continued Reso-

n on the University of South Dakota Special Budget Committee will be held at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 13 in The Market. It's first come first served.

Following the South Daku-

ta State University Black Stu-
dent Alliance Facebook page will give you an opportunity to learn about influential African Americans throughout history and learn about the problems they face today and how you can be an advocate for African Americans. This past few years have been rife with tragedy, from police shootings of hateful rhetoric. Make this Black History Month count by educating yourself on the achievements of African Americans that de-
ter to be celebrated. The True Black History Museum will display over 1,000 art-
facts from historical figures and notable African Americans from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Lewis and Clark room in The Union.

There will also be soul food from Frederick Douglass, Maya Angelou, to Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr. and Barack Obama. This is only the tip of the ice-
berg.

This February, make a com-
mittance to remember and appreciate the painful, yet vibrant history of African Americans as well as you can.

The Multicultural Center has op-
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Social media.
Lessons learned: rely on your siblings for support

As college students, we are facing the reality of being an adult every day. Things go wrong, plans fall apart, or we fail at something we tried very hard at. It’s painful to experience these harsh realities all on our own.

Having a familiar face who has overcome or will be taking on these kinds of situations can help dull the ache when everything feels wrong and nothing’s going the way it’s supposed to. Siblings play unique roles in each other's lives and can make a big difference when life hits us hard.

My older brother has held my hand and helped me through some of life’s cruelest moments. I am blessed with the guidance and reminders he still provides me every day when I am struggling to see the good in a situation. Growing up, my older brother taught me so many lessons about facing life’s challenges.

Throughout my life, I have seen my brother fall in and out of love, remind me that your heart is going to break but, as they say, nothing good ever comes from it.

If you love something, it is going to take work and passion. It will be difficult at times, but you have to live headfirst into what you love in order to get to a positive outcome.

My brother is usually the peacemaker in our family and always tries to encourage us to talk even when we are angry or holding grudges against one another. No matter how long we fight, I always know we have to work through it to find the love and peace we need.

I encourage everyone to rely on the support and reliability a sibling can provide. This unique bond we have with our siblings can teach us a lot about our outlook on the world around us.

The lessons we learn by leaning on our siblings for support are invaluable in building a strong support system.

Natalie Hilden is the Opinion Editor for The Collegian and can be reached at hilden@ SDSUcollegian.com.
The most surprising loss for the Jacks came at the 197-weight class. Senior Nate Rotert was pinned by Sam Colbray in the 2nd period. This will be the last road trip for the Jacks until they head to Denver for the best record in the Summit League. While the men are 9-1 and are in second place in the Summit League.

In high school, Humphrey was known to be a coach when he worked with kids as young as five years old and as old as high school at a summer league in his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska. "I was fortunate enough to have some swimmers around me that were willing to learn and I had some great coaches myself that I wanted to emulate," he said. Humphrey's first collegiate job was at the University of Nebraska, his alma mater, as an assistant coach. He served there for nine years before taking over as head coach for the Northern Iowa Panthers in 2012.

The Panthers were successful under Humphrey. He won Missouri Valley Coach of the Year in 2012 and UNI finished in third place at Missouri Valley Conference Championships in his final two seasons. Humphrey said the biggest change he's had to deal with is coaching men because UNI did not have a men's team. It was the first time since 1991 that he'd coached to the rankings, I know assistant for the men's team at Nebraska.

Another difference is the resources available at SDSU over what was required at UNI. "It's a lot more opportunity, but their resources are even limited," Humphrey said. "There is a dedication to do the right way and being excellent!"

Senior Daniel Jacobson said money is a lot more laid back than Erickson and methodical. "He'll give you all the resources you that need to succeed, but it's up to you to take advantage of them and use them," Jacobson said.

Freshman Rotert Conners said Humphrey does not entertain swimmers who don't give maximum effort and that is one reason they have a great season.

"If you're not going to try, then he's not going to worry about you because he has other people to focus on," Conners said. Even though his father wasn't swimming, though Humphrey said he learned how to coach from him. His father coached him in high school and football and baseball and growing up was an influencing factor.

"I want to focus growth of the program instead of putting a lot of pressure on being a better diver but more importantly growing in the classroom and setting yourself up for life after sports. No one is going to the program that you desire to be, but they need to feel they need to fit in." Humphrey said his goal at SDSU is to win conference championships.

"That's always going to be the goal," Humphrey said. "Whichever way we feel that we're close or not. We're going to continue to improve and never stop and become complacent."
The Jacks defense carried them in their two victories last weekend. SDSU gave up 59 and 63 points against Omaha and NDSU. Head coach T.J. Otzelberger said the team feels a lot of pride on the defensive end of the floor.

“We’re understanding how important getting stops is,” Otzelberger said. “I think we’re generating a few more turnovers,” he said.

The Pioneers (10-3, 3-5) are coming off a week in which they beat South Dakota, who handed SDSU its only loss in Summit League play, and won their lone win coming from an overtime history to reach 2,000 points, averaging 9.9 points per game. He has helped us win and has been a great winner’s attitude,” Otzelberger said.

One guy who can help the Jacks accomplish that is junior forward Mike Daum. He has been somebody that’s been good and he’s taken that step back on track with two straight wins. Pitt managed just one win, and it was its only loss in the Summit League, after home games against Oral Roberts and NDSU. Head coach T.J. Otzelberger described King as "a great winning enactor. His defense, his toughness, his leadership," he said.

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Conversely, the 133-pounder, 157-pound and 184-weight class. Mueller cracked the top 20 at 184 and sits at No. 14 at the 125-weight class, while Jake Smith is the 197-pound class. Scott Schmerelson, an assistant coach, said, “I think we’re generating a few more turnovers,” he said.

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Moments to Cherish
February 11th from 12-3 p.m.
Swiftel Center-Brookings, SD
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Women's offense hits stride before final stretch of season
CARSON HERBERT
Sports Reporter

After two victories on the road last week, the South Dakota State women's basketball team will play its last two home games of the season against the Denver Pioneers and Oral Roberts Golden Eagles.

Since falling to South Dakota Jan. 25, the Jacks have outscored their opponents 293-167 and have scored more than 100 points in a game, twice. Senior forward Ellie Thompson said the team is moving in the right direction.

"We're definitely on an upward swing," Thompson said. "That's where you want to be towards the end of the season. Playing your best basketball and continuing to improve every day."

While the team's leading scorers, junior guard Madison Guebert and junior guard Macy Miller, have continued to score in double figures, Thompson's carried the team lately. She averaged 18.6 points and 8.6 rebounds in the last three games.

"(Thompson's) had a really good stretch here," head coach Aaron Johnston said. "She's really found her comfort zone and is playing with a lot more poise inside."

Freshman guard Tylee Irwin has averaged 13.3 points per game, Johnston said her success isn't surprising.

"Tylee has been gaining confidence all year," Johnston said. "She has given us a good spark off the bench by shooting the ball well and getting to the baseline.

Denver (13-11, 4-5) lost three games in a row before beating Fort Wayne Feb. 4. Leading the Pioneers is freshman guard Claire Gritt, who is averaging 10.6 points per game. Gritt was one of three Pioneers to score in double figures against the Jacks in the last matchup Jan 11.

"Denver plays very fast," Thompson said. "They are one of the fastest teams in our league so we can expect a very fast-paced game."

Oral Roberts (14-9, 5-4) is tied with South Dakota in fewest points allowed per game in this season's conference with 59.4. The Jacks defeated the Golden Eagles 77-70 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Jan. 13. SDSU was not able to contain senior forward Faith Ihim, as she led Oral Roberts with 24 points.

"They are hard to score on," Johnston said. "They are long inside, can block shots and are really physical. They are one of the few teams that match up well with Macy [Miller] and Madi [Guebert] when, typically, we've always had an advantage at least in one of those positions."

Guebert said the final five games of the season are all very important.

"This is a time where you have to be locked in and focused," she said. "Every team is trying to finish strong with this last stretch of games."

The game against Denver will tip off at 7 p.m. Feb. 8. The matchup against Oral Roberts will tip off at 2 p.m. Feb. 10.

Both games will be held at Frost Arena.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:
VANESSA LANE

Year: Senior
Hometown: Pequot Lakes, Minnesota
Major: Consumer Affairs

Senior Vanessa Lane competes in the women’s shot put Jan. 19 during the SDSU DII Invitation meet. The Jacks host the SDSU Indoor Classic starting at 2 p.m. Feb. 9 and 9 a.m. Feb. 10 in the Sanford Jackrabbit Athletic Complex.

Senior forward Ellie Thompson (45) moves around Fort Wayne freshman center Jaelenicia Williams (00) Jan. 27. Thompson got her 700th career rebound during the game.

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