

# the doane OWL

Seeking the Truth Without Favor



Doane Cheer and Dance teams faced off against Concordia and Ann Arbor. See Page 9 for more.

## Doane hosts leadership seminar

**JOHN DAWES**  
Design Assistant

On Jan. 25, Doane hosted its third annual We Build Leaders Symposium. The event featured 70 students from three different high schools and was led by Doane students, facilities and staff to teach these students about leadership and the resources in the leadership department at Doane.

The focus of this year's symposium was on expanding Doane student leader involvement. In order to facilitate this, Doane student leaders helped lead much of the day in order to showcase their leadership abilities.

Three students each gave a presentation at the event, seniors Abrianna Miller and Jaelynn Scott and junior Anabelle Daugherty.

Director of Career,

Leadership and Service Quint Geis recalled the effect he noticed and hoped the visiting students got out of the day.

"Our student leaders took great care in the experience the prospective students had and invested in helping those students grow as leaders so that they can take what they learned to their home environments and make positive change," Geis said.

The goal of having Doane students lead the day was to help present and show the effect that Doane's resources have helped promote within the student leaders and how these resources may continue to help students build their leadership skills in the future.

Geis mentioned that the event aimed to make young students well-versed in becoming better leaders, teaching them different theories and ideas to facilitate this goal.

Assistant Director of

Leadership and Service Nick Knopik noted his hope for the future of the symposium.

"We would love to continue engaging some of the high schools who have attended these past two years and expand our recruitment efforts to bring students from additional schools to Doane," Knopik said. "We also plan to continue tapping into the existing talents of our student leaders on campus to bring the Doane student experience to the forefront of the symposium."

Both Knopik and Geis encourage students to apply to speak at the Symposium next year so they can showcase the leadership skills they learned at Doane and help teach younger students what Doane can do for them. They can be reached at [nick.knopik@doane.edu](mailto:nick.knopik@doane.edu) and [quinton.geis@doane.edu](mailto:quinton.geis@doane.edu), respectively.



Photos by Abrianna Miller | The Doane Owl

## Concealed carry bill proposed

**JOSE VILLALPANDO**  
Multimedia  
Coordinator

According to the Nebraska Legislature's website, a legislative bill that would allow the concealed carry of handguns without a permit was introduced for deliberation to the Nebraska Unicameral on Jan. 5.

The bill, LB77, was introduced by Nebraska Senator Tom Brewer in hopes of authorizing

concealed carry without a permit in Nebraska, applying the restrictions outlined within the Concealed Handgun Permit Act to "any person carrying concealed and not to permit holders only," the bill states.

Along with this, however, any minor caught in possession of a concealed weapon would still be charged with a crime. This would also still apply to any person already prohibited from handling and or possessing dangerous weapons.

According to the Independent, Nebraska's current measures set in place for lawful concealed car-

ry include that a person must be at least 21 years old, pass a criminal background check, pay a \$100 fee and need to take an 8- to 16-hour gun safety class.

The Independent reports that many people are still divided on LB77 as evidenced by parties on both sides of the argument testifying for or against the bill at the State Capitol on Jan. 26.

"The firearm is our greatest security to life, liberty and property," LB77 supporter Steve Davies said.

The National Rifle Association of America's Institute for Legislative

Action (NRA-ILA) argues in favor of LB77 on grounds that law-abiding adults should be legally allowed to carry a concealed weapon without the need of the government's permission.

"[LB77] ensures that citizens have the right to self-defense without government fees, red tape or delays," the NRA-ILA stated in an article about the bill. "Additionally, this legislation maintains the existing concealed handgun license system, so citizens who still wish to obtain a permit may do so."

On the other side, the Nebraska Examiner re-

ported that some law enforcement officials from both Omaha and Lincoln have mentioned how dangerous the bill's passing could be.

"This bill jeopardizes the safety of our city," Lincoln Police Chief Teresa Ewins said.

Speaking to the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee, Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer argued that the proposal of LB77 would take away some regulations that have helped reduce violent crime in Omaha.

"I do not want to reverse our decline in violent crimes," Schmaderer

said. Joining Schmaderer, Douglas County Sheriff Aaron Hanson also noted the possibility of certain "loopholes" in the proposal that would reduce the penalties for unlawful concealed carry from a felony charge to a misdemeanor.

"Let's see if we can strike a smart balance," Hanson said. "Let's make sure we don't create unintended loopholes for criminals."

There is no further information at this time.

# Brad Elder returns to Doane

**KYLIE HUGHES**  
Life & Culture Editor

After spending months in the hospital, Professor of Biology and Crete Volunteer Firefighter Brad Elder was welcomed home.

Elder was released from the hospital on Jan. 27 after being burned in a wildfire back in October. The wildfire changed directions and Elder was engulfed in flames, suffering injuries that required an extended stay in the hospital.

After spending over 90 days in a burn unit and rehab, Elder is finally home.

He was welcomed home by the Doane community. The Crete Volun-

teer Fire and Rescue Department wanted to give him a "Hero's Welcome Home." Faculty, staff and students across the Doane community waved and cheered to welcome him back, creating a big surprise for Elder.

The Volunteer Fire Department also decorated his home.

The convoy of firetrucks came through campus from 13th Street passing the Lied Science and Mathematics Building as well as the south side residence halls.

According to KETV, Elder will be back working at Doane starting Jan. 31.

A poster is available for students to write messages on outside of Elder's office in Lied.



Courtesy photos | Liz McCue



## This Week's Weather Forecast

Wednesday

2/1



High: 35

Low: 16

Thursday

2/2



High: 38

Low: 9

Friday

2/3



High: 34

Low: 28

Saturday

2/4



High: 47

Low: 29

Sunday

2/5



High: 49

Low: 36

Monday

2/6



High: 48

Low: 28

Tuesday

2/7



High: 38

Low: 19

Graphic by Kendall Meyer | The Doane Owl

Weather data retrieved from weather.com.

# Atlanta protests escalating

**JOEY WINTON**  
Managing Editor

Governor of Georgia Brian Kemp declared a state of emergency on Jan. 26 in response to protests over the death of an environmental activist.

According to PBS, the activist, 26-year-old Man-

uel Esteban Paez Teran (who went by the moniker "Tortuguita"), was reportedly shot and killed by law enforcement after he fired a shot at them on Jan. 18.

Tortuguita was one of many environmental activists who lived in the Weelaunee People's Park forest in an attempt to stop it from being destroyed. It is the planned site of a \$90 million Atlanta Public Safety Training Center which is being called "Cop City" by protesters. The development

would include a "mock village" to practice raids, a shooting range and a driving course for practicing chases.

Activists are not only enraged at the environmental harm that the removal of the forest would cause, but also at how it would impact Atlanta's minority populations. The land surrounding the forest is mostly low-income Black neighborhoods, and many in the community are worried about having a police training site so close to a

minority-dense area.

According to USA Today, in response to Tortuguita's death, protesters set a police car on fire and threw rocks and lit fireworks in front of the building that houses the Atlanta Police Foundation on Jan. 21. Officials have said no citizens or responding officers were hurt, but windows of businesses were damaged.

In a State of the State address on Jan. 25, Kemp called the protesters "out-of-state rioters" who

"tried to bring violence to the streets of our capital city," much to the outrage of the protestors.

A total of six people were arrested during the Jan. 21 protest on charges of domestic terrorism and possession of unspecified "explosives." The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center is still on track to be built despite the number of on- and off-site activists who oppose it.

There are no updates as of this publication.

**DOANE**

CONCERT & JAZZ BANDS  
2023 TOUR

- Wednesday, February 8  
Kearney High School
- Thursday, February 9  
Lincoln Northeast High School
- Thursday, February 9  
Lincon Southeast High School
- Friday, February 10  
Waverly High School
- Sunday, February 12, 4:00 p.m.  
Heckman Auditorium, Crete NE

NEBRASKA BUILDERS

**HOME & GARDEN SHOW**

**FEB 10-12**

Fri. 1-9  
Sat. 10-8  
Sun. 10-3

**ADMISSION**

\$8 for adults  
\$7 with a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank of Lincoln  
FREE for children 12 & under  
Sales tax included in the ticket price

**BUY ONE, GET ONE HALF OFF**

Buy one admission, get 50% off the second on Fri. 7-9 and Sat. 6-8

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Home Builders Association of Lincoln

**Lancaster**  
EVENT CENTER

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84th & Havelock  
Lincoln, NE

Ample **FREE** Parking

For a list of exhibitors, visit: [www.HBAL.org](http://www.HBAL.org)

# Laurel murders lead to death penalty case

**JOSE VILLALPANDO**  
Multimedia  
Coordinator

On August 4, 2022, news of four killings in the town of Laurel, Nebraska spread to local authorities, resulting in the apprehension of Jason Jones, 42.

According to an interview on Nebraska Public Radio, Laurel Fire and Rescue originally responded to a report of an explosion at a home at 3 a.m., leading to author-

ities finding 53-year-old Michelle Ebeling's body having been shot in the head and chest. Later that morning, Fire and Rescue responded to a second home where the bodies of Gene, 86, Janet, 85, and Dana Twiford, 55, were found, along with signs that their home had also been tampered with to possibly catch fire.

Jones was arrested within 24 hours of authorities finding the bodies after searching the crime scenes and discovering his name attached

to receipts and a gun. Once authorities attempted to find Jones at his residence, they noticed severe burns over a large part of his body, so they airlifted him to a Lincoln hospital, where he stayed to recover for nearly three months.

Within that time, authorities also arrested Jones' wife, Carrie Jones, for the murder of Gene Twiford and hiding her husband from law enforcement after the authorities reviewed Jones's phone conversations

which indicated Carrie "played a role prior to the murders."

Jones has been charged with 10 felony counts: four counts of first-degree murder, arson and use of a firearm to commit a felony without bail, while Carrie has been charged with first-degree murder as well as tampering with evidence and being an accessory for reportedly hiding her husband at a \$1 million bail, NPR and US News reported.

If convicted, Jones may face a minimum

punishment of life in prison and a maximum punishment of the death penalty.

According to information presented in the NPR interview, committing a crime to hide another crime is called an aggravating circumstance, which prosecutors would only need to prove once for the guilty party to be eligible for the death penalty if convicted of first-degree murder.

For Jones' case, prosecutors are attempting to say Jones had motive

to kill the members of the Twiford family in the "perpetration of or attempt to perpetrate a burglary," while also alleging that he killed Janet and Dana in an "attempt to conceal the burglary and or to conceal the other murders."

If convicted of both first-degree murder and at least one aggravating circumstance, Jones will be tried for the death penalty.

No further information has been provided at this time.

## ACLU criticizes Cox's new legislation

Utah bans gender affirming care for minors

**JOEY WINTON**  
Managing Editor

On Jan. 28, Utah Governor Spencer Cox signed legislation that bans minors from receiving gender-affirming health care.

According to NPR, the law prohibits youths from getting transgender surgery and disallows hormone treatments for minors who have not yet been diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

In a statement, Cox explained that his decision was rooted in his belief that there is still much to be learned about transgender surgeries. He stated that it is necessary to pause "these permanent and life-altering treatments for new patients until more and better research can help determine the long-term consequences."

Among the critics of the bill is the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Utah, which is calling the bill an attack on access to medical care for transgender youth. In a letter sent to the Governor prior to the bill's passing, the ACLU of Utah cites multiple court cases where similar laws were enjoined for violating equal protection



Courtesy photo | Flickr.com

and due process rights.

"This bill clearly discriminates on the basis of sex and transgender status. The bill also infringes upon the substantive due process rights of parents to direct the care, custody and control of their minor children, which includes the right to follow medical guidelines for treatment," the letter states.

PBS reports that more than two dozen bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access have been proposed across 11 states. Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia all have anti-transgender bills up for debate for the new legislative

sessions of 2023.

Texas alone has 35 anti-LGBTQ+ bills already introduced, with three classifying the provision of gender-affirming care to minors as a form of child abuse. This is a direct follow-up for a directive that Texas Governor Greg Abbott instated that ordered child welfare agents to open abuse investigations into parents who let their children receive gender-affirming care.

There are no updates as of this publication.



Soup & Sandwich Feed



**Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023**

1:00 to 6:00 pm

Haddix Arena - Doane University  
1014 Boswell Ave, Crete, NE

**BENEFIT FOR  
BRAD ELDER**



Help support a Crete Volunteer Firefighter,  
Community Member & Doane University Professor!

While helping put out Saline County wild fires on October 23, 2022, Brad was badly burned on 20% of his lower body, the back of both legs, and his left hand, and has been in the hospital since the accident. He has been back and forth between St. Elizabeth and Madonna in Lincoln for surgeries and is doing extensive rehab in order to get home.

Crete Volunteer Fire and Rescue and Doane University are hosting a benefit for Brad and his wife Amanda to help out with personal & medical expenses as Brad has a long road of recovery ahead of him.

The public is invited to attend the benefit which will feature a **free will donation soup and sandwich dinner** along with a **silent auction**.

**TO DONATE ITEMS FOR  
THE SILENT AUCTION:**

Contact CVFD Chief Tod Allen at 402-560-6240  
or Nikki Wells at 402-418-2031.  
Items must be received by **Jan. 26, 2023**.

If you cannot attend the event, but would like to bid on auction items, please watch the **Crete Fire & Rescue Facebook page** for a link to the auction.



Monetary donations can also be sent to help cover Brad's medical expenses at  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/5uc2q5-brads-medical-expenses>



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## Doane Crime Log

The Doane Safety Office reported incidents in their public crime log. Incidents reported between Jan. 23 and 30 include:

- 1/23 **Larceny/Theft : Theft From Motor Vehicle** : Campus Property - Doane Crete : Parking Lots : Lot B
- 1/26 **Larceny/Theft** : Campus Property - Doane Crete : Academic Buildings : Perry Campus Center : Upper Level : Dining Hall
- 1/27 **Vandalism** : Off Campus - Crete



Photo by Abrianna Miller | The Doane Owl



Photo by Jose Villalpando | The Doane Owl

(Left) Construction progresses on the new residence hall. The date of completion is near January 2024. (Right) Nyrop Hall showcases a display of the furniture and set-up of the rooms in the new residence hall.

## Res hall construction progresses

**ABRIANNA MILLER**  
Editor-in-Chief

Doane community members on the north side of campus have noticed the rapid build of the new residence hall

(res hall).

Before Winter Break, scaffolding and preliminary structures were put up at the construction site. With the winter weather and holiday season, many did not expect much progress to be made on the building,

but students returning to campus from break were pleasantly surprised.

“I’ve been surprised by how quickly it seems to have progressed,” senior Mandi Laib said. “I just mostly feel bad that the workers are out there in such cold weather.”

Now, the new res hall has exterior walls and continues to grow each week.

Students have the chance to get a sneak peak of what the rooms in the new res hall are going to look like. Student Affairs sent out an email

to all students on Jan. 30 announcing an exhibit of the new hall’s furniture options.

The email says there are three displays and a QR code at the exhibit to collect student feedback.

The exhibit is located in Nyrop Hall in Perry

Campus Center, right in front of the bookstore. It will be available for viewing until Feb. 10.

## ASC provides tutoring updates

Tutoring is starting this week and here are some things you should know:

You can request a tutor by filling out the paper form found in the Academic Success Center (ASC). Please note that there is an expectation that anyone who requests a one-on-one tutor be meeting with their assigned tutor at least once a month. However, pre-scheduled weekly meetings are the option that provides the most success.

If you don’t feel like you will be needing a one-on-one tutor at least once a month, then the Help-Desk might be the perfect option for you! The Help-Desk is open from 7 to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday.

The current sched-

ule is in a google document here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gzy9EgyTw-cGgkRcuPB-JA0xK-MVv8-Ax/edit>.

This schedule is subject to change to incorporate some new tutors. Using this link will ensure that you are able to see an up-to-date schedule.

Another option is to follow the ASC on Instagram or Facebook at @doane.asc. We post updates on the HelpDesk, Group Tutoring and Test Preps regularly along with updates from Georgie, the ASC support dog!

Another change to the tutoring side of the program is the opportunities for training.

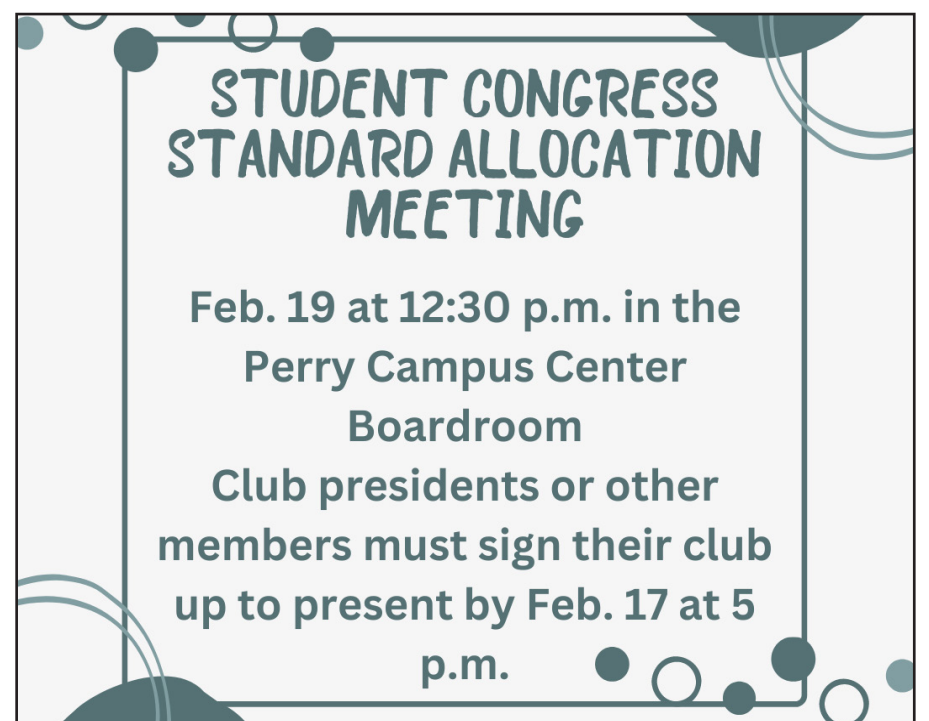
This semester an online training course has been implemented as a

resource for all tutors and as a requirement for all new tutors. These training modules were designed in accordance with the College Reading and Learning Association’s (CRLA) International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC) Level 1 standards.

Along with this training, all tutors meet specific GPA and grade requirements as well as being recommended by a professor.

For any questions or to learn additional information about tutoring, you can contact Jill Kline at [jill.kline@doane.edu](mailto:jill.kline@doane.edu).

Jill Kline



Graphic by Kendall Meyer | The Doane Owl

## StuCo to give out club allocations

**KYLIE HUGHES**  
Life & Culture Editor

Student Congress (StuCo) will be renewing standard allocations for the Spring of 2023. Clubs and organizations interested in gaining the allocations must attend the Standard Allocation meeting.

This meeting will be held on Feb. 19 at 12:30 p.m. in person in the Perry Campus Center Boardroom.

The meeting is designed for club presidents or treasurers to present a several-minute presentation about their plan for the upcoming year.

According to the email

sent out on Jan. 27 from StuCo Doane, the presentation should include details about the club, the plan for the upcoming year, the constitution, fundraising they have done or plan to do, service projects and, then, if they would like the standard allocations for supplies, speakers and receptions.

Club presidents or other members must sign their club up to present prior to the meeting. The last day to sign up for the Standard Allocation Meeting is Feb. 17 at 5 p.m.

This meeting will not be for organizations that would like special allocations to host a banquet. A representative of the group will need to meet

with StuCo for special allocations later in the year.

On the sign-up sheet sent out in the email, students can sign up their organization for a three-minute time slot. StuCo encourages club representatives to show up at least five minutes early. If you show up late, the meeting will move on to the next club. StuCo also encourages students to sign up for earlier time slots so that the meeting will be efficient.

Students only need to sign up their club if they are requesting allocations.

StuCo hopes to notify members of the club or organization in a timely manner as to their allocations.

**S** Southeast  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Register for Spring  
Discovery Days

- Take a campus tour
- Meet with SCC staff to answer your questions
- Meet with SCC instructors
- Attend a student panel and talk with current SCC students
- Learn about SCC resources
- Learn about financial aid and how to pay for college

BEATRICE  
March 25  
April 22

LINCOLN  
March 11  
April 4  
April 11

MILFORD  
March 4  
April 1

Register at [www.southeast.edu/VisitSCC](http://www.southeast.edu/VisitSCC)

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Troy Novak (402) 641-1526  
Real Estate Salesperson

United Country First State  
Realty – Broker (402) 792-2820

## Weekly Horoscopes

**Aquarius (January 21 - February 19):** This might be a challenging week in terms of relationships. It might feel as though nothing is working out in your favor. Take a step back and come back to relationships at another point.

**Pisces (February 20 - March 20):** It may feel as though this is going to be an unproductive week. However, do not be so hard on yourself. Even things that feel unproductive may be beneficial like a nap.

**Aries (March 21 - April 20):** Making decisions is going to be harder for you than it normally is. Every question and decision you have to make will come with hesitation. Push through that. You know best.

**Taurus (April 21 - May 21):** People who are important to you may be in conflict this week. It is hard not to get in the middle of it yet also work to restore peace. If anyone is able to do it, it is you, Taurus.

**Gemini (May 22 - June 21):** Focus is not on your side this week. It is going to be a little challenging to get your work done but with a little extra energy, you are still able to.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22):** You are going to have a very easy time spending money this week. Maybe a little bit too easy. It may also feel a little more challenging to make money too. Be cautious about your finances for the upcoming days.

**Leo (July 23 - August 22):** People are going to be draining your energy for the next few days. Try your best to spend some time alone and interact less with people. However, be careful not to burn any bridges in the process. You still need these people in your life.

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22):** It is time to re-evaluate all of the relationships in your life. If there are people who are only hurting you or give less than they take, it might be time to cut them out of your life. Recognize that you deserve better.

**Libra (September 23 - October 22):** This is going to be a great opportunity to go out and meet people. You are going to feel more outgoing than usual Libra. Use that extrovert energy to go out and make new friends or start some networking.

**Scorpio (October 23 - November 21):** Take some time to think about how you effect people. In other words, what has been your legacy over the past couple months. If it is not what you want go out and change it to be what you want.

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21):** Take the next step or a leap of faith this week. Ask for that raise in work or make things more serious with your significant other. This is the week when these risks are most likely to pay off.

**Capricorn (December 22 - January 20):** This week is going to be full of surprises. There is no way to prepare for these surprises but always be aware of what could be coming up next and be flexible, Capricorn.

# Glow Casino Night to come soon



Courtesy graphic | SPB

**DEI Climate Survey**

Fill out the email sent by DEI on Jan. 19 and share your experiences to enter yourself into a raffle.

Complete by Feb. 21 to participate.

→

Graphic by PJ Ramsey | The Doane Owl

## DEI survey to gain new perspectives

**KYLIE HUGHES**  
Life & Culture Editor

The Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) put out their inaugural Climate Survey. This survey was sent to all students as well as the Doane community on Jan. 19.

Those who take the survey are able to share their experiences within the university community, and members of DEI use this to continuously improve experiences with belonging and inclusion at Doane.

"We appreciate the opportunity to learn about your perspectives and experiences with belonging

and inclusion at Doane during August [to] December 2022 so that we can understand the climate at Doane University and continuously work to improve it," the email from DEI said.

The survey can be found in the email sent out by the DEI from Vice President of DEI Luis Sotelo. It is expected to take 15 to 25 minutes. Those who complete the survey will be entered into a raffle to win a Visa gift card. The higher the response rate is from the Doane population, the more gift cards will be given away at a higher amount.

For example, anything under a 45 percent response rate will lead to

four Visa gift cards with \$20 each. This continues all the way up to anything over a 65.1 percent response rate giving out 10 gift cards worth \$50.

To input information into the raffle, those who participated in the climate survey will be taken to another survey to put in personal information for the raffle. However, responses and contact information will be held in separate files. Therefore, responses to the climate survey remain anonymous.

The Climate Survey must be completed by Feb. 21 and DEI faculty thanks those for their participation and sharing their experiences.

## Doane Dialogue hosts final session

**JOHN DAWES**  
Design Assistant

Starting on Feb. 2, Doane will feature its final Doane Dialogues event, which is called "Equity vs. Equality." The virtual event will feature a multitude of speakers who will speak about current issues involving equity, accessibility, access and equality, as well as ways to address these problems.

The event has three sections. The first is on

Feb. 2, called "Equity and Equality; Is there a difference?"

The second will be held on Feb. 9, called "Racial Equity; What are we afraid of?"

The final session will be held on Feb. 16 and is called "Equity in Accessibility."

Each session will take place at 12 p.m.

Participants that attend two out of the three sessions will receive a designation that can be displayed, identifying their completion of the series. The designation will be presented at a Doane Dialogues reception

later in the year.

All participants who sign up for the "Equity vs. Equality" dialogue will receive an invite with the Zoom link and content for each session prior to the session. Not all sessions will have readings or pre-work.

Students who are interested in attending the Doane Dialogue, can find a sign-up form sent out to all students, staff and faculty via their email. The deadline to sign up is Jan. 31, the day of this publication.

## Intramurals kick off with basketball

**JAKOB TADLOCK**  
Journalism Student

Intramural basketball is getting ready to start up, and they are looking to have a good showing of teams this year to account for last year.

Coordinator of Intramural Basketball sophomore Remi Freeman has high hopes for this season of intramural basketball.

"Right now there are seven teams signed up, but we are hoping to get that up to eight or ten teams," Freeman said.

Jan. 29 was the first

day of the four-week season. The games consist of two 10-minute halves. Each team keeps track of the score themselves. Each team will only play one game each weekend for the first three weeks. The fourth weekend will be tournament style so the teams will be put into a bracket. Tournament seeds are determined by each team's record from the first three weeks.

Freshman Joaquin Gutierrez who plays on the intramural team "Tiger Mafia" said it was an overall good experience.

"It's going to take all of us to win," Gutierrez

said.

Gutierrez and his team won their first game, starting their season off 1-0 and will look to keep that up next week.

After the tournament is complete and a winning team has been crowned, each member of that team will receive a \$25 Casey's gift card.

Students are welcome to go to George and Sally Haddix Recreation and Athletic Center at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday to watch the intramural basketball games.

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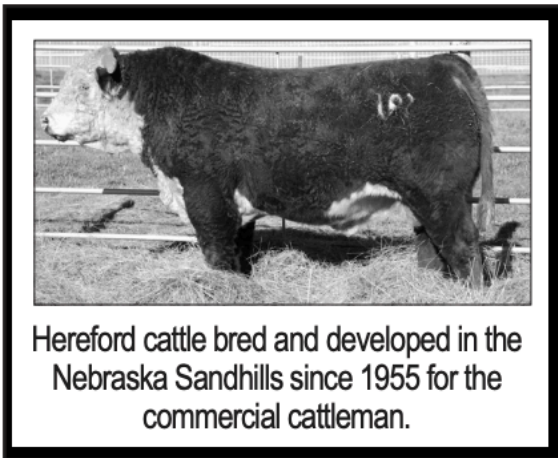
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Jan. 31 – Feb. 6

<b>Tue 31</b>	FCA Weekly Meeting
<b>Wed 1</b>	First Day of Black History Month Condom Club DULSA Weekly Meeting Emerging Leaders Session 1
<b>Thu 2</b>	Groundhog Day Doane Dialogues: Series 3 Part 1 CRU Bible Study Relay for Life Committee Meeting
<b>Fri 3</b>	Cheer and Dance Invitational Glow Casino
<b>Sat 4</b>	Rosa Parks Day Benefit for Brad Elder
<b>Sun 5</b>	Intramural 3x3 Basketball Student Congress Weekly Meeting
<b>Mon 6</b>	Love Shouldn't Hurt Campaign CRU Bible Study

# the Doane Owl

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### The Doane Owl

strives to inform, enlighten and entertain students, staff and faculty while maintaining high journalistic standards of accuracy and truthfulness.

The Doane Owl is published weekly under the authority of the Doane College Student Media Advisory Board. It is available every Tuesday of the academic year on [www.doaneline.com](http://www.doaneline.com) or by requesting an attachment to an email from [owl@doane.edu](mailto:owl@doane.edu).

The Doane Owl Editorial board consists of: Abrianna Miller, Joey Winton, Kylie Hughes, Jose Villalpando and Cassie Kessler.

The Doane Owl welcomes signed Letters to the Editor of 400 words or fewer. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. on the Sunday prior to publication. Submissions should be addressed to the editor and sent to the Doane Owl through campus mail, placed in the box outside of Gaylord 130 or emailed to [owl@doane.edu](mailto:owl@doane.edu). A hard copy of the letter must be signed in the presence of the Editor-in-Chief by 7 p.m. the Monday before publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.

Flag photo by Elenna Koenig

- STAFF EDITORIAL -

## Educate yourself during BHM

With February looming just around the corner, we at the Owl want to take the time to discuss the importance of Black History Month.

The United States was built on the backs of people stolen from their homes and sold into slavery to experience horrendous conditions and treatment.

When the country was first established as the United States, people of color, and specifically Black people, were not even considered people. They were merely

property used as free labor for wealthy landowners.

Even after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, it wasn't until two years later that the last of the slaves were given their freedom, where Juneteenth comes from.

However, it wouldn't be until the signing of the Voting Rights Act that Black people were given the right to vote and would have the same rights as white people on paper.

Aside from the attacks on repealing the Voting Rights

Act, the United States still has a long way to go in terms of providing Black people with equitable treatment. Police violence against Black men has been an issue for several years now, as well as numerous other offenses.

Take time during Black History Month to educate yourself either through the Division for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion's programming or on your own.

Knowledge truly is power, especially when it comes to issues concerning the hu-

man condition. And in a time when spreading information has never been easier, be sure to criticize your sources and fact check. Much of the information we consume each day is not accurate, and we must be aware of that fact.

Black History Month doesn't begin or end when the calendar hits February. It should be a year-round effort to understand the past and make plans for a better future.

## Not takes; "The Last of Us"

A weekly rating of random things by Joey Winton

of when an adaptation of a video game is done right.

You can really tell how much time and effort went into making the show and how well the team behind it all worked together. The game's creator and the director of HBO's "Chernobyl" are the two main directors behind the show, and it's the perfect balance of atmospheric ambiance and heart-racing tension and action.

You don't have to have any prior knowledge about the games to enjoy the show which is the clearest sign of an adaptation done well. I cannot recommend this show enough; it's unbelievably good and is currently sitting at a well-deserved 97 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

"The Last of Us" can be viewed on HBO Max.

JOEY WINTON  
Managing Editor

I hope you're ready for Hot Takes... is what I WOULD say if I were doing a ranking this week.

Instead, I'll be talking about HBO's "The Last of Us" TV series that debuted earlier this January. For those who might not know, "The Last of Us" is based on the video games of the same name and is essentially a drama set in a zombie apocalypse.

The show stars Pedro Pascal as Joel Miller, a disgruntled ex-father, and Bella Ramsey as Ellie, a 14-year-old girl who is immune to being infected, as they make their way across the country in an attempt to get Ellie to a lab so a cure can be developed with her blood.

In the first three episodes that have been released, the show makes paying the fee for HBO Max worth every penny. Seriously, it's REALLY good. It's a rare example



Courtesy photo | IMDb.com

## Apples on top of the fruit chain



JOHN DAWES  
Design Assistant



Courtesy photo | Flickr.com

I can't explain it, but I have an apple addiction. They are the highlight of every meal I have. I horde two to three every time I go to the caf so that I can bring them back to my dorm and munch on them like I am a horse. For a long time I loved apples but thought bananas and strawberries might be better fruits. I've finally opened my eyes to the truth: apples are the best fruit of all time.

Bananas are great; who doesn't love potassium? They are exciting to open, they are

healthy and they are good on the go. But there's no reward when you eat one because it is simply mush, very tasty fruit mush, but still mush. Mushy bananas might be the worst thing ever, in fact I despise them, so bananas have slid down my ranking.

Strawberries are, well, strawberries. Consistent, fresh and always enjoyable. But upon reflection, just because strawberries are a solid 7/10 to 9/10, they never reach the peaks of apples. When you crunch an apple,

you feel almost primal. It is spectacular, but with a strawberry, you just kinda munch it. It is just a really good water berry.

Now apples, I mean you have literally everything. Versatility in flavor, it can be sour, sweet, tart, I mean there's 7,000 different flavors of apples- there's bound to be a salty variant out there. But the best part about an apple is eating it. It's crunchy, it's soft and it's flavorful. An apple is like three fruits in one.

I think horses must have the best lives ever, they can eat an apple core and all in one bite. For one day I'd like to know what that felt like. But I can't, because I remember in third grade some classmate said appleseeds are poisonous, and I don't know about you, but I hate poison with as much passion as I love apples.

# Switching to wishing for better



**ABRIANNA MILLER**  
Editor-in-Chief

Instead of lamenting on the past two horrible weeks that I have had, I am going to turn my complaints into wishes. It will make sense as I go, I promise.

I hope that my grandma is not in pain. I hope that the care facility she is in will take better care of her and watch for symptoms more closely. My biggest desire is for her to play the piano again before she passes. It was her first love, her first connection to God and her first introduction to a better life than the one she had as a child.

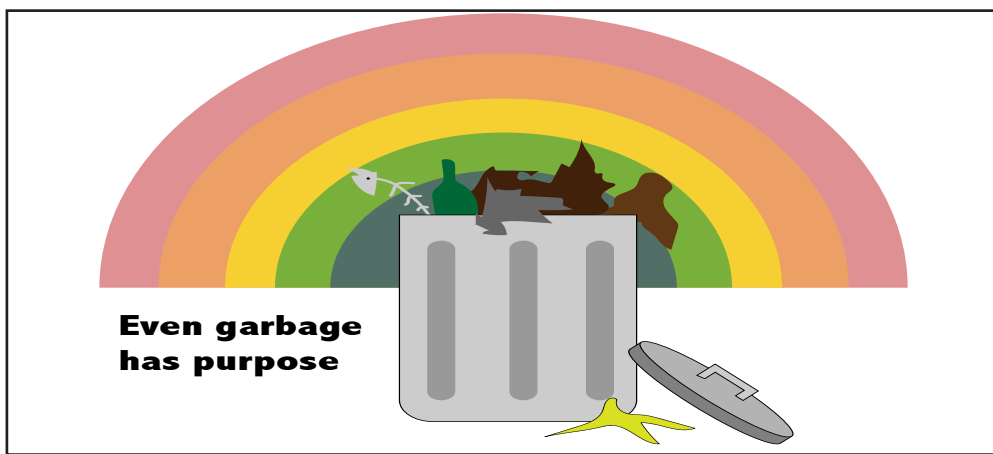
I hope that people choose to be honest and confront uncomfortable things. Nothing can be solved if nothing is understood. There is true value in having open communication, and I hope that people can digest that fact and match it with their actions.

I hope my dog runs around for as long as she can because tomorrow may be her last day.

I hope she begs for belly rubs in below-freezing temperatures until she is ready to go to bed. I hope she remembers how much I love her.

I hope the people reading this understand the importance of standing up for what you believe. Standing back and letting things go because it is easier only works for a while. Someday you will find yourself surrounded by people you don't like, doing things you don't enjoy and wishing you made different decisions. I hope you realize that sooner rather than later.

I hope I can allow myself to accept the love of the people around me. Instead of dodging attempts at deeper relationships, I hope I let myself lean into it. Love shouldn't be scary, so I hope I allow



Cartoon by Joey Winton | The Doane Owl

myself to indulge in it every once in a while.

I hope I learn how to balance all of my responsibilities effectively. I wish I could magically make that happen, but I just need a little more time to get it done.

I hope I don't let bad people get under my skin and ruin my time. It's not worth giving the time of

day to people who don't even deserve consideration- whether that attention is intentional or not.

There is too much to complain about, and I have been a serial complainer for the past couple weeks. I'm ready to flip the script and try to be more hopeful (not my strong suit). This is just the beginning of a

very long list of wishes I have moving forward, but these are the ones I want to hold myself accountable for because they are the most important and impactful.

My mindset is not going to change in one week, but it's worth giving it a try anyway.

# Bundled up for functionality



**CASSIE KESSLER**  
Sports Editor

Hey everyone, welcome to my opinion piece. Today the word generator thought it would be a little zany – kind of wild – if we talked about the word “clothes.” Before we get any further, make sure you smash that like

button if you want more content like this and subscribe to my channel. Now let's get into it.

You may have noticed that it has become a wee bit chilly outside these days, and by a wee bit I mean absolutely unbearable. While the easy thing I find myself doing most days is cursing the weather and wishing I lived in not Nebraska, something was recently brought to my attention.

To quote one of my professors, “There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing.” Now this really got me thinking because originally I was a little peeved. How are you going to tell me that a “feels like” temperature of negative eight degrees is not bad weather?

However, I then cast my mind back to the elementary school days. I was wearing the biggest puffer jacket, with a scarf, gloves, a hat, probably a



Courtesy photo | Richard Kessler

couple pairs of pants and snow boots. Naturally, I would strip all the winter gear the second I got inside, but I know for a fact I was not holding my fingers in pain when I got

inside.

That's because I just did not care about how ridiculous I looked; I just knew I refused to be cold. Then somewhere along the way I decided to

adopt the age old saying, “it's better to look good than to feel good.”

Guys, I'd like to interrupt this story real quick to acknowledge something that really gets me through the day. Chobani Greek yogurt has billions of probiotics and is rich in protein, using only all natural ingredients. This is the perfect post-workout, pre-workout, quick break snack, and I find myself going back for another cup every time, especially their key lime flavor. Chobani Greek yogurt – authentically crafted.

The older you get, or so I've found, the less and less this seems logical. It makes sense to some, myself included, to always try and look their best. Why should someone who wants to look nice and feel good about themselves have to sacrifice comfort?

Is this story the most winded way of telling

you guys that I have re-discovered why little kids look like marshmallows in the winter? Yes. But in all seriousness, you should never feel stupid or ridiculous for bundling up, especially in these temperatures where frostbite is a real concern.

Maybe you think you look weird, but everyone you see is passing. When you get to your destination, you can take all the layers off and show off your super stylish outfit. Just don't let any type of social pressure – real or perceived – force you to sacrifice your comfort.

# Tech-filled concerns



**ISABEL HENSON**  
Staff Writer

Social media has its positives, but it has completely ruined our attention span and original thought.

I think it's awesome that we are able to communicate with our friends and family so much easier, but our generation has been greatly impact-

ed by social media and the repercussions. We can hardly remember a time where social media wasn't at the forefront of our thoughts. From Tumblr to TikTok, we are constantly faced with new and improved technology that can't seem to slow down.

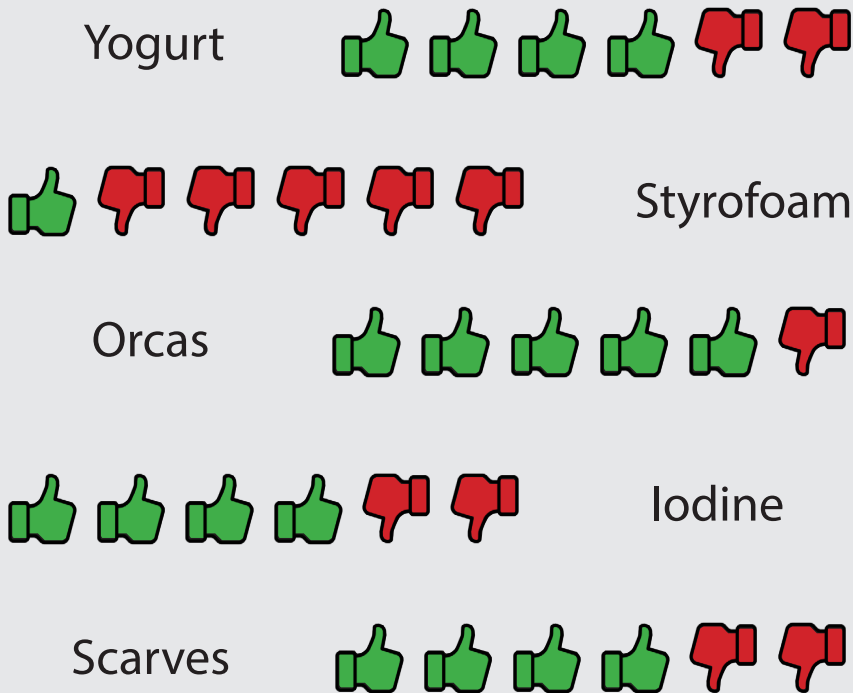
I'm currently taking a class where we talk about social media and the media in general, and it has completely changed my view. It was something I had given thought to but never understood just how powerful the media is in today's world. We are slaves to our phones and have so much information at our fingertips that we can't form our own original thoughts anymore. With new AI chat rooms and things, people feel like they don't need to form their own opinions and can use the internet to do school work.

I wish I could have lived in a time where so-

cial media didn't exist and we had to go to other lengths to reach people. I'm beyond sad to see generations after us struggling with mental health and not understanding how toxic social media is.

As kids, our generation was exposed to things I still haven't forgotten in years. It is a toxic environment, and I wish we were able to have a little bit more of a childhood before being introduced to social media.

## ...THUMBS UP



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...



# T&F put up big marks at home meet

**ABRIANNA MILLER**  
Editor-in-Chief

Doane Track and Field hosted the Fred Beile Classic on Jan. 28, walking away with a combined total of 16 NAIA qualifying marks.

The Women ended the day with six qualifying marks.

In the weight throw, junior Macy Fuller threw 16.57m, earning her second place and a spot at nationals. Fifth-year Allison Skala also secured her place at nationals in the shot put with 13.46m. Also in the shot put, sophomore Alivia Baucom met the NAIA mark with a fourth-place throw of 13.00m.

Freshman Kennedy Stanley was the only other athlete on the field that

came away with a NAIA mark, as she hit 3.42m in the pole vault, coming in at third.

Junior Sarah Theiler finished third in the high jump (1.59m), and freshman Rosalyn Roggash came in second in the triple jump (10.60m). Sophomore Lindsay Adams went on to win the long jump with a distance of 5.43m.

The other two NAIA marks earned by the Women came from the track.

Senior Annika Pingel ran a personal-best time of 1:35.91 in the 600m run, allowing her to win the event and secure a spot at nationals.

Adams walked away with a qualifying mark in the 60m hurdles and finished the event in third

(9.05).

Coming in second place in the 60m dash was senior Isabel Bothwell (7.86). The 200m dash would see freshman Morgan Mahoney take the win (26.61), while fellow freshman Candela Manrique finished in third in the 400m dash (1:02.28).

Senior Rachel Walters and fifth-year Allie Binder both came in second, Walters in the 800m (2:30.55) and Binder in the 3000m (10:57.16).

The 4x400m relay team won the event with 4:13.85. The team consists of Pingel, Manrique, senior Caitlyn Cotton and Mahoney.

The Men would end up leaving the meet with 10 NAIA marks.

Sophomore JaDae Moore started with a per-

sonal-best time of 6.82 in the 60m dash, earning him a spot at nationals. Senior Kalen Dockweiler (8:41.01) and junior Thomas Oliver (8:42.11) also hit a NAIA mark in the 3000m run.

Junior Zach Turner walked away from the 60m hurdles with a win and a qualifying mark with 8.12.

Fifth-year Austin Drake (22.48) and freshman Joaquin Gutierrez (50.24) won their respective events of the 200m dash and the 400m dash. Senior Kingdon Hawes also won the 600m with 1:23.39.

Junior Duncan Blankenship would come in second in the 800m with 2:00.65. Freshman Jordan Kwiatkowski ran the 1000m with a time

of 2:46.38, coming in third. In the mile, freshman Will Dawes finished eighth with a time of 4:48.34.

The 4x400m relay team of Drake, freshman Caleb Mulder, Gutierrez and junior Andrew Mahoney won the event with a time of 3:25.08.

The six other NAIA marks for the Men would come from the field.

Sophomore Dylan Starr hit the mark in the high jump with a height of 2.01m, also allowing him to win the event.

Fifth-year Matthew Campbell earned marks in both the weight throw (20.21m) and the shot put (15.52m). He won the weight throw and came in second in the shot put. Also in the shot

put, senior Luke Partridge walked away with a NAIA mark, coming in third with 17.73m.

Following suit in the shot put, sophomore Trey Dickey came in fourth (16.60m) and junior Jaedon Lothrop came in fifth (16.58m). Their throws earned each of them a NAIA qualifying mark.

Senior Mike Pullium reached 4.40m in the pole vault, putting him in fifth place.

Senior Jack Krejci walked away in second place in the long jump (6.49m), and sophomore Sam Boldt also finished in second in the triple jump (13.48m).

Both Track and Field teams will be back in action on Feb. 3 at the Concordia Classic in Seward, Nebraska.

# W. Wrestling hosts Cheer & Dance compete

**CASSIE KESSLER**  
Sports Editor

The Women's Wrestling team had a busy week, hosting their first dual in program history before competing in the Saint Mary Open. Despite dropping the dual, big marks would be put up in both sets of matches.

Freshman Karina Vang opened the dual at 109, grabbing four takedowns to win the match 10-0. Freshman Brooke Cox picked up a loss at 116 of 12-2 after her opponent recorded three

takedowns.

Freshman Cristelle Rodriguez faced off against her opponent for the third time this year, defeating her for the third time, with a score 12-1. Freshman Hannah Nix was pinned in her match, allowing the Broncos to go up 15-9.

Freshmen Aevri Ciha and Maya Blackman both added victories via pin in their matches. However, both freshmen Lamia Benn and Victoria Hernandez were defeated by their opponents from Hastings, who would go on to win the dual 25-19.

After a disappointing loss at home, Doane was on the road to Leaven-

worth, Kansas to compete in the Saint Mary Open. Rodriguez was one of the Tigers with a big achievement that day, winning an individual title at her weight class.

Vang would finish in third place at 101, only dropping a single match throughout the day. Blackman would follow suit, grabbing a third place finish after dropping a singular match. Ciha added two more wins at 143 and Benn had an additional win at 170.

The Women's Wrestling team's season continues to ramp up as they compete in Des Moines, Iowa on Feb. 4 for the Grand View Open.

**CASSIE KESSLER**  
Sports Editor

The Cheer and Dance teams opened their competitive seasons in a home dual against Concordia-Ann Arbor University. They would then continue on into the weekend in Orange City, Iowa for the Northwestern Invite.

Both teams kicked off their season on Jan. 26 in Crete, hosting Concordia-Ann Arbor University. Dance opened the night with their competition routine, which is a combination of jazz,

pom and hip-hop.

The Dance team posted some big numbers, winning the dual 82.50 against Concordia's 73.90. However, the Cheer team could not match the success found prior and dropped their dual with a score of 65.60 to Concordia's 73.45.

Both teams then braved the storm to head to Orange City, Iowa, where they would later get stranded. Dance once again kicked things off, competing against Hastings College, Dordt University and Northwestern College.

It was another successful performance for the Dance team, who scored 82.23 to win against all three other teams. Cheer took on those same three teams, plus MidAmerica Nazarene University and Dickinson State University.

They scored similarly to their first performance, with 64.10 being their final score. They finished in last place against the five others.

Both teams will be competing in the Doane Invitational in Crete on Feb. 3.

# Men's Wrestling takes on conference

**CASSIE KESSLER**  
Sports Editor

On Jan. 28 the Men's Wrestling team was in Sioux City, Iowa to compete in the second day of the Great Plains Athletic Conference Duals. Doane would face off against University of Jamestown, Dakota Wesleyan University and Morningside University before the day was up.

The first matchup would be against James-

town, whom the Tigers would break the single season win record against. Sophomore Hunter Bennett and freshman Devin Avedissian both pinned their opponents for clean sweeps of their matches.

Senior Baagii Boldmaa wrestled all three periods to win 18-3 over his opponent. Junior Nate Lendt picked up a 3-2 win with a takedown early in the match. Senior Tristan Zamilpa and sophomore Benjamin Dobler both recorded forfeit wins.

Senior Michael Scarponi added a 19-4 win, followed by senior Garrett Cornwell who added a 12-5 win at 184. Junior Bradley Antesberger made his return to the mat with a 16-1 win, and junior Samuel Peterson closed out the victory with a pin.

After a 51-0 win over Jamestown, Doane was then going against Dakota Wesleyan. Senior Daniel Vargas opened the match with a big win of 22-5 over his opponent.

Avedissian added another clean sweep win of 16-0.

Boldmaa had another big win of 25-10, and Lendt would add another forfeit win for Doane. Zamilpa won 8-3, while senior Chinges Tsermaa and sophomore Cael Jordan added two more forfeit wins.

Freshman Cooper Spaulding was the only Tiger unable to secure a victory, but it was made up for by Cornwell and senior Brandon Antes-

berger who closed the second dual with two more wins. Doane won 45-3 and went on to the final match against Morningside.

This match was not nearly as successful for the Tigers, as their conference win streak would finally come to an end. Vargas started the day off with a win but was followed by Avedissian falling to his NAIA-ranked opponent.

Boldmaa and Lendt would put Doane back

on top with back-to-back wins on the mat. Zamilpa was forced to forfeit due to injury, giving Morningside another victory. The Mustangs continued gaining momentum with a win over Dobler.

Scarponi and Tsermaa added back-to-back losses before the Antesberger brothers won both of their matches. However, it would not be enough to win the match and Morningside would win the dual 16-18.

The Tigers will remain

# Basketball has action-packed weekend

**CASSIE KESSLER**  
Sports Editor

Both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams were engaged in another action packed week. The Women's team started in Omaha against College of Saint Mary before returning home, where both teams would host Midland University.

Despite an early run by the Tigers, the Flames would catch right back up in the second quarter. Doane flipped from out-scoring the Flames 18-14 in the first to being out-scored 29-15 in the second. They trailed 43-33 at the half.

The third quarter started off with some back and forth, sophomore Mak Hatcliff

regaining the lead for Doane with a pair of three-point baskets. The Tigers were back on top during the third, flipping the script on the Flames by out-scoring them 27-9.

The fourth quarter was the most evenly matched of the quarters, but the Tigers were able to hold fast to the lead. Doane capped off the season sweep of the Flames with a win of 82-72.

Both teams returned home on Jan. 28 to host Midland University. The Women's team was the first to take on the Warriors, defeating them on the road 89-83 the last time they met.

Things were fairly evenly matched in the first quarter despite be-

low average shooting from Doane. Midland led 13-12, a lead they would not see for the rest of the game. The Tigers came back with a vengeance in the second quarter, holding the Warriors to just five points.

Coming back from halftime, Doane was leading 27-18 and refused to let up. Doane led in the third quarter with 16 points, and doubled down in the fourth quarter with 26 points. The Tigers would complete another season sweep, defeating Midland 69-41.

Next up against the Warriors was the Men's Basketball team, who lost to Midland 89-74 on the road in their last matchup. Doane was out to a slow start in the beginning of the first half,

trailing 21-10. However, they started connecting on more shots and were able to pull within two at halftime.

Coming back from the half, Doane was down 29-27 but started the half far better than the previous one. The Tigers jumped out to a 42-33 lead, but back-to-back runs from either team kept the score close. With two and a half minutes to play, everyone was tied up at 63.

A minute left in the game and the Warriors were back in front courtesy of a layup. Despite tying things back up, a foul sent Midland to the line to shoot two, putting them back in front.

There were just seven seconds left when Doane got the ball down court

to sophomore Brady Timm in the corner. A last second three pointer would be the buzzer beater Doane needed to win the game 70-69.

Both teams will be in

Hastings, Nebraska on Feb. 1 to play against Hastings College before going to Orange City, Iowa on Feb. 4 to compete against Northwestern College.

## Athlete of the Week



**JaDae Moore**  
Track & Field

raced to a personal best time of 6.82 seconds to post a NAIA automatic qualifying time as well as the third-fastest on the Doane record books in the 60m dash.



1302 Linden Avenue (402) 826-3784

## Scoreboard Snapshot

### MEN'S WRESTLING

January 28 @ SIOUX CITY, IOWA  
versus UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN

TIGERS  
51-0

versus DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

TIGERS  
45-3

versus MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY

MUSTANGS  
16-18

### WOMEN'S WRESTLING

January 24 @ HOME  
7:00 versus HASTINGS COLLEGE

BRONCOS  
19-25

January 27 @ LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS  
SAINT MARY OPEN

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

January 28 @ HOME  
3:45 versus MIDLAND UNIVERSITY

TIGERS  
70-69

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

January 25 @ OMAHA, NEBRASKA  
2:00 versus COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY

TIGERS  
82-72

January 28 @ HOME  
1:00 versus MIDLAND UNIVERSITY

TIGERS  
69-41

### CHEER & DANCE

January 26 @ HOME  
9:00 versus CONCORDIA-ANN ARBOR UNIVERSITY

CHEER [ 2 of 2 ] DANCE [ 1 of 2 ]

January 28 @ ORANGE CITY, IOWA  
NORTHWESTERN INVITE

CHEER [ 6 of 6 ] DANCE [ 1 of 4 ]

### TRACK & FIELD

January 28 @ HOME  
FRED BEILE CLASSIC

### MEN'S TENNIS

January 28 @ FREMONT, NEBRASKA  
2:00 versus SAINT MARY (KAN.)

TIGERS  
7-0

## Next week for Tiger Athletics

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

February 1 @ HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
7:45 versus HASTINGS COLLEGE  
February 4 @ ORANGE CITY, IOWA  
3:45 versus NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

February 1 @ HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
6:00 versus HASTINGS COLLEGE  
February 4 @ ORANGE CITY, IOWA  
2:00 versus NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

### MEN'S WRESTLING

January 31 @ YORK, NEBRASKA  
7:00 versus YORK COLLEGE

### WOMEN'S WRESTLING

February 4 @ DES MOINES, IOWA  
9:00 GRAND VIEW OPEN

### CHEER & DANCE

February 3 @ HOME  
DOANE INVITATIONAL

### TRACK AND FIELD

February 2 & 3 @ HOME  
GROUNDHOG DAY MULTI-EVENTS  
February 3 @ SEWARD, NEBRASKA  
CONCORDIA CLASSIC

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

February 4 @ KEARNEY, NEBRASKA  
5:00 versus METROPOLITAN STATE OF DENVER