

Living Mollie's Legacy

A little more than a year after UI student Mollie Tibbetts' death, her family remembers her life and shares her spirit with the community.

BY BROOKLYN DRAISEY
brooklyn-draisey@uiowa.edu

Hanging on the wall in Laura Calderwood's bedroom is a self-portrait her daughter, Mollie Tibbetts, drew when she was 5.

The picture is large, and Mollie's crayon-drawn face dominates the tan paper. Brown swirls of hair frame her circular face, and a red-crayon smile stretches up her cheeks. Teal, Mollie's favorite color, is scribbled in the background and fills up the heart necklace worn around her neck.



Tibbetts

Mollie offered to sell it to her mom for \$5, which Laura just happened to have in her purse.

Laura smiled as she told the story, laughing at her daughter's antics like it happened just yesterday.

A little more than one year after Mollie's tragic murder, *The Daily Iowan* spoke with members of the former University of Iowa student's family. While they still struggle with the realities of her death, Mollie's legacy lives on.

Mollie was a smartass, her mom said, and a pack rat with a curious streak. Kim Calderwood, her sister and Mollie's aunt, said she thought Mollie had no flaws; she was focused, hard-working, and amazing with kids.

"I never saw her without a smile on her face," Laura said.

Morgan Collum, Mollie's cousin, said they were as close as sisters. Because of both their physical and emotional connections, the two would play, laugh, and of course argue with each other.

Morgan said she loved Mollie dearly, but she was a person like everyone else. She had an old soul, she said, and brought a unique perspective to the world.

The trait all three women mentioned was



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Laura Calderwood, Mollie Tibbetts' mother, looks through a scrapbook during an interview in her home in Brooklyn, Iowa on Aug. 30.

'I never saw her without a smile on her face.'

— Laura Calderwood, Mollie's mother

Mollie's goofball tendencies.

Morgan recalled one night when she, Mollie, and some friends were hanging out at Mollie's house. They were stuck inside because of the rain, Morgan said, and they were playing truth or dare. A friend dared Mollie to go roll around in a mud puddle, and while she didn't fulfill the dare completely, she did dance in the rain, to everyone's amusement.

"That's one that I think about sometimes if I'm feeling sad. It helps to think about some of the funny things we experienced together," Morgan said.

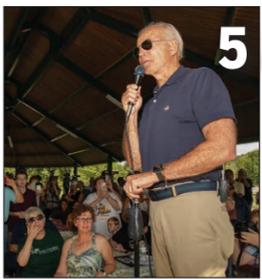
During the summer of 2018, Mollie popped over to Kim's house, where she was getting ready for a dinner she was hosting. When Mollie saw what Kim was making, she joked, "God, Kimmie, who makes soup in the summer?"



Contributed

SEE TIBBETTS, 3 Laura Calderwood and her children — Jake, Mollie, and Scott Tibbetts — pose for a photo.

INSIDE



2020 Democrats use Labor Day to promote support for unions
Five presidential hopefuls came to eastern Iowa to tout their support for unions on Labor Day. The candidates spoke about their plans to increase wages and support working-class families.

Epenesa garners attention off of the edge
Iowa junior defensive end A.J. Epenesa is a nightmare for opposing quarterbacks and coaches. The conference's reigning sack leader is going to have the attention of every team Iowa goes against this season, and other Hawkeye pass rushers will have to step up.

SPORTS, 8



Tune in for LIVE updates
Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage every day at 8:30 a.m. at dailyiowan.com.



NASA head talks space exploration in UI visit

Iowa politicians and the NASA administrator toured Van Allen Hall after the University of Iowa was awarded the largest research grant in its history.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine poses for a photo with Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, and Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, during Bridenstine's visit to the UI on Aug. 30. The UI recently received a \$115 million grant to launch the TRACERS mission, which will collect data on the interaction of the Earth and Sun's magnetic fields.

BY SARAH WATSON
sarah-e-watson@uiowa.edu

NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine visited the University of Iowa Aug. 30, where he emphasized space research happening at the UI has down-to-Earth applications such as how GPS signal and cellphone service networks function.

The UI received a recent \$115 million research grant earlier this year, the largest external research award

ever given at the UI, to study interactions between the Earth's and the sun's magnetic fields.

Bridenstine said the research from the mission, called TRACERS, could help protect network systems such as GPS from solar flares.

"We think about how important space is to our lives every day — we talk about the way we communicate, DirectTV, internet broadband from space, we talk

SEE NASA, 2

Target coming to Iowa City

An express location is expected to open in summer 2020.

BY RACHEL STEIL
rachel-steil@uiowa.edu

Retail giant Target has officially confirmed plans to open up a new store location in downtown Iowa City.

The company has signed a lease for a 24,000 square-foot space at 115 E. Washington St. An opening date has not yet been announced, but a sign posted on the front of the building reads "Coming Summer 2020!"

"We're excited to bring an easy, convenient shopping experience to additional guests in the community with this new Target store," a Target spokesperson said in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

According to the company's website, Target is dedicated to opening small-format stores in order to serve more customers located in urban areas and near college campuses. The end result is the company's new string of stores called TargetExpress.

The TargetExpress stores are tailored to the needs of urban populations and students. The Target website said that TargetExpress stores carry merchandise such as fresh produce, food and snacks, pharmacy, home, seasonal, electronics, beauty, and more.

"As we get closer to opening the store,

SEE TARGET, 2

JENGA!



Reba Zatz/The Daily Iowan

Hawkeye fans enjoy a barbecue and play games on Melrose Avenue before Iowa's football game against Miami (Ohio) on Aug. 31.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, passes Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, a tool used for space exploration during NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine's visit.

NASA
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

about GPS signal," he said. "... Space touches all of our lives in so many ways that people don't realize."

And NASA, he said, wants to soon put people on the moon permanently and put boots on Mars.

"We are going to go to the moon with humans to stay for long periods of time, and we're going to live and

work on a different world, and we're going to take what we learn on the moon on to Mars," he said. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$22.4 billion NASA budget for 2020, but the U.S. Senate has yet to take action on it.

Bridenstine, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Democratic Rep. Dave Loebsack of Iowa's 2nd Congressional District toured a room in Van Allen Hall — named after UI researcher James Van Allen who discovered two zones

of radiation belts that also have his namesake — where space-mission hardware is created and tested.

The room, though the size of a classroom, houses over \$1 million worth of equipment, including a thermal-vacuum chamber designed to test UI-built equipment in conditions that mimic space and a furnace that can heat up to more than 2,900 degrees Fahrenheit used to manufacture a part of an instrument used for measuring low-frequency magnetic fields.

The thermal-vacuum chamber is the only one of its kind in Iowa, and only one of two in Big Ten schools. Before the UI purchased its own, officials went to one of the coasts to conduct similar testing.

The room also housed a number of pieces of equipment that either will be used on future NASA missions or are spares for current space crafts in orbit.

Assistant Professor David Miles of physics and astronomy handed Loebsack a palm-sized beige box called

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BREAKING NEWS

Phone: (319) 335-6030
Email: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu
Fax: 335-6297

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

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'These programs are under assault in Washington D.C. And it's our job to make sure we can continue to fund them...'

— Dave Loebsack, Democratic Iowa Congressman

a magnetometer, a spare to a spacecraft currently outside the Earth's atmosphere, telling him with a smile, "There's no spare, so please don't drop it."

At a press conference after the tour, Loebsack said there was an attack on funding for space exploration, emphasizing that he believed funding for out-of-this world research should be bipartisan. He also noted that both he, a Democrat, and Grassley, a Republican, were in support of the research.

"These programs are under assault in Washington D.C.," Loebsack said, referring to all science-related programs under the federal government. "And it's our job to make sure we can continue to fund them because there is a payoff, and

that payoff isn't just monetary, it's also when it comes to the entire humanity... We have to think long term, which isn't something politicians are always inclined to do."

When asked by a reporter if Bridenstine agreed with Loebsack's statement that programs are under assault, he avoided directly answering the question, but emphasized that he wanted to maintain bipartisan support of NASA.

"Certainly there are a lot of different priorities in Washington. Some people want to see bigger numbers on other things and vice versa," Bridenstine said. "But I will tell you, again, my goal is to maintain NASA as bipartisan and apolitical, and right now we have that."



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

The new Target location is seen on Washington Street in Iowa City on Aug. 30. The retail giant is expected to open an express store at this location in the summer of 2020.

TARGET
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

we'll have more specific details to share — including how the shopping experience will be tailored to serve local guests and the grand opening date," said a Target spokesperson.

City Manager Geoff Fruin said the University of Iowa campus and dense housing downtown were most likely important factors in Target's location decision.

"Target will add to an al-

ready strong retail environment by providing a wide selection of general merchandise that is currently not offered in the immediate area," Fruin said in an email to the *DI*. "Target will be filling a space that has been vacant for several years."

It is expected that the surrounding area will provide the new Target with the majority of its clientele.

"The store will bring a new line of merchandise to the area that will support the entire community, but specifically the large population

that lives and works in and around downtown," Fruin said. "I expect it will be a welcome addition to the Iowa City community."

UI junior Emima Bakalbasic said she was shocked and excited when she heard a Target location will be so close to campus, and she looks forward to the convenience and low prices.

She added that the new Target location will provide UI students with basic goods for affordable prices.

"I love Target's prices," Bakalbasic said. "It is always

the cheapest option for me."

According to Bakalbasic, Target's main appeal is its offer of a price match guarantee to ensure low prices for customers.

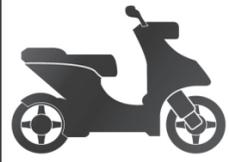
"There's more options, and the whole price match guarantee is super cool," Bakalbasic said.

Fruin expects that it will be a positive experience for everyone involved.

"We hope and believe that Target will help lift the entire downtown retail environment and that existing stores will benefit from their presence in the area," Fruin said.

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Motorcyclists: Did you know?



University motorcycle permits allow motorcycles, mopeds and scooters to park in all University motorcycle lots.

There are 36 motorcycle lots on campus.

Motorcycles and mopeds are prohibited from using bicycle racks.

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TIBBETTS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

That was the last time Kim saw her. Mollie went missing in July 2018, and her body was found about one month later on Aug. 21. Laura said she doesn't really pay attention to the specific dates, although the six-month anniversary hit her hard when someone posted about it online. She said that prepared her for the one-year anniversary, and she brought her sons to Des Moines, where they had dinner with family.

"Your brain protects your heart from what it can't handle," she said.

Once a Hawkeye, always a Hawkeye

Mollie became a Hawkeye, following in her mother's footsteps by attending the UI. She was working toward a major in psychology, and immersed herself deeply in campus life by joining Dance Marathon and getting a job at the Medical Education Research Facility café.

Laura found her love of art while studying at the UI and encouraged Mollie to take art courses after she fulfilled some required classes. After Mollie's death, Laura said it was hard for her to come back to Iowa City, because she knew how much Mollie loved the town.

"Mollie was really going to blossom in Iowa City," she said.

Kim saw Mollie's coming-of-age firsthand, as she works on campus. She and Mollie would meet at a bench in the Old Capitol Mall sometimes, and Kim would drive her back to Brooklyn, Iowa. She said they became closer as Mollie settled into campus, and always looked forward to their talks in the car.

While Mollie was missing, Kim said in a tearful voice that she would park her car in the same spot every day and keep the doors unlocked, just in case Mollie showed up and needed a place to sit or hide. She would also go to the bench and look around. She said it took her a long time to be able to return to that bench.

"I thought t... she could be here as well as anywhere else," she said. "She could maybe make her way back here at some point."

Mollie is still present on campus, Kim said, through the \$3,500-worth of donations from her Dance Marathon account or the memorial fund that benefits the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital psychiatric department.

When Laura planned Mollie's funeral, she had mourners send donations to the Children's Hospital in lieu of flowers. When she was asked which area of the hospital she would like to dedicate the funds, the answer was simple.

"Without even thinking the words just came out of my mouth, 'Children and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit,' because Mollie wanted to be a psychiatrist and she loved children," Laura said.

According to the UI Center for Advancement's website, more than 270 people have donated more than \$20,000 to the memorial fund.

Her presence sometimes emerges in more subtle ways.

Kim's son stopped one day to speak to a homeless person. After handing out a Kindness Card, a card with a quote from a speech Mollie gave, the person said they knew Mollie. Mollie would stop and speak with them when she had time.

The quote reads, "Everyone has their own talent. Whether it's a sport you are good at, or if you are good at dance, or if you're a great writer, even if you're just a good person. That's one of the best things you can be good at."

Community spreads 'everyday joy'

Mollie's family is not alone in honoring Mollie's legacy. Different communities have come together to memorialize her life, spreading the kindness and compassion that she showed everyone.

In a conference room on the sixth floor of the Children's Hospital hangs a five-panel painting, capturing the "everyday joy" Mollie found in life.

The large canvases are filled with flowers, leaves, hearts, and abstract shapes in neon colors. The swirls, stripes, and dots covering the paintings exude a lightness that fills the room.

Children who knew Mollie from the daycare at which she worked, as well as kids from another daycare and Children's Hospital patients, helped paint the piece. Laura said it looks just like something Mollie would have painted, with abstract shapes and bright colors.

Laura said they had discussions of wanting to brighten up the rooms where children would have meetings — and what better way to do that than with something children made?

Another piece of art hangs in the Grinnell College art gallery that children helped make in honor of Mol-



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Laura Calderwood looks at daughter Mollie Tibbett's artwork, which hangs in her home in Brooklyn, Iowa on Aug. 30. Calderwood remembered that although the portrait was drawn for her, Mollie requested \$5 for the drawing.



Contributed

Morgan Collum holds Mollie Tibbetts while they pose for a photo. Collum is Tibbetts' cousin, and they are eight years apart in age.

lie. This one is a handmade hanging piece, and Laura helped sew the pieces together.

Much like the paintings, the piece is made up of brightly colored hearts, flowers, and shapes. Each piece hangs from the other to create an elaborate chandelier, and the longer one looks, the more details jump out. The initials M.T. are painted on one shape.

"Seeing the sincerity and the seriousness on their faces [as the children worked]... that's been a positive thing," she said.

For the children who had a relationship with Mollie, making this art was an important step in the healing process, Laura said. Mollie and the events surrounding her death will likely stick with them for the rest of their lives, and being able to work through their feelings with art will help them remember her life, not just her death.

"I just think it's important for them to do what is essential to help themselves through this," she said.

In Grinnell's Ahrens Park, where Mollie used to take the kids she looked after at the summer camp as a staff member, stand statues made of dark metal. The abstract statues, placed earlier this summer, show Mollie putting her arms around children and playing with her dog.

Children can sit at the base of the statues to play, or talk, or just sit and remember, Kim said.

"I really like the theme of everyday joy," she said.

Mollie is being remembered through more than just art. Livenow Photography has T-shirts and postcards for Mollie's Movement, and prints Kindness Cards for people to hand out.

Kim said she tries to give out a few cards each week.

"Our family was on the receiving end of so much kindness during all of it, that we have been trying to pay it forward in as many ways as we can," she said.

Movements such as Miles for Mollie are still going strong, and the second Mollie Tibbetts memorial run is set for Sept. 29 in Brooklyn. The high school Mollie attended also has four \$500 scholarships in her name.

On Mollie's 21st birthday on May 8, Morgan said many people took it upon themselves to participate in random acts of kindness to honor Mollie.

"It was really made a big deal to... share the kindness on her birthday," she said.

But smaller than organizations and movements are the teal ribbons still fluttering in Brooklyn, and the mail Laura continues to receive from people offering their condolences and well-wishes to the family.

"[I have] boxes [of mail] from all over the country," she said. "... They haven't stopped, and it's been over a year."

Letters are stored in boxes, which are scattered around Laura's living room and office. Cards from Pennsylvania, Georgia, California, and all around the country seemed to over-

then so can she.

When Mollie went missing, Laura said the FBI assigned the family a victim advocate. The best piece of advice Laura said she received during that time came from the advocate.

The advocate held out her hand and described that as representing the family members' lives. She pointed at one finger and said that right now, everyone is very focused on Mollie. While pointing to the other fingers, she said you can't ignore all the other parts of your life. She told Laura that she needs to remember to go to work, feed her family, make sure the boys go to school, and take care of herself as well.

So, that's how Laura thinks about her grief now — as something she needs to balance with the other parts of her life instead of letting it consume her.

"That's not what I want, and that's not what Mollie would want at all," she said.

Living like Mollie

Mollie's family is moving into the future having grown stronger from the last year of grief and remembrance.

Kim will keep handing out the Kindness Cards to those who need it, she said.

Morgan, who starts student-teaching in December, said she will strive to instill the values Mollie embodied into the children she guides.

"Just in my little part I play in this whole grand scheme of things is just carrying on her legacy by talking about her and sharing the kind of person she was," she said.

Laura has contemplated the future often lately, she said. With the second memorial run approaching and people continuing to contribute to the memorial fund, things don't seem to be slowing down.

Now with her sons in college, Laura also has to think about being an empty-nester. She is still working to balance her life, and while she will always miss Mollie, she has things that make her happy.

She said she will continue working with the Children's Hospital to provide kids with the mental health care they need, because it meant so much to Mollie.

Despite the outpouring of support and efforts to honor Mollie, Laura said she thinks people don't really know what she means to them yet.

Mollie's legacy is still changing, and Laura said if there's one thing Mollie could do right now, she would want to let everyone know how much she appreciates all the love people have shared for her and her family.

"[Mollie] lived life to its fullest," she said. "... She would want to acknowledge the fact that... she appreciates that outpouring of love."



Go to dailyiowan.com for more multimedia content, including a film about Laura Calderwood's memories of Mollie.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Pieces of mail from various senders across the country sit in a box in the Calderwood home during an interview on Aug. 30 in Brooklyn, Iowa.

July 18, 2018

UI student Mollie Tibbetts is last seen jogging in her hometown of Brooklyn, Iowa.

July 19, 2018

The Tibbetts family reports Mollie missing after learning from Dalton Jack, Mollie's boyfriend, that she didn't show up for work and isn't answering her phone.

Aug. 21, 2018

Police charge Cristhian Bahena Rivera with first-degree murder after he reportedly admitted to killing Tibbetts. Authorities said he led them to her body in a cornfield southeast of Brooklyn.

Sept. 18, 2018

Bahena Rivera pleads not guilty to the murder of Tibbetts. His trial date is set for April 16.

Oct. 1, 2018

The Tibbetts family establishes the Mollie Tibbetts Memorial Fund for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Donations from the fund go toward the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Feb. 2, 2019

8th District Judge Joel Yates moves Bahena Rivera's trial to Sept. 3 in Woodbury County.

March 27, 2019

Bahena Rivera's trial is moved from Poweshiek County to Woodbury County after his lawyers argue he won't receive a fair trial in Poweshiek County.

June 21, 2019

A hearing to decide whether Bahena Rivera's rights were violated by law-enforcement officials during questioning is delayed until Aug. 23. His trial is moved to Nov. 12.

Aug. 15, 2019

The hearing on whether Bahena Rivera's rights were violated, which determines whether his alleged confession to the murder of Tibbetts can be used as evidence in trial, is moved to Oct. 22 and 23. A hearing to waive Bahena Rivera's right to a speedy trial is set for Aug. 23.

Aug. 23, 2019

Bahena Rivera waives his right to a speedy trial. The hearing to suppress evidence remains set for Oct. 22 and 23, and the trial is set to begin Nov. 12.

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Don't politicize Mollie Tibbetts

The UI student's life is more than her death. Honor her by spreading kindness.

BY DI EDITORIAL BOARD
daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

More than a year ago, the Hawkeye family lost one of its own members.

In August 2018, University of Iowa student Mollie Tibbetts' body was found after she had gone missing five weeks earlier while on a run in her hometown of Brooklyn, Iowa. The news of her tragic murder shocked the nation, prompting an outpouring of support for her loved ones as her legacy touched many lives.

As the world learned that day, authorities charged Cristian Bahena Rivera, an undocumented immigrant, with the first-degree murder of Mollie. The story of a life tragically cut short and of a community's heartbreak quickly turned into a political narrative; an act of violence that resulted in the loss of human life in our community was reduced to a talking point in immigration-policy debates.

Politicians including Gov. Kim Reynolds, Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst, and

President Trump used the tragedy to call for reform of a "broken immigration system." To a West Virginia rally crowd, Trump described Bahena Rivera not by using his name, but by calling him an "illegal alien." Those remarks all came last year within hours of law-en-

forcement officials' announcement that Mollie had been found dead, but it seems as the trial of Bahena Rivera approaches, the racist and anti-immigrant sentiments remain a problem.

'News outlets widely reported that Mollie's family repeatedly asked for her death not to be politicized, because it's not what Mollie would have wanted.'

Charlie Kirk, the founder and president of conservative youth organization Turning Point USA, continues to weigh in occasionally on Twitter, mimicking Trump's rhetoric and calling Bahena Rivera an "illegal alien." Social-media comments

News outlets widely reported that Mollie's family repeatedly asked for her death not to be politicized, because it's not what Mollie would have wanted. When the family could have chosen to hate her accused killer and all people who look like him, they asked "What would Mollie do?"

Her family chose to love instead, taking in Ulises, the teenage son of Mexican immigrants, so he could finish high school in Brooklyn. His parents

fled Yarrabee Farms, where they worked alongside Bahena Rivera, fearing the anger that the world directed toward the farms' immigrant workers.

All of the derogatory rhetoric toward Bahena Rivera and America's immigrant population won't bring Mollie back, but there is a better way to keep her spirit alive: Live like Mollie.

The story of her death gripped the nation and dominated headlines one year ago. But around one year later, it's not the story of her death that is most memorable; rather, it's the story of how she lived that stands out the most.

Mollie is more than the tragic circumstances of her death. Honor her by living with a smile on your face and love in your hearts. Dance "For The Kids" like Mollie did as a Dance Marathon member. Be a goofball. Treat others with kindness — your loved ones and those strangers you pass on the street.

The Mollie Movement has only just begun. By showing compassion, we can ensure that Mollie and her legacy live on.



Contributed

COLUMN

College GOP schools on political funding

Groups such as College Democrats could follow the example of political fundraising.



MARINA JAIMES
marina-jaimes@uiowa.edu

In a since-deleted Twitter thread, University of Iowa College Republicans created a great argument for raising money as a student organization — one that can be beneficial to all student groups and political activists across Iowa.

The UI College Republicans chapter responded to the thread with important insight that would avoid relying on the national party for donations. President of the chapter and UI senior Joshua Werges explains that every semester the chapter uses public information to identify major donors. The group then gathers, writes letters about why contributions are necessary, and includes a return envelope and postage stamp. If a donation is received, members make sure to send a handwritten thank-you letter after.

This illustrates the divide between the two college wings of the two major political parties, at least in their fundraising methods. The Twitter Moment highlighted the disconnect between College Democrats and Democratic Party Chair Tom Perez. Multiple chapters in the thread pleaded for more funding from the Democratic National Committee when Perez wished them luck as they head back to school for the fall and gather critical votes for 2020 presidential candidates.

"Thinking about us is great, listening to us is better. Our budget is a tenth of what it was under precious chairs. When we advocate for progressive causes like the climate debate, we get

stonewalled. The DNC needs to be pushing us forward, not holding us back," writes a Twitter user included in the Moment. College Democratic chapters from Iowa to New Jersey participated in the thread.

Werges says that overall, the process takes the group three hours per semester.

As opposed to requesting money from the Republican National Committee, UI College Republicans take the time-consuming initiative and see positive results from their efforts. With a few reliable donors, they are able to grow their presence on campus by funding expenses for speakers and conferences for its members to attend.

Personally, I am not sure this strategy will be as effective towards liberal politics with the polarization on most campuses. Conservative organizations tend to need resources for events and speakers but organizing among college-aged students does not seem to be a priority for them, or a beneficial one at least.

The Iowa caucuses have brought massive attention to the state, making Iowa City a must-see stop for all presidential candidates. Students at the UI have benefited from attending these appearances but tweets from College Democratic chapters across the nation demonstrate that other areas of the country need resources for campuses to organize.

While this tactic does not transfer across all political groups, College Democratic chapters across the country can take a lesson from the UI College Republicans. Creating lasting relationships with donors can prove to be more useful than contacting national chapters, which are not as focused on college campuses. Overall, these relationships can go a long way for young activists with future careers in politics.

COLUMN

Guns: America's dumbest problem

We know how to reduce gun deaths: have fewer guns. Our hesistance to enact reasonable changes to gun laws distracts from genuinely challenging policy issues.



ELIJAH HELTON
elijah-helton@uiowa.edu

I love being an American. We invented the electric guitar, college football, and deep fried Oreos. We went to the Moon, put Mr. Rogers on TV, and have the best women's soccer team.

But we also have really dumb problems in America. Someone is still paying the Nickelback to perform music, 26 percent of us think the Sun revolves around the Earth, and thousands of us die every year from gun violence.

And please don't get me wrong. I'm not making light of the individuals whose lives have been stolen, or the shattered worlds of their loved ones, or the terror that grips countless school children, concert goers, and Walmart shoppers.

My point is that the gun problem is dumb. It's dumb because we know how to fix it: fewer guns. It's pretty simple, really. In states with fewer guns, there's less death by guns. That's true for deaths by suicide as well as accidental and intentional killings. In places where it's harder to come by a gun, legally or otherwise, it's harder for someone to die from a bullet.

Massachusetts' red-flag laws and licensing program make the state with the second least guns and the least gun deaths per capita, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By contrast, states such as Arkansas have very lax firearm reg-

ulations and their high ownership rate comes with a high gun-death rate.

I know I'm not going to convince those who already disagree with me. I'm not going to sway those under the persuasion that prayer is a public-policy solution, or that the Christian Jehovah has endowed humans with the right to own a firearm.

I don't want to write that article, and no one wants to read it. So instead of spending my 600 words regurgitating what we already know — background checks are good, red-flag laws are better, gun bans and buybacks are best — I'd rather reflect on how the firearm debate is different from everything else.

The conversation around guns isn't like other policy areas about which there are reasonable arguments to be made. I'm definitely left of center, but I can hear out a philosophically coherent argument for privatizing schools, or fire departments, or whatever.

It's not the same with guns. There are clear-cut measures that have been proven to mitigate deaths from guns. It's just a matter of making the political choice to save lives.

(Aside: Most gun-safety laws aren't designed to do much against a mass shooting. These laws are reduce gun deaths in the most common scenarios: suicides and domestic violence. And of course, there is never going to be zero deaths from firearms. The point is to drastically cut the number of needlessly dead human beings.)

So, what's my point? I said I wouldn't spend my time actually debating the gun issue, and I'm more than two-thirds through my freedom-hating screed. Well, it's like I said at the top: I love being an American. We have plenty of asinine problems, but we are brilliant problem solvers when we set our hearts and minds to a great challenge.

That great challenge isn't guns, it's climate change. I find

it maddening to scream about a problem (gun deaths) where we already have the answer (have less guns), when there's a genuine emergency at hand.

To effectively solve the climate crisis, we are going to undertake expansive and intricate initiatives.

We're going to build new careers across industries. We're going to make everything more reliable, cleaner and safer, from our electric grids to the air we breathe. We're going to work together to come up with the most efficient and responsible ways to revolutionize the energy, transportation and agricultural sectors. We're going to make America great again and be the unquestioned world leader in the fight against our greatest existential threat.

We don't have all the answers right now — not by a long shot — but we're America, and we aren't going to perish from the earth just yet.

So let's just get the gun thing out of the way, so we can tackle a true challenge.



Mary Mathis/The Daily Iowan

The hunting section of Scheels displays its firearms on Feb. 7, 2016.

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NATIONAL POLITICS

2020 Dems pledge support for unions on Labor Day

As presidential hopefuls court union endorsements, five candidates visited eastern Iowa to make their case one-on-one at labor picnics.

BY SARAH WATSON AND JULIA SHANAHAN
daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

Democratic presidential hopefuls flocked to Iowa Monday to show support on Labor Day for union members and pitch their plans to increase wages and invest in working-class families.

"You figured out here in Iowa, the Legislature and governor is really trying to crush you," Biden said at City Park in Iowa City. "The idea [of] collective bargaining not being an absolute right is absolutely wrong."

Five candidates shook hands, ate bratwursts, shared beers, and took selfies with attendees at the Cedar Rapids Labor Day picnic hosted by the Hawkeye Labor Council, with both Biden and Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., going on to Iowa City.

Democratic presidential hopefuls are heavily courting unions' endorsements. In the last few decades, unions have tended to favor Democrats; in 2016, 43 percent of union-household voters voted to elect Donald Trump as president.

Biden told reporters that as president, he wants to raise the minimum wage of workers who are considered management, which would require companies to pay more workers overtime.

"There's a whole range of other things ... but it's all designed to suppress wages... increase stock prices, and benefit the very wealthy," Biden told reporters in Cedar Rapids.

Mandy Martens, of Cedar Rapids, said she's leaning toward Biden because of his demonstrated support for unions and because she believes he would be well-respected throughout the world.

"He's got the experience, he's been there, he's talked to those people, they know him, they respect him," she said of Biden visiting foreign dignitaries as vice president.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the Iowa City Federation of Labor Labor Day Picnic in City Park on Monday. Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., and Biden were among those who attended the event to court union endorsements in their bids for the White House.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., emphasized her family's history of union involvement — her father was a member of the Newspaper Guild, her mother was part of a teacher's union, and her grandfather was a mine worker.

"Today is about respecting our workers, and thanking them for their work," Klobuchar said. "But it's not just one day, it should be every single day."

All of the five candidates who visited eastern Iowa for Labor Day weekend — Bennet, Biden, Buttigieg, Klobuchar, and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock — have positioned themselves as more moderate candi-

dates who are able to win over independent and conservative voters to build a coalition against President Trump.

Jay Larson, a leader on the Hawkeye Area Labor Council, said although he's waiting for the endorsement of the national union to pledge his support, health care was a key topic for him when talking to candidates. He said his union prefers to keep its own negotiated health-care plans rather than eliminate all other types of insurance coverage in favor of a government-run health-care system.

In speeches in Iowa City, both Bennet and Biden con-

demned Trump for "breaking promises to working people" and for implementing policies that benefit wealthy Americans.

Mauro Heck, a union member and public-school bus driver, said he likes the labor plans of Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, because he said he feels like they relate better to working-class families.

"I think we need something more radical — something more [than] the standard stuff," Heck said at the picnic in Iowa City. "I mean, Biden did a lot of great work, but his time has passed, and we need some new fresh-blood thinking

and new ways."

Bennet, who has been critical of Medicare-for-All, told reporters on Sunday in Cedar Rapids that his labor plan would drastically increase the income- and child-tax credit, implement paid-family leave, and raise the minimum wage in some parts of the country. He said a \$15 minimum wage could hurt some small businesses in rural parts of the country, but doesn't have a plan for which areas of the country would see that minimum-wage increase.

"I think those four things together would create an enormous difference to work with people in this

country, and give us the opportunity to actually get something passed, because those are all ideas that I think are broadly supported by the American people," Bennet said on Sept. 1.

Bennet said he does not know how he will decide what parts of the country get a raised minimum wage. Bennet has attacked candidates such as Sanders, and told reporters on Monday that he offers a less ideological view to labor policies.

Klobuchar, Buttigieg, Biden, Bennet, and Bullock attended the Labor Day picnic in Cedar Rapids. Biden and Bennet later made their way to Iowa City.

The Daily Break

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 2

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0730

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DOWN

- Unit of bacon
- Actress Linney of "The Truman Show"
- Common basket-weaving material
- Something you'll have to go to court for?
- Financing letters
- Midnight, on a grandfather clock
- Edie Sedgwick and Kendall Jenner, for two
- Condition of inactivity
- They're almost always shared by twins, informally
- Televise
- Winter play outfits
- Leafy vegetable that can be green or purple
- Place to store a lawn mower
- Fannie
- Locale for a manor
- Falcon-headed Egyptian god
- Circumstance's partner
- Car with a meter
- Blue-green shade
- Alternative to Charles de Gaulle
- Some CBS police dramas
- Prefix with sphere
- Obvious signs of pregnancy
- Fruity soda brand
- Selecting, with "for"
- Ploy
- Tops of corp. ladders
- "That'll never happen!"
- Ones doing loops and barrel rolls
- Overtime stage name of Sean Combs
- "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spinoff
- __easter
- Month after diciembre
- Side of many a protractor
- Garden tool
- __ row (some blocks in a college town)
- Togolese city on the Gulf of Guinea
- Fish that can be electric
- Second letter after epsilon
- "Alley __!"

ACROSS

- What a coin may go in
- __ & Allies (classic board game)
- Lies lazily in the sun
- Stun with a gun
- Brad of "Fight Club"
- Someone's in the kitchen with her, in an old song
- Wreck
- Petty set of procedures
- Woman who's bid good night in an old song
- "__, old chap!"
- "With this ring, I thee __"
- Local officials in dioceses
- Seats in many bars
- Car
- Car with a meter
- Sites of biceps and triceps
- More cunning
- 38 & 40 Money required to open a business ... or a hint to 18-, 24-, 47- and 57-Across
- Permeates
- Feature of many an old car
- Cunning
- Some beans
- "Here's how experts handle this"
- Longest-serving Independent member of Congress in U.S. history
- Vaccine target
- Greeting in Guatemala
- Generate by dubious means
- Part of a Juliet soliloquy
- Crème __ crème
- Juiced (up)
- Noted terrier in a 1939 film
- Scott of an 1857 Supreme Court case
- Inventor with a coil named after him
- Lead-in to chat or dragon
- Time long past

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FOOTBALL
CONTINUED FROM 8

While his effect on the game — particularly on the RedHawk game plan — is unquestioned, Epenesa did not show up much on the stat sheet.

The junior defensive end registered only one tackle on Aug. 31, also batting down a pass.

With the attention Epenesa drew, it makes sense why he had minimal opportunities to take down opposing ball carriers. However, the devotion to stopping Epenesa should create opportunities for the rest of the defense.

“They weren’t double-teaming all the time, but they were chipping a lot,” Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said. “That’s the curse of being a good football player. Sometimes that happens, but that should free some other things up for the other guys. That’s a team effort out there.”

Even with the attention on Epenesa, the Hawkeye defense only registered a single sack on the opposing

quarterback.

The lone sack came at a key moment in the game, though.

On third down in the third quarter, defensive end Amani Jones came free off of the edge and collided with quarterback Brett Gabbert, taking him down for the sack.

The play energized both the Iowa defense and the home crowd.

“Once he saw me and I saw him and I knew I could get him, I knew I couldn’t let him go,” Jones said.

Jones is one of a number of talented pass rushers on the Iowa defense not wearing No. 94. Chauncey Golston, in particular, is probably Iowa’s most-feared pass rusher outside of Epenesa.

Golston, Jones, and even the defensive tackles from time to time will be key as pass rushers with Epenesa having so many roadblocks on his way to the quarterback.

If they step up and opposing offenses cannot afford to put so much focus on Epenesa, the Iowa defensive line will be even more difficult to stop.



Iowa defense tackles Miami (Ohio) running back Maurice Thomas during Iowa’s game against Miami (Ohio) at Kinnick Stadium on Aug. 31. Iowa defeated the Redhawks, 38-14. *Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan*

STANLEY
CONTINUED FROM 8

Seven players also recorded a carry, showing how many playmakers’ hands offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz wants to get the ball into.

That’s a good thing for Iowa.

The wide receivers’ room is the deepest Stanley has been paired with since he took over the starting role in 2017, and

there are at least four running backs who figure to get some meaningful carries at some point during the season.

It would be wonderful if we could keep doing [spreading the ball around],” Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said. “Makes us a better football team. Last year, I know there’s a lot of focus on the tight ends for obvious reasons. Those guys were exceptional players and talents. We

weren’t as good at the other spots, but I think we’re a little stronger just overall right now.”

There were questions entering the season about how the Hawkeye offense would respond after losing its three leading receivers in T.J. Hockenson, Noah Fant, and Nick Easley.

It didn’t help that Oliver Martin’s status was up in the air until last week, either.

Now with Martin,

Brandon Smith, Ihmir Smith-Marsette, Mekhi Sargent, and Toren Young all available, those questions have more or less been erased.

“It is hard on the defense for them to key in on one guy,” Stanley said. “I think it allows us to get some one-on-one matchups that maybe we weren’t getting in the past. I think it allows the defense to play a lot more honest and not be able to double

cover people.”

If things continue to shake out that way, the Hawkeyes will be in good shape as they gear up for conference play. Iowa hosts Rutgers on Saturday, and while the Scarlet Knights aren’t a Big Ten juggernaut by any means, they will provide a conference measuring stick.

It’s always nice to see fresh faces get action in a season-opener, but conference games are far more

telling about the role they will play for the rest of the season. This season’s conference schedule begins far earlier than in years past, so new faces will need to prepare for the season to take a quick jump.

There’s no denying that Iowa possesses talented players on both sides of the ball. Now, the focus will be on looking at how they do when the games start to matter more.

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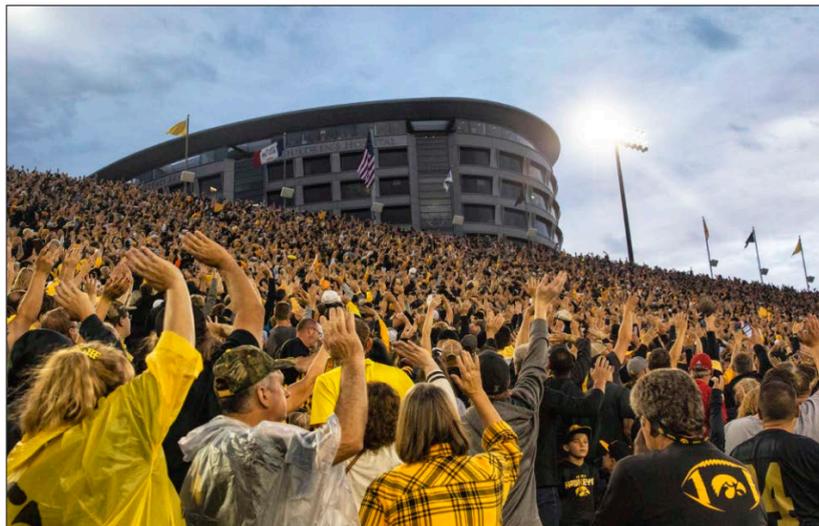
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RedHawks kicked from the nest

Miami (Ohio) kept it close in the first half, but Iowa outscored the RedHawks, 28-7, in the second half to pick up a season-opening win. Quarterback Nate Stanley got the season off to a fast start, throwing for 252 yards and 3 touchdowns.



38-14
HAWKEYES REDHAWKS



Clockwise from top left: Iowa wide receiver Oliver Martin breaks away from defense during the Iowa/Miami (Ohio) game in Kinnick Stadium on Aug. 31. (Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan) Fans participate in "The Wave" after the first quarter. (Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan) Iowa running back Toren Young runs toward the end-zone. (Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan) Iowa wide receiver Brandon Smith catches a pass. (Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan) Iowa running back Toren Young celebrates a touchdown. (Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan) Iowa offensive lineman Kyler Schott tackles Miami (Ohio) linebacker Myles Reid. (Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan)

Postgame

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE IN IOWA

DAILYIOWAN.COM

Impact on the edge

A.J. Epenesa will be a focus for opposing coaches this season, and that should create opportunities for other Hawkeye defenders.



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Iowa defensive ends A.J. Epenesa prepares for a play during the Iowa football game against Miami (Ohio) at Kinnick Stadium on Aug. 31. The Hawkeyes defeated the RedHawks, 38-14.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

A.J. Epenesa is the type of player who makes opposing quarterbacks and offensive coordinators stay up at night. He lingers in their thoughts, making them wonder how they will put up with his speed and quickness off the edge, his strength and deep arsenal of pass rush moves.

The preseason All-American defensive end can seemingly wreck opposing offenses all by himself if not given the proper attention. Miami (Ohio) was not going to let that happen. The RedHawks made it clear in Week 1 that they were going to do all they could to ensure Epenesa was not going to take over the game. The entire left side of the offensive line was sliding toward Epenesa at times, not giving him any breathing room. The tight end

often lined up on the left side of the line to give Epenesa an extra chip, and a running back usually stayed in the backfield to offer an extra line of defense. "It's what I expected," Epenesa said. "It makes it a lot more difficult to play the game, but that's how it goes. I've got to get it going and make plays."

SEE FOOTBALL, 6

HAWKEYE UPDATES

Field hockey goes 1-1 at ACC/Big Ten Challenge

Iowa field hockey opened the 2019 season with the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. The Hawkeyes split a pair of closely contested matches against two top-10 teams, beating No. 10 Wake Forest, 2-1, but losing to No. 1 North Carolina by the same score.

Sofie Stribos put Iowa on the board against North Carolina, scoring her second goal in as many games. Iowa held the lead until the 55th minute, but North Carolina took the lead and sealed the victory with another goal just minutes later.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We kind of have this joke in the O-line room, when he does something good we're like, 'Oh that's the wrestler in him.'"



— Iowa offensive lineman Tristan Wirfs on teammate Kyler Schott and his wrestling experience

STAT OF THE DAY

Iowa football has won six consecutive season openers.

6

Consecutive season-opener wins

COLUMN

New season, more weapons for Stanley

The weapons surrounding Nate Stanley on the field only spell positives for the Hawkeyes.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Quarterback Nate Stanley throws a pass during Iowa's game against Miami (Ohio) at Kinnick Stadium on Aug. 31. Iowa defeated the RedHawks, 38-14.

BY PETE RUDEN
peter-ruden@uiowa.edu

Iowa's 38-14 season-opening win over Miami (Ohio) on Aug. 31 wasn't the cleanest game the Hawkeyes will play all year.

The RedHawks posted a couple explosive plays to move the ball down the field, and Iowa made its fair share of mistakes, including a fumble on a fullback dive when Brady Ross tried to pitch the ball back to quarterback Nate Stanley.

But mistakes are expected for the first



Stanley

game of the season.

Other than the few errors that kept the game close for the first half, the Hawkeyes showed how good they can be and how many weapons they boast.

Stanley completed passes to 10 different receivers, and half of them hauled in more than one pass. Three different receivers scored a touchdown as well.

SEE STANLEY, 6

Iowa's Week 1 report card

Offense

B+

If this was based solely on the second half, the grade would be more in the A-range. Luckily for Iowa, it responded incredibly well to Alaric Jackson's injury both on the ground and in the air.

The offense made plenty of plays, and quarterback Nate Stanley used almost everyone, completing a pass to 10 different receivers.

Mekhi Sargent took the role of a Swiss army knife, leading the team in rushing and receiving.

Oliver Martin's touchdown on his first career reception as a Hawkeye gives the offense bonus points.

Defense

B-

The Miami (Ohio) game was a season-opener, and it looked like it in the first half. The biggest negative for Iowa was the explosive plays it gave up, leading to RedHawk touchdowns. The pass rush also didn't quite live up to expectations, leading to a single sack by Amani Jones on third down.

A Michael Ojemudia interception helped the cause, though, and one touchdown a half isn't the worst.

Special Teams

B

Iowa's special teams were average against the RedHawks.

Kicker Keith Duncan performed well in his first meaningful playing time since 2016, hitting a field goal and 5 extra points.

Other than that, a 31-yard punt from Michael Sleep-Dalton, 16 punt return yards from Nico Ragaini, and 19 kick return yards by Ihmir Smith-Marsette led to an average day. Not bad, not great.