

## INSIDE

### Trial set for October for man accused of JoEllen Browning

The trial for Roy Browning – the man accused of killing his wife, UI Health Care budget official JoEllen Browning – has been reset to begin on Oct. 13.

A case-management conference has also been reset to start at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 18. Both the conference and the trial will take place at the Johnson County Courthouse.

A trial scheduling conference via telephone took place Wednesday morning to reset the dates. The case-management conference was previously scheduled to begin Feb. 14, and the trial was going to begin March 10.

JoEllen Browning was found dead in her home April 5, 2019, from sharp-force injuries. Browning was arrested over six months later on Oct. 28, 2019, and was charged with first-degree murder. He has since pleaded not guilty.



**Browning**

Go to [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com) to read the full story.

### Pete Buttigieg holds on to lead after caucus recount

The Iowa Democratic Party announced the results of the recount of 23 precincts in a press release on Thursday, solidifying and strengthening Pete Buttigieg's slight lead over Bernie Sanders in state delegate equivalents.

Delegate counts were corrected at 19 precincts, putting Buttigieg's final state delegate equivalent tally at 562,954 compared with Sanders' 562,021. Compared to the previous results – Buttigieg with 563,207 and Sanders with 563,127 – both candidates lost delegates slightly, and Buttigieg increased his lead over Sanders.



**Buttigieg**

Go to [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com) to read the full story.



### UI and Iowa City schools address massive growth in English-language learners

The Iowa City Community School District and educators at the University of Iowa are addressing an exponential growth in English-language learners through empowering teachers and creating new programs.



### Seniors spark Hawkeyes in home finale

Iowa's seniors stepped up in their final regular season home game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. It was an emotional night, but Kathleen Doyle and Makenzie Meyer led the Hawkeyes to another win in the Big Ten.



**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](http://dailyiowan.com).



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## ETHICS & POLITICS IOWA POLITICS

# LGBTQ bills stall in Iowa Legislature

Lawmakers and LGBTQ groups are optimistic about future attempts to ban conversion therapy despite the bill failing the first key legislative deadline.

BY RYLEE WILSON  
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Leaders of the LGBTQ community reacted with mixed feelings after a number of LGBTQ-related bills in the Iowa Legislature failed to meet a key deadline.

Bills aimed at banning conversion therapy

as well as proposals placing regulations on LGBTQ topics in public schools won't be considered by lawmakers this session after dying in committee last week.

Leaders of the community said the number of unsupportive LGBTQ bills that didn't make it through the funnel signaled a shift toward a more inclusive Legislature. However, com-



**Kaufmann**

munity leaders did not see pro-LGBTQ legislation pass the funnel either.

Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, introduced a bill to ban the practice of conversion therapy,

SEE LGBTQ, 3

## POLITIFACT IOWA ETHICS & POLITICS

# Was OSU defunded for an energy P3 similar to UI's?



The UI External Relations VP responded to faculty concerns Jan. 28 that Ohio State didn't lose state funding for its energy deal.

PolitiFact Iowa is a project of The Daily Iowan's Ethics & Politics Initiative and PolitiFact to help you find the truth in politics.

BY KELSEY HARRELL  
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University administrators and faculty members have expressed concerns about whether the University of Iowa will receive less funding from the state for its general-operating budget in years to come because of the UI's \$1.1 billion public/private partnership. The move, approved by the state Board of Regents in December 2019, was controversial because the UI was giving control over one of its assets to a private firm.

The UI was responding to an August 2018 letter from Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds to Iowa's regent universities asking the institutions to be more creative when thinking of new funding alternatives, UI President Bruce Harreld said in a December 2019 interview with *The Daily Iowan*. The UI started considering a public/private partnership in September 2018 to fill a funding gap for the university's 2016-21 strategic plan, Harreld said.

At a UI Faculty Council meeting on Jan. 28, UI Vice President of External Relations Peter Matthes, senior adviser to the president, was asked by UI English Professor Loren Glass if Ohio State University, which entered a public/private partnership for its energy system in 2017, was defunded by the state of Ohio as a result.

The UI looked at OSU's agreement as a model for its partnership to maintain and operate its utility system for power, heat, chilled water, and water treatment. Democratic lawmakers, Republican lawmakers and university faculty and staff have voiced concerns that the proceeds placed into a newly created partnership endowment in the agreement will incentivize the Iowa General Assembly to reduce state appropriations to the

SEE P3, 2



Top: Vice President for External Relations Peter Matthes speaks during a Faculty Council meeting on Jan. 28. (Wyatt Dlouhy/The Daily Iowan) Bottom: University of Iowa English Professor Loren Glass speaks during a Faculty Council meeting on Jan. 28. (Wyatt Dlouhy/The Daily Iowan)

## ARTS & CULTURE

# Behind the camera

*Palanquin* explores how realistic reality television truly is and challenges audiences to explore their own realities.



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Leela Bassuk and Genevieve Eckelaert laugh as DC and LA during a dress rehearsal of *Palanquin* at the Alan McVey Theater in the Theatre Building on Tuesday. The show opened Thursday.

BY JENNA POST  
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a glimpse into what goes on when the cameras shut off through the medium of an elimination-style reality show.

SP O'Brien, *Palanquin*'s playwright, said the Unit-

is The University of Iowa's Theatre Arts Department is bringing the reality of reality television to the stage until March 1 with *Palanquin*, a play that gives

SEE CAMERA, 2

# Sheriff launches House bid

Lonny Pulkrabek will run for an Iowa House seat after not seeking reelection as sheriff.

BY RIN SWANN  
corinne-swann@uiowa.edu

After 35 years in law enforcement, Johnson County Sheriff Lonny Pulkrabek announced Thursday he will run for the Iowa House District 73 seat, which encompasses all of Cedar County and eastern Johnson County.

The chair is currently held by Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, the son of Jeff Kaufmann, Iowa's GOP chair. Kaufmann is currently in his fourth two-year term.

Pulkrabek announced in May 2019 that he wouldn't seek reelection as sheriff. In his fourth term as sheriff of Johnson County, he'll have served in the role for 16 years by the time he leaves in December. Before his role as sheriff, Pulkrabek served nearly 20 years as Johnson County deputy sheriff.



**Pulkrabek**

SEE SHERIFF, 2

A REAL SLICE CROWD



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Manager Jake Blount throws pizza dough at Falbo Bros Pizzeria on Thursday. The pizza place is open until 3 a.m. on weeknights, and Blount said the crowd coming from the bars often include the nicest people in the world. "They'll say it's the best pizza in the world," Blount said. "That doesn't happen at other places. They're drunk, but it still means a lot."

CAMERA  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ed States' image-obsessed culture was his inspiration for the play, which allows the audience to get a behind-the-scenes peek.

"I was thinking about image and presentation, and how we do that in our lives constantly, and what it means to be multiple people within yourself and the different kinds of people we have to present as in our lives," O'Brien said.

From the Kardashians to Instagram, the public face that many project doesn't always match up with reality. *Palanquin* explores the person behind the screen.

"We don't ever really learn that much about [reality television stars]. They get cast as the mean person, the nice person, the psycho, the innocent one. You get a label thrown on you," O'Brien said. "I think there's a disassociation that happens in yourself when you're on a reality show."

O'Brien used to work at a talent agency in New York City, where he encountered a handful of clients who were on reality television. O'Brien also had the opportunity to interview a reality show contestant with the show's director, Sarah Lacy Hamilton.

*Palanquin's* creative team weren't the only ones to draw inspiration from reality stars. Genevieve Eckelaert, who plays lead LA, said she watched Paris Hilton documentaries to get into character.

"My character, LA, isn't exactly Paris Hilton; she's very close to her," Eckelaert said. "I didn't want to try to mimic her, but I do take a lot of aspects from her life and her on-camera persona verses her off-camera persona."

One of the most unique aspects of the show is that the characters are portrayed as both their reality star selves and the selves that are true to reality, O'Brien said.

"One of the major challenges of the show is the difference in performance and visual style when the characters are 'on-camera' or 'off-camera.' It required very specific work in rehearsal and creative lighting and sound design," Hamilton said in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

Hamilton said she was up for the challenge because *Palanquin* will be the last show she directs at the UI before graduating.

Hamilton and O'Brien agreed that they hope the audience is reflective of themselves and the show's themes once the show is over.

"I hope that the audience examines the masks they

wear in their own lives, and questions the systems that make that kind of personal performance necessary," Hamilton said.

O'Brien posed some questions to go unanswered in the play, with the play's title being one of them.

"A lot of people when I tell them about it ask me, 'What is a palanquin?' Rightfully so, because it's the title," O'Brien said. "I think it's really important to the play and its meaning, but the play doesn't tell you what a palanquin is."



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Actors portray hooded figures during a dress rehearsal of *Palanquin* at the Alan McVey Theater in the Theatre Building on Tuesday. The show opened Thursday.

P3  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

UI because of a possible perception that the university will now have a hefty revenue source to tap into.

ENGIE and Paris-based investment firm Meridiam partnered with the UI and gave the university an upfront lump-sum payment of \$1.165 billion. After paying outstanding utility system bond debt and consultant fees, the UI will place the net proceeds of around \$999 million into an endowment fund to grow over the course of the 50-year deal.

"Nope. Nope. And so, it is upon us to continue to educate legislators about the importance of this — this is not a replacement of state-appropriation dollars," Matthes said during the faculty meeting. "This is in order for us to invest into the future for our students, for our families, and for Iowans into our strategic plan. That's the reason why we did this."

We found Matthes' state-

ment to be Mostly True in that OSU has received a consistent amount of funding via appropriations from its state Legislature, but with a bit of a twist. Before OSU entered into its energy public/private partnership July 2017, the beginning of the 2018 budget year, the university's share of state appropriations increased from \$361,961,488 in fiscal 2016 to \$384,695,029 in fiscal 2017. But, by fiscal 2019, OSU's funding had decreased to \$383,610,170, after the state appropriations for higher education were frozen for two years.

The Ohio General Assembly budgeted conservatively from fiscal 2017 to fiscal 2019 to keep the Department of Higher Education funding at a flat rate instead of providing an increase, but funding was not cut during this period, Jeff Robinson, department director of communications, wrote in an email to *PolitiFact*.

For fiscal 2020, the Ohio Department of Higher Education plans call for the university to receive an increase

to \$392,764,233.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education, which runs that state's public universities, allocates funding it receives from the Ohio Legislature. It uses a performance-based system called the State Share of Instruction to award funding, based on course and degree completion and student retention, Robinson wrote.

OSU entered its 50-year public/private partnership and lease for energy in April 2017, partnering with energy conglomerate ENGIE North America and independent investment firm Axiom Infrastructure, creating Ohio State Energy Partners. The \$1.165 billion agreement gave the university a \$1.015 billion upfront payment, plus an additional \$150 million in direct academic collaboration support, that was put in an endowment.

Harrell had said last fall the UI's arrangement is a partnership that would not be a lease or sale but the agreement with University of Iowa Energy Collaborative LLC, an entity of ENGIE North Amer-

ica, is a long-term lease and concession agreement.

In an email to the *DI*, OSU Director of Media Relations Benjamin Johnson wrote that the university also entered a public/private partnership in 2012 with its parking operations that generated \$483 million that the university has invested in endowments to support academic initiatives.

The UI plans to allocate around \$15 million annually from its partnership proceeds over 50 years through a grant process to fund proposals that support the campus strategic plan.

Our ruling

Matthes said a public/private energy agreement like the UI's did not cause OSU to lose "state appropriation dollars."

OSU's funding increased by more than \$20 million from fiscal 2016 — the budget year before its public/private partnership started — to fiscal 2017 when the deal was approved, but decreased by around \$1 million from fiscal 2018 to fiscal 2019 after a two-year freeze on higher educa-

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BREAKING NEWS

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SHERIFF  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"After 35 years in law enforcement, I've learned how the policies made in Des Moines affect our local communities in Cedar and Johnson Counties," Pulkrabek said in a emailed prepared statement Thursday. "It's time for new leadership in the Iowa House

who will put the interests of everyday Iowans and our local communities ahead of the special interests and party leaders."

When he announced his retirement in May, Pulkrabek told the *DI* that he had no specific retirement plans set in stone.

In his time as Johnson County Sheriff, Pulkrabek advocated for mental-health and crisis training for police officers, the

release stated. Pulkrabek's career highlights include establishing the first mental health officer training in 2005 and the first crisis-intervention training in 2017.

Pulkrabek is also the former president of the Iowa State Sheriffs' & Deputies' Association and the former president of the Iowa State Association of Counties, according to the news release.

"I know what laws are working and what laws aren't, and I will use my experience to fix them," Pulkrabek said in the release. "I'll listen to the people of Cedar and Johnson Counties and work together to invest in public schools, make healthcare affordable, create jobs, and revitalize rural communities. That's exactly the kind of representative I will be for you in Des Moines."



Edited by Lyle Muller, Marissa Payne

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## LGBTQ

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

though the bill did not pass out of committee before the Feb. 21 funnel deadline.

Kaufmann said he decided to pull the bill after realizing it didn't have strong bipartisan support, because of a religious exemption provision and other language around conversion therapy.

"There were groups that had problems with it on both sides of the aisle — some wanted it stronger, some groups wanted it weaker — and I just didn't feel like I had the consen-

sus to move forward, but I'm committed to continuing the conversation for next year," Kaufmann said.

Keenan Crow, director of Policy and Advocacy for One Iowa, an LGBTQ advocacy group, said the companion bill in the Senate was more comprehensive than the one in the house.

Crow said Kaufmann's version of the bill portrayed conversion therapy as a mental-health treatment.

"Conversion therapy is not mental-health treatment, and should in no way be considered that, and we certainly don't want to write it into law that this could in any way be

construed as a mental-health treatment," Crow said.

Crow said another issue with the House version of the bill was the religious exemption, which would have allowed religious counselors to continue the practice of conversion therapy.

Damian Thompson, public policy manager for Iowa Safe Schools, noted that although several bills were introduced aimed at limiting civil rights for LGBTQ Iowans, none of those bills passed the funnel deadline.

House File 2164, a bill which proposed removing gender identity as a protected class from discrimination from the

Iowa Civil Rights Act, did not advance.

Other bills that did not advance included proposals to ban doctors from performing gender-affirming surgery on minors and requiring transgender athletes to play on teams based on their sex assigned at birth.

"I think that reflects the larger trend that targeting LGBTQ minorities is not something that folks get away with anymore," Thompson said. "Frankly, the Republican electorate is not interested in these issues. We're hearing from Republican leadership in both chambers that they're not really interested in pursuing

these bills."

Crow said even though this legislation did not advance, it can still affect LGBTQ youth.

"Just because they don't advance doesn't mean those bills don't have a negative impact," Crow said. "When trans youth see these bills specifically attacking them — their ability to play and participate in sports teams, their ability to hear about historical figures that look like them. Those are things that impact their mental health very negatively ... regardless of whether or not they become law."

While Kaufmann's bill banning conversion therapy did not advance, Kaufmann said

he hopes to make progress on a bill banning the LGBTQ panic defense, which allows some defendants to receive lesser sentences when they claim an act of violence was committed out of disgust for the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity, which includes murder charges.

"We passed a bill out of funnel that would ban that defense for murder," Kaufmann said. "We're working on an amendment that will expand that defense ban to all serious crimes, assault, rapes, robberies. It's unthinkable to me that you should use someone's sexual orientation as a means to hurt them."

# English-language learners grow in Iowa

A spike of English-language learners in Iowa is creating a need for more ESL teachers and programs, educators say.

BY MARY HARTEL  
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Experts in the community and local schools are addressing the needs and resources for the growing population of English-language learners in the state of Iowa.

The number of English-language learners in Iowa has increased around 250-percent in the last 20 years, according to records from the Iowa Department of Education. As this population continues to grow, Iowa educators aim to provide ample resources for these students across the state.

"It's not uncommon for a teacher, say in Cedar Rapids, to have maybe 26 different home languages in a class," said Lia Plakans, a UI professor who focuses on English as a second language in the College of Education.

UI education Associate Professor David Cassels Johnson said the English-language learning student population in Iowa is less than the national average, but the population's growth rate is much higher at the state level compared with the national trend, which has seen 30 percent growth over the last 20 years. He added that most of these students are born in the U.S.

An increase in the English-language learning populations of rural areas has coin-

cided with this growth, Plakans said. Factors of this growth are largely economic, though good living conditions along with safe schools also make Iowa an attractive place to resettle, she said.

Lora Daily, director of learning support for the Iowa City Community School District, said a primary development in the past couple years has been the implementation of English-language learning services in each school building in the district, so kids don't have to travel to different schools to access the programs.

Sheila Neels, English-language learning coordinator for the Iowa City Community School District, said the top four non-English languages in the district are Spanish, Arabic, French, and Swahili. She added that the district as a whole consists of students who speak almost 90 different languages.

Daily said this rich cultural abundance has made many other districts envy Iowa City schools.

"We've learned from that diversity every day," Daily said.

To help prepare future teachers in adequately educating English-language learning students, the UI offers an ESL-endorsement program to students and current teachers, Johnson said. He coordinates the program.

The UI has a five-year grant

with Iowa school districts and the Title III Department at the Iowa Department of Education, called Advocacy, Capacity, and Collaboration for English Learners in Iowa, according to the program's website.

The grant helps actively promote professional development in school districts all over the state, Johnson said — just being a good teacher doesn't make someone equipped to teach English-language learning students.

"It's about teaching methods, it's about understanding linguistics, and cultural diversity, and how that impacts how students approach schools, and how schools approach students," he said.

"The way that we educate kids in the United States is culturally specific and its modeled after monolingual middle-class white people," he said.

These practices aren't necessarily good or bad, but educators need to recognize that they are culturally dependent, he added.

Daily said Iowa City schools are always in need of more ESL teachers.

"There's actually somewhat of a shortage of teachers in Iowa, at least that we get applicants for, that have their English as a Second Language endorsement," she said.

Neels said the Iowa City Community School District's



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

UI education Associate Professor David Johnson poses for a portrait in the Lindquist Language Building on Feb. 19. His research, teaching, and service focus on how language policies impact educational opportunities for students in bilingual education and English language education programs.

English-Language Learning services currently offer newcomer programs, sheltered instruction, co-teaching, and small group pull outs.

UI graduate student Alejandro Pérez, a Ph.D. candidate in foreign language and ESL education, worked in a dual-language classroom in West Liberty for three years.

"You need to have ESL teach-

ers who might not speak another language, which is OK, but that are woke, that know how to interact with the students ... [and] celebrate [their] differences," Pérez said.

Rhetoric surrounding nativism makes it especially challenging to do English-language learning work, Johnson said, and makes it more challenging for the kids and their families.

He added that most educators are already aware of the educational equality needed for English-language learning students, but the problems tend to lie within policy-making bodies.

"It's an ongoing struggle to accommodate these students," he said. "And that's really sort of the ultimate goal ... it's social justice for these kids."

## ARTS & CULTURE

# Bringing immigrant family stories to the stage

Members of theatre company The Actors' Gang share what it was like to bring their ancestors' immigrant stories to stages around the world. The Los Angeles-based group will perform the play *The New Colossus* at Hancher on Saturday.

BY JENNA POST  
jenna-post@uiowa.edu

The Actors' Gang, a Los Angeles-based theatre company known for its contemporary pieces and unique acting techniques, returns to Hancher for the first time since 2006 to share American immigrant stories through their original play, *The New Colossus*.

The play that The Actors Gang will perform at Hancher at 7:30 p.m. Saturday is titled after the poem of the same name inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. Emma Lazarus wrote the poem in 1883 and has been a beacon of hope for immigrants and refugees for decades.

One refugee who fled to America in search of the promises of *The New Colossus* was Actor's Gang actress Stephanie Lee's grandmother, who es-

caped from war-torn Vietnam.

"*The New Colossus* isn't just one story, it's everyone's story," Lee said. "My character is based on my grandmother... but it's influenced by stories that my grandparents, my parents, my aunts and uncles told me that actually happened to them or their friends during the Vietnam War. I pieced those stories together to create a character who is the spirit of my grandmother."

Each cast member's character is reflective of an immigrant in their family.

"Audience members have said it's a play that they didn't know they needed," Lee said. "It's opened them to talk about their history, and they want to discover more about their ancestors and how they came to America."

Hancher Marketing and Communications Director Rob

Cline shared a similar sentiment.

"Because the United States is a nation of immigrants, this play, I suspect, will resonate with the many people who are proud of or curious about their own family's journey to this county," Cline said.

Cast member Quonta Shanell Beasley said when she joined the production, she immediately knew she wanted to share the story of her three-times great aunt who was sold into slavery.

"I found her story when I was back in college, years ago," Beasley said. "A cousin of mine had done a family tree, and when I found that in my lineage it really sparked something in me that made it very real in a way that I hadn't felt before."

Beasley said despite the different experiences of the cast's ancestors, their stories all share

the same heart.

"We're telling 12 different stories of 12 different refugees from 12 different time periods," Beasley said. "And yet, it feels like we actually are telling one story."

The universality of the stories makes them perfect for The Actors' Gang signature acting style, commedia dell'arte, which Beasley said emphasizes ensemble acting. The cast functions as a group and includes the audience within the group as well.

"It's very physical and viscer-

al," Beasley said. "We really embrace the audience. We know that the audience is part of our production, they're part of the whole theatre experience."

The Actors' Gang has performed *The New Colossus* for audiences around the world. Beasley said whether the audience is from Chile, Argentina, or the U.S., where they've traveled so far, the show resonates.

"The play is universal," Beasley said. "We get at the hearts of these characters, and because we are in such high-stakes states of emotion, people re-

spond to that more so than the words we're saying. They're hearing what we're saying, but they're feeling us on the stage."

Beasley said humanizing these stories is especially important because of the current political climate surrounding immigration.

"I love that we're doing this play right now, with what's happening in America right now, because for me it feels like there's a greater purpose there," Beasley said. "It asks who am I and how did I get here, because we all got here somehow."



Contributed



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February 4 through March 10 a password will be published each day in the print edition of *The Daily Iowan*. Find the password and enter it online at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com). One player will be selected at random among the correct entries to win \$500 cash!

*One entry per person per day.*

# Opinions

## COLUMN

### Deadlock in Des Moines keeps LGBTQ kids in unsafe situation

Our legislature's inability to ban conversion therapy hurts vulnerable young Iowans.



**ELIJAH HELTON**  
elijah-helton@uiowa.edu

The Iowa Legislature has decided it's still legal to hurt LGBTQ children. Conversion therapy is tragically still allowed in the Hawkeye State.

Subcommittees in our state House and Senate last week spiked almost every bill having anything to do with gay or transgender rights.

It's good that most proposals were killed in committee, such as a mandate for parental oversight of teaching LGBTQ topics in public schools. But some real progress has also been stopped short, namely a proposed ban on conversion therapy.

In short, Iowa has thrown the breakthrough out with the bathwater.

#### The problems with the bill

The biggest problem with the conversion-therapy ban is that it isn't really a ban at all. Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, who introduced the bill, left a provision which would allow for religious exemptions, which stopped many LGBTQ advocates from getting on board.

Kaufmann told *The Daily Iowan* there were "groups that had problems with [the bill] on both sides of the aisle." But that characterization fails to place where it belongs.

Republicans, in general, wanted it to be OK for religiously homophobic and transphobic parents to subject their children to harmful attempts to unscientifically un-queer-ify their kid.

Democrats, in general, wanted to make the "treatment" illegal.



Nick Rohlman/The Daily Iowan

Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (right), R-Wilton, speaks during a legislative forum at the Iowa City Public Library on Dec. 5, 2018. Kaufmann in the 2020 legislative session introduced a bill that would ban LGBTQ conversion therapy.

Is that "both sides of the aisle" failing to get along?

There were other problems with the bill. It had language describing conversion processes as "mental-health therapy," which implies being gay or transgender is somehow a psychological affliction.

We wouldn't permit domestic abuse in the name of religious liberty. We wouldn't even let vandalism get a pass. If the action in question is harmful, it's not an exercise of freedom; it takes freedom away.

Let's be clear: it didn't have to be this way. If our legislature

society where conversion therapy, which undeniably hurts children, is legal. We can choose to right that wrong.

We can make our state a place that accepts people for who they are, without cramming them into boxes that aren't real or belief systems that disagree. We can choose freedom and safety.

"We" is a bit of a misnomer, though. There are 100 members in the state House and 50 in the state Senate. So, we need to change who "we" are.

I recognize I'm fairly secure as a bisexual guy on a college campus in Iowa City, home to Democrat Rep. Mary Mascher, who was the catalyst for spiking the conversion-therapy bill. But this isn't about me.

The safety I feel as an adult in a LGBTQ-friendly area shouldn't be a rarity in the Hawkeye State. Queer kids in Danville should feel as safe as those in Des Moines.

Every legislator of every party in every town must turn away half-measured rhetoric and wide-open loopholes. We must pursue real change.

'If the action in question is harmful, it's not an exercise of freedom; it takes freedom away.'

The religious exemption remains the top issue, though, and its inclusion would have inhibited children's safety.

#### The problems with religious freedom

Kaufmann's bill offered marginal protection for some of the most vulnerable young people in our state. It didn't protect religious freedom; it weaponized zealotry.

This is basic high-school civics. Like freedoms of speech and the press, religious freedom ends when it harms others.

wanted to make Iowa safe for LGBTQ people, it would have decided to exclude the religious exemption.

Maybe Kaufmann knew what he was talking about with his both-sides-ism, understanding his GOP counterparts wouldn't get on board with an effective ban. He even said "some groups wanted [the bill] weaker," and that's the worst part of all this.

#### The real problem

This is where we make a choice as Iowans. We live in a

## COLUMN

### Be worried about Pence, not the coronavirus

The administration's response to this potential pandemic is the real sickness to fear.



**BECCA BRIGHT**  
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Earlier this month, I wrote about why Iowa shouldn't panic about the coronavirus.

We still shouldn't. The Iowa Department of Public Health still states that risk for Iowans becoming ill with the virus is very low.

While COVID-19 may become a pandemic within the U.S., current public risk is still something manageable. It's also important to note that no confirmed cases in Iowa.

What is being reported by mainstream media, however, is not fear of a pandemic itself. The virus will inevitably continue to affect a proportion of

Americans. Cases elsewhere in the country are happening.

There is a greater fear of those who have been tasked with protecting public health, Vice President Mike Pence, and with good reason.

The continuation of American health and safety depends on the distribution of facts and resources. Our leader is President Trump, who is an impulsive, self-prioritizing vessel of misinformation. His running mate, who has been tapped to lead the U.S. coronavirus response, isn't much better.

While Trump has assured Americans the VP has "a certain talent" for managing public-health crises, Pence's history of this "talent" is questionable. This is not the first public-health crisis Pence has faced. In the 2010s, his home state experienced a HIV outbreak. It took months for the then-Indiana governor to respond to the increase in HIV cases.

His conservative policies caused a local Planned Parent-

hood clinic to shut down in 2013. This meant that free HIV tests were no longer available to those who desperately needed them.

At the time, several medical experts called for the Needle Exchange Program, which had been strongly recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The group assured the governor its approach would have a positive impact in preventing HIV transmission, and would save lives.

Even so, Indiana law made this program illegal during this time, and Pence opposed the CDC's proposals.

Over time, he briefly made it legal for those with HIV to seek affordable and accessible treatment. What the future vice president made permanent was the number of lives lost in his state while governor. His idleness in even addressing the outbreak and his reluctance to follow expert advice of medical teams is troubling.

This sort of person simply should not be given executive

authority in confronting the coronavirus.

Pence's conservative dogma that excludes much of the middle and lower class is itself a threat. If he refused to prioritize the CDC's words for a state outbreak, how can Americans trust him to be the voice for national public health?

As Democratic presidential candidates said during the South Carolina debate on Tuesday night, this country cannot count on Pence.

The U.S. has immense resources, both in aid and research, that can still secure Americans' well-being against the coronavirus. But these resources are now being controlled by someone who will likely neglect these resources.

We as a community must stay informed, and trust the leadership of our experts.

Treating a potential pandemic is difficult. But it's harder to treat a nation already sick from neglect by their leaders. It isn't something that is prayed away.

## COLUMN

### My experience with abortion, disability, and dignity of life

To protect people like me, terminating a pregnancy because of a genetic disease shouldn't be a legal practice.



**ALLY PRONINA**  
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During a conversation with a friend, I said abortion is not a political nor religious issue to me. As someone with a genetic disease, it is a personal one. — I might not have been born because of a woman's ability to get an abortion.

Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger wrote an essay agreeing with eugenicists that the "unfit" are "the greatest present menace to civilization," according to New York University records of her writings.

While I struggled to find

cause of my genetic disorder, I never would have experienced one of the best mornings of my life.

I believe my right and the right of others like me to live, something which affects our whole lives, is greater than that of women to control their bodies for less than a year.

People who are pro-choice argue that this isn't a debate about humanity. Of course, people with genetic diseases have humanity now — we've been born. But in the womb — when we would have been aborted — we were fetuses and therefore without rights.

This would have prevented me and those like me from becoming people. The earliest a woman can take a test to see if her baby has a genetic disease is 10 to 12 weeks into her pregnancy. By that point, the baby can squint and grimace because eyes and ears move into place.

'I can personally guarantee society viewing our lives as not worth living is a bigger obstacle than our genetic diseases.'

statistics on all genetic diseases and abortion, it is not a secret that some pregnancies are terminated because the fetus has a genetic disease.

As someone born with Turner syndrome, nobody in my life sees me as a menace. I used to think if everyone knew, I wouldn't be viewed like everyone else. The fact that I feel safe publicly sharing this information shows how much progress society has made and how much I've grown.

Instead of seeing my disability as something wrong with me, I started seeing it as part of my story; it's not something that changed who I was. I realized I am the same person I was before I was diagnosed.

Instead of thinking my disability weakens me, I started focusing on my ability. Turner syndrome isn't something people can use against me, and I've realized who value me would never do so.

Aborting fetuses with genetic diseases sends the wrong message. If I believed I should have been aborted be-

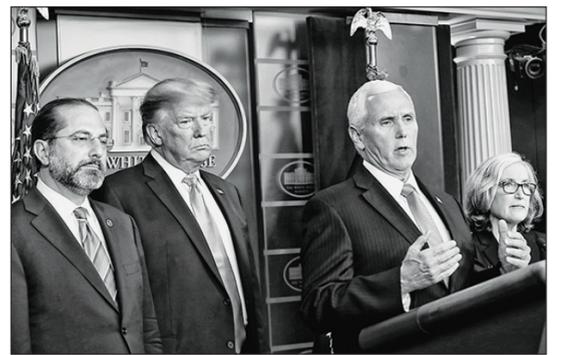
I believe fetuses having the ability to do what people do makes them human.

Like many people who are pro-life, I believe women should have the option to end the pregnancy in life or death situations for the prospective mother.

Some would argue avoid-like everyone else. The fact that I feel safe publicly sharing this information shows how much progress society has made and how much I've grown.

My life is worth living not despite my Turner syndrome, but because of it. It doesn't stop me from being a normal and happy college student. It doesn't stop me from having value as a person and doing something worthwhile. Abortion, however, would have.

This is true for all people with genetic diseases. Instead of believing that babies who have them need to be aborted, society should realize their humanity.



Yuri Gripas/Abaca Press/TNS

Vice President Mike Pence peaks during a news conference with President Trump and members of the Coronavirus Task Force at the White House in Washington on Wednesday.

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# Iowa track competes at indoor Big Tens

After a strong regular season, Iowa is heading into the indoor Big Ten Championships with momentum on its side.

BY LUCY LIAUTAUD  
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Feeling confident seems to be the commonality between all of Iowa track's athletes as the team goes into the major meet this weekend in Geneva, Ohio. After a successful indoor season across the board, the Hawkeyes are planning to dominate the 2020 Big Ten Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Sophomore sprinter Wayne Lawrence is especially confident about his second shot at claiming a Big Ten title in his solo events and in the 4x400-meter relay.

As a freshman, Lawrence competed in the 400 meters and claimed an eighth-place time (47.96) at the outdoor Big Tens. A year later, Lawrence said redemption is in the cards.

"I'm most looking forward to the 400 just because that's my main event," Lawrence said. "And we're usually dominant in the 4x4 also because we won it outdoor and indoor last year, so just to keep that title going would be great."

Fellow Iowa runner Malory King, who currently ranks second in the Big Ten in the 600 meters (1:29.10) and third in the 800 meters (2:05.12), said she's also optimistic ahead of the conference meet.

"The race is giving me a lot



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa hurdler Jaylan McConico crosses the finish line of the men's 60m hurdles during the Jimmy Grant Invitational at the University of Iowa Recreation Building on Dec. 14, 2019.

of confidence even though we're not 100 percent sure of which races we're running," King said. "But it's a good problem to have. We have a lot of people in good positions in both the 600 and

the 800, so I know whatever races we end up in will be great."

Along with King, this year's indoor Big Tens marks the last indoor meet for many Iowa seniors, including

hurdler Austin Lietz, who said he's excited all-around.

"This year specifically is exciting," Lietz said. "It's my senior year, and my last indoor Big Tens at Spire [Institute], which is an amaz-

ing track, and we have a really solid group this year overall."

Lietz ranks No. 6 in the conference in the 600-meters (1:17.99), but he said he's most excited to see team-

mate senior hurdler Jaylan McConico compete over the weekend.

"I mean, the 60 hurdles is just absolutely amazing this year," Lietz said. "[Director of Track and Field Joey Woody] has done such a great job with all of his guys, and Jaylan has just been looking really good this year, so I'm really excited to see what he can do at Big Tens and beyond that."

McConico's time in the 60-meter hurdles (7.60) still remains first in the Big Ten, first all-time for Iowa, and second in the country — certainly making his event a must-see.

"I'll just try to score points for the team, and we'll hopefully come up with a win," McConico said.

Like McConico, senior thrower Lauauga Tausaga said she feels well-prepared for her events, but she'll put extra focus on the shot put.

"For the most part, shot is what I'm looking forward to," Tausaga said. "My mental state has changed for that, so I'm very excited about crafting myself into this shot putter that I want to be. Obviously, the weight [throw] is still on the menu, on the list. I want to do great in both of them and possibly walk away with PRs in both, if possible, for the indoor season to end on a high note, since it's my last college indoor season."

## Tennis aims to keep momentum this weekend

Both the men's and women's teams look to continue their winning streaks.

BY CHRIS WERNER  
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After the Hawkeye women's tennis team defeated DePaul and Kansas State last

weekend in Iowa City, the team is riding high into its two matches this weekend — both against in-state rivals.

The Hawkeyes will face Iowa State in Urbandale, Iowa,

at 4 p.m. today and Northern Iowa at 4 p.m. Sunday at home in the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Center.

"I'm really excited to play Iowa State and UNI," soph-

omore Sam Mannix said. "It should be fun. We haven't played anybody super close regionally, so it'll be fun to get some in-state competition."

Mannix clinched the winning point for Iowa against Kansas State, the team's first 4-3 win of the spring. The victory pushed the Hawkeyes' record to 4-5 on the year.

Iowa State is 7-3 this season but dropped its last match on the road at Nebraska. UNI sits at 2-7, its only victories coming against Division II Ferris State and Division III Gustavus Adolphus. The Hawkeyes have never lost to either team. They are 11-0 versus the Panthers and have won the first 38 matches with the Cyclones.

The Iowa men's team is also competing this weekend.

Following a 1-1 road trip — where the team lost to Utah and then beat Denver — the Hawkeyes will host No. 50 VCU at noon Saturday beginning Big Ten play against Nebraska at noon March 1.

This weekend will mark

the first time Iowa has ever faced VCU. The Hawkeyes have beaten the Cornhuskers in their last four meetings, including twice last year.

The loss to the Utes on Feb. 21 snapped a seven-match win streak for Iowa, but the Hawkeyes got back to their winning ways against No. 35 Denver.

"Going on the road it's always tough," head coach Ross Wilson said. "[We had a] match point to win the doubles on Friday and lose a couple three-set matches that maybe we would win at home and that's kind of the way it is.

"But the guys did a great job of regrouping Sunday, came out with really good energy, we got a close doubles point, and that was really the key for us to be able to win."

Iowa fell five spots in the national rankings — from 23 to 28 — after its first loss since Jan. 16.

However, the Hawkeyes still have multiple individual streaks going.

Junior Will Davies has won eight straight singles matches and Kareem Allaf has six singles victories in a row. Allaf, a redshirt senior from Dubai, has climbed to second in Iowa history in both singles wins (820) and total wins (139).

"[I've done a good job] staying mentally tough and doing the routines that I do," Allaf said. "Just whatever happens during the match, believe in myself and stay mentally tough through the whole match."

Allaf believes that his routine is paramount to his success.

"Just getting my body ready," Allaf said. "Just making sure I get the reps in, getting good practices beforehand and make sure I'm in a good headspace before that; it's been working. Paying attention to what I eat, how I recover, and staying in the moment."

A win on Saturday against VCU would be Iowa's fourth win against teams ranked in the latest top 50 list compiled by the ITA.



Emily Wangen/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa's Kareem Allaf winds up to return the ball during a match against Wichita State University on Feb. 16 at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Complex.

## Men's gymnastics continues Big Ten stretch

The No. 10 Hawkeyes will host the No. 6 Fighting Illini this weekend at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

BY CASSANDRA BUCHHOLZ  
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The No. 10 Iowa men's gymnastics team will host Big Ten rival No. 6 Illinois inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena on March 1. The previous matchup between the two resulted in a 398.800-410.450 loss for the Hawkeyes last season.

Junior Bennet Huang leads the Hawkeyes in the all-around with a season-high 81.050 and an average score of 79.670 is ranked ninth nationally. His career-best on vault (14.550) was performed last year against the Fighting Illini in Champaign-Urbana.

Huang was the sole gymnast from Iowa competing in the Winter Cup, which is a national meet in preparation for building the Men's National Team for USA. The Palo Alto, California, native finished 27th overall in the preliminary round (77.900), with his best coming on floor

and earning a 13.750.

The Winter Cup consisted of a total of 42 gymnasts from 19 teams. Huang also competed for the Hawkeyes at the 2019 Winter Cup. He tied for fifth on floor with his two-session score of 27.750. Huang also finished 18th on pommel horse (24.550), 14th on rings (24.850), and 18th on the high bar (25.050).

The Hawkeyes have strength on floor going into the meet, with sophomore Evan Davis leading with a career-best 14.400 against Nebraska in January. Davis earned Big Ten Gymnast of the Week Feb. 11 after his stellar performance against top-ranked Oklahoma.

Davis won the all-around with a career-best 81.950. The Houston native also placed second on rings (13.600) and third on the floor (14.200) and parallel bars (13.800). It was Davis' third Big Ten honor of his career.

Senior Mitch Dozzzi is also a key component of the

Hawkeyes' success. He takes vault for Iowa and completed a personal 14.600 against the Cornhuskers.

The Hawkeyes are ranked fifth nationally on vault, seventh on high bar, eighth on floor, 10th on pommel horse, 10th on parallel bars, and 11th on rings.

The Fighting Illini are 3-1 currently in the season, staying steady at .500 in the Big Ten. The team's only loss in the conference is to Minnesota. Junior Jordan Kovach competed in Las Vegas at the Winter Cup for the Fighting Illini, finishing 37th on parallel bars (11.800) and 39th on vault (12.100).

The highlight of the season so far for Illinois was defeating No. 4 Nebraska on Feb. 1 by a score of 407.050-399.850.

Illinois is ranked nationally second on rings, third on vault, sixth on pommel horse, sixth on floor, eighth on parallel bars, and tenth on high bar.

Iowa's next meet is March 7 in Columbus, Ohio, where the Hawkeyes will take on Ohio State at 12:30 p.m.

The March 1 meet is one of only four remaining dual competitions for the Hawkeyes before the Big

Ten Championships April 3 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The NCAA Tournament shortly follows on April 17.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa all-around Bennet Huang puts chalk on his hands during a men's gymnastics meet against the University of Minnesota and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

# Triple threat from the Tar Heel State

Iowa will have its hands full this weekend with a docket of ranked opponents from North Carolina.

BY PETE RUDEN  
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The opportunity Iowa baseball has this weekend could not be much bigger.

The Hawkeyes will travel to Minneapolis to face No. 8 North Carolina State on Friday, No. 20 North Carolina on Saturday, and No. 14 Duke on March 1.

Along with a history of national relevance, the Carolina trio holds a combined record of 22-3 this season.

Iowa toppled the lone ranked team it has faced this season, downing No. 18 Arizona, 4-1, on Feb. 22. Now, the Hawkeyes find themselves with an even bigger challenge ahead.

## 0.75 - Duke's team ERA

The Blue Devils are not big fans of seeing opposing teams score runs. At all.

Duke ranks second in the country with a team ERA of 0.75, allowing only six earned runs through its first eight games.

In those eight games, the

Blue Devil pitching staff has recorded five shutouts.

North Carolina has also posted a team ERA of 1.56 with three shutouts of its own this season. North Carolina State owns a 1.75 ERA and a .202 opponents' batting average.

The Hawkeyes have put up a solid average, hitting .263 through six games, but the pitching challenges posed by the Blue Devils, Tar Heels, and Wolfpack are unlike anything they've seen this season.

## 9.3 - North Carolina State's runs per game

Led by Devonte Brown, the Wolfpack offense has been a force all season.

Six players hold a batting average of at least .300, with Brown pacing the team with a .448 average to go along with four home runs and 16 RBIs. He's also the reigning Collegiate Baseball National Player of the Week.

North Carolina State has scored in double figures four times this season, with

three coming in its last three games.

Luckily for Iowa, it'll have its ace ready to go against the potent Wolfpack attack.

Jack Dreyer held Kent State to two hits in five scoreless innings of work in Iowa's season-opener. A week later, he gave up three runs on three hits against San Diego State.

Just like the rest of the team, Dreyer will face his biggest obstacle thus far on Friday.

## .140 - Opponents' batting average against Iowa starters

Starters Dreyer, Grant Judkins, and Duncan Davitt have impressed on the mound early.

The trio has combined for a 3-1 record with a 2.12 ERA while holding opposing batters to a .140 average.

Despite the strong start to the season coming off an injury — one that includes a 2.31 ERA — Dreyer still has a loss on his record.

But if three earned runs



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa pitcher Jack Dreyer walks back to the mound during a game at Duane Banks Fields on April 25, 2018.

in two starts is the biggest problem, that will be just fine. Dreyer has also punched out 13 batters this season, which ranks 10th in the Big Ten.

Saturday starter Grant

Judkins has avenged the sour ending to his season last year, earning the win over the ranked Wildcats.

He allowed only two hits in six scoreless innings in the victory to earn Big Ten Pitch-

er of the Week honors. His 1.64 ERA leads the Hawkeye rotation.

Sunday starter Duncan Davitt has been solid, as well, holding a 2.57 ERA without earning a decision.

# Rocco a real catch for Hawkeye softball

In her first season as a Hawkeye, the sophomore catcher is making her presence known both behind and at the plate.

BY ISAAC GOFFIN  
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When the Hawkeyes take on four teams this weekend in The Spring Games in Madeira Beach, Florida, they'll have a catcher that should make a difference.

Sophomore Kit Rocco understands how to manage her pitchers behind the plate and how to defeat her opposing pitchers when at the plate.

The Hawkeye's team ERA is 2.14 this season, while Rocco is hitting .400 with nine RBIs and two doubles. She is tied for second for hits on the team with 14, and her batting average is third on the team.

During her time behind the plate, Rocco recognizes that each pitcher is unique and needs confidence. This is key considering that junior

Lauren Shaw and senior Allison Doocy, the team's leading pitchers, act differently.

"I know Lauren likes to mess around a little bit," Rocco said. "She's more of a fun, kind of happy-go-lucky, and Doocy likes to be pretty zoned in and just get the job done and be done."

Shaw said when she is pitching, Rocco is really energetic, distracts her from the game, dances with her between innings, and is always having fun.

Shaw is impressed with this considering this is Rocco's first year as a Hawkeye, she said. Last season, Rocco played at Northern Kentucky.

"She came in and filled her role right away, and she's taking advantage of every opportunity she's given, and she's amazing behind the plate,"

Shaw said. "She matches my energy and to the team — we're lucky to have her this year."

Head coach Renee Gillispie said Rocco does a great job framing pitches, which helps the Hawkeyes get calls at the plate to go their way. She also said Rocco is solid getting baserunners out.

"She shows up practice every day, and she has a focus on her mind on what she wants to do and where she wants to improve, whether it's throw down to base and being able to throw those baserunners out or being able to get a solid hit every time she's in the cage," Gillispie said.

This season, Rocco has moved from being the number five hitter to the number three spot. Regardless of whether the Hawkeyes have a runner

on base or not when she gets to the plate, she's looking to get on base. This is evident by her .462 on-base percentage, which is third on the team.

"That's just confidence," Rocco said. "And that's been built up through the whole offseason training of everything that we've been working on. Having coach [Trena Prater] and coach [Gillispie] be able to throw live to us in practice and even our own pitchers throwing live to us in practice really helps us all see the ball really deep in the zone."

In The Spring Games, the Hawkeyes will face Miami of Ohio and Florida Gulf Coast on Friday, and on Saturday they'll play South Alabama and Florida Atlantic to finish out the weekend.

Though the talent level varies among each team, the



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa catcher Kit Rocco catches a pitch during an Iowa softball game against Iowa Central at Pearl Field on Oct. 4, 2019.

Hawkeyes are more focused on themselves than anything else. At practice on Wednesday, they prepared both offensively and defensively for the bunt.

"This is the preseason," Gillispie said. "This is our season to work out kinks and find out who our starting lineup is because when conference begins that's the roll."

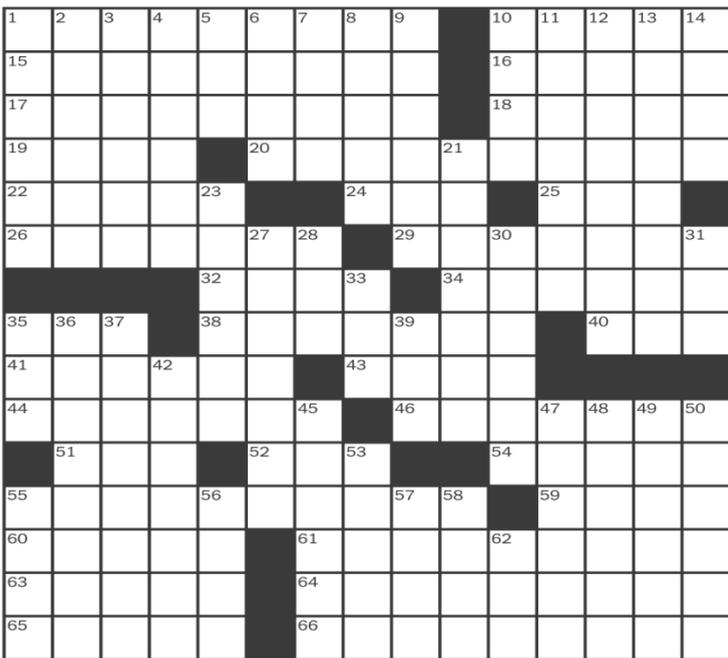
# The Daily Break

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 2

The New York Times  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0124



- ACROSS**
- 1 Finger-pointing activity, colloquially
  - 10 Throw away
  - 15 Hit 2018 film involving a gay teenage romance
  - 16 World capital NE of Vientiane
  - 17 Melodramatic shout of resignation
  - 18 Boot
  - 19 Worker in "The 12 Days of Christmas"
  - 20 Diverts
  - 22 Host of the 2007 and 2014 Academy Awards, familiarly
  - 24 "You betcha!"
  - 25 Ingredient in an old-fashioned
  - 26 Marriage agreement?
  - 29 "There, there"
  - 32 Royal name of Norway
  - 34 Stirred up
  - 35 Where to see a display of balance?

- 38 Content
- 40 Volleyball quartet?
- 41 Part of a chest
- 43 "Toodles!"
- 44 Marked by apery
- 46 State capital with fewer than 20,000 residents
- 51 Interview conducted online, for short
- 52 Term of address for a drag queen
- 54 Puts in a hold
- 55 Bad bedmate
- 59 Beverages from 56-Down
- 60 Actor Hammer of "The Social Network"
- 61 Get a Lyft, say
- 63 Going after, in a way
- 64 Things that get hot-wired?
- 65 Unexpected difficulties
- 66 Armed conflict, euphemistically

- DOWN**
- 1 "My word!" in Britain
  - 2 That's the spot!
  - 3 Makes use (of)
  - 4 Gave a darn?
  - 5 Population abbr.
  - 6 Short-term engagements
  - 7 Mine, to a mademoiselle
  - 8 Like a stereotypical teenager
  - 9 Supreme Court justices, e.g.
  - 10 Singer featured in the 2018 film sequel to 37-Down
  - 11 Gouda alternative
  - 12 Travel along a tightrope, maybe
  - 13 Young rooster
  - 14 Purchases for do-it-yourselfers
  - 21 "Civil Disobedience" essayist, 1849
  - 23 Virtual animal on a once-popular website
  - 27 Courtroom command
  - 28 John who explored northern Canada
  - 30 Restriction that some service animals are exempt from
  - 31 Divisions in the N.F.L.: Abbr.
  - 33 Sucker, for short
  - 35 Navy V.I.P.
  - 36 This is a test
  - 37 Musical set on a Greek island
  - 39 One-named singer whose name sounds like a goodbye
  - 42 Gradually withdrawing (from)
  - 45 Lemonlike fruit
  - 47 Brigham Young, notably
  - 48 Offer comfort to
  - 49 Does some backup dancing?
  - 50 Size up
  - 53 Deity in a Hindu trinity
  - 55 Sound from a subwoofer
  - 56 Holders of 59-Across
  - 57 Things showing dedication?
  - 58 Chap
  - 62 Title in Colombo

# SUDOKU

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**BASKETBALL**  
CONTINUED FROM 8

he first suffered Feb. 16 against Minnesota. The injury hasn't stopped Garza from going 100 percent every second he's on the court. You'd expect nothing less from a national player of the year candidate.

Iowa's loss at the hands of Michigan State was tough, and makes the road to a dou-

ble-bye in the Big Ten Tournament more difficult. But by no means was it a sign that the team is running out of steam.

The Hawkeyes currently sit in sixth place in the Big Ten after Tuesday's loss to the Spartans. They sit at 19-9 overall and 10-7 in the conference with three regular season games remaining to play.

Those three games offer a lot of chances for Iowa.

Over the next week and half, Iowa competes against

No. 16 Penn State, Purdue, and Illinois. All three games will be rematches from earlier this season. These matchups offer the Hawkeyes lots of opportunities for momentum heading into postseason competition.

Penn State is currently tied for second in the conference with a 11-6 conference mark. Illinois is in fifth at 10-6. Purdue is currently 11th in the Big Ten, but the team is still on the bubble for the NCAA Tournament and offers a chance for Iowa's

revenge after the Boilermakers defeated the Hawkeyes, 104-68, earlier this season.

Iowa is only three games out of first place in the conference despite being in sixth place. Maryland is virtually locked in to first place heading into the Big Ten Tournament, but Iowa still has plenty of teams to jump if the remaining portion of the schedule goes well.

By winning out and getting some help along the way, Iowa is still in the run-

ning for second place in the Big Ten. Finishing in third is even more likely. Either way, the Hawkeyes would secure a double-bye for the conference tournament and put the notion that McCaffery teams can't finish out the regular season to rest.

Projecting the road to a double-bye is easier said than done. Iowa still needs to win these games — none of which are a certainty.

The Hawkeyes could have

some things going for them in this final stretch. Fredrick is inching closer to returning to the rotation. Two of the final three games are at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Joe Wieskamp's slump has to end at some point.

Iowa's loss to Michigan State certainly didn't make things any easier for the team, but there's still reason to be optimistic that the close to this men's basketball season could be a strong one.



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Monika Czinano shoots a basket during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Minnesota at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday.

**CZINANO**  
CONTINUED FROM 8

minutes to go in the half, freshman guard McKenna Warnock made a smooth pass from the top of the key to Czinano for a layup under the basket.

When it got close at the beginning of the third quarter, Czinano helped distance the Hawkeyes from the Golder Gophers. She made a nice pump-fake layup to extend the lead to three with 7:51 left in the quarter. A little over a minute later, she made a mid-range jumper.

Right before the buzzer sounded, she made a layup off a pass from senior guard Kathleen Doyle to extend the lead to 12.

"I mean, the passes that my teammates have to throw, a

lot of the passes are trickier than sometimes they look," Czinano said. "They have to be nice teardrop passes too, and I got a good one, so shout out to them."

Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder was impressed with how Czinano has played at such a high level this season, including Thursday night.

"It's just that consistency of working hard," Bluder said. "You know, you work hard, you usually get good results. Doesn't guarantee it, but usually it does, and she works hard."

Foul trouble kept Czinano out for a good chunk of the fourth quarter, but she did make two key layups in the final three minutes to put away the Golden Gophers final attempt to take the lead.

As suggested by her season stat totals, Czinano is having a nice season. After not starting

at all last season, she's played every game but one this season, starting 26 of them. She's getting hot at the right time but has been consistent all season. Czinano leads the nation in field goal percentage at 72.6 percent.

As the seniors said goodbye at their last regular-season home game, they knew a good player would step up even more next season.

"I think she's going to be a great leader and obviously a really consistent player for the next two years," Doyle said. "And she's just a workhorse in practice, and I think she's going to be a really good leader, because people are going to respect that so much. She expects the best from herself, and she's going to expect the best from her teammates, so I think she's going to really propel them forward."

**SENIORS**  
CONTINUED FROM 8

to the quarter with a 10-0 run.

Meyer stepped up with 11 points in the first quarter on her way to 24 points overall — not a bad start to her final regular season home game.

"It's definitely encouraging as a shooter when you see a couple of your first shots go down, so that helped me stay confident," Meyer said.

Although Minnesota would go on an 8-0 run of its own to start the second quarter, Iowa managed to get its lead right back. Doyle continued to be pushed around in the paint as some frustrations were apparent, but she still managed to get nine points by the half and went to the free-throw line on four separate occasions.

Her points were almost all

from the line, as she consistently drew contact.

"I know it's hard to play through it sometimes, but that's all you can do. You can't control it," Doyle said.

Meyer continued her hot shooting, making a huge 3-pointer to extend Iowa's lead to nine and forcing a Minnesota timeout midway through the third quarter.

Although the Hawkeyes continued to hold a strong lead, frustrations continued for Iowa as some questionable calls were made — a pattern throughout the game that the team was confident in overcoming.

It was a frustrating game overall, but Iowa found a way to win, just as the team has all year.

Minnesota rallied three points with three minutes left in the fourth quarter. The Carver-Hawkeye Arena crowd rallied, and underclassmen

Monika Czinano and Alexis Sevillian made crucial baskets to help Iowa pull ahead for the victory.

The seniors were once again pivotal to the team's success with each player contributing in their own way. Meyer was the star of the show, hitting a career high six 3's and recording six assists. Meanwhile, Doyle hit a special mark on the night as she reached 1,500 career points. She added 14 on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Ollinger put in another solid performance with six rebounds, four points, and four assists.

Bluder was proud of the group not just for their work tonight, but for the work the seniors have put in every aspect of their life.

"They're really quality women," Bluder said. "You couldn't ask for anything more out of them, so for me it is just hard to lose them."



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Minnesota guard Gadiva Hubbard kicks the ball out of Iowa guard Makenzie Meyer's hand during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Minnesota at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday.

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# Sports

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

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## HAWKEYE UPDATES



### Hawkeye soccer opens spring season

The Iowa soccer team opens its spring season Saturday, facing off against Arkansas in a neutral site matchup in St. Louis. It will be a battle between two 2019 NCAA Tournament teams.

The Hawkeyes won 15 games and earned an NCAA Tournament berth for the second time in program history in 2019. The Razorbacks finished last season 17-4-2 overall and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament before falling to N.C. State, 2-1.



Dilanni

"This might be the best opening opponent we have had in the spring in a long time," Iowa head coach David Dilanni said in a release. "It is about challenging ourselves against a program that is perennially in the NCAA Tournament."

### Uthoff returns to NBA

Former Hawkeye forward Jarrod Uthoff signed a 10-day contract with the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies on Monday.

Uthoff was an undrafted free agent in 2016 and appeared in nine games for the Mavericks his rookie season. He hasn't appeared in a regular season NBA game in nearly three years.



Uthoff

Uthoff had spent the entire 2019-20 season with the Grizzlies' NBA G League affiliate, the Memphis Hustle. Over 34 games, he averaged 18.9 points, 10.7 rebounds, and 3.1 assists. At Iowa, Uthoff was a third-team Associated Press All-American his senior season. He averaged 18.9 points, leading the Hawkeyes to a 22-1 record.

Uthoff is the only former Hawkeye currently in the NBA. Tyler Cook appeared earlier in the season before, but now plays for the Oklahoma City Blue of the G League.

### Epenesa gives father credit for his success

Former Iowa defensive end A.J. Epenesa took the podium on Wednesday at the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis, Indiana.

While he was asked about a variety of topics, Epenesa went deep into how his father, Eppy Epenesa, helped him on his path to Iowa and the NFL.



Epenesa

"When I was playing Pee Wee football for the Little Tigers program in Edwardsville, my dad was coaching the o-line and d-line for us," Epenesa said at the combine. "He taught all of us on the d-line how to do a jab or the swim move or the rip move. Other coaches were just kinda saying to run forward, but my dad talked about putting hands on people and throwing them, or getting off blocks. Since I was 9 or 10 years old, I've been learning how to do moves."

"I was lucky to have a mentor like him in the house all the time. Someone who knows the game of football as well as he does."

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"She matches my energy and to the team – we're lucky to have her this year."**



– Softball pitcher Lauren Shaw on catcher Kit Rocco

## STAT OF THE DAY

Iowa has

8

wrestlers ranked in the top three at their weight class.



## Women's Basketball

Iowa - 90

Minnesota - 82

# Iowa excels in home finale

Iowa's seniors stepped up in their final regular season home game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Makenzie Meyer dribbles the ball during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Minnesota at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Gophers, 90-82.

### BY BEN PALYA

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On a special night for the Hawkeyes, things could have gone smoother as they battled the pesky Golden Gophers until the end. However, the team battled and finished strong to the tune of a 90-82 victory on Senior Night.

The added emotion of occasion seemed to have an impact. A ceremony after the game honored Kathleen Doyle, Makenzie Meyer, Paula Vilino Ramos, and Amanda Ollinger for their commitment to the team.

"It's weird balancing going into Senior Night knowing it could be your last game on your home court, but also just maintaining focus on the game,"

Doyle said.

Doyle endured a difficult start to the game, turning the ball over several times and going scoreless until there was just two seconds left on the clock in the first quarter. Those free throws extended Iowa's lead to 10 as the team recovered from a tough start

SEE SENIORS, 7

# Czinano shows veteran poise

On Senior Night, the sophomore center showed that the future for Hawkeye women's basketball is already here.



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Monika Czinano catches a rebound during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Minnesota at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday.

### BY ISAAC GOFFIN

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On Senior Night, it was time for the seniors to shine. They did, but Iowa couldn't have defeated Minnesota without the help of sophomore center Monika Czinano.

Czinano scored the first basket of the game and never looked back. At game's end, she had 24 points — tied for the team lead and a career-high — and six rebounds.

"There's more than one person that goes into one of us having a good game," Czinano said. "So, I mean I think we all played really well. Our defense

definitely got better in the second half. But I'm really just proud of my teammates. This is big for our program, big for our seniors, and I'm really glad we came out with a win."

Late in the first quarter, Czinano made a nice pass from the low post to senior guard Makenzie Meyer for a corner 3-pointer. On the Hawkeyes' next offensive possession, Czinano got an offensive rebound and made a layup seconds later. At the end of the quarter, Czinano had six points.

The second quarter was a continuation of the first, as Czinano tallied eight points. With under three

SEE CZINANO, 7

## COLUMN

# Final stretch key for men's hoops

Iowa's final three games will determine where the team stands going into the Big Ten Tournament.



BY ROBERT READ

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There have been legitimate reasons to panic for fans of the Iowa men's basketball team in recent years at the end of the regular season.

An eight-point loss in East Lansing with a seven-man rotation should not be one of them.

It was a game Iowa could have and maybe even should have won. The Hawkeyes led by six at half-time and extended that to double-digits at one point in the second half.

Then, Cassius Winston got going, Michigan State took the lead, and Iowa fell out of second place in the conference almost as quickly as it got there.

Fran McCaffery and company aren't big into making excuses, even though in this game they certainly could. The Hawkeyes were without CJ Fredrick again in East Lansing, leaving the lineup even more depleted than it already was.

Luka Garza played almost the entire 40 minutes against Michigan State, only sitting out for 24 seconds. He was also nursing a foot/ankle injury that

SEE BASKETBALL, 7