

## News To Know

### Politics **INSIDE:**



#### DEMOCRATS SEEK MORE INCLUSION

### Iowa Democratic leader talks strategy

Iowa Senate Minority Leader Rob Hogg, D-Cedar Rapids, hopes Iowa Democrats will



ignore party labels and place more focus on policy issues. After Republicans took control

this year of both state legislative houses, Hogg hopes what he calls the Republicans' fiscal mess could sway moderate voters to vote Democrat. **Politics, 5**

### Iowa baseball loses again

The Hawkeyes could soon be eliminated from the National Baseball Congress World Series. On Tuesday, the team lost its second game in the series to Mulvane. If Iowa loses again on Thursday, it is out of the series. **Sports, 8**



### The Mother's Milk Bank celebrates 15th anniversary

The Mother's Milk Bank accepts donated breast milk to give to families in need. When the bank began in 2002, it handled fewer than 20 bottles a month — now, it distributes between 700 and 1,400 bottles a month. **News, 3**

### Universities to be investigated for 'race-based discrimination'

The U.S. Department of Justice will soon investigate colleges that use affirmative action in their admissions process. *The New York Times* obtained a document announcing the search for lawyers interested in participating in "possible litigation related to intentional race-based discrimination in college and university admissions." The University of Iowa's operations manual has a section discussing affirmative action. It states the UI uses affirmative action as a tool to achieve diversity and is committed to the principle of equality for all people.

## WEATHER

HIGH 84 LOW 66

Mostly sunny at first, turning cloudy, 30% chance of rain/T-storms

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# Risky drinking down at the UI, data shows

High-risk alcohol consumption on the UI campus is on the decline, but students still experience more negative consequences than the national average.

By **MARISSA PAYNE** | marissa-payne@uiowa.edu

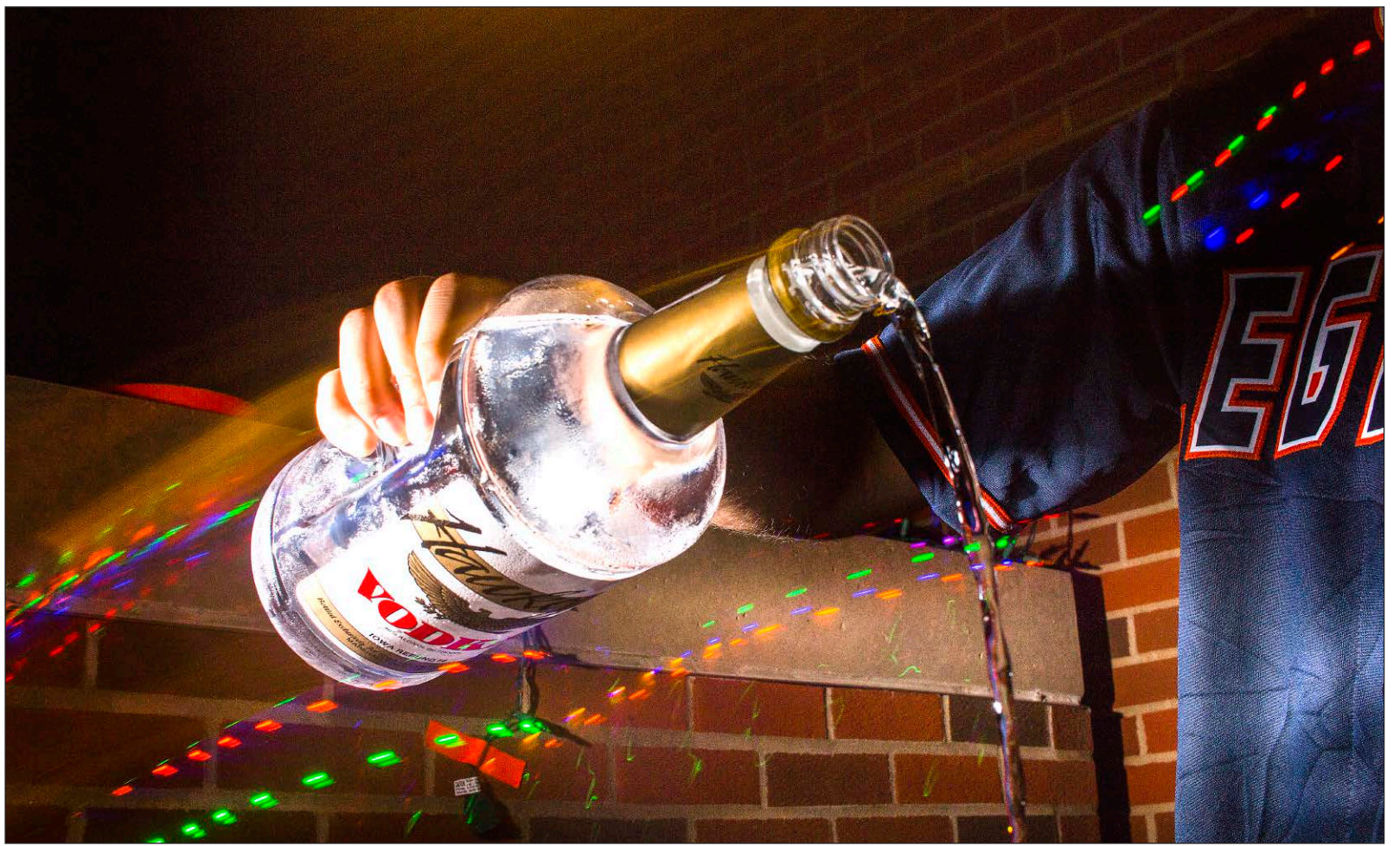


Photo Illustration by Joseph Cress/The Daily Iowan

High-risk drinking among University of Iowa students is at its lowest in 25 years, according to data from an annual survey, but students still experience more negative consequences from alcohol use compared with other campuses nationwide.

The 2017 National College Health Assess-

ment's anonymous survey of 622 UI students revealed that since 2012, high-risk drinking — which is defined as consuming five or more drinks on one occasion in the last two weeks — has fallen from 64.1 percent to 50.5 percent.

In 2009, the UI formed the Alcohol Harm

Reduction Advisory Committee to address unsafe alcohol consumption on campus under the leadership of former Vice President for Student Life Tom Rocklin. The committee released its third Alcohol Harm Reduction Plan

SEE DRINKING, 2

## Police, community bond in Night Out

The police join the community for the 34th-annual National Night Out in an effort to build trust among neighborhoods and the department.



Gage Miskimen/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City Police Chief Jody Matherly hands out temporary tattoos to kids at the National Night Out in Weatherby Park on Tuesday. The event gives the community a chance to meet with police officers.

By **GAGE MISKIMEN**  
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The sounds of music and kids playing filled Wetherby Park on Tuesday as community members came together to get to know each other and meet the police officers of the neighborhood.

The event was put on by the National Association of Town Watch and

sponsored locally by the Iowa City police. Nationally, around 15,000 communities partake in the annual event from all 50 states, and event organizers estimate more than 38 million people participate in the events nationwide.

Rob Cash, an Iowa City neighborhood-response officer, said National Night Out gives officers

a chance to put faces to their badges.

"Anytime you open the conversation with law enforcement and the community, it helps with trust and getting to know the community," he said. "Anytime we can do that, it bridges a potential gap, and that's our main goal."

SEE POLICE, 2

## Alcohol in parks passes its first test

An ordinance allowing alcohol in local park shelters passed its first consideration at the Iowa City City Council meeting Tuesday night.

By **MOLLY HUNTER**  
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An ordinance amendment allowing alcohol in local parks through a permit process passed its first consideration on a 6-1 vote at an Iowa City City Council meeting Tuesday. Councilor Rockne Cole was the sole vote against the amendment.

Juli Seydell Johnson, the city director of parks and recreation, said public support for the ordinance is high.

The ordinance would allow wine and beer in a park shelter as part of a park-shelter reservation. Alcohol would only be permitted within the boundaries of the shelter structure.

Only 82 12-ounce cans of beer would be allowed, or the equivalent, Seydell Johnson said, and a ban on glass containers would be added later as an administrative rule.

Councilor Susan Mims said she supports the change.

"There's been a lot of interest," she said. "I think the restrictions staff has put in are a good way to start. I think it's something that, like with any new policy, we may have to come back and review depending on compliance."

Councilor John Thomas said it is important to keep an eye on how well the policy works.

If alcohol-related disturbances occur, the city will hear about it through the police or Parks Department, City Manager Geoff Fruin said.

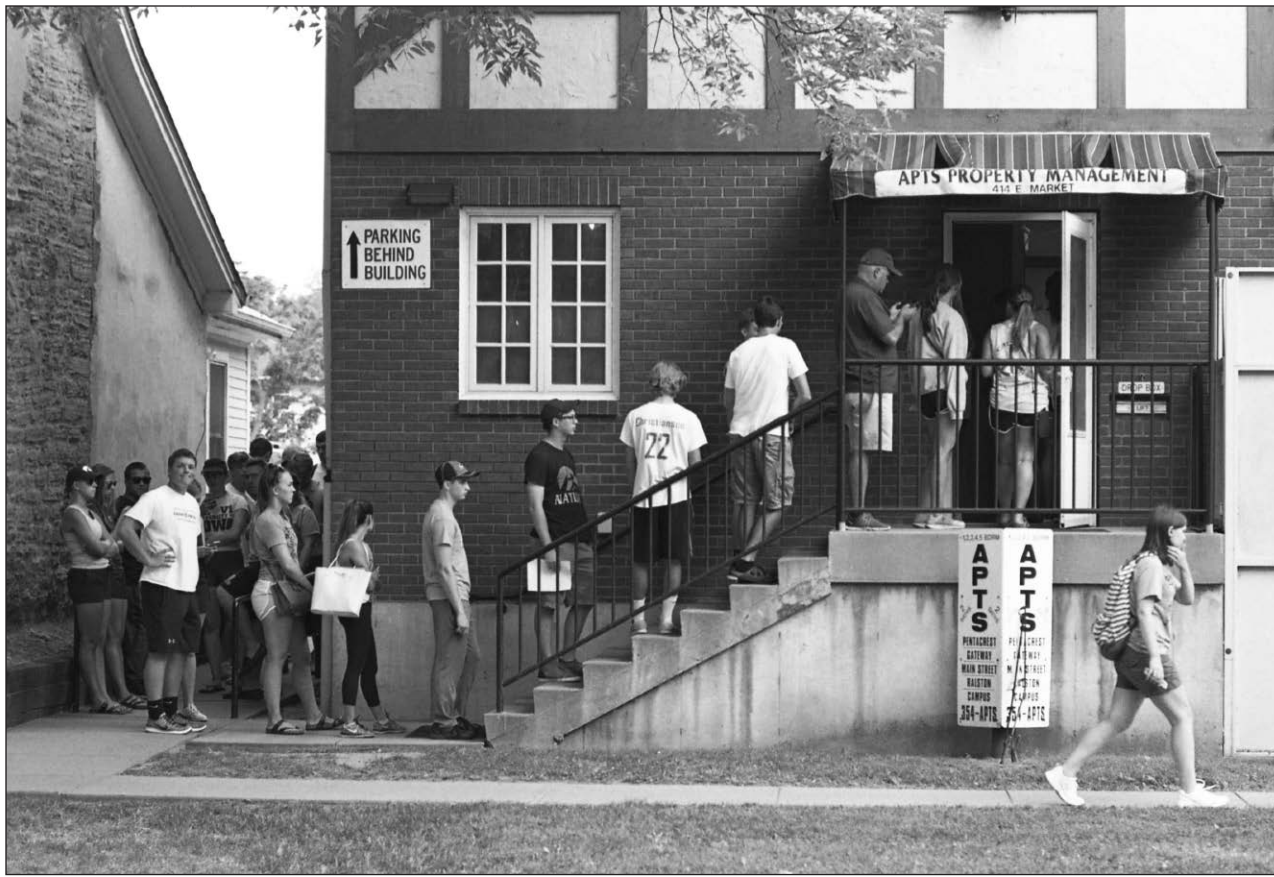
"I'm not too worried about figuring out if this works or not," he said. "I think it'll be pretty clear when there are problems, and we may have to come back to you and ask for some



Seydell Johnson  
director

SEE PARKS, 2

RITEs OF AUGUST



James Year/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City residents and University of Iowa students line up at an apartment-management office on Tuesday morning in a traditional Iowa City ritual celebrating the beginning of August.

DRINKING  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

spanning from 2016-19 last year.

One metric of success highlighted in the plan's current version is to reach a target of 20 percent of students drinking 10 or more days per month. The national survey found the UI surpassed this target early, dropping to 19 percent.

"I'd like to thank the Alcohol Harm Reduction Advisory Committee for its steady and fruitful work at addressing this campus issue," UI Vice President for Student Life Melissa Shivers said in a press release. "While this latest report shows our progress, it also shows us that there is work still to be done nurturing a healthier culture to maximize student success."

Ongoing efforts to address high-risk drinking

The number of students experiencing negative consequences from drinking has not been significantly reduced — since 2012, it has dropped from 58.3 percent to 56.6 percent, according to the survey data.

The UI Student Government passed a reso-

lution in November 2016 to encourage the state Legislature to adopt medical-amnesty policies to protect underage people from prosecution in the event of a medical emergency caused by the illegal possession or consumption of alcohol.

The Iowa Senate passed a medical-amnesty bill in March, and the Iowa House will vote on it in the next legislative session.

Although UISG led the initiative to ensure safety for those who do engage in high-risk drinking, the larger issue of changing the perception of drinking requires the participation of parents, students, and the community at large, Tanya Villhauer, the UI Student Life associate director of harm reduction and strategic initiatives, said in the press release.

"High-risk drinking isn't inherent to being a Hawkeye, and with everyone's help, we can continue to make progress on improving the undergraduate experience and giving students the best chance for success," she said.

UI President Bruce Harreld said in a May interview with *The Daily*

*Iowan* that the UI would need to take a look at its Orientation program to reach people as they join the campus community but also not ignore other student populations.

"I think it also raised the question of what are we doing beyond Orientation — because every year maybe we need to

formals. They also temporarily banned alcohol at all Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council events.

The bans were an acknowledgment of a "pervasive and dangerous alcohol culture that exists within" the greek community, the statement said.

Greek community leaders did not respond to re-

'That we have a high-profile death, and we think that something about the culture in which that person lived contributed to it, that can energize us, and I think it has, as far as the greek community goes.'

— Tom Rocklin, former VP for Student Life

have some deeper conversations about this," he said. "We also have transfer students, as well as graduate students, and it's raising the question of how we can help them. If they aren't a first-year incoming student, they don't get into our Orientation, so we're missing a large portion of our community."

Campus tragedies re-energize efforts to reduce high-risk drinking

After the deaths of UI students Sean Wu and Kamil Jackowski in April, UI greek life leaders announced in a statement an immediate and permanent ban on out-of-state

quests for comment by the time of publication.

In his May interview, Harreld said efforts to address high-risk alcohol consumption would be most effective if they were student-led rather than initiated by the administration. Conversations would take place with student leaders regarding the issue this summer, he said.

"We shouldn't be bearing it, we need to be talking about it, addressing it, confronting it," he said. "And the more we do that, hopefully, the more awareness, and the safer the campus will be ... It's not just campus, this is maybe a societal issue. I don't believe drinking is just a greek is-

POLICE  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

A 2016 Gallup Poll says 56 percent of Americans have confidence in the police, up 4 percentage points from 2015, which was the lowest percentage in 22 years.

Another Gallup Poll states 76 percent of Americans have a "great deal of respect" for the police in their area, a 12 percent point increase over 2015.

Sara Torres, an Iowa City resident who attended the event with her kids, said events such

as these are important to build relationships with the police as well as the neighborhood.

"Sometimes, we see police officers portrayed in a negative light these days, so when they can be at events like this, and participate, and play with children, it builds trust in the community," she said.

Ashton Hayes, the Iowa City community-relations officer who has led the event for two years, said it creates a lot of events with the community in her position.

"I help with these different community events so people can come talk

to us, have coffee with us, play bags with us," she said. "We want to get to know the people in the neighborhoods."

Along with meeting the officers, kids of the neighborhood played bags, jumped in the splash pad, ate watermelon, and put on temporary tattoos of a police badge. The police also gave out Frisbees and fidget spinners.

Cash said the department also partnered with Target to give out school supplies for children. Random names were drawn, and the winners were given backpacks re-

lated items.

Valerie Kemp, one of the original organizers of the Iowa City National Night Out and a former probation officer, said it's nice to continue this particular event and others like it for sake of community bond.

"I think it's incredibly important to understand when they're on duty, they're doing their job. You may not like it sometimes, but events like this puts human faces behind the officers," she said. "If a neighborhood knows their officers, they can mutually work together to keep the neighborhood safe."

PARKS  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

changes or any administrative rules, put in some additional restrictions."

Seydell Johnson said that currently, alcohol is only allowed at the Park Lodge in Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, 579 McCollister Blvd., and the Ashton House, 820 Park Road. She said there have not been any issues in the past to indicate the city should not go through with the change.

Fruin said there are

other cities comparable in size with Iowa City with similar policies, and they did not report any issues with their alcohol policies.

"I think people are responsible when it comes to use of the park," Councilor Kingsley Botchway said.

The ordinance would not require a separate permit or insurance to have alcohol in the reserved park shelter. Seydell Johnson said the security deposit required to reserve a shelter will cover the cost of any damages.

"We currently do most of the shelter rentals online now, and if we were to create a separate permit, that would require folks to move from the online venue of reserving this to in-person," Fruin said. "It was an extra step that we didn't feel was necessary."

The Park Commission also had concerns about the additional cost of requiring insurance, which would amount to about \$100 per event, Seydell Johnson said.

"They thought that would just deter people from getting the alcohol

permit, and they would continue to use the alcohol in the parks," she said.

Cole voted against the ordinance because there will be no permitting process or insurance requirement.

"We should hook our permitting process to special events," he said. "I understand that there are various complications associated with this, but I really felt that we should have a permitting process in place, and I do think we should have the liability insurance."

The Daily Iowan

Volume 149

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**PUBLISHING INFO**  
The Daily Iowan (USPS 143.360) is published by Student Publications Inc., E131 Adler Journalism Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2004, daily except Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, legal and university holidays, and university vacations. Periodicals postage paid at the Iowa City Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 2, 1879.

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Subscription rates:

Iowa City and Coralville: \$20 for one semester, \$40 for two semesters, \$10 for summer session, \$50 for full year.  
Out of town: \$40 for one semester, \$80 for two semesters, \$20 for summer session, \$100 all year.

Send address changes to: The Daily Iowan, 100 Adler Journalism Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2004

Issue 30

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sue. I don't think it's just a university issue."

Rocklin told the *DI* in June he believes incidents such as the deaths of Wu and Jackowski energize the community around combating the issues, but he thinks efforts to address them in the long run need to be guided by broader examinations of what is going on.

"When we have a student die, whether it's a

high-profile death or not ... that just breaks my heart," he said. "... That we have a high-profile death, and we think that something about the culture in which that person lived contributed to it, that can energize us, and I think it has, as far as the greek community goes. I think the students stepped up themselves and said, 'We want to change some things about the culture, reduce the risk associated with the activities that we engage in.'"

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## As surely as the seasons, State Fair approaches

The Iowa State Fair promises regular attendance and new thrills this year, despite the recent Ohio State Fair accident.

By DENISE CHEESEMAN  
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Despite a midway accident that killed one and left several more injured at the Ohio State Fair last week, Iowa's own festivities remain on track.

The Iowa State Fair will run Aug. 10-20 and is expected to draw around 1 million people hungry for eats on a stick and a glimpse of the Butter Cow.

Fair manager Gary Slater said the fair has regularly grown by approximately 100,000 people each decade since the 1980s, and attendance has hovered around the 1 million mark since 2004.

"You look at the population of Iowa, 3 million people; if we get 1 million people through the door, out of that, in 11 days, we're pretty proud of that fact," he said. "I don't know if, as a population base, we could go up from that, but we try to put on as good of a fair as we can put on and appeal to as many people as we can every year."

This year's theme is "Nothing Compares" to State Fair Thrills.

"Nothing Compares" has been the common theme refrain since 2011.

"We had, up until that point, really been reinventing ourselves every year," marketing director Mindy Williamson said. "The great thing about coining 'Nothing Compares' is that it keeps that consistency, but we can always change it to be a little more closely tied to our major project of the year. This year, it's our thrill parks, which are Thrill Town, Thrill Ville, and Thrill Zone — three new, renovated amusement areas on the fairgrounds."

Each midway is more intense than the last, respectively, with Thrill Town designed for families with small children and Thrill Zone filled with faster, more extreme rides, Williamson said.

Specifically, Williamson said, the Thrills

theme was selected because the fair will present a new, independent midway.

"We have personally booked each individual ride, and we feel like we have selected quality companies and quality equipment to come here," Slater said.

The fair has also hired independent ride inspectors through Wagner Consulting Associates who will work in addition to ride inspectors from the Iowa Department of Labor, he said. The consultants will "be another set of eyes of diagnostic procedures on the rides to make sure they are safe ... that didn't happen because of Ohio, that was in the works way back [in fall 2016] as we got ready for this year's fair."

Of course, rides are not everyone's cup of tea. In a press release, the State Fair outlined some of the other events lined up for the 11 days, including the casting of a Spirit of Iowa bell for the Veterans Parade on Aug. 14, Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating contest on Aug. 12, and a new cream butter sculpture of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

"From new amusement rides, to new food on a stick, and the celebration of the Butter Cow, the Iowa State Fair has something for everyone," a press release from the fair's website said.

Slater agreed, saying he did not think anyone would be deterred by the Ohio State Fair incident — after all, the State Fair is an Iowa tradition, and officials have taken the utmost precautions to ensure the safety of all attendees.

"We find that people enjoy coming back and doing the things that they did when they were kids, and they enjoy introducing their children or their grandchildren to those things," he said.

A full schedule of fair events can be found online.

## Breast milk? You can bank on it



Jim Geerdes/The Daily Iowan

Mother's Milk Bank intern and senior at the University of Iowa Samuel Allison selects a treat out of the assortment of snacks during the bank's 15th birthday party.

### The nonprofit Mother's Milk Bank celebrated its 15th anniversary on Tuesday with its staff and donors.

By JAMES GEERDES  
james-geerdes@uiowa.edu

Jean Drulis walked into work on Tuesday to "Happy Birthday" wishes and offerings of "congratulations" from numerous coworkers.

Was it a milestone birthday for Drulis? No — it was the celebration of her nonprofit's 15th anniversary.

As the director and co-founder of Mother's Milk Bank, Drulis has led the organization's subject from being rarely talked about to a bustling and fruitful trade. Her subject? Breast milk.

The mission statement of the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa, 119 Second St. No. 400, Coralville, is "to improve the health of infants across the United States by providing pasteurized donor human milk to families and hospitals," according to its website.

Drulis said breast milk contains many benefits over cow's milk, including being a baby's first immune system booster and infection fighter.

In 2002, in celebration of World Breastfeeding Week, Drulis and her colleagues launched Mother's Milk Bank, a central hub for donated breast milk to be pasteurized and re-distributed to families in need of breast milk.

"It was totally unheard of," Drulis said. "In 2002, when we opened, they used 14 bottles the first month, 15 bottles the second

month, and in comparison, now we use somewhere between 700 and 1,400 bottles a month."

Donations have been on the rise, Drulis said, but some still do not know about breast-milk donations.

"Our goal is for milk donating to become a household name, like blood banking," she said.

The job involves a tedious scanning process. Donors must receive written consent from their doctor and pass numerous blood tests before they are allowed to give milk, Drulis said. Donors report to one of many breast-milk depots, mostly located in hospitals around the Midwest. Once the milk is collected, it sits in a fridge until a Mother's Milk Bank summer intern picks it up, Drulis said.

University of Iowa senior Samuel Allison, one of the nonprofit's summer interns, helps transport the milk donations.

"The first time I went and picked up milk, I

saw a premature baby, so I guess that was a cool way to see the impact of what we do," he said. "That's been an image that's been stuck in my head ever since."

After the milk is donated and transported back to the Iowa City milk bank, it goes through pasteurization, which lab technician Ann Jurgensen helps to coordinate.

"We pasteurize five days a week, which [equals] about 1,200

bottles of donor milk a week," she said. "We combine the milk from three to 10 donors, and we do this under the most sterile condition possible. We don't want any virus or bacteria in our milk."

Although difficult, Allison said he is thankful for the job and its benefits to families.

"This is the most rewarding job I've had," he said. "I get to help out babies, and I feel really good about it when I get home."



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## Levitt, businessman, UI alum, dies at 87

Richard Levitt, a University of Iowa alumnus who is credited with strengthening the Wells Fargo Financial Co. in Des Moines, died Sunday.

Richard Levitt, the eponym of the Levitt Center for University Advancement, home of the UI Foundation and UI Alumni Association, graduated from the UI with a bachelor's degree in 1952 and a Juris Doctor in 1954. He was a lifetime honorary director on the UI Foundation's volunteer board of directors and on the Iowa Law School Foundation.

According to the UI Foundation website, Levitt and wife Jeanne Levitt, residents of Des Moines, "are two of the UI's most generous benefactors and volunteers. In addition to their support for

the Levitt Center, the couple have supported numerous UI programs and initiatives with gifts and service." Both are members of the University of Iowa Presidents Club Platinum, which recognizes individuals who give more than \$40,000 to any area or program of the UI.

Outside the UI, Levitt is an inductee in the Iowa Business Hall of Fame. Wells Fargo merged in 1998 with Norwest Corp., a company that Levitt's grandfather, Jacob Levitt, founded in 1897 as the State Loan Company. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 924 Polk Blvd., Des Moines.

— by Marissa Payne



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# Opinions

## COLUMN

### Pork, politics, and the public good



**DAN WILLIAMS**  
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As colleague Zach Weigel pointed out last week, Iowa's pork industry is Iowa's most important industry. To give an idea of the relative size, the state's pork industry is three times as productive as the No. 2 pork-producing state, Illinois. Almost one-third of U.S. hogs are raised in Iowa.

Weigel astutely identified some external costs of mass production. They include the familiar odor of feces wafting through the air and the blood-curdling squeals of intelligent animals who know they are about to be killed.

But these are aesthetic concerns that the majority, I think, would stomach, given the billions of dollars and thousands of jobs the industry provides.

There is one dimension to the pork industry that Weigel did not address, and that is foreign direct investment. Weigel ends by saying that public goods, like water quality, need to be adequately protected. But it's an open secret that Big Money has Big Influence on politics — especially important local races in which \$100,000 can go a long way. We should all be aware of where the money is at in the pork industry.

Foreign direct investment is when a company owns a business in another country. It's a deceptively simple definition, as anyone who looks into global trade and finance will know. Such investment is relevant to Iowa because the state is such a powerhouse in agriculture and manufacturing. States have been courting foreign investment because it brings in jobs: Think of it as sort of the reverse of outsourcing. In the globalized economy, foreign direct investment is increasingly important for economic growth; the re-

cent Russia sanctions are aimed at stalling foreign investment in the country.

The largest U.S. pork producer was bought by a Chinese corporation in 2013. Smithfield Foods, based in Virginia, was purchased for \$4.7 billion by the Shuanghui Group, which changed its name to the WH Group after the acquisition. Smithfield operates eight meat plants in Iowa and employs just under 4,000. The company agreed to the deal not only because Shuanghui offered 31 percent above its market price but also because U.S. pork consumption has been decreasing for years. Chinese pork consumption, however, has exploded. A good deal of Iowa pigs will end up in Chinese stomachs.

All this is well and good — for business. What's the catch? The catch is that now there is another very large, foreign corporate entity with its eyes on Iowa. I will not go so far as Richard Manning, who wrote, "What Smithfield sold the Chinese was less its pork production than its control of Iowa's politics and its landscape." But I will say that we ought to keep a watchful eye on our politicians to make sure that they really are serving the public good and not another corporate interest. All that money being created by all that trade ought to come back to the community through better schools and better water.

We know that capitalism is good at creating money. But we also know that unrestrained capitalism produces undesirable social and environmental ills. Iowa remains attractive for foreign investment not just because of our favorable corporate tax climate (incidentally, a large reason our public coffers are empty), but also because the people are nice and hard-working (for the most part) and because we have high standards for public education and health, in addition to low costs of living. It's a dream state for many.

Don't let Iowa turn into a dump for an ideological crusade. Keep up the fight for clean water.

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## COLUMN

### Health-care blues hit the farm

More mental-health care in rural communities is needed.



James Year/The Daily Iowan

An old rusted out Ford F100 sits in a derelict hog building at a farm in northwest Iowa in May. The farm is located near the town of Melvin.

## DOT ARMSTRONG

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Back home in Minnesota, I've been listening to my dad play his guitar. He's been researching folk music for years now, going through decades of songs about rural life, about hard labor, and sorrow, and adversity. The characters in these songs are often found working their fields, mourning the loss of the season's yield to unforeseen catastrophe, and wondering what the world will dole out next. After reading an article about the high risk of suicide among farmers in *The Daily Iowan* last week, I started listening more closely to the lyrics of those time-worn tunes.

The song "The Farmer Is the Man," written around 1890 and made popular by Pete Seeger, offers some telling verses on the subject. "When the banker says he's broke, and the merchant's up in

smoke, / They forget that it's the farmer feeds them all. / It would put them to the test if the farmer took a rest / Because the farmer is the man who feeds them all."

It stands to reason that farmers suffer from mental-health concerns. Farmers must provide, despite environmental conditions beyond their control. That's a lot of weight on one's shoulders. Farmers are the canaries in the coal mine, the barometers for troubling environmental situations. They feel, viscerally, the forces of enormous chaos at work that most of us urban folks cannot feel.

Tunes from the 1930s offer proof of the impact of environmental disruption on agricultural workers. Themes of sudden crop devastation and resulting impoverishment abound. As it was during the Dust Bowl, so it is now: Our society

faces a climate turned strange. Farmers, isolated in their fields, know not what to do but shuffle off the mortal coil.

And what is to be done for them? An organization called AgriWellness, mentioned in the *DI* article, apparently provides health resources to rural, underserved populations. AgriWellness promotes what it terms "behavioral health," giving farmers access to crisis hotlines, support groups, educational retreats, newsletters, and advocacy programs. What sources I could find attested to the relative efficacy of such programs. Across the Midwest, funding from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and the Federal Bureau of Primary Health Care went toward mental-health initiatives.

But, as usual, so much more could be done. The programming is patchy at best; not enough peo-

ple receive the treatment and care they need. In short, the caveats are many and money-related. According to the Farm Foundation, "the requests for mental-health and substance-abuse treatment funds have far exceeded available funding. Those most in need of assistance often lack adequate health-insurance funding to pay for professional assistance." Yet another reason to support universal health care, or at least keep Obamacare around.

The least we can do in the face of environmental disasters is assist our farmers in bearing the burdens associated with agricultural labor. Though the profession has a long history of tragedy and strife, that's no reason to dismiss those concerns. In the meantime, someone should update the classic folk-music structure and write the Farmer's Health-Care Blues.

## COLUMN

### Opinions must come from fact

My time at *The Daily Iowan* has taught me that opinions should be derived from investigation, not merely instincts.



**ZACH WEIGEL**

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It's hard to believe that this is the last column I'll ever write for *The Daily Iowan*. It's been over a year now, but it really does feel like it was just yesterday that I was starting to learn how to be a journalist. Nevertheless, time passes; so as I write my last column, I'd like to reflect on a few important things I learned from my transition from reporter to columnist.

First and foremost, being a reporter can be an extremely vexing job. You can't simply do some research and write a story. After you've been assigned a story (either your own pitch or one delegated to you by your editor), you must contact at least three sources. And any seasoned reporter will tell you that you better have contingent sources and

a backup plan because it can be incredibly difficult to get the necessary information from your sources within your budgeted time.

Moreover, when you do get in contact with your sources, you better ask the right questions. Ideally, your questions ought to elicit entertaining answers.

Then, once you've gotten information from your sources, you fact-check the information for accuracy before you begin to synthesize everything into a narrative. And this narrative is subject to word-count parameters, supervisory editing, and formatting guidelines that emphasize short, sweet paragraphing of the "nuts and bolts" much more than evoking details.

This all goes to say that although the product may be a rather small article, there is a lot that goes into a news story behind the scenes. It's not just putting words on paper. Writing a story is an earnest endeavor that is more akin to a work of art refined through a painstaking process. So if you

like telling a story and can handle the rigor cultivating sources within stiff deadlines, then reporting might be for you.

But if you like to tell a good story and have a proclivity for analytical thinking, then perhaps the Opinions section of a newspaper is a good fit. I know it certainly has been for me.

As a columnist you are granted more freedom than a reporter. When you're a reporter, your job is primarily to observe, listen, and then report; however, when you're a columnist, you provide commentary by unpacking the news. As a columnist, your job is to help others understand the significance of something by scrutinizing the facts and figures. Your duty is not just to report but to also give context to facts and figures by formulating an argument to persuade your audience or give them something to think about.

More to the point, there is more to opinion writing than meets the eye. Writing a good column isn't as simple as it seems. While

everyone has an opinion, to be a good Opinions' writer, you must have an informed opinion. Therefore, after spending the last year as a journalist, I've come to believe that informed opinions are crucial to the vitality of our democracy. Perhaps now more than ever given the oft-mentioned assault on "the media."

While everyone is entitled to an opinion, every opinion shouldn't be treated the same. Just like some pieces of art are better than others, some opinions are better than others.

What separates the good from the bad opinions? Perspective. At its crux, an opinion is really just one way of looking at something, but if that opinion is informed, if it has incorporated other perspectives, then maybe that opinion deserves more weight than a bluster, off-the-cuff remark.

Just as a detective investigates a mystery, a good piece of journalism is investigative because investigation yields a more informed opinion than instinct can.

# Politics



PHOTOS BY TING XUAN TAN & NICK ROHLMAN  
GRAPHIC BY NOVA MEURICE

## DEMOCRATS SEEK MORE INCLUSION

Iowa Senate Minority Leader Rob Hogg believes the future of Iowa Democrats lies in putting issues before party identification.

By MADELEINE NEAL | madeleine-neal@uiowa.edu

Iowa Democrats need to take a practical approach by talking to voters about what they want instead of simply leaning on the party's label if Iowa is to turn politically blue, Iowa's top elected Democrat said.

"I think to the extent that people try to put labels on where parties should move, to the left or to the right, they're looking for that label, and I don't think that's the correct answer," Senate Minority Leader Rob Hogg, D-Cedar Rapids, said in a *Daily Iowan* interview.

"I think the correct answer is, 'Does the party do a better job of reaching out, listening, educating, and communicating with people?'"

After Republicans took control this year of both legislative houses, in addition to holding the governorship in Iowa, Hogg said he wants Democrats to push such initiatives as health-care expansion and boosts to public education.

"In Iowa, we want the best schools in the country, we want to expand health care — not take it away," he said. "And we want safe, healthy, vibrant growing communities across Iowa. We want every corner of our state to succeed, and is that liberal, conservative, moderate, or progressive, or whatever way we want to put it?"

In an era in which people have a healthy sense of skepticism about the Democratic and Republican Parties, he said, some voters who are moderate or left-leaning moderate voters but who won't identify themselves as Democrats also don't identify themselves as Republicans. This could be an opportunity for Democrats to attract those votes, he suggested.

"I think the philosophy of Democrats is that both our state and our country do better when there's more participation," he said, referring to voting. "You don't have to get involved in the party bureaucracy, but you should get involved, and vote, and get familiar with candidates in primaries because if you don't get involved in the primary, you're giving up basically half your rights as a voter."

Iowa Democrats and Republicans will decide on their parties' candidates for public office, including governor and the state's four U.S. congressional seats, on June 5, 2018.

Campaign-office members for Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, who could lose his seat to Republican Christopher Peters in the 2018 election for Iowa's 2nd Congressional District seat, said Loebsack encourages an open dialogue

among voters and politicians focused on issues instead of party affiliation.

"Dave believes the best way to represent the people of Iowa, whether they are Democrats, independents, or Republicans, is to talk with them face-to-face and meet with them where they live, work, and play," said Zachary Meunier, Loebsack's campaign manager.

At least one of the eight Democrats expressing interest in running for governor next year, Cathy Glasson, said she wants Democrats to boldly enact left-wing policies.

"I think the middle-of-the-road voters have the same worries that the left voters and the right voters have," said Glasson, a University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics nurse and Service Employees International Union leader from Coralville. "The main focus is workers and families who, in our state, are struggling to make ends meet because of our local wages ... in our state."

She said Democrats want to capture moderate voters. "But I don't think we want to compromise, because workers and families in Iowa have been waiting much too long to see the change that they haven't seen from the past several election cycles."

Riley Lewers, the presi-

dent of the UI Democrats, said it is not necessary for 2018 Democratic candidates to move further left or to the center. Rather, she said, they should be clear in their positions about such topics as health-care and education policies.

"I think what we should do is focus more on picking quality candidates for every election who come off as authentic and are able to effectively tell their stories and sell themselves to voters," said Lewers, a first-time voter in 2016.

Eleanore Taft, a member of Glasson's campaign team who said she worked for numerous 2016 campaigns, said she found voters during the 2016 campaign cycle weren't sure what the Democrats stood for.

"Something that people are really looking for from the Democratic Party is a candidate who is really looking to take a stand and have a clear position and not compromise on vital components of our platform that are crucial to improving the lives of people in our state," Taft said. "I think we have to be clear and unwavering in our message, but we need to do a better job communicating our message — [2016 voters] felt like we weren't communicating a core message."

Hogg will try to build Io-

wa's left-leaning voters by encouraging Iowa Senate Democrats to hone in on inclusion.

"It's important that we build a more diverse and inclusive future for our state and our country," Hogg said. "You hear some things from some people on the Republican side that are really quite discriminatory and hostile. I think about some of the terrible things that [Rep.] Steve King [R-Iowa] just said, and I think about the terrible things that Trump has said."

In addition to some of the discriminatory comments made by Republicans, which he said do not reflect the beliefs of Iowa's voters, Hogg also said moderate voters believe in such issues as fiscal responsibility, which, he said, does not exist on the Republican side.

Hogg hopes voters will see what he calls the Republicans' mess.

"I see a budget mess at the state level, and I see continued fiscal irresponsibility at the national level," he said. "Democrats believe in making investments but we also believe in doing it in a fiscally responsible manner — I think that's what people in the middle want, and I think that's what people who call themselves more liberal and more progressive want."

THE DAILY IOWAN  
**ETHICS & POLITICS**  
INITIATIVE

The **Daily Iowan Ethics and Politics Initiative** is funded by a private donor and will appear bi-weekly this semester. The team's mission is to understand, interpret, analyze and report on topics, trends and personalities that shape politics in Iowa and the United States, and to recognize the importance of a strong ethical foundation in its pursuits.

Email [dailyiowanepi@gmail.com](mailto:dailyiowanepi@gmail.com) with story ideas, press releases, or reader comments.

### Ahead of vote, Grassley backs Wray for FBI

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, announced support for Christopher Wray as the next FBI director on Tuesday. The Senate confirmed the nomination later that day.

"Mr. Wray possesses the skill, the character, and the unwavering commitment to impartial enforcement of the law that we need in a FBI director," Grassley wrote in a statement. "Based on the unanimous vote that Mr. Wray received from the Judiciary Committee, I'm confident that my colleagues

believe this, too."

Wray is a former federal prosecutor and former Department of Justice attorney, including roles in the Criminal Division.

"His prior record of service demonstrates his competence in leading in the federal government and demonstrates that he'll be able to lead effectively at the FBI," the statement said. "He has shown that he has the expertise needed to address the wide range of policy issues currently facing the FBI."

Despite Grassley and his colleagues asking Wray about his positions on issues during his hearing, Grassley said the most important thing for him was where his loyalties lie.

"As all of us in this body know, when we take the oath of office, we affirm that we will support and defend the Constitution of the United States," he wrote in the statement. "We don't pledge support to any particular of the government or even to a political party."

Grassley noted that he and his team pledged loyalty to the Constitution and to the rule of law.

"Many members asked Mr. Wray very pointed questions about loyalty during his hearing," the statement said. "I was impressed with his plain-spoken, candid answers."

— by Madeleine Neal

# Daily Break

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **1 Million Cups**, 9 a.m., MidWestOne basement, 102 S. Clinton
- **Power to the Printers: The Alternative Press in Iowa City, 1965-1985**, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Main Library Gallery
- **Hawkeyes in Space: UI Physics Past and Present**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Old Capitol Hanson Gallery
- **Cardiology Core Curriculum Conference**, noon, E316 UIHC General Hospital
- **Pulmonary Summer Lecture, Gregory Schmidt**, noon, C322 UIHC General Hospital
- **Rummage in the Ramp**, noon-7 p.m., Chauncey Swan parking ramp
- **Allergy Conference, Didactic Topic: Name That Pollen**, 2 p.m., C423-1 UIHC General Hospital
- **Institutional Review Board Office Hours**, 2-4 p.m., 101 Hardin
- **Farmers' Market**, 5-7 p.m., Chauncey Swan parking ramp
- **North by North, Waverly, Horse Theory, & Punch Drunk Fighter**, 5 p.m., Yacht Club, 13 S. Linn

### SUBMIT AN EVENT

Want to see your special event appear here? Email [dicalendar@uiowa.edu](mailto:dicalendar@uiowa.edu) with details.



- Happy Hour** 9:30-10:30am
- DJ Training** 11am-12pm
- Dusk to Dawn** 12-1pm
- General Rotation** 4-5pm
- Movie Marauders** 5-6pm
- Tailgating a Funeral** 8pm-10pm
- The Arc of Creativity** 10pm-12am

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MARCUS THEATRES  
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**Fast Times At Ridgmont High**  
Wed, August 2 | 7pm | Sycamore Cinema  
Fathom Events, Turner Classic Movies and Universal Pictures are bringing Fast Times at Ridgmont High to select cinemas nationwide for a special two-day event, which also includes an introduction from a TCM host. Academy Award winner Sean Penn stars in the film that defined the outrageous and bold teen comedy genre. Follow a group of Southern California high school students as they explore their most important subjects: sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Directed by Amy Heckerling (Clueless) and written by Cameron Crowe (Almost Famous), this hilarious portrait of 1980s American teen life features film debuts of future stars Nicolas Cage and Forest Whitaker.

- **Curious George (G)**
- **Atomic Blonde (R)**
- **Emoji Movie (PG)**
- **Dunkirk (PG-13)**
- **Valerian (PG-13)**
- **Girls Trip (R)**
- **War For Planet Of Apes (PG-13)**
- **Spider-Man: Homecoming (PG-13)**
- **Despicable Me 3 (PG)**
- **The Big Sick (R)**
- **Baby Driver (R)**
- **Wonder Woman (PG-13)**

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## FILM SCENE

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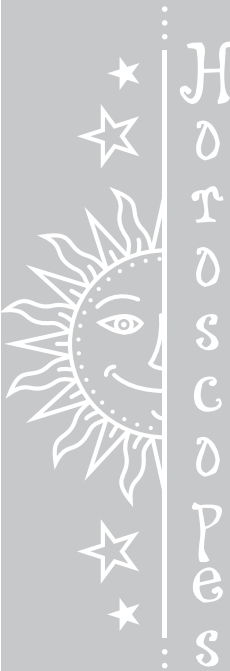
- **Maudie** 4:30pm, 7pm
- **The Big Sick** 6:30pm, 9pm

Late Shift at the Grindhouse presents:



**Psycho Kickboxer** | 10pm

Late Shift hosts Ross Meyer, Joe Derderian and Aaron Holmgren dig up low-budget b-movies, horror and gore-fests, and camp classics for your viewing pleasure. Buy your ticket and take a ride in our Time Machine! Punch in and earn a bonus! \$3 Pabst Blue Ribbon tallboys and \$2 small popcorn! PLUS-- special custom trashy trailer reel curated by Ross with cheap swag and prize giveaways!



**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Expand your territory. Put on your traveling shoes. New opportunities for discovery present themselves. The facts you need can be found. Research and discover.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Review finances and save for the future. Steady contributions grow over time with care. Your influence is spreading. Good news comes from afar.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Have fun with your partner. Fantasies prove flimsy; don't get overly grandiose. Enjoy simple pleasures together. Share good food, music and conversation. Expand your collaboration.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Physical action gets results. You're growing stronger, and so is your work. Stick to practical goals, one at a time. Practice your moves.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Romantic fantasies could fall flat. Avoid pretty illusions, and get to the heart of the matter with someone special. Take new ground together.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Domestic activities have your focus. Clean, organize and beautify your space. An illusion you've been tolerating has become obvious. Share results with family and friends.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Cash flow increases. It can go out as fast as it is coming in. Focus on diverting some to savings. Don't invest in ephemeral ideas. Stay practical.

Wednesday, August 2, 2017  
by Linda Black

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Step into the spotlight and shine. Stand for what you love with all your heart. Follow practical plans for steady growth. You're learning new tricks.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You're especially thoughtful when left to your own devices. Peaceful introspection, organization and planning all produce satisfying results. Relax and consider the possibilities.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Ask friends for ideas and solutions. Teamwork goes further than playing Lone Ranger. Choose your steps carefully. Stick to solid ground.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Focus on your performance, as someone important is watching. Provide excellent service. Something you try doesn't work. Apologize gracefully. Persist and win.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Follow an adventure. New information conflicts with old. Dig into the backstory and research latest updates. Check things from another perspective.

Today's Birthday (08/02/17). Expand your networks and connections this year. Fun and romance come intuitively. A door that was locked opens with a collaboration this summer, leading to a breakthrough in self-expression. Upgrade your personal image next winter, before partnership sparks. Share your heart.

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

	8								
		9						3	
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		6	1	5	7	9			
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SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE 8/2/17

8	7	5	3	9	6	1	4	2
4	6	1	7	8	2	9	3	5
2	3	9	4	5	1	6	8	7
3	2	6	8	4	5	7	9	1
9	1	8	6	3	7	2	5	4
7	5	4	2	1	9	3	6	8
1	9	3	5	2	4	8	7	6
5	8	7	1	6	3	4	2	9
6	4	2	9	7	8	5	1	3

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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## The New York Times Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Suckling site
  - Piedmont wine center
  - Lay an egg, so to speak
  - "Prospero Año \_\_\_!"
  - Garbage-hauling boat
  - Hitchhiker's hope
  - Start of a quip about a whimsical celebrity couple
  - It may run the Sierra OS
  - Winner's hand gesture
  - Like "it," grammatically
  - Quip, part 2
  - Treelike creature of Middle-earth
  - River of France and Belgium
  - Dadaist Jean
  - De Botton who wrote "The Architecture of Happiness"
  - Words sealed with a kiss
  - First name in stunt cycling
  - Quip, part 3
  - Greek counterpart of Mars
  - Chemical in Drano
  - Kvetches
  - "Far out!"
  - Target of ID theft: Abbr.
  - Bluto's was 0.0 in "Animal House"
  - Quip, part 4
  - "American Pie" singer Don
  - Article in Le Monde
  - First name at Woodstock
  - End of the quip
  - Best Picture of 1958

- Like elbowing through a crowd, say
- Flashes one's pearlies
- Smart-alecky talk
- George Orwell's alma mater
- Test for gold content, say

- DOWN**
- Square
  - Cathedral of Florence
  - \_\_\_ flask (thermos)
  - Kick out
  - Heed the coxswain
  - Green light
  - Amtrak posting: Abbr.
  - Proverbial amount of bricks
  - Wartime poster phrase
  - Con artist's crime
  - Cheery tune
  - Drooling dog of the comics
  - Source of pressure, perhaps
  - Nobelist Pavlov
  - Things having their home on the range?
  - Drop-down item
  - Gucci of fashion
  - State firmly
  - Swing a scythe, say
  - Grade enhancer
  - Cracked a bit
  - Logan of CBS News

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	H	A	H	C	R	O	O	N	C	P	A	S		
P	A	C	A	H	I	P	P	O	A	R	N	O		
E	T	A	L	A	F	T	E	R	R	E	A	L		
W	H	I	F	F	O	F	S	C	A	N	D	A	L	
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F	A	N	F	A	V	O	R	I	T	E		E	M	O
O	L	D	E		A	U	T	R	I		R	B	I	S
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B	I	L	L		S	P	A	N	K		L	E	A	R
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## mc ginsberg.com OBJECTS OF ART

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62					63					64			
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PUZZLE BY DAVID KWONG

- Got completely correct
- Mensa members' assets
- Curling surface
- Fig. in a pilot's announcement
- "To be, or not to be" soliloquy setting
- Coordinate, as audio and video
- Whole bunch
- Polygon measures
- Andean source of wool
- God-awful
- Boardroom events: Abbr.
- "Pet" that needs watering
- Endurance, informally
- Same old same old
- Phoebe of "Grimms"
- Polyon measures
- Andean source of wool
- God-awful
- Boardroom events: Abbr.
- "Pet" that needs watering
- Endurance, informally
- Same old same old
- Phoebe of "Grimms"
- Org. for Raptors and Hawks

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## Extra innings doom Hawks

Iowa baseball faces an elimination game after falling to Mulvane in the 12th to drop its National Baseball Congress World Series record to 0-2.

By JORDAN ZUNIGA | jordan-zuniga@uiowa.edu

The Hawkeye baseball team lost its second game in the National Baseball Congress World Series to the Mulvane Patriots, 5-4, in a 12-inning game on Tuesday.

Iowa, representing the USA National Team, needs to win its game Thursday in order to stay alive.

Tuesday's game took place at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium in Wichita, Kansas, and on the bump for the Hawkeyes was recent Juco transfer Brady Schanuel.

For him, and the Hawkeyes, the game started out great. After he shut down the Patriots in the top half of the first, the Hawkeyes scored in the bottom half on a RBI triple by Robert Neustrom to put them up 1-0.

But the lead didn't last long — the Patriots took the lead on a 2-run double by Adam Brown to give them a 2-1 lead.

The game remained that way for a while, as both pitchers settled down. Schanuel did not allow a hit after the second inning, and he came out after four innings, having given up 2 hits and 2 runs while striking out 5.

After four innings without a hit, the Hawkeyes were finally able to break through against Patriot starting pitcher Noah Draper in the sixth, when Tyler Croply knocked a one-out single, later scoring on a two-out double by Matt Hoeg that tied the game at 2.

Iowa untied the score in the bottom of the seventh, when Neustrom drove in



Nick Rohlman/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Grant Judkins pitches against Red Top Sports on July 27. Iowa is representing the U.S. at the National Baseball Congress World Series and the World University Games this summer.

his second run of the game with a two-out double that scored Kyle Crowl, giving the Hawkeyes a 3-2 advantage.

The Hawkeyes had not yielded a run since the second inning, but with two outs in the top of the ninth, the Patriots broke their scoreless streak on a Hawkeye error to tie the game at 3 and send the game to extra innings.

The Hawkeyes got off to a rough start in the 10th — the Patriots were able to push a

run across to make it 4-3.

But Iowa remained resilient, and Grant Judkins was able to drive in Crowl after he doubled to lead off the inning.

After neither team scored in the 11th, the Patriots led off the 12th with a double that later scored to put the Pats on top 5-4.

In the bottom of the 12th, the Hawkeyes had an opportunity to tie and potentially win the game when

they loaded the bases with one out.

Judkins and Hoeg had chances to tie the game, but both were unable to do so, sealing the win for the Patriots.

For Iowa, it's do or drive time. After losing Sunday and Tuesday, one more loss will eliminate them from the Series.

Iowa's opponent and the time of the game have yet to be announced.

## No-visit rule vexes Hawkeyes

On Tuesday, the Hawkeye football team sent out its official scholarship letters, which featured a familiar rule that plagued the Hawkeyes last year.

By JORDAN ZUNIGA

jordan-zuniga@uiowa.edu

The Hawkeyes are an old-school football team, in an old-school conference, with an old-school coach.

If the Iowa football team were a person, it would still use CD players to listen to music.

Most of the time, this old-school style is endearing, and fans like it. They believe that Iowa plays football the way it is supposed to be played.

One major pitfall was outlined last fall, when the No.7 running-back recruit in the nation, Eno Benjamin, decommitted from Iowa after he breached its no-visit rule for recruits who had already committed to play at the school.

Losing Benjamin the way Iowa did was especially disappointing; he was a player trying to get other players to join the Hawkeyes with him, and the entire situation probably could've been resolved.

It is a loss that could have consequences for the Hawkeyes down the road; the Hawkeyes have not yet been able to recruit a running back anywhere near the talent level of Benjamin.

Iowa's bleeding did not stop after Benjamin's departure. Fellow four-star recruit Chevin Calloway decommitted after violating the same policy, and later, Gavin Holms, a three-star wide receiver, followed suit.

Holms directly cited the Hawkeyes policy and the situation with Benjamin as the reason for his departure on Twitter.

"I've had a change of heart and realized that maybe Iowa isn't my fit," Holms wrote on his account in November. "The whole situation with my [friend] Eno and Iowa's policy ... didn't sit very well with me."

The entire situation cast a negative light on the historic Iowa football program, and many thought last year's embarrassment would spark a change for this year's recruits.

Tuesday was the first day schools could send scholarship letters to recruits, and the first condition for Iowa's scholarship is, "You must not visit another institution (officially or unofficially)."

Coach Kirk Ferentz and the Hawkeyes are as stubborn as ever and oblivious to some of the changes that are occurring around them.

Iowa's "no-visit" policy made more sense 15 years or so ago, when many teams would not start recruiting players until their senior year in high school, and up to a few years ago, a few other major programs had a similar rule.

Now, it is hard to find another policy that resembles Iowa's in a major program, because it has become far more common for teams to offer scholarships to high-schoolers as sophomores and juniors. That rendered the rule impractical because high-schoolers can be committed to a school for several years.

Ferentz has been superb about jumping on recruits early; he had 11 verbal commitments before the official scholarship letters went out Tuesday. However, this tactic can prove detrimental when coupled with the no-visit rule.

Most prominent recruits are constantly bombarded by other schools trying to recruit them all the way through National Signing Day.

This makes it difficult for kids to resist visiting another school, especially when college visits mean mini-vacations and a day off from school. What high-school kid says no to that?

Iowa's coaching staff will argue that recruits should stick to their word and once they commit to Iowa, the coaching staff has committed to them.

There is definitely some validity to that statement, but with recruits being teenagers forced to make decisions that could affect the rest of their lives, some indecision should be expected.

Hopefully, the rule won't be a huge detriment for the incoming 2018 class, but Hawkeyes need to change the rule soon if they hope to avoid more recruiting disasters that mirror last year's.

## Stacked Buckeyes ready to rumba

The Ohio State players heed Satchel Paige's advice: Don't look back.

By PETE RUDEN

peter-ruden@uiowa.edu

It's a big season for Ohio State.

After suffering a rare 31-0 loss in the College Football Playoffs at the hands of Clemson, the Buckeyes will try to bounce back in a way reminiscent of the 2014 season, in which they took home the National Championship.

Still, even with suffering through that monumental loss, Ohio State's talent cannot be denied. Last season's squad was one of the youngest in the country, and it made it to the national semifinals.

This year, the Buckeyes have experience on their side.

They return eight starters on offense and seven on defense, making them one of the most experienced post-season teams in all of college football.

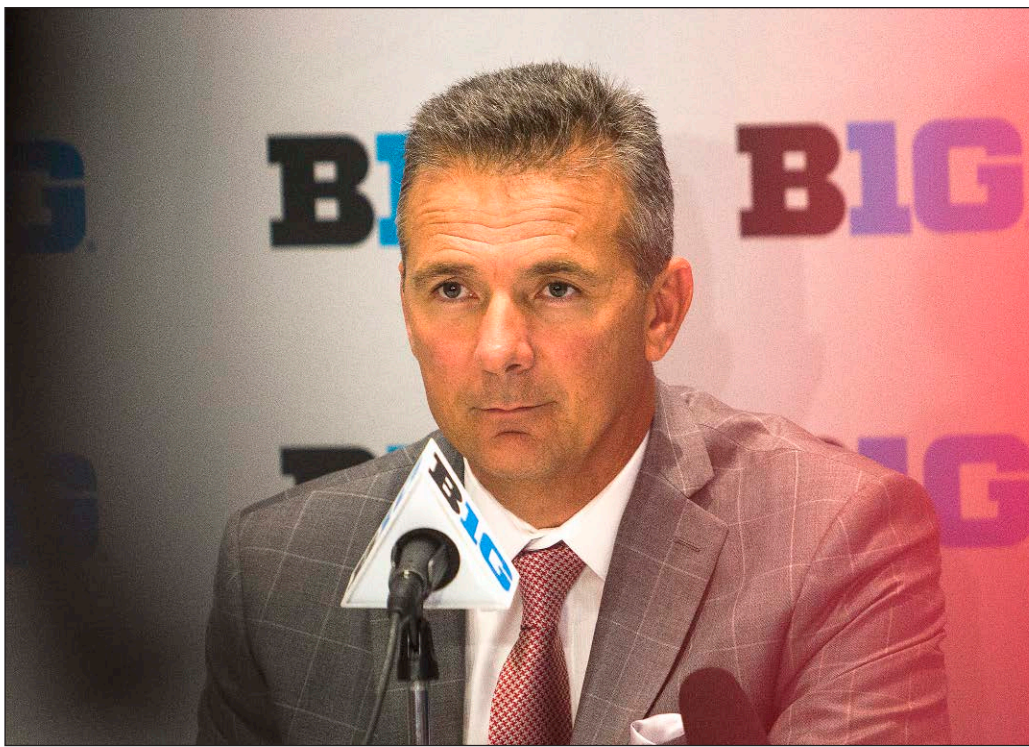
Even though Curtis Samuel is no longer suiting up in the Scarlet and Gray, Ohio State returns its two leading rushers: Quarterback J.T. Barrett is back to lead the offense, as is running back Mike Weber.

Most of the secondary, including first-round draft picks Malik Hooker, Marshon Lattimore, and Gareon Conley, have gone on to the NFL, but the defense is still more than capable of getting the job done.

That side of the ball will be anchored by linebacker Chris Worley, as well as a superb defensive line that includes Sam Hubbard and Tyquan Lewis.

That will be the core taking the field when they try to get the Clemson taste from last January out of their mouths.

"It's awful, and it's one of those things that's still not completely out," Worley said. "It's one of those things we're



Joseph Cress/The Daily Iowan

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer speaks to members of the media during the Big Ten media days at McCormick Place in Chicago on July 24.

still recovering from. I don't think we'll ever get it completely out until we're faced with another opportunity like that."

Because of that taste, the Buckeyes have unfinished business on the field.

That unfinished business prompted Lewis to return for another year. He had a life-changing opportunity in front of him but opted for one last chance on the college gridiron.

Combine the result of last season with Lewis' family life, and it adds up to another year in Columbus.

"It was more so about unfinished business on the field, but football wasn't the main thing," Lewis said. "It was more so about my family, about my life. That was the main thing."

No matter how experienced this team is, though,

the path back to the College Football Playoffs will not be easy. Playing in the Big Ten East, every week will be a battle, but that's something head coach Urban Meyer is familiar with.

When he was the head coach of the Florida Gators, his teams played against the best of the best in the SEC East, including Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee, not to mention Alabama and Auburn in the West Division.

Now in his sixth season with Ohio State, Meyer doesn't see a gap.

"I've coached in the SEC East when that was one of the strongest in the country, and I think the Big Ten East right now is every bit as strong as I can remember the SEC East," he said.

The Buckeyes are one of the strongest teams in the

stacked division, but even with all of the returning starters, there are plenty of position battles for Meyer to judge.

There's a battle of seven players for the open right-guard position, in addition to the wide receiver and tight-end spots that Meyer said are "wide open."

But everything a Buckeye kept saying in Chicago comes back to this: Though they now have experience, it's a new team in a new year.

Last year is over, and even though the Clemson game is still in the back of their minds, the Buckeyes aren't focused on it.

"That ship has sailed. It's gone. And we've not addressed it. We've not talked about it," Meyer said. "But where we're at as a team, I like where we're at. So we're just pushing forward."