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Celebrating Juneteenth, striving for progress

Organizers with the Iowa Freedom Riders say it's important to mingle and celebrate with the community as part of their activism against racism and police violence.



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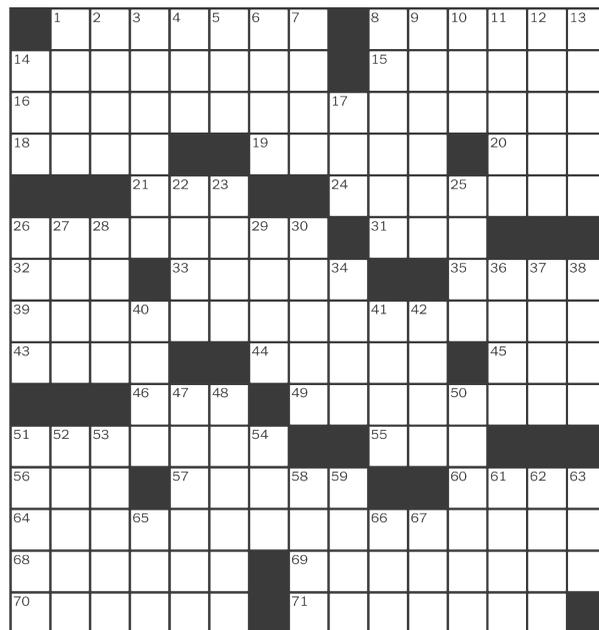
Cover design by Kate Doolittle

Cover photo by Kate Heston: Attendees at a Juneteenth celebration hosted by the Iowa Freedom Riders get their food on June 19, 2021.

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0519



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 11

Across

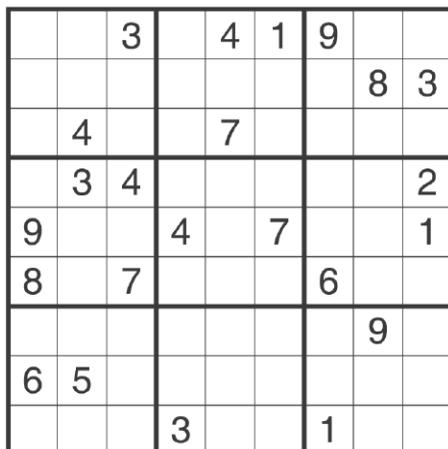
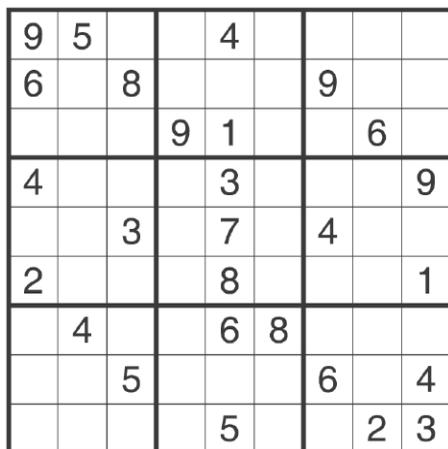
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GRIFOLS

Rejoice and rest: community celebrates Juneteenth

The Iowa Freedom Riders hosted a Juneteenth event featuring food, music, face painting, and free books to honor the day.



Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan

Kennisha Entsminger, an organizer with the Iowa Freedom Riders, speaks at a Juneteenth celebration hosted by the Iowa Freedom Riders on June 19.

BY NATALIE DUNLAP
natalie-dunlap@uiowa.edu

For more than a year, the Iowa Freedom Riders have been organizing and protesting against systemic racism and police violence. While hosting a Juneteenth event alongside volunteer partners, they were able to focus on

celebration as music played and kids enjoyed eating cotton candy and having their faces painted.

“Even in our protests, you would see us dancing, chanting,” IFR organizer Ala Mohamed said. “We never stop trying to find joy within the dark days and within the hard times.”

IFR organizer Kennisha

Entsminger said the work of the Iowa Freedom Riders can take a mental and physical toll.

“Some of our members get arrested and we have to deal with bailing them out, and all of that work — while important — can be draining, especially for those who are marginalized, and just have to live day to day with all of

the repercussions that that has,” Entsminger said. “So having celebrations, and a time for the community to come together for something positive where we’re able to laugh and meet, and just mingle with people in the community, that’s super important.”

A couple hundred people were in and around the Hilltop Pavil-

ion in Morrison Park on June 19 evening, with attendants ranging in ages. Ala Mohamed said she wanted kids and their parents to have fun and relax while learning about Juneteenth, which became a federal holiday on June 17.

SEE JUNETEENTH, 4



Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan

Radi Barkat, known as DJ Wavy, plays music at a Juneteenth celebration hosted by the Iowa Freedom Riders on June 19.

JUNETEENTH CONTINUED FROM 3

Rania Mohamed was sitting in the park with her kids when organizers told her there would be a celebration that night.

“She said that this day is really nice and she’s enjoying her time [with] her kids,” her friend translated for *The Daily Iowan*.

The celebration featured hot food, cotton candy, face painting, free copies of the book “We Do This ‘Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice” by Mariame Kaba, and a proposal from the event’s DJ to his girlfriend.

Juneteenth recognizes June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, were informed that the Civil War had ended and that they were free.

“It’s basically seen as Emancipation Day, although the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863,” Entsminger said. “This is the day that enslaved people found out about the Emancipation Proclamation and started the beginning of the freeing of enslaved people. It’s a very commemorative day just to recognize being freed from bondage.”

This year, Juneteenth became a federal holiday. Locally, Iowa City Mayor Bruce Teague proclaimed that for the first time in the city’s history, Juneteenth will be officially observed. The John-

son County Board of Supervisors proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth Freedom Day in the county, as well.

“While we are glad to be having some recognition, it’s extremely frustrating to have all of these symbolic victories that don’t actually make things better for Black people whether it’s locally or nationally,” Entsminger said.

One issue IFR has been outspoken against recently is the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle in the Johnson County Sheriff’s department. Entsminger and Mohamed men-

tioned SF 342, also known as “Back the Blue Act,” which was recently signed into law by Gov. Kim Reynolds, as another policy they say is harmful to Black people. The law increases penalties

for protestors.

Reynolds also recently signed HF 802 into law, which prohibits divisive concepts from diversity, equity, and inclusion training in schools, universities, and government institutions.

Entsminger gave a speech to the attendants about the history of slavery in the U.S. and Juneteenth. They asked the crowd how the federal recognition of Juneteenth helps descendants of enslaved people today.

“Is slavery eradicated as long as prisons, wealth inequality and human trafficking exist? What does Juneteenth mean to the millions of incarcerated Black people being held in bondage, in cells on stolen land that their ancestors cared for?” Entsminger said.

Entsminger added that Black and Brown essential workers will likely still have to work while many white people in corporate positions will get paid time off for Juneteenth.

They said white people should use the day to educate themselves and give money toward Black-led groups like the Iowa Freedom Riders.

“Black people, please take the time today to rejoice and to rest,” they said to the audience. “Burn down the plantation, and happy Juneteenth.”

“Black people, please take the time today to rejoice and to rest. Burn down the plantation, and happy Juneteenth.

— IFR organizer Kennisha Entsminger



Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan

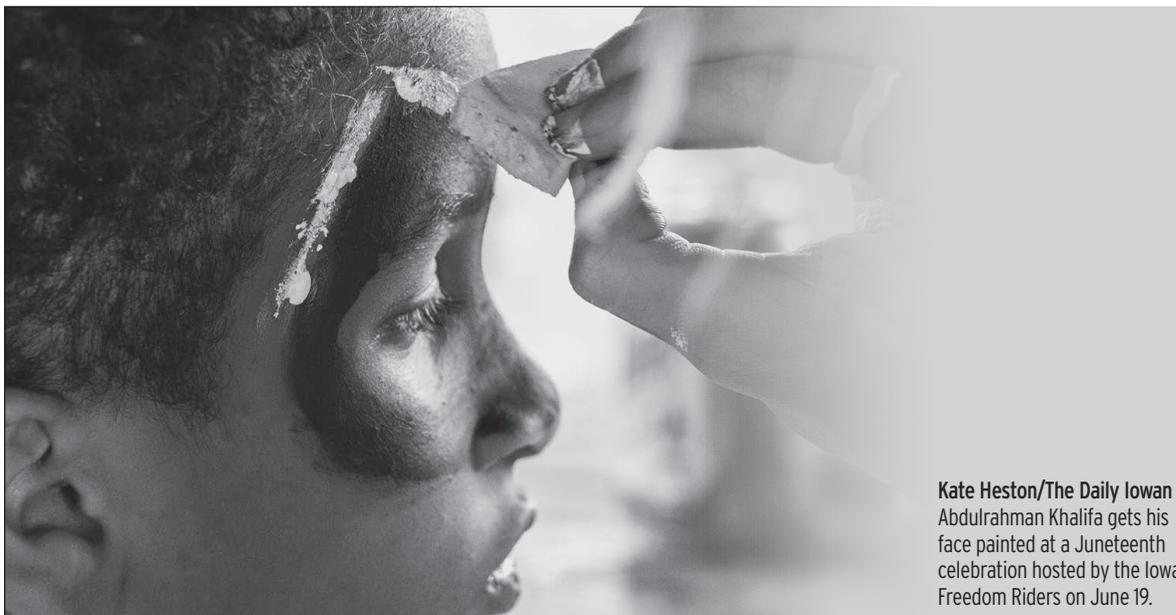
Ala Mohamed, an organizer with the Iowa Freedom Riders, poses for a portrait at a Juneteenth celebration hosted by the Iowa Freedom Riders on June 19.



Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan
Tasabeeh Khalifa poses for a
portrait with her face painted
at a Juneteenth celebration
hosted by the Iowa Freedom
Riders on June 19.



Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan
Radi Barkat proposes to
Ayonna Mckithen during
a Juneteenth celebration
hosted by the Iowa Freedom
Riders on June 19.



Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan
Abdulrahman Khalifa gets his
face painted at a Juneteenth
celebration hosted by the Iowa
Freedom Riders on June 19.



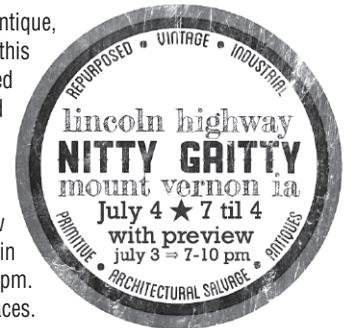
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UI alum brings kickboxing to Coralville

Jennifer Hoeger said her education in business at the University of Iowa guided the process of opening her local gym.

BY JAKE OLSON

jake-olson@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa alum Jennifer Hoeger said it took almost two years to prepare her business, 9Round Fitness, for opening. After COVID-19 stalled the launch of the gym, the doors opened to the public on June 1.

“We did all of our business training virtually and overall had a lot of setbacks,” Hoeger said. “Even the paint companies could not make us paint because of the Texas freeze... but we are finally here.”

Hoeger graduated from the UI in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in dance and entrepreneurship and still resides in Johnson County.

“I love this area and the Iowa City community, there is so much to like and so much to do here,” Hoeger said.

The 9Round Fitness franchise specializes in a 30-minute, full-body workout following the completion of nine different fitness stations.

Hoeger’s 9Round location in Coralville is the first in the area and one of more than 600 locations worldwide, a release from 9Round said.

Carter Krall, a personal trainer at 9Round who just graduated from the UI, said instead of heavyweights and running, the workouts are focused on kickboxing and cardio, a unique aspect to the local gym.

“I saw 9Round as a great opportunity for me,” Krall said. “I have been a personal trainer but wanted something more than the typical working with the same people every day doing the same workouts.”



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

9Round 30 Min Kickboxer Fitness Owner Jennifer (Jen) Hoeger takes timeout to pose for a picture on Monday, June 15. Hoeger is also one of the trainers at 9Round.

Krall said anyone can join the gym no matter their skill level.

“People come to me, and I get their workout in,” Krall said. “I see new people every day with each person having a different skill level.”

Karli McClure, a UI student and new trainer for the 9Round

team, said she likes learning more about kickboxing while meeting new people.

“After working with Jennifer from dance, I decided to join the team. I love fitness and helping people,” McClure said.

Hoeger said her experience at the UI motivated her to start

this 9Round location near Iowa City.

“The UI taught me so much about the business side of things,” she said.

Hoeger said she wants this gym to bring people from the Iowa City area together in a fun workout environment.

“What I want people to know is that this is a place where anyone can come in, my goal is to get people in the gym with all different skill levels,” Hoeger said. “I want people to get stronger both physically and mentally. At the end of the day, it is for the people.”

Queer Exchange group helps LGBTQ Iowa Citians feel safe

The Iowa City Queer Exchange Facebook group, founded by Claire Czerwionka, was created in 2016 and has over 900 members.

BY SABINE MARTIN
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When Claire Czerwionka moved back to Iowa City from Chicago, she noticed the absence of an inclusive online group for the LGBTQ community. Czerwionka was part of the Chicago Queer Exchange Facebook group.

Czerwionka, a social worker and active member in the local LGBTQ community who hosts drag shows at Iowa City's Studio 13 nightclub, decided to create a safe online space for queer Iowa Citians. She founded the Iowa City Queer Exchange Facebook group in 2016, which now has over 900 members.

"We post on there and try to

keep members up-to-date on current and future Pride events or things about LGBTQ-friendly businesses around Iowa City, and just kind of create a safe and inclusive environment so that, you know, people can get their needs met," she said.

Czerwionka said the group has helped the local LGBTQ community find safe dentist locations, nail salons, and Facebook Marketplace trades.

"The group also functions as kind of a Craigslist, because sometimes folks, especially folks who are trans, get anxious about just showing up somewhere to buy a couch," Czerwionka said.

Iowa City Queer Exchange member Frankie Kuehnle joined

the group soon after it was created. Kuehnle, an Instructional Track Lecturer at the University of Iowa College of Nursing, has used their health care background to help members of the group find health-related recommendations like doctor referrals and dentists.

"Since I've lived here, it feels like I have a decent amount of knowledge of the area, so if somebody is moving and looking for a place, I like that I can point people to safer places," Kuehnle said.

The group allows people from rural communities, who might be more isolated, to have access to LGBTQ resources, they added.

Katie James, another member, said she joined the group

when she was looking for an LGBTQ-friendly dentist office for her family.

"It's sad that our group kind of has to exist, but I'm really glad that it does," James said. "It would be really nice if all dentists knew how to respect pronouns."

James, who works at a clothing store, said she refers members of the Iowa City Queer Exchange to places they can reliably shop in the area.

"People will say, 'Hey, I'm a trans-femme person and I'm looking to start wearing bras, and I am scared to go somewhere, does anybody know where I can go and try on bras and not feel self-conscious?'"

Since the founding of the Io-

wa City Queer Exchange, a Des Moines equivalent was created a year later, in 2017. Nationally, there are groups such as Queer Exchange New York, Queer Exchange Minneapolis and St. Paul, Queer Exchange Boston, and Queer Exchange Philly, along with many others.

Czerwionka said the Iowa City area needs more BIPOC and LGBTQ public and family-centered businesses and events.

"I think there are periodic attempts to cater to BIPOC folks, but nothing consistent," Czerwionka said. "People say a lot that we miss opportunities for family-friendly events and so that's something that I've been committed to."

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BUSINESSES

‘What is the solution... if not housing?’

The 501 Project follows the Housing First model, which provides access to affordable housing with reduced barriers to entry.

BY NATALIE DUNLAP
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Shelter House is building a second Housing First facility to address a shortage of housing options for Iowa City residents experiencing homelessness.

The 501 Project, located right next to the Shelter House emergency shelter on Southgate Avenue in Iowa City, will provide housing to 36 single adults.

Crissy Canganelli, the executive director of Shelter House, spoke to a crowd of Shelter House staff, volunteers, partners, and stakeholders at the construction site on June 17.

“The 501 Project is a demonstration of our commitment and progress as a community to realign resources from both public and private sectors from managing homelessness to ending it,” Canganelli said. “For what is the solution to homelessness, if not housing?”

The Housing First model assists people who are chronically homeless by giving them access to affordable housing with reduced barriers to entry.

Shelter House opened its first Housing First facility — Cross Park Place — in January 2019.

Several years of research by Shelter House and other community providers before Cross Park Place opened found that the average cost for four people to cycle through different public services while remaining homeless is about \$140,000 per person per year, Canganelli said.

These services can include, but are not limited to, law enforcement, health care, and social services.

“It was through that experience not only that we educated ourselves about Housing First, but our community... and offering housing intervention through this very low



Kate Heston/The Daily Iowan

Volunteers from Shelter House, Iowa Finance Authority, and Hodge Construction are seen building walls for the 501 Project on June 17 in Coralville. The 501 Project will bring the community a “Housing First” shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

barrier method of saying, ‘You’re homeless, you need housing, we have this housing unit through this broad spectrum of stakeholders and partnerships, we’re able to support and guarantee that housing and sustain it,’” Canganelli said.

Canganelli said in Cross Park Place, which has 24 units, the total population they house went from spending thousands of nights in jail to just a handful.

She said their stability, health, and wellness increased and the cost of their emergency health care services was reduced by about 90 percent.

Canganelli told the crowd on June 17 that she has seen people’s lives change on an individual case basis with the Housing First model.

“[I am] not trying to say that people give up drinking, [or] all of a sudden become med-compliant,” she said. “It is a gradual process and people are self-identifying their

growth, but the biggest thing, first and foremost thing, is that they’re staying housed.”

When Cross Park Place opened the unit waitlist, about 90 people signed up, she said, so Shelter House knew there was an urgent need to make more units available.

Shelter House received a National Housing Trust Fund loan of \$2.7 million and over \$1 million from the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County, but Shelter House itself is also taking on commercial debt so the building can be available as soon as possible, Canganelli said.

Canganelli said she expects the construction to last until May or June 2022.

For individuals to qualify for residence at The 501 Project, they must meet the Housing and Urban Development definition of chronically homeless, as The 501 Project collects project-based vouchers.

Unlike other housing solutions, Housing First does not require ten-

ants to be sober or engage with any services to receive housing. Canganelli said support services will be available for individuals, but their use isn’t a requirements as a condition of tenancy.

“Housing First guarantees an individual access to housing, and it also guarantees the access to the support services that may be necessary to retain that housing to address health issues and regain health and wellness, but it does not require a tenant or participant to engage in those services,” she told *The Daily Iowan*.

Tenants will pay 30 percent of their income for rent, and rent is guaranteed through the project-based voucher. People with no income will pay zero dollars in rent.

Brycen Myers, a 2020 University of Iowa alum, started working in the street outreach position at Shelter House in April, after working as a housing case manager.

He said the Housing First ap-

proach allows Shelter House to assist the widest range of people possible.

“Here we believe that housing is a human right, so we start with the house,” Myers said. “And then if you choose that you want to address your substance abuse later, then we will help you do that. If you choose not to, that is completely fine because you still deserve housing.”

In attendance at the ceremony were several local elected officials, including Johnson County Supervisors Rod Sullivan and Jon Green, Iowa City City Councilor Janice Weiner, and state Sen. Joe Bolkom, D-Iowa City.

“The need is enormous everywhere in Iowa for affordable housing. [The legislature] made a few good moves this session, but it’s a problem that’s not going to go away with one session’s worth of work,” Bolkom said. “So, I hope we can get more resources behind organizations like Shelter House and on the Housing Trust Fund here in Johnson County.”

The 501 Project building will be three stories tall. The first floor will consist of offices, clinic spaces, congregate areas, and the second and third floors will have 36 total units for single adults.

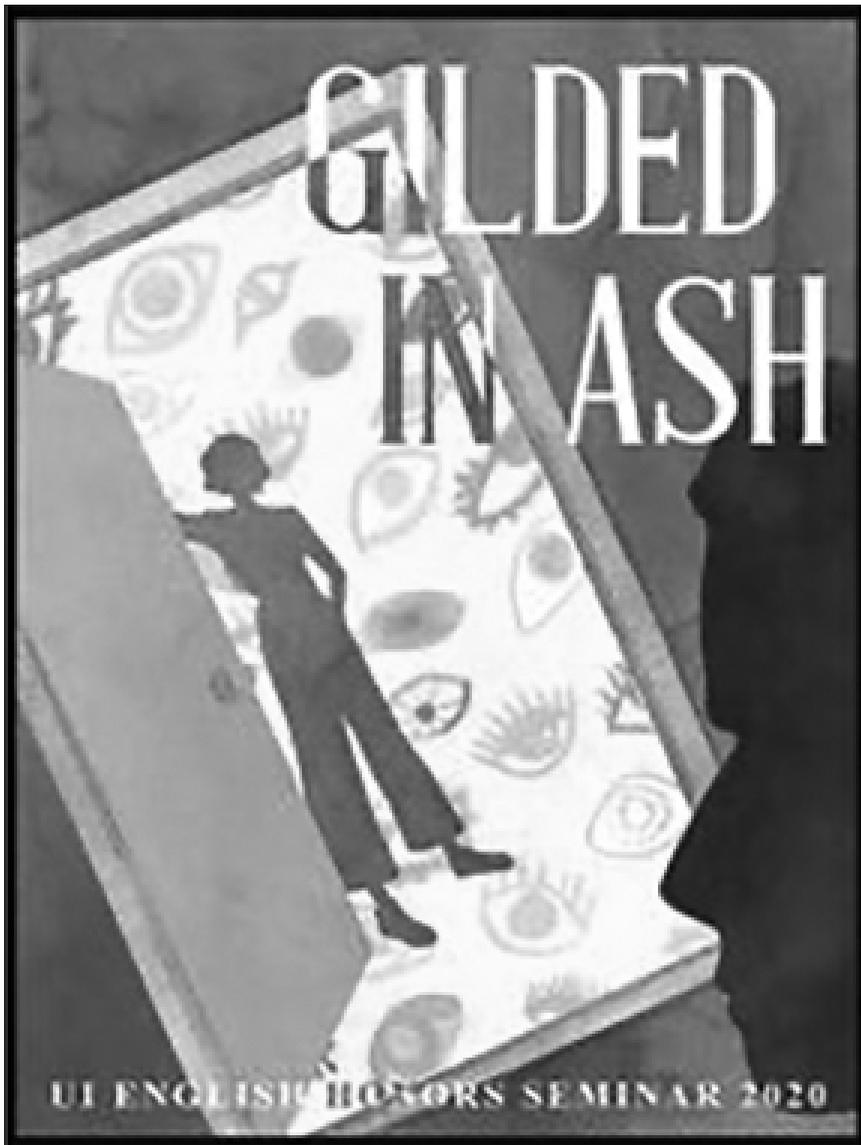
Steve Schornhorst, the construction manager on the Shelter House’s board, helped build some walls for the building at a volunteer build before the ceremony.

He worked in construction for 43 years, but he hasn’t physically pounded nails for 30 years, Schornhorst said. Knowing his efforts are going to an important cause makes it worthwhile, he said.

“It makes the work easy,” he said. “I know it’s going to help people, that’s why I’ve been on the board for so long.”

The Great Gatsby's 21st Century Remake

Nineteen UI students signed a film option for their novel "Gilded In Ash," a modern rewrite of *The Great Gatsby*.



Contributed

BY DELANEY OREWILER
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The 19 University of Iowa students responsible for writing "Gilded In Ash", a nine-chapter, 21st century fanfiction rewrite of *The Great Gatsby*, recently signed a film option for their work.

"Gilded In Ash" was created in UI professor Harry Stecopou-

los' Fall 2020 seminar: *The Great Gatsby* 2.0 and published in January. Since *The Daily Iowan* last spoke with those involved in the project last December, students of the seminar have signed a film option with producers Mikaela Beardsley and Jamie Gordon. The group is working collaboratively toward drafting a screenplay, finding talent, and eventually

minute details and figuring out the legal language which is kind of like a puzzle. That portion was really fun for me."

After creating the Old Sport LLC., the authors of "Gilded In Ash" read through an option that Beardsley and Gordon had written up. After reviewing the option, the students wrote up a couple of things they would like

selling or funding the project.

The process of reaching a film option was incredibly rewarding, the UI students said, but it also carried with it some unforeseen challenges.

In order to sign the film option, the authors had to form an Limited Liability Company (LLC). This is the portion of the process the undergraduate students found the most difficult. Jack Donley, a UI senior, worked with his parents to create the LLC.

Donley said that while it was difficult, his favorite part of the film option process was creating the Old Sport LLC.

"I really enjoyed writing the operating agreement for the LLC," Donley said. "I like the

to change and sent it back to the producers. Once all of the terms were agreed upon, the Old Sport LLC. signed the film option.

The producers who worked on the film option, Beardsley and Gordon, said that they were interested in *Gilded in Ash* almost immediately. For Beardsley, the choices the authors made impressed her, both in what was change, and what remained the same.

"I was really excited that the original novel was still recognizable. History has been written by too few voices and we need more voices in the telling of our human experience," Beardsley said. "But we also need to always remember what was written before. To take a classic like this and to reimagine it while keeping in mind that we haven't told everybody's stories equally is really cool."

UI junior Olivia Tonelli said this drive for the choices the authors made, such as changing *Gatsby* from a straight white man to a lesbian Black woman, put voices that were not written into the original story at the forefront. This drive for diversity in their novel came from a desire of the authors to see themselves represented in their work.

"All of the characterization in the novel came out of a place where each individual in the classroom wanted to see themselves represented in the novel," Tonelli said. "For *Gatsby*, it began

with us wanting to change the love story around a little bit and take it in the direction of a queer romance."

UI senior Katelyn Peters said she's learned a lot from writing the novel as well as working on the film option.

"Even though we're college students and young, that doesn't mean that we can't really engage in complex topics and discuss the more prevalent and larger scale issues in the world," Peters said.

From here, the producers will work on the screenplay with two UI students from Stecopoulos' class. They hope to have a finished draft by the end of the summer, and after that will work on attaching talent, including directors and stars. Raising money or selling the story in order to set up the project is the next step. According to Beardsley, nothing in the film industry is ever guaranteed, but signing the film option is a good start.

This upcoming fall Stecopoulos will host another honors seminar fiction class that focuses on, *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway.

"Hemingway's famous novel goes into the public domain on January 1st 2022, so this fall a new group of students is going to do their own thing with Hemingway and it may not end up being optioned," Stecopoulos said. "We'll see, but at the very least I suspect it's going to be an interesting revision of a very famous novel."

“We'll see, but at the very least I suspect it's going to be an interesting revision of a very famous novel.”

— UI Professor Harry Stecopoulos

Meet the artist behind new Studio 13 mural

Ali Hval, UI alum and Iowa City local completed a new mural for Studio 13's storefront this past week. This mural comes just in time for Pride month, and demonstrates pride itself by utilizing the six colors of the rainbow flag.

BY DELANEY OREWILER
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Studio 13 received a new mural painted by University of Iowa alum and local Iowa City artist Ali Hval last week. The mural features an array of colors that complement the six rainbow dots on the front of Studio 13's garage door.

The mural comes just in time for Pride month and, according to Hval, it was a blast. The process, including design time and painting, took approximately four weeks. Hval stated that this was slightly longer than usual because of how rainy it was around the time she was painting. She also described her creative method for murals as a multi-stepped process.

Hval said she begins by sketching out a design on a piece of paper. After brainstorming, she gets the dimensions and features of a particular site, including windows and doors. Next, Hval talks with her client about what they're envisioning for the project.

"For Studio 13, the owner Jason Zimann gave me total freedom, which was pretty nice and very rare," Hval said.

Hval spent one to two weeks creating the design in her head and took a couple of hours to physically sketch it out. This first part of the Studio 13 mural was relatively easy, Hval said. The real challenge, she added, came with the process of painting the wall.

"The surface of the wall was very challenging," she said. "There were multiple different surfaces like brick with deep grout lines — I had to get my brush deep in those grout lines. I also had corrugated steel, which is tricky to paint. When you step away, it's going to look more wavy. There was also a change in the surface over-

all, the area with the garage door is pushed back and the brick is pushed forward. What I had to do was step back a lot when I was painting this mural."

The mural itself took about two weeks to paint, and showcases one of Hval's favorite things to include in her murals: bright, highly saturated colors. These high intensity colors are carried through all of Hval's pieces, whether the piece is abstract, representational, geometric, or something completely different depending on the desires of her client and the overall environment of where the artwork is located.

In addition to painting murals, Hval also creates interdisciplinary work that combines fabric, ceramic, painting, and sculpture. She uses decorative, "blingy," and shiny materials along with metallic pigments for these pieces and pulls her inspiration from jewelry and current fast fashion trends. Hval said that her overall goal regarding art would be to create murals that act as a backdrop for these fabric and ceramic pieces.

Ultimately, Hval hopes that her work on the Studio 13 mural, and her other murals, will open people's eyes to the importance of public art.

"I hope the people who see it gain an appreciation for public art and recognize how much it can enhance a space," Hval said. "In terms of Studio 13, this was the first time I've ever painted a mural specifically for a business and it really transformed the front of the business and gave them a whole new look. I think once people can recognize that, hopefully they're going to be more willing to pursue public art projects and integrate that into their community."



The new mural outside Studio 13 in downtown Iowa City is seen on June 16.

Vince Filippini/The Daily Iowan



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Opinions

COLUMN

The time is now to flip Iowa back to blue

The Republican Party is failing Iowa, and it's time to give Democrats the chance to clean up the mess the state is in.



HANNAH PINSKI
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Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms' message at the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame event for Iowans to work toward turning Iowa blue couldn't have come at a more dire time.

Historically, Iowa is a purple state. Despite Republicans having success in the voting booth during the 2020 election – including gaining seats in the legislature and flipping two districts from blue to red – experts still believe Iowa is a swing state.

It was only 11 years ago when the Democrats last had control. Between 2007-2010, the party held the governor's office and a majority of seats in both legislative branches.

But the cost of being a red state now is too high. From creating a toxic culture to mishandling COVID-19, it's clear that the Republican Party is failing Iowa.

Flipping the state back to blue may be the only way to save Iowa's future, and the 2022 midterm elections is the best way to start.

Iowa's culture harms minority groups

The Republican Party instigated a culture war nationwide, and Iowa Republicans brought the battle

onto state soil.

What are the consequences? Iowa is driving away the minority population through methods like limiting conversations about systemic racism and attacking LGBTQ+ rights.

Recently, Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a bill into law that bans critical race theory education and "divisive concepts" in school curricula and diversity, equity, and inclusion training. This law, with similar language to former President Donald Trump's executive order from October 2020, stops Iowa from addressing the roots of systemic racism.

Iowa can't make progress in social reform when we have to tiptoe – or even stop – conversations about the impact of systemic racism. Republicans chose to sweep the ugly parts of our history under the rug and refuse to confront the problems.

Additionally, 15 bills threatening LGBTQ rights appeared at this year's legislative session, from the bathroom bill to limiting access to healthcare. LGBTQ+ rights are in danger, and Iowa is stuck in a deadlock with social justice reform that drives away minority groups.

What Iowa needs is a chance for Democrats like Rep. Ras Smith, D-Waterloo, who places emphasis on unification in leadership positions, to change the current culture.

COVID-19 Disaster

A lack of leadership and prioritizing personal beliefs led Iowa to become a COVID-19 disaster.

Reynolds took her party's values of freedom and personal choice and put them on a pedestal above protecting the state. Over 6,000 Iowan lives have been lost, and those individuals and their families are the ones unfairly paying the price of her choice.

From partial mask mandates that came too late, to returning \$95 million in federal money for COVID-19 testing in schools, it's clear Reynolds' decisions demonstrate a lack of leadership that Iowa needs.

The facts can't be ignored. Iowa at one point stood out globally as a COVID-19 hotspot, and three of

our cities were labeled as the top 20 outbreak areas in the country.

Iowa can't have a party in leadership that took American values and abused them by using it as an excuse to refuse to pass policy that could've helped save Iowans based on personal beliefs.

If they couldn't lead Iowa through the heart of the crisis, how can we trust them to continue to lead the state through the long-

term recovery?

While COVID-19 won't be as dominant of an issue in years to come, the failures that came from Reynolds and her party deem them unworthy to hold power in the state. It's time to give Democrats the chance — the party that took COVID-19 seriously and followed safety precautions during campaign season — to hold control of the state.

“ If they couldn't lead Iowa through the heart of the crisis, how can we trust them to continue to lead the state through the longterm recovery? ”



Katina Zentz/The Daily Iowan

Supporters of Former Vice President Joe Biden Nancy Welch (left) and Gary Schnieder wait for the results during the caucus at Des Moines Precinct 62 in the Knapp Center on Feb. 3, 2020. The caucus head count reached 849 people, leaving 127 individuals needed for the candidate to be declared viable.

It's important to support and save local cinema

Movie theaters still need to rebound from the pandemic, and part of that to will involve us going out to see movies.



FilmScene at The Chauncey as seen on May 4.

Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

BY SAMUEL O'CONNOR
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Cinema is quickly becoming a relic of our society, and only we have the power to save it.

The Box Office market revenues in the U.S. and Canada dropped 80 percent last year, according to the Motion Picture Association, sharply reflecting the pandemic's impact on the arts as a whole. COVID-19 brought economic devastation to museums, musicians, comedians, and galleries – and movie

theaters did not escape.

With the rise of streaming services, cinema's decline had already begun; COVID-19 simply bolstered the process. The annual number of movie tickets sold has been steadily declining since 2002, by millions every year. Fifteen months of widespread restrictions delivered what might be the killing blow to the movie theater industry.

Walt Disney Co.'s cash-grabbing decision to cease theatrical releases and instead build upon its streaming service certainly

didn't help, and this should be seen as a threat to the industry. Indeed, it is already viewed as an act of treason by many.

Walt Disney had no qualms with making people pay \$30 to watch the live action remake of *Mulan*, and viewers with high hopes didn't mind paying. The U.S. markets brought in \$261 million alone, which almost matches the revenue made in box offices when *Marvel's Avengers: Infinity War* came out.

After all, lockdown left people with nothing to do but sit and

watch movies. But \$30 is outrageous, especially for a remake (and don't get me started on those remakes). What's terrifying is that this could be the new norm – distributors such as Disney continuing to monopolize and movie theaters eventually dying out.

So, why is this important?

Well, if you have no interest in going to see movies on the big screen anymore, then I guess it isn't. But those of us who do enjoy the theater – really enjoy the theater – we should seek its

preservation. Personal fondness aside, cinema is of the arts, and therefore a mouthpiece of culture. Going to movies allows us to participate actively, collectively, and intimately in that. The production and consumption of movies will never go away, but the luxury of theaters is at risk of being lost.

Much like Myspace, flip phones, or species of marvelous creatures, once it is gone, I fear it will not come back. Fortunately, we need not succumb to nostalgia quite yet. When closures become mainstream, it will allow independent film centers to seep through the cracks. We are at a juncture in which independent and local cinema has an opportunity to thrive, but only if we give it our support.

Independent theaters and cinemas especially deserve our attention, such as FilmScene at The Chauncey, which is currently open, as well as continuing its newfound tradition of biweekly outdoor screenings. I'm particularly looking forward to watching *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* in the park at the end of the summer.

FilmScene also allows private screenings of a fine selection of films, which can be rented out by a group of people. On top of that, they serve locally brewed beer at concessions. By drinking a beer and watching a movie, you're supporting two local businesses at once.

If you enjoy buttered popcorn and Coca-Cola, the low-lighting ambiance, and anticipation of what is to come, and you'd like this sort of thing to continue, you should consider partaking in theater outing this summer.

Returning for another championship run

All four of Iowa field hockey's seniors decided to use their additional year of eligibility to play a final season in Iowa City.

BY BEN PALYA
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The Iowa field hockey team made a run to the Final Four of the Division I NCAA Field Hockey Tournament in an unconventional 2020-21 spring season. The Hawkeyes have their veteran corps from that accomplished team coming back for another season this fall.

In their first Final Four appearance since 2008, the Hawkeyes lost to top-seeded and eventual champion North Carolina, 3-0. Overall, the 2020-21 Hawkeyes went 12-5 throughout the season.

But Iowa's four seniors — midfielders Ellie Holley and Nikki Freeman, forward Maddy Murphy, and defender Emily Deuell — made the decision to

return for the 2021-22 fall season, rounding out a full Hawkeye roster.

The NCAA announced in October that all 2020-21 collegiate athletes will receive an extra year of eligibility because of the effect COVID-19 had on student-athletes' seasons.

The Hawkeyes will return every athlete in 2021-22 and add five new freshmen — defender Hillary Cox, goalkeeper Mia Magnotta, midfielders Ella Wareham and Jacey Wittel, and

another opportunity with the same Hawkeye group.

"We're so lucky to have this final season together," she said. "We've talked about it a lot and we want to make the most out of this upcoming season. After how last season ended this spring, everyone is super motivated and ready to work hard."

Three of the four returning Iowa seniors started for the Hawkeyes in 2020-21.

Holley finished with three goals and seven assists on the

“We're so lucky to have this final season together.

— Field hockey fifth-year senior Maddy Murphy

forward Annika Herbine.

Murphy, a rising fifth-year senior, said she is excited to have

season as she was involved in almost every Iowa attack. Murphy repeated as the Hawkeyes'



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa midfielder Nikki Freeman passes the ball during the second quarter of a field hockey game against Maryland on April 2 at Grant Field.

top goal scorer last season, finishing with eight goals and two assists in 2020-21. Freeman led the Hawkeyes as a team captain, appearing in all 17 contests for Iowa at midfield. She recorded one goal on seven shots.

Murphy and Holley, along with rising senior Anthe Nijziel, were named National Field Hockey Coaches Association All-Americans. Nijziel nabbed first-team honors, Murphy claimed a second-team spot, and Holley was named to the third team.

Nijziel anchored the Iowa defense last season as she was named the 2020-21 Big Ten Field Hockey Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year — marking the first time in program history an Iowa student-athlete won both awards in the same season.

The 2020-21 Hawkeye squad also housed 21 student athletes — a smaller roster than typical Division I field hockey teams that

carry an average of 23 players.

"Having a smaller team helps us to bond and build better relationships together," Murphy said. "I think that one of the strengths of the Hawkeyes is our friendship and comradery on and off the field."

After a deep run in the NCAA Tournament, the Hawkeyes will have their eyes set on getting more hardware in 2021-22.

The returning senior class has a 2019 Big Ten Tournament and regular season title already under their belt, but Murphy said the team is looking to improve this offseason.

"A lot of our emphasis over the summer is going to be over penalty conversions and making sure we put the ball in the goal," Murphy said.

Iowa will get another shot against North Carolina to start the 2021-22 season as part of the Big Ten/ACC challenge. The Hawkeye field hockey season is slated to start in August.



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa players celebrate forward Maddy Murphy's score during the fourth quarter of a field hockey game against Maryland on April 4 at Grant Field.

BEST OF CONTINUED FROM BACK

outscored his opponents 141-15.

The 125-pounder cruised to a 2021 Big Ten Championship individual title and picked up his third Big Ten Wrestler of the Year honor along the way.

Lee claimed the 2021 Dan Hodge trophy — presented to the best collegiate wrestler — for the second consecutive year, making him the fifth athlete to win the award multiple times.

At the 2020-21 NCAA Wrestling Championships, Lee took down Arizona State's Brandon Courtney (despite a knee injury) to win his third NCAA individual title in a row, helping the Hawkeyes to their first team title since 2010.

Co-Female Athlete of the Year – Laulauga Tausaga

Tausaga returned to Iowa for a fifth year to compete in the 2021 outdoor season in an attempt to defend her title as the 2019 NCAA women's discus national champion.

In her final Big Ten Outdoor Championships, the thrower became the first athlete in Iowa track and



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa midfielder Ellie Holley gives a heart to the fans before the Big Ten field hockey tournament quarterfinals against No. 4 Maryland on April 21 at Grant Field.

field history to be a four-time Big Ten Outdoor Champion. At the 2021 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Tausaga garnered two All-America honors, finishing sixth in the shot put with a 17.29-meter throw.

Although Tausaga had a career best throw in discus, at 63.65 meters, she finished runner-up at the national championships.

Co-Female Athlete of the Year & Newcomer of the Year – Caitlin Clark

Clark came to Iowa women's basketball with hefty expectations, and she lived up to them.

As a five-star recruit, Clark was tasked with the starting point guard role after the departure of Kathleen Doyle.

Throughout her freshman

season, Clark broke a litany of records while leading the women's basketball team to a second-place finish at the 2021 Big Ten Tournament, as well as an NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 appearance.

She set the bar with 13 Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors and unanimously won Big Ten Freshman of the Year. Clark also nabbed the Dawn Staley Award, given to the nation's best point guard.

As a freshman, Clark averaged 26.6 points, 7.1 assists, and 5.9 rebounds per game.

Coach of the Year – director of track and field Joey Woody

In an extensive track and field season, Woody continued the dominance of the Hawkeye men's team.

Under Woody's supervision, Iowa men's track and field swept the Big Ten Indoor and Outdoor conference titles for the first time in 50 years and posted a 12th place finish at the NCAA Championships. Woody also helped coach fifth-year senior Jaylan McConico to a national runner-up finish in the 110-meter hurdles.

Woody was named the Big Ten Indoor Coach of the Year and the Big Ten Outdoor Coach of the Year in 2020-21.



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Iowa guard Caitlin Clark dribbles toward the basket during the second round of the NCAA women's basketball championship against No. 4 Kentucky on March 23 at the Bill Greehey Arena at Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas.

Sports

The DI's best of the year



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Spencer Lee sets in the bottom position in a match against Purdue's Devin Schroder during the finals of the Big Ten Wrestling Tournament at the Bryce Jordan Center in State College, PA on March 8.

The *DI* sports section voted in six categories to determine the best in Hawkeye sports during a unique 2020-21 year.

BY CHLOE PETERSON
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The 2020-21 sports year was unlike any other for Hawkeye athletics, coming in the middle of a pandemic.

At the end of each academic year, *The Daily Iowan* sports section hands out awards to highlight the best of Hawkeye sports. Last year, these awards were given out after COVID-19 led to sports shutting down. But unlike 2019-20, spring sport athletes played out a full season this year, and winter athletes played in postseason tournaments.

All nine members of the *DI* sports

staff were given an opportunity to vote in each of the six categories to determine the best in Hawkeye athletics.

Full profiles of the award winners will be published on dailyiowan.com throughout the week.

Men's Team of the Year – Wrestling

Iowa wrestling retained its control of the Big Ten during the 2020-21 season.

Despite a COVID-19 pause within the program that canceled four regular season matches, the Hawkeyes

spent the entire season at No. 1 in the nation. In each of its five regular season matches in 2020-21, the Hawkeyes dominated the Big Ten-only slate, going 5-0 against Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, Purdue, and Ohio State.

At the 2021 Big Ten Championships, Iowa won its second conference title in a row, overcoming Big Ten rival Penn State.

Iowa won its first NCAA Championship title since 2010, finishing with 129 team points — 15.5 points clear of Penn State. The Hawkeyes crowned one individual national champion and had seven All-Americans.

Women's Team of the Year – Field Hockey

The Hawkeye field hockey team lived up to the challenge of a spring, conference-only season.

Iowa carried a top-10 ranking in 2020-21, including a lofty No. 2 ranking as it ended the regular season.

Although the Hawkeyes couldn't clinch a Big Ten Tournament championship, falling in the semifinals to eventual champion Michigan, Iowa nabbed an NCAA Tournament bid as the fourth overall seed in the 12-team championships.

Iowa carried its momentum to

its first NCAA Final Four appearance since 2008 before falling to top-seeded and eventual national champion North Carolina, 3-0.

Male Athlete of the Year – Spencer Lee

Lee showed he was the most dominant collegiate wrestler in the nation last season, even with two torn ACLs.

Lee went undefeated throughout the 2020-21 season, posting a 12-0 record with five first-period falls and

SEE BEST OF, 15