

The Daily Iowan

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

DAILYIOWAN.COM 50¢

UI COVID-19 NUMBERS

Number of self-reported cases for COVID-19

Students: 6 new cases, 2,997 to-date

Employees: 1 new cases, 438 to-date

New cases since Feb. 19, 2021

Source: UI COVID-19 campus update

INSIDE



Anti-LGBTQ bills pass first legislative hurdles

Several bills in the Iowa Legislature have LGBTQ Iowans, allies, and advocates concerned. This month, a bill that would prohibit people in elementary and secondary schools from using restrooms that don't align with their biological sex and a bill that would require written consent from parents for their children to learn about gender identity were passed out of subcommittee subcommittee, but even bill sponsors say they're unlikely to pass.



Nurse donates kidney to son, a UI law student

Austin Maas, a student at the University of Iowa law school, recently went into kidney failure, and needed someone to donate a kidney to him. Many people stepped up to donate, but his mother, Gina Maas, donated hers. She cut sugar out of her diet, traveled across the country, and quarantined in order to save his life.



Tax levy funds city employee minimum wage hike

By using a maximum property tax levy, Iowa City is set to implement a minimum wage of \$15 an hour for all city employees, including temporary and seasonal. The council has prioritized meeting this wage increase for several years, with the change going into effect in July 2021. The City Council is hoping other entities follow in their footsteps and raise the minimum wage for employees across the city and state, as well.

2021



DI TV

Tune in for LIVE updates
Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage every day at dailiowan.com.



Biking to new frontier

After relocating three times in 16 years of service, the Bike Library is "dragging" its bikes to a permanent home.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Bike Library Executive Director Audrey Wiedemeier poses for a portrait at the new Gilbert Street location in Iowa City on Monday. Bike Library Inc. is a volunteer-run project in Iowa City that allows community members to check out and buy restored bicycles.

BY GRACE HAMILTON
grace-hamilton@uiowa.edu

For Iowa City's Bike Library, the month of February has been the "final drag" to finally find a place to call home.

"We are calling the whole month of February 'The Final Drag: A New Bicycling Frontier,'" said Bike Library Executive Director Audrey Wiedemeier. "In the last 16 years, the Bike Library has taken refuge in a lot of different locations, but we've purchased our own building and can now put down some roots."

Wiedemeier said the Bike Library will open

up in a new location at 1222 S. Gilbert Court on March 1.

The Bike Library's current location was bought by developers, she said, causing the nonprofit to search for a new place to continue its mission of refurbishing bikes.

Wiedemeier said the Bike Library's new home is located in an ideal place to meet Iowa City's bicycling needs.

"We're excited about the location," she said. "It's still within walking distance of the campus. It's closer to the south district, where we have many partnerships, and it's pretty close to the riverfront crossing trails. Our new location is

nestled in this triangle between a lot of people we serve."

Bike Library Board Member Mike Haverkamp said the Bike Library's current relocation marks the organization's fourth move since its 2004 opening.

"It's a big jump, especially for a nonprofit organization, but it's a necessary one," Haverkamp said. "In our current location, you carry the bikes down a winding staircase to get to the basement. The new location is much more convenient, but I won't be in as good of shape."

SEE BIKES, 2

Inclusion in STEM

The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science is jumpstarting a chapter on campus.



Ayton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa graduate research assistant of molecular medicine with a masters in biology, Cody Poe, poses for a portrait in the Papajohn Biomedical Discovery Building on Monday. As a member of SACNAS, Poe said, "Any group that tries to increase diversity is beneficial to science and higher education."

BY BRADY OSBORNE
brady-osborne@uiowa.edu

A new student organization at the University of Iowa is trying to make STEM programs more inclusive and welcoming to students of Hispanic and Native American descent.

The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science wants to help diversify the different STEM programs at the UI. The program is geared toward building a community where underrepresented students in STEM can feel welcome and accepted.

Both undergraduate and postgraduate students who identify as Hispanic or Native American will be able to join and use the resources the

club has to offer, including providing students with mentorship and career advice.

UI Associate Professor of Environmental Science Bradley Cramer, the provost's faculty fellow for diversity, equity, and inclusion, said when it comes to representation, STEM fields have room for improvement.

"One of the biggest challenges is lack of representation as teachers in the classroom," Cramer said. "Being able to find a way to help build a sense of belonging and a sense of community is a wonderfully important opportunity."

Cramer added that this representation problem is not just at the UI but within STEM pro-

Graduate students ask for data

Graduate assistants are grouped with students in COVID-19 test reports, unlike ISU.

BY ELEANOR HILDEBRANDT
eleanor-hildebrandt@uiowa.edu

The Campaign to Organize Graduate Students is requesting more transparency in COVID-19 case reporting from the University of Iowa as COVID-19 cases on campus have declined for months after spikes early in the fall semester.

At the union's bargaining session with the state Board of Regents on Feb. 9, members of COGS disagreed with the university's decision to list graduate student workers strictly as students, despite some working as instructors. Graduate student workers say grouping the numbers of graduate workers who've tested positive in its own category would be a more complete reflection of possible COVID-19 spread in classrooms. The UI points to low case numbers possibly leading to identifying students as the reason for not separating graduate student workers into their own category in three-times a week COVID-19 self-reported case counts.

COGS's Chief Campus Steward and Ph.D. student Kezia Walker-Cecil helped present the union's proposal to the board.

In an interview with *The Daily Iowan*, she said the UI's decision to not create a separate section for student workers takes the majority of in-person instructors and categorizes them as students instead of teachers.

"The university has said students are making bad decisions and that's why numbers were so high," she said. "There is no way for us to know how many students who test positive are graduate students and how many of them are teaching assistants."

Graduate-student workers may only have classes with less than 50 people, she said, but some teach several classes a day and interact with up to 100 people in a day. It would be easier to tell if there was COVID-19 spread in classrooms if teaching assistants were placed in a separate category, Walker-Ce-

SEE STEM, 2

SEE DATA, 2

MURAL MAGIC



Painter Todd Woodburn of Art n Devours paints a mural on a shop window downtown Iowa City, on Tuesday. "A painting this ambitious takes about 6 hours to complete," Woodburn said.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Bikes line the back room of the new Bike Library location in Iowa City on Monday. Bike Library Inc. is a volunteer-run project in Iowa City that allows community members to check out and buy restored bicycles.

BIKE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Although the Bike Library is upgrading to a one-story building with 7,000 square feet, Haverkamp said the building will soon become crowded with more bikes.

"The Bike Library is a gas, and we expand to the volume of our container," he said. "What we've con-

tinued to see and what we are so dependent on are those people who make donations of bicycles and bicycle parts to us. Between COVID-19 and Marie Kondo, we've seen a good supply of donations coming in through the pandemic."

Interest in biking nationwide skyrocketed as Americans looked for outdoor forms of leisure and transportation during a global

pandemic. During March, 2020, nationwide sales of bike equipment and repair doubled compared to the previous year, according to N.P.D. Group, a market research company. The Iowa City Bike Library was no exception, Bike Library board member Karen Stierler said.

"With COVID-19, I think the whole biking thing has gotten bigger," Stierler said.

said. "Just getting outside for sanity's sake has been so popular, so I think we've been able to send a lot of bikes out the door."

At the end of the month, the organization is bringing the final drag to life.

"On February 28 at 5:00, we are inviting our volunteers, donors, and anyone who wants to dress in drag and meet at 700 South Dubuque Street to ride to our new location," Wiedemeier said.

Wiedemeier added that the Bike Library team plans to brave the cold in drag to celebrate settling into a location they can now call home.

"When you are riding a bike, there's a feeling of freedom," she said. "And in performing — not just in drag, but in any art — there is a sense of freedom in how you express yourself. We are leaning into those parallels."

Americans make up 0.2 percent.

Anae said promoting diversity is not only beneficial

Its an uphill battle for sure, but we can keep out voices heard and keep pushing, it can be good overall.

— UI second-year graduate student Cody Poe

STEM programs. At the UI, Hispanic people make up 7.4 percent of the student body overall, while Native

for representation on campus but could also be beneficial in the work that STEM programs do.

The Daily Iowan

Volume 153
Issue 45

BREAKING NEWS

Phone: (319) 335-6030
Email: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu
Fax: 335-6297

CORRECTIONS

Call: 335-6030
Policy: The Daily Iowan strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or a clarification may be made.

PUBLISHING INFO

The Daily Iowan (USPS 143-360) is published by Student Publications Inc., E131 Adler Journalism Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2004, Mondays and Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters (plus Fridays of football game weekends) and Wednesday during the summer, except legal and university holidays, and university class breaks. Periodicals postage paid at the Iowa City Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 2, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Call: Juli Krause at 335-5783
Email: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

Subscription rates:

Iowa City and Coralville: \$30 for one semester, \$60 for two semesters, \$5 for summer session, \$60 for full year.

Out of town: \$50 for one semester, \$100 for two semesters, \$10 for summer session, \$100 all year.

Send address changes to:
The Daily Iowan,
100 Adler Journalism Building, Iowa
City, Iowa 52242-2004

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager

Debra Plath 335-5786

Advertising Director/Circulation

Juli Krause 335-5784

Advertising Sales

Bev Mrstlik 335-5792

Production Manager

Heidi Owen 335-5789

STAFF

Publisher 335-5788
Jason Brummond

Executive Editor 335-6030
Sarah Watson

Managing Editor

Zandra Skores, Caleb McCullough

Managing Digital Editor

Kelsey Harrell

Asst. Digital Editor, Engagement

Molly Milder

News Editors

Rylee Wilson, Rachel Schilke

Photo Editor

Hannah Kinson

Design Editor

Kate Doolittle

Politics Editor

Julia Shanahan

Opinions Editor

Hannah Pinski

Asst. Opinions Editor

Lucee Laursen

Arts Editors

Maddie Lotenschein, Josie Fischels

Sports Editor

Austin Hanson

Asst. Sports Editor

Isaac Goffin

Sports Projects Editor

Robert Read

Copy Editor

Katie Ann McCarver

Visuals Director

Katie Goodale

DITV News Director

Bailey Cichon

Managing TV Director

Harley Atchison

TV Sports Director

Tianna Torrejon

DEI Director

Cesar Perez

Films Director

Ryan Adams

Documentary Director

Jake Maish



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Bike Library Executive Director Audrey Wiedemeier climbs scaffolding to point out work being done at the new Gilbert Street location in Iowa City on Monday.

STEM

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

grams all across the country.

"This is not unique to Iowa. This is a STEM problem nationwide," Cramer said. "STEM disciplines tend to have the lowest diversity of both faculty and students."

Programs like the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science are attempting to make STEM a place where people of mar-

ginalized communities can feel at home, and comfortable, Cramer said.

UI senior Madison Anae, who is studying geoscience, said she believes that representation gives hope to students of marginalized communities that they can be accepted and welcomed.

"To me, it means hope for the future of STEM," Anae said. "To make it more inclusive, to make academia a better place for people of color and other marginalized identities as well."

Cramer said Hispanics

and Native American students are underrepresented in student bodies across the country, particularly in

Its an uphill battle for sure, but we can keep out voices heard and keep pushing, it can be good overall.

— UI second-year graduate student Cody Poe

STEM programs. At the UI, Hispanic people make up 7.4 percent of the student body overall, while Native

Americans make up 0.2 percent.

Anae said promoting diversity is not only beneficial

"Diversity has actually been shown in a lot of studies to generate more creative thinking. So, as we diversify STEM, that creativity is important," Anae said. "That creativity is what generates those great ideas that we have that can solve enormous problems."

The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science has been working on the national level to promote the inclusion of Hispanics and Native Americans into STEM programs, with 118

chapters nationwide.

To UI second-year graduate student Cody Poe, who is studying biomedical science, the organization means that marginalized voices will finally be heard in a field where they have been shut out for years.

"I've seen from my friends on Facebook things like 'Only white people can do science.' Well, that's not true," Poe said. "It's an uphill battle for sure, but we can keep our voices heard and keep pushing, it can be good overall."

DATA

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

cil said.

"Statistically, the chances of a graduate student who's teaching in person of being exposed and possibly getting COVID are pretty much guaranteed because of their work assignment," Walker-Cecil said. "A lot of graduate student workers were not able to choose if they taught in person or not."

Iowa State University keeps track of graduate assistants who've tested positive as part of a COVID-19 dashboard. The dashboard separates between faculty, staff, graduate assistants, and students who've tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the year, and tallies totals since the pandemic began. Since Jan. 1, 171 students, 16 graduate assistants, 33 staff, and seven faculty have tested positive for the virus. Iowa State also logs a more general weekly update that reports just the total number of cases reported for the week and the positivity rate.

COGS member Blake Monroe, a graduate pharmacy stu-

dent, said he's frustrated with the University of Iowa emphasizing there is no spread of COVID-19 in classrooms when the positivity numbers are only divided into two sections: students and employees.

"Graduate students, who aren't considered faculty members, are oftentimes the ones delivering in-person instruction," he said. "Keeping graduate student numbers separate made it on to our demands in contract negotiations because it's an acknowledgement that the university is attentive to the risks that graduate students are incurring and Accountability Act."

The UI wrote in a campus-wide COVID-19 update in September 2020 and again on Monday that there is no evidence of the virus spreading in classrooms. The university cited the low infection rate of faculty and staff members who had tested positive as evidence there was little transmission during in-person instruction.

Monroe said data transparency lets graduate students trust these COVID-19 systems. Separating numbers is an easy process, he said, because there is no ad-

ditional cost while allowing graduate students to be seen and heard.

"It makes us feel valuable and like our work to keep the university going is valued," he said. "We want a different category ... because we have different risks."

UI Assistant Director of Media Relations Hayley Bruce wrote in a statement to the DI that splitting up the numbers any further would result in small groups that could allow someone to narrow down and identify a student who tested positive, which go against the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

"[We followed] guidance from the Office of General Counsel. We cannot disclose FERPA or HIPAA protected health information about students if doing so will allow someone to identify particular individuals, as would be the case if the numbers are very low," she wrote. "Accordingly, we do not provide the information if the number is smaller than six. We are applying the same standard for Faculty and staff for consistency."

She wrote that HIPPA violations continue to be a

concern, especially with the current low rates of cases that would potentially make it easier for members of campus to be identified. The university is continuing to monitor their metrics and policies, however, she wrote.

Cecil-Walker said graduate-student workers were not asked if they wanted to be represented in COVID-19 case reports differently than other students. COGS is taking the issue directly to the regents because it is one of the ways she said she felt graduate-student workers have been let down this semester.

While negotiations continue with the regents, there is no guarantee the reporting of numbers will change. Regardless, Cecil-Walker said graduate-student workers need to be heard because they are the reason the university has in-person classes.

"Graduate students deserve to be listened to," she said. "We do a lot of work and research for the university. We should be believed and our concerns about safety and the university's reporting systems accuracy should be validated."

While negotiations continue with the regents, there is no guarantee the reporting of numbers will change. Regardless, Cecil-Walker said graduate-student workers need to be heard because they are the reason the university has in-person classes.

While negotiations continue with the regents, there is no guarantee the reporting of numbers will change. Regardless, Cecil-Walker said graduate-student workers need to be heard because they are the reason the university has in-person classes.

"Graduate students deserve to be listened to," she said. "We do a lot of work and research for the university. We should be believed and our concerns about safety and the university's reporting systems accuracy should be validated."

While negotiations continue with the regents, there is no guarantee the reporting of numbers will change. Regardless, Cecil-Walker said graduate-student workers need to be heard because they are the reason the university has in-person classes.

While negotiations continue with the regents, there is no guarantee the reporting of numbers will change. Regardless, Cecil-Walker said graduate-student workers need to be heard because they are the reason the university has in-person classes.

"Graduate students deserve to be listened to," she said. "We do a lot of work and research for the university. We should be believed and our concerns about safety and the university's reporting systems accuracy should be validated."

While negotiations continue with the regents, there is no guarantee the reporting of numbers will change. Regardless, Cecil-Walker said graduate-student workers need to be heard because they are the reason the university has in-person classes.

While negotiations continue with the regents, there is no guarantee the reporting of numbers will change. Regardless, Cecil-Walker said graduate-student workers need to be heard because they are the reason the university has in-person classes.

"Graduate students deserve

Nurse gives kidney to son, a UI student

When Austin Maas experienced kidney failure, many people stepped up to donate. But his mother, Gina, flew hundreds of miles, cut sugar out of her diet, and quarantined as a precaution for COVID-19 to donate a kidney to her son.

BY BRADY OSBORNE
brady-osborne@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa law student Austin Maas called his mother in September two years ago to tell her that he was going into kidney failure.

His mother, Gina Maas, told him he could have one of hers.

"You can have my kidney," Gina said. "I only need one."

When Austin first found out about his kidney failure, he said a multitude of donors stepped forward, from classmates to family members.

"It was shocking how many people signed up to be a donor for me," Austin said. "It was very humbling to have that."

Gina moved to Oregon

An estimated one in seven Americans have chronic kidney disease, the CDC reports, which happens when the kidneys can't filter blood properly.

Gina said she was all but ready to donate as soon as she found out about Austin's kidney failure, but when she got her tests back to see if she was a match, Gina was hit with bad news — her blood sugar levels were too high.

"Here I am, a nurse, his mom. Of course, I wasn't living with him or near him," Gina said. "It's like — why couldn't I have caught this before it got this bad? But things happen. We don't know why, but they do."

Living Donor Transplant Coordinator at UIHC Ciera Gibbs said blood



Austin Maas poses for a portrait on Feb. 20.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Traveling to Iowa and figuring out that whole scenario was a little concerning, but on the other hand, I just knew this was all going to work and it would be OK."

— Gina Maas, mother

to be a dialysis nurse in 2018 and has worked with people experiencing kidney failure. She said this made the whole process more challenging for her, knowing what her son could go through. Kidneys are about the size of a computer mouse, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and they filter all the blood in the body every 30 minutes. They filter wastes, toxins, excess fluid and control blood pressure and stimulate red blood cell production.

sugar is important when looking for kidney donors, because if the levels are off, it could cause diabetes or other health problems for donors later in life.

"The donors are going into an elective procedure and coming out with one kidney," Gibbs said. "When potential donors have either an elevated body mass index or some of their numbers indicate that they might have a higher risk of developing diabetes down the road, we want to identify that early on."

After the strict no-sugar diet, Gina said she was ready to donate. She flew to Iowa City and quarantined for 10 days upon arrival. She said the risk of traveling during the pandemic was well worth it for her son.

"Traveling to Iowa and figuring out that whole scenario was a little concerning, but on the other hand, I just knew this was all going to work and it would be OK," Gina said.

The two underwent the

procedure in July of 2020. After the surgery, both Austin and Gina said they recovered well and are in good health.

"I literally did not cheat once in three months, and it was very easy to do because my son's life was at stake," Gina said.

"The hospital handled everything so well," Austin said. "Everyone there at the hospital is a professional, and they want to help you as much as they can. I had the best experience at the hospital and the law school. Everyone at the university has been great throughout the whole process."

While the experience was a tough one, Gina said she hopes her story shows people that being a donor is important, especially when it comes to loved ones.

"I did it, and hopefully it inspires other people to do it as well," Gina said.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

mellow MUSHROOM
PIZZA BAKERS
CORALVILLE, IA
1451 Coral Ridge Mall
(319) 625-2031
Mon-Thur 11am-9pm
Fri & Sat 11am-10pm
Sun 11am-8pm
Order.MellowMushroomIowa.com

Sandwiches • Salads
Soups • Wraps • Coffee
Catering Available
nodo
IAWAA CITY, IA
nodoiowacity.com
Northside • 600 N Dodge St
(319) 512-5028
Downtown • 5 S Dubuque St
(319) 359-1181

DODGE ST. TREE
est. 1992
Oil changes • Alignments
Computer Diagnostics
Air Conditioning Service & Repair
Electrical System Diagnosis & Repair
Brake System Repair • Tune-ups
Cooling Systems Service & Repair
Scheduled Maintenance
Muffler Service & Repair and More!
605 North Dodge St
337-3031 • dst-ic.com

Your Favorite Asian Restaurant
Oryza
ASIAN CUISINE
5 Sturgis Corner Dr. • Iowa City
319.800.0888
Monday - Sunday • 11am-10pm
oryzaic.com

No Boring Stuff Allowed.
artifacts
Open Every Day!
331 Market Street • Iowa City
319-358-9617

Help support our local economy by shopping local.

SHOP LOCAL
HILLS BANK

It's your move: houses, condos, townhomes, Ready to move when you are!
20+ Years Real Estate Experience
KATHY FOBIAN
REALTOR, ABR, CBR, ASR, BROKER ASSOCIATE
Call or text 319.321.6550 PLEASE VISIT www.kathyfobian.com

CHOMP
Enjoy vigorously.
LOCAL RESTAURANTS + LOCAL DELIVERY
WWW.CHOMP.DELIVERY

BO JAMES
Burger & Brew
Cheers to 37 Years!
Feb. 25-26 | 11am-8pm
\$3.70 BURGER BASKET w/FRIES
\$3.70 HOT WINGS & BIG BEERS
118 E. Washington

Got recycling & waste questions?
icgov.org/recycle

TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.
Apple Authorized Service Center
Apple Care Repair on iPhones
Authorized Service Provider
356 S Clinton Street
319.338.3735
www.tech-assoc.com

We appreciate your business!

AVAILABLE NOW!

2020

THE YEAR DOCUMENTED

Photo book from *The Daily Iowan* chronicling the historic year



2020
THE YEAR DOCUMENTED



Foreword by
Willard "Sandy" Boyd

More than 25 essays
from prominent
University of Iowa
leaders and alumni

Order your copy at

dailyiowan.com/2020book

Opinions

COLUMN

A Hawkeye Adrift: a DI staffer left the U.S.

My decade-long struggle with my health led me to my decision to leave the country, avoiding the risk of returning to a college campus where students struggle to follow guidelines.

BY RIN SWANN

corinne-swann@uiowa.edu

I'm not a stranger to limited options.

Ever since my diagnosis at 11 years old of Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder, my world options narrowed. With the COVID-19 pandemic, that gap grew even smaller.

These conditions are rare, genetic autoimmune disorders caused by a dysfunction in my nerve endings and joints that create constant cycles of pain without a cause or end. By their very nature, I am more at risk for developing serious illnesses later on, and I catch every cold and flu that rolls around.

Essentially, I am one of the millions of immunocompromised people at risk for developing complications from COVID-19. So, when the pandemic forced colleges to switch to an online format, I briefly thought, "What else is new?"

My relationship with education has been complicated since my diagnosis. I never got through a year without missing more than 20 days of school. My sophomore year of high school, I was in and out of the hospital so frequently that I missed 69 full days of school — not including the half-days I left early because my pain was

so bad.

To stay on track, I completed most of my schoolwork virtually from my bed, in pajamas, while my friends were in-person attending sports, chatting with teachers, and talking in the halls. I was so lonely and jealous that sometimes it felt hard to breathe.

I was told I would likely never make it to college. Instead of accepting it, I grew mad enough to push harder, to find new doctors and, two years later, I was accepted into the University of Iowa. It was the closest to "healthy" I could be with two incurable illnesses.

My freshman year was the first time in my life I ever felt normal. I popped into office hours, made new friends, reported for *The Daily Iowan*, and spent every day grateful that I had a chance to complete my education.

When COVID-19 hit, I was frustrated. But it wasn't so hard in the beginning because everyone was experiencing the same struggles. There was a community of empathy at first, but as fewer people cared, I grew more worried that COVID-19 wasn't going to be temporary.

That feeling gained credence when an email popped up in my inbox. The UI was returning to campus. Immediately after that,

there was another email from Student Disability Services, telling SDS students to analyze their options and speak with a doctor before deciding to return to campus.

Because my plans to live off campus fell through, I found myself facing another year in the residence halls: a high-traffic, closely populated area where I felt the risk of contracting the virus was too high.

It felt like sophomore year of high school all over again. I was pushed away from friends and my education while offered a choice to return — and maybe risk my life — or stay and lose even more time than I already had. It was the cruellest kind of decision because I didn't have a choice.

So, I stayed home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I got a job working in the backroom at Target, despite my condition, so I could pay for tuition next semester when I returned to campus. At least there, I felt I could control my proximity to others.

I watched the situation unfold in Iowa; thousands of positive COVID-19 cases, a mask mandate that came too late, bars opening, and social media posts from people I initially liked saying things like, "F Rona" and "I'm not gonna die!"

Each time, I wanted to



Contributed by Rin Swann

Portrait of Rinn Swann

shake them and scream, "You probably won't. But I might."

It was the most helpless I've felt in years. People my age were experiencing what it was like to be me — to have options stolen from you because it risked your health. But they could choose not to be careful.

As the situation worsened because people didn't seem to care, I realized I might risk losing my education again. I did not get loans and pay tuition to repeat my high school experience.

I've loved Iowa ever since I was 17 and attended the Young Writers Program.

But hearing students disregard others, watching the bars reopen, and seeing our administration not punishing those who continue the spread made me feel so disillusioned with the school I still love.

It felt like an ex-boyfriend, saying he loves you but not enough.

I miss Iowa with every fiber of my being. But the pandemic isn't going to allow me to come back as long as bars remain open, vaccines aren't distributed, and people don't feel empathy with those of us who are at risk.

And, as cases climbed everywhere, I realized that

maybe the safest place for me wasn't in America.

After the sixth positive case at Target, I called my sister, who lives and works in the Caribbean. In her country of Antigua, the pandemic was taken seriously, with strict mask mandates and curfews.

Traveling was going to be a risk. But sometimes, you have to take one to feel a little safer.

"I want to come down," I told her. "I want to live with you for the spring semester."

A few weeks later, I was on a plane, traveling thousands of miles away while everyone else started classes.

COLUMN

Iowa Hillel works hard for its students

Although small, the University of Iowa Hillel puts their all into serving their students.



Jenna Galligan /The Daily Iowan

The Hillel House is seen on May 3, 2020.

BY YASSIE BUCHANAN

The Jewish community at the University of Iowa is small, but Iowa Hillel is doing all it can to make a welcoming home for its students. The Hillel fosters an inviting community through a variety of services including weekly homemade

Shabbat dinners, Israeli cooking classes, educational services, and more.

Iowa Hillel is the foundation for Jewish life for students on campus, supporting all sects of Judaism as well as non-Jewish students. Executive Director Ashley Carol-Fingerhut said she works hard to make sure all

students feel welcome and a sense of community.

"We serve to provide a community where students can be unapologetically Jewish," Carol-Fingerhut said. "I went to Washington College, a small liberal-arts school in Maryland. It was a culture shock being the first Jewish person a lot of

students met at my school; I know a lot of students here have similar experiences."

Every Friday, my roommates and I partake in Shabbat dinners. We have also taken cooking classes through the Iowa Hillel, and got soup delivered when we felt sick. Although I am not Jewish, the Hillel is still a

supportive community for my roommates and I and is now like a second home.

Finding a sense of community through Iowa Hillel has been incredibly uplifting for many students. Shayna Ungerleider, a third-year student at the university studying psychology, has been involved in Hillel since her freshman year.

"I grew up without a huge sense of community when it came to my Jewish identity until high school, so when I came here my parents encouraged me to participate in the Hillel. Freshman year my friend and I went to Shabbat dinner," Ungerleider said. "The more I went the more comfortable I was with the people there sharing our experiences in Judaism, for example, saying something in Yiddish where my friends outside of Hillel wouldn't understand. My community at Hillel would."

Running Iowa Hillel has been an incredibly rewarding job for Carol-Fingerhut, especially after her experience as an undergraduate student who built the Hillel at her own college.

"There are so many great parts of my job, from seeing students form friendships to teaching them about Judaism," Carol-Fingerhut said.

"Friday night Shabbat dinners, however, are my favorite time of the week whether they are in person, with students gathering at Hillel for services and dinner, or now during COVID-19, when I get to check in with students as they pick up their Shabbat dinner to go."

Iowa Hillel is constantly working to provide opportunities for students to further engage with their Jewish identities. There is an array of internship and leadership positions within the organization that students are encouraged to take advantage of.

The UI Hillel is a small but mighty organization filled with the most welcoming and dedicated people. All students from diverse backgrounds are welcome to go to Hillel and pick up a homemade meal to share with other students via Zoom.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be difficult building and upholding relationships. Hillel hosts an assortment of online events, including trivia nights, cooking classes, shabbat services, and more, which can all be found on their website. It deserves more recognition for its dedication to students and the UI community.

STAFF

Sarah Watson Executive Editor

Hannah Pinski Opinions Editor

Zeina Aboushaar, Yassie Buchanan, Dylan Hood, Shahab Khan, Ally Pronina, Sophie Stover Columnists

COLUMNS, CARTOONS, and OTHER OPINIONS CONTENT reflect the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Editorial Board, The Daily Iowan, or other organizations in which the author may be involved.

Sarah Watson, Alexandra Skores, Hannah Pinski, Lucee Laursen, and Cesar Perez Editorial Board

EDITORIALS reflect the majority opinion of the DI Editorial Board and not the opinion of the publisher, Student Publications Inc., or the University of Iowa.

EDITORIAL POLICY

THE DAILY IOWAN which has been serving the University of Iowa, Johnson County, and state of Iowa communities for over 150 years, is committed to fair and accurate coverage of events and issues concerning these areas. In an ever-changing media landscape, the DI realizes that an often contentious political climate - paired with the widespread dissemination of news - can cause contentious discussions over some stories. Although these discussions are essential to democracy - and reiterate the importance of the freedom of expression - the DI takes great lengths to ensure that our social-media presence is free of discriminatory remarks, and inaccurate representations of the communities we ardently serve.

GUEST OPINIONS must be arranged with the Opinions Editor at least three days prior to the desired date of publication. Guest opinions are selected and edited in accordance with length, subject relevance, and space considerations. The DI will only publish one letter per author per month. No advertisements or mass mailings, please.

READER COMMENTS that may appear were originally posted on dailyiowan.com or on the DI's social media platforms in response to published material. Comments will be chosen for print publication when they are deemed to forward public discussion. They may be edited for length and style.

ETHICS & POLITICS

Anti-LGBTQ bills pass first legislative hurdles

BY NATALIE DUNLAP
natalie-dunlap@uiowa.edu

The way transgender students can navigate in school restrooms, on sports teams, and in the health care system could be changed by several bills in the Iowa Legislature. Though even supporters of anti-transgender bills, such as one that would ban people from using school bathrooms that don't align with their biological sex, say the legislation is unlikely to pass.

On Feb. 10, Senate File 224, a bill that would prohibit people from using bathrooms in elementary and secondary schools that do not align with their biological sex, passed out of subcommittee. It is one of several bills — House File 187 and 405 contain similar language — proposed this legislative session that would require people to use the bathroom of their biological sex.

Sen. Jim Carlin, R-Sioux City, introduced the bill on Feb. 2.

"The primary purpose of the bill is to protect women and little girls, I'll just flat out tell you that," Carlin told *The Daily Iowan*. "I think the interests of privacy and safety of women and girls should be given priority. It is not an anti-transgender bill. What it is there are men — and this has been shown to be true — that prey upon women and girls in that set of circumstances."

Carlin said he has spoken to and represented women who were assaulted in restrooms by men, though in those cases he said the perpetrators were

not presenting themselves as transgender women. Carlin did not give any real-world examples of people who were assaulted in bathrooms by transgender individuals.

Carlin said in a Feb. 10 subcommittee meeting that he didn't feel there was enough conversation from the public about the privacy and safety of cisgender women.

But bill detractors point out that transgender people are more likely to experience violence when denied access to the restroom of their gender identity.

A transgender person is much more likely to be assaulted themselves, putting themselves in dangerous situations. If this bill is passed it would make it even worse," Sen. Claire Celsi, D-Des Moines, who was also on the subcommittee for the bill, said in response.

In a 2015 report from the National Center for Transgender Equality — which surveyed 27,715 transgender adults in the U.S. in a nonrandom, anonymous, online survey — 59 percent of respondents said they avoided using public restrooms in the prior year themselves because they were afraid of having problems, and 12 percent said they were verbally harassed, physically attacked or sexually assaulted when accessing a restroom in the last year.

According to the 2019 LGBTQ Teen Study, transgender teenagers experience higher rates of sexual assault than cisgender teens, and transgender and nonbinary students



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan
A single user bathroom is seen in the Main Library on Monday. A full list of all single user bathrooms on campus can be found online.

whose bathroom access was restricted experienced higher rates of sexual assault than the average transgender or nonbinary student, according to the LGBTQ Teen Study.

Sen. Jeff Taylor, R-Sioux City, the third subcommittee member, declined to be interviewed about the bill and told *The Daily Iowan* that he prefers to discuss controversial bills directly with colleagues and constituents.

Celsi said as soon as the bill was filed, transgender adults and students, parents of transgender kids, counselors, coaches, principals and superintendents reached out in opposition of the bill.

"School is sometimes a transgender child's only safe

place because they can be themselves," Celsi told the DI. "And if they have trained staff who are sensitive to their predicament at home, that can be their only safe place and a place where they can come out and also use their pronouns of their choice."

Carlin and Celsi do share two opinions of the bill.

First, they both said this would be difficult to enforce. Carlin said he was not looking for "bathroom police."

He also acknowledged there could be some instances of confusion. For example, an adult transgender man, Kristian Maul, told the subcommittee members that this bill would require him to use the same restroom as young

“School is sometimes a transgender child’s only safe place because they can be themselves.”

— Sen. Claire Celsi D-Des Moines

Several bills in the Iowa Legislature have LGBTQ Iowans, allies, and advocates concerned. Some would affect the youngest LGBTQ community members if passed, an unlikely feat.

“The language of the bill simply does not make sense and would produce results that I’m sure no one on the committee or in the public would want a 39-year-old adult man, transgender man such as myself, using the girls restroom at an elementary school.”

— Kristian Maul speaking to subcommittee members

girls when he volunteers at his daughter's elementary school.

"This bill would say that I need to use the girl's restroom when I am there because I am a transgender man, my birth certificate lists me as female, and that is how the bill language reads," Maul told senators on Feb. 10. "So, I urge you all to oppose this, not just for the absurdity and discrimination and pain that it will cause transgender youth, but just for the fact that the language of the bill simply does not make sense and would produce results that I'm sure no one on the committee or in the public would want a 39-year-old adult man, transgender man such as myself, using the girls restroom at an elementary school."

Carlin told the DI that in school communities, people are often familiar with each other, suggesting that people would know who is permitted to be using the restroom under this bill or not. He also said separate, gender neutral bathrooms could be a solution for transgender people but did not say that there could be an expectation for transgender people to not comply with the bill.

Additionally, though the bill would require people to use the restroom based on biological sex, there is no mention of how intersex people — those who are not genetically or anatomically male or female — would be affected by this.

Secondly, Carlin and Celsi both said the bill is unlikely to become law.

Though he doesn't think it will make it out of committee, Carlin said the point of putting this bill forward was to have a

bill introduced and some assigned subcommittee groups, but none so far have been assigned a subcommittee meeting date. House File 272 would remove gender identity as a protected class under the Iowa Civil Rights Act. Senate File 80 would require schools to share student's pronouns with parents upon request. House File 193 would limit transgender youth's ability to access gender affirming medical care. House File 184 would require students only participate in sports teams of their biological sex, or on co-ed teams.

More than a dozen people wanted to speak at the virtual subcommittee meeting for the bill on gender identity in curriculum on Feb. 15. A majority of speakers voiced opposition to the bill, saying limiting education about gender identity would make school a less safe environment for transgender and nonbinary students, putting them more at risk for bullying and harassment.

"LGBTQ students with inclusive curriculum have better academic and mental health outcomes and are less likely to miss school themselves," said Damian Thompson, speaking on behalf of Iowa Safe Schools, whose mission is to create safe spaces for LGBTQ youth.

Speakers in opposition of the bill said learning about gender identity benefits cisgender students, because it can help them understand the experiences of transgender and nonbinary people in their community.

Educators also said they didn't want the state Legislature dictating what can and cannot be taught, instead that

“LGBTQ students with inclusive curriculum have better academic and mental health outcomes and are less likely to miss school themselves.”

— Damian Thompson on behalf of Iowa Safe Schools

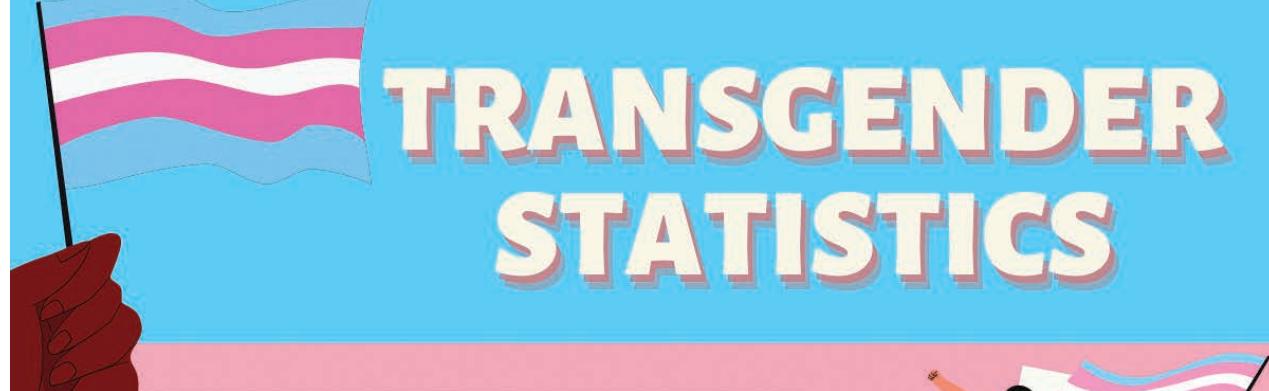
conversation about women and girls that may feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Celsi says even proposing these bills is harmful to LGBTQ people.

"This bill is a complete and total waste of time," Celsi said. "But what it did do was terrify and ... greatly upset anyone who knows a transgender person, or who advocates for a transgender person, or who is a transgender person, to the point where you know I'm getting emails saying, just the presence of this bill in our state whether it goes anywhere or not is deeply upsetting and deeply embarrassing."

Several other bills have raised concern among LGBTQ Iowans. Senate File 167, another bill to recently go through an education subcommittee, would prohibit schools from including gender identity in health curriculum for grades one through six unless the district or accredited nonpublic school obtained written consent from the parent or guardian. Additionally, kindergarten students could not be taught about gender identity at all.

Carlin introduced that bill along with Taylor, Sen. Craig Johnson, R-Independence, Sen. Mike Klimesh, R-Spillville, Sen. Amy Sinclair, R-Alleton, Sen. Ken Rozenboom, R-Oskaloosa, and Sen. Tom Shiple, R-Nodaway.

Both the bathroom bill and the bill on gender identity in education curriculum have yet to be discussed in the full senate education committee after passing out of subcommittee.



*According to a 2020 study from the UCLA Williams Institutes

30% of adults in the U.S. know someone who is transgender

*According to a 2016 Pew Research Center study

1 in 100 births differ from standard male or female bodies

*According to the Intersex Society of Northern America

54% reported being verbally harassed



24% reported being physically attacked

*According to a 2015 report from the National Center for Transgender Equality, most respondents who were out or perceived as transgender while in K-12 school experienced some form of mistreatment

Infographic by Paige Ho

ARTS & CULTURE

80 HOURS

Improving diversity in orchestra

The University of Iowa School of Music and its orchestra ensembles are taking steps to improve diversity within their ranks. Statistics show that America's orchestras and the UI School of Music remain overwhelmingly white.



The University Orchestra, conducted by Megan Maddaleno, rehearses in the Voxman music building on Feb. 15.

BY ABBY MCCUSKER
abby.mccusker@uiowa.edu

Classical music in America has been historically and predominantly white. Orchestras large and small have followed the traditional canon of white European male composers since its inception hundreds of years ago.

At the University of Iowa, which offers students the opportunity to join three different orchestras, the orchestral ensembles have improved diversity in the repertoire performed by students, but the School of Music has still struggled with diversifying the student population as a whole.

The UI fields three orchestras, the All-University String Orchestra, The UI Symphony Orchestra, and the UI Chamber Orchestra. The Symphony and Chamber Orchestras require an audition for entry, but the All-University String Orchestra is open to anyone who wishes to enroll in the course.

None of the orchestras require that their members be music majors, but the Symphony and Chamber orchestras are primarily composed of students from the School of Music.

The All-University String Orchestra has 30 musicians, the UI Symphony Orchestra has

has 59, and the UI Chamber Orchestra has 19.

The All-University String Orchestra has

30

musicians, the UI Symphony Orchestra has

59

and the UI Chamber Orchestra has

19

William LaRue Jones, a UI professor of music and director of orchestral studies since 1997, said orchestra ensembles have made diversity among repertoire a priority this semester.

For Jones, promoting diversity within orchestras begins with the music that is played. He said the importance of diversifying repertoire lies not only in bringing esteem to underrepresented composers, but also in exposing conductors and musicians who play these pieces of music to new ideas they don't have previous experience with.

"Too often repertoire is all based on European men," Jones said. "In order to broad-

en future conductors' minds and provide the orchestra with the opportunities to play different kinds of repertoire, good repertoire, we include music that was written by minority groups."

Doctoral conducting student and teaching assistant Fernanda Lastra noted that Jones deliberately seeks out new or underplayed pieces for the orchestras to support diverse composers.

"If you look at all the repertoire that Dr. Jones has done in the last 10 years, you will always see repertoire that is not often performed," Lastra said. "He is always trying to bring new composers to life."

Doctoral conducting student and teaching assistant Megan Maddaleno said she views this embrace of new repertoire as the catalyst necessary for lasting change in orchestral ensembles, and the music industry as a whole.

"This revival of bringing in all voices is going to result in a musical renaissance," Maddaleno said. "I think we are finding out that there is a lot of untapped repertoire that hasn't yet been discovered that deserves to have some light shown on it. I think this is going to change the way that we think about music."

Diversifying repertoire is just one way to increase diversity within the field of classical music. Another aspect to consider is whether musicians within the ensembles come from diverse backgrounds. A 2016 study conducted by the League of American Orchestras found that the number of African American, Hispanic/Latinx, and other non-white groups in orchestras remain very low.

Between the years 2002 and 2014, the Hispanic/Latino musician population increased marginally from 1.8 percent to 2.5 percent and the African American population remained stagnant around 1.8

percent. Between the years 2002 and 2014, the Hispanic/Latino musician population increased marginally from

1.8% to 2.5%

The African American

musician population

remained stagnant

around

1.8%

percent. The shifts in diversity that have been noticed in orchestras across the country are driven by Asian/Pacific Islander musicians, which have increased from 5.3 percent to 9

percent over the 12-year period.

The population of Asian/Pacific Islander musicians has increased from

5.3% to 9%

over the 12-year period

These statistics are consistent with how Jones and Ramel Price, a doctoral student in the symphony orchestra, view diversity within UI orchestra ensembles. Both said that there is a level of diversity in the ensemble, but that African Americans are underrepresented.

"Ever since I've been here, we've had a large number of students coming from South America and Asian countries," Jones said. "In the School of Music, we've always had a certain amount of diversity. The smallest number of any minority group are the Afro-Americans, of which we

have very few in the School of Music."

Price echoed Jones' statement of the underrepresentation of African Americans in the orchestra ensembles. Price himself is the only Black member of the orchestra.

"Most of the international students that we have are of Asian descent," Price said. "There are also some students from Latin America. I am the only Black person in the orchestra, I am the only one with that ethnicity, but that is a pretty common thing as a violinist. That is what I'm used to seeing."

Rachel Li, an undergraduate member of the symphony orchestra, said that a lot of the diversity within the orchestra comes from the graduate program.

"In a sense, it feels diverse, yet again you have to consider that Iowa is a very predominantly white school, so obviously there are going to be more white members than people of color," Li said. "Most of the diversity comes from the graduate program international students."

According to the UI 2021 spring student enrollment profile from the UI Office of the Registrar, 54 of the 165 graduate-level students studying music are international students.

On the undergraduate level, non-white and international students only account for 1.8 percent of students studying music, music interest, and music education combined.

Simón Zerpa, a doctoral conducting student and teaching assistant, said the School of Music still works to create an inclusive environment.

"I've found the University of Iowa, the School of Music in particular, being very caring about diversity," Zerpa said. "I always felt very welcomed to the school and the orchestra."

Li noted that the environment in the symphony orches-

tra isn't abrasive, but rather one that positively pushes musicians to be better.

"They are very welcoming, and it is a very encouraging environment. It isn't very cut-throat," Li said. "There isn't so much a sense of competition."

Within the orchestra program and the School of Music, there are scholarships for underserved populations. The School of Music website states that talent scholarships from the School of Music are considered based on a student's audition.

The school is also taking steps to diversify its faculty. Within the last one-and-a-half years, School of Music Director Tammie Walker said she has hired one woman and two BIPOC men. There are currently five searches underway, one to specifically hire a faculty member from an underrepresented group, and all with emphasis on a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Jones said the School of Music has been working on a statement called Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging since the beginning of the fall 2020 semester as a response to the Black Lives Matter Movement and other events from the summer.

The UI School of Music diversity trends are similar to the ones found in the study from the American League of Orchestras. Li said she believes the orchestra ensembles are doing what they can to shed light on the issue of diversity in classical music.

The orchestra program is trying. We are playing a lot more female composers and minority composers to bring exposure to them," Li said.

"That's one way we are trying to improve on this matter of diversity. I do believe the program has been doing such things to bring light to these artists way before everything like BLM happened."

LIFE AT THE IOWA

Back to the dining halls we go

Students can soon eat in the dining halls, but feelings about the decision are mixed.

BY TATIANA PLOWMAN
tatiana.plowman@uiowa.edu

For new students living in the residence halls at the University of Iowa, sitting in the dining halls to eat with friends has not been an option this academic year. Residents have become accustomed to taking their food to-go from the dining hall or ordering through the GrubHub option. The option of dining-hall seating will return, however, starting March 1 — though reactions to the decision to reopen seating are mixed.

The only time that I've eaten at a UI dining hall is when I visited campus last year. I remember the bustling noise of students in Burge as they selected their food and enjoyed lengthy conversations at the various booths. I was super excited for when I would be a student at the UI grabbing meals with my friends. Even though COVID-19 had different plans the first semester, I am excited to finally have this option in my second semester on campus.

In an email to *The Daily Iowan*, Dining Director Jill

Irvin wrote that monitoring COVID-19 levels after winter break allowed for the university to move forward with limited seating within the dining halls. The decision was also made based on the treacherous weather conditions that eliminated the option of outdoor seating, she said.

Following the fall 2020 semester, University Housing and Dining sent a survey to all campus meal-plan holders about reopening the dining halls in spring 2021, in search of more student feedback to assist with the final decision. Only 45 percent of meal plan holders answered the survey, with the majority of respondents calling for dining halls to remain closed.

Despite the university's efforts to keep social distancing and COVID-19 guidelines in place, these were constantly broken during every single meal period. At least through my observations in Hillcrest Residence Hall, students gathered in public lobby spaces to eat.

Many of these booths and tables were incredibly close in proximity, and rarely did I see anyone clean their space once they left. With the limitation of one guest per resident in campus residence halls, it's no surprise that

people flocked to these areas when eating in groups.

With the dining hall spaces open, certain tables will be blocked off and constantly cleaned by dining-hall staff. Irvin said staff will clean tables and chairs between each use. These safety protocols are necessary for keeping the dining halls open, she wrote.

UI freshman Grace Ritter began working at the Hillcrest Market Place at the start of the fall semester. She said she thought the dining hall has done a decent job about managing COVID-19 guidelines so far, but she has hesitations about opening up the seating area. Ritter said she doesn't feel comfortable eating in the dining halls and will continue eating in her dorm room.

"I don't think that this is the best decision because a lot of people don't wear their masks correctly to get food," Ritter said. "Having a lot of people congregating in the same area will probably lead to more cases on campus."

Opening the dining halls may help eliminate the amount of trash buildup that has generated within individual dorm rooms because of



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan
A Burge Marketplace worker serves a line of students on Aug. 26 2020. Due to health and safety regulations as a means of preventing the spread of COVID-19, the dining hall process has been streamlined with an advanced registration process and a takeout meal process

the closure of the in-person seating. Hillcrest's outdoor trash dumpster is constantly overflowing with to-go boxes and leftover food — it's a nightmare to look at and smell.

Because food can be taken out of the dining hall, trash and leftovers can also be found in hallways and stairwells. I imagine it's similar for other residence halls.

This issue of waste may not go away quite yet, however, as the dining halls will not be switching to washable plates or utensils once they reopen seating, in order to keep workers from possibly coming into contact with contaminated dishes.

An exciting aspect of reopening the dining halls is the opportunity to revisit the buffet stations. Currently students may only sign up to go into the dining hall once per meal period. Irvin wrote that students will be able to

return to stations but must wear a mask while doing so. While the staff will continue following the "we serve" model, it is still a great addition coming back for students.

I think the reopening of dining hall seating will be immensely positive on campus. Many students have given positive feedback on social media outlets, such as Snapchat, about the decision. The dining halls will suspend in-person seating if the university experiences another COVID-19 spike, Irvin wrote.

I hope the dining halls will remain open for the remainder of the semester. I believe University Housing and Dining will properly handle the COVID-19 guidelines to ensure a safe, but fun meal experience. Without a doubt, I am looking forward to my first meal sitting in the dining hall as an official university student.

WEEKEND EVENTS



THURSDAY 02.25

DANCE/WRITING

- **ART AND THE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: EYES CLOSED OPEN,** 5:30 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DANCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM

FILM

- **UI STUDENT PANEL DISCUSSING BLACK PANTHER: BLACK LIVES ON SCREEN,** 7 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CINEMATIC ARTS



SATURDAY 02.27

THEATER

- **TEN-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL,** 8 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA THEATRE DEPARTMENT

MUSIC

- **KEVIN BURT,** 7:30 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE AND DIVE



FRIDAY 02.26

MUSIC

- **FINE BY ME,** 7 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE AND DIVE, 211 IOWA AVE

- **BOBBY MCCLENDON,** 10 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE AND DIVE

SUNDAY 02.28

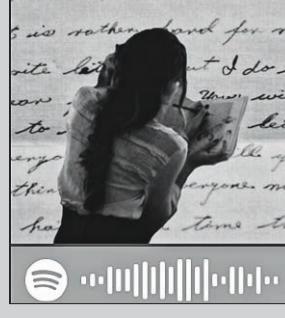
THEATER

- **TEN-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL,** 8 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA THEATRE DEPARTMENT

- **ART AND THE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: RECONCILING THE PAST: TRUTH AND THEATRICAL STORYTELLING INTO A NEW FUTURE,** 4 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA THEATRE DEPARTMENT



YOUR WEEKEND PLAYLIST



Snowy Studies

With midterms on the cold, winter horizon and snow blanketing Iowa City, DI Arts decided to make a playlist that's perfect for you to cuddle up next to your textbook.



SHUFFLE

SONG	ARTIST	ALBUM
Gravity	John Mayer	Continuum
Reunion of Friends	John Williams	Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets
The Longest Time	Billy Joel	An Innocent Man
Monday Loop	Tomppabeats	Harbor
Harry and Hermione	Nicholas Hooper	Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince
Where Is My Mind?	Pixies	Surfer Rosa
Do I Wanna Know?	Arctic Monkeys	AM
Alrighty Aphrodite	Peach Pit	Being So Normal
Stella Brown	Jelani Aryeh	Single
Sunflower	Rex Orange County	Single
Never There	Cake	Prolonging the Magic
The Shire	Howard Shore	Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
Oh Comely	Neutral Milk Hotel	In the Aeroplane Over the Sea
Understand	Greer	Single
Old Love	Eric Clapton	Unplugged
Team	Lorde	Pure Heroine
Karma Police	Radiohead	OK Computer
Day and Age	Julian Lage	World's Fair

REVIEW OF THE WEEK: Firefly Lane

BY PARKER JONES

parker-jones@uiowa.edu

If one word could describe *Firefly Lane*, it would be "frustrating."

The 10-episode drama series released on Netflix in early February, and seems to suffer from a simple case of bad screenwriting, but the underlying cause may go deeper than that.

Created by Maggie Friedman, *Firefly Lane* is based on Kristin Hannah's 2008 novel of the same name, and on the surface, it seems like an intriguing blend of drama and coming-of-age-genres.

The series navigates the lives of two inseparable best friends: the magnetically abrasive Tully Hart (Katherine Heigl) and the overly considerate Kate Mularkey (Sarah Chal-

ke). Following the pair from teenage girls in the 1970s all the way to their mid-adulthood in the early 2000s, the series flashes forward and backward in time throughout each episode, focusing on the highs and lows of their unnervingly sturdy friendship.

The synopsis of the show may seem like an innocent enough premise, but the series is drab in content, and downright cringeworthy in writing. The most interesting timeline focused on the characters' high school years, and even that had an awkward Riverdale-esque feel to it. *Firefly Lane* seems like another case of the book being better than its adaptation, but the show could have been compressed into a simple feature-length movie, and it would have functioned better.

The series is not without a few high notes. The soundtrack consists of mostly 70s and 80s pop hits, which brought some energy into scenes that seemed to drag. The side characters also livened up some scenes that the main characters put a damper on with their often-frustrating personalities, like Tully's inattentive but kindhearted mother Cloud (Beau Garrett), and Max (Jon Ecker), one of Tully's almost-successful love interests.

Tully's character had a more compelling arc than Kate's, whose main conflict involved going through an oddly downplayed divorce with longtime love interest Johnny (Ben Lawson) who is only used as a source of argument between Tully and Kate. For all the potential that

Firefly Lane had to provide a decent portrayal of women on screen, the writing squandered it by having all the main plot points revolve around the two characters' romantic life. Even Tully, who makes a successful career for herself, nearly leaves it all behind to go be with a man she doesn't even love.

Much of the show is set in a time period where it was difficult for women to be truly independent, but even in the early 2000s timeline, there were times when I had to pause and research who wrote each episode because it felt like another case of men writing women poorly. Then I remembered: it's based on a book written by a woman.

The confusion doesn't stop there. On the review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes,

the series attained a "Rotten" 48 percent critic score, and yet has a nearly-doubled 72 percent audience score. For some reason, most of those who aren't critics seem to truly enjoy *Firefly Lane*.

The series is made for and by people from Tully and Kate's generation, including Hannah herself, who is the same age as both main characters. The outdated writing seems to be a product of just that: an outdated mindset. This is not to say older generations can't write well, or can't write women — just that *Firefly Lane* is an example of the downside to having grown up in a time where it was normal and expected for women to focus

on romance and nothing else. The corporately-aggressive Netflix insertion of several insincere "girl-power" moments also cheapened any semblance of progressive writing.

In short, *Firefly Lane* is a concept with potential that was bogged-down by frustratingly poor writing. Thankfully, it hasn't been picked up for a second season — yet.



City hikes employee minimum wage

With an increase in total property taxes, Iowa City is set to implement a minimum wage of \$15 an hour for all city employees.

BY CLAIRE BENSON
claire-benson@uiowa.edu

Iowa City's maximum property tax base will increase for fiscal 2022, funding an increase in the minimum wage of city employees.

The minimum wage for city employees will increase to \$15 an hour, effective in July of this year.

City Finance Director Dennis Bockenstedt said that, with Iowa City expanding and growing, property values have gone up and increased the tax base.

He said increasing the minimum wage for city employees from \$13.25 to \$15 is a relatively low percentage, but when applied to the thousands of hours worked by the city's temporary and seasonal workers, it adds up to be quite the cost.

Despite the raise of the maximum property tax levy, Bockenstedt said the tax rate is actually going down by 10 cents, from \$15.77 to \$15.67.

According to the publication SFGATE, a tax levy sets a percentage rate for imposing taxes, which is then calculated against the assessed value of each homeowner's property according to its value.

With the maximum prop-

erty tax levy, the city is looking to collect as much funding in property taxes as possible to redistribute to the city's budget and fund public services.

Bockenstedt said the levy serves to inform Iowa City residents about how these additional dollars are being used within the city's budget.

"The property values went up, and even though we lowered our rate, the actual dollars we were collecting still went up," Bockenstedt said. "That's kind of what that tax levy identifies — that we lowered our tax rate, but we're still collecting more taxes, and that's what they want people to be aware of."

Bockenstedt said the Iowa City Council is responsible for recognizing and setting priorities as to how the city spends its funding — within the past three years, the council has made it a priority to raise city employees' minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

"The council set this as their goal several years ago so it would be phased in over three years to kind of mitigate the big impact," Assistant to the City Manager Rachel Kilburg said. "They felt that it was a big priority for them; something that



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Downtown Iowa City is seen on Feb. 4.

was important for them to have the city employees be earning a livable wage in the community."

This most recent push by city officials to set the minimum wage for city employees at \$15 comes as some Democrats in Congress are pushing for a \$15 minimum wage nationwide. Johnson County used to set its own minimum wage until a law passed in Des Moines took away the power for local municipalities to set a minimum wage that is different from the state's \$7.25.

"I think obviously businesses are facing a little

more stress than usual, due to COVID-19," Kilburg said. "But, as these conditions stabilize and we're continuing to have this priority placed on social justice and racial equity, then the hope is that other local businesses in the

community can kind of see what City Council has done and use that as a model to implement it in their own businesses when they're in a position to do so."

City Councilor Laura Bergus said by raising the minimum wage by using increased tax dollars, the City

Council wants to show that city employees are valued and important workers, and that they are being treated fairly and compensated with a livable wage and necessary benefits.

"Even though the state of Iowa has prohibited us from mandating increases in the minimum wage and also has prohibited Johnson County from doing that, we want to kind of lead by example," Bergus said. "It's one of many ways in which we show our values through our expenditures of public funds."

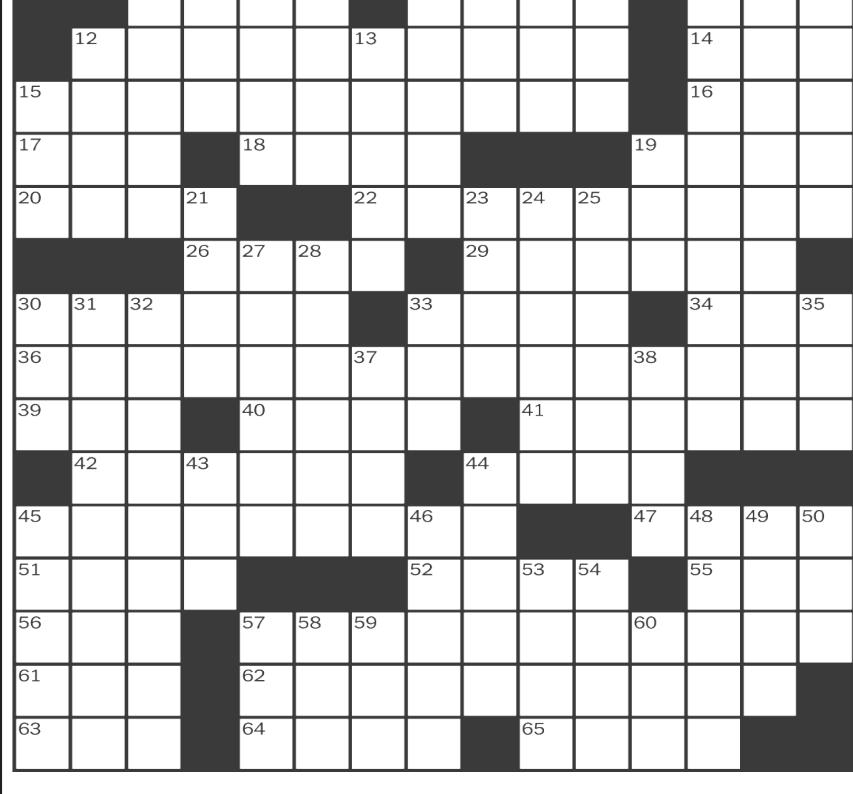


Even though the state of Iowa has prohibited us from mandating increases in the minimum wage and also has prohibited Johnson County from doing that, we want to kind of lead by example."

— City Councilor Laura Bergus

The Daily Break

The New York Times
Crossword
Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0120



- A** 1 "God is the perfect ___": Robert Browning
5 Hormel product
9 "Avatar" f/x, e.g.
C 12 Subjects of some insurance company reports
C 14 An oil, maybe
15 Sharing thoughts like a Vulcan [Detroit, Fargo]
16 Brillo rival
17 Wise alternative
18 What the nose knows
19 Little matter
20 "Iron Lady" of Israeli politics
22 Classic of daytime TV first aired in 1962 [Atlanta, Bangor]
26 Germany's von Bismarck
29 ___ Belt (part of a constellation)
30 Certain ant
33 Lie in the past?
34 Health care hero, for short
36 Red, white and blue land ... or what 15-, 22-, 45- and 57-Across feature?
39 "Shark Tank" network
40 Berry that looks like a blueberry
41 Aircraft company headquartered in Kansas
42 Emmy winner Carl or Rob
44 Pop
45 Arthritis symptom [Altoona, South Bend]
47 Peter or Paul, but not Mary
51 Off-road four-wheelers, for short
52 Pilfer, to Brits
55 Wrinkly-faced dog
56 ___-town (Midwest hub)
57 Sommelier's suggestion [Oshkosh, Omaha]
61 He's a doll
62 Kind of milk
63 End of many an address
64 Granny, e.g.
65 Isle of ___

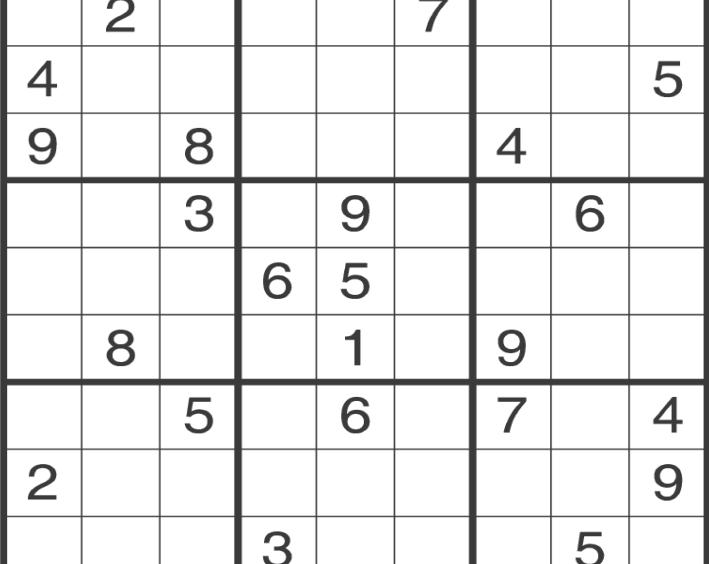
- D** 1 Kind of scheme
2 Bygone
W 3 Muppet who once helped Emeril on "Emeril Live"
4 One up, for example
5 Libya's Gulf of ___
6 Taro dish
7 She's a doll
8 Only ingredient in Accent, in brief
9 They might click on a dance floor
10 Some bachelor party attendees
11 Self proclamation?
12 Mention
13 It helps you see details
15 Shh ... it's the word!
19 Way back when
21 Digital media player since 2008
23 ___ Hall ("The Wind in the Willows" residence)
24 Brand name derived from the phrase "crystallized cottonseed oil"
25 Gave an inkling
27 Leaseholder, e.g.
28 Muscle controlled by the radial nerve, informally
30 Sports grp. founded by Billie Jean King
31 "No, you can't be serious!"
32 Not serving
33 Hawaiian ring
35 Grp. of inspectors
37 Seat of ancient Irish kings
38 "Hurry!"
43 ___ and outs
44 Wading bird with a long, slender bill
45 King of Pop, in tabloids
46 Ham-handed
48 Offer one's two cents
49 Get rid of the ball, in a way
50 One might be deviled
53 Mustang and Pinto, for two
54 Rockette's move
57 Cooking utensil
58 Stop on the road
59 ___-Latin
60 Spanish king

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 2

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**



Save a life. Be a hero.



New Donors EARN over \$290 for 4 donations!



We DO NOT pay by WEIGHT!

grifolsplasma.com

Make an EXTRA BONUS
with our Specialty Programs!
* when applicable

Biomat USA
408 South Gilbert Street
Iowa City, IA 52240
(319) 341-8000



GRIFOLS

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM 10A

hitting at a monstrous .344 clip.

"This season we are a little bit more middle-heavy when it comes to efficiency. In the past we have been a bit more outside heavy," Clayton said. "All three of us middles have done a good job of adapting to that new kind of change in offense."

A lot of the middle blockers' struggles last season can be at-

tributed to their youth. Clayton and Jones were both starting as sophomores last season, and Rients was only a freshman.

The lack of experience was clearly a factor for all three of those players as Clayton and Rients were tied for third in attack percentage on the team with only a .255 percentage last season.

Brown has also expanded the role of the middles, with Rients getting consistent time in the back row as well.

"I definitely enjoy it, and

I am really grateful for that opportunity," Rients said. "I played back row in high school a little bit too, so I have some experience back there."

With another year under their belts this season, the improvement from the position group is a positive sign for a team that is still very young.

If Iowa wants to get itself out of the 2-8 hole it has dug itself early in the year, the middles will have to make even larger improvements in a shorter amount of time.



Casey Stone/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Middle Blocker Blythe Rients serves the ball during the Iowa Volleyball game against Indiana on Feb. 6 at Xstream Arena. Indiana defeated Iowa 3-2.

**ALTERNATIVE
BASEBALL**

CONTINUED FROM 10A

Duncan said he is interested in expanding to the Iowa City area because he wants everyone — no matter if they live in a small or large area — to have access to the opportunities Alternative Baseball offers. The closest team to Iowa City is in Rochester, Minnesota.

As for someone wanting to coach a team, Duncan said baseball and disability experience are huge pluses.

"But it's about having the opportunity to, basically the importance of, having patience with our players and

being willing to learn as much as possible and being the best encouragers possible as well," Duncan said. "And really just having that all-can-do attitude to where the sky's the limit as to what can be really accomplished and that's really true on just about anything."

Typically, Alternative Baseball's teams are made up of about 12 players, but there isn't a roster size limit mandated by the organization. Players usually compete on a high school-sized field.

Duncan hopes the new Iowa City area team is up and running by mid-summer,

and emphasized the need to find a coach quickly.

Duncan said he hopes the new Iowa City area team

can start play by mid-summer, emphasizing that a coach needs to be found, because that's probably when COVID-19 cases will drop down enough to play safely.

Duncan also said that, in the team's first year, there will be a lot of instructions, practices, and scrimmages, and maybe two or three games. In the second year, he hopes the team would have more games, especially with Alternative Baseball looking to also expand to Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Des Moines.

"As they say in the 'Field of Dreams,' 'If you build it, they will come,'" Duncan said. "That's what we tell those who want to be coach/manager in the great state of Iowa."

READ

CONTINUED FROM 10A

two games back-to-back are about as tough as it gets in men's college basketball.

Michigan is playing remarkably well despite going more than three weeks without playing a game because of a COVID-19-caused shutdown. The team stands at 16-1 overall after a road win over the Buckeyes over the weekend (one of the best games of the sea-

son so far). The Wolverines have the No. 7 most efficient offense and the No. 11 defense, per the KenPom rankings system.

That's a tough matchup. And defeating the Buckeyes won't be much easier.

Iowa led Ohio State by 11 points in the second half of the Feb. 4 matchup between the teams at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, but lost by four. The Hawkeyes went through a scoreless stretch and didn't convert late, so they couldn't hold on to the win. I feel more comfort-

able predicting an Iowa win over Ohio State than I do over Michigan.

The Hawkeyes are undoubtedly capable of winning both of these games. But what these two games will show is if Iowa is capable of playing against elite-level competition consistently.

This stretch is the opportunity for Iowa to prove it can beat the best teams in the Big Ten because it is also on the top tier of the conference. Will it? I feel safer predicting a split.



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard CJ Fredrick takes a shot during a men's basketball game between Iowa and Rutgers at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 10. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, 79-66.

HANSON

CONTINUED FROM 10A

Fredrick has missed part or all of this season, Iowa has gone 1-4.

So, with Fredrick on the floor, Iowa is a better team — head coach Fran McCaffery even admitted that in his most recent postgame presser last Sunday.

Specifically, the Hawkeyes have made major strides on the defensive end of the

floor. During its four-game win streak, Iowa has held its opponents to roughly 63 points per game.

Prior to their 79-66 win over Rutgers on Feb. 10, the Hawkeyes had only barred a conference opponent from scoring 70 points on one other occasion.

Fredrick also gives Iowa another weapon to utilize on the offensive end of the floor. The Hawkeyes have lost their most recent matchups to top five teams like Illinois and Ohio State by five points or

less.

On the season, Fredrick has averaged 8.5 points per game. Add the Cincinnati, Ohio, native's average eight points per game to Iowa's total score at the end of the Ohio State and Illinois games, and the Hawkeyes outscore both those teams by the time the final buzzer sounds.

So, Iowa will score plenty of points and get enough stops on defense to overpower both of its highly rated opponents this week.



Contributed by The Alternative Baseball Organization.

Classifieds

319.335.5784 | ADS ALSO APPEAR ONLINE AT DAILYIOWAN.COM/CLASSIFIED-ADVERTISING

HELP WANTED**CUSTODIAN**

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Department of Environmental Services is seeking custodians to provide a safe, clean and healthy environment for patients, guests, visitors and staff of UIHC.

Job duties will include general cleaning duties, cleaning of patient rooms, clinic cleaning, trash removal, restroom cleaning, carpet cleaning, unit/room setups, and other tasks as assigned.

All shifts have a starting salary of \$13.59 per hour. No experience required, but candidates must be professional, punctual and reliable.

If you are interested, please visit the University of Iowa Jobs page at jobs.uiowa.edu and search 'custodian'.

Equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The University of Iowa is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment free from discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, religion, associational preference, status as a qualified individual with a disability, or status as a protected veteran.

CALL THE DAILY IOWAN CLASSIFIEDS TO PLACE AN AD (319)335-5784 e-mail: daily-iowan-classified@uiowa.edu

HELP WANTED**CALL THE DAILY IOWAN CLASSIFIEDS**

TO PLACE AN AD (319)335-5784 e-mail: daily-iowan-classified@uiowa.edu

LANDSCAPERS NEEDED

Country Landscapes, Inc. North Liberty Year-Round & Seasonal positions available.

Novice or experienced.

Must be reliable, have strong work ethic, be 18 or older, have valid driver's license.

Competitive wages. EOE.

Contact Curt at (319)321-8905.

NEWS REPORTER

Wanted. The News of Kalona has an immediate opening for a news reporter capable of doing features stories, cover city and school board meetings, photography and some sports.

Contact Ron Slechta at publisher@thenews-ia.com or phone (319)656-2273.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

City of Iowa City Office of Equity and Human Rights

OPPORTUNITY

Providing Outreach & Education

3rd Floor, City Hall
410 E. Washington Street
Telephone 319.356.5022
TDD 319.356.5493
humanrights@iowa-city.org

CITY OF IOWA CITY
UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE

TAX PREPARATION**TAX PREPARATION AT REASONABLE PRICES**

Specializing in taxes for Faculty and International Students Evening and weekend hours available.

TAXES PLUS

302 Second St., Coralville (across the Strip from Monica's) (319)338-2799

APARTMENT FOR RENT**www.barkerapartments.com****EMERALD COURT**

353 Emerald St., Iowa City

337-4323

2 & 3 Bedrooms

Now Renting

Scotsdale

210 6th St., Coralville

351-1777

2 Bedrooms

Now Renting

Parkside Manor

12 Ave. & 7th St., Coralville

338-4951 • 2 & 3 Bedrooms

Now Renting

CLEANING SERVICES**HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES**

Please call (319)337-6762.

MOVING**MOVING?? SELL UNWANTED FURNITURE IN THE DAILY IOWAN CLASSIFIEDS.****APARTMENT FOR RENT****ALWAYS ONLINE**

www.dailyiowan.com

EFFICIENCY / ONE BEDROOM**Seville**

900 W. Benton St., Iowa City

338-1175

1 & 2 Bedrooms

Now Renting

Westgate Villa

600-714 Westgate St., Iowa City

351-2905

2 & 3 Bedrooms

Now Renting

PARK PLACE

1526 5th St., Coralville

354-0281 • 2 Bedrooms

Now Renting

REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Do you prefer to hold a "real" book?

The smell of fresh ink, or an old classic? If Yes, then we're meant to work together!

HELPING YOU LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE (AND READ BOOKS)!



TERRI LARSON

STLARSON77@GMAIL.COM | 319.331.7879

ANDI MILLER andimillerrealtor@gmail.com | 319.359.9388

LKR LEPIC-KROEGER, REALTORS®

2346 MORMON TREK BLVD, IOWA CITY. I LICENSED TO SELL REAL ESTATE IN THE STATE OF IOWA.

319.351.8811 | LKRIOWA.COM

EFFICIENCY / ONE BEDROOM**TWO BEDROOM****Moving?? Sell Unwanted Furniture in The Daily Iowan Classifieds (319)335-5784****TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT****GRADUATE STUDENTS, PROFESSIONALS AND SMALL FAMILIES**

Townhouse, Two bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, finished basement, W/D. Westside near UIHC/Dental/Law. Professional/family atmosphere with courtyards. No pets. No smoking. Available now.

www.northbayproperties.com (319)338-5900.

Call us for information on spring sublets

Sports

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE IN IOWA

DAILYIOWAN.COM

HAWKEYE UPDATES

Clark claims record 11th Big Ten Freshman of the Week honor

Iowa women's basketball point guard Caitlin Clark won her 11th Big Ten Freshman of the Week honor on Monday after posting 32 points, seven assists, six rebounds, a steal, and a block against Penn State Thursday.

Her 11th time winning this honor means she has set the conference record for times winning the award. The previous record was 10, set by Nebraska's Jessica Shepard in the 2015-16 season.

Clark was also named to the Big Ten Player of the Week Honor Roll, bringing her total Big Ten Weekly honors on the season to 18.

The West Des Moines native's nine 30-point games in the 2020-21 season are the most by any NCAA Division I freshman since the 2009-10 season. That season, Delaware's Elena Delle Donne and Oral Roberts' Kevi Luper posted 30 points in eight games.

With this freshman of the week honor, Clark has the second-most individual weekly awards in a season in Big Ten women's basketball history behind Iowa great Megan Gustafson.

Gustafson had 13 Big Ten Player of the Week honors in the 2018-19 season on her way to being selected as the consensus National Player of the Year.

Clark broke Iowa's all-time freshman scoring record Tuesday afternoon in the Hawkeyes 11-93 loss to Maryland on the road. Jaime Printy previously held the record set during the 2009-10 season. Printy has that record at 82 3-pointers made.

With Clark's 119 assists, she is third on the Iowa all-time freshman assist list. Kathleen Doyle has the record at 148.

The only Iowa freshman to record 400-plus points, 100-plus rebounds, and 100-plus assists is Clark.

Luka Garza named Naismith Trophy Player and Big Ten Co-Player of the Week

Iowa men's basketball All-American Luka Garza was tabbed the Naismith Trophy Player and Big Ten Co-Player of the Week on Monday for his efforts in Iowa's two victories last week.

Garza helped lead the Hawkeyes to a pair of victories over No. 21 Wisconsin and Penn State. The All-American averaged 26.5 points, 9.5 rebounds, two assists, and one block in the two contests.

The native of Washington, D.C., became the Iowa men's basketball program's all-time leading scorer in its last outing against Penn State on Sunday. Garza broke the school's 32-year-old record held by Roy Marble. Garza's layup with 8:18 remaining in the second half was the record-breaking basket. Garza recorded his 31st career double-double and team-leading 10th of the season, totaling 23 points and 11 rebounds, against the Nittany Lions.

Garza totaled 30 points and eight rebounds against the Badgers last Thursday. He was 11-of-19 from the field, including a blistering 4-of-6 from 3-point territory. The 15-point victory at Wisconsin is Iowa's largest margin of victory in Madison since a 15-point win over the Bad-

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is the kind of basketball we signed up for."

- Senior guard Jordan Bohannon on Iowa men's basketball's two top-four matchups this week.

STAT OF THE DAY

9

Positive COVID-19 tests recorded by UI Athletics for the week of Feb. 15.

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE IN IOWA

DAILYIOWAN.COM

Middles make strides

Iowa's middle blockers have struggled in the past, but now they are beginning to make an impact.



Clark



Casey Stone/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Middle Blocker Hannah Clayton hits the ball over the net during the Iowa Volleyball game against Indiana on Feb. 6 at Xtream Arena. Indiana defeated Iowa 3-2.

BY WILL FINEMAN
will-fineman@uiowa.edu

In the 2019 season, Iowa volleyball was, statistically, the worst blocking team in the Big Ten Conference.

Iowa was last in the league in blocks per set and total blocks. The Hawkeyes also gave up the highest opponent hitting percentage in the Big Ten. Iowa allowed teams to attack at a whopping .261 percent.

Iowa's backcourt defense was far from perfect last year, but the numbers didn't lie. Iowa's defensive woes were mainly the result of their frontcourt and middle blockers' struggle to pressure opponents at the net, as the Hawkeyes' backcourt propelled them

to a middle-of-the-road finish in digs.

"We put pressure on them during the offseason last year and even during the fall of just like 'Hey, you guys gotta add more,'" head coach Vicki Brown said.

While blocking is by no means the team's biggest strength this season, Iowa's frontcourt has made strides.

Junior middle blocker Hannah Clayton and sophomore middle blocker Blythe Rients are tied for the team lead in blocks with 36. Both women are .11 block per set away from the league's top 10 in that statistical category.

Iowa is sixth in total blocks and 11th in blocks per set so far in 2020-21.

"We definitely have emphasized [blocking]

throughout this fall knowing that we are going to have to come in strong," Rients said. "More now we're realizing that we need to simplify our blocking game in order to be successful. We need to see the ball and block the ball rather than overcomplicating the whole movement." The most important improvement for Iowa's middles has been their offensive efficiency.

Junior Amiya Jones' return from injury 10 days ago was crucial for the Hawkeyes, as she finished 13th in the Big Ten in hitting percentage last season, achieving a .305 mark.

Clayton, Jones, and Rients take up the top three spots on the team in hitting percentage, with Clayton

SEE VOLLEYBALL, 9A

PCP

Will Iowa win out this week?

Will the Hawkeyes defeat two top-four opponents in one week? Two DI staffers open up the debate.

No - Iowa will not win out this week



BY ROBERT READ
robert-read@uiowa.edu

Nothing like two top-five road matchups in a four-day span to test a winning streak.

The No. 9 Iowa men's basketball team has won its last four games, a rare feat for the program in February. But Thursday's matchup with No. 3 Michigan in Ann Arbor, followed by Sunday's contest with No. 4 Ohio State in Columbus, will both be tricky.

So tricky, that I don't see Iowa winning both games. And that's no slight against Iowa — these

SEE READ, 9A

Yes - Iowa will win out this week



BY AUSTIN HANSON
austin-hanson@uiowa.edu

Is there ever really a great time to be playing the nation's third and fourth-best teams back-to-back? No, probably not.

Regardless, that's the challenge No. 9 Iowa will face this week as it takes on No. 3 Michigan Thursday and No. 4 Ohio State Sunday.

Fortunately for the Hawkeyes, now is as good a time as any to be playing two top-four teams.

Iowa is currently riding a four-game win streak, thanks, in part, to the return of C.J. Fredrick.

Since the sophomore guard came back from a lower leg injury Feb. 2, the Hawkeyes have gone 5-2. In games

SEE HANSON, 9A

League eyes Iowa City

The league is designed for those aged 15 and older that have autism and other special needs.



Contributed by the Alternative Baseball Organization.

BY ISAAC GROFFIN
isaac-groffin@uiowa.edu

The Alternative Baseball Organization — a league for teens and adults aged 15 and older with autism and other special needs — wants to establish a team in the Iowa City area.

The organization's teams play by the same rules as Major League Baseball and stress independence. The league's only adaptation to the traditional rules of baseball is the type of ball used.

Before Alternative Baseball can bring a team to Iowa City, however, it needs a coach. No experience is required for the players.

Diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at 4-years-old, Taylor Duncan — the founder and CEO of Alternative Baseball — faced speech, sensory, anxiety, and other developmental issues growing up in Dallas, Georgia.

Though his mother, teachers, and mentors helped him overcome those obstacles, Duncan was often denied the opportunity to play traditional sports.

"A lot of those coaches seemed to have that negative connotation with autism that we can't do the same things as everyone else," Duncan said. "But that's not true at all. We can. We just want to be supported just like everybody else to be able to get out there and accomplish the things that we want to accomplish too. We've dreams too."

Duncan founded Alternative Baseball to provide opportunities for people like himself because many people that have special needs receive fewer services, if any, from their state after high school.

"For us, being able to fulfill that niche of those over the age of 15, that demographic that's really badly needed to be served in many areas of the country, it's how we become successful," Duncan said. "It's really about being able to provide the service for them to be able to go out and provide friendships with others just like them. Being able to build character, build team chemistry skills, being able to work together as a team."

SEE ALTERNATIVE BASEBALL, 9A