Clock ticking on budget stalemate

Despite legislators’ assurance, Johnson County officials worry about state cut

By ARNITA WITT

The state budget is set to expire in the next week, but it’s not clear what will happen.

State lawmakers are assuring constituents that service won’t be shut down and most things will continue to function normal by law. But local officials say they’ve begun to prepare for the worst.

“I don’t think the public has a sense of how serious this is,” said Johnson County Supervisor Janis Rettig, noting that state supervisors have scheduled an emergency meeting on July 1 to address a potential showdown during the summer.

The Legislature has not yet come up with a budget for the next fiscal year that expires on June 30. While lawmakers said they’re making progress on a compromise, it’s not yet clear when they’ll send it to the governor.

K-12 education is a top priority for the college and universities, and state and Highway 99 schools. It covers all state funded by state appropriations, and the lawmakers cannot afford to reach a budget that will force them to make other cuts. And even when the budget does pass, Rettig said, the county will have to cut services that people are relying on to a $20 billion deficit.

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Supervisor Pat Harney agreed one of the biggest concerns of the possible

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Spotlight Iowa City

For the love of the disc

Former UI student Martin Murray is a member of the Vicious Circle Disc Golf league.

By Brian Albert

Murray started playing disc golf four years ago. At first, he enjoyed it, but today the sport is his greatest passion.

"It's a really great sport that allows you to travel around the country," he said. "I like being able to play around the USA, especially in Iowa." Murray's passion for disc golf has led him to become a member of the Vicious Circle Disc Golf league, which he describes as his second family.

"The league has been really good to me," he said. "I love being able to play with such a great group of people, and I enjoy the challenges that come with the sport."

The league is currently planning to host an event at the University of Iowa, and Murray is excited to be a part of it.

"I'm really looking forward to the event," he said. "I know it will be a great opportunity to showcase our skills and have some fun in the sun."
Shire Hattery
Superintendent Shire Hattery has been named to the board.

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LEAD
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“Why be in this position
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SCHOOLS
CONTINUED FROM 1

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Democrats’ property-tax reform plan is prudent and effective

The Iowa Legislature is in a time crunch as it struggles to finalize a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Republicans and Democrats — and property taxes are at the heart of the debate.

Tax cuts and school spending have both highlighted major differences between Senate Majority Leader Jack Frndak’s and House Speaker Pat Hickey’s proposals for how to handle the state’s budget. Both parties want property-tax relief. The question is, how much? The Democrats have already approved a bill that would offer direct tax credits, and the Republicans plan to go for even more far-reaching cuts in property tax payments. While the property-tax reform rules debates currently before the legislature, those reforms benefit small businesses and Iowa residents, not big business interests. The Democrats should accept the forego proposal.

Property-tax reform plans are substantially higher than those of the surrounding states. Iowa taxes property commercial and industrial property at a rate of about 3 percent of market value. Illinois, on the other hand, taxes property at 2 percent of market value. The necessity of these reforms is evident if Iowa adopts a competitive business environment. We need debt solutions, not platitudes that may appear below were originally posted on

THE DAILY IOWAN

We need debt solutions, not platitudes

Letters

LATTERS TO THE EDITOR may be sent to email dailyiowan@letterai.com (not as attachment). Each letter must be signed and include a name and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. The editor reserves the right to reject any letter. Letters to the editor may be edited for length and style.

READER COMMENTS that may appear below were originally posted on dailyiowan.com in response to published newspaper articles or for this post when they are deemed to be relevant and in public discussion. They may be edited for length and style.

Opinions

When confetti stops being fun

Chris Steinke

When I was growing up, it was kind of hard to see how the funding for public education would balance with a general benefit to local businesses. But honest to God, would less residents’ current economic burden. It would also provide small-business owners more freedom to stay in business — benefiting Iowa’s home-grown businesses rather than out-of-state companies or those that may not be located in lower-regulated states.

The Republican counter those criticisms by arguing that the plan’s rate reduction for government funding for service, lower property tax would balance the benefit on the forego operations here, or to move more funds and a greater economic development for the state.

Obviously, this is a difference rooted in the major philosophies that exist in the public and private sectors. These differences in the current economic climate, it’s unlikely that business is being held back by taxes. Iowa’s neighboring states, even with their lower property-tax rates, are still struggling to attract investments and economic development. It’s a fact.

In words, a reflexive effort to lower taxes when confronted with an economic crisis must be reined, or in part because the budget is not a balance between 

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horoscopes Friday, June 24, 2011 by Kayejean Lutz

ARIES
Aries people are not content with anything or anyone standing in their way to achieve their goals. This weekend, you may feel like you are carrying the world on your shoulders, and you want to do something to make a change. Don't be too quick to judge others for the way situations are handled. Complaining is not an option unless you are prepared to do something to make a change.

TAURUS
Taurus people value stability and tradition, and they enjoy the comfort of familiar surroundings. This weekend, you may feel the need to escape from the daily routine and seek out new experiences. Keep an open mind and be willing to try something different.

GEMINI
Gemini people are known for their ability to adapt to change and their love of learning. This weekend, you may feel the urge to explore new ideas and challenge yourself. Try to embrace the unexpected and see where it takes you.

CANCER
Cancer people are known for their emotional sensitivity and their strong desire for comfort and security. This weekend, you may feel the need to focus on your family and friends, and to nurture the relationships that are most important to you.

LION
Lion people are known for their confidence and their drive to achieve success. This weekend, you may feel the need to take action and pursue your goals with determination. Don't be afraid to take risks and step outside of your comfort zone.

VIRGO
Virgo people are known for their attention to detail and their desire to be organized. This weekend, you may feel the need to focus on the practical aspects of your life and to prioritize your tasks. Try to avoid distractions and stay focused on what matters.

LIBRA
Libra people are known for their ability to balance work and personal life, and they enjoy being surrounded by beauty. This weekend, you may feel the need to socialize and enjoy the company of others. Try to embrace new experiences and expand your horizons.

SCORPIO
Scorpio people are known for their intensity and their desire for control. This weekend, you may feel the need to take charge and assert your independence. Don't be afraid to speak your mind and stand up for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS
Sagittarius people are known for their love of adventure and their desire to explore new horizons. This weekend, you may feel the need to take a break from the daily routine and to seek out new experiences. Don't be afraid to try something different.

CAPRICORN
Capricorn people are known for their determination and their desire to achieve success. This weekend, you may feel the need to focus on your goals and to work hard to achieve them. Don't be afraid to take risks and step outside of your comfort zone.

AQUARIUS
Aquarius people are known for their originality and their desire to think outside the box. This weekend, you may feel the need to express yourself and to seek out new experiences. Don't be afraid to try something different.

PISCES
Pisces people are known for their emotional sensitivity and their desire to be creative. This weekend, you may feel the need to connect with others and to express your emotions. Don't be afraid to let your guard down and to be vulnerable.

Submit an event
If you would like to submit an event for inclusion in the horoscopes section, please send your information to horoscopes@dailyiowan.com. All events are subject to space availability and approval by the horoscopes editor.
SWETALLA CONTINUED FROM 8

Johnson had a thought-provoking career, but it wasn’t until late in her career after she had decided to retire from professional softball — which she knew Team USA was looking for young players on the final roster. May-Johnson signed a multi-year contract in February, she said, to help the USA team win a silver medal in the World Cup of Softball. In October, the team will travel to Guadalajara, Mexico, to seek its seventh consecutive title in the Pan-American Games. May-Johnson said she believes the team will equal or surpass the previous two records — winning every game will be a goal. “There is no reason that shouldn’t be a goal.”

The day Johnson decided to hang it up, she said she thought the team had a good week and that each gofer took something away from the experience. “I hope they had a good experience, just had some fun, and gained an overall understanding of the sport. Many players said ‘that was great, I’m going to take the knowledge of the game, you’ll enjoy it.’

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Golf Camp CONTINUED FROM 8

she was excited about her assistant.

“IT THINKS THAT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR HER,” Loop- said. “It’s really a different perspective that you get.

Johnson, 30, is a six-time All-Big Ten honoree. She still holds 11 offensive records at Iowa.

She played five years for the Chicago Sky in the Women’s National Basketball Association.

ord in six categories: points scored (first, 2,246), field goals made (fourth, 537), free throws made (fourth, 444), and minutes (third, 7,030). On May 9, she was named to the U19 roster for the U19 World Championship team.

Johnson’s U19 roster includes 3 Big Ten players

USA Basketball announced its final roster for the U19 Women’s National Team, which will play in Latvia in coming weeks, according to a release. The team includes three players from the Big Ten and one from the Big East.

Big Ten standouts Keith Appling of Michigan State, Hardaway Jr., of Michigan, and Meyers Leonard of Oregon were among the finalists for the WNBA’s Most Valuable Player award.

Former Iowa basketball player Tangela Smith has been named one of 30 finalists for the WNBA’s All-Star game this summer. Fans can vote until midnight on July 14 at the WNBA’s website.

The coaches said, they have a basic understanding of things I could have done better, there were a couple of things I could have done better, but at the same time it was a 20-year-old kid right out of college. They could see what I could do on the court, but at the same time and understand it — it really helped my focus.

“We think there is a correlation of things I could have done better, but at the time it would have been hard for me to do them,” May-Johnson said. “Team USA softball head coach Jo Evans and who said May-Johnson is exactly what we’re looking for.

“I was fortunate to have Stacy join our national- tion program. Her training paid off.

May-Johnson said she was really building into the camp. In fact, Owens said, Johnson said she had a thought-provoking career, but it wasn’t until late in her career after she had decided to retire from professional softball — which she knew Team USA was looking for young players on the final roster.

May-Johnson signed a multi-year contract in February, she said, to help the USA team win a silver medal in the World Cup of Softball. In October, the team will travel to Guadalajara, Mexico, to seek its seventh consecutive title in the Pan-American Games. May-Johnson said she believes the team will equal or surpass the previous two records — winning every game will be a goal. “There is no reason that shouldn’t be a goal.”

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Swetalla describes being player-coach

Veterans Prime Time League player Dain Swetalla spent a year as a player-coach in a Romanian professional league.

By BEN SCHUFF
bschuff@dailyiowan.com

This summer marks Dain Swetalla’s eighth appearance in Prime Time League. The native of Bettendorf had the opportunity to be a player-coach for a professional team in Romania during the 2009-09 season, and The Daily Iowan talked with him about that experience.

“I had a deal with playing and coaching at the same time.”

Swetalla: It was pretty difficult to balance the playing time schedule (and maintain my focus on the court to handle what I needed to do on or as a player. At the same time, I had to be mindful of what was going on from a team perspective, manage substitutions and of game situations.

“I had to deal with the thought and being a full-time player,” Swetalla said. “I had to balance between what the coach was asking on the court and what I needed to accomplish as a player. You’re supposed to service as a player and be able to get the offensive and defensive situations. I had to be ready for everything, from putting, to defending, to getting the ball into the hoop.”

“I was used to having a teammate look at you, but at the same time, you’re used to looking at somebody else for those end-game calls.”

Swetalla: It was a struggle but a great learning experience, too.

DF: What was the one aspect that was the most difficult to balance playing and coaching?

Swetalla: It was clearly maintaining my focus on the court (as the coach) with what I needed to accomplish as a player. On defense, it was difficult balancing my on-court playing time and the off-court coaching role. But it was better as a player but at the same time really trying to run a team. You can do that when you’re on the bench and you can see where defense is having breakdowns or where you have matchup issues.

When I would play in the post, I had to play inside and read what was going on — road matchups situations and see what they’re doing on defense, all while running down the court and setting up the offense. A coach can sit on the sideline, look down and see the situations.”

USA softball nabs Hawk

Former Iowa softball player Stacy May-Johnson became the first Hawkeye ever to be selected for a spot on Team USA.

By KYLE HUGHES
ikhughes@dailyiowan.com

This summer, pride for the Black and Gold will turn red, white, and blue. Former Hawkeye softball standout and current assistant coach Stacy May-Johnson was one of 18 players selected for the 2011 USA Softball Team last week. She is the first Hawkeye ever selected for the squad.

She said it was a great honor to be selected, and she’s proud to represent both her country and the University of Iowa.

“It’s pretty cool,” May-Johnson said. “When you play for your country, you represent a lot of people. You represent your family, and you represent your friends. Also, being an alum of Iowa and being an assistant coach here now, I think I represent the University of Iowa and Iowa softball.”

Iowa head coach Marla Looper said...