Local residents offer their thoughts on the House’s plan to reduce the deficit in advance of the House’s vote on the plan. (Daily Iowan/Janet Lawler)

County official: “Johnson County is extremely dependent on federal spending.”

By CHASTITY DILLARD

Michigan-based National Retirement Association President slices her cookies into bite-size snacks, a technique to make sure that she’s not tempted to eat more than she should.

“What’s happening in 2011 is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the debate on election issues,” said the University of Iowa expert at the University of Iowa. “We’ve had nothing short of a rhetorical firefight for years between the folks who are worried about the effect of campaign spending on how elections are conducted and the folks who are worried about the effect of campaign spending on how votes are cast.”

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Response mixed to Obama’s economic plans

President Obama put forth a new jobs plan last week and a deficit-reduction plan this year. Both proposals have drawn plenty of praise from supporters and plenty of criticism from opponents, including Iowaans and 2012 challengers.

This is election year and we recognize that Republicans won’t support [the American Jobs Act], but I believe it is literally everything they have been supporting for the past three years. We don’t have to win the next election, we just have to win the next vote. We have to have a winning strategy. We need something new.

— Nate Faile, Iowa Democratic Caucus president

“It’s an excellent place to start. A bold move to get more people working and students identifying training opportunities for all ages. It truly is my hope that the house Republicans debate it and help move this bill forward.”

— Rep. Dave Jacoby, D-Coralville

“I’m not saying it’s the way to win the election, but it’s about American people winning … We need to understand how to work together and come up with solutions that benefit everyone.”

— Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Democratic congressional candidate

President Obama’s plan is a bill and switch that offers more than $50 billion in increased taxes, plus $50 billion in increased debt. The president penalizes investment when it is needed most, discourages charitable giving, and doubles the tax on middle class America. The president shouldn’t enact warfare on the American economy. It is truly my hope that the house Republicans debate it and help move this bill forward.”

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Forrester said advancing the education is one of the most revolutionizing ideas of the gathered in the education summit that this can have a dis-

— Kathy Forristall, the commission for Rep. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, and the congressman who will serve on the committee as a ranking Democrat as they vote on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summit, attendees voted on what he believes is a fair share,” he said. Following the summe...
While the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has been steadily widening popular liberal support for its leaders, a recent opinion poll is catching the government with its pants down. According to Ipsos Reid polling, just 23 percent of Palestinians believe the government is doing an excellent or good job, down from 29 percent last July. In addition, the PNA’s standing among Palestinians has dropped. These findings are similar to polls conducted by IPSOS in 2010, and are part of a regional trend that suggests the Palestinian Authority may have overestimated its popularity.

The poll, which is based on a representative sample of 2,000 adults, was conducted from August 31 to September 3, 2011. It found that 51 percent of Palestinians believe the government is doing an excellent or good job, down from 58 percent last July. In addition, the PNA’s standing among Palestinians has dropped. These findings are similar to polls conducted by IPSOS in 2010, and are part of a regional trend that suggests the Palestinian Authority may have overestimated its popularity.

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WASHINGTON — The military is preparing for a showdown today on a ban that bars gay men and lesbians from service. The Pentagon’s top civilian, Leon Panetta, has told the military command that he plans to repeal the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law that denies gay service members the right to acknowledge their sexual orientation and command officials are not allowed to ask.

Panetta said he is ready for the lifting of the ban today.

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Blue to add to its entertainment repertoire.

Comedians such as Josh Blue have been part of Iowa City's comedy scene over the past 17 years. Now, The First Avenue Club, the owner of the club, said, “We’ve been here since 1994, and we’ve done a lot of national rock and country acts,” said Ned Mendenhall, the owner of the club. “This year, we’re getting into comedy series.”

“Blue, the Season 4 winner of NBC’s ‘Last Comic Standing,’” is the first performer in a slew of upcoming comedy shows. He will perform at 7 p.m. on Thursday at The First Avenue Club, 1550 S. First Ave. Admission is $18.

“I think that’s really exciting that that show chose to kick it off,” Blue said. “I just love making people laugh. Hopefully, I won’t have to do it anymore.”

Blue was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and he self-deprecating humor gives him an edge over the competition on “Last Comic Standing.”

“Obviously, I have a disability, as everything I talk about comes from the perspective of a disabled person,” he said.

So, his comedy routine doesn’t just focus on his disability. Much of his bits have to do with being a husband, a father, and day-to-day responsibilities.

“Blue said.

“Going back like two years ago, other than what the [UI] brought in, there wasn’t really a comedy in Iowa City,” said Garland, a Cedar Rapids native. “So, for being a local guy who does comedy, it’s great.”

“Although he is no stranger to performing at his work at Prairie Lights, he said, is excited to have another audience for The Tree of the Doves. He published at Milkweed Editions in 2011.

“Writing and reading are solitary activities, and yet books are full of ideas, and people like to exchange ideas,” Slager said. “Evolve such as the one at Prairie Lights offer an opportunity not only to celebrate the publication of a book but to have writers engage with the audience.”

The book comprises three long essays dwelling on tradition, transformation, and travel. The book journeys from Maldives to Beijing and touches upon the waves in Iran and Afghanistan.

“I am simply in awe of the quality of the writing, which is smart, vivid, and poetic,” said Rihan fodder, the book’s editor. “He makes it possible to travel around the world, gaining a wider perspective on not just history, literature, and current events but on the larger questions in life where are we headed, what to be done.”

In addition to his nonfiction work, Merrill has published four collections of poetry, and his work has been translated into 21 different languages. He received the Peter I. Lavan Younger Poets Award from the Academy of American Poets for his collection Work Fire in 1995.

Merrill has not chosen which passages from which chapters he will read but said he is optimistic about the crowd’s reaction to The Tree of the Doves.

“I hope I caught something about it. It has meant to be alive during the past 10 years,” he said.

Blue said.

The key of terror

UI International Writing Program Director Christopher Merrill will read at Prairie Lights on Sept. 20.

By MADISON BENNETT

Christopher Merrill is fascinated with war and the way it has changed society over the past decade.

And after traveling to numerous countries, the UI International Writing Program director compiled his experiences and wrote his latest book, “The Tree of the Doves: Ceremony, Expedi-

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Trial opens for teen murder suspect in IC

By ERIC MOORE

DES MOINES — The battle for control of the Iowa Senate got under way Monday, with Republican prioritis...
Should Big Ten become ‘super conference’?

**Yes**

When it looked like conference expansion might be on hold for a few years, the topic again re-emerged in college athletics.

Texas A&M, the Big 12, and the SEC all have their national soap opera. Pittsburgh and Syracuse are set to join the ACC after officially announcing the move on Sunday. And the Pac-12 is working on adding Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, and Texas Tech to its ranks.

Can Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany afford to stand pat, or should he go for broke on his conference of conference expansion in which he has said the league is not expansion-minded but would consider adding any school that is not a current member and will not settle for less than the Big Ten's almighty dollar?

In fiscal 2009, the Texas Athletics Department brought in well over $138 million, a number that was top in the nation.

Delany's Big Ten is not a natural fit in every program tradition, geography, etc.—but it has been relevant to give it some status as an independent. If the vaunted "super conference" takes shape, however, the Fighting Irish will have little choice if they want to maintain their current prominence.

By adding these two schools, the Big Ten would own nine of the top 20 revenue-generating athletics departments in the country. No other conference could match the Big Ten in terms of star power or the almighty dollar.

But if Delany wants to move to the next status, he needs to act quickly. Texas is looking for a new school to add as it has few real options and can't afford to lose one of them slip away.

Expansion is happening with or without the Big Ten. Delany can either lead the charge, or he can wait and lose out on Texas.

He would be going after the wrong school instead of the one that seems to be his perfect school that is slipping away.

— by Tork Mason

Hypothesetically adding Arizona and Missouri just to get to 14 teams would not add anything to the Big Ten. The strike of genius that was the Big Ten Network has made the conference a crazy amount of money, and adding mid-level schools would not add that pile of cash.

Expansion such as the ACC have expanded in four years, and Delany can see that if the conference expands, the Big Ten might not be the only conference to want to expand.

That isn't to say that it shouldn't happen some day. With expansions such as the Big 12 and Big East seemingly ready to implode, the Big Ten is in a position to push whoever or team it wants — without any fear of losing members.

The members of the conference also know they have a safe, long-term, viable home and won't have to threaten to move or have any school that tries to leave (I'm looking at you, Iowa State and Baylor).

However, Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany has said the league is not going to actively expand, and the conference should not be. The conference is in a perfect position with 12 members, and adding schools just for the sake of adding up to keep up with the ACC — and possibly the Pac-12 — would be a bad idea.

The Big Ten is in perhaps the best position of any conference Armageddon right now, and it should stay put and expand past its math-damning 12 members to fill in those slots that are empty.

If the conference finds that perfect school that is willing to join, then fine. But until then, the Big Ten has nothing to lose by waiting.

The Dust Settles

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FOOTBALL CONTINUED FROM 12

Against Pittsburgh, defense kept Iowa in the game, but many of the top contributors were first-year starters.

Sophomore linebackers Christian Kirksey and Anthony Hitchens combined for 15 tackles. Sophomore defensive end Tanner Miller forced a fumble and recorded a tackle for loss in his first career start.

Bennett said he sees those traits as potential confi- dence-booster.

"We have some good guys, and everybody's starting to get comfortable," he said. "I'm sure this win will help them. I feel like we'll really start to gel as a defense." Until that time, slow to start, the offense wasn't big plays from underclass-

GOLF CONTINUED FROM 12

their mental limits particu- larly in the opening days of tournaments, when they play two rounds back-to- back. Such was the case at Iowa's first tournament at the end of a week, when they played 36 holes on Sept. 13 at the Georgia Inves- tment Classic.

"It's extremely grueling mentally," coach John Vannatter said about playing back-to-

back rounds. "You're out there for upwards of 10 hours without taking a break. It's a mental challenge that you have to be able to han- dle." To deal with the mental challenge, one thing Hitchens has learned is to take the stress off the course and then come back the next day, even if it means walking through another 18 holes. During a win at the Vandy Invitational earlier this month, he didn't even stop to look at his scorecard.

"He's a really hard worker, and he's a lot of fun, very relaxed," Vasos said. "He's a really good daughter," Sanchez said. "Having a guy on the field isn't the only thing that makes you better, but it's a lot faster and stronger. It grows (the team) as an oppor- tunity to attack a gap." Sanchez is a former Hawaiian who played his college career at the University of Hawaii. He was a two-time All-American, a four-time first-team All-Big West selection, and was the conference's defensive player of the year in 2006.

"He was a really good player," Vasos said. "He makes everything look so easy, and hopefully, he just keeps growing as a play- er." During the team's victory, Hagan showed his promise as a tennis player. The 6-foottenor showed the game's importance — especially for a dominant fire- brand.

"We've been seeing some positives on the team, he said. "First, he's in four seasons through all three levels of Iowa's tennis teams.

"It's great (having Sanchez as a coach) from a standpoint that he's pas- sionate about soccer," Vasos said. "That's something that's infectious when he's around the team. He's a very good person and con- nects with the kids not just about soccer but being a student-athlete. It's some- thing that he's done very well over the past three years."

"There was a great situation that had to happen. We were backed into a corner today, and we never quit fighting," Hagan said. "This was just a huge learning step for a lot of guys."
Iowa's historic comeback victory against Pittsburgh may prove to be therapeutic for the Hawkeyes as they move forward.

By JORDAN GARRETT
jordan.garrett@iow洗手. \n
For the second straight game, Iowa has been scoring, averaging 127.5 yards a game — the second most in the Big Ten. The defense has often struggled to get off the field, allowing opponents to convert a league-worst 50 percent of their third downs.

Roster depth is being tested, specifically at running back and linebacker after a season-ending injury to Mikel Davis.

Iowa wide receiver Kevonte Martin-Manley pulls in a touchdown pass from James Vandenberg against Pittsburgh on Sept. 17 in Kinnick Stadium. Martin-Manley scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter as Iowa came from behind to beat the Panthers, 31-27. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Iowa's running game has been unreliable in recent years. The offensive line is facing several seniors, including the loss of star offensive tackle Brandon Scherff. The backfield is also in flux as ailing football seasons may prove to be therapeutic for the Hawkeyes.

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By JORDAN GARRETT
jordan.garrett@iow洗手. \n
The Iowa men's golf team focuses on the mental aspect of the game on a weekly basis.

By BEN SCHUFF
benschuff@iow洗手. \n
The senior head golf coach at Iowa, Mark Hankins, has been instrumental in the team's success. He has helped the team maintain a mental edge throughout the season.

Iowa under Barry Koppenol wins a set on the visit of Fielding on April 27. (The Daily Iowan/Phil Mansell)

Iowa golfers go mental

By HANK HYDE
hank.hyde@iow洗手. \n
Iowa's men's golf team practices mental exercises to help improve their performance. The team focuses on visualization, breathing techniques, and positive self-talk.

Iowa women's soccer player Melina Martinez pulls in a touchdown pass from James Vandenberg against Pittsburgh on Sept. 17 in Kinnick Stadium. Martinez scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter as Iowa came from behind to beat the Panthers, 31-27. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Iowa soccer aide wears many hats

Soccer assistant volunteer coach Ivan Sanchez has worked with the team in many capacities.

By BEN WOLFSON
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Ivan Sanchez has been involved with soccer most of his life. His father played professionally in Mexico and introduced him to the game when Ivan was around 2 or 3.

Growing up, Sanchez split his time between swimming and soccer. But after suffering osteoarthritis injuries while playing the latter — five fractures and two surgeries — on his wrist — he decided to focus on swimming.

“Soccer has always been something I've had a lot of passion for,” he said. “Swimming became rehab to get back to soccer and do it again. Coach said I had the skill (to swim), and I was good at it, so I pursued everything instead of soccer.”

As a student-athlete at Southern Illinois, Sanchez was an elite swimmer. He was a four-year letter-winner, and the Missouri Valley champion in the 200 and 200 fly in 2002 and 2004. He was also an Olympic Trial qualifier for Mexico.

His move to Iowa City happened somewhat by chance.

Sanchez’s wife, Briona Sanchez, started studying for her Ph.D. at the university in Second Language Acquisition, and Sanchez decided to call head coach Ron Rainey.

“Ron got in touch with us, and he said he was going to be here in town and had an interest in soccer,” she said. “kind of just went from there, and he’s done a great job. A lot of the things he does off the field and with another set of eyes, gives us a ton of good things. Now in his third year with the team, Sanchez has helped the squad by compet-