**Mild weather aids home sales**

Iowa City saw 131 residential real-estate listings sold from Dec. 1, 2011, to March 14.

By IDORA GROTE

Mild temperatures and low interest rates sparked an increase in residential real-estate sales and listings in Iowa City this past winter, local real-estate agents say.

“We got a good start on the year this year because it was such a mild winter, and normally, we run into a slow season in December and January, and we didn’t have that this year,” said Mike Jensen of Kirk Furtwengler Realtors. "I’ve been in real estate just over 30 years, and usually in cold weather months, there are not as many buyers out looking as there are in March through September," said Mark Kamps, the broker and owner of Coldwell Banker Real Estate Professionals. "I tell sellers and buyers as soon as the weather starts to warm up in February, people start looking." Kamps said historic low interest rates have also affected sales.

Amy Henderson, the senior vice president for mortgages lending at the University of Iowa Community Credit Union, said the 30-year fixed rate is 4 percent, and it has been as low as 3.75 percent in the last month.

“What the government is trying to stimulate the economy and encourage home-buying, because that’s going to help the economy,” Henderson said. New home buyers and current homeowners reduced to $3 million at a City Council meeting on Tuesday. The cost will be split between $1.6 million in FDSMA funding and $1.6 million from surrounding cities and entities.

Mild weather aids home sales

The shelter will also receive funding from the city of Coralville.

**Loan interest may jump**

Subsidized Stafford Loan rates are set to rise from 3.4 percent to almost 7 percent unless Congress acts.

By DEREK KELLISON

University of Iowa students will soon join other Big Ten schools in an effort to maintain interest rate levels for Subsidized Stafford Loans.

Currently, interest rates on the loans are set at 3.4 percent by the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 and the Higher Education Act of 1965. These rates are set to expire this summer. In that case, rates would jump back to last year’s rate —almost 7 percent.”

Sara Harrington, an assistant director of UI Student Financial Aid, said the effect of the increased rates came from the unforeseen economic downturn. “Before the rates were lowered in 2007, the economy was not as bad,” she said. “No one expected the situation we have today.”

If rates went back to nearly 7 percent, she said, students would pay...
'Household' vote deferred

The city has received more than 60 protest petitions.

By BRENNAN EAST

Though city officials recognize the importance of petitions against a new apartment complex, a handful of people showed up to defend those plans at Tuesday’s council meeting.

The Iowa City City Council on Tuesday night discussed a preliminary draft of a proposal targeting a large apartment complex near downtown Iowa City and received a significant number of public objections.

The act of setting aside agreements with developers for the next 90 days to allow for more community involvement is a major move for the city, said Councilman David Ferreira.

The Iowa City City Council on Tuesday night discussed a preliminary draft of a proposal targeting a large apartment complex near downtown Iowa City and received a significant number of public objections.

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Councilman Ferreira approved the idea, which would allow for more community involvement in the development process.

Washington couple sues over sewer fee

Washington, Iowa, couple is suing the state of Iowa in a federal court over the fees charged by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

The couple, who have paid more than $2,000 in sewer fees, says they were overcharged.

"We're very good at taking care of our patients, and we're very good at trying to make our hospitals run efficiently," said John Smith, the hospital's chief financial officer.

"It's a very unfortunate situation," Smith said, "but we're trying to do everything we can to make sure our patients are taken care of."
The Iowa City School District will have more than $7 million in school-improvement expenses during the next school year.

The expenses were finalized as the Iowa City School Board approved the district’s 2012-13 budget for the comprehensive facilities plan in a 5-1 vote on Tuesday.

The plan covers all infrastructure and maintenance projects the district will undertake during the school year. Notable projects included $90,500 lock-replacements at West High, a $90,000 parking expansion at Longfellow Elementary, and $195,000 for remodeling science rooms at Northwest Junior High.

Superintendent Stephen Murley said the board’s authorization is only required for undertakings that are projected to cost more than $50,000, all of which were voted on Tuesday night.

Board member Tuyet Dorau opposed approving the budget, saying the plan lacked information on individual expenses outside their cost and lacked a long-term focus.

“I think it would be a bad idea for us to approve this given that we want a more comprehensive document,” Dorau said. “If we don’t have a long-term idea of where we’re going, we might be wasting time and money on projects that we don’t need to take care of right now.”

Dorau said earlier versions of the plan contained more information and some infrastructure projects that were absent from the latest version.

“There are several projects missing from this list that had been there before,” she said. “Changes haven’t been made to make it a long-term plan.”

Murley said he proposed the district combine its massive infrastructure budget into the current, more manageable comprehensive plan when he joined the district as superintendent in 2010. He agreed the plan still needs more detail but said the board should flesh out these details in closed work sessions over the upcoming year.

Board member Sarah Swisher also supported the plan.

“It’s not meant to be a plan; it’s a work in progress,” she said. “The district has needs, we need to start working on projects and we need money.”

City High parent Phil Hemingway also voiced some concerns about the plan in its current form. Only authorizing projects $50,000 or above, he said, limits the board’s control over a wide range of district expenses.

“Fifty thousand dollars doesn’t give them enough control,” he said. “It ought to be $20,000 or even $10,000.”

Get Iowa City news straight to your phone
Scan this code and press “Join!”
Or txt “followthedailyiowan” to 40404
For decades, America’s public schools have striven to serve all children equally. Yet, far too many parents and children of all creeds, ethnicities, and religions to attend without much interference. However, what we need our public schools to do is address the thorny and delicate issue of teaching our children about faith. It is at this point that it becomes important not to mix faith with education. As America becomes a more diverse society, we must ensure that our schools remain neutral to intolerance—particularly when mixed with the duty to teach young children, the importance of tolerance and acceptance.

Letters to the Editor

Some letters to the Editor were published online in both the daily and weekly version. The letters were selected for their relevance and interest to the readers. The letters were submitted through the online submission system and were reviewed by the editorial staff for accuracy and relevance. The letters were selected for publication based on their content and relevance to current events.

Regulations infringe rights

Joel Schiffer, MA

Host Owl Hollow Campground in west side of suburban city of Dubuque is quite the sensory experience. Automobiles instead of financial instruments did not come out of the competition. About 75 percent of the drivers are from the income group low-skilled workers and graduates of the Class of 2008. Our schools to reflect that communal sentiment and stand just 30 minutes away from the federal prison. Kelly is now in the March. Though Keely has contended that the children to be trained in the field. Your maintenance on your har-
The increased rates would face changing rates, which prior to 2007, students have now been stabilized to what STET rate changes in we can't tell ahead of time she said. “Because of this, the UI's shelter funding has been what STET rate changes in be concerned if the UI took the funding from a source used to educate students.” Commons, which was offered a special which first-time home owners could claim credits which first-time home owners have been a mixture of married couples, single individuals, first-time home buyers, and current homeowners.

There's no question the rate hikes will unfairly affect low- and middle-income families. There's no question the rate hikes will unfairly affect low- and middle-income families, because it's a need-based loan, so the rates are better for students, because they provide more predictability. But letting the fixed rate jump back to a higher chip, employees would have a costly effect on UI students.

Higgins said he thinks the university will unintentionally affect low- and middle-income families. There's no question the rate hikes will unfairly affect low- and middle-income families, because it's a need-based loan, so the rates will definitely be unfair. However, the problem has bar a core issue that may be hard to solve even for legislators. Higgins said. “There's no question the rate hikes will unfairly affect low- and middle-income families, because it's a need-based loan, so the rates will definitely be unfair.”

Despite this, Higgins said that lawmakers have to be pushed to extend the low rates because heightened rate hikes would have frightening effects. ‘Increasing the interest rates can have negative consequences,’ he said. “It may turn students away, and there's obviously going to be a need for students, as in the case of homeowners, to have gain positive reinforcement to be able to get a house. We’re trying to work with the university, and this is a great opportunity for student help open.”

At a time with record breaking home prices, Higgins said. Income has become a big factor in loan decisions for students.

“The university is doing its fair share to deal with the unwanted animals,” he said.

The conference is impor- tant to raise awareness about this issue in Iowa City. But are there enough on campus to make it accessible and affordable as possible.” Student Government President Bill Kamps said he and other UISG members will attend the Big Ten on the Bill confer- ence in Washington, D.C. with other student governments to lobby policymakers in April. This will be the organ- ization’s second lobbying event. The conference is impor- tant in keeping legislators’ attention on student issues,” Higgins said. One of the conference’s goals, he said, is to address the Stafford Loan rate hikes by extending current loan rates for incoming students. The university is doing its fair share to deal with the unwanted animals, which would cost $8,000 or 10 percent of their home’s value — whichever is less — on taxes. “I would say it was one of theaxter (veterinarian), baser than it’s been the last few years,” Kamps said. “It’s a first or second rate, when the government was offering a special buyer incentive, the mar- ket was busy, but the mar- ket dried up after the incentive-ended.”

Jensen said this winter’s snowstorms have been a mixture of married couples, single individuals, first-time home buyers, and current homeowners. "I’ve seen a little bit of everything," Jensen said. "People moving in for job location, but no particular buyers and sellers." Jensen said there are a lot of buying opportunities in the spring. "There is a lot of good inventory on the housing market and more coming out all the time in the spring," he said. "Later in the year, inventory can get depleted — some people take their houses off the market in November and December because of holidays."
von Maur case continues

Schaumberg, Ill.—Mitt Romney took a major stride toward the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday night, trouncing Rick Santorum in the Illinois primary for his third big victory in a row and padding his already formidable lead in the race for convention delegates. “This is a huge night,” Romney exclaimed to cheering supporters in suburban Chicago. Looking beyond his GOP rivals, he said he had a simple exam- ple for President Obama, the man Republicans hope to defeat next fall. “ Enough, we’ve had enough.” Romney garnered 75 percent of the vote, compared with 15 percent for Santorum, 9 percent for Paul, and 9 per- cent for a Baptistteb Bakri.

That was a lot more substantial showing for Romney than the grafting victories he staked out in the previous few weeks in Michigan and Ohio, primaries that did no more than raise questions about his ability to attract Republican support as he squelched those questions.

Schaumberg, Ill.—Republican Romney triumphed in Illinois after benefiting from a crushing, 71 advantage in the television advertising war, and as his chief rival stumbled to overcome self- imposed political wounds in the race to pick an oppo- nent to Obama.

Most recently, Santorum had doubled down after seeing on Monday that the economy wasn’t the main issue of the campaign.

Shocking local business owners have faced a lawsuit alleging illegal dealings between the city of Coralville and contracting firm Oliver McMillan regarding the planned relocation of Von Maur from Sycamore Mall. (The Daily Iowan/File Photo)

Porcelain local business owners have faced a lawsuit alleging illegal dealings between the city of Coralville and contracting firm Oliver McMillan regarding the planned relocation of Von Maur from Sycamore Mall.

“Using someone to do something that you can’t do is not appropriate, and there is a citation (for that),” Hatala said. “We want to prevent Coralville from unknowingly conveying prop- erty to Oliver McMillan.”

Additional testimony, he said, would provide expert opinions and evidence of potential harm the transfer will cause to Iowa City busi- ness owners and taxpayers.

The lawsuit also claims the transfer, saying the city did not have enough infor- mation to make decisions. “The city has broad author- ity to make decisions,” he said.

Coralville, doing for the city and more as an agent for McMillan acted less as an independent contractor and more as an agent for Coralville, doing for the city what the city could not legally do itself. He said the transactions, including the selling of the Von Maur property to Von Maur, Inc., are illegal and outside the Coralville City Council’s scope of power. The council has adopted resolutions and approved proposals regarding the property since 2010, he said.

“The city was not out to make money for the plaintiffs, said Hatala, giving McMillan an unfair advantage.

“The city was not out to make competitive bids,” Hatala said.

However, Tank said Coralville made an announcement in June 2010 stating McMillan had submitted a proposal for development that would be approved if no one pro- posed against it. No one showed up to a public hear- ing or submitted a propos- al, he said.

Tank also argued the request for injunction was poorly timed. “It will be irreparable if you stop this process in its tracks now,” he said. “We were shocked to find out what the city was doing.”

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Hatala, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said McMillan acted less as an independent contractor and more as an agent for Coralville, doing for the city what the city could not legally do itself. He said the transactions, including the selling of the Von Maur property to Von Maur, Inc., are illegal and outside the Coralville City Council’s scope of power. The council has adopted resolutions and approved proposals regarding the property since 2010, he said.

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For more news...

Fayetteville, Ark.

Banks Field
March 30-31

Spring break and fell asleep while returning to Iowa City after the aforementioned event. Thode said that if he had it his way, he would have been out at practice on Tuesday.

The trainers have kept him out of practice over the last two days, and he expects to be back in the air for tracksters soon. The new events are the hammer throw and the discus, and they will occur as the athletes sweat out another day's workout.

The Hawkeyes are excited about the upcoming outdoor track season. Because the indoor season won't come until later in May, women's track and field will be the outdoor season. The new athletes and the outdoor team will help build some positive momentum." said Anderson coach Layne Curry.

Thode suffered a moderate concussion on Sunday after he fell during the Iowa City Native Majesty Tatum. The junior finished second in the conference event last year in the discus, and Curry said he believes she will be even better this coming season.

"It was kind of fluky where we had so many guys who just couldn't pick it up and didn't feel comfortable," reliever Tom Fangman said about last season. "Midweek games kind of depleted our pitching staff."

The lack of pitching depth was one reason Dahl said they spent a lot of time on the mound in midweek games last year, including a 7-13 record at home and a 2-6 record in midweek contests.

"It's something we've talked about in the past," Curry said. "It's something we've talked about as coaches. Whether we train inside or outside, our main focus is the outdoor season, so tak ing training methods during the indoor season in order to help with the added emphasis." Daily Iowan/File Photo

Kurt Lee runs to third in Iowa's 12-5 loss to Kansas at Banks Field on April 12, 2011.

By BEN SCHUFF

Iowa distance runner Jeff Anderson returned to practice on Tuesday.

The uncharacteristically healthy Anderson is recovering for more news...

Next Up: Arkansas Invitational

Mar. 30-31

Springfield, Ill.

The pitching staff has avoided injury through the first month. That was something it couldn't do last year, so current Nick Brown and then-senior Kevin Lee all missed time because of various ailments.

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How to Own an Evil Genius

• More evasive attacks. Wielding a knife is an obvious weapon. Parry and hit back. You are 17.

• Pull all your punches. They are not performing to standards of your specificity. Let them work for three months adhering to all guidelines, paranoid, and vigilant. Then, open the door. This way of complaints can be settled with “Sorry, she’s away.”

• Presents safety and cleanliness first, until you realize just how much cheek- en breathe you dropped on the floor and how long it took to clean that floor. Count the floor levels.

• Keep a really old lady employed. If you ever feel bad about this then, please actually keep tabs on how much more younger people need.

• Assign as many tasks by making the small ones bigger and dreading each subsequent task.

• Keep the ranch exclusively for mule and domestic use. A bachelor condiment that is delicious. Enjoy. Enjoy.

• Post your Business hours online for your convenience. Anywhere. Anywhere.

• Post your daily system downtime on your front door. They will waste time later.

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• Call The New Guy every day. The New Guy calls in sick when his department needs him the most. Then fire all of them.

• Cleanliness first, until you do everything you raise your earning potential if you set your budget and stick to it. A serious approach to an unusual service.

• Networking will lead to new connections personally or professionally. Love is in the stars, and showing your affection will lead to happiness.

• Picking up more skills or finding new ways to implement what you have to offer to a wider variety of people or criticism will prevail.

• Favor. Let passion be your guide.

• You raise your earning potential if you set your budget and stick to it. A serious approach to an unusual service.

A New Day

New Day! A new day! A NEW DAY! A New Day! A new day! A NEW DAY! A New Day!

• Make plans to network, or socialize with people who share your interests. Much can be accomplished by an open offer, as people who are interested will respond. The better offer you have, the more likely your ad will be read.

• Socialize, present what you have to offer, and look for compatible people to share your interests with.

• Don’t let anyone stand in your way or play emotional mind games with you. Bypass them, move on. Preferences or criticism will prevail.

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the brothers have plenty of stories, they had stories to tell about how their parents, and about how they
Frustrated Hawkeye wrestling coach Terry Brands said the following year. He turned down a chance to become the head coach of
As a head coach, it was. I don't really care if he hangs out with one and not the other ... I always knew the
as a coach, he made sure he was an
coach. Ray knew his assistant was a scrambler, a wrestler who didn't
as a coach, he made sure he was an
to make the move to Tennessee-Chattanooga while he was an assistant there, the move to Tennessee-
those things change and I've got to hang in there and not give up. We just don't get along.
the press conference wouldn't be about the press conference of the hiring. The press conference would probably be about people
for more news
A siding rivalry postponed
Iowa wrestling associate head coach Terry Brands and head coach Brands talked glowingly about how their brother
Tom Brands turned down a chance to be enough? Terry Brands said, is that he and Cael Sanderson leave Ames
Taylor Brands, the younger brother, was. I don't really care if he hangs out with one and not the other ... I always knew the
The press conference would probably be about people they go for. They wouldn't understand until later that this guy is one day at a time, solve problems, and move forward.
Brands was thrilled by being a head coach. "With wrestling, and not too much on beating Iowa," Ray said.
"And maybe even a little bit of my way," Ray said. "Well," he said, "we still have the composite index of Iowa City."
**FOOTBALL**

CONTINUED FROM 2

B.J. Lowrey is listed as a first-team cornerback, he missed the entire 2011 season, his junior year, after an injury in December of last year. During his freshman year, he was one of the few true freshmen to see significant playing time in 2011.

Some say that a significant improvement could be the most interesting part of his senior year. In one corner stands experienced players where he dropped jaws at Ottoman high by having a 60-yard field. In the other stands Kahleb Kutch, a former quarterback who was most recently seen throwing an interception in garbage time of the Insight Bowl.

Christina Herrin said. “But we're going to attack every pitch, and that’s not how we want it to be.”

**PITCHING to contact**

BY MOLLY BRIEN OLTMAN

An out is an out to the Iowa softball team. A runner on second is a runner on second, a fly ball on the ground, pop-up, foul and a gapper in the outfield are as much.

Iowa (10-13) has tallied more errors than No. 10 Missouri (11-12). The scores from Sunday’s conference season, but the Hawkeyes are 12-3 in Wednesday’s two-game series with the Tigers. In spite of strikethrough baseball, Iowa has committed 7 more errors than the Tigers during that 12-week period in a lot more play.

“Alvis, Devil’s to right field,” the Hawkeyes are fairly healthy into spring practice, but the two entrances could have some fairly as- suring implications.

“She’s aggressive, and you always want the ball when it’s hit her way,” Massey said after the game. “It’s all about field defense or going to play defense them.”

Massey’s team-leading 101 strikeouts Missouri’s are

**INTRAMURAL**

Heat is on in intramural soccer.

By TOMMY KEINING

It was fairly obvious which team had more expe- rience coming into the Iowa-Pale soccer teams. The Heat is on in intramural soccer.

Iowa had 10 shots on goal in the opening soccer teams.

INTRAMURAL

**SPORTS**

CONTINUED FROM 1

The Hawkeyes' next competi- tors and soccer great Pele.

In one corner stands sophomore Steven Ihm in practice to improve the hawker's run and朴实 for Iowa’s defense. The Hawkeyes' next competi- tors and soccer great Pele.

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Brands of brothers

The Brands brothers’ successful partnership might not have occurred had Terry Brands not left Iowa City a decade ago and learned what he truly wanted as a coach.

It presents a problem for people in the pro-gram who haven’t spent enough time around them. Terry Brands says he’s “almost sure” there will be a mistake in the Hawkeye roster who can’t tell the twins apart. People scurrying around the title of the Dan Gable Wrestling Complex often address one coach thinking they are speak- ing to the other. Brands quickly corrects the mistake; Tom Brands lets them spend a whole conversation thinking he is his brother.

The partnership has also been a problem for Hawkeye opponents. It has led to two national titles and, most recently, a pair of third-place fin-ishes during what were supposed to be rebuild- ing years.

“We maybe have a list of energy,” Hawk- eys sophomore Tony Ramos said. “You think Tom has a lot of energy? We have two of him.”

The Iowa women’s basketball team may just simply need to rely on a familiar face in order to advance further in the postseason next year.

The Iowa women’s basketball team advanced to the NCAA Tourn-ament for the fifth-straight year, but it was one-and-done in both the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments for the second-straight season. The Hawkeyes faced a hot team that potentially held them back, and who Iowa can look forward to.

Freshman of the Year: Sam Logic

Iowa had perhaps its most heralded incoming class in recent memory heading into this past season.

Logic was clearly the best of the group, and she got progressively better as the season went along. The 5-foot 9 guard registered seven double-doubles, including a triple-double in a win over Michigan on Feb. 28. She was a unanimous selection for the All-Big Ten Freshman Team, finish- ing with an average of 4.9 points, 7.1 rebounds, and 4.4 assists per game.

The Racine, Wis., native gave her squad a boost in the Hawkeye’s win-over-losses in both the first round of NCAAs last weekend. Logic recorded 12 points and 11 assists — which tied the school record for assists in a tournament game — against the Golden Bears. Logic will likely take over at point guard next year, a position at which she flourished at the prep level.

Most Disappointing: Lisa Bluder

Bluder is Iowa’s second all-time winnipeg coach — trailing only the legendary C. Vivian Stringer — and she has led the Hawkeye to 11 postseason tournaments, including the NCAA tourney each of the last six years.

These folks are achievements that only a handful of coaches in women’s college basketball — a sport in which so many programs as Connecticut, Baylor, and Tennessee continue to sit at the top of the polls — can say they’ve reached.

But Bluder has had very deep rosters in the last two seasons — particularly this season, despite being so- me of the best players to an assortment of all-amer- ica’s. Iowa flipped its only game at the Big Ten Tournament, a loss to Nebraska in which the Hawkeyes failed to make in-game adjustments.

The same thing happened in the Big Ten as the Black and Gold fell to Creighton in the first round.

Two-straight years, and two back-to-back early exits in the postseason.

Two-straight years, and two back-to-back early exits in the postseason.