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Board of regents provides new ACT testing opportunities

High-school students graduating in 2020 or 2021 can take the ACT at state Board of Regents schools or centers. The scores can be shared with the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University, or requested by Iowa community colleges.

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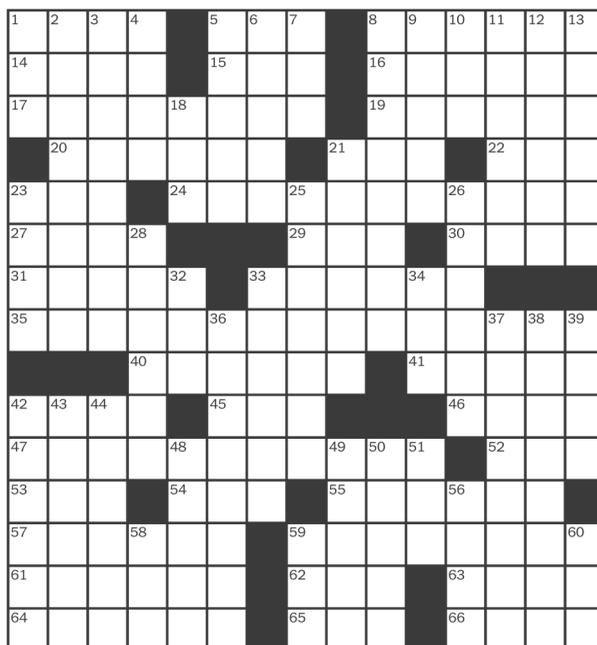
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0624



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 3

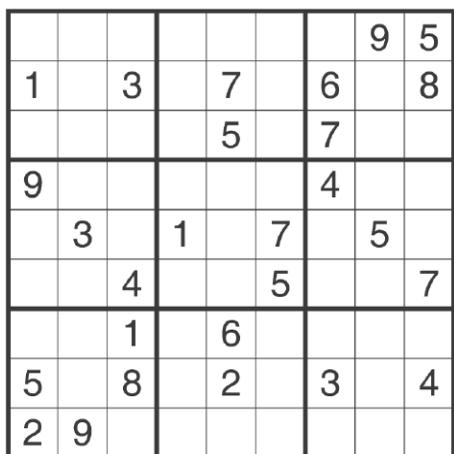
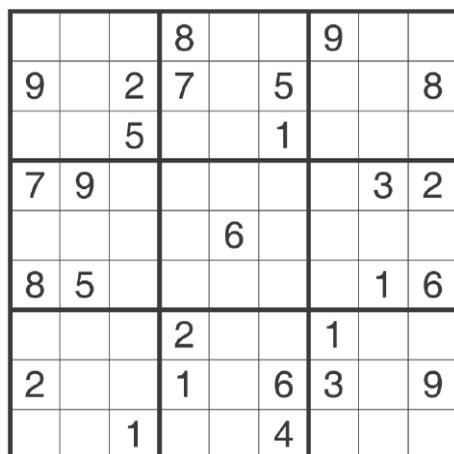
Across

- 1 Ansari of "Parks and Recreation"
- 5 Lotion letters
- 8 Class for expectant mothers
- 14 Only
- 15 ___-El (Superman's birth name)
- 16 Roberto in Cooperstown
- 17 It served as its state's capital before Des Moines
- 19 Traditional Japanese sword
- 20 Whack-a-mole implement
- 21 Where dreams are made?
- 22 Fleur-de-___
- 23 Waste receptacle
- 24 Joe and Jack, say?
- 27 Voting against
- 29 Latin "I love"
- 30 Shows, as shows
- 31 Set free
- 33 Glossy coating
- 35 Medical ethics topic
- 40 In a drab way
- 41 Bluesman Willie
- 42 Asti Spumante, per esempio
- 45 Noise from a nest
- 46 Senate rebuke
- 47 "Barrier" dismantled in 1991
- 52 Word before or after pack
- 53 Country's ___ Brown Band
- 54 New Orleans-to-Tampa dir.

- 55 Bratislava resident
- 57 Even
- 59 Start of each "S.N.L." episode ... or a hint to the initials of the words in 17-, 24-, 35- and 47-Across
- 61 Adopt-a-Highway concern
- 62 Director Lee
- 63 Old-timey "not"
- 64 Give a good looking-over
- 65 Jed's adviser on "The West Wing"
- 66 Where Southwest Airlines is LUV

Down

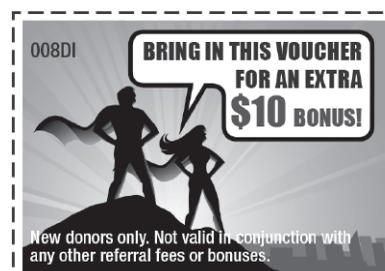
- 1 Subject of a Louisville museum
- 2 Magnify
- 3 Lacking
- 4 True believer's quality
- 5 Athlete in goggles
- 6 Smith known as the Poet Laureate of Punk
- 7 Stylish, slangily
- 8 Italian tourist destination
- 9 Car rental choice
- 10 Bon ___
- 11 Italian tourist destination
- 12 More out there
- 13 Wipes out
- 18 151, in old Rome
- 21 Department store founder
- 23 Indonesian tourist destination
- 25 Place for a pickup baseball game
- 26 Fake eyelash, slangily
- 28 Geometric figure with equal angles
- 32 Prove one's humanity, in a way
- 33 Literary character who lives in the Gloomy Place
- 34 Goal
- 36 Apple pickers?
- 37 Reward for working overtime
- 38 "Anyone? ... Anyone?"
- 39 Threaded fastener
- 42 Hungarian sporting dog
- 43 Dinar spenders
- 44 "Back of the line!"
- 48 Closest dwarf planet
- 49 Together
- 50 "My turn"
- 51 Start to snooze, with "off"
- 56 Winter Olympics star Lindsey
- 58 Downed
- 59 Old presidential nickname
- 60 December 31, in brief



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Photo of Carver College of Medicine Executive Dean Patricia Winokur, MD.

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Experts say herd immunity isn't solution to COVID-19

UI public health officials explain why the concept of exposing a large number of the population will hurt more individuals than it will help. Instead, they encourage people to continue to wear face coverings, social distance, and wash their hands.

BY LILLIAN POULSEN

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With the recent uptick in the number of national coronavirus cases, some people have encouraged intentional exposure to the illness in order to help the population establish an immunity to the virus. University of Iowa public health experts, however, say herd immunity can't work against coronavirus. Herd immunity is the level of immunity in a com-

munity that is needed to prevent a disease outbreak, said UI College of Public Health Director of Undergraduate Programs Margaret Chorazy. It occurs when a large number of individuals in a population become immune by developing antibodies to the disease, making it difficult for the virus to spread.

The concept of herd immunity can work for a variety of viruses, said UI College of Pub-

SEE HERD IMMUNITY, 4



My cup is not my consent

Using alcohol to get sex is sexual assault



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HERD IMMUNITY CONTINUED FROM 3

lic Health Associate Professor Christine Petersen.

Measles is an example of a disease where this concept has worked, because there is a vaccine, it's easily transmissible, and a large amount of the population is exposed, said UI Carver College of Medicine Executive Dean Patricia Winokur.

Herd immunity can be established either through enough people getting immunity from previously having the disease, Winokur said, or a majority of the population getting vaccines. In order for it to work, at least 90 percent of the population needs to be exposed to the virus, Wi-

nokur said.

The goal of herd immunity is to protect the parts of the population who are unable to receive a vaccine, she said.

Not enough of the population has been exposed to the coronavirus, and public health experts aren't sure if some people are immune to it, Winokur said.

"We need to get enough of the population immune to help truncate the spread from person

to person," Winokur said. "Usually that means we need to get most of the population immunized, preferably not infected, simply because the consequences of COVID can be so severe."

At the current exposure and infection rates, it would take several years for the community to establish herd immunity without a vaccine, Petersen said. Trying to establish herd immunity right now would cause

more harm than good, she added.

"The idea that we're going to naturally expose ourselves enough to get herd immunity for coronavirus right now is just not smart thinking," Petersen said. "It's a virus that is not in enough of the population so that we can get exposure to enough people. The outcomes are severe enough to those who are at risk that to risk their health and their lives for this goal through natural infection is basically cruel."

If people continue to expose themselves to the coronavirus, Chorazy said it will hurt many people who are at risk.

"Achieving it without a vaccine through widespread community infection could be devastating

to our communities, given the number of people who would need to be infected," Chorazy said. "If virus transmission is left unchecked, then we'd see a greater number of hospitalizations and deaths."

rapid way."

Public health officials encourage people to take currently available vaccines, Petersen said. It's important to help stop the spread of other viruses, she said, so people only

“Until we have vaccines, people need to follow the standard precautions.”

— Margaret Chorazy, UI College of Public Health Director of Undergraduate Programs

Instead, public health guidelines should continued to be followed to stop the spread of the coronavirus, Winokur said.

"It's really important not go out and be careful now and wear masks and social distance," Petersen said. "Once we have a vaccine, we can reach herd immunity in a safe and

need to fight one disease at a time.

"Until we have vaccines, people need to follow the standard precautions," Winokur said. "Wearing a face mask or face shield, washing your hands very aggressively, and distancing are the things that do work when they're adhered to."

“The idea that we're going to naturally expose ourselves enough to get herd immunity for coronavirus right now is just not smart thinking!”

— Christine Petersen, UI College of Public Health Associate Professor



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Artificial intelligence aims for real-world impact

The UI Technology Institute is collaborating with the U.S. military to virtually test equipment and the effect of physical activity on the human body.

BY RACHEL SCHILKE
rachel-schilke@uiowa.edu

Researchers at the University of Iowa Technology Institute aim to make a real-world impact with virtual reality, working closely with the U.S. military and various corporations to test products using virtual avatars in realistic simulations.

The institute is collaborating with the U.S. Army to test the effects of protective equipment and training exercises on soldiers using Santos, a virtual avatar from its Virtual Soldier Research Program.

Iowa Technology Institute Director Karim Abdel-Malek and his team created the program in 2005 in an effort to analyze soldier performance without testing real people, which he said cuts spending by about 30 percent and reduces potential injury.

“Before Santos, when somebody designs a new helmet or a new grenade that will attach to the soldier, or a new weapons system, the easiest way was to bring in all the varieties in person, and it takes years to analyze the data,” he said. “We now are doing a lot of work to reduce the time and cost without having so many people involved.”

Santos also has a female counterpart, Sophia. Researchers can virtually “drag and drop” protective equipment or other materials onto the virtual avatars to analyze if male and female soldiers can carry out tasks, Abdel-Malek said.

Analyzing the effects of equip-

ment and tasks on the human body required collaboration outside of the institute, he added, including engineers, physical therapists, medical professionals, and ophthalmologists.

“Physical therapists understand what fatigue does to the muscles, and the ophthalmologists at the university provided us with appropriate measures of acuity and flickering of the eyes,” Abdel-Malek said. “Representing real humans into the model, we want to be able to understand what your body can and cannot do and feed it into the program.”

He said Santos comprises not only human components, but also artificial intelligence, kinematics, biomechanics, and gaming technology.

“Artificial intelligence is a thriving field,” Abdel-Malek said. “It is all of the thinking behind [Santos]. Santos will see someone shooting at him, and you want him to think on his own. He can think, ‘I’ll take a new position,’ or he’ll shoot back. All of the positions must be fed into the program so it can think as a brain.”

Unlike other virtual avatars that are based solely on gaming technology, Santos is physics-based. While both simulate a realistic environment, Abdel-Malek said Santos expresses human limitations.

“Games are prescribed,” he said. “The robotic person in the game has only three or four elements. Santos is a human being and can tell you whether

or not he is able to do things. You can try things on him, and he will explore it and tell you if he is comfortable.”

UI Technology Institute Executive Director of Programs Travis Klopfenstein said Santos is special because he can turn an avatar into a digital twin of the soldier.

“It’s similar in the way it went from maps to GPS,” Klopfenstein said. “The way the military is currently testing walking, marching, and movements of soldiers is old school. We have the potential to create a simulation environment where individuals are digital twins of who you are on your team. Give them a task, such as walking 10 miles. [Santos] will calculate the water they are intaking, fatigue,

and spinal compression. It calculates the human cost.”

Klopfenstein, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, said flight simulations changed pilot training, and the U.S. Army uses simulations for testing vehicles, but did not have a method for virtual testing soldier performance. He said virtual soldier simulations are the key to making military and other businesses’ training safer for the individual.

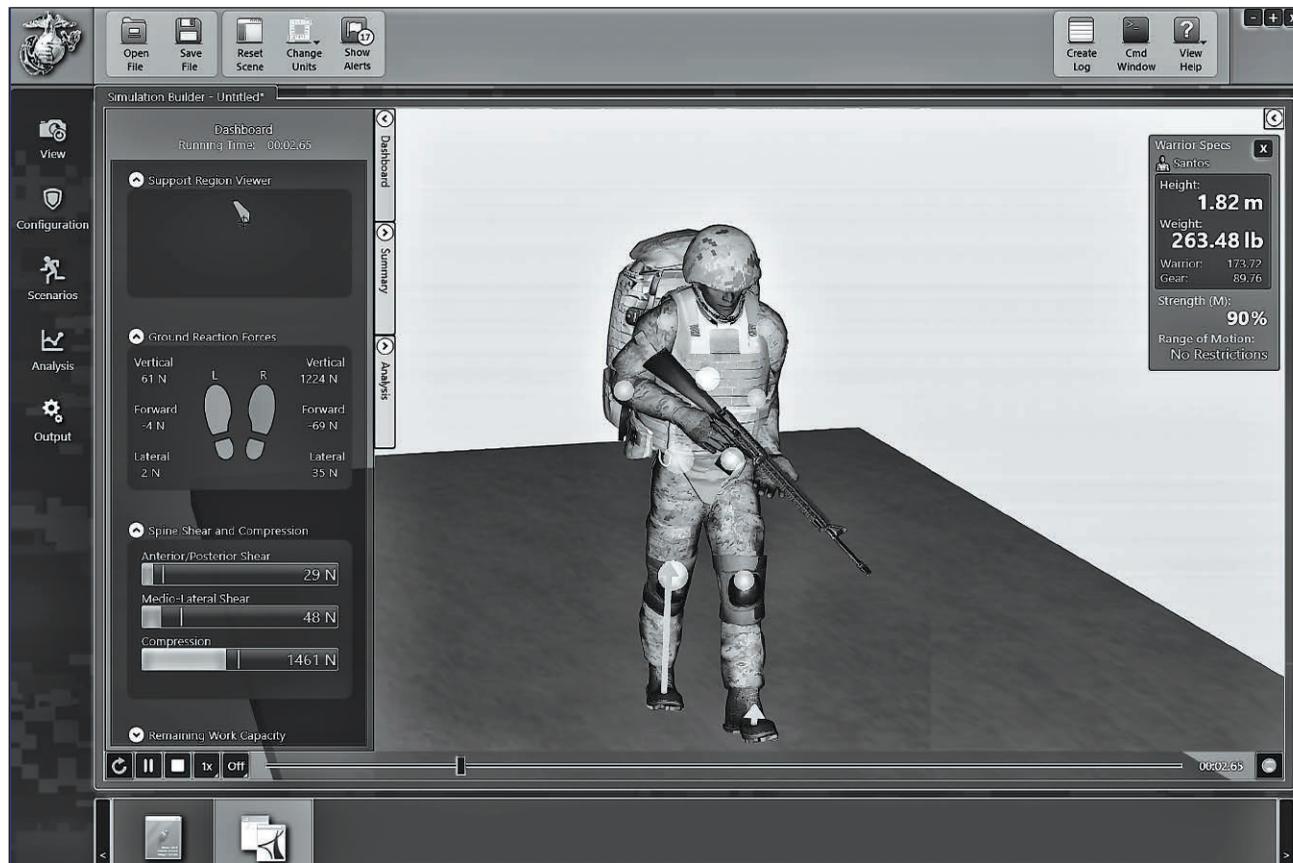
“I look back on all my experience — all my training in the field,” he said, “There is some training you cannot test [in person] as it is limited by expenses. Now, the army is looking for ways to test training for the soldier, and they are going to need a human model. [Santos] is a revolutionary innovation.”

UI Technology Institute Application Developer Marco Tena Salais

said learning how to work with cutting-edge technology in a real-life setting is a unique experience.

One of his most difficult projects was integrating the Santos code into a pre-existing military program so the simulation would calculate energy expenditures, Tena Salais said. He had total freedom to test himself to see if he could measure up to the institute’s expectations and his own, he said.

“There are not many places you can say you learned how to 3D model, render engines, and learn how to put on body armor for simulations,” he said. “[The institute] is a research facility that is making a real-world impact.”



Contributed/University of Iowa Technology Institute

Santos is a customizable, physics-based, biomechanically accurate virtual human that can measure how humans would respond while completing various tasks in different environments.

12-year-old walks 115,000 steps to raise \$5,000 for Shelter House

The son of Associate Women's Basketball Head Coach Jan Jensen walked through North Liberty, Coralville, and Iowa City to raise money for the homeless shelter.

BY COLE KRUTZFIELD
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Jack Jensen-Fitzpatrick, the 12-year-old son of Iowa Women's Basketball Associate Head Coach Jan Jensen, completed a 115,000-step walk on July 18 to raise money for Shelter House, a nonprofit organization in Iowa City, as part of its Beat The Heat summer fundraiser.

Jensen said her son's first walk raising money for Shelter House took place in January, when he walked 115,000 steps inside due to the cold weather.

"Then a few weeks ago, Jack got really excited about wanting to do another walk and breaking his record and wanting to do it the upcoming Saturday," Jensen said.

Jensen said the family decided to make the most of the opportunity and contacted Shelter House about making the walk a fundraiser for the organization, and coincidentally, Shelter House was starting its summer fundraising drive the Monday after the walk.

She said a lot of preparation went into the two-marathon length walk. She promoted the event beforehand on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and on her son's YouTube channel, placing links to the Shelter House website where people could donate to the organization.

"The walk started at around



Jake Maish/The Daily Iowan

The entrance to Shelter House is seen on July 15 in Iowa City.

4:30 in the morning, and we started by walking from our house in North Coralville to North Liberty with my wife Julie walking 13 miles with us," Jensen said.

Jensen said many supportive neighbors also got up early that Saturday morning to walk with them to North Liberty.

"We then walked all the way to downtown Iowa City by lunchtime with Julie driving nearby to us with supplies, like water," Jensen said. "Then Jack decided that we should walk to the Shelter House headquar-

ters at the 50,000-step point as a nice reminder of why they are doing the walk."

Jensen noted how determined her son was to complete the walk, saying that he has always been determined to do big things and pushes himself to succeed in whatever he challenges himself to do.

"We walked around Iowa City — first to the Terry Trueblood area and then to City Park. All the while, Jack took the occasional break inside the car Julie was driving to cool off with the A/C, then we drove Jack home so that way

he could cool off and he could eat supper," Jensen said. "Afterwards, we walked around the neighborhood until he reached his goal at 11:59 with just seconds to spare."

Jensen said Jack raised around \$5,000 in total for the Shelter House.

Jenni Fitzgerald, special assistant to the head coach of Iowa Women's Basketball, was present for part of the walk.

"I thought it was really inspiring to watch someone so young who wanted to make a difference," she said.

Christine Ralston, direc-

tor of development at Shelter House, said the organization provides major benefits and help for people struggling with homelessness in the Iowa City area.

"We have 70 beds at our facility, and we provide such things as employment counseling, which helps people who are homeless to find and maintain jobs, as well as a cleaning service for people who require a way maintain personal hygiene, and helping people who have no permanent residence to find apartments in Iowa City and

help them pay their deposit and first month's rent," Ralston said.

She added that the money raised from Jensen-Fitzpatrick's walk as well as the rest of the Beat the Heat fundraiser will be used to pay for amenities such as utilities and other increased costs of living.

Jensen hopes this experience will have a positive impact on both her daughter and her son.

"I hope our children understand how important it is to have good values and to help people," she said.

UI student starts LGBTQ book club

A new student organization at the University of Iowa will feature works by LGBTQ authors, with hopes to create a more inclusive environment and ignite a discussion around stories often overlooked in school curriculums.

BY KATHRYN RAVER
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While stuck inside this summer, University of Iowa student Corinne Hoffman decided to do her part to bring the campus community together in the fall through a common interest: reading. Hoffman will lead an LGBTQ book club starting in August, featuring books penned by LGBTQ authors.

Her idea for the student organization stemmed from an observation that, in her experience, recognition of LGBTQ people in literature is somewhat lacking in her local community.

“I didn’t really live in an area where there were a lot of “out” people, or there wasn’t really a community there,” she said. “And so I kind of found that with reading books. It connected me to other LGBT people and helped me feel less alone, and it felt like a big comfort. So I was hoping to share that with other people, other students at Iowa.”

The featured books will star LGBTQ characters as well. Hoffman said she wants to include short stories, like Malinda Lo’s “The Fox,” and poems, such as “The Moon Is Trans” by Joshua Jennifer Espinoza. She picked these works and others because they are available online for free, making



Cover art for “On A Sunbeam”, a graphic novel by Tillie Walden, is seen from a phone screen on July 23. “On A Sunbeam” is one of many titles included on the reading list for a new LGBTQ book club on campus.

them more accessible to all who are interested in joining the club.

Emma Welch, the coordinator for the Pride Alliance Center at the UI, serves as an advisor for the project. She said she’s excited to see students take an interest in studying LGBTQ literature together, especially at a time when forming bonds within the community might be difficult due to COVID-19.

“I think that navigating

campus, especially as a person who carries a marginalized identity, can be tricky, especially when you’re new to campus,” Welch said. “I really hope that this book club fosters that sense of belonging and fosters that sense of, ‘I have a place on this campus’ or ‘I have several places on this campus where I belong.’”

The book club will place emphasis on LGBTQ authors and stories — something that Spectrum UI

president Joseph Haggerty said is often missing from the curriculum in many elementary, middle, and high schools. Haggerty said it is for this reason that studying and recognizing LGBTQ art and history is so important.

“I think it’s really important to intentionally and as a group seek out to answer and talk about those stories that are neglected to be talked about in common core education,” Haggerty said.

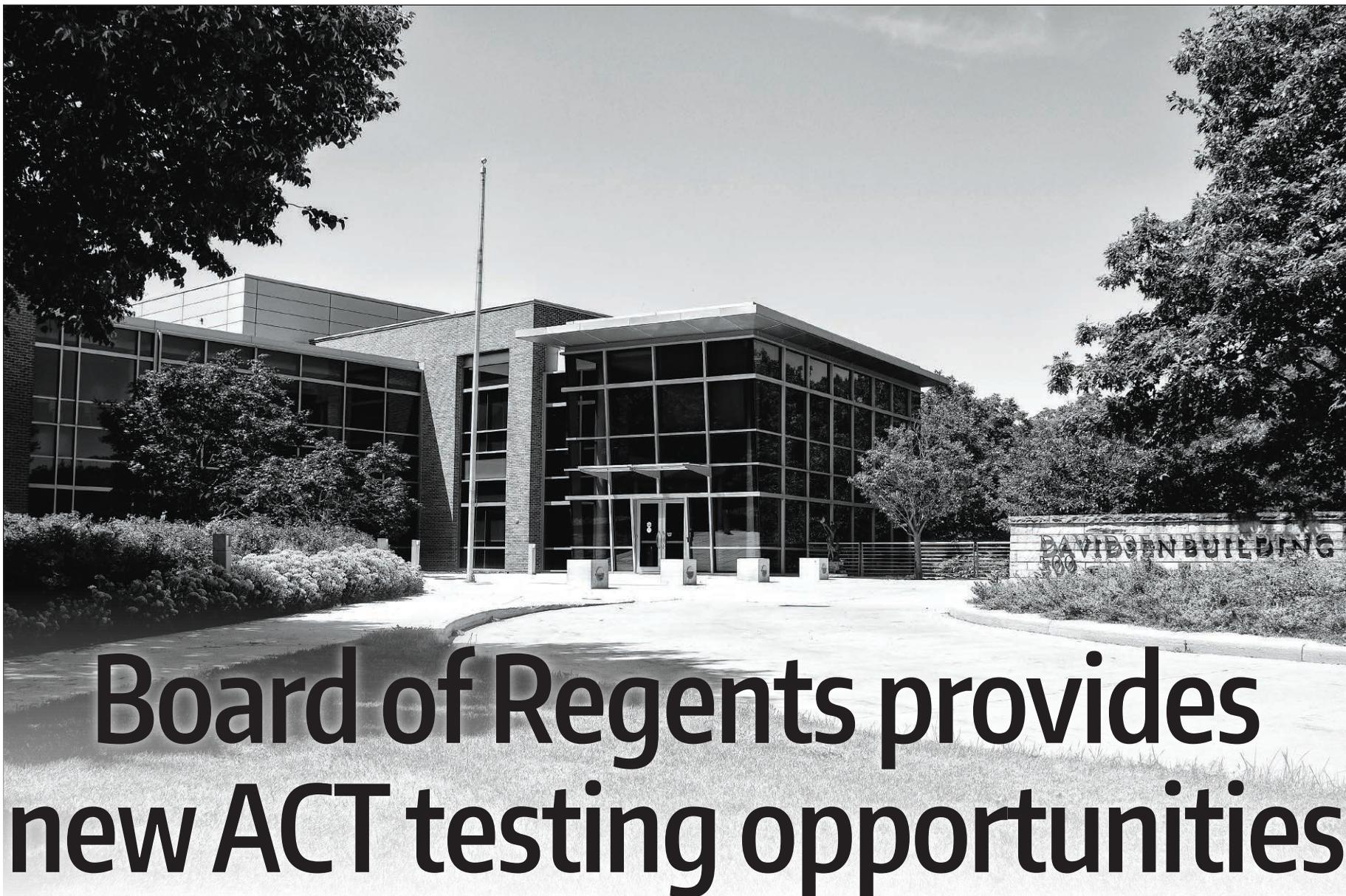
“I think it will be good for it to set a precedent of, ‘We can have these good intentional groups and conversations to talk about matters that aren’t mentioned.’”

Haggerty, Welch, and Hoffman all said they believe that in the midst of various social isolation measures, the need for groups like this — ones that will foster community — is stronger now than it ever has been. Hoffman also emphasized that in

addition to that sense of community, the messages conveyed in LGBTQ literature are equally important.

“[It’s] important to make ongoing oppression visible and talked about and also help the people experiencing it feel less alone,” she said. “I also feel like happy stories are also just as important...for LGBT people to just know that it’s going to be OK and that their lives can have joy and love and anything they dream of.”

Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan



Board of Regents provides new ACT testing opportunities

Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

The Davidsen Building at the ACT corporate office is seen on July 27 in Iowa City.

High school students graduating in 2020 or 2021 can take the ACT at state Board of Regents schools or centers. The scores can be shared with the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University, or requested by Iowa community colleges.

BY NATALIE DUNLAP
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When preparing for the ACT, high-school students can control how much they study math, English, and science, but they can't control test cancellations due to COVID-19.

"The pandemic pretty much dictates what test centers can be open, [and] it varies from state

to state and location to location ... Of course there's advice from the CDC and the WHO that really dictate which test centers can open and which ones aren't able to," said Don Pitchford, national director of Higher Education Partnerships at ACT.

To remedy these testing challenges, Iowa students graduating in 2020 and 2021 have the opportunity to take the ACT

through the state Board of Regents in August. According to a press release from Josh Lehman, the regents' Senior Communications Director, the tests will be administered at six locations across the state, including on the University of Iowa campus and at the UI Pappajohn Education Center in Des Moines.

Lehman said students will only be able to share the scores

with regent institutions.

Pitchford said in past years the ACT has allowed individual campuses to administer the test through the ACT On-Campus Program, but the scores were only valid when the school students took the test. Of the Board of Regents schools, only the University of Iowa had offered these tests before, regents' Chief Academic Officer Rachel Boon said.

Boon said the board was looking for a way to help students after tests were canceled in the spring and summer.

The solution they came up with was administering more tests through the UI, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa, and allowing scores to be accepted at any of the schools, regardless of testing location.

"The question then to ACT

was, would they let us share the scores? Because typically when the scores are taken locally, they're not allowed to be shared with any other institution, so we had to come to an agreement with ACT about their willingness to let us share the scores," Boon said. "And once they said yes to that, then it was a no brainer."

Pitchford said the ACT has levels of test security and product management channels in place that vetted Iowa's administration of the tests and that the ACT is excited to partner with the state to provide this testing opportunity.

"It was the right, students-centered thing to do to best serve the Iowa students and the Iowa colleges," Pitchford said.

In addition to scores being valid at Iowa public colleges, Iowa community colleges can also

request the scores for placement purposes, Lehman said in the press release.

The tests will be offered in August and only available to Iowa high school students graduating in 2020 or 2021.

"Our focus right now was on the students who are eligible to apply for the next year because they are in the most need of it," Boon said. "And we didn't want to have those seats taken up by students who have a lot more time."

Brent Gage, associate vice president for Enrollment Management at the UI, said the university has received calls from potential students and their parents asking if the university was test-optional.

"There's a good number of students who will be seniors this fall that have not had the opportunity to take the ACT yet," Gage said. "And so, obviously, at a school like Iowa where we have the regent admission index,

“It was the right, students-centered thing to do to best serve the Iowa students and the Iowa colleges.”

— Don Pitchford, national director of Higher Education Partnerships at ACT

which is part of the state's administrative code, to determine how we admit people, which includes the ACT, this is a challenge that we're working almost every day with families on."

Boon said students will be seated with 6 feet of distance in each direction in the testing

rooms and will be required to wear masks. ACT proctors will be behind plexiglass barriers and there will be directions for how traffic should move in the room.

One of the testing rooms is a large lecture space in the Papajohn Business Building at the UI. Gage said students will enter one at a time and will place their cellphones and smartwatches on a table with a number.

They will sit at a space with the corresponding number. Students will fill the back of the room first and they will exit from the front when the test ends.

"We worked with our Critical Incident Management Team and the College of Public Health when we put together this proposal to do this test and worked

closely with them to make sure all the safety protocols are in place to ensure distancing and to make sure that we can do it and do it safely," Gage said.

Other states are looking at Iowa's model and considering implementing a similar system at their schools. West Virginia has already implemented a similar setup, in which students can take the ACT at any college in the state and the scores will be shared with the state's higher-education commission to be considered for the state's scholarship program.

"We understand that there's students who are very eager to get this test done and just haven't been able to," said Gage. "And so I think it's really a great effort on the part of the regent institutions to try to solve a problem for the students."



Road signs at the ACT corporate office are seen on July 27 in Iowa City.

Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Schreier bikes for UI Afro House

Barry Schreier, director of the UI Counseling Service, is pledging his support to Black and African American students on campus by raising money for UI Afro House as he bikes from Iowa City to Northport, Wisconsin.

BY MARY HARTEL
mary-hartel@uiowa.edu

Barry Schreier, director of the campus University Counseling Service, left Iowa City for Northport, Wisconsin on his bike on July 25. The ride is estimated to be more than 550 miles and will take up to five days.

Before leaving, Schreier created a GoFundMe page, pledging to donate all proceeds from the ride to the University of Iowa Afro-American Cultural Center. The page aims to reach \$10,000, and as of Tuesday morning, the fourth day of his ride, has received over \$6,500 in donations.

Established in 1968, the Afro House was the first cultural house on the UI campus. Center Coordinator Shirleena Terrell said its primary purpose then was to serve as a space for Black UI students.

“During that [time], Black students weren’t allowed to live in the dorms and really move on campus, so they actually advocated for themselves to have a safe space, a space where their culture could be reflected, a space where they could really be themselves and authentic and just gather as a community.”

Amid the Black Lives Matter movement, Terrell said people looking to support the Black and African American communities should continually seek out ways to educate themselves and never turn down a volunteer opportunity.

“The more funds we can raise the better,” said Schreier, who has completed similar rides twice before.



The Afro-American Cultural Center is seen on July 25.

Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Schreier rode to West Lafayette, Indiana in 2017, and went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 2018. The money from each fundraiser was donated to the UI’s and destination schools’ LGBTQ resource centers, Schreier said.

An avid cyclist, Schreier said he just decided one day to ride his bike to go see his friends in West Lafayette, where he used to live when he worked at Purdue University.

“And then I thought, ‘As long as I’m doing this, maybe I could use this as a vehicle to sort of support those communities on our campus that often have the least resources and help our students with what can be the

most marginalized identities,’” Schreier said. “And I thought, this is a way for me to leverage the privileges I have, which often can be financial, and provide support and help for at least in those cases our LGBTQ students, and in this particular case our African American and Black students, staff, and faculty.”

Schreier noted the fundraiser is a way for people who hold racial privilege or financial resources to take action.

“This is really about raising money for Afro House,” Schreier said. “It’s about the services Afro House does and it’s about turning out and using the resources we have to support our Black and African American

students right now.”

Schreier said that people who donate to the cause are added to an email chain of updates and photos from his journey. He said he’s been encouraging everyone, even those who aren’t Iowa-based, to consider donating or taking action, maintaining that “helping anyone helps everyone.”

Schreier said he hopes the fundraiser will motivate others and help them realize that simply being a good person isn’t enough.

“It’s got to be more focused on what actions can be taken to make changes on our campus,” Schreier said.

Tabitha Wiggins, associate director of Multicultural and

International Student Support and Engagement at the UI, said campus resource centers have done a number of things in response to the current social unrest across the state and country regarding racial injustice.

Wiggins said her department has released a solidarity statement, facilitated a three-part series on racial justice and inequity, and continually shown support for the digital Healing Spaces program created by Ruth Kahssai, director of Justice and Equity for Undergraduate Student Government, and Maria Bruno, executive director of Belonging and Inclusion.

Wiggins added that Multicultural and International Student Support and Engagement is currently creating a fund for Black students, while continuing to engage with different communities and find new ways to provide extra support.

Wiggins, who worked with Schreier to coordinate donating the money from his first two bike rides to the UI Pride House, said taking the funds and giving them to the Afro House this year feels encouraging and appropriate given the current climate.

“I think that it’s something that he doesn’t have to do, but we’re grateful that he is doing it and we just want to be good stewards over the funds that we are able to get from the bike ride,” Wiggins said. “I think we can get to \$10,000. I reshared it last night and people are still learning about it so I think the more people that can share it and get the message out the closer we’ll get to 10,000.”

Opinions

COLUMN

Voting by mail is the best form of voting during the COVID-19 pandemic

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate received approval to send all registered voters absentee ballot requests.

BY CHLOE PETERSON

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In the fall, all Iowans will receive an absentee ballot request form in their mailboxes for the November election.

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate also sent out absentee ballot request forms before the June 2 primary election, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Iowa saw a record turnout in that election with 531,000 votes cast, with nearly 80 percent by mail.

Before Pate could send out the November absentee request forms in the mail, the Iowa Legislature passed a law requiring him to get approval from the Legislative Council. The Republican-led Legislative Council unanimously voted to allow Pate to continue sending out request forms.

Voting by mail is not only convenient — it's safe in the age of social distancing.

In-person voting includes taking time out of the day to register, stand in line, and physically vote, not to mention the time and resources needed to get to the polling place. For many people, including essential workers, minorities, low-income individuals, and people without ways to get to the polling place, voting by mail is the

better option.

Even before the pandemic, five states — Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington — consistently voted almost entirely by mail by automatically sending absentee ballots to all registered voters. Voting by mail reduces the necessity to be in close contact with strangers for any period of time, and it will be vital to high-risk and elderly persons.

For other states, voters need to request an absentee ballot from their town or city. Some states still require an excuse for needing an absentee ballot, like being out of the state or being sick, but more and more states are moving to no-excuse mail voting. After verifying that the voter lives in the area, election officials will send a ballot.

Two envelopes are mailed to the voter: a security envelope to certify that the voters preferences are kept private, and another envelope to mail the security envelope. After the mail-in ballot is received by election officials, they will once again verify that the voter is registered in the correct area before counting the ballots on Election Day and adding it to the counts of in-person voting.

The Trump administration has long condemned voting by

mail, claiming that it is subject to fraud or theft from mailboxes. President Trump has claimed that “ballots will be printed by foreign countries” and that “kids go and they raid the mailboxes and they hand them to people signing the ballots down at the end of the street.”

However, the claim of large-scale voter fraud has long been proven untrue.

According to the *New York Times*, most absentee ballots have

a barcode specific to the voter — which would make it hard for other countries to print fraudulent ballots. In the case of robbing mailboxes, voters can see online when they requested the ballot, when they were supposed to receive the ballot, when the election office received their absentee ballot, and when it was counted. If a voter thought their ballot was lost, they could call for a replacement, effectively invalidating the old, stolen ballot.

Since Washington state moved to a mostly mail balloting system in 2005, they have seen very low evidence of widespread voter fraud. Out of over 3 million votes cast in the 2016 election, there were only 74 ballots that were considered ‘questionable.’

Voting by mail is safe, convenient, and not subject to voter fraud. To keep American citizens safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, states should go to a mostly vote-by-mail system.



Religious liberty should not mean discrimination

Employers should not be able to deny workers birth control on the grounds of their religion.

BY HANNAH PINSKI
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In the American Constitution, the first amendment states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise of.” However, the Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the Trump Administration’s decision allowing employers to limit birth control coverage for religious obligations steps beyond the first amendment.

Birth control is part of health care, and religious liberty should not allow employers to discriminate against women and limit access to substantial health care.

First, it is important to understand birth control and why it is considered basic health care. In the United States, around 17.1% of women aged 15-29 use the pill, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, making it the leading birth control method in that age range, and a month’s supply can cost up to \$50. However, these pills are not in your grocery store aisle next to the Advil and Benadryl bottles. Doctors have to write a prescription, and a visit for birth control can cost anywhere between \$35 to \$350, according to Pandia Health.

In addition to the pill, other methods include patches which cost \$30 to

\$35 per month, implants which can cost up to \$1300, and rings which cost \$30 to \$200 per month.

Some religions, such as Catholicism, condemn these methods because they only believe in “natural” birth control (abstinence) hence why these employers would want to limit coverage for their employees.

But women don’t just take birth control to stop unwanted pregnancy and have sex whenever they want to.

Many women, especially teenagers and young adults, are prescribed birth control in order to control pain during their menstrual cycle. Many young adults aren’t even able to get out of bed despite Tylenol or Advil because of how much pain their cramps cause. According to a literature review from the Cochrane Library in 2009, birth control reduces the amount of prostaglandins, which reduces blood flow as well as cramping.

Because of this, birth control can be viewed as part of health care because it provides medical relief for a cycle of a woman’s body that she has no control over. Thus, women should be able to have access to affordable health care provided by their employers and insurance plans. The Supreme Court ruling could result in 126,000 women losing contraceptive cov-



erage, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, costing each person an average of \$584 annually.

This ruling goes beyond what the first amendment is supposed to protect in regards to the freedom of religion. It is a discrimination against women who have no control over the natural cycle of their body and rely on employers and insurance companies for health care. In fact, one in three Latina women and four in ten Black women say they can only afford to pay \$10 for contraceptive care, an amicus brief filed in the Supreme Court case says. Everyone has the right to have access to affordable

health care regardless of their gender and the way their body works.

In addition, there are many benefits for women with access to legal contraception. Women who have access to contraception make 5 percent more an hour and 11 percent more a year by the time they’re 40 than those who do not, according to a study from the Institute for Women’s Policy Research.

Providing access to birth control is essential for employers and insurance companies to do. It has nothing to do with the freedom or practice of religion, and everyone deserves affordable health care regardless of their gender.

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Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa center Luka Garza shields the ball during a men's basketball game between Iowa and Purdue at Carver Hawkeye Arena on March 3.

Garza facing NBA decision with much still unknown

The Big Ten Player of the Year has said he will announce August 2 whether or not he is coming back for his senior season. At that point, he may not even know what the season would look like.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

Luka Garza has a decision to make.

Either the 6-foot-11 center follows up his record-breaking junior season at Iowa by coming back for his senior year, or he turns professional and keeps his name in the

2020 NBA Draft.

As first reported by 247 Sports, Garza will announce his decision August 2, a day before the deadline for players to withdraw their names from the draft. The Washington, D.C. native said he arrived at this date to maximize the time

to make his decision.

"See if there's any more announcements about anything that's going to happen," Garza said July 23 during a Facebook Live session on Iowa's page. "I have another interview set up, so I want to be able to do that. And then talk to my fami-

ly and coaches, the people close to me, to make the best decision possible."

By the time Garza has to make his decision, it's likely he won't even know how his senior season would look if he did opt to return. The NCAA Board of Governors will meet August 4 to deter-

mine the fate of fall sport championships. The Big Ten has already opted to move to conference-only schedules for fall sports.

How all this will impact the men's basketball season will not be answered before Garza and the other draft hopefuls are forced to come

to a decision, unless the deadline is moved back.

Garza's experience with a unique 2020 draft process

After being named a con-

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GARZA

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sensus All-American and the Big Ten Player of the Year following his junior season, Garza announced April 10 that he was going to go through the NBA Draft process.

In the announcement he released on Twitter, Garza made it clear he would maintain his eligibility through the process should he choose to return to Iowa. He also shared that it would take a “real opportunity” for him to forgo his final year in the Black and Gold.

“I’m not going to go in without 100 percent confidence of being able to make a roster,” Garza said April 10. “I don’t see any interest in ending up in the G-League without any type of deal or anything like that. I think that’s something I can be able to get after my senior year. I want to hear where a team takes me and where they see me. It really only takes one team.”

Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery said on a Facebook Live session June 25 that Garza has been meeting with NBA teams virtually over the past several months.

During a traditional offseason, Garza would be going through these meetings in person and have the chance to take part in the NBA Combine.

This offseason is anything but normal.

The combine was originally scheduled for May 21-24 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has yet to be rescheduled. Garza has received an invitation to the combine, according to 247 Sports.

McCaffery said June 25 that if Garza had the opportunity to play in the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments — both of which were canceled due to COVID-19 — he could have played his way into the first round of the draft.

Garza is not a projected first-round pick in any of the latest

mock drafts done by ESPN, CBS Sports, or The Ringer. An anonymous NBA executive told Stadium Basketball Insider Jeff Goodman in April that Garza should stay in school.

“I know what he did last season in college, but he could use one more year to work on his body, his perimeter shot, and his defense,” the executive told Goodman. “Then maybe he gets drafted.”

McCaffery said Garza will have opportunities to play professionally, even if that’s not necessarily in the NBA.

“Europe is obviously always another option for somebody like him,” McCaffery said June 25. “He’s a guy that could command big money in the EuroLeague. He’ll have opportunities to play professionally should he choose to do so.”

The NBA draft lottery is set for August 20, with the draft to follow on October 16.

How the decision will impact the Hawkeyes

Iowa was a team that surprised people last season.

Despite dealing with injuries throughout the year and entering the season with low expectations, the Hawkeyes finished the regular season 20-11. A large part of that was Garza’s 23.9 points, 9.8 rebounds, and 1.8 blocks per game.

Iowa, especially if Garza comes back, won’t be sneaking up on anyone next season.

Talented veterans Joe Wiskamp, Connor McCaffery, and CJ Fredrick will return to the starting lineup next season. Jordan Bohannon, Jack Nunge, and Patrick McCaffery are also set to return after they all missed the majority of last season with varying injuries and health issues.

Add in Joe Toussaint along with a talented freshman class and the Hawkeyes head into the 2020-21 season as a national preseason favorite.

But Garza’s potential return is

again the centerpiece in determining what to expect out of next season’s Iowa squad. His teammates have said they are giving him space to make his decision.

“I try not to ask him too much about it,” Nunge told *The Daily Iowan* in July. “He’s working out with us like he’s going to be here with us. I think we all want him to come back because we all know how good we can be with him back. We’re pretty much just preparing as if he’s going to come back. But at the end of the day, it’s going to be his decision whether he wants to go pro or not.”

“When Luka comes back it’s going to make a big difference, if he comes back,” Toussaint told the *DI* in June. “But we’d still have great individual talent that we all can show and help each other [if he doesn’t].”

College basketball analyst Jon Rothstein has Iowa as his No. 3 team in the nation in his preseason rankings.

As a guest on the College Hoops Today with Jon Rothstein podcast, McCaffery acknowledged that Iowa will certainly be a better team if Garza comes back. But, according to Iowa’s

11th-year head coach, Garza has his full support through this process — even if that means Garza has played his last game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

“I want what’s best for Luka,” McCaffery told Rothstein. “That’s the way it has to be. I can’t weigh that with anything that would be considered selfish. Luka knows if he comes back, we’re going to be a better team than if he doesn’t come back. Our chances to advance and do some special things are right there if he chooses to come back... He knows he has my full support in that pursuit.”



Megan Nagorzanski/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Luka Garza lays up during a game against Depaul at Carver Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 11, 2019.

IHSAA announces revised football schedule

A seven-week regular season will be conducted, and teams will have the option of scheduling five, six, or seven games within those seven weeks. All teams will qualify for the postseason.

BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

The Iowa High School Athletic Association announced July 24 that, to better prepare for the 2020 varsity football season, it has developed a revised schedule plan which allows for member school adjustments due to COVID-19.

A seven-week regular season will be conducted under this revised schedule, cutting down from the traditional nine-game regular season.



Joseph Cress/The Daily Iowan

City and West players warmup before a 4A varsity high school football game between Iowa City High and West High at Bates Field in Iowa City on Sept. 15, 2017.

SEE IHSAA FOOTBALL, 16

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IHSAA FOOTBALL CONTINUED FROM 15

Teams will have the option of scheduling five, six, or seven games within those seven weeks.

“The revised plan considers flexibility for school return concerns, geography, postseason qualifying, transportation, and possible COVID-19 cases as rationale for changing previously announced varsity football schedules,” the IHSAA said in

This is intended to be a one-time measure for postseason formatting, according to the IHSAA.

With all teams allowed entry into the postseason, the Ratings Percentage Index will not be utilized in 2020 to determine at-large berths or seeding.

The IHSAA said that it requests member schools state their intent to participate in the football regular season and postseason by August 17. It also said that teams will not be punished for for-

The previously announced group format and success model will not be implemented in 2020. The IHSAA said it encourages conferences to collaborate in creating their schedules.

Eight-player teams will play Week 3 through Week 9 of their previously announced schedules in what is now Week 1 through Week 7. Due to the number of teams in the classification, eight-player has opponents scheduled on the

“Due to the potential of positive COVID-19 cases forcing players and teams to miss games in the 2020 regular season, the revised plan does not penalize teams with a loss or forfeit due to state, county, or local health department determinations.’

— Per an IHSAA release

a release.

The first practice (August 10) and first competition (August 27) dates are currently unchanged in this revision, as are the weeks for state semifinals (November 13-15) and finals (November 20-21). Under this schedule, the playoffs will begin October 16.

Week 1 and Week 2 will be optional game dates under this plan. Opponents, locations, and participation may be determined by member schools in 11-player football.

Under this plan, all teams in all classes will qualify for the postseason. Brackets will consist of six rounds for each classification. The IHSAA said it will determine postseason pairings with geography, quality, and team availability as primary considerations.

feiting a game due to COVID-19 concerns.

“Due to the potential of positive COVID-19 cases forcing players and teams to miss games in the 2020 regular season, the revised plan does not penalize teams with a loss or forfeit due to state, county, or local health department determinations,” the IHSAA said in a release. “A missed game due to COVID-19 will be considered a ‘no contest’ and will not be made up. Teams may work with the IHSAA and new possible opponents should they have open dates due to scheduled opponents missing games.”

Teams in Classes 3A, 2A, 1A, and A will play their scheduled district games in the previously established order.

Participating 4A schools will schedule their own regular season games.

optional dates of Week 1 and Week 2. Teams in eight-player may opt out of those contests, but may not change opponents or locations unless an agreement is reached with all participating teams and the IHSAA.

Any teams with scheduled games against out-of-state opponents may attempt to reschedule those contests during the optional Week 1 or Week 2.

This revised plan was approved by the Board of Control on July 24, according to a release. The IHSAA said it plans to release further fall season and sport-specific guidance next week. Team schedules will be compiled and released when available. Football remains the only Iowa high school sport with regular season schedules and postseason qualifying managed by the IHSAA.



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