UI adjusts finals

By ANNA THEODOSIS

A University of Iowa Stu-
dents Government initiative has made significant changes to final-exam policies. The revised policy would allow students with three or more finals in one day to file for a conflict allowing them to reduce the number of finals to two. Students will also be given at least half an hour between finals instead of 15 minutes and will not have any

School officials said Ravi Kuman, the School’s info project manager, called Vikas Gupta, chief of the University Management Unit, at 8 p.m. — just a few hours after Plotkin’s fall.

“Whether that constitutes an official report or whether it doesn’t, I don’t know, but we did talk to him about it, and he was aware of it,” School spokesman Bruce Palmer told The Daily Iowan this morning.

Gupta, however, told the 11-figure report the call until later and wasn’t given enough details.

“They called me at around 11 p.m. and asked me to assist their

Local leaders say emphasis should be on early education.

By LOGAN EDWARDS

Local education leaders are siding with Democrats on whether to hold back third-graders who fail proposed reading exams.

Republicans and Democrats in Des Moines are at odds over the issue. Republicans want a bill that will allow students back, but that measure is gone from an education bill advanced in the Senate this week.

The Republicans want a bill that will set a standard level of reading required for third-graders to progress to the fourth grade. It will be implemented gradually

Details still debated after the fall

Officials in India disagree about when they were informed about UI student’s fall.

By RISHABH R. JAIN

More than five months after a UI sophomore died while studying abroad in India, questions still surround the details of the sub-
sequent search and rescue efforts.

Thomas Plotkin died after falling off a trail during a hiking trip near Munsiyari, India, in Sep-
tember. Plotkin was on a seminar-
trip through the National Outdoors Leadership School. A Daily Iowan investigation earlier this month showed authorities in India were critical of the School’s response to Plotkin’s fall.

However, company officials are tak-
ing issue with that criticism. They say their response to the taking issue with that criticism. They say their response to the

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INDEX

Classification 9
Crossword 8
Sports 10
Opinion 4

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Edited by Logan Edwards

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Pay walls coming

Gannett will move the Iowa City Press-Citizen and the Des Moines Register behind online pay walls.

By RYER KELLISON
columnist

Local officials have made new deals to pay for pay walls that will require viewers to pay for pay wall access to two Iowa-based newspapers.

Gannett — which owns the Iowa City Press-Citizen and the Des Moines Register — announced Tuesday that it would move online editions of the community newspapers behind a pay wall, charging readers to access the websites. Company officials say the plan will add $10 million in publishing earnings beginning in 2013.

In Iowa City, the Press-Citizen is the paper of record, as local government officials are required to publish certain information through them. However, leaders at

METRO/NATION

Law suit involving UI dismissed

The University of Iowa and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the nurses’ union, were both dismissed from a lawsuit filed by three nursing instructors against the university.

UI spokesman Steve McKeel said the lawsuit “was completely unfounded,” and he added that the union was “frivolous and baseless.”

The lawsuit, filed by UI nurses, was dismissed by Judge David Sch仍er, who said the nurses had no “substantial basis” for their claims.

The university’s attorney, Robert G. Royal, said he was “very pleased” with the decision.

ROYAL

Euler, 23, 2200 West 14th St., was charged with simple assault.

Jeffrey Schueler, 20, of Carbondale, was charged with a garbage in public.

Adam Parmer, 31, of 2770 East 14th St., was charged with with theft.

Timothy Parrish Jr., 22, 717 S. College St., was charged with disorderly conduct.

by ROBERT KELLISON

"We can’t control what the newspapers do," he said. "But we will exercise the control over our journalists to report it responsibly.

However, Johnnie County supervisor John Sectig criticized the pay-wall move.

"This is a new era in journalism," Sectig said. "We are moving into a pay-wall world, and we need to be careful about how we present our stories to the public.

In Iowa City, the Press-Citizen is the paper of record, as local government officials are required to publish certain information through them.

by ROBERT KELLISON

"If you want an old-fashioned newspaper, you will have to pay for it.

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ROYAL
Iowa City residents may soon have an easier time traveling to Cedar Rapids via a new bridge.

As part of a county trends plan approved by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, a pedestrian bridge will be built over Interstate 80 to allow bikers and other travelers to ride Iowa City to the Cedar Rapids Bridge, which extends from Dubuque to Cedar Rapids via Interstate 380.

Johnson County, helped develop the Metropolitan Planning Organization report. Kris Ackerson, assistant transportation planner at the Metropolitan Planning Organization, said the project will begin with plans once they are approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

"Once they start on that bridge, they will have a pretty clear idea of how they will connect (to Dubuque)," he said. "That's the plan all the way. Once that bridge is completed, it will allow us to travel over I-80 in one place within the city limits."

Ackerson said the plan will also look at the creation of new pedestrian, recreational, and bike trails across the county. Officials hope to further promotion of the Iowa River as a recreation resource.

"I'm thinking of the Iowa River as a water trail, which extends from Ferry Park on the South Side of Iowa City to the Mississippi River," he said. "We want to encourage more boating and kayaking," he said. "It's noteworthy that you can go 77 miles without encountering an ocean or a lake."

Mark Wyatt, the executive director of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition, said he would like the plan to help smaller Iowa cities receive more tourism money.

"Long-term planning is also important because of the environmental concerns that come with development," he said.

"It takes a lot of patience to plan, but all take a number of years and difficult work is the most important," he said. "I think it's a great step for the county."
As the Daily Iowan recently reported, local businesses and workers are seeing a 4% pay increase and a $2.25 raise in the minimum wage, a $10 raise for those that currently make less than $10 an hour. Concerns have been raised against this increase, expressing its effect on the job market.

Santorum, a presidential candidate, has spoken against raising the minimum wage, saying that it will harm the economy. This viewpoint is echoed by the editorial board of the Daily Iowan, which believes in the importance of raising the minimum wage.

The minimum wage is set by law and should be increased to $10.00 per hour, ensuring that hard-worked Americans are paid fairly for their labor. The increase should be gradual, taking into account the economy's state and the impact on businesses.

The proposal to increase the minimum wage shows a clear stance against the current minimum wage, which is set at $9.00 per hour. This increase will benefit low-income workers and help alleviate poverty.

The minimum wage is not just about the number on a paycheck. It's about ensuring that everyone has the means to live a decent life, to afford basic necessities, and to contribute to society.

In conclusion, the Daily Iowan's editorial board supports the increase in the minimum wage to $10.00 per hour. This is a step towards a fairer and more equitable society, where everyone has the opportunity to live a dignified life.
Team that was arriving from Bangladesh, Gupta said. “It was informed very late, and they didn’t give me any concrete information about the death,” she said. “It was too much at that time.”

Gupta also said instructors and students on Pitkin’s trip didn’t inform

So some new requirements will be known at the begin-
ning of a student’s educa-
tion. Iowa City School Board member Sarah Swisher said that singing out a child at a young age can

...and let’s give them the information it had at the time...
The Iowa student section cheers as Iowa guard Matt Gatens directs the Iowa defense in the final minutes of the Hawkeyes' 67-66 victory over Wisconsin in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday. Gatens had 33 points in the victory. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Iowa guard Devyn Marble celebrates with fans following the Hawkeyes' 67-66 victory over Wisconsin in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Iowa forward Melsahn Basabe dunks against Wisconsin in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Iowa guard Matt Gatens drives against Wisconsin in the Hawkeyes' 67-66 victory over the Badgers. Gatens had 33 points in the win. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Matt Gatens did it again. The Iowa men’s basketball team (15-13, 7-10 Big Ten) rode Gatens’ 33-point performance to a 67-66 win over No. 16 Wisconsin (20-8, 9-6) in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday night. The win was Iowa’s second straight over a ranked team and sealed the first season sweep of the Badgers since the 1994-95 campaign.

Gatens made his first 5 3-point field goal attempts and finished 7-of-10 behind the arc. The senior from Iowa City is the first Hawkeye to record consecutive 30-point Big Ten games since Adam Haluska in 2005-06.

Gatens also nailed a pair of free throws with three seconds left to ice the win. Wisconsin guard Jordan Taylor’s 3-point buzzer-beater wasn’t enough to keep the 5,000 students in attendance from spilling onto the court and hoisting Gatens on their shoulders.

Junior Aaron White finished with 12 points, and sophomore Devyn Marble added 11 and 8 assists.

Log on to dailyiowan.com for full coverage of the game, including articles and a photo slide show.

— by Seth Roberts

For more news, visit dailyiowan.com

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EDITOR WANTED

As an aggressive, student-friendly news organization, The Daily Iowan, Iowa City’s largest news organization, with an editorial staff of more than 100 young professionals, an editorial budget exceeding $300,000 and readership of over 30,000, the Board of Student Publication, Iowa Student Publications, is looking to fill the position of The Daily Iowan editor for the academic year beginning June 1, 2012 and ending May 31, 2013.

The editor of The Daily Iowan must have strong writing, reporting, editing, and skills in management, and a clear sense of editorial responsibility. The ideal candidate will have a B.A. or B.S. in journalism or a related field, with previous newspaper experience and editing experience. Additional requirements include working at The Daily Iowan or another daily newspaper, and proven ability to lead, organize and inspire a staff.

Candidates must submit a resume and a letter of interest by Friday, February 24, 2012.

First name: 
Last name: 
E-mail address: 
Phone number: 
Address:
City: 
State: 
Zip code: 

The Daily Iowan
Iowa's Ten Top Competitors on the beam against Iowa State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 17. The Hawkeyes will host Minnesota at 7 p.m. today. (The Daily Iowan/Tessa Hursh)

Penn also posted a personal best of 18.73 seconds, the fourth-best mark in school history. The senior captain and he was happy with the improvement from his first time around and he relished the opportunity to score points in the same event.

"It was really good for us to have those two in the finals, I was really proud of that," he Cedar Rapids native said. "A lot of things made up when I came here to do — to help out and score points any way I possible. I have the 100 freestyle coming up Saturday, and I look to do my best in that.

Thursday's round of the championships ended with Iowa's performance Feb. 17 against Iowa State resulted in the GymHawks' second team score of the season — a 48.37. The team had been a problem for the Hawkeyes, assistant coach Caleb Phillips said the team put the event on a pedestal. But now, Iowa has the composition — a huge component in the balance beam— "We're consistent."

"It was a big confidence-boost for us," Phillips said. "It shows that if you're going to compete, you've got to get our scores to compete.

"We need to do everything we can. Once we get over the hump, it'll be all downhill."

"The Big Ten championship is the place higher at the conference this weekend, and we would like to see more of his athletes in event finals."

But now, Iowa sees his squad scoring with its best to get our scores to compete.

"We're always greedy, said coach Marc Long said. "We train all season long for the Big Ten indoor meet. Now, our athletes are finally able to show what we've been working on."

The Iowa women's gymnastics team (3-2, 1-2 Big Ten) has hit the halfway point of the 2012 season with six meets under its belt.

Not everything has gone perfectly for the GymHawks, said Coach IKE Hansen. Hansen said the team and coaches have identified what needs to be addressed in practice. Now, Hansen and the Hawkeyes are focusing on details for the second half of the season.

"What we need to work on, coach Marc Long said. "We're working on skills aggressively and sticking landing, especially. It's the last thing the judges see, so it's the last thing we want to give up."

In all-around competition, Emma Willas , signed the performance aspect of events — like the floor exercise — is something that will remain an important aspect of floor routine — will remain an important aspect of the team's strategy.

"It's a combination of arts and details, like the floor routine — will remain an important aspect of the team's strategy."

From here, Phillips said, "The team can improve on the details to improve both individuals and entire squads.

"They look sharp, and last weekend was telltale," he said. "We want to stay competitive, but can. Once we get over the hump, it'll be all downhill."

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Big Ten Championships

Iowa's Tyler Lentz wins in the 200 medley finals during the Big Ten meet on Thursday in the Campus Recreation & Wellness Center, Lowa, and the Hawkeyes are in position after three days of competition. (Daily Iowan/Traci Mortert)

Iowa climbed from eighth place to fourth after having three All-Americans compete in a single event.

Iowa's Tyler Lentz jumps up in the Big Ten championships. (DAILY IOWAN)

Iowa 70, Northwestern 63
Hoosiers win 7th straight

The Iowa women's basketball team completed a sweep over Northwestern and extended its winning streak to seven games with a 70-63 win Thursday night in Evanston, Ill. The Hawkeyes hadn't lost since Jan. 26 at Nebraska.

"Maybe it has been a pretty good month for us," head coach Lisa Bluder said after the game. "I think we're a lot better team than we were a longer month ago. We're playing to get seven wins in a row in the Big Ten."

The Hawkeyes entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed and the Big Ten's lone unbeaten team. They cruised to a 38-22 lead midway through the second half. Junior center Monika Michael posted the Black and Gold with 13 points through the first stanza. But Northwestern slowly whittled away at the lead during the second half, and the Wildcats cut the gap to 41-39 in the final minute. Iowa, though, had the Hawkeyes down when the Hawkeyes shot 50 percent in the second stanza, and they finished with 17 points, 10 rebounds, and 5 assists.

Mason 9-11 for 74 free throws with a game-winning drive down to the wire for Iowa.

"We did clinch first place and maintained a calm presence at the end of the game," Bluder said. "I'm just glad to be in that kind of situation and I'm really, really happy for Sam and the way she stepped up in that situation."

-- By Ben Volken

Big Ten Indoor Championships

Tracksters up for Big Tens

Throwers and All-Americans alike will have to step up for Iowa to claim the Big Ten indoor title.

By ELON DAIMARROUD

The climax of the indoor men's track season has arrived.

The Big Ten indoor meet will begin tonight and continue through the weekend in Lincoln, Neb., and the Hawkeyes hope to make a statement as they compete as the defending conference indoor champion.

"The Big Ten indoor championships is always a big key for our guys, especially with Jaime [Printy] going down," assistant coach Joey Woody said. "It was a reality check in a way, and the as a reality check, and the way they stepped up in that situation helps this weekend."

The Hawkeyes haven't lost since Jan. 26 at Nebraska.

Iowa's Tyler Lentz scored at the 70-63 win over Northwestern. (DAILY IOWAN)

"We're going to have to really step up because in order to win a Big Ten championship, you have to have no errors in every event," Banse said. "You can't have lapses anywhere."

Banse has a breakthrough season, but failed out last weekend at the Iowa Invitational. It was a reality check in a season that has seen him top both school records and his own projections.

"It was a humbling experience. I showed I still have had trials even though in the weeks before, I was doing so well," he said. "It kind of brought me back down to ground level and gave me a tool to work on in practice this week.

"With that experience behind him, he is confident he'll find the distance he needs this weekend."

"He came up to me right afterwards and said, 'I found out, but better this weekend than next weekend,'" coach Larry Wieczorek said. "He's been threatening, well, and said he'd go for a few things to work on in practice but he reassured me he's going to be fine for the Big Ten championships."

The looming national championships are another challenge athletes will have to face as they try to keep their focus on the Big Ten indoor championships.

Iowa's Matt Banse competes in the shot put at the Iowa Invitational track meet Saturday in the Rec Hall. Banse and the Hawkeyes will travel to Lincoln, Neb., for the Big Ten indoor meet brought. (The Daily Iowian/Whitney)