

Making the hospital a home

Patients in the Stead Family Children's Hospital have been isolated in the hospital since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Child Life makes sure those kids can still have a life inside the hospital.



Graphic by Kate Doolittle

BY BROOKLYN DRAISEY
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For kids and teenagers staying in the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, the world narrows. Many patients cannot venture from the hospital for more than a short walk outside, if their treatment allows them to leave their floor at all.

The pandemic has shrunk 17-year-old Shane Mullnix's world to just his hospital room. He occasionally has the opportunity to go on a walk around the floor, but the only sun he's getting comes from the large windows in his room.

That window served as a backdrop during a Zoom interview with *The Daily Iowan*, casting Shane and his mother, Tina Mullnix, into shadow. They sat on a couch together, Shane's face

bare and Tina's covered by a disposable mask.

"He misses his dog, and his room," Tina said about their home in Williamsburg.

Patients in the state's only nationally ranked children's hospital are especially at risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19. Because of that vulnerability, the hospital's normal lively, bustling building has been locked down since the first few cases of the new virus appeared in Johnson County 13 months ago. But Child Life specialists at the children's hospital work to bring a spark of joy into the now-emptier hospital.

Everyone is required to wear at least a mask when interacting with patients, including the Child Life specialists that stop by every day to hang out and play. They also wear face shields and gloves while in rooms.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic came to Johnson County, Uni-

versity of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics has implemented practices to keep patients and staff safe. In the 190-bed Stead Family Children's Hospital, pediatric patients can have parents or guardians come to visit but no other family members are allowed, including siblings. This policy has been in place since March 2020.

Throughout all this, Child Life has continued to engage patients in activities and play, helping them and their families cope with the stresses of their hospital stay. Individual and group programming is created by Child Life to meet the emotional and developmental needs of patients and their families. The resources they provide help kids and families cope with the stresses and emotions surrounding their hospital stay.

Child Life Specialist Lisa Miguel said what Child Life does

SEE CHILD LIFE, 2

UI COVID-19 NUMBERS

Number of self-reported cases for COVID-19
Students: 3 new cases, 3,104 to-date
Employees: 1 new cases, 468 to-date

New cases as of April 2, 2021

Source: UI COVID-19 campus update

ONLINE

WEB - UI opens vaccine sign-up to employees as eligibility expands statewide

Employees can now join students in signing up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine through the University of Iowa, which is receiving a supply of Johnson & Johnson vaccines from the state of Iowa. Staff who wish to be vaccinated through the UI will have to complete a survey through ReadySet, an employee health platform.

DITV

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2021



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New EPB windows sealed

After 55 years, the University of Iowa is renovating the English-Philosophy Building's windows for the first time this summer.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

The English-Philosophy Building at the University of Iowa is pictured on April 5.

BY ELEANOR HILDEBRANDT
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By the end of the summer, the English-Philosophy Building at the University of Iowa will look slightly different. New, inoperable windows will be installed in the five-story building in summer 2021 and 2022.

Since the building's construction in 1966, Assistant Director of Facilities Management Jeff Harney said its windows have never been updated.

"The windows are poor performing for both energy purposes and providing the right setup for energy savings," he said. "They are prone to leaking... There are so many classrooms and 25,000 students go through the building in a week and putting these windows in will save the institution money in the long run."

The construction was identified as an important project in fiscal year 2020 and was bid on in fall 2020, Harney said. During the bidding process, he said the university focused on what the best options would be in the long term, focusing on energy efficiency.

These windows will not be operable, Interim Director of Building Operations and Maintenance Julie Sychra said, which is the standard for UI buildings.

"It's our standard to have inoperable windows because when we think about these large facilities that we take care of, they are different from a home environment," she said. "Part of the operation of the air handling systems comes with testing and balancing and to ensure proper operation. Uncontrolled win-

SEE EPB, 2

Alcohol sales spike in pandemic

Iowa liquor sales have increased dramatically during the pandemic, worrying those who study public health trends about future alcohol-related issues.

BY DREW SULLIVAN
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The state of Iowa has seen an uptick in alcohol consumption during the pandemic. The Alcoholic Beverages Division of Iowa reports that in the 2020 fiscal year, liquor sales increased an unprecedented 8.2 percent from \$339 million to \$367 million statewide.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the pandemic has the potential to worsen alcoholism in the U.S.

Paul Gilbert, an assistant professor in the UI College of Public Health, said even before the pandemic, Iowa was considered a heavy drinking state in a heavy drinking region.

Iowa is consistently above the national average of binge drinking events, Gilbert said.

"It's not necessarily that there are more people who drink alcohol in Iowa than in other states, but the folks who do drink consume larger quantities," Gilbert said. "We're about at the national average in terms of the percentage of adults who are drinkers. But those adults who are drinkers tend to drink bigger quantities than their peers in other states."

Gilbert said he expects data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey to reflect an increase in alcohol consumption when it becomes available later this year.

"I would really expect to see that drinking has gone up, just given what we know from national data and the early indications from sales data and tax data," Gilbert said.

Gilbert said he doesn't think the state is very well prepared to handle an increase in alcohol-related issues and that more treatment resources are needed.

"I think what we need to do is ramp up efforts to provide more treatment opportunities and preven-

SEE ALCOHOL, 2

WORK, WORK, WORK



Ayrton Breckenrige/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa landscape services Pentacrest groundskeeper, Joel Smith, works on the Pentacrest on Tuesday, April 6.

EPB
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

dows that open manually interferes with the testing and balancing.”

However, the air flow is a concern to professors in the wake of a pandemic-inducing virus that is mitigated by good airflow in an indoor space. Associate Professor of Philosophy Asha Bhandary said the current windows are somewhat openable and, with COVID-19, she was hoping there would be a chance for more fresh air in the building after window repairs.

“I was very surprised to hear that the university was sealing the windows because people in the EPB have concerns about the air in the building,” she said. “...Especially with COVID, people have a new awareness of the value of fresh air in buildings and that’s not possible with sealed windows.”

The importance of air quality has been a more important conversation as universities and school districts across the country continue to ensure low levels of transmission in classrooms, said Khaled Talaat, a Ph.D. candidate and research assistant at the University of New Mexico.

Talaat assisted in an October 2020 study focusing on the best way to decrease aerosol transport within classrooms. He said the simple act of

opening windows in warmer months decreases the transmission of COVID-19 drastically – and no other action compares.

“If you have windows open and air conditioning on in classrooms, almost 70 percent of the particles leave the sys-



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

The English-Philosophy Building at the University of Iowa is pictured on April 5, 2021.

tem one way or another,” he said. “If you close the windows, we see 40 percent less particles leaving the system. Closing windows leads to more particle accumulation in the room that deposit on surfaces and some are going to stay there for some time.”

While the spread of COVID-19 was a concern in the project, Sychra said the building has upgraded filters to reduce virus transmission. She said open windows could lead to problems in the winter that the university wants to miti-

gate. The UI in setting course for a return to be a mainly residential campus and return to in-person learning this fall, the UI has told campus it would only hold classes in rooms that meet CDC COVID-19 ventilation recommendations.

“With the winters we have

upgraded filters are helping to reduce the risk of virus transmission, which is better than having the interference of open windows.”

This February, Sychra said the Fieldhouse on the west side of campus saw problems stemming from left-open windows during cold temperatures.

Bhandary said she is thankful that the English-Philosophy Building is being invested in, but she believes there are better options that would improve the building more than inoperable windows.

Simple purchases of heat inflating blinds with openable windows would allow students and professors to benefit from fresh air, she said. It would also allow for energy efficiency, Bhandary said.

“If we renovate the windows with ones that open, we can have the benefits of fresh air which would improve working and learning conditions for everyone who uses the building,” she said. “For this investment, in this landmark building, investing in a different design of windows would be a better choice.”

in Iowa, we see many examples where operable windows are opened and occupants forget to close them, and we end up with frozen pipes and other damage,” she said. “The

ALCOHOL
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

tion to warn people about the potential harms of drinking too much and that there are healthy ways to cope, especially if you’re drinking to cope with stress,” Gilbert said.

UI Director for Student Wellness and Harm Reduction Initiatives Tanya Villhauer coordinates the implementation of the UI Alcohol Harm Reduction Plan and oversees operations for the Partnership for Alcohol Safety.

She wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that the UI has implemented numerous alcohol-preventative measures such as required educational courses for incoming freshmen and students who are caught drinking on campus.

The UI’s Alcohol Harm Reduction (AHR) Plan, first created in 2009 and updated every three years, incorporates a variety of comprehensive and research-based strategies, she wrote.

“Fortunately, much research has been done over the years identifying effective strategies in the prevention and reduction of high-risk drinking for college students,” Villhauer wrote. “A couple of examples include: utilizing motivational interviewing and personalized feedback in Student Wellness consults for students who are at higher risk for substance use and reducing access and availability to alcohol through policies.”

That kind of comprehensive and evidence-based approach is most effective in

solving alcohol-related issues, said Shelly Campo, the co-chair of the UI Alcohol Harm Reduction Committee.

“The approach needs to be comprehensive and evidence-based and not solely focused on things like educating individual students about the harms, Campo said. “Not only do you need to address, you know, knowledge and attitudes among students, but you need to think about the community in which they’re embedded and what kinds of messages and access students are getting.”

Campo said the university has implemented numerous measures to provide students with nightlife activities besides drinking. One example is the Campus Activities Board at the UI, a student-run organization which plans activities and events such as trivia nights and comedy shows as alternatives to binge drinking.

“There’s been a lot of attention over the last, you know 10 to 15 years, about making sure there’s a diverse range of experiences and opportunities for late-night downtown,” Campo said. “The recreation buildings being open later has been a good thing. One nice contribution has been more money put in from student organization funds available for late-night activities.”

Student Wellness offers consultations on alcohol and other drug use. The agency doesn’t offer treatment for substance use dependence but can refer to an agency if treatment is needed. Student Wellness also offers a number of programs designed at supporting students at any stage of recovery, including the UI Collegiate Recovery Program.

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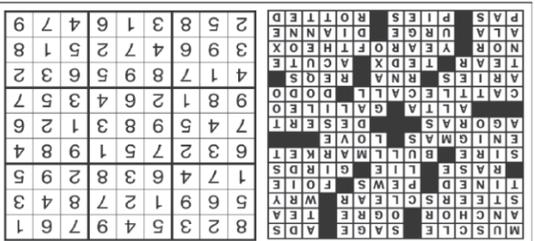
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CHILD LIFE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

hasn't changed during the pandemic — their methodology has.

"A lot of what we do in Child Life as far as education and play has changed, the types of things that we're educating on obviously have changed you know with COVID, like what is coronavirus and, why do I have to wear masks so much ... there's a different focus," Miguel said. "But like I said most of it, you know,

heart attack and doctors implanted a Pacemaker to help his heart beat. He left the hospital again, but had to return in October 2020 when he was diagnosed with coronary heart disease and went back on the transplant list. He's stayed in the hospital with his mom ever since.

Doug, Shane's father, visits when he can in between his work as a semi-truck driver. Shane and Tina Face Time with family, especially Shane's sister, every day. She's visited Shane once in the hospital since he was admitted because of the strict

in the hospital. She spends time with Shane often, and said she mostly lets Shane direct what activities they're going to do. She's worked at the children's hospital for 19 years, and met Shane in her second year.

The two recently finished a painting together, which Shane displays proudly in his room. The painting depicts a boy shining a light into the night sky, revealing the dawn. They are also creating a music video where Shane raps Eminem songs.

"I was just fresh, a couple years into my career when



Contributed

Shane Mullnix and Lisa Miguel have known each other since Shane was a baby, and has supported him as a child life specialist as made frequent trips to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

is pretty similar to what we would do on a daily basis."

Shane said he hasn't noticed much of a change in his individual activities with Child Life. Someone stops by every day to drop off activities or hang out like they always have, offering a distraction from tests, procedures, or just boredom.

"Nothing really has changed [with Child Life coming in], we're just not able to see their faces," Shane said.

"And, well, we know what they look like," Tina joked.

Shane has bounced in and out of UIHC since he was born in 2004 and diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a congenital birth defect that stops the left side of the heart from forming correctly. He received a heart transplant as an infant in 2004, and visited the hospital consistently for his heart.

In 2016, Shane suffered a

visitation limits.

For the past five months, Child Life has stepped up to fill up what gaps they can.

"They're our family away from home, because we can't see my parents or nobody, so they're our family now," Tina said.

Tina has left the hospital only a couple times since Shane was admitted to complete necessary errands, since she needs to isolate as much as possible to keep him safe. She sleeps in his room on a rolling bed, with a curtain hung between them to give some privacy.

She is leaving the children's hospital today, however, to receive her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Child Life Specialist Lisa Miguel is more like family than most in the hospital to the Mullnix's. Miguel has known Shane since he was a baby, and has worked with his family through every stay

I was able to meet Tina and her husband Doug and their brand new baby boy Shane. It's crazy to think that he's now 17 and I'm still here and he still tolerates hanging out with me," Miguel said, laughing.

Miguel and other Child Life Specialists' days begin by checking with hospital staff for any procedures they should be present for, to support patients and keep them calm. They spend their mornings with kids going through blood draws, IV insertions, and exams, and the rest of the day is spent attending to individual kids' needs and preparing programming.

No one day is the same, Miguel said, and she likes it that way. Every patient is unique, so Child Life specialists need to cater to their needs and interests when interacting with them, finding the best way for each patient and family to cope with being in the hospi-



Contributed

Lisa Miguel and Shane Mullnix hold a painting they completed together.

tal.

Before the pandemic, Miguel would blow bubbles with kids to teach them how to regulate their breathing during tests. Now she's limited to using bubble wands that generate bubbles without blowing, which while fun and distracting, don't serve to coach kids through steady breathing.

"I think that's been the biggest thing that I miss out of my toolbox," she said.

She's not the only one who's lost some avenues of helping patients. Music Therapist Kirsten Nelson said she's been limited when trying to make music with kids by how certain instruments and singing can spread particles.

After researching cases of community spread in choirs and bands and learning about what makes potential COVID-carrying particles spread more easily, Nelson and other Child Life Specialists came to the conclusion that they can't sing along with patients, and must sing at a quiet volume with a mask on.

So, Nelson spends her days in hospital rooms singing to patients instead of with them, and at no louder than

a speaking voice. Even special occasions, like holidays and kids leaving the hospital, only allow Nelson to sing on her own. She explained in a hoarse voice that even at a quiet volume, her throat still gets very dry in the hospital after singing all day.

"We just had a goodbye party ... I had to just be the only one singing the song. We can't do the, 'Woohoo, it's your last chemo, or you're going home,'" Nelson said. "So that's been hard for the staff."

Further, all in-person group activities have been suspended since the COVID-19 pandemic began, keeping Shane and other patients from interacting with each other face-to-face. These activities include bingo, arts and crafts, movies, making food or treats, and music sessions.

Before the pandemic, Child Life would hold daily group sessions for patients and their siblings, letting them engage in play and helping them create a community within the hospital. Different days brought different activities, and some groups allowed kids of similar ages to meet with their peers.

Tina said Shane misses attending group Child Life

ties. Before programs are set to begin, sometimes Nelson or others will go from room to room, encouraging patients to hop on if they want to.

"As Child Life Specialists, one of our main goals is to maintain normalcy while children are hospitalized," Child Life Specialist Emily Baxter wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*. "Although the group activities are virtual, we strive to provide activities and games that children would be participating in at home or school."

Each Child Life Specialist the *DI* spoke with agreed that throughout the pandemic, children in the hospital have been incredibly resilient. Despite some challenges at the beginning of the pandemic with patients being apprehensive about not being able to see people's whole faces, they've just gone with the flow, Miguel said.

There are some silver linings to the pandemic for children in the hospital, Nelson said — they can participate in school with their friends online instead of missing in-person classes and using different online school programs.

Shane, however, doesn't participate in school with his



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

The University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital looks down upon an empty street outside Kinnick Stadium on Dec. 5, 2020.



Graphic by Kate Doolittle

activities, since he doesn't get to see kids his own age and socialize.

Group activities are now held through closed-circuit TV. At 2:30 p.m. every day, patients can tune in and participate in games or watch performances such as magic shows, following along or calling in to the specialist running the program if they want.

Thursdays are reserved for music therapy with Nelson, when she leads patients through games like music Jeopardy and music bingo, and holds a monthly ukulele lesson. Each patient gets their own color-coded ukulele to use in their room and play along with Nelson, who strums on her own instrument from an empty room in the hospital.

Living in the hospital can be isolating even without the pandemic keeping everyone separate, Nelson said, so those in the Child Life program do what they can to engage patients in group activi-

peers; he does his 11th-grade classes asynchronously with a Child Life Specialist available to work with him. He's completed five courses during his stay.

Many patients accept illness and the struggles that come with it, Nelson said, so she's seen the kids she's interacted with just put their head down and move forward with determination to march through the pandemic and return to a more normal life.

"I feel like [the kids] cope way better in many ways than some adults I know," Miguel said.

Tina and Shane are still holding out hope of being able to go to his sister's graduation in May, but they aren't sure how safe things will be with the pandemic. While they wait, Shane said, having Child Life Specialists like Miguel around gives him another person to talk to, and laugh with.

"If it wasn't for [Child Life], these kids wouldn't have anybody," Tina said.

Opinions

COLUMN

Raising wages does add jobs

Economic theory tells us that raising the minimum wage in Johnson County is a good idea.



Photo Illustration by Raquele Decker.

BY SHAHAB KHAN
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If Johnson County's minimum wage raise became permanent, you could potentially see an increase in employment.

If you declared this to an economist in the late 1970s, you would have been laughed out of the building. In 2021, things are a little different.

Economists have begun to reassess their views on minimum wage and employment as many have abandoned the idea that the policy would be a job killer.

In fact, based on a new understanding of economic theory, some experts would argue that a raise in the minimum wage would help job growth in certain labor markets. Iowa City could potentially be one of those markets.

To address the concerns of minimum wage opponents, the Congressional Budget Office reported that a \$15 minimum wage would eliminate about 1.4 million low-skilled jobs, as businesses would have to cut back on increased labor costs.

That being said, what the report does not show is the minutiae that explain the uniqueness of individual la-

bor markets throughout the country.

To represent the differences in labor markets, we can apply economic theory to two Iowa towns of the same size, Dubuque and Iowa City, and show how a raise in the minimum wage would create vastly different effects in each town.

When examining Dubuque's labor market, you would see that it has

characteristics similar to that of a competitive labor market in which numerous firms are competing with each other to hire workers.

In a competitive labor market, firms are wage takers, meaning that they will pay employees' wages set by the market.

Therefore, it is best to conceptualize this type of labor market with a supply and demand curve.

In the case of a competitive labor market, a minimum wage would be an effective price floor. This means economics speaks for a government-imposed limit on how low a price can be charged.

As a result, a minimum wage increase would have an adverse effect on employment in a competitive labor market as it would encourage firms to cut back on the amount of labor they hire.

On the other hand, Iowa City's labor market is not competitive.

For example, when looking at the University of Iowa, you find that the university employs more than 27,000 people, or almost half of Iowa City's population.

This labor market is what economists would call a monopsony. This is a market in which one firm, in this case the university, has

a stranglehold over the labor market.

In a monopsony model, the laws of supply and demand do not apply as the monopsony can artificially dictate the wage rate.

To save costs and maximize economic profits, the monopsony is incentivized to set a low wage. This ends up causing unemployment as some people cannot afford to work for low wages.

For this reason, a minimum wage hike would force the monopsony to raise wages for low-wage workers, allowing more people to work.

What this little exercise was meant to show is that an increase in the minimum wage is going to affect each labor market differently.

If a town with a competitive labor market were to raise the minimum wage, unemployment would probably increase because firms do not have much power over the market.

However, in Iowa City, where the economic universe centers around the UI, a minimum wage hike would be a potential game changer that helps get the unemployed back up on their feet.

With that being said about Iowa City, it's all the more reason why Johnson County minimum wage raise should become enforceable.

COLUMN

When you need insulin, you need insulin

Insulin is an essential drug for survival for those with diabetes, yet many have to compromise their health to afford it.

BY YASSIE BUCHANAN
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For those who have diabetes, insulin and glucose level trackers are essential for survival. Yet, they are treated like luxury items. This inaccessibility to insulin comes at the cost of people's lives, and lawmakers need to do their part in lowering these costs.

The rising price of insulin can be attributed to manufacturers, health plans, and pharmacy benefit manager practices. Sen. Chuck Grassely, R-Iowa, said these dramatic increases in prices are because of pharmacy benefit managers getting a percent of the list price, thus hiking up the cost of insulin in order to get more revenue, which PolitiFact Iowa found to be true.

While Grassely has advocated for lower insulin prices, it is imperative with the number of people struggling through the pandemic that we put this issue at the forefront of government work. Passing legislation is necessary in preventing pharmacy benefit managers from treating insulin like a luxury commodity when in reality it is a necessity for survival.

A large number of Iowans have lost their jobs since the start of the pandemic. Since last February, Iowa has seen a 6 percent drop in employment, according to federal data released in mid-March, putting

us at second for largest decreases in unemployment in the country.

With a large number of Iowans still out of jobs and insurance often being tied to employment in the U.S., that means many Iowans are without insurance.

According to data taken by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 42 percent of employers who laid off workers amid the pandemic answered that they continued to pay at least a portion of their workers' health insurance.

With this increase in the number of people struggling financially, it is essential the prices of drugs as life-sustaining as insulin are lowered.

Bryn Shippy, a junior studying psychology and human relations, has felt the effects of high insulin prices. Her freshman year, she went through a complete life change after being diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. After extreme fatigue, weight loss, and other symptoms continued to pile on top of each other, Shippy spent nearly a week in the intensive-care unit following her diagnosis.

Although she considers herself lucky, it hasn't been easy adjusting and keeping up with the cost of insulin and blood glucose trackers like the Dexcom.

"For a month's supply of my Dexcom it costs over \$1,000 dollars, without insurance. We

had to pay out of pocket once before our deductible was met, in turn that means we have to pay for top tier health insurance," Shippy said. "The cost of insulin is roughly the same. There is absolutely no way I could pay for all of this without insurance and help from my parents."

Many people are forced to go without or ration the drug keeping them alive, putting themselves at extreme risk. Going without insulin at any point is incredibly dangerous for someone with diabetes, let alone for extended periods of time.

"If I go even a meal without taking insulin, I will feel the

effects, like extreme fatigue to the point where I can't keep my eyes open, I get chest pains, and trouble breathing," Shippy said.

There is no reason insulin in the U.S. should cost 10 times more than in any other developed nation. Throwing a pandemic into the mix, that has left

thousands jobless, only exacerbates this problem.

At the core of these high costs of insulin and accessibility to health care is a much larger broken system, and Iowa lawmakers need to take immediate action to cap the price of insulin and allow for emergency refills.



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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.

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ETHICS & POLITICS

Too soon to tell if Iowa's red for good

Despite former President Donald Trump sweeping Iowa in 2016 and 2020, political science experts say that Iowa may remain a swing state.

BY LAUREN WHITE
lauren-white@uiowa.edu

In the 2020 election, amid a pandemic, former President Donald Trump won Iowa. Sen. Joni Ernst won reelection, two districts flipped from blue to red, and Republicans gained seats in the Legislature. Iowa, a historically purple state, may look like it will no longer swing, but experts say it's too soon to tell whether Iowa will stay red for good.

Tim Hagle, University of Iowa professor of political science and former adviser for UI College Republicans, said that while Iowans may have favored Republicans in the 2016 and 2020 elections, Iowa is still considered a swing state.

stand back eight feet and put something on a door hanger on a door, and still interact with the voters," Kaufmann said.

Republicans and Democrats both blame the other party for politicizing the pandemic. Kaufmann said Democrats were at fault for not giving Trump a genuine chance to prove himself.

"If you approach something that every single thing that a leader is going to do is going to be absolutely wrong before they even get the sentence finished, that's politicizing it. And I think that's what happened," Kaufmann said.

Hagle said because of Iowa's large number of registered no-party voters, it's nearly impossible to tell



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

President Donald Trump dances during a "Make America Great Again" rally held at the Dubuque Regional Airport on Nov. 1, 2020.

“Yes, we're in a period right now where Republicans have been very successful in the voting booth. But it runs in cycles.

— University of Iowa political science professor Tim Hagle

"Yes, we're in a period right now where Republicans have been very successful in the voting booth," Hagle said. "But it runs in cycles. There was a time when Democrats were in control not all that long ago."

He's referencing the period from 2007-2010 when Democrats held the Governor's Office and a majority of seats in the two legislative branches.

Iowa Republican Party Chair Jeff Kaufmann said the Republican Party was able to get a leg up in the 2020 election because they still campaigned door-to-door while the Democrats decided, he said, to re-engage too late.

Citing the pandemic, many Democrat campaign

which way the votes will always swing. He said "kitchen table" issues are the key — issues such as jobs, the economy, and health care that will determine how Iowans vote, and these issues were even that long ago."

Ahead of the 2020 presidential caucuses, **37%** of registered voters in Iowa were independents.

can numbers up.

Hagle said that because of the increase of absentee ballot-request forms sent by the Iowa Secretary of State's Office during the pandemic, more Iowans registered as either Republican or Democrat since Iowans must claim a party affiliation to vote absentee in primary elections.

Between January and July of 2020, the number of no-party registered voters in Iowa dropped from around 700,000 to 600,000. For the first time in 20 years, there were fewer no-party voters than Democrats or Republicans, Hagle said.

While Iowa has a Republican governor and a Republican secretary of state, the

of the state's demographic makeup — more specifically, the aging rural population. According to the Iowa Data Center, 17 percent of Iowans are over the age of 65, and in 2018, 78.5 percent of Iowans over 65 were registered to vote.

"The question is, ... is Trump on the ballot or not in 2024? That's No. 1, because if he's not, that could be a good year for Democrats because it takes Trump himself to turn out Trump voters," Yepsen said.

As of April 1, there are 687,563 registered active Democratic voters and 715,342 registered active Republican voters, according to data from the Iowa Secretary of State. Yepsen said this is

State Rep. and Iowa Democratic Party Chair Ross Wilburn, D-Ames, said that Republicans used fear and ignored the science of the pandemic, adding that Republican leaders contributed to the politicization of the pandemic.

"That's leadership, or lack thereof, at the top," Wilburn said. "You know, the previous president tapping into fear, tapping into hate, tapping into misinformation, that that was the hallmark of his presidency."

Reynolds never fully shut down the state. Specific hours and capacity of businesses were enforced, but Iowa never had a statewide mandated lockdown.

Reynolds announced the first state of emergency concerning the coronavirus on March 17, 2020, and issued a mask mandate and re-introduced restaurant capacity limits from March eight months later on Nov. 16, 2020.

By November 2020 when the first mask mandate was put into place, Iowa ranked 28th worldwide for number of deaths per 1 million people and was one of the top 10 riskiest states to visit in the U.S. according to *Forbes*.

Tom Rice, a UI professor of political science, said that with the polarization of the pandemic, a wedge was driven between the parties even further.

"So, when you have this deep divide between parties and you lay on top of that, a very emotional and frightening issue like COVID, it can be politicized quickly and it can cause people to even sharpen their division," Rice said.

This wedge has been around for a while, Rice said, because both parties already held a lot of distrust for each other, but COVID-19 allowed the parties to attribute the worst to the other.

Rice said many Democrats were expecting more of a blue wave this cycle because they wondered why anyone would want Trump to return to office, but he knew that may not be the case, and actually expected the state to vote redder this election. He said that the Democrats needed to walk in the shoes of those who supported Trump and try to understand why they support him.

"But I think I've always

tried to understand why we people believe what they believe. That's one of the things that's really made me most curious about politics," Rice said.

Rice said that the pandemic won't have a lasting impact on elections, because the U.S. tends to put these things behind it, and COVID-19 will be largely forgotten or ignored by the 2024 election. No one will be making their decisions in the voting booth based off of how the pandemic was handled, he said, because he expects when life and politics has returned to normalcy, the public will have new issues to focus on.

"I think it's going to change the way our public health people think about governance and we're going to be much more willing this time around, but I don't think it's going to change partisan alignment," Rice said.

Kaufmann said that while the state became redder this past year, the Republican Party will still remain active and diligent to ensure even more Republican votes.

Republicans across the state have mixed views on how Reynolds handled the pandemic. While some believe she applied too many liberal measures, others like how she managed to keep the state open.

Kaufmann said many Republicans and even some rural Democrats have coalesced around the governor. He said the way Reynolds walked the line between safety and keeping businesses open has brought conservative voters together.

"I think that has helped at the ballot box, definitely, I think it'll help for 2022 and I definitely think it was something that helped in 2020," Kaufmann said.

Wilburn said moving forward, his party will focus on building relationships, organizing year-round, and informing Iowans about what laws are actually going through the Legislature.

"Iowans weren't aware of Governor Reynolds giving out no bid contracts to companies that have no history of making PPE. Iowans weren't aware that Governor Reynolds was prioritizing COVID testing on site at the businesses of her larger donors," Wilburn said.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Gov. Kim Reynolds gives the State of the State address in the house chamber of the Iowa State Capitol Jan. 12 in Des Moines.



Tate Hildyard/The Daily Iowan

Local Republicans cheer on as U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) delivers her victory speech at the Moines Marriott Downtown on Nov. 3, 2020.

events were held online or canceled in order to promote social distancing, while many Republican events remained in-person and in favor of interacting with voters.

"They should have been talking to voters, because you could do that safely and could wear a mask and

more prominent during the pandemic.

Ahead of the 2020 presidential caucuses, 37 percent of registered voters in Iowa were independents, making them the largest registered group at around 740,000, and by January of 2021, that number dropped to about 675,000 and sent Republi-

state still has a Democratic state auditor and attorney general which, Hagle said, shows that Iowa is not as deep red as many think it is.

Iowa has had a mix of Republican and Democratic leaders over the last several decades. Tom Harkin, a Democrat, served as a U.S. senator alongside Sen. Chuck Grassley from 1985 until his retirement in 2015. His seat was filled by current senator and Republican Joni Ernst.

Former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack, a Democrat who is currently the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, served as governor from 1999 to 2007. His seat was taken over by another Democrat, Chet Culver, where he served from 2007 to 2011.

David Yepsen, former *Des Moines Register* political columnist and host of *Iowa Press*, said regardless of the pandemic, he sees Iowa becoming redder because

a fairly even split, which is good news for both parties heading into 2022 and 2024.

Muscatine County Republican Party Chair Fred Grunder said he thinks Democrats are becoming too progressive, and that might be a reason why more Iowans decided to vote Republican this year.

"It's pure craziness out there," Grunder said. "I think the people of Iowa, or at least the majority, are tired of it and fed up with what is going on on the left. There are a lot of good Democrats, but they are letting themselves be pushed farther to the left."

Grunder said that the pandemic will be an issue when it comes to voting in the 2022 election and will hurt the Republican Party. He said that Reynolds did not keep the state open enough and Iowans will remember that, and it will reflect in how they decide to vote.

“Iowa's weren't aware of Governor Reynolds giving out no bid contracts to companies that have no history of PPE. Iowans weren't aware that Governor Reynolds was prioritizing COVID testing on site at the businesses of her larger donors.

— State representative from Ames and Iowa Democratic Party Chair Ross Wilburn

ARTS & CULTURE

80 HOURS

3 Dawgs and a Bone jazz for prof

The local group will play original songs written by band member and University of Iowa professor Steve Grismore in a virtual concert on April 11 to celebrate his retirement.

BY ABBY MCCUSKER
abigail-mccusker@uiowa.edu

Jazz takes on a whole new meaning when 3 Dawgs and a Bone take the stage. The band plays a combination of original tunes and altered jazz standards to give a fresh face to a classic genre. This weekend, the band will play a special concert to celebrate one of its member's retirement from the University of Iowa — guitarist and UI Professor Steve Grismore.

The band, composed of a guitar, bass, drums, and a trombone, will perform a live, virtual concert on April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

A professor within the jazz department, Grismore will retire from the UI at the end of the semester and wanted to commemorate his time with the university. The concert will feature originals written by Grismore that veer away from traditional jazz conventions.

UI professor and band member James Dreier described Grismore's music as untraditional, but "with a good vibe."

"Steve likes to use a lot of effects and electronics on his guitar. So, there'll be a lot of interesting sounds coming out of his guitar and inter-

esting music," Dreier said. "His music is wonderful and interesting and very different than what most people would think of if they're thinking of jazz. It's not what you would call standard jazz — I would call it sort of experimental electronic group improvisational jazz with a good groove."

The band is allowed to invite a few people to be present during the performance, but a majority of the audience will tune in virtually to enjoy the music. Scott Barnum, the bass player for the group, said that not having an audience is strange because there isn't the same level of human interaction.

"There are just the people recording and us, basically the bare minimum with no audience," Barnum said. "There's a lack of social interaction with the audience. We can't notice the clapping or listen to the audience. You're just playing to a camera. It's a different experience, mostly because of the lack of the audience."

Grismore doesn't change the way he views a virtual performance. He said he sees every concert the same way — the only thing that changes for him is the time restriction. Because the band in-

cludes an aerosol-producing trombone, they can only perform for 30 minutes, limits in compliance with the school's COVID-19 guidelines.

"We play what we play and with all the craziness around that we just do what we do and if there are 15 or 20 people in the room, that's great and we play for them," Grismore said. "We say 'hi' to the folks online and we just go and pretend like it is a smaller than average concert and play a half-hour. In my mind, it doesn't make me change too much but I'll be glad when it (the pandemic) is over."

The group plays around the Iowa City area and in neighboring states where they can get performance opportunities. Since the beginning of the pandemic, performance opportunities have ceased, leaving a void for the close-knit group, Dreier said. They have had to increase the number of rehearsals they have to make up for the lack of concerts they can perform.

"The biggest change has been no work and no opportunity to play so that has been pretty substantial," Dreier said. "This group has played together for so long and we know each other



Contributed

3 Dawgs and a Bone band members James Dreier, Scott Barnum, Rich Medd, and Steve Grismore from left to right.

so well that the familiarity comes back right away but there is no substitute for

performing on a regular basis, it just gives you a different level of performance,

and when you don't have that opportunity, you suffer the effects of it."

Comedy comes in three's

The trio of one act plays in City Circle Theatre's upcoming show 'Acting Out While Staying In' are written by local playwrights, and aim to provide a virtual, humorous night for viewers



Contributed

Emily McKnight, Greg Tucker, and Melanie Chervek act in the one act play "...And Quarantine Makes 3."

BY JENNA POST
jenna-post@uiowa.edu

City Circle Theatre Company's latest show, titled *Acting Out While Staying In*, aims to provide levity by not shying away from the reality of the pandemic.

Each of the three original plays, all written by local playwrights, feature COVID-19 in some capacity, allowing viewers to laugh at the more absurd aspects of the past year while safely at home.

Brian Tanner, a local

playwright, said he embraced the pandemic in his play ... *And Quarantine Makes Three* because it's a universally relatable experience.

"I wanted it to be a comedy. I certainly didn't want to do it in a way that was making fun of the pandemic," Tanner said. "I think people can identify with this experience, and there's humor to be found in it."

The play follows a couple whose love lives have been strained by the challenges of the pandemic. In an attempt to get away from

"I think being able to adapt to different formats has been kind of nice, because we've been able to really focus on theater without having to take the additional time to travel to rehearsal and having to schedule around that.

— Director Adeara Jean Maurice

it all, they stay at a hotel where they have to deal with a clumsy bellhop.

Tanner said he loves to entertain, and COVID-19 restrictions wouldn't stop him from doing just that.

roles.

For Tanner, the biggest challenge consisted of working without an audience.

"As a performer, you like having that immediate reaction from an audience, so it was a little off-putting to not hear an audience respond to it. You're thinking 'Oh, is this even funny?'" he said.

Director Adeara Jean Maurice also found the lack of audience feedback a challenge but said she and the actors were able to adjust.

Maurice also had to adjust to blocking for camera angles and Zoom rehearsals. While strange at first, she said she got the hang of things quickly.

"I think being able to adapt to different formats has been kind of nice, because we've been able to really focus on theater without having to take the additional time to travel to rehearsal and having to schedule around that," Maurice said.

She found the process to be a fun one overall and felt glad she had the opportunity to return to the stage, even for a limited time. To her, she said, it didn't feel too different than a regular theater experience.

"I think in some ways it was very therapeutic," Maurice said. "[The script] is talking about how crazy things are with the pandemic and that there are so many people not following the rules. I think people who are frustrated with it all can have a release and a nice laugh."

Playwright Christopher Okiishi's show doesn't feature the pandemic as overtly as Tanner's, but it tackles death and how to prepare for it, using the pandemic as an inciting incident.

He said his comedy, *Scandinavian Death Cleaning* was inspired by an NPR podcast that discussed the practice, when the elderly or the terminally ill declutter their homes and decide who their possessions should go to after death to lessen the burden of their loved ones.

Despite the grim subject matter, the show is a comedy. The characters are loosely based on Okiishi himself and his family members, resulting in some touching moments amid the humor.

WEEKEND EVENTS

THURSDAY 04.08

LITERATURE

• **ED PAVLIC AND DERRICK HARRIELL, WRITERS @ GRINNELL**, 8 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY PRAIRIE LIGHTS

MISC

• **DISCOVER IOWA'S BIRDS: INTRO TO BIRDING**, 2 P.M. ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY UI LIBRARIES, SCIENCES LIBRARY



SATURDAY 04.10

THEATER

• **OUTSIDE**, 8 P.M., ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UI THEATRE DEPARTMENT

MUSIC

• **IOWA PERCUSSION SPECTACULAR: LEGACY!**, 3 P.M., VOXMAN MUSIC BUILDING, PRESENTED BY THE UI SCHOOL OF MUSIC



FRIDAY 04.09

MUSIC

• **JORDAN DANIELSON**, 6 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE & DIVE, 211 IOWA AVE

• **ETHAN BELL**, 10 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE & DIVE

SUNDAY 04.11

THEATER

• **OUTSIDE**, ONLINE EVENT, PRESENTED BY THE UI THEATRE DEPARTMENT

YOUR WEEKEND PLAYLIST



Spring Cleaning

Spring is here, and it's time to clean up your playlists! Brush off those old music cobwebs with some fresh hits the *DI* arts staff picked out for you.



SHUFFLE

SONG	ARTIST	ALBUM
MONTERO (Call Me By Your Name)	Lil Nas X	Single
Indiana	Joscho Stephan	Single
The Great Divide	The Shins	Single
deja vu	Olivia Rodrigo	Single
Easy (with Noah Cyrus)	Demi Lovato and Noah Cyrus	Dancing With The Devil...The Art of Starting Over
3 O'Clock Things	AJR	OK ORCHESTRA
Ija	Arya Starr, TOKiMONSTA, Mavins	Single
Siesta Freestyle	Lewis OfMan, Alicia te quiero	Dancy Party
Met Him Last Night (feat. Ariana Grande)	Demi Lovato	Dancing With The Devil...The Art of Starting Over
Serotonin	girl in red	Single
Selfish	Nick Jonas, Jonas Brothers	Spaceman
Levitating	Dua Lipa	Future Nostalgia
You All Over Me	Taylor Swift, feat. Maren Morris	Single
Hold On	Justin Bieber	Single

THIS WEEK IN STREAMING



Mortal Kombat

BY PARKER JONES
parker-jones@uiowa.edu

On April 23, *Mortal Kombat* will make an electrifying streaming premiere on HBO Max.

The action-fantasy film focuses on a washed-up martial arts fighter named Cole, unaware of his mystical hidden lineage or why he is being hunted down by a clan of deadly assassins. On a journey to save his family, he teams up with an array of skilled fighters chosen to battle to the death in a mysterious intergalactic tournament known as "Mortal Kombat."

Directed by Australian filmmaker Simon McQuoid, the film is based on the popular Midway Games video game series of the same name, and adapted for the screen by writers Greg Russo and Dave Callahan. Producers include Todd Garner, Lawrence Kasanoff, and James Wan, with Wan also working on films like *Aquaman* and *The Conjuring*.

The film stars Lewis Tan as main character Cole Young, who was written into

the film and is not featured in the video games. It also sees Hiroyuki Sanada as Scorpion, Jessica McNamee as Sonya Blade, and Josh Lawson as Kano, who all team up with Cole to fight the villainous Sub-Zero, played by Joe Taslim.

There have been 11 main titles in the video game series released periodically since 1992, and with two ill-received feature films based on them, the *Mortal Kombat* franchise has seen its ups and downs over the years. Following the critical and commercial failure of *Mortal Kombat: Annihilation*, released in 1997, the third *Mortal Kombat* film languished in development for a period of nearly two decades. In late 2009, Warner Bros. Entertainment acquired the franchise from Midway Games, and the production process for the 2021 *Mortal Kombat* film began.

With a long wait for another feature film, fans of the video game series have had plenty of time to anticipate the upcoming film, which is sure to bring an energetic feel to an already thrilling story.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK: WandaVision

BY PARKER JONES
parker-jones@uiowa.edu

It's been a long time since a Marvel production last made me so confused. It's been even longer, however, since one made me so excited for the next episode.

WandaVision's pilot burst onto Disney+ on Jan. 15, airing weekly before finishing with a bang on March 5. After just the first episode, which my roommate and I were ecstatic to watch after the first teaser trailers dropped six months prior, it was obvious that Marvel had cooked up something special with the mysterious superhero-sitcom parody.

Focusing on the Marvel Cinematic Universe characters Wanda Maximoff a.k.a The Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen) and A.I.

android-turned-superhero Vision (Paul Bettany), the series tells an unexpectedly dramatic story of the two's relationship, which ended in tragedy when Vision was killed in *Avengers: Endgame*. Mysteriously, the hero was back on his robotic feet for the series, unraveling the first round of questions about the odd little town of Westview that Wanda and viewers have suddenly found themselves in.

Immediately, the series had an air of suspense and intrigue, and felt more like an episode of *Black Mirror* than a Marvel spinoff show. Characters acted strangely unlike themselves, especially supporting characters like nosy-neighbor Agnes (Kathryn Hahn), the investigative Captain Monica Rambeau (Teyonah Parris), and of

course fan-favorite FBI agent Jimmy Woo (Randall Park).

The weekly format of *WandaVision* helped in its success, with the time between episodes leading existing fans to come back while simultaneously intriguing new ones. Similar to how traditional television shows air, Disney+ has made ample use of this format for many of its original streaming series, such as *Star Wars' The Mandalorian* and *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, another Marvel series.

As tidbit after tidbit was revealed throughout the show's airing, the sitcom format and the town's mysterious circumstances were tied together to form a much darker backstory, all created by the hands of the Scarlet Witch herself. Or,

so it seemed at first.

Because the series pulls from the original Marvel comic books *The Scarlet Witch* by Stan Lee and *Vision* by Roy Thomas, fans were immediately investigating older stories that could answer some of the many questions each episode posed, and posting their findings across social media platforms. This resulted in theories upon theories about how the show would tie in bigger comic book characters like the villainous witch Agatha Harkness, or the demon Mephisto, who both originally pose as major obstacles for Wanda.

Additionally, the fan theories also attempted to connect the show's plot to larger future MCU events. As the show is the first of many in the line-up of upcoming Disney+

Marvel series, all part of the cinematic universe's fourth "phase," certain plot points and character development could mean big changes for the franchise. I would argue that because the fans following *WandaVision* were so invested, myself included, it led even more people to become interested and start watching.

In the end, the series proved to be one of the best I have seen in a long time, not just as a product of Marvel or Disney but as a piece of media in general. Entertaining, suspenseful, mysterious, and heartfelt, *Wan-*

daVision encompassed all traits a good show should possess, leading me to expect bigger, better, and more magical media from Marvel in the future.





Behind the creative scenes

University of Iowa students in the creative fields on campus shift from collaborative, crowded environments to isolation.

BY JENNA POST
jenna-post@uiowa.edu

A year into the pandemic, employees have been asked to take furloughed time, transition to an online work environment, and take extra steps to protect themselves from COVID-19 at work. Those who work behind the scenes in the creative world at the University of Iowa are no exception.

UI sophomore Maggie Bashore began painting sets for the Theatre Department as a freshman. She attended a campus job fair in 2019, where she first heard about the gig. Bashore painted as a hobby in high school and needed a job, so it fit, she said.

"I really liked that job," Bashore said. "I get paid, but I also go there to relax. It's my

time to go do art for the week, and I'm really lucky that I get paid to do that. It's kind of my happy place."

Bashore said before the pandemic she'd hoped to work more hours at the Theatre Department this year. Instead, her hours were cut significantly because of fewer in-person shows, forcing her to search for a second job in addition to painting. But Bashore's loss is more than monetary — she misses her creative outlet.

"I'm looking for another job right now, which is really stressful because I'm super busy with an unpaid internship and student orgs at the same time, so having to get a second job on top of that and online school seems kind of impossible, but I have to,"

she said. Bashore said despite her manager's best efforts to give her more hours, it's not enough. The Theatre Department's filming schedule is more time consuming than putting on live shows, she said, which has prevented the department from doing as many full, on-stage productions as usual and added more "dead space" between each show in need of a set.

Bashore's job isn't the only one that's lost — hopefully temporarily — some of its more enjoyable elements.

Eden Smith, a senior who spent two and a half years working at the equipment checkout station in the Becker Communications building, said her job has also changed. "We're doing the best we



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Senior and journalism major, Eden Smith, puts equipment away in the Becker Communication Studies Building at the University of Iowa on March 31.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Senior and journalism major, Eden Smith, helps a student return equipment in the Becker Communication Studies Building at the University of Iowa on March 31.

can, but there's only so much we can do with COVID to make it feel like it did before," she said.

She and her coworkers often bring in food to celebrate birthdays and holidays, she said, illustrating how close the tight-knit group had become. While she still describes her work environment as positive, she said pandemic safety precautions created a sense of distance — metaphorically and literally.

Where there used to be long lines of film and journalism students, there's — for now — a relatively empty room equipped with cleaning supplies and plexiglass. A socially distanced worker checks out or returns equipment to one student at a time, while others thoroughly clean their camer-

as and microphones.

Students who don't need advanced equipment are able to check out equipment for the whole semester, unlike in previous years, but advanced film students can't do the same because the gear they need is limited and expensive.

All aspects of art have felt the blow of the pandemic and I, as an arts reporter at *The Daily Iowan*, also have witnessed a drastic change in my reporting. Creative fields, theater, film, and all other art affected by the pandemic also changes my job. Reporting on the arts and culture scene this year means covering venues closing, artists making difficult and unwanted changes to the ways their art is produced, and people struggling to find work.

While I still try to focus on the triumphs of art-makers, the arts have undoubtedly suffered exponential losses during the pandemic. The COVID-19 questions always have to be asked in my interviews. The work and the people are noticeably less joyful than in my reporting last year.

While I'm thankful that there's still art being created — even in a limited capacity — I miss speaking to artists who don't have to make concessions in their art because of the pandemic. I also miss talking with these artists in person, where our conversations felt more, well, personal.

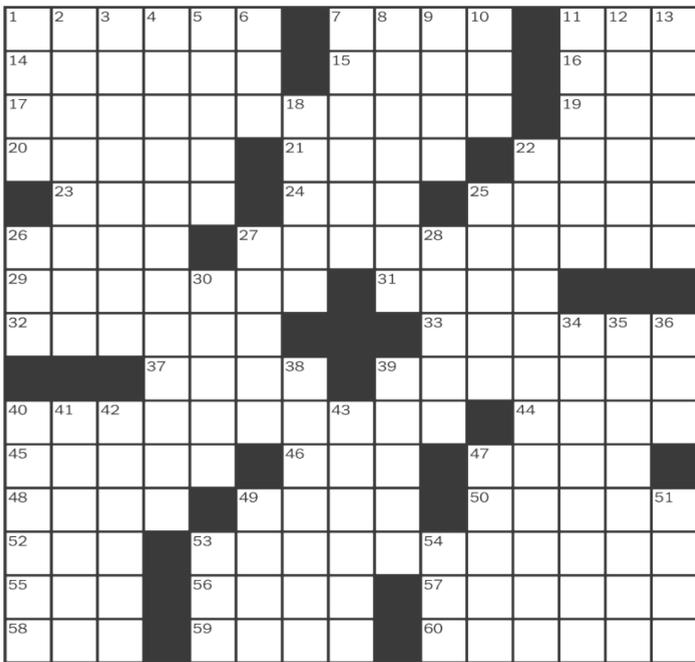
I hope we can all return to witnessing talented Iowa artists in-person, and soon.

The Daily Break

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 2

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0303



- 28 Most frequent, statistically
- 30 Crowded places on Black Friday
- 34 Well-spoken
- 35 Energy source in Minecraft
- 36 As well
- 38 Measure of land
- 39 British pharma giant, informally
- 40 Quick snooze
- 41 Colored part of the iris
- 42 Jeweled bands
- 43 Chef José ___, founder of World Central Kitchen
- 47 Ten to one, for one
- 49 Actress Hatcher
- 51 Marked, as a ballot
- 53 "That's right!"
- 54 Prez who delivered some 22-Downs

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

8	3		9	7	
			2	8	
1	4	3			
			1		4
7	4				2 6
9		1 2			
			9	6	2
	6	7			
	8 3				9

Across

- 1 Body part whose name comes from the Latin for "little mouse"
- 7 Wise
- 11 Sponsored posts, essentially
- 14 Symbol tattooed on Popeye's forearm
- 15 Fairy tale villain
- 16 Gossip fodder, slangily
- 17 Avoids, with "of"
- 19 Sardonic
- 20 Like forks
- 21 Places for congregations
- 22 With 9-Down, goose liver
- 23 Knock down, in Britain
- 24 A white one might be excused
- 25 Steals (oneself)
- 26 Father
- 27 Good time on Wall Street
- 29 Mysteries
- 31 Letter sign-off
- 32 Ancient Greek gathering places
- 33 Hot spot
- 37 Utah ski area
- 39 The Father of Modern Physics
- 40 Open audition, informally
- 44 Bird in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"
- 45 First astrological sign
- 46 Biochemical messenger
- 47 Academic musts, for short
- 48 All-out sprint
- 49 Lecture series focused on "ideas worth spreading"

- 50 Sharp
- 52 Partner of neither
- 53 2021 in the Chinese zodiac, with a hint to 17-, 27- and 40-Across
- 55 Styled after
- 56 Push
- 57 Senator Feinstein
- 58 Faux __
- 59 Traditional Thanksgiving desserts
- 60 Went bad

Down

- 1 Naval post
- 2 Like the Energizer Bunny
- 3 Imagined development
- 4 Pizzeria tool
- 5 Singer with the 2017 #1 album "Melodrama"
- 6 Nervous speech fillers
- 7 Cirque du __
- 8 Not look bad after all this time
- 9 See 22-Across
- 10 Suffix with racket and rocket
- 11 In action
- 12 Ridicule
- 13 Speak, old-style
- 18 Mediocre grade
- 22 Noted evening radio address
- 25 Rapper in court
- 26 Wine-dark __, metaphor in Homer's "Odyssey"
- 27 Wallop

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WRESTLING
CONTINUED FROM 10

Yes
Austin Hanson

With the 2020-21 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship now in its pocket, Iowa wrestling has reignited its dormant dynasty.

Until the 2020-21 NCAA Championships, the Hawkeyes had not claimed a team title

since 2010 — quite a drought for a program that has won 24 national championships over the last 46 years.

Given that, I expect Hawkeye head coach Tom Brands to bottle up the magic Iowa had in 2020-21 and use it to win a second-straight national title in 2021-22.

Brands has gone on a national championship streak before, rattling off three-straight team titles from 2008 to 2010. The Hawkeyes also went on a nine-title run from 1978 to 1986 and a six-championship streak

from 1995 to 2000.

With all of Iowa's 2020-21 lineup expected to return in 2021-22, there's no reason to believe the Hawkeyes won't repeat as national champions.

Two of Penn State's 2020-21 national champions — 141-pound Nick Lee and 174-pound Carter Starocci — defeated Hawkeyes in the NCAA Championship finals.

Lee defeated Iowa's Jaydin Eierman in overtime, and Starocci downed Iowa's Michael Kemerer in sudden victory.

Kemerer and Eierman had defeated Lee and Starocci at the 2020-21 Big Ten Championships just two weeks prior.

Had Kemerer and Eierman won their NCAA Championship finals matches against Starocci and Lee, Penn State would've finished about 27 points away from first place with just two national champions to its name.

If Iowa wins close matches against foes like Lee and Starocci in 2021-22, it should have no problem claiming another NCAA championship crown.



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Iowa midfielder Esme Gibson and Maryland midfielder Emma Deberdine run toward the ball during the first quarter of a field hockey game between Iowa and Maryland on April 2 at Grant Field.

DUNNE
CONTINUED FROM 10

tains to tactics and gameplay.

"Being a soccer player my whole life allowed me to improve my game sense and my field awareness for field hockey," Dunne said.

Dunne said she was encouraged by the support she received from Cellucci's coaching staff when she decided to keep playing both field hockey and soccer throughout high school.

While Dunne did have colleges offering her chances to play both sports post-high school, Dunne said she liked the field hockey offers she received more than the soccer offers.

In her first season as a Hawkeye, Dunne has started

every game. Dunne does the little things that aren't reflected on the stat sheet to help Iowa win, starting attacks by winning possession back for Iowa or making a pass that eventually leads to a goal.

Dunne and the No. 2 Hawkeyes will take the field next weekend in Evanston, Illinois, for a top-five showdown with No. 3 Northwestern.

The two squads are currently tied for second in the Big Ten Conference standings. The Hawkeyes and Wildcats' two-game series next weekend will serve as their last before the regular season ends and the 2021 Big Ten Field Hockey Tournament begins.

Iowa and Northwestern trail only North Carolina in the National Field Hockey Coaches Association's top 25 poll, and four of the poll's top ten teams hail from the Big Ten.



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's 174-pound Michael Kemerer grapples with Illinois' DJ Shannon during a wrestling dual meet between Iowa and Illinois at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 31. No. 1 Kemerer defeated No. 26 Shannon by major decision, 10-2, and the Hawkeyes defeated the Fighting Illini, 36-6.

FOOTBALL
CONTINUED FROM 10

After playing in all 12 games in 2017 as a freshman and starting two of them, Hankins has been a constant starter at cornerback for Iowa the last three seasons. Hankins' return means Iowa's secondary brings back all five of its starters from last season — including Moss (senior), free safety Jack Koerner (senior), strong safety Kaevon Merriweather (junior), and Dane Belton (junior), the team's starting cash.

UNI transfer Xavier Williams is in the mix to receive playing time in the secondary as well.

Hankins said Tuesday he returned to address parts of his game he still wants to improve on, including being more physical with receivers. But while he works to better prepare himself for a professional career, Hankins also serves as a leader in Iowa's experienced secondary.

"Matt has so much knowledge of the game," Merriweather said. "When he's in, when he's out there, he pretty much knows what's going on before the play even starts. He sees the stances of the receivers and he will tell me things sometimes [before the play]. I think having that experience of playing in this conference, that will really help our defense."

With Hankins locking down his side of the field, Iowa's defense was among the best in the country last season.

The Hawkeyes allowed the fewest yards per play (4.34) in the country and finished with the nation's sixth-best scoring defense (16 points per game allowed). And the secondary was a big factor in that. No Power Five program has more interceptions the last four seasons than Iowa.

Heading into 2021, the team's experienced defensive backfield could be all the more important considering what Iowa lost up front from 2020. All-American defensive tackle Daviyon Nixon declared for the

NFL Draft, and second-team All-Big Ten defensive end Chauncey Golston and starting defensive tackle Jack Helfin also moved on.

Zach VanValkenburg (who, along with Hankins, is one of four Iowa seniors to return for another season) is the only holdover from last season's starting defensive line.

"The front guys help us out by getting pressure, make sure we don't have to stay in coverage as long," Koerner said. "It's our job to sort of reciprocate that back to them. If it takes them a little bit longer to get to the quarterback, then it's our job to stay in coverage a little longer and go up to fill the run gaps. But I don't foresee any issues."

Tuesday marked Iowa's fourth practice of the spring session.

Iowa's corners and safeties, given the starting experience the group has, may be further along than other position groups. But, in Hankins' mind, and with defensive coordinator Phil Parker preaching that even an experienced group can still



Shivansh Ahuja/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Jack Koerner celebrates an interception during a football game between Iowa and Michigan State in Kinnick Stadium on Nov. 7, 2020.

get better, Iowa still has room to improve on the back end. And plenty of time to do it.

"We've got a lot of potential," Hankins said. "It's spring practice, it's not going to be perfect.

We don't have a game next Saturday. But it's looking good so far."

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

UI athletics reports five positive COVID-19 tests out of 325 conducted

The University of Iowa athletics department conducted 325 COVID-19 PCR tests for the week of March 30-April 4 and received five positive tests and 320 negative tests.

As part of Iowa's return-to-campus protocol, testing began on May 29 and includes athletes, coaches, and other staff members. A total of 432 positive tests, 18,010 negative tests, and one inconclusive test have been received.

According to a release, following a positive test result, protocol established by UI Athletics and medical staff, including contact tracing procedures, is being followed to ensure the safety of all UI Athletics student-athletes and staff. This mandatory protocol also includes isolation for the individuals who test positive, and quarantine for those individuals who might have been exposed to someone with the virus.

The Big Ten Conference began daily rapid antigen surveillance testing on Sept. 30. Any positive tests identified through the surveillance testing process would be confirmed through a PCR test and reflected in the numbers listed above.

The department does not provide a testing breakdown by sport or specify if an athlete or staff member has tested positive.

Iowa volleyball's 2020-21 season officially comes to an end

On Sunday, the NCAA released its 2021 Division I Women's Volleyball Championship bracket. Absent from the list of teams competing this post-season was Iowa.

So, Vicki Brown's second season as Iowa volleyball's head coach has officially come to a close.

The Hawkeyes went 4-16 in 2020-21, defeating Indiana, Rutgers, Northwestern, and Michigan State once each.

The last time Iowa finished a season with a win percentage over .500 was 2015-16, when the Hawkeyes were 19-13 at the end of the year.

Brown's record at the helm of Iowa volleyball is 14-37 overall and 8-32 in-conference.

The Hawkeyes' 2020-2021 campaign did, however, mark the first time Iowa competed at Xstream Arena in Coralville.

Completed in Summer 2020, Xstream Arena will serve as Iowa volleyball's home for the foreseeable future. After a year of action, the Hawkeyes' record in their new home is 2-3.

In 2020-21 Iowa volleyball played all of its games against Big Ten Conference opponents because of COVID-19. The Hawkeyes' schedule pitted them against league opponents in two-day weekend doubleheaders throughout the season.

Next season, Hawkeye seniors Brie Orr, Halle Johnston, and Griere Hughes will all return to court. Iowa's three seniors opted out of the 2020-21 season shortly after COVID-19 forced the Big Ten and NCAA to postpone their volleyball seasons from the fall to the spring.

NFCA TOP 10

1. North Carolina
2. Iowa
3. Northwestern
4. Michigan
5. Louisville
6. Liberty
7. UConn
8. Syracuse
9. Penn State
10. Wake Forest

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When things go bad, it's something that we don't let it get to us and the team just never stops fighting."



Iowa baseball junior Dylan Nedved on his team's resiliency

STAT OF THE DAY

161

Combined wins in singles and doubles earned by Iowa tennis' Kareem Allaf

Hawks' backfield a no-fly zone

After returning all five of their starters in the secondary from last season's squad, the Hawkeyes will be led by an experienced defensive backfield next season.



Katie Goodale/The Daily Iowan

Illinois wide receiver Casey Washington (left) is tackled by Iowa defensive back Matt Hankins (right) during the second quarter of the Iowa v. Illinois football game at Memorial Stadium.

BY ROBERT READ

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Iowa cornerback Matt Hankins started the Hawkeye football team's Tuesday Zoom conference by asking reporters questions of his own.

"I wanted to switch it up a little bit today," Hankins said to the two dozen reporters on the video call. "I've got a few questions for you all today. How did every-

body get into reporting? Was this always your dream?

After Hankins heard the answers he was searching for, the Lewisville, Texas, native began fielding questions, including what career path he wants to get into, presumably after an NFL career — his dream. Hankins, a business major, envisions himself working in the clothing industry, while also earning a living through the real-estate market and investments.

But all that will have to wait at least one more year.

Hankins announced in January that, because of the additional year of eligibility provided by the NCAA this season amid the pandemic, he will return for the 2021 season, his fifth as a Hawkeye.

"It's really nice having a super senior I guess you could call it," cornerback Riley Moss said. "You can never have too many leaders out on the field."

SEE FOOTBALL, 9

Fresh first season

Thanks to her athleticism, freshman Harper Dunne has made an immediate impact on the Iowa Field Hockey team.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Midfielder Harper Dunne works the ball up the field during a field hockey game between Iowa and Michigan at Grant Field on March 12.

BY BENJAMIN PALYA

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For Iowa field hockey freshman Harper Dunne, the transition from high school to college field hockey has been smooth. So far this season, the midfielder from Fort Worth, Texas, has regularly helped the Hawkeyes initiate their offense and snuff out opponent attacks.

According to Hawkeye head coach Lisa Cellucci, Dunne found success in college so quickly because she was so superbly conditioned right out of high school.

"What set Harper up for success right away was her fitness," Cellucci said. "She came into Iowa City super fit and was top three in the team fitness test. She's able to run with the fastest attackers in the country and has displayed a lot of poise."

Dunne cited her physical fitness as one of the few things she could control during the early portion of the COVID-19 pandemic when many athletic facilities

and recreation centers were closed.

So, while Dunne couldn't sharpen many of her tangible field hockey skills, she knew she could put a lot of work in to ensure that she was one of the fittest athletes on Cellucci's team when she arrived in Iowa City.

"I knew the players were going to be incredible, so the thing I could control the most at home was ensuring I was entirely ready to handle things physically," Dunne said.

Dunne said she has always been physically fit as she played soccer and went out for track in high school when she wasn't playing field hockey. As a high school soccer player, Dunne earned her fair share of awards, including all-region and all-conference honors.

Soccer benefitted Dunne beyond physical conditioning too. While field hockey and soccer are two completely different sports, they are similar as it per-

SEE DUNNE, 9

PCP | WRESTLING

Will Iowa repeat in 2021-22?

Two DI staffers debate Iowa wrestling's odds to repeat as national champions in 2021-22.

BY EVAN BRUNER

AND AUSTIN HANSON

daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

No

Evan bruner

The 2021-22 college wrestling season will be unlike anything the sport has seen before. The NCAA's decision to grant all of its 2020-21 winter sports athletes an unconditional extra year of eligibility will allow all of 2020-21's seniors to return next winter.

So, rosters will be larger and, perhaps, older than ever before.

The NCAA's decision also allows the Hawkeyes to bring every wrestler from their 2020-21 national championship team back for another wrestling season.

Although the Hawkeyes will likely be the odds-on favorite to win an NCAA title again next season, there are certainly some worthy challengers that stand in their way.

In 2021-22, it will be nearly impossible for Iowa to overlook Penn State. The Nittany Lions have won eight of the last 10 NCAA Championships, and four of their wrestlers won individual national titles in 2020-21.

In 2020-21, six wrestlers in Penn State's lineup were freshman — the most of any top-placing team at the NCAA Championships.

Highly coveted high school recruits like 125-pound Robert Howard and 149-pound Beau Bartlett cracked the Nittany Lions' starting lineup as true freshmen last season, and they will only get better as their careers continue.

Additionally, Penn State has emerged as an early favorite to land this season's 165-pound NCAA Division I Wrestling Champion Shane Griffith. Griffith will likely transfer from Stanford before next season as the institution elected to cut its wrestling program at the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

With some improvement at their less established weights and the potential addition of Griffith, the Nittany Lions — who finished just 15 points behind the first-place Hawkeyes at the 2020-21 NCAA Championships — could challenge Iowa in 2021-22.

SEE WRESTLING, 9