Dance Marathon is back in the limelight as tonight marks the 20th Big Event at the University of Iowa. A lot has changed in Dance Marathon over the past 20 years. Mary Schlapkohl, a nurse practitioner in child oncology, attended the first planning meeting for Dance Marathon 1. She said it has been amazing to watch the event transform. “Back then, I would’ve never guessed that it would’ve grown to the level that it is at today,” she said. “Not just financially, but more importantly, to our families. [Dance Marathon] has really become an integral part of the care we provide.”

Twenty years ago, the dancers were on their feet for 36 hours compared with the current 24. The 1995 Dance Marathon raised $31,000, helping around two dozen families. Dance Marathon in 2013 raised $1,529,650.19, and now the organization reaches more than 700 families. Dance Marathon 20 Executive Director Daniel Morse said one of the biggest things is the roots Dance Marathon has created. When the first Dance Marathon occurred, some UI freshmen were not yet born. Morse said students now have brothers, sisters, cousins, and even parents who participated, and he sees the tradition continuing.

DANCE MARATHON
FROM AN IDEA TO A SENSATION
IT BEGINS

by MEGAN SANCHEZ
megan.sanchez@uiowa.edu

Participants dance during Dance Marathon in the IMU Main Ballroom on Feb. 3, 2013. Dance Marathon raised $1,529,650.19 that year. (The Daily Iowan/Joshua Housing)

WEATHER
HIGH
LOW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2014
DAILYIOWAN.COM
50¢

For as long as she can remember, Taya Melendez has loved to dance. At 9 years old, she takes dance classes and, at home, enjoys playing “Just Dance” with her brother Miles on their Wii. And once a year, she gets to dance in front of a sea of lime green. This weekend will mark the seventh year her family has attended the University of Iowa Dance Marathon’s Big Event.

As a third-grader, Taya is a normal little girl. She goes to school, sleepovers, and her siblings’ soccer games. It might seem typical, but for her parents, it is a miracle. At 13 months old, Taya was diagnosed with leukemia. “Everything stops,” said her mother, Tera Melendez. “We didn’t have a clue, and at that time … we didn’t even have a cell phone. Now, at the touch of a button you can figure out an idea of what you’re getting yourself into … we didn’t know, and we

DANCING BACK FROM LEUKEMIA

By REID CHANDLER
william-r-chandler@uiowa.edu

‘95 ‘97 ‘99 ‘01 ‘03 ‘05 ‘07 ‘09 ‘11 ‘13
$0 $500,000 $1,000,000 $1,500,000
TOTAL RAISED: $12,738,161.24

‘08 $1,003,464.14
‘05 $979,214.00
‘00 $500,000
‘98 $31,000

A record-breaking history
The first UI Dance Marathon in 1995 raised $31,000. Last year, the Big Event raised more than $1.5 million. Will dancers break their record again this year?

by RENEE HANDLER
rennie-handler@uiowa.edu

Dance Marathon 20 works to honor past, present, and future.

Participants dance during Dance Marathon in the IMU Main Ballroom on Feb. 3, 2013. Dance Marathon raised $1,529,650.19 that year. (The Daily Iowan/Joshua Housing)
Johnson County’s proposed budget comes out to roughly $97,991, with no change to taxes.

Assessor budget to rise 4-plus%

Iowa City officials reported a budget surplus for fiscal 2013 and are beginning the budgeting process for fiscal 2015.

By DANIEL SOURL<br>north-outdoors@daily-iowan.com

The Iowa City Assessor’s proposed budget for fiscal 2015 was the main topic of discussion for the Iowa City’s Johnson County Conservation Board at a Thursday meeting.

The budget totals $908,055, an increase of 4.47 percent from the fiscal 2014 budget. The proposal was approved by a 3-2 vote.

The city released its comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal 2013 on Thursday. The report showed $18,075,000 in total revenue for the city, with only $15,204,000 in expenses — creating more than a $2.8 million surplus.

A surplus isn’t unusual, said City Councilor Susan Mims, noting that the city has a budget surplus nearly every year. Mims said because property owners aren’t collecting taxes until later in the fiscal year, the city needs revenues from the previous fiscal year to cover expenses until the taxes are collected. Additionally, city officials over-budget in case of unexpected costs.

“Some of that surplus is simply necessary for cash flow,” said Mims. “If it’s not used, you need a cushion.”

This type of surplus is also reflected in the assessor’s budget. Though the total is more than $900,000, only $725,271 will be raised by taxation. The rest will come from a surplus of last year’s budget, said Iowa City Assessor Dennis Baldwin.

The assessor’s carryover total is $1,355,000, which is $1,384,873 in excess of current fiscal 2014 expenses.

This carryover total represents 1.3 percent, 2.2 percent and 1.3 percent of total revenue from the previous years.

Salary expenses will also rise, as employees of the assessor’s office will see an increase of $410 percent. Of this increase, 2,125 percent was the average increase based on merit.

Though this isn’t an unusual increase, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, who will make the final increases during the next fiscal year, will be watching the numbers closely to see what changes to the plans the assessor has made.

“I think we’ll have to look at it and see how it’s working and if there are any things we need to change,” said Councilor Jim Throgmorton.

Supervisors’ budget proposal for fiscal 2015 includes projects and a conservation fee, with little change in the overall budget. The total budget is $97,696,320.

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The Iowa City Assessor’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report can be found on the city’s website: <https://www.iowacity.gov/finance/annual-report-year-2013>.
Women, Land, and Legacy, which recently expanded to Johnson County, aims to better serve women in agriculture.

By Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Monte Kispert)

UI freshman Dylan Buchheit and a group of friends snowboard down the Old Capitol hill on Thursday. (The Daily Iowan/Margaret Kispert)

The county is the newest addition to Women, Land, and Legacy statewide organization initially strove to serve female farmers whose husbands had passed away, inheriting the responsibilities of the farm.

Women, Land, and Legacy, an outreach program in Iowa that gathers women around the state to talk about agriculture and natural resources on a local level. The Johnson County chapter held its first event Thursday, a listening session, at the Iowa State University Extension office, 4330 Oak Crest Hill Road.

The goal of the session was to discuss and sort out their ideas and concerns, and then ask them at the end of the season, ‘What would you like to take place in Johnson County?’” said Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, one of the founding members of the Women, Land, and Legacy statewide team. “It’s completely based on the local interests and local needs.”

The session was to discuss and sort out women’s concerns about the land and agriculture. “The big thing is we listen to them, we listen to their ideas and concerns, and then ask them at the end of the season, ‘What would you like to take place in Johnson County?’” said Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, one of the founding members of the Women, Land, and Legacy statewide team. “It’s completely based on the local interests and local needs.”

The Women, Land, and Legacy chapter in Johnson County, aims to better serve women in agriculture.

Meyer-Dideriksen and other members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Outreach Council developed the legacy group 10 years ago after realizing that historically, white male farmers were the department’s traditional customers, and female farmers were being underserved.

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The state Board of Regents could be feeling more hopeful about providing the University of Iowa with a new, much-needed facility despite a previous rejection. UI officials went before the regents with what they consider to be a “high priority” at the regents meeting on Thursday.

Rod Lohmeyer, the UI Facilities Management director of planning, design, and construction, presented the $66.3 million proposal to the board — but not for the first time.

In the last few years, the regents struggled to garner support for the project. During last year’s planning phase, the regents halted line-item vetoed the planning funding for the project but restored funding for a new facility last month.

The governor had toured the old building on Oct. 24.

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When we talk about class, we typically focus on the economic and financial hurdles that people with lower incomes must overcome, but there’s another important part of this story that’s often overlooked: culture. People of different social classes have their own distinct worldviews, preferences, customs, and even mannerisms. Like ethnic, racial, and religious identities, culture is an aspect of social class that’s often overlooked because of the way we see the world. But instead of getting the pleasure of watching Harry and Hermione grow and understand each other, we saw them struggle and fight. The emotional connection between Ron & Hermione 4ever was so close, we saw them get close to Hermione. But instead of getting the pleasure of watching Harry and Hermione grow and understand each other, we saw them struggle and fight. The emotional connection between Ron & Hermione 4ever was so close, we saw them get close to Hermione. But instead of getting the pleasure of watching Harry and Hermione grow and understand each other, we saw them struggle and fight. The emotional connection between Ron & Hermione 4ever was so close, we saw them get close to Hermione.
Legislature mulls lowering gun age

Iowa representatives are discussing legislation on gun control.

By LILY ANDREFF
lilyandreff@thedesmoinesregister.com

Twelve-year-old could potentially shoot a handgun in Iowa if a bill in the state Legislature passes.

On Jan. 30, a House subcommittee passed the bill, which would lower the legal age that minors may own a firearm under supervision.

Rep. Dave Jacoby, D-Coralville, said he expects the bill will have to go through a long process and jump through many hoops before it comes to fruition.

The next step, he said, will be for proponents of the bill to discuss whether or not the legal age should be lowered from 14 to 12 or be done away with altogether.

“There is quite a ways to go,” he said. “Our hopes for that bill are that we will still have disagreements on whether or not the bill should be 14, 12 or zero.

The representative of the Second Amendment Foundation in Iowa, Rob Curry, said although he only has preliminary knowledge of the bill, he would like to learn what legislators want to lower the legal age.

“Any gun control bill, if it is to be of any value, it must be based on a consensus,” he said.

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the ledge

by Garry Trudeau

The Supreme Court Of India Recently Declared, "Lagu Making It A Child Is Born Day!"

To Commemorate That Hopelessly Decisive Decision, Ask The Intern To Buy Official Day Stuff To Do

by Scott Adams

Superman

-Most Marvelous Moment of the Day

Easy Way To Name Your Child: 1. Get Legal Advice. 2. Choose A Name. 3. Ask Your Baby. 4. Congratulations!

You're Running Out Of Time!

Today's events

English Language/Business Courses, noon, 513 Peabody


Reception for Colloquium Speaker Paul Hanson, 3 p.m., 3505 Seamans Chemistry Building

Environmental Engineering and Science Graduate Seminar, "Scale Effects On Radioactive Waste," Robert Kopper, 3 p.m., E174, Seamans Center

"Chemistry Colloquium, Module Interactions in Materials Science" and Bozokian Colloquium, Road conscious Talk of the town, 3:30 p.m., UI Museum of Art

School of Music Presents: Heidi Worsham, piano, 8 p.m., Theater Building Thayer Theater

Big Bad Wolves, Bijou After Hours, 11 p.m., FilmScene

"Oscar Shorts — Live Action," 8:45 p.m., FilmScene

Lights, 15 S. Dubuque

English Language Discussion Circles

School of Music Presents: Heidi Worsham, piano, 8 p.m., Theater Building Thayer Theater

Naturally 7

UI Museum of Art February First Friday

Global Chill

10 p.m.- Midnight

- 9 p.m., Evening Show

2 p.m.- 4 p.m., Sports Talk

4 p.m., Jan Davis Lodge

6 p.m., The Level Car

7 p.m., Slippery

8 p.m., Community Bakery

9 p.m., Midnight Global Chill

Submit an event: To submit an event appear here, first submit the details at dailyiowan.com/submit or call 384-0298.

Submit Today’s Events

Events appear here

Aries (March 21-April 19): Hard work will pay off. Consider making professional changes or even starting your own business. Your options and opportunities are growing. Take on extra work, and you will be praised for your ability to get things done. Keep life simple.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Do your best on any given task. You will get the response you are looking for if you are innovative, charming, and passionate about what you do. You are in the stars, and romance will enrich your personal life. Make plans a secret.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Double-check any information you receive. Problems dealing with interpretation are apparent. Offer help, but don’t commit to something that will end up becoming a burden. Put greater emphasis on your personal finances and friendships. Apply the same plan to your relationships.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Show everyone what you are capable of taking on a challenge, or learn a new skill. This will attract the people around you and the way you carry about yourself. The way you contribute will help you explore unique avenues, and you will discover your creative niche.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Don’t rely on others. Get things done, and let others know how prepared you are to make your own decisions. The people around you are ready to support your ideals and enthusiasm.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don’t give in to emotional blackmail. Size up your situation, and make a judgment call based on facts and realistic ideas. And plans. A change in a relationship will occur if you mix money matters with friendship. This enhances your ability to get along.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your timing must be impeccable. Watch out for someone who might snub you. Look for a situation that will help you see the light, and avoid getting involved in something you want to pursue. Love is highlighted, and likely to take an unexpected turn.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Making plans to socialize or to spend quality time with someone you love. Romantic, creative endeavors, and getting together will make your month colourful. You can get away with your strong, independent, and few is what you are worth.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look to make plans to socialize or to spend quality time with someone you love. Romantic, creative endeavors, and seeing your place will make you the focus of any attention you get. You can get away with your strong, independent, and few is what you are worth.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider doing things a little differently. Taking what you know works and giving it an unusual twist will attract attention, allowing you to drum up interest in something you want to pursue. Love is highlighted, and likely to take an unexpected turn.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do whatever you expect. Once you’ve dealt with your obligations, you will be free and clear to do your own thing and make changes that can do you good. Not everyone wants to hang around, but you have the ability to change people’s mindsets.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Do what’s expected of you. Once you have dealt with your obligations, you will be free and clear to do your own thing and make changes that can do you good. Not everyone wants to hang around, but you have the ability to change people’s mindsets.

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that it started off with just a few people, been alive,” she said. “It’s crazy to think has been around virtually as long as I’ve

said this growth is one of the most amaz-

A second-story room was set up for the 100-plus

hour to the group circles, many

of construction projects at the IMU.

clude bands South Six Five, Jocelyn, and

expecting a huge alumni turnout,” he

and energy that former leaders still have

said. “I’m excited to see the excitement

for Dance Marathon.”

Morse said he is excited to see the

Dance Marathon community come to-

gather.

With its being the 20th year, we are

and now we have over 100 people on lead-

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Dance Marathon 20 will feature a vari-

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From families sharing their stories
every hour to the group circles, many

traditions have been formed throughout

the past 20 years. No matter how much changes, the same messages always press
true. It’s all for the kids.

Melendez said those who are experienc-
ing this life-changing event for the first time are in for a serious treat.

“I really love to watch first-year danc-
ers,” she said. “It’s really fun to watch someone experience [Dance Marathon] for the first time because it’s almost like getting to experience [your] first year again, which is a magical experience.”

TAYA

continued from front

The Melendez family had to juggle pro-

viding for four children, hospital bills, and additional costs such as gas to and from Iowa City from their Muscatine home as well as parking fees. But the family was forced to make ends meet with few re-

sources.

Taya’s immune system was too weak to play in daycare — something Jose didn’t want to do so Taya would be alone.

For the rest of the Melendez family, their second Dance Marathon liaison, a college student named Lily, made the big-
gest impact.

“She spoke to her the most, communi-

cated with her the most,” Taya’s older sis-

ter, Reyna said. She’s currently a junior at

Mansions on the Moon. The event will

for Dance Marathon.”

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ers,” she said. “It’s really fun to watch someone experience [Dance Marathon] for the first time because it’s almost like getting to experience [your] first year again, which is a magical experience.”
She got her points, but it’s nice to have that consistency,” Looper said. “The player getting the most attention recently has been Megan, who recently cracked the Top 50 Watch List for USA Softball Player of the Year. The honor is coming off a season in which she batted .472—with a single-season record for Big Ten home runs. Blank knows that her recognition is well-deserved, but it is in the past, and her focus is on the upcoming season well. It’s definitely an honor to see on a list with some of the top players in the country. I’m happy for what happened last year,” Blank said.

The Hawkeye softball team is as prepared as ever.

Women: Iowa 28, Penn State 21

Looper echoed those thoughts and said she is excited about the future of the program.

“It’s a huge step for us to be in the conference and the visibility for each game. It’s great for the program, because people know Iowa is coming. We used to be one of the best teams in the country.”

Polls don’t really matter, though, the Hawkeye softball team will make their own destiny.

“I’ve always wanted to be a head coach. That’s a given,” Looper said. “I think we’re starting to see the end of our rebuilding team, with most of the players on the roster returning from last season. The team has a new mindset and play at a different level. It’s like we’re starting to see the fruits of our labor.”

The team will kick off the season at the Carolina Classic at 12:30 p.m. today in Columbia, S.C.

“Now you’re going to have to struggle while head coach. With a return to the upper echelon and a new year, so I am trying to forget and build on what I did last week, we sat here and Caffery said. “You know, it’s always a sense of urgency and importance there’s always a sense of urgency and importance.”

Not all of the Iowa team were ready for that against some of the best teams in the country.

“Tomorrow is a sense of optimism for their new head coach. With a return to the upper echelon and a new year, so I am trying to forget and build on what I did last week, we sat here and Caffery said. “You know, it’s always a sense of urgency and importance.”

Iowa’s pitching was falling like apples in autumn. Iowa State’s offense was falling like apples in autumn. For the Hawkeye softball team, that meant going into the conference and the visibility for each game. It’s great for the program, because people know Iowa is coming. We used to be one of the best teams in the country.”

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Swan song for three

BY JASON DEYHE
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In Iowa's first road loss of the season, a 76-67 loss to Michigan on Feb. 9 against No. 9 Michigan, the Hawkeyes were not alone. In fact, she was not alone with the Feb. 9 game. Instead, she made her fifth-straight start.

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