

the doane OWI

Seeking the Truth Without Favor



Local businesses like Artisan Mark now compete with Scooter's. See Page 4 for more.

House votes to impeach Trump

Second impeachment confirmed by House

ABRIANNA MILLER
Editor-in-Chief

Former-President of the United States Donald Trump is currently facing a second impeachment for his alleged role in the insurrection of the Capitol building.

Democrats with the support of a handful of Republicans voted to process with Trump's impeachment trial.

"House Democrats filed a single article of impeachment on [Jan. 11] against Trump for 'incitement of insurrection' following the violent siege that left one Capitol police officer and four others dead and left members of Congress and their staffs fearing for their lives," an ABC

News article said.

ABC News also outlined the impeachment process as beginning in the House of Representatives and moving to the Senate. Trump's second impeachment is currently moving to the floor of the Senate where he will be convicted or acquitted of the charges.

The article of impeachment details one charge against Trump.

"In all this, President Trump gravely endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of Government. He threatened the integrity of the democratic system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power, and imperiled a coequal branch of Government," CNN reported.

The legitimacy of Trump's second impeachment is being questioned by some experts since the trial will occur after Trump leaves office.

"Though the Constitution dictates [Supreme Court Chief Justice John



Courtesy Photo - Flickr.com

Roberts] would preside over an impeachment trial of a president, as he did during Trump's first trial,

it doesn't address the case of a former president – another question that has left constitutional schol-

ars divided," USA Today said.

The impeachment trial is currently scheduled for

"In all this, President Trump gravely endangered the security of the United States and its Government. He threatened the integrity of the democratic system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power, and imperiled a coequal branch of Government."

CNN

sometime in February, and the resolution has no projected date.

Trump is currently the only U.S. president to be impeached twice and the third to be impeached at all. The other impeached presidents are Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, both of which were acquitted of their charges.

New COVID-19 strain spreading in U.S.

New strain has swept the country in a matter of months

JOEY WINTON
Managing Editor

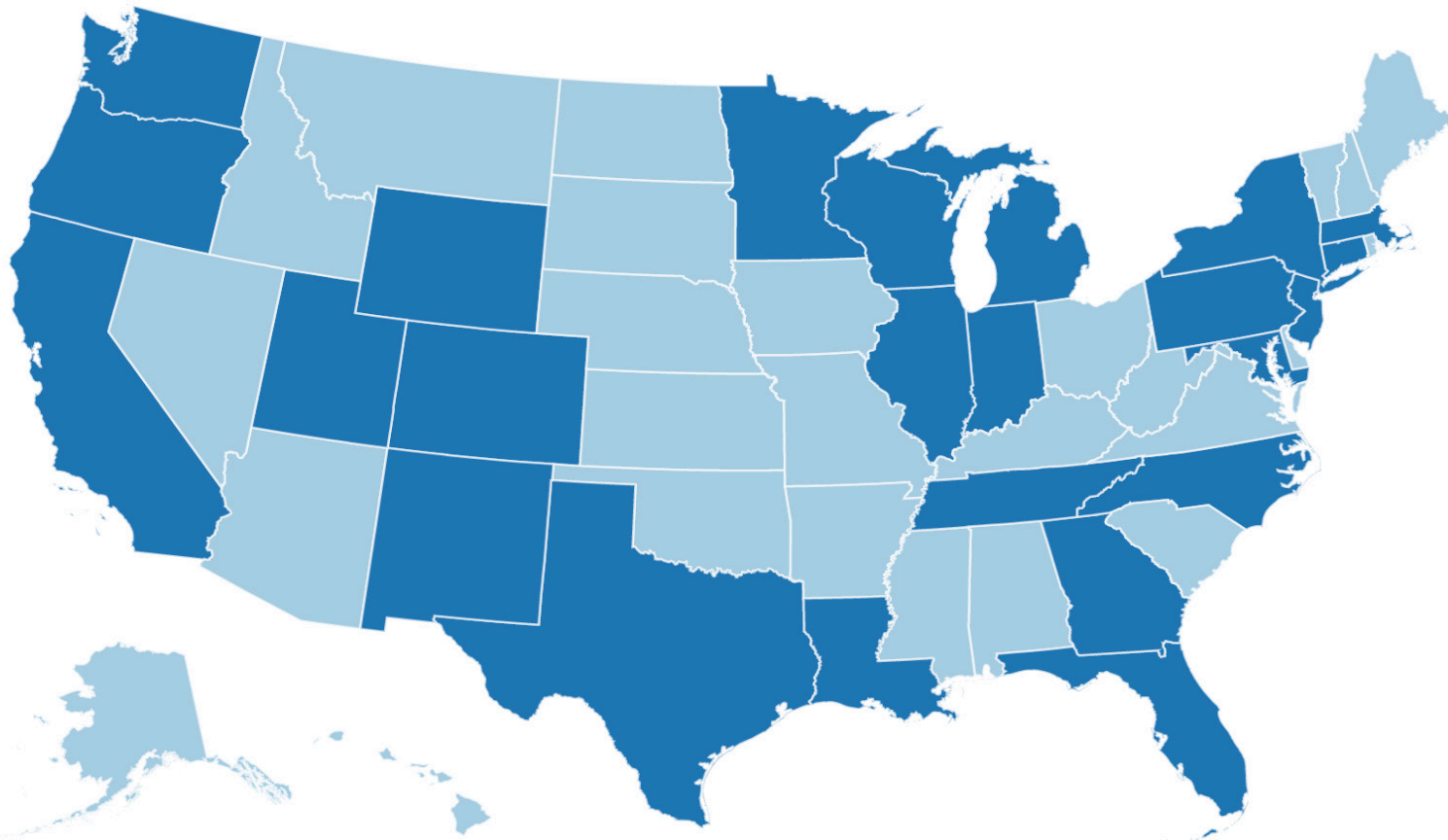
A new variant of the COVID-19 virus, first spotted in the United Kingdom in September 2020, has made its way to the U.S.

The new variant called B.1.1.7 spreads more easily and quickly than other variants, but there is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increases the risk of death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The new strain was first spotted in Colorado, with California and Florida identifying the strain in their states in late December. Texas, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut reported cases in the weeks following.

In December, Republican Governor Ron DeSantis told Floridians they should not expect any additional lockdowns or mask mandates during

B.1.1.7 Lineage Cases in the United States*† Total Cases: 293



Territories AS GU MH FM MP PW PR VI

Courtesy Photo - CDC.gov
At least 24 states have identified the new strain of COVID-19 which is easier to transmit and easier to catch, but the threat level seems to remain the same.

the pandemic, saying such measures were "totally off the table".

"The lie of the lockdown was that if you just locked down, then you can beat the virus. Then

why are people having to lockdown two or three times then?" DeSantis said.

According to the CDC, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Utah,

New Mexico, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and New Jersey have also all identified this new strain, and is expected to

spread. Currently, 24.9 million people are infected with COVID-19, and 414 thousand people have died, with no sign of a decrease in either.

Nebraska has 186,255 total positive cases of COVID-19 and 1,948 total deaths.



Courtesy photo | Bay News 9

Biden signs slew of orders

Biden takes steps to undo many Trump-era orders

JOEY WINTON
Managing Editor

Just hours after his inauguration, President Biden signed 17 executive orders, memorandum and proclamations to dismantle several Trump administration policies.

Biden's first actions are mostly aimed at reversing or erasing Trump's pandemic response, environmental agenda, immigration policies, etc.

One of Biden's first orders was related to combating the Coronavirus.

Biden appointed Jeffrey D. Zients as the official COVID-19 response coordinator, required social distancing and masking on all federal property by all federal employees, rejoined the World Health Organization and appointed Dr. Anthony Fauci to be the head of the US delegation to the organization's executive board.

Another section of plans are aimed at immigration policy. Biden's administration increased funding to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program which protects immigrants brought to the US as children from deportation, undid the Trump executive order that pushed aggressive efforts to locate and deport unauthorized immigrants, ended the ban that prevented travel to the US from several countries that have a predominantly Muslim and African population and halted construction of Trump's border wall along the US/Mexico border.

Biden also signed a letter to rejoin the Paris climate accords, revoked the Keystone XL pipeline's permit, undid decisions to reduce the size of several national monuments, reinstated tighter standards to vehicle emissions and reestablished a group to work on the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions.

In relation to LGBTQ and civil rights, the administration ended the 1776 Commission, a

Trump-era policy that historians claimed distorted the role of slavery in the US among other things, revoked an executive order from Trump that limited the ability of federal institutions to hold diversity and inclusion training and reinforced Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that requires the federal government to not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, another Trump administration policy.

Several steps are being taken to provide assistance to those affected by the economic impact of the Coronavirus. The Biden administration extended a federal moratorium on evictions and asked several government agencies to prolong a moratorium on foreclosures on federal mortgages that was enacted in response to COVID-19 and paused federal student loan interest and principal payments through the end of September.

The final actions are related to the Federal government itself, as Biden established ethics rules for those who serve in his administration and ordered all his appointees in the executive branch to sign an ethics pledge with the goal "to restore and maintain trust in the government" and froze all new regulations started by Trump to allow his administration time to evaluate which ones it wants to move forward on.

For more information, visit The White House website whitehouse.gov.

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COVID-19 vaccine information shared

JOSE VILLALPANDO
News Editor

At the time of students' mandatory COVID-19 vaccines, they should have also received a paper detailing information on COVID-19 vaccines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in an article titled, "Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines."

As it stands, no current vaccine being manufactured in the United States contains traces of the live virus and should not infect anyone with COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccine may cause symptoms such as a fever, but it is important to know that these symptoms are normal and shows that the body is building protection, which may continue for a few weeks until immunity is achieved.

"Vaccination works by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus," the CDC said.

Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will not cause an individual to test positive on a viral test, which measures current infection. However, it is possible to test positive on an antibody test since they focus on identifying past infections and the degree of protection an individual may have against those infections.

The CDC recommends anyone who has had COVID-19 in the past should still get the vaccine, mainly because re-infection is possible.

"Experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering," the CDC article said.

Although many people only experience mild symptoms, nobody knows exactly how the virus will affect any given person, even if they are not within a high-risk group.

Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines are the only vaccines authorized for use against COVID-19 in the United States as of now. These vaccines' only purpose is to relay information to cells on how to prepare the proteins needed to trigger immune responses to a virus, which protects the body from infection if the real virus were to enter.

"COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way," the CDC reported.

All of the information included in this article was provided to students on Jan. 16 and 17 at the time of their COVID-19 tests. For updates from the CDC, please visit their website at www.cdc.gov.

COVID-19 Vaccine

What you need to know

- No current vaccine being manufactured in the United States should make anyone sick.
- During the time before immunity is achieved, a person may contract COVID-19.
- The vaccine will not cause someone to test positive.
- If a person has already had COVID-19, it is still recommended that they get the vaccine.



Graphic by Kendall Meyer | The Doane Owl

Weather Forecast
Wednesday
 1/27

 High: 19
 Low: 8
Thursday
 1/28

 High: 30
 Low: 17
Friday
 1/29

 High: 33
 Low: 30
Saturday
 1/30

 High: 37
 Low: 25
Sunday
 1/31

 High: 37
 Low: 26
Monday
 2/1

 High: 37
 Low: 26
Tuesday
 2/2

 High: 45
 Low: 31

Graphic by Kendall Meyer | The Doane Owl
Weather data retrieved from weather.com.

News platform launches in Omaha

Ricketts strives for unbiased news

ABRIANNA MILLER
Editor-in-Chief

Joe Ricketts has launched a news outlet, Straight Arrow News, out of Omaha, NE.

According to Ricketts' website, he is originally from Nebraska where he started TD Ameritrade, a financial services company. Ricketts now lives in Wyoming, but his son, Pete Ricketts, currently serves as the Governor of Nebraska.

The Omaha World Herald reported that Straight Arrow News is aiming to be a nonpartisan news source despite Ricketts' politically conservative background.

"Ricketts expressed confidence and said he will be building in 'safeguards' so that his startup will truly deliver news without bias or political spin," the Omaha World Herald said.

These safeguards have been created because Ricketts has launched a different news platform in the past, and he knows what to expect in terms of financial security and of the company's integrity.

"He launched DNAinfo, a news website that provided local coverage in Chicago and New York, in 2009. He later bought Gothamist, another New York-based news site, and then merged the two," the Chicago Tribune said.

DNAinfo was shut down in Nov. 2017 when staff began unionizing and the company's financial viability was at stake, according to the

Chicago Tribune. The Omaha World Herald said Ricketts' platform will initially focus on national news, but it may widen its scope in the future. The Omaha World Herald also said Ricketts is confident that Straight Arrow News will generate a profit while also remaining unbiased.

Straight Arrow News is now live and can be accessed at straightarrownews.com.

"Ricketts expressed confidence and said he will be building in 'safeguards' so that his startup will truly deliver news without bias or political



Omaha World Herald

Courtesy photo | Joe Ricketts official website

Push for medical marijuana continues

SARAH DALY
Communications Manager

Last Friday, Jan. 15, Lincoln Senator Anna Wishart (Nebraska District 27) introduced a new bill that would allow Nebraskans to have access to medical marijuana.

After the Nebraska Supreme Court rejected the initial push in 2020, Senator Wishart did not give up when the governor was outspoken on his anti-marijuana agenda. Wishart had over 190,000 signatures from Nebraska voters supporting this movement.

"There's no such thing as medical marijuana. It's a drug. And the long-term plan for the big marijuana industry is to make it available in a recreational way. We have a methodology for drugs becoming safe and effective and being legal. It's called the Food and Drug Administration," Gov. Pete Ricketts said.

Wishart described in an interview with KETV7 how the people she has met have inspired her to continue fighting for medical marijuana.

"All of these Nebraskans deserve the right to access a plant-based medicine that has evolved with humans for over 10,000+ years. None of them should be treated like criminals in our state," Wishart said.

Sen. Wishart has worked on the pro-marijuana agenda for four

years now. With many Nebraska supporters, Wishart has already begun the ballot initiative to put medical marijuana on the November 2022 ballot.

Senator Justin Wayne of Omaha and Dis-

trict 13 has begun the push for legislation that would legalize recreational marijuana for adults 21 and over. Once approved by legislators, this would be on the ballot for Nebraskans in the 2022

election cycle. New Senator Terrell McKinney, representing District 11, also introduced a bill on Jan. 15 to decriminalize marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

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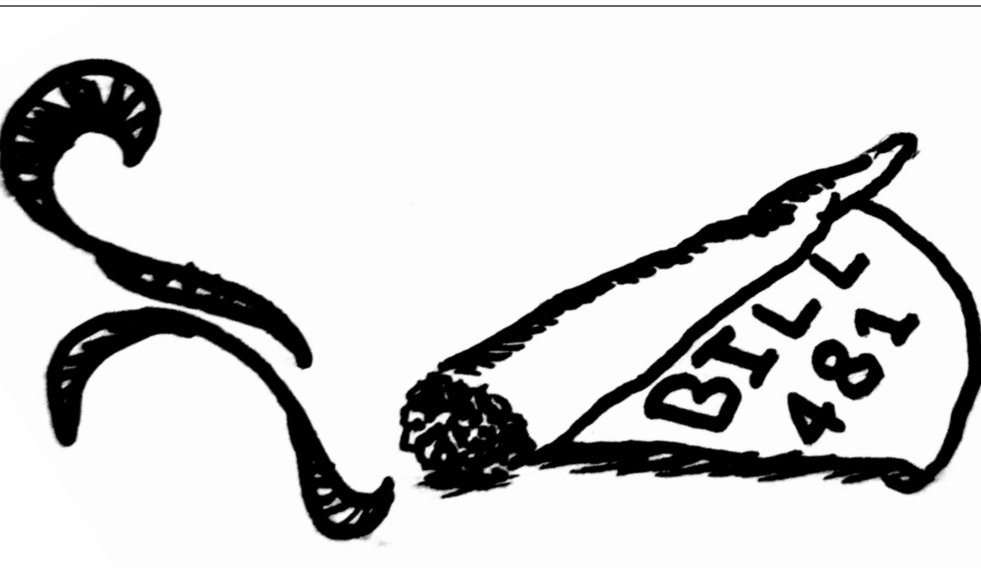
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Cartoon by Joey Winton | The Doane Owl

FERPA policy reminder sent out to students

CASSIE KESSLER
Sports Editor

An email was sent from the Registrar's Office on Jan. 20 to all students notifying them of their rights under FERPA for the spring semester. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA] is related to students' rights when it comes to their education records. It ensures that students' educational records are confidential and accurate at all times.

There are four main aspects under FERPA

that students need to understand according to the registrar's email. The first one being that students have the right to look over and review their educational records within 45 days after Doane University receives a written request for access to said records. This essentially means that if a transcript or something is requested, students will be able to view it within 45 days before it is sent to whomever requested the records.

The second aspect of FERPA is the right that students have to chal-

lenge their educational records. If a student truly believes and has a valid reason to believe that their educational records are inaccurate or violating their privacy rights, they can request an amendment to their educational records or challenge their records.

The third aspect of FERPA is one that protects the confidentiality of students' records and states that a student's signature is required in order to release things such as transcripts. There is a list of information referred to as "directory information"

that Doane University has the ability to share that can be found in the email. Although they have the ability to share it, there is a likely chance that it will not just be handed out to anyone who requests it.

"While the above directory information can be released, Doane University is very cautious and releases limited information to internal and external constituencies," according to the email from the registrar's office.

Students do have the right to block the university's ability to share

this directory information. In order to do so, students need to notify the Registrar's Office by Wednesday, Jan. 27 and fill out the required forms.

The fourth and final aspect of the FERPA policy is that students have the right to seek justice if they believe that Doane is incorrectly following these policies. If they believe there is an issue with Doane's compliance, students need to contact The Family Policy Compliance Office with complaints of failure to follow all policies be-

fore mentioned. FERPA is important to understand because it is designed to protect students' educational records and their privacy. If they have any questions or would like to have FERPA explained further to them, students should contact the Registrar's Office or view Doane's FERPA policy on the registrar's web page:

<http://www.doane.edu/about-doane/offices/registrar/faq/ferpa>.

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Auditions welcome all students

KYLIE HUGHES
Life & Culture Editor

The Doane Theatre Department held auditions on Monday, Jan. 18 for three upcoming productions via Zoom.

This was the first time auditions were held over Zoom, as last semester's general auditions were socially distanced. However, according to Co-director of Theatre Robin McKercher, the auditions were held over Zoom to keep everyone safe, especially with the new strain of COVID-19.

"I just want to make sure the students are safe," McKercher said.

While this was the first time that general auditions for the upcoming performances were held over Zoom, the Theatre Department has been doing auditions over Zoom for recruiting purposes. Doing the auditions like this allows the Theatre Department to branch out to other states.

Doing the auditions through Zoom on Jan. 18 may have its challenges as Assistant Professor of Theatre Joel Egger notices the "loss of energy" exchanged in a room during auditions. However, it also provides unexpected benefits.

As an actor, Egger has had to learn acting for the camera before so he appreciates how the pan-

dem is forcing students to learn that out of necessity.

"One thing as an acting coach at Doane is that I see all of these students are getting a real immediate crash course experience by acting for the camera. Students are learning how to self-tape and frame themselves," Egger said.

For McKercher, Zoom feels more intimate and gives a close up on the actor where they would not be able to during a socially distanced audition.

Even though the auditions were on Zoom both McKercher and Egger felt that there was a good turnout.

McKercher attributes the good turnouts over the past auditions to letting students be involved in the process. During the season selection process most years, it is a group of students and two faculty members that make the decisions. According to McKercher, when students get to pick the shows that are done, they are more likely to want to be involved.

"I feel really strongly about empowering students here. I want to give the students as much voice as possible. So that's why we usually have a good turnout," McKercher said.

The auditions are also open to any students, not

just students in the Theatre Department.

"We feel very strongly that anybody on campus can audition for any roles on the show. There's no glass ceilings that say only theatre people can do this show. We want anybody and everybody to come over and give it a good All-American try and get in the show," McKercher said.

McKercher also makes sure that there are enough roles for all types of people, making sure that the female to male ratio is equal and that it is also colorblind as they hope for a diverse cast.

The auditions consisted of four directors for the three upcoming shows this semester.

The first production is "Lonely Planet" directed by senior Mason Morrill will be the first show and it will broadcast around the end of February.

"The Theory of Relativity" directed by McKercher with sophomore Boston Reed as the musical director will be broadcast at the beginning of May. This is a piece about students, relationships, and "how their lives are connected."

"My Boat Did Finally Break" is an devised piece by Egger that will be shared on Youtube at the beginning of April. The title is in regard to "weathering the storm"

Theatre Auditions

Students interested in "My Boat Did Finally Break", a devised theatre piece by Joel Egger, should email joel.egger@doane.edu.

All students welcome, even if not performers.

Writers and content producers are also needed.

Graphic by Kendall Meyer | The Doane Owl

and breaking the boat so that you can "set yourself free and realize you had more strength within you."

Egger said that the nature of a devised piece is that it comes from the

group that is put together. That group comes from the audition, Egger's LAR class, and across campus.

Students part of the devised piece do not have to just be performers. Egger

is looking for writers and people to share ideas as part of their group.

Any students interested in being part of My Boat Did Finally Break can email Joel Egger at joel.egger@doane.edu.

Weekly Horoscopes

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19): Keep a close eye on the ones you care about this week. They may be facing silent struggles.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20): You may be feeling isolated this week physically and mentally. Take some time to do something nice for someone else.

Aries (March 21 - April 20): This week may be full of unexpected twists and turns. You may even surprise yourself in how you react.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21): You have been spending a lot of time in your comfort zone, Taurus. Use this week as an opportunity to get out of that zone.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21): This week may be full of challenges. Do not forget what a long way confidence and a good attitude can go.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22): While you may have been feeling the need to get out and travel, remember the things nearby that are important to you.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): You've been feeling really outgoing recently, like you are beginning to find yourself. Do not forget who helped you along the way.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Remember this week that not everything will go your way in life. You not only have to accept that but embrace it.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Communication may not flow as easy as it always does for you this week. Be cautious with how your words come across.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): You may have been making some significant mistakes recently. Remember that it is okay to ask for help and admit fault.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Things may be going well in your life right now. It is okay to let people know that you are in a good place.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 20): Be adventurous this week. That may seem out of character but be open-minded where it could lead.

New routers installed

ABRIANNA MILLER
Editor-in-Chief

Upon returning to campus for the Spring semester, students noticed new wireless Internet routers in Doane's buildings.

Students expressed frustration about the slow Internet connection towards the end of last semester, but now, students feel confused about the sudden presence of new routers.

Junior Henrique Sakoda said

one of his roommates came back from break and had a router installed in his room.

"I don't know why they put more routers throughout the places, but I think it's because there's a lot of Zoom calls, and they're trying to make a better Wifi connection," Sakoda said.

Junior Sam Coy said he was not informed that new routers were going to be installed in his suite. He said he felt like it was an invasion of privacy to have routers

installed in his room without being advised about it.

"I feel like they should have at least told [my roommate] because it's in his room, and they left dust and stuff on his desk," Coy said.

Both Sakoda and Coy shared the attitude of wanting an explanation for the routers' installation.

"Maybe they can send us an email or something explaining why it was necessary, just to be aware," Sakoda said.

February full of events

JOSE VILLALPANDO
News Editor

Based on the Doane calendar and from recent emails, there are multiple events and activities that students can look forward to on campus throughout the month of February.

Starting on Feb. 1 and lasting until Feb. 12, students can visit Nyrop Hall to view a display for Black History month highlighting national, Nebraskan, and Doane movements throughout the Civil Rights Movement.

Then, beginning on Feb. 2, the CAPE Project will be hosting zoom sessions at 12 p.m. every Tuesday throughout the month. These sessions will consist of discussions on the dynamics of a healthy relationship.

Feb. 4 and 18 will be "Thoughtful Thursdays," where students can experience some stress relief through a 40-minute yoga session and 20-minute MindStrong conversation period led by a SWAT student. These sessions will be held in Cassel or the Perry Campus Center from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

On Feb. 10, students and faculty can look forward to their first scheduled day off.

Feb. 11, junior Sarah Daly will be performing her Junior Recital on the Doane Music Department's Facebook page live from the Communications building, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Finally, on Feb. 25, SWAT will be giving out information on safe sex, free condoms, dental dams, and lube in Perry Campus Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. as a part of a Condom Club giveaway.

Artisan Mark looks to the future

Local business continues to push through challenges

KYLIE HUGHES
Life & Culture Editor

Opening their doors last September, just in time for the pandemic to hit, Artisan Mark Coffee and Goods has faced several challenges since then.

In the beginning of the pandemic, Artisan Mark was forced to shut down from March to June, as many of their college-aged employees were sent home, and there were still so many questions and uncertainties surrounding the Coronavirus.

Since then, Artisan Mark has had to close down on several occasions for days at a time due to quarantines. They have also established a mask mandate, enhanced cleaning procedures and reduced hours.

Owner of Artisan Mark, Elayne Woods-Jones, admitted business has been slow recently and said it's hard to pinpoint one exact cause, as the pandemic has affected all businesses. Woods-Jones said coffee sales usually go down in January due to many New Year's resolutions, as well.

However, despite these challenges, Woods-Jones said she remains optimistic and sees these challenges as a way to get creative rather than discouraged.

Recently, Woods-Jones has focused on working on the goods that they sell. Right before Christmas, she said they did well sell-

ing goods because Crete does not have a lot to offer in terms of boutique shopping.

In addition to their coffee and goods, Woods-Jones is looking to establish a small-event venue in Artisan Mark. When the pandemic is over, Artisan Mark will be able to accommodate 50 to 60 people in a "nice, more intimate atmosphere."

Woods-Jones said it is perfect for events like bridal showers, sorority or fraternity rush parties, etc. In fact, she feels as though she designed the shop to "be appealing for [college students] to come and hang out," listen to music and enjoy free wifi.

In recent months, Woods-Jones has had to be creative to compensate for business being slow but remains hopeful for the future of Artisan Mark.

With business be-

ing slow, it would seem that another coffee place, Scooter's Coffee, opening up just weeks ago in Crete would become one more obstacle in the midst of what already seems like many.

Woods-Jones said she was aware there was a Scooter's moving into Crete, yet she said she was not concerned for her own business. Despite the fact that they both sell coffee, Woods-Jones does not see them as competition.

"Scooter's and us, we offer two completely different things. [Scooter's] whole thing is to get stuff out the door as fast as they can," Woods said. "Whereas we offer a higher quality product and also a different experience. We don't want people to rush out the door. We want them to sit and stay. We want people to enjoy their coffee

and have a conversation with people."

Woods-Jones said Artisan Mark and Scooter's offer different experiences. Artisan Mark is for those who want to enjoy the atmosphere as well as a cup of coffee, and Scooter's is a great place to pick up a cup on the way out of town.

Feeling as though they offer a different product than Scooter's, Woods-Jones said she believes the new business is great for Crete. In fact, she said she expects more franchise businesses to move in sooner or later due to the growing community in Crete.

"I think that Scooter's is good because the more amenities that Crete has,

the more people are going to want to come here, and that is especially going to filter over. It's good to have choices," Woods-Jones said.

However, she urges the public to make sure they continue to support local businesses so people continue to have that choice in business.

As for the future, Woods-Jones said she remains optimistic and looks forward to holding more events in Artisan Mark. She also looks forward to becoming a "staple for the community" and for Doane students, as Artisan Mark can be a welcoming place that students can enjoy.

Annual Production Sale

Saturday, February 6, 2021
12:30 CST at Upstream Ranch

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TikTok works to protect young users

App creates restrictions to secure their platform

SARAH DALY
Communications Manager

TikTok has become popular for today's youth, but internet safety within the app has become a concern.

Many companies have become concerned about data privacy violations,

and the U.S. military has banned TikTok from government-issued phones. The most prominent safety concern, though, has been child grooming and possible pedophilia.

TikTok has made changes to its policy in reaction to these concerns.

Within the app store, TikTok has a 12+ marking that prevents children under 13 years-old from seeing the app in the App Store or Google Play store if they have age restrictions on their device.

According to the TikTok website, in the U.S., users under the age of 13 are

allowed to register for an account with strict guidelines and additional safety provisions. This includes restricted content such as the inability to post their own videos and no commenting privileges.

Younger users are also not allowed to have followers or maintain a personalized profile. Users 13 to 15 years-old are also not allowed to use the direct messaging feature within the TikTok app.

TikTok recently introduced "Family Pairing". This feature allows parents to link to their child's account and control many

aspects including screen time, direct messaging, who can see the child's content or liked videos, who can comment on their child's videos, etc.

TikTok partners with a handful of organizations such as ConnectSafely, Online Safety Institute and the Internet Watch Foundation to make sure users are protected and enjoying the app.

What is your Snowday activity?

Find out what activity is best for you next time you have a day off in the cold.

Would you prefer an activity indoors or outdoors?

- Indoors! Why go out into the cold?
- Outdoors, of course!

Are you looking to get that adrenaline going?

- No way!
- Always!

Planning on relaxing or getting things done?

- Might as well be productive!
- Relaxation. I need a break!
- You would enjoy building a snowman with friends.**

Looking to keep your brain engaged?

- I have the day off from class, no thanks.
- For sure!
- Use the day to get caught up on work.**
- Looking to keep your brain engaged?**

Hanging out with friends or going solo?

- I'm with friends 24/7!
- It's just me today.
- Binge watching Netflix sounds great.**
- Try some arts and crafts for the day.**
- Have a snowball fight.**
- Find a good hill and hop on a sled.**

Graphic by Kylie Hughes | The Doane Owl

the Doane Owl

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Flag photo by Abrianna Miller

- STAFF EDITORIAL -

New COVID strain is daunting

With the death count of COVID-19 only rising, the news of a new strain that is easier to transmit is quite the downer.

Over four-hundred-thousand Americans have died from the virus, and more than twenty-five-million people have been diagnosed with the disease.

While it is easy to brush these numbers aside as mere statistics, this new strain should signal to our leaders that now is not the time to begin loosening restrictions.

The threat of this new strain should not be taken lightly just because the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are being distributed.

Each vaccine requires two doses, and you must wait for at least two weeks before you can get your second dose.

Even then, the vaccine takes time to become fully effective, and in that time, our leaders need to enforce strict mask and social distancing policies.

While it is certainly worth celebrating the fact that a suitable virus was manufactured so fast, we cannot abandon all safety measures.

Currently, at least half of the states in the U.S. have reported the new strain of COVID-19, and while the numbers are currently low, it can only be assumed that more cases will pop up in the

coming weeks.

This, paired with hundreds of thousands of Americans traveling, no doubt helps fuel the spread of the new strain.

The surge of travel over the Christmas season and the New Years season is certainly responsible for some of the increasing cases.

This could have all been avoided had states placed strict bans on travel beyond the state, and while the holidays would have been lonely, the lives it could have saved surely outweighed the cost of a blue Christmas.

While it is perfectly acceptable to miss friends and family, risking the safety of others by traveling anywhere beyond

your state, and even beyond your city, is not.

States that have begun to relax their health guidelines need to be wary and make sure they are keeping their inhabitants safe and healthy.

Midwestern states, like Nebraska, have been hit by the virus but have not been nearly as bad as other places due in part to the population distribution. But the potential of this new strain to spread makes places previously untouched by the virus more vulnerable.

At the end of the day, we want as few people to die as possible, and this new strain looks to be a major source of death and sadness.

Positive change in the world



KYLIE HUGHES
Life & Culture Editor

Maybe this provides the perfect opportunity to re-examine what we want to see out of our normality.

Throughout history, it has become apparent that major crises, especially pandemics and epidemics, lead to major change.

In terms of epidemics and pandemics, there is a medical element and a social element. The medical element involves treatment, research, prevention, etc., whereas the social element of a pandemic involves the sudden changes to everyday life.

Looking at a more recent, large-scale global epidemic, the HIV/AIDS crisis led to many long-term changes. For example, due to this epidemic, there are now needle exchange programs to help reduce the spread of HIV through intravenous drug use, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

In addition to that public health change, there were major social changes as to how such a stigmatized virus was perceived. The COVID-19 pandemic

is already demonstrating the foundation of some major changes that are soon to follow.

There are small changes we are seeing like large, blockbuster movies, such as the recent release of Wonder Woman 1984, being released simultaneously to theaters and streaming platforms, according to Variety. This could very well point to a future where more and more movies will skip the theaters and go straight to streaming.

Due to all of the limitations, people have had to get creative, and those creative changes may begin to stick.

Schools may continue to incorporate more virtual aspects to them, even after students are allowed to go back in person full-time.

There are also much bigger changes, such as the fact that many people during this time realized what was important.

The days of living in a society where healthcare workers who put their lives on the line yet go unrecognized are over. This pandemic has shown the public what super-

heroes healthcare workers really are.

This pandemic has also highlighted that there are specific populations who are disproportionately affected by many health conditions, not just COVID-19. After living through this pandemic, we cannot just turn a blind eye to these problems anymore.

In whatever ways this world and this country does change after the COVID-19 pandemic, it is evident life will not completely go back to normal. However, these changes do not have to be for the worse. We should be taking all that is learned in the past year and change for the better.

Instead of pushing for society to go back to normal, we should really be evaluating why we want "normal" so bad when we have the perfect opportunity to improve that idea of "normal."

Therefore, as changes are made by this pandemic, people should be more open minded to the positive impact they could have.

Show stops me in my tracks



ABRIANNA MILLER
Editor-in-Chief



Courtesy Photo | Flickr.com

while scenes from past episodes flash over her eyes.

Jules' character developed beyond comprehension during the episode. Not only did she revisit her trauma from past episodes, we got to see the story of her mom. And on top of that, the producers were able to parallel Jules' mom and Rue. Game Changer.

Since the scheduled season two was postponed because of the pandemic, I was elated when I found out they

were releasing two special episodes. Rue's episode was great, but the intentional detail and camerawork in Jules' is unmatched.

Rosalía released a song with Billie Eilish specifically for this episode of "Euphoria". Saying that I cried for 20 minutes after the song played is an understatement. I was a mess for an embarrassingly long amount of time.

"Euphoria" has been a monumental part of my growth as a person, and Jules'

story did not disappoint.

I one-hundred percent recommend watching "Euphoria" if you can. Nothing has ever made me reconsider societal norms and look at the reality of youth's lives in the modern day.

Even if you're not interested in a thought-provoking program, "Euphoria" definitely has the entertainment value of your favorite classic show.

Hot takes; Keanu is the bee's Reeves

A weekly rating of random things by Joey Winton

JOEY WINTON
Managing Editor

Keanu Reeves, Hollywood's wholesome action friend and most excellent actor, is by far one of the best things to happen to Hollywood. This week's Hot Takes will be focused on ranking the movies Keanu Reeves stars in (the ones that I consider noteworthy at least).

Before I begin, let me just say that Reeves is one of the nicest people on the planet, and this ranking is in no way an attack on him or his acting because he is too pure for this world and for me to scrutinize him.

Each movie is graded based on the quality of the movie, rewatchability and how well Reeves is used in the movie.

Quality of the movie is pretty straightforward; it's graded on how objectively solid the plot, acting, visuals, etc. are, as there are some movies that, when compared to others, fall flat.

Rewatchability, most

simply put, is how many times you could watch the movie before you got tired of it. A movie I could watch ten times has a higher score on the list than a movie that I could only watch two or three times in a row.

Finally, the use of Reeves is graded on how iconic or quotable Reeves' role is in the movie, how good the dialogue is, how our characters bounce off of him and his performance. If it feels like he is playing a character (again, through no fault of his own), the movie is not ranked as high when compared to a movie that makes you feel like it's just a film crew recording Reeves in his day-to-day life.

S Tier- These movies are fun, funny, bombastic and overall just a joy to watch. Everything from the script, to the action, to the plot perfectly compliments Reeves and plays to his strengths as an actor—not to mention they're endlessly rewatchable.

A Tier- While not as objectively good as the



Courtesy Photo | Reddit.com

movies above, these movies still have a lot to offer and allow Reeves plenty of room to shine.

B Tier- The movies in this tier are fun for the most part, but they don't fully utilize the acting chops Reeves has, or they are not as objectively good. That being said, there are still plenty of reasons to like these movies, but when compared to the ones above, I can't justify putting them in any tier above or below this one.

C Tier- These movies suffer from a lack of a good plot, a well-developed script and/or less-than-stellar visuals.

Reeves mostly seems like an afterthought, and there is too much wrong with the movie itself to allow Reeves to make something good out of it.

F Tier- Not even God or Reeves (yes, I know I just said God twice) could fix these stinkers. There is nothing here to love, and it's a shame Reeves is associated with

these movies in any way, as it is a blemish on his career. That being said, he still gives it his all, and that's why I love him.

Keanu Reeves is a gift to us from the heavens and must be protected at all costs. His movies might vary in quality, but one thing I think we can all agree on is that he is one of the most wholesome people to ever live.

*Note: All rankings are final and no amount of hate/convincing will

change my mind

S Tier: (The best)- John Wick 1-3, Speed

A Tier: (Second Best)- Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, The Matrix

B Tier: (Average)- Bram Stoker's Dracula, Point Break, The Matrix Reloaded

C Tier: (Below Average)- The Matrix Revolutions, 47 Ronin, Johnny Mnemonic

F Tier: (Garbage)- Constantine, Replicas

Again, let me say: no amount of debating with me will change my mind so please save yourself the time and energy, you have better things to do than argue with a college kid about tier lists.

Do you have a topic you want me to make a ranking of? Email me at joey.winton@doane.edu with the subject line Hot Takes and I might write about it!

Pie takes the cake



JAMESON OFFICER-THURSTON
Staff Writer

de resistance of any celebration that is cake?

Personally, I would choose a nice, warm piece of apple pie any day of the week. That being said, I wouldn't miss the opportunity to snag a chocolate lava cake from Applebee's either.

For me, the deciding factor that makes me choose pie over cake is its simplicity. It doesn't need frosting, sprinkles or a special event in order to be brought out and eaten.

With cake, it seems as though a special occasion is needed. The absence of this event makes having cake seem weird. However, I think that an event can also aid cake, as it can make a special event even more special, such as a wedding.

Is it the extremely versatile nature of fruit pies? Or perhaps it is the piece

a wedding pie. It doesn't have quite the same ring to it.

Speaking on the versatility of these two dessert dishes, pie has an assortment of ways it can be produced, from your standard apple pie with vanilla ice cream to, surprisingly, cheesecake. You read that right; cheesecake is, in fact, a pie.

This doesn't mean cake does not have versatility like pie, however. Cakes can become delicious, decorative art pieces. Cake is also the only dessert I've ever had that can encompass a vegetable, for example, a carrot, and still be fantastic.

But even so, on any given day, I will choose pie over cake in its simplest form, specifically apple with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

...THUMBS UP

Snow days 👍👍👍👍👍👍

Godzilla 👍👍👍👍👎👎

S'mores Poptarts 👍👍👍👍👍👎

Shamwow! guy 👍👍👍👍👎👎

Bells 👍👍👍👎👎👎

The Doane Owl editorial staff cast their opinions on different current topics and their responses are represented in 'Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down' every week.

THUMBS DOWN...

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Men's Basketball dominates Dordt

The Tigers end a losing streak with a score of 83-69

JOSH BUNDY
Multimedia Coordinator

The Men's Basketball team defeated Dordt on Saturday, ending a nine-game losing streak that dates back to Dec. 12. The team played their final home game of the season and were able to get the win in an 83-69 game.

Not only was the win over a good team like Dordt, but it also gave the team hope of securing the last spot in the GPAC tournament with four games remaining.

The first half was back and forth, with Doane going on an 8-0 run, and Dordt answering with a 14-2 run towards the end



Courtesy photo | Logan Felzer

Junior Joe Burt played 33 minutes and scored 13 points off of transitions.

of the half. Dordt held a 42-37 lead at halftime.

An 11-0 run and a 14-2 run in the second half gave the home team the advantage, as they were able to hold onto the lead and get the win.

Senior Jaxon Harre led the team with 19 points, while also being tied for the lead in rebounds with seven. Senior Anthony Laravie and junior Tyler Sullivan both equalled Harre's rebound count.

Laravie contributed 14 points in the contest, with junior Joe Burt adding 13 points.

The Basketball team will play their final four games away from home as they look to clinch the final spot in the GPAC tournament.

Their next game will be against Jamestown in North Dakota on Jan. 31. Tip-off is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Cheer Team competes at invite

CASSIE KESSLER
Sports Editor

On Friday, Jan. 22, Doane's Cheer and Dance Team competed in the Doane Invitational Cheer and Dance competition against Hastings College and have their senior night.

This being the first competition of the year, the team was anticipating finally getting the chance to perform somewhere other than practice. Sophomore Kiersten Anderson was looking forward to getting another chance to compete this year.

"I think I [was] most looking forward to getting back on the mat and competing with my team," Anderson said. "I really loved having the opportunity to compete last year and I am fortunate enough to do it again."

In the days leading

up to the competition, practice had been key in order to master every part of their routine. Senior Brandie Schmitt had been preparing with the team so that it all came together on Friday.

"We have been running our routine full out for the last few days to make sure we can complete each skill in our routine successfully," Schmitt said. "We also have been wear-

ing our masks at every single practice for the entire practice to make sure that if anyone gets COVID on the team we will not be exposed by wearing masks."

For this competition, the team was ready to demonstrate all their hard work that they have dedicated for the last semester. Friday was a day that they could perform this for people outside of their normal practices.

"I hope that we showcase everything that we have worked so hard on and leave the mat feeling proud of the routine and all the hard work we have put forth to prepare for this competition,"

Schmitt said.

Due to the COVID-19 guidelines, Hastings' family and friends were not able to be at the competition. Only a few Doane family members and students were allowed to watch the competition in person.

"It will be weird as other teams' families are not allowed to come to the competition but I am really excited that my parents are able to come to senior night which is on Friday," Schmitt said. "I am thankful that Doane has worked to allow family and some Doane students to come to this competition so we are able to have a crowd to

support."

Despite the new guidelines, the team was still looking forward to performing for their families and making their teammates proud.

"I think the best part is going to be able to show my family and friends how proud I am of my team and of myself," Anderson said. "I am very excited to have all of the people I am close with there to see me doing the sport I love."

Hastings ended up narrowly winning the invite with a grand total 68 points. Doane came up in second place with a total of 67 points.



Courtesy photo | Doane Athletic Department

The team supports freshman Megan Wiley at the top of the 1-1-1 cheer pyramid.

Track wins big

ANDREUS ABNER
Staff Writer

Amid COVID-19 restrictions, the Men's and Women's Track and Field team have only been improving this season with only two meets under their belt this year.

Doane traveled to Concordia University who hosted the Polar Dog Invite on Jan. 22. The Doane Track teams grabbed 12 event wins between the two teams.

On the Women's side, senior Mackenzie Brandl won the 200m dash with a 26.31, ranking her eighth in the NAIA.

Junior Annika Pingel placed second in the 1000m with a time of 3:06, which took her up to ninth place in the NAIA.

As for the field events, freshman Sarah Theiler came in first for high jump, clearing a height of 1.51m.

The Men's team started off strong on the track as freshman Christopher Vincent recorded a time of 7.11 seconds in the 60m dash, earning him first place.

Sophomore Kalen Dockwiler set a meet record and took first place in the 1000m run with a time of 2:33. Dockwiler's time is currently the third fastest in the NAIA.

Winning the 5000m, senior Alec Wick set the meet record with a time

of 15:18, ranking him 13th in the NAIA.

Freshman Zach Turner also came up with a meet record time, clocking in at 8:10 in the 60m hurdles. His performance pushed him into second place in the NAIA.

Finishing off the track events, the 4x400m relay team, consisting of senior Logan Hammond, sophomore Jordan Tasler, Turner and freshman Carter Reckling, took first with a combined time of 3:24, earning eighth in the nation.

The Men kept their prowess in the field as well, with Reckling taking first place in high jump as he marked a height of 1.90m.

Freshman Connor Floyd took first in the pole vault due to clearance attempts and marking a 4.78m, making him

second in the NAIA.

Junior Sergio Arcos grabbed a win on the runway as he stole first place in long jump marking in at 6.67m.

With another strong performance on the runway, senior Tanner Sand won the triple jump with a mark of 14.06m, placing him ninth in the NAIA.

For the throws, senior Matthew Campbell won the shot put with a mark of 15.58m; he remains in seventh place nationally.

The Track team will compete on Jan. 29 and Jan. 30 in the Fred Beile Classic, their last home meet for the indoor season. The two-day meet will be split up with the Men's and Women's heptathlon on Jan. 29 and track and field events on Jan. 30.



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Athlete of the Week



Zach Turner
Track & Field

Won the 60m hurdles and set a meet record time of 8:10 seconds defeating the reigning NAIA Track Athlete of the Week



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