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Iowa City schools back to square one

SEE PAGE 8



After Gov. Reynolds' proclamation requiring 50 percent of curriculum taught in-person, Iowa City Community School District is forced to revisit its plan to continue remote education. The district will seek a waiver from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Department of Education for approval to hold classes online.

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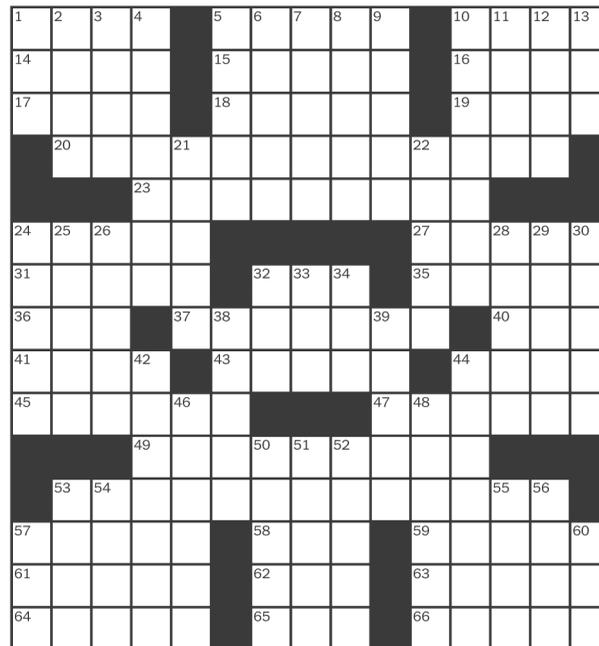
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 3

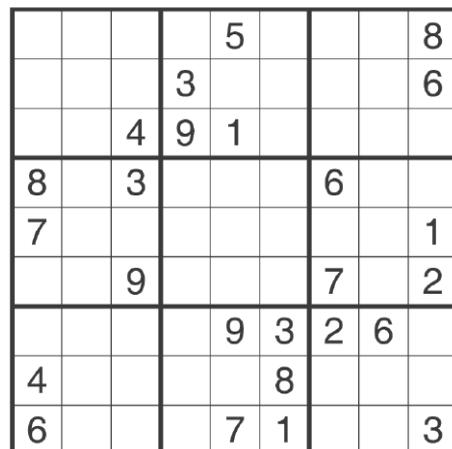
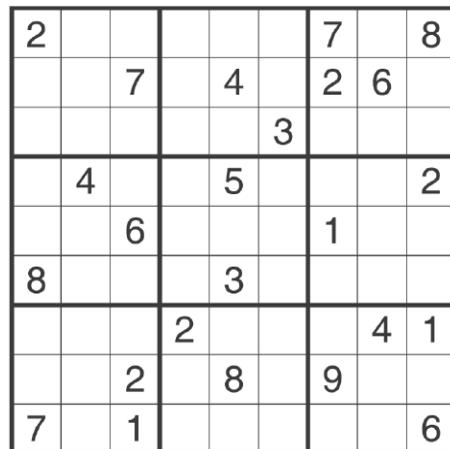
Across

- 1 1975 thriller film with three sequels
- 5 Word after Peace or press
- 10 “ ___ arigato, Mr. Roboto”
- 14 Lure
- 15 Kind of acid
- 16 Don Juan’s mother
- 17 Going-out-of-business event
- 18 Muscat resident
- 19 1960s band with a car-related name, with “the”
- 20 Winter whiteness
- 23 Longtime music director of La Scala and the New York Philharmonic
- 24 & 27 Slippery hazard
- 31 Tellers of tales
- 32 With 37-Across, metaphor for comfort
- 35 Already
- 36 Photo ___
- 37 See 32-Across
- 40 Navy noncom
- 41 Impressionist
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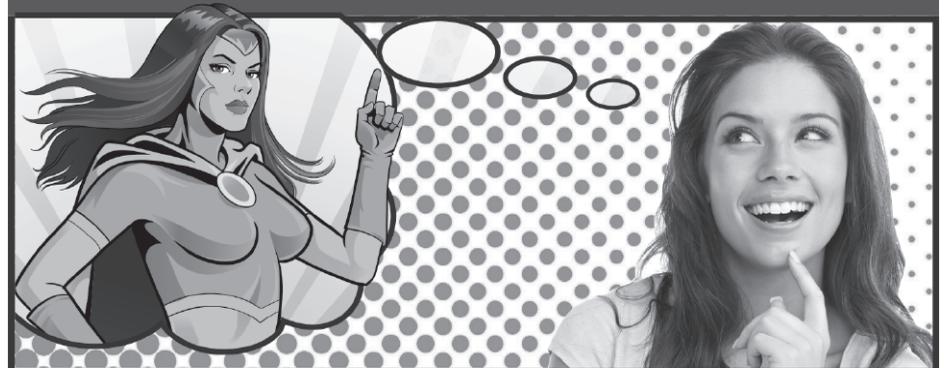
- 53 1989 Best Picture nominee ... with a hint to 20-, 24-/27- and 32-/37-Across
- 57 Like certain transportation pricing
- 58 Emmy- and Tony-winning Arthur
- 59 Sharp
- 61 Streaming component
- 62 Word often misused in place of “lie”
- 63 Big name in timekeeping
- 64 Moves along
- 65 Trauma ctrs.
- 66 Brushed (away)

Down

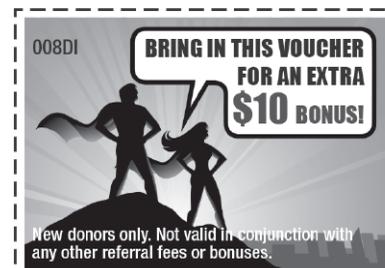
- 1 Law school graduates, in brief
- 2 Spirited horse
- 3 Where stucco is stuck
- 4 Common clothing item ... or what you might become when wearing it
- 5 Does the dishes?
- 6 Ancient Mexican
- 7 Rodeo rope
- 8 Attach, as a boutonniere
- 9 Any movie with ETs
- 10 Give distinction to
- 11 Able to see right through
- 12 Copy cats?
- 13 Abbr. in a birth announcement
- 21 “That’s wrong!”
- 22 Hoity-toity types
- 24 Memorial ___ Kettering (N.Y.C. hospital)
- 25 Big body in Africa
- 26 Alleviated
- 28 Sustain, as expenses
- 29 Thicket
- 30 Some “Star Wars” merchandise
- 32 Word after sports, training or push-up
- 33 Section of geological history
- 34 Brit. award
- 38 Made available, with “up”
- 39 Expressionist James
- 42 Company that’s RAD on the New York Stock Exchange
- 44 Flips out
- 46 Section of a string section
- 48 Brushes (away)
- 50 Righteous
- 51 “What concerns me is ...”
- 52 Launch times
- 53 Only digit in the ZIP code for Newton Falls, Ohio
- 54 Prefix with China
- 55 Drug ___
- 56 Part of a process
- 57 Sound of a lightning bolt
- 60 Part of many an office phone no.



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UI Black researchers named to inspiring-scientists list

Researchers at the UI Carver College of Medicine are listed among 100 inspiring Black scientists for their efforts and achievements in their fields.

BY RACHEL SCHILKE
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Amid calls for change sparked by the Black Lives Matter movement, researchers at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine said it is important to recognize efforts and achievements of BIPOC in science and medicine to encourage diversity and inclusion within the fields.

UI Postdoctoral Research Scholar Antenor Hinton recently published a list of 100 inspiring Black scientists from across the country, including two researchers from the UI Carver College of Medicine: Andrea Marshall and Calvin Carter.

Hinton said the list is part of a three-part series, with one consisting of 100 Latinx scientists for Hispanic Heritage Month beginning in September, and the other featuring 1,000 Black researchers in October, to honor a total of 1,200 researchers.

He said researchers were selected based upon their publication history, honors and awards, how they instruct others, how they represent themselves on social media, and whether they are involved in diversity-focused initiatives.

"It is not random that many Iowans made the lists," Hinton said. "It is about the caliber of individuals that we have at Iowa



Contributed/The Daily Iowan
UI postdoctoral research scholar Antenor Hinton poses for a portrait.

more so than their race or gender. Are they mentoring students to propel their careers forward? Are they able to collaborate with other diverse backgrounds? Are they willing to stick their necks out for other backgrounds like they do for people like them?"

He said the intention of this list is to make an impact on those in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields, also known as STEM, who are people of color.

He added that he believes research benefits from having diverse representation because it allows for new changes and ad-

vances in science.

"Imagine that you are in a classroom with people that look like you and have the same skin color," Hinton said. "What matters then is the heart and the mind. Now, imagine having different individuals with different genetic codes. You might get individuals that have the grit and resolve to push through matters due to their backgrounds. If we create a positive narrative where everyone belongs, we can see what assets they bring to the table as an entity of science."

He said that Marshall and Carter were special not only in rep-



Contributed/The Daily Iowan
UI postdoctoral research scholar Andrea Marshall poses for a portrait.

resenting Black researchers from Iowa, but for the effort they put into their respective fields daily.

Marshall, a UI postdoctoral research scholar, said her research centers on how aging and dieting impacts the muscles' response to other stimuli, focusing on the loss of skeletal muscle strength and age-related decrease in muscle mass. She said her lab is working to identify molecules that can potentially slow, halt, or reverse this process.

Her inclusion in Hinton's list felt surreal, she said, because she

focuses solely on her research and does not consider notoriety as her main goal. She said she sees this list encouraging new and upcoming scientists of color to continue pursuing science.

"Diverse groups lead to a diversity of thought," Marshall said. "This list opens the eyes to the broader science community and shows them that there are scientists of color. We are here and we contribute so much to these fields."

SEE SCIENTISTS, 4

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SCIENTISTS CONTINUED FROM 3

She added that including researchers of diverse backgrounds is essential as it allows for different ways to approach the same problem.

“Even though many of us have the same literature and background, the communities you were raised in shapes how we approach problems,” Marshall said. “It leads to many unique solutions.”

Incorporating diversity in the hiring process and increasing the presence of minority faculty have become two goals of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the UI Carver College of Medicine. Director Nicole Del Castillo said the office established several pipeline programs to high schools and middle schools to expose students to health-science careers.

The office also offers summer research programs for first- and second-year undergraduates, and year-long research education

programs for undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds to improve their qualifications for graduate school, she said.

“[The UI] is fortunate to have individuals like Dr. Hinton who is passionate about mentorship and increasing the workforce of minority positions,” Del Castillo said. “He is paving the way and highlighting through research and highlighting through work outside of his position the importance of creating minority [positions].”

One way to improve health care disparities among disproportionate areas is by increasing the workforce of minority individuals, she said.

“Improving health equity starts with increasing diversity in the health workforce and increasing trust among minorities,” Del Castillo said.

Hinton said that in wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, everyone should be focusing on what it means to be a person of color.

“In essence, it is just the

visibility of one’s skin,” he said. “What matters is why that person may look different and carry things forward in a different way. When we look at a person by the content of their heart and not the color of their skin, we can begin to move forward.”

He said that the UI Carver College of Medicine has already begun implementing changes related to diversity and inclusion to show the university is committed to supporting people from all backgrounds and races, such as cultural competence and implicit-bias training.

He said raising awareness and putting forth a list of action items for cities and universities can result in increased diversity within STEM and education.

“I think we should be naturally doing this,” Hinton said. “We need to naturally understand who each other is as opposed to looking at skin color. We should be looking at what really matters, and have the willingness to not look at race or sexual identity, and look at them as an individual.”



Contributed/The Daily Iowan

Director of the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion in the Carver College of Medicine, Nicole Del Castillo, poses for a portrait.



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June 2020

Aerosol-transmission calculator assesses classroom safety

Professors at the UI use an Airborne Transmission Estimator to determine which classrooms have the best air circulation. The tool will help the university schedule classes in rooms that will aid reduction of coronavirus particle transfer.

BY LILLIAN POULSEN
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Researchers at the University of Iowa are using an aerosol-transmission calculator to test the number of small particles in classrooms on campus. They plan to use the device to determine which classrooms are best for in-person classes and reduced transmission of the coronavirus.

The Airborne Transmission Estimator was originally developed by Professor Jose-Luis Jimenez at the University of Colorado-Boulder. UI College of Engineering Professor Charles Stanier is working with Professor Tom Peters in the College of Public Health and graduate student David Rabidoux to adapt the tool for classrooms.

Stanier said the team gathers information about ventilation system from UI Facilities Management to see how much air is flowing through the room, what kind of air filter is used, and how much fresh air is coming in.

They have two methods to determine the number of particles in the air. One is gathering information from sensors used in some buildings on campus. If there are no sensors in that room, the team tests it manually, Peters said.

"We shoot off a CO₂ fire extinguisher for a few seconds," Peters said. "If it's a well-ventilated room, that CO₂ will disappear quickly. If it's a poorly ventilated room, it stays around for a long time."

Using this method, Peters said the team can determine the number of particles in a room and whether the classroom is safe for students.

The researchers are sharing their findings with the Facili-



University of Iowa Chemical and Biomedical Professor Charles Stanier poses for a portrait.

ties Management department to help provide information on which classrooms are best for students, Rabidoux said.

Facilities Management is also working to improve air flow in buildings, Stanier said. It's spending over \$500,000 to up-

grade the filter systems.

"We have developed a checklist for system assessments — prioritizing classrooms, the spaces with the most inherent risk based on number of people and length of time being in the same place," Finn said in

email to *The Daily Iowan*. "We are evaluating program modifications for classroom spaces as well. These modifications will increase air changes by making variable air volume constant, in effect leveraging the maximized designed rate of air exchange."

Facilities Management is working with the campus Critical Incident Management Team and the UI Registrar's Office on classroom scheduling, Finn said.

In order to help reduce risk, the researchers are also looking at how many students can fit in classrooms while social distancing, Stanier said. They plan to continue observing classrooms once students arrive, to see the difference in air circulation and mask compliance, he added.

To reduce the number of particles in the air, Stanier recommends students keep talking to a minimum and wear face masks.

"If mask compliance is very low, I think a lot of faculty members will be discussing how we fix that and what went wrong," Stanier said. "That puts the whole semester at risk. We want to make it to the end and not have to shut down again."

Professors should also try to limit the amount of talking in class, Stanier said.

"Try to limit the amount of talking by using other educational methods," Stanier said. "You don't have to have your small groups talk all the time. You could reduce the amount of small group discussion and put that part of the class online."

While the calculator works to keep the semester from going online, Peters said students and professors should be aware of the possibility of infection around them. One of the most important ways to reduce transmission is to wear a mask.

"There's a duty to protect the economy, to protect your fellow classmates, people with pre-existing medical conditions, and family members," he said. "You need to protect the whole semester from shutting down."

University of Iowa students voice concerns about fall plans

UI students shared their frustrations about the university's decision to offer in-person instruction in the fall 2020 semester.



The Old Capitol is seen on March 12.

Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

BY LILLIAN POULSEN
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Some University of Iowa students are concerned about the university's decision to return to in-person instruction for the fall semester. Many worry that the public health guidelines currently in place may not

be enough to protect students and their families from the coronavirus.

The UI shared its plan to offer in-person classes in early June, announcing that it would move to virtual instruction after Thanksgiving break. Some students took to social media to express concerns about the uni-

versity making students choose between their education and their safety.

Initially, some students said they were ready to return to campus after the move to virtual instruction at the end of the spring 2020 semester.

"I knew I wanted to be back on campus," UI se-

nior Dulce Escorcía said. "I do better when I'm on campus and get to talk to the people around me."

However, as coronavirus cases continue to rise in Johnson County, concerns about the plan to return to campus have emerged.

"Part of me was hoping that Iowa would respond to this pandemic

better, so I could go back to campus without risking my health," Escorcía said. "As much as I want to be on campus, I don't want to risk my life due to that."

Since the announcement, UI senior Eva Sileo said some students like herself have concerns about the university prioritizing money over education.

"The priorities of the university are much more so aligned with entertainment companies as opposed to an education-centered public facility for learning, which is what I thought I was signing up for when I went to a public college," Sileo said. "The entire year I've seen the administration and the Board of Regents, or whoever is making these decisions, perpetually prioritize profiting the assets of the university over the quality of education that's provided to the students."

Some students have considered withdrawing from the semester to avoid contracting the coronavirus and putting their family members at risk. Escorcía said they made the decision to return to campus because they don't want to lose a semester of education.

Although the university is requiring face coverings and encouraging

social distancing, they can't stop the spread of it, Escorcía said. The university has no way of mandating whether students go to restaurants, bars, or spend time with their friends, they said.

UI senior Madisen Huffmann said professors should work to support students during this time. She said professors shouldn't mandate attendance policies that require students to attend in-person classes.

"Attendance policies shouldn't be allowed," Huffmann said. "If they're able to organize resources for people who aren't comfortable attending in-person classes, that would probably be the best solution."

Since this decision, the UI has posted on social media and sent emails encouraging students to wear face coverings, social distance, and stay at home. If the university wants students to follow public-health guidelines, Escorcía said, it shouldn't offer in-person classes.

"I would love to stay at home and social distance, but I either do that and withdraw from the semester or put myself at risk," Escorcía said. "It's really frustrating that they're encouraging people to stay home when they're the reason why I can't stay home."

Old Creamery terminates staff

The Old Creamery Theater's Board of Trustees and former staff have disputed the reasoning for the recent terminations.



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

A sign for The Old Creamery Theatre Company is seen on July 17 in Amana, Iowa.

BY MADISON LOTENSCHTEIN
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On July 2, the Old Creamery Theater in Amana, Iowa, announced that it would suspend the rest of its 2020 season and terminate all but one of its 11 employees.

Since then, the Board of Trustees and the former employees of the Old Creamery Theater have disputed the reasoning for the terminations. Several staff members believe that they were fired as a result of a conflict between the board and a post made on the theater's website and social media by staff members in support of Black Lives Matter.

According to Peter R. Teahen, president of the theater's Board of Trustees, staff members were terminated because the theater had run out of funding from the Paycheck

Protection Program.

"We knew that money was going to run out, we knew it would run out about June 30th," he said. "...We had no way to pay the payroll to keep the staff on longer. And so it came to a natural conclusion at that point, you can't keep the staff if you can't pay them."

At a meeting May 11, the board decided that their staff would be employed up until June 30, when funding was slated to run out. Paying employees costs the theater about \$20,000 a month, Teahen said. He added that once the June financials — where at that point, the theater was incurring a \$150,000 loss in operating expenses — came through from the board's accountant, the group voted to "proceed with its May 11 decision to terminate the staff," on July 2.

Several members of the staff disagree with this reasoning, and believe they were terminated because of a Black Lives Matter action statement that former Artistic Interim Director Katie Colletta, her husband and co-Artistic Interim Director Keegan Christopher, and former Executive Director Ashley Shields wrote and posted on the theater's website on June 10.

The post, which has since been deleted from the company's website, stated that the Old Creamery Theater stands with the Black Lives Matter movement, that the theater has a lack of diversity, and listed ways the theater will work to improve, including the establishment of a scholarship fund for students, young artists, and interns dealing with financial hardships.

Shields was told by the executive committee on June 11 to take the post down, Colletta said.

"By choosing to tell stories that look like us, written by people like us, we have muted the most oppressed of voices, denied thousands of patrons and students the right to see themselves on our stages, and failed to create shared theatre experiences that might challenge how we think, feel, and act," the statement read.

Colletta said the staff emailed the statement to members of the Board of Trustees a couple of hours before posting it, but they did not specifically ask for permission to post the statement online since they have never had to seek permission to post on social media before. When no one responded to the email, the statement was posted.

Teahen said that employees cannot commandeer a company's website on what he describes as personal policies without the clearance

through management.

"And here we were trying to figure out how to pay bills and how to keep the building open, and they're committing in their letter about establishing scholarships that we knew we could never fulfill because we didn't have the money to keep the doors open," he said.

L.D. Kidd, a choreographer and visiting instructor at the University of Iowa who also used to serve on the voluntary Program Development Committee for the Old Creamery Theater, said that he quit the committee over email on July 12 because of recent events.

"The timing, the wording, everything just seemed off," he said about the terminations. "...I just had a friend send it [the BLM post] to me and I thought that it was a really great post, and that was part of my issue for sending the email. There was nothing wrong with it that the organization shouldn't have been very easily able to get behind."

According to Teahen, an updated statement from the Board of Directors will be posted, but they want to publish at the right time. The post will cover the organization's position on inclusion, race, and equality at the theater, he said.

"We intend to post it, but it has to be done at an appropriate time so it's not feeding into this hysteria that everybody's been fired because of the Black Lives Matter statement," Teahen said. "It needs to be a sincere statement that's put out when this hysteria settles down. Otherwise it just looks like a phony statement because 'oh they just put it up because of all the bad press they had.'"

"Teahen said there is no correlation between the BLM statement and the terminations, stating that the board made the decision on May

11 that the employees would no longer be employed once the funding ran out on June 30, one month before the BLM action plan was published on June 10.

Teahen had a Zoom meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. on July 2 to confirm the end of the staff's employment and to answer questions and discuss future plans for the theater. According to Colletta, the link had been sent out the night prior, with no explanation.

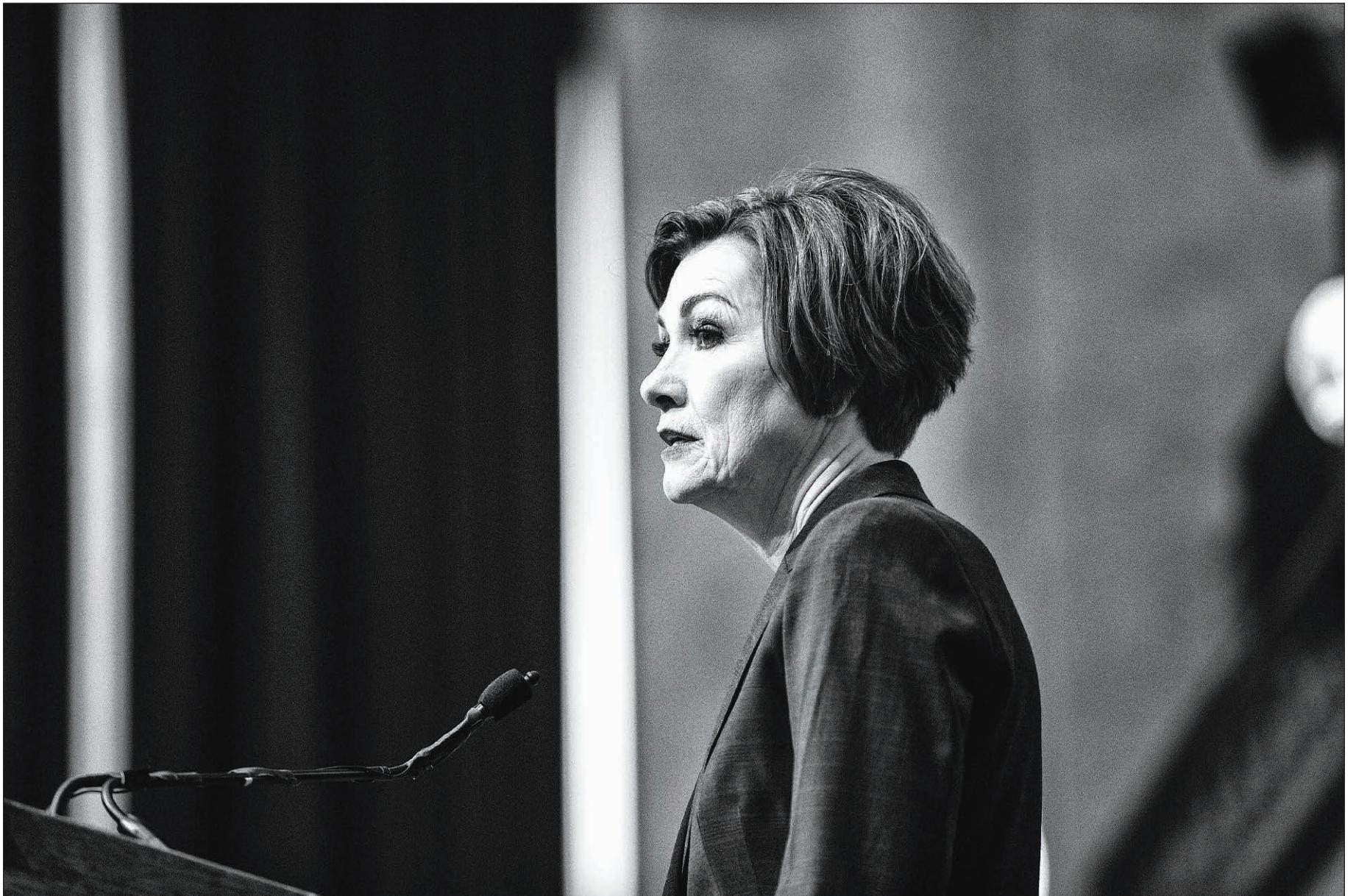
According to an email sent from Shields to board members fewer than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting time, the staff stated they would not attend the meeting because they felt "unsafe in entering any kind of meeting or discussion with members." Colletta said the staff felt unsafe because of a phone call Shields had with Teahen the morning of July 2. In the email, Shields mentioned that Teahen hung up on her, which Teahen said did not happen.

Colletta said that she would "absolutely not" return to her position at the theater if given the opportunity. The former artistic interim director said that she hopes the current board will be removed, and that a new, more diverse one will take its place.

"I hope that diverse board sees fit to hire an artist of color in my place," she said. "We must make room for more perspectives at the table."

The theater has formed a sub-committee within the board of directors to "take a deeper dive into this issue," Teahen said.

"We are committed [to] addressing the issue in a honest, thoughtful manner and will share more with everyone when we have made progress on what our next steps might be," he said.



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Gov. Kim Reynolds speaks during the Condition of the State address at the Iowa State Capitol on January 14.

Iowa City schools back to square one

After Gov. Reynolds' proclamation requiring 50 percent of curriculum to be taught in-person, Iowa City Community School District is forced to revisit its plan to continue remote education. The district will seek a waiver from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Department of Education for approval to hold classes online.

BY RACHEL SCHILKE
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Iowa City schools will seek a waiver to hold classes online following a proclamation by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds July 17 that halted the district's original plans to hold instruction entirely

online until Oct. 1.

Reynolds' proclamation requires at least 50 percent of classes to be delivered in person, despite asking school districts across Iowa to submit four instruction plans of their own, one being for fully remote instruction, by July 1. The requirement

has sent Iowa schools back to the drawing board to determine how to prioritize in-person instruction and maintain the health and safety of students and teachers.

The Iowa City Community School District decided July 14 that it would begin the fall online, but Reynolds' proclamation

may now reverse that decision, leaving Iowa City administrators unsure of how to proceed.

Iowa City Community School District Superintendent Matt Degner said in an email to families that administrators were surprised by the abrupt timing of the proclamation, as additional

guidelines released in the proclamation were not initially provided in the Iowa Department of Education's Return-to-Learn guidelines.

The proclamation states that virtual instruction may be allowed if a parent or guardian voluntarily selects the option,

and if schools intending to move to online-only instruction obtain approval from the Iowa Departments of Public Health and Education, though the proclamation doesn't specify what criteria would allow a school to obtain a waiver from the department.

In a joint meeting with the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, local municipalities, and Johnson County Public Health officials on Monday, Iowa City school board president Shawn Eyestone said the district would seek a waiver for online instruction.

Eyestone said after discussions

noted the district would release more information as soon as it found out.

Iowa Department of Education spokesperson Heather Doe said Reynolds' proclamation does not reverse the Return-to-Learn guidelines but helps define what is an "ongoing and fluid response."

According to the proclamation, Reynolds did not provide any requirements on wearing face coverings in schools, but she said she and public health officials expect to release what parameters will allow schools

Iowa City parent Brandy Mitchell, who works at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as an outpatient nurse practitioner, said she understands firsthand the dangers of COVID-19 and steps to prevent spreading the disease.

"When I leave and go to work, I spend my day in a face mask and shield to protect my family," Mitchell said. "My kids are at home, and I am the person we were worried about affecting them. Now, my children could be the ones affected."

She added that her children's

Reynolds' proclamation, and that now families and educators will have to figure things out on a whim rather than in a controlled and prepared environment.

"Our education system and teachers have been working so hard to develop plans on how to teach children virtually and do this safely," she said. "Having a politician step in and dictate how they are going to do this made no sense to me."

For many families, however, navigating online instruction is impractical. Iowa City parent Brea Colsch said her children have different learning styles, so they would not be participating in a 100-percent online curriculum if that becomes an option. She said that at this time of uncertainty, it's important for the community to stick together.

"I have concerns over not just my children, but all children in the area going back to school," Colsch said. "However, I don't think staying inside our houses for days, weeks, and months is the answer. COVID-19 is not going anywhere and I think we need to start thinking collaboratively as a community."

Eyestone said parents in the district were sent a survey in June

hours at a time and concentrate solely on schoolwork. It is my belief that kids will become more socially isolated, lazy, and bored if an all online learning system is put into place. It puts parents on the line to make sure their kids are learning."

The survey was sent during a time when COVID-19 cases were lower than the current numbers, Eyestone said at the joint entities meeting on Monday, so once cases of the virus spiked, community comments on students returning to school were directed toward the school board.

"We did receive a lot of communication that said, 'if you had sent this survey two weeks later, we probably wouldn't have answered the same way,'" Eyestone said. "But we do need to know, both from the family side and the staff side, that if we do in fact open, what is everyone's intention? Because if the willingness and intention from those two groups don't match each other, then we are in a tough spot."

Mitchell commended the district's teachers and said that — until Reynolds' proclamation — the Iowa City Community School District was great at providing information as it had it.

“When I leave and go to work, I spend my day in a face mask and shield to protect my family. My kids are at home, and I am the person we were worried about affecting them. Now, my children could be the ones affected.”

— Brandy Mitchell, Iowa City parent

with local teachers' unions and students' parents, the district decided to deliver instruction online to give families and teachers ample time to plan ahead. Many community members expressed their gratitude for the district taking their health and safety into consideration, he said.

"There is a chance to seek a waiver, and we will seek it," Eyestone said. "I don't know if any of us have real strong hope that it will be met, but we are going to seek the waiver regardless."

The Iowa City Community School District is currently working on a hybrid model to ensure it meets the 50-percent threshold dictated in Reynolds' proclamation, he said, but lack of definition as to exactly what 50 percent means will make it difficult to determine if the district is meeting it.

Degner said many teachers, administrators, and support staff were already working hard on online-only plans for the fall, and that the new hybrid plan was now necessary to ensure the health and safety of students and faculty. Degner's statement

to move to remote learning in early August.

The Iowa Department of Education and the Department of Public Health are working on guidelines for schools to help manage coronavirus activity if positive cases grow among teachers and students, Doe said, and they will be sent to Iowa school districts in early August.

Iowa City Community School District is not alone in its uncertainty. Clear Creek Amana School District in Tiffin, Iowa — which initially planned for primarily online instruction — no longer has a plan of action for the upcoming school year.

Clear Creek Amana board member Tim Kuehl said primary virtual instruction and virtual classes for secondary students are now off the table. The school is supposed to release a statement on its new learning methods by July 29, he said.

Parent opinions across the Iowa City community are numerous and varied. Many worry how in-person instruction will affect their jobs, lives, and the safety and education of their children.

94-year-old great-grandparent lives with them, so sending her children back to school would not only put them in danger, but it would take away any control she had over bringing the virus home. Online instruction for her children, who will attend Iowa City High in the fall, was her family's best option, she said.

"It's basic epidemiology,"

“With single-parent households, and in households where both parents work, all online education is not realistic...It puts parents on the line to make sure their kids are learning.”

— Brea Colsch, Iowa City parent

Mitchell said. "Our state's statistics [for COVID-19] are awful, there is no doubt. Within the first week, school staff could all be infected. It makes no sense to put that many at risk. I would love my children to be in school, but I also want my children to be safe. Even in just two days, there is no way they would not come into contact with someone who asymptotically has the disease."

Mitchell said she felt incredibly frustrated when she heard

to gauge whether they would feel comfortable with students returning to in-person education.

Colsch said the survey results conflicted with the district's decision to instruct online-only, which made parents feel frustrated and unheard.

"With single-parent households, and in households where both parents work, all online education is not realistic," she said. "Most kids do not have the discipline to sit at a computer for

"[Our school district] had a plan for our families to start preparing, even though for some of us it is devastating not to have kids in classes," she said. "When Reynolds decided to change all that, now we have an email saying, 'We don't know what we are going to do.' All of these teachers who could have been working on how to prepare quality online education are now struggling to figure out how in person will work. No one has an answer."

Local bookstores feel impact of COVID-19

Book shops in Iowa City have noticed a decline in sales, and other trends, despite new options available for customers.

BY MADISON LOTENSCHTEIN
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When walking into The Haunted Bookshop, customers are greeted by the worn, musty smell of books and the occasional feline friend curled up by a window. Nothing but the gentle turn of a page or the sound of soft footsteps can be heard while sifting through endless knowledge on its shelves.

However, this experience has been lost to bookworms since March 16, when the store — well known for its rare and secondhand books — opted to conduct business online.

As COVID-19 continues to infect people and their livelihoods, some local Iowa City bookstore owners have changed their business models, including Nialle Sylvan, the owner of The Haunted Bookshop.

Most of The Haunted Bookshop's rare books, what the owners refer to as "the weird stuff," are online, with a 6,000-book rolling inventory. Sylvan and their staff have recently entered another 1,000 books to their site, which consist of fiction and African-American studies, Sylvan said.

Along with curbside pickup, local delivery, and shipping options, The Haunted Bookshop started a new initiative where customers can submit a description of themselves or of a friend, including what kind of books they like, and have Sylvan and their husband, who also



The Haunted Bookshop manager Nialle Sylvan and husband Joshua Langseth pose for a portrait.

Contributed/The Daily Iowan

works at the store, pick out a personalized book based on that description.

"People responded to this in huge numbers, it was so gratifying," Sylvan said. "You know, one of the reasons I'm in book-dealing is because I love sharing my favorite books with people, right? We just get one of those emails and we're like, 'oh, oh, oh, it's a surprise me email!' And then we just sort of tear around the store looking for things and comparing notes about what looks like a good recommendation for this person."

The new initiative has paid the bills, and the store is doing OK financially, Sylvan said. However, store sales have been significantly lower

since the pandemic hit Johnson County. In the first half of the year, the store usually sells 2,000 books per month, and Sylvan said these numbers rise in the summer to 3,000 or 4,000. The store sells 1,000 books a month on average right now, Sylvan said.

Sidekick Coffee and Books has also taken an economic hit during the pandemic. The store opened in September of 2019. According to owner Katy Herbold, sales, on average, have been cut by at least 60 percent.

The store offers socially distanced outdoor seating. While customers cannot come inside and browse the bookshelves, they can sit outside and sip or snack on ice cream, pastries, and cof-

fee. Otherwise, readers can pick up their books through contact-free pickup, Herbold said.

"I think people are reading more. I would say COVID has not helped my sales and the book department has definitely slowed down because people can't come in and look at books and peruse," she said. "They aren't picking up stuff that they might not normally otherwise read."

Outside of books, Herbold has noticed how popular the purchase of jigsaw puzzles is with her customers. She's even started stocking up on fall and winter-themed puzzles because of their popularity. Even Sylvan started selling puzzles, though shipping them is costly.

"Puzzles, because they're not part of that group, has to go by regular parcel posts, and parcel post rates are much higher," Sylvan said.

Since COVID-19, Prairie Lights has also been selling fewer books than they normally would, owner Jan Weissmiller said. Weissmiller declined to give a number regarding sales both pre- and post-pandemic, but she said that the store is still selling books every day to people spanning across all ages, and she believes that people are reading more while staying indoors. Prairie Lights has also been hosting virtual events through the pandemic.

"We are seeing a huge interest in books," she said in an email to *The Daily Io-*

wan. "We have sold quite a few books that do deal with pandemics — particularly *The Decameron* by Boccaccio which is set in the countryside outside of Florence Italy during the Black Death in the 14th Century... And, since the death of George Floyd on May 25th, we have seen an unprecedented interest on books about the history and future of race relations in America. There are so very many titles that we've been selling concerning this that it would be hard to recount them all."

Prairie Lights would have been able to sell books during the Mission Creek Festival — which was canceled due to COVID-19 — to students for the remainder of the semester, and at their readings, which can sometimes bring in more than 100 people, Weissmiller said.

They also would have been able to sell books over the summer at the Iowa Summer Writing Festival. Sylvan, owner of The Haunted Bookshop, shared a similar sentiment regarding UI students, because the demographic makes up a large part of the shop's clientele.

"Everything depends on the response of political and university leadership," Sylvan said. "Right now, the university doesn't really have a good, solid plan for how to protect students. Students are part of our biggest clientele. This has all been really hard, but we are working very hard to find ways to put everybody else in a safe spot."

Opinions

COLUMN

America's 'grind culture' is toxic

The 'grind culture' is instilled in people their entire lives and results in nothing but toxic work habits.

BY CHLOE PETERSON

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A tweet went viral by @ShaylaRacquel this week that read "My mom is APPALLED when I told her I took off and say 'no reason I just needed a day' when she asks why. Baby Boomers do not believe in using their PTO for no reason."

Replies to her tweet included people who mentioned that their parents have "thousands" of hours of PTO, but never use it because they claim to have no reason to take time off.

Our parents' generation has always stressed being "available" for work. Success, to them, means coming in on days off

when they need it and never saying no to bosses.

And sure, you may be successful, but will you be happy?

Life isn't all about work.

Despite popular belief, the mentality of "waiting for the weekend" is not a healthy or productive one to have. It's 5/7 of a life that you're wasting away.

According to Erin Griffith of the *New York Times*, feeling the need to be constantly working to get ahead is called "performative workaholism." It's showing up to work early and leaving work late, because if you don't, you get the feeling that someone will get ahead of you. You'll lose the promotion to someone who is willing to work two extra hours each day. The "live to work" culture comes from a place of fear.

It's been instilled in young people from the start that they need to "grind" to be successful. Get good grades, be at the top of your high school class, do an exorbitant amount of extracurriculars, and you'll be successful. It doesn't matter if you don't sleep or you never take care of yourself or you never do anything for fun — "you can rest when you're dead."

In high school, I once worked with someone who was a Division I cross country athlete. One night, he was close to passing out multiple times while working, but he was still talking about how he needed to run. "The grind never stops," he said.

He ended up running two miles that night, fighting off the urge to pass out the entire time.

There's nothing against having goals and working toward them. But when you push yourself to the brink of exhaustion, or to the point where you hate what you're

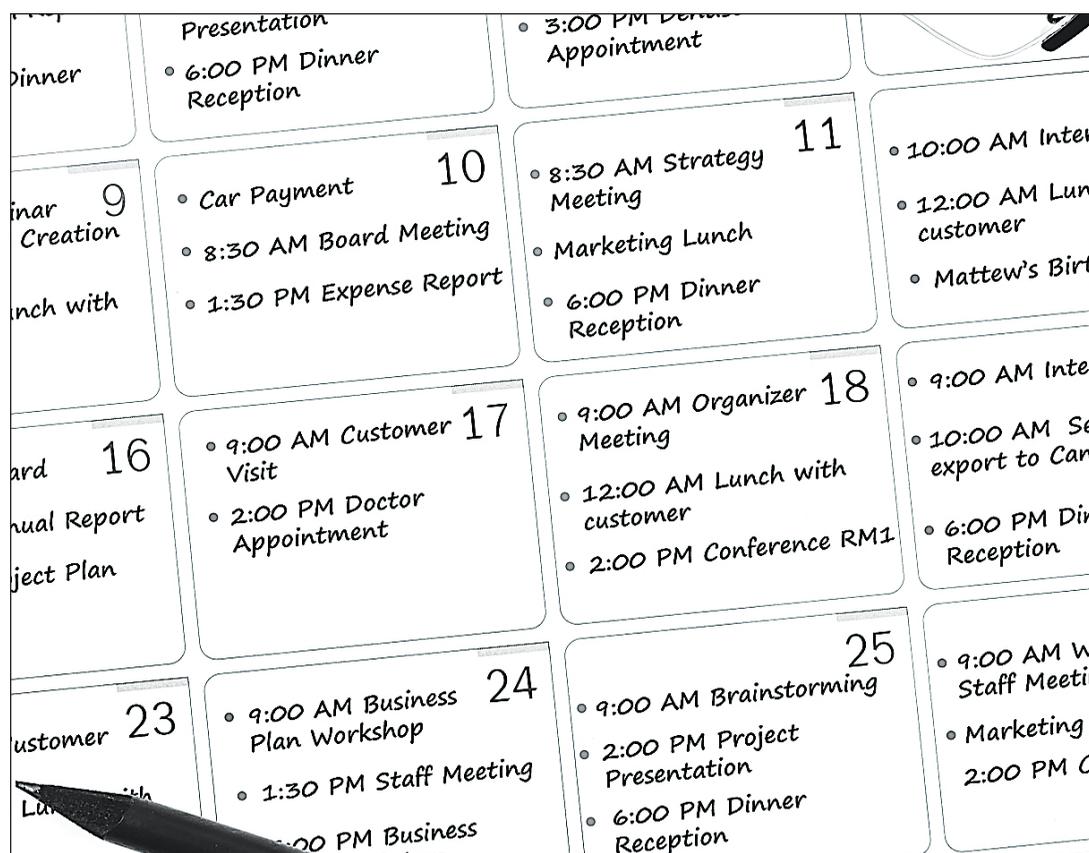
doing, it becomes a problem.

According to a *Forbes* article by Samantha Radocchia, the only way for companies to combat the "grind culture" is to address it from the start. This is difficult to achieve, because investors in the company, especially start-ups, are looking for people who will put their all into the company to make sure it's successful. Venture capitalists aren't going to invest in a company that appears lazy.

There are ways, Radocchia says, to get away from the venture capitalism way of doing things. New companies don't always need a large investment to be successful. There are different models of working that makes it better and more sustainable for everyone.

During a time when millions are unemployed in America due to COVID-19 shutdowns, there is no shame in being unproductive. You're not going to fall behind because you're not toiling at your work from inside your home. You'll be just like millions of other Americans trying to make it through this time without going mad.

Work isn't meant to be hated every second of every day. There will be some difficult days, but having the "living for the weekend" mentality your entire life is toxic and a recipe for disaster.



The Daily Iowan

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Creative, calming video games: the key to an active mind during times of uncertainty

With everyone trapped inside with little to do, we should all consider playing games that give us a creative outlet to keep our minds off of the stresses of life.

BY SIGNE NETTUM
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While I have been recently boasting about reading more, playing board games, and cutting down on Netflix, I will also say that I have spent my time this summer playing video games — something I think everyone should pick up while staying indoors because of the pandemic.

I will preface this by saying that I am a very chill gamer with a low amount of consoles at my disposal. I have a Nintendo Switch, a Nintendo DS, and a very old Wii at home. My array of games consist of the basic Wii franchises, Just Dance, some Mario games, and then nearly all of the Pokemon video games for the DS and Switch. I

am a fan of chill action games that are not stress-inducing. My fine motor skills are not the greatest, so I opt for those games rather than Call of Duty or Overwatch.

As I have played these games and gotten a few more, like Stardew Valley, Minecraft, and Oxygen Not Included, I have noticed a pattern in my playing habits as COVID-19 surrounded the community. Low-risk, rewarding survival or building games, such as Animal Crossing, are on the rise. As they should be.

During this time of unease and lack of control, finding an outlet that you have almost, if not 100 percent, control over should be a factor in soothing your mental health. While not all games recommended are calming, they provide

enough stimulus to draw your attention, but not enough to cause unending stress.

CNBC reported many benefits of playing calm games during this time. Those include “helping those playing feel in control. . .keep you social. . .[and] feel like an escape from the real world.” These games include The Sims, Animal Crossing, and Stardew Valley.

The *Iowa City Press-Citizen* recommended additional games such as Jackbox Party Pack (a mobile/TV game you play with many people, I have done a few rounds with people in different states), Firewatch (a game where you explore a National Park and solve a mystery, no combat), and Undertale (a game that explicitly tells you not to fight and win through

talking out issues). I personally love these games, and another genre of point-and-click puzzle games that are story rich, rather than combat rich.

While I am not bashing action games like the Resident Evil franchise or the newest Doom game, I have noticed that I enjoy watching someone else play the game, rather than myself. I like seeing them go through the game and make snide comments and let adrenaline run its course. Meanwhile, I play my casual games that still give me the same satisfaction as I solve the puzzles or gain imaginary money.

A highlight of some of these games and platforms is that you can connect with others while you play the game.

My little sister plays mini games

with people around the world through Minecraft, she has a house in Sims with her friends. My boyfriend wants me to get Animal Crossing so I can visit his island.

There is also the fact that with these types of construction games, you're able to sink time and create so much inside of them. Unlike most games with a linear storyline, there's no end-goal to achieve. It's simply here for you to enjoy and explore, so there's no stress on you to complete it.

Multiplayer casual games are a great way to connect with others during this time without putting extra stress on ourselves. There's nothing better than grabbing a game with some friends and sitting down states away to enjoy an evening with yourselves.



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COLUMNS, CARTOONS, and



Many Iowa head coaches promoting wearing face masks

Megan Conroy/The Daily Iowan

Coach Rick Heller takes the field during the game against Bradley on March 26, 2019 at Duane Banks Field.

University of Iowa coaches have taken to social media to promote wearing masks to try to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic and protect fall sports seasons

BY WILL FINEMAN
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While fall sports remain uncertain as concerns with COVID-19 continue, many University of Iowa coaches have begun promoting wearing a face covering on social media to help prevent the spread of the virus.

In a video posted on the Iowa Hawkeyes' social media pages earlier this month, Iowa football head coach Kirk Ferentz gave a message to Hawkeye fans urging them to mask up and fight for Iowa.

"When I think of our fans, I think of the very best Iowans," Ferentz said in the message. "We are calling on Hawkeyes everywhere to come to-

gether to fight COVID-19. We need you to wear face coverings, keep your distance from others, and wash your hands often."

Using the hashtags #MaskUpIA and #FaceMasks4FallSports, coaches for winter and spring sports have turned to Twitter and Instagram to encourage Hawkeye fans to wear masks as well.

Seventh-year Iowa baseball head coach Rick Heller was one of the first Iowa coaches to speak out on Twitter supporting masks. A picture of Heller sporting a face covering was posted on the Iowa Baseball Twitter account in June.

"I think that it is common sense that we all need to do whatever we

can do to help slow down the virus," said Heller. "We want to see fall sports have a chance to play because of the economic impact that it would have not only on our department, but Iowa City and everyone around here."

The Iowa Hawkeyes Instagram account posted a photo recently in support of masking up for Iowa that showed seven Iowa head coaches wearing masks.

The coaches in the photo included Heller, volleyball coach Vicki Brown, women's gymnastics coach Larissa Libby, soccer coach Dave DiIanni, softball coach Renee Gillespie, men's golf coach Tyler Stith, and women's basketball coach Lisa Bluder.

"I am not on social media as much

as others, but I have seen quite a few [coaches] that are doing it, and I think each one is doing what they can in their communities even if they are not on social media," Heller said.

Iowa soccer head coach Dave DiIanni has been very vocal on Twitter about the importance of wearing masks to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Women's soccer is one of the first Division I sports to compete in the fall, and the season may be at risk because of the pandemic.

DiIanni has been featured in a gold Hawkeyes mask on the Iowa soccer Twitter page using the hashtag #FaceMasks4FallSports and has also posted a picture of himself in

a black mask on his personal account promoting the message.

"For me, it is just about safety and protecting my family and myself, but also protecting my student-athletes and my coaching staff," DiIanni said. "I am doing whatever I can to be safe and healthy and help ensure that not only a fall season, but a winter season and a spring season happen."

DiIanni has also retweeted graphs showing Iowa coronavirus statistics in an effort to urge others to wear face coverings.

"I wouldn't dare to tell people how to live their lives," DiIanni said. "For me, it is just about promoting what I believe is a health and safety opportunity to help slow the curve."



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Kathleen Doyle jumps for a lay-up during the Iowa vs. Ohio State Women's Big Ten Tournament game at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on March 6.

Doyle navigating rookie WNBA season

The former Hawkeye has already made strong impressions on the Indiana Fever coaching staff since being drafted in April.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

Kathleen Doyle's introduction to the WNBA hasn't gone how she ever imagined it would.

The former Hawkeye standout was a second-round pick by the Indiana Fever in April's WNBA Draft. The season, which was originally set to start May 15, has been

delayed for months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's definitely not what I pictured, but honestly I'm just happy and feel blessed for the opportunity and I'm going to take

advantage of it," Doyle said in a video conference. "I'm just excited to be playing with these elite players."

Doyle hasn't been in the WNBA long, but she's

already made a strong impression on the Fever coaching staff.

The Fever are in Bradenton, Florida, at the IMG Academy, the location for the WNBA's shortened 22-

game season that is set to start July 25. The team arrived at the "bubble" July 11 and will be there until its season is over.

SEE DOYLE, 15

DOYLE
CONTINUED FROM 14

One of Indiana's key players hasn't arrived yet.

All-Star guard and five-year WNBA veteran Erica Wheeler is undergoing another round of testing protocols and is not yet cleared to join the team. This has left a gap in Indiana's backcourt as it goes through training camp.

Doyle and fellow rookie Julie Allemand have taken advantage of the opportunity.

"You wouldn't know that they hadn't played with their teammates before," Indiana's first-year head coach Marianne Stanley said on a video conference. "They both understand how to lead a team."

Allemand, like Doyle, is a

first-year WNBA player.

Professional inexperience hasn't stopped Doyle from asserting herself on the floor, even while playing with and against veteran players.

"Julie and I have both taken it upon ourselves to do our best to run our teams and learn as we go and be confident in ourselves, but also learn from every mistake we make," Doyle said. "You definitely want to assert yourself with confidence, especially as a point guard."

Doyle hasn't competed on the court in a live setting since the Hawkeyes lost to Ohio State March 6 in the Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament. The LaGrange Park, Illinois, native

couldn't finish her Hawkeye career in the NCAA Tournament as the pandemic halted sports.

"There was nothing we could really do about that in these crazy times," Doyle said. "Staying

but Doyle was announced on the Fever's 12-player roster heading into the season.

Assistant coach Steve Smith said the team values versatility, something it is getting with the 5-foot-9 guard out of Iowa. Smith said Doyle is capable of playing either spot in the team's backcourt.

"What we liked is that she obviously had a lot of talent, she had a lot of grit," Smith said.

"Great character kid, or young lady I should say, and we just feel like her potential is limitless. I compare her to a player that I saw come in years ago as a rookie that has the same type of grit and fire, and that was [2011 No. 3 overall pick] Courtney Vandersloot. And

so if Kathleen does what she's supposed to do, I think her potential is like that."

As Doyle continues to adapt to her new surroundings in the WNBA, she'll get a chance to see a familiar face in Indiana's third game of the season. On July 31, the Fever take on Megan Gustafson and the Dallas Wings.

Gustafson, who won the Naismith Trophy as a senior at Iowa, played three seasons with Doyle in the Black and Gold.

Now the two Big Ten Player of the Year winners will be competing against each other.

"It will be weird playing against Megan. But it will be fun. I'm excited to see her and glad that we can both represent Iowa hopefully well in this league. I hope Megan has a good game," Doyle said with a grin, "but I hope the Fever win."

“It will be weird playing against Megan [Gustafson]. But it will be fun. I'm excited to see her and glad that we can both represent Iowa hopefully well in this league. I hope Megan has a good game, but I hope the Fever win.”

— Kathleen Doyle

diligent, working out, staying in shape, so that when we got to training camp we were ready to go from the start. It's definitely exciting that we're finally getting going."

Second-round picks are never locks to make a WNBA team,

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