

# The Daily Iowan

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868

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*July*

**Festivities  
are back this  
weekend**

Iowa City Jazz Fest and  
Coralville 4th Fest  
schedules inside

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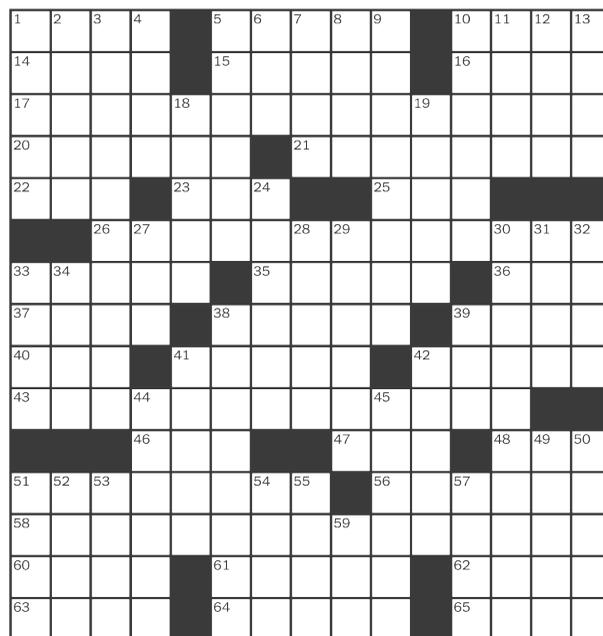
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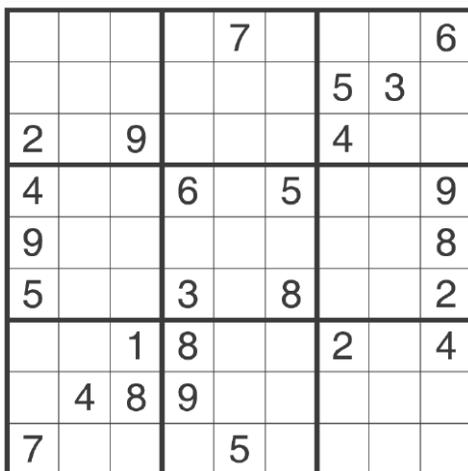
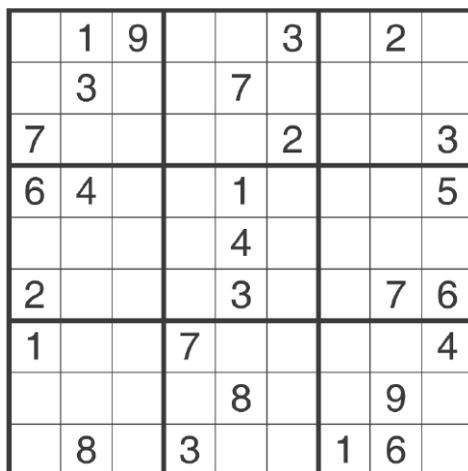
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Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Spectators watch fireworks from a Hy-Vee parking lot in Coralville on July 4, 2020. All 4th Fest activities were canceled last year except the fireworks, which attendees watched at a distance. This year, the traditional events are back, along with some new ones.

# Coralville 4th Fest returns with new spark

The celebration returns for the 38th time after last year's cancellation, this time with in-person activities and new events.

BY NATALIE DUNLAP  
AND SABINE MARTIN  
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Owner of Next Generation Shows Vern Tripses and his fam-

ily have been in the carnival industry for 47 years, but last year's business was at a standstill as the pandemic raged on.

This year, festivals are back, including the upcoming Coralville

4th Fest, replacing the empty streets seen at this time in 2020.

"Lots of people went and got the vaccine, thank God," Tripses said.

The Coralville 4th Fest, held in S.T. Morrison Park, began as a

small neighborhood parade, but over the years, it has added events and grown into a celebration anticipated by the community. In summer 2020, all of the festivities had to be canceled except for the

fireworks, which were held at a location where onlookers could drive up and remain socially distanced in their cars.

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## 4TH FEST CONTINUED FROM 3

Tripses said his carnival was set to work the Coralville 4th Fest in 2020 before it was canceled.

“We did not get to go out at all last year,” Tripses said. “So far, with every event that we’ve played, the crowds have been up a little bit, so people are ready just to get out and enjoy festivals again.”

Now, 4th Fest organizers say the celebration is making a much-needed comeback.

“You don’t realize I guess until it’s all taken away how important everything is to you,” said Paula Bakey, co-chair of the 4th Fest committee. “To truly appreciate your community, your neighbors — you weren’t able to see anybody, we’re able to go outside and do anything and just to celebrate our Independence Day, and just to walk around outside with other people, I think it’s even more important now that we’ve survived this.”

In its 38th year, the celebration

will include traditional activities, such as the parade, concert, and fireworks, as well as new events, such as a lumberjack show and a speed cube artist creating a mural out of cubes.

“Since this is our first festival where everybody in the community will be able to come back together, we decided to add a special event on Friday, July 2,” Coralville City Administrator Kelly Hayworth said. “We will be having a free barbecue for the community. Our police and fire departments will be cooking in the park and in addition to the barbecue, we are going to have a lot of activities.”

The Iowa Children’s Museum, Coralville Library, and Coralville Recreation Center will also be providing activities during the cookout, and a DJ will be playing music.

“We just look at that as kind of the fun kickoff for the weekend and celebration that we’re all back and able to celebrate again,” Hayworth said.

At the 4th Fest carnival from July 2-4, Tripses said funnel cakes



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Spectators watch fireworks from a Hy-Vee parking lot in Coralville on July 4, 2020. Coralville Fire Chief Orey Schwitzer said there is a firework shortage this year because of the pandemic, but the city secured fireworks for the show.

and corn dogs are the “go-to” food items at the festival.

“The popular ride is usually the Round Up, but we call it the Black Hole,” he said. “And the Roll-O-Plane is another one. It’s a nice

tall ride, so everybody gets excited on those.”

Tripses said all of the carnival rides will be disinfected before use, which adds hours to their 24-hour setup time.

“There’s still some out there that wear the mask, and that’s OK, too,” he said. “We have to sanitize, in the mornings before we start stuff, so we can keep everybody safe.”

Bakey said the Coralville 4th Fest has become a destination event for Johnson County as it

community.”

The weekend will come to a close with a fireworks show. This year, the event is back in Morrison Park.

Coralville Fire Chief Orey Schwitzer, head of the fireworks committee for the 4th Fest, said the pandemic has made fireworks hard to come by because of factories being shut down. However, he said the 4th Fest secured supplies earlier this year.

“The show is going to be about the same as we normally do, time-

wise and number of shells, but fortunately we just happened to talk to the distributor earlier in the year,” Schwitzer said.

“It’s just really exciting that we can be back together and have fun activities while paying special honor to our country.

— Kelly Hayworth, Coralville City Administrator

continues to grow.

“We’re constantly getting comments that families are staying in town over the Fourth,” Bakey said. “... Because it’s grown, they started planning family reunions and other events, vacations around the Fourth, which I think is so wonderful for the entire

Hayworth said the 4th Fest has grown to be the focal event in the community.

“It’s just a wonderful time of the year,” Hayworth said. “And it’s just really exciting that we can be back together and have fun activities while paying special honor to our country.”



Jenna Galligan/The Daily Iowan

Spectators watch fireworks from a Hy-Vee parking lot in Coralville on July 4, 2020. Coralville will host a barbecue free of charge on July 2 for 4th Fest attendants.

# Solon child inspires blood donations

After Tyler Juhl's leukemia diagnosis last year, his family made it their mission to give back through community blood drives.

BY LILLIAN POULSEN  
lillian-poulsen@uiowa.edu

Tyler Juhl was a healthy child preparing to start school in the fall one year ago. Now, he is one of thousands of patients in need of blood during a year where hospitals across the nation are experiencing shortages.

On Aug. 27, 2020, Tyler was diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a type of cancer that requires constant blood and platelet transfusions. Tyler's symptoms appeared suddenly — muscle soreness, loss of energy, red dots, bruises, and pale skin — and rapidly progressed, said Tyler's mother, Kari Juhl.

Since his diagnosis, Tyler has received treatment at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, which has included chemotherapy, regular hospital visits, and many blood and platelet transfusions, Kari Juhl said.

"Prior to Tyler's diagnosis, we were unfamiliar with the true need for blood donors on a consistent basis," Juhl said. "To know that we never had to worry about that supply not being there to support Tyler — every time he's needed it, it's been there — has been a true blessing."

Because of blood shortages across the nation, the fight against blood cancer has become even more challenging for patients like Tyler.

The American Red Cross, which supplies about 40 percent of the blood used in the nation, announced that they distributed about 75,000 more blood products than expected over the past

few months.

According to America's Blood Centers, Iowa has only a two-day supply of blood products available, meaning the state is run-

ple are out and about in the summer even more so there are more motor vehicle accidents, boating accidents, and even some fireworks accidents."

advocate for other people like him.

"We truly feel like everything happens for a reason," Juhl said. "This journey, although it can be

124 lives.

"Tyler's story is of a child in need, and there are thousands of those stories," Juhl said. "He is just one of thousands of children and adults at the university that are in need of blood transfusions on a consistent basis."

On June 25 and 26, the Juhl family hosted another blood drive in Tyler's honor. Volunteers from around the area attended "Tyler's Tribe Blood Drive" to support Tyler's battle against cancer.

"I saw the picture of the child — the one that has cancer — in the paper Thursday," Iowa City resident Gayle Royar told *The Daily Iowan* at the event on June 25. "We've donated before and I told my husband we need to go, so we came here today to donate."

Royar's husband, Ken, said he came to the blood drive because "a young man needs blood."

No matter when or how, Juhl said she is grateful to everyone who donates.

"Blood donations are in critical need right now," Juhl said. "Even if it's not the 'Tyler Tribe's Blood Drive,' we appreciate the fact — more than anyone truly knows — that people are willing to take the time to do something bigger than themselves, be selfless, and donate."

*Jeff Sigmund contributed to this report.*



Jeff Sigmund /The Daily Iowan

Kari Juhl gives a thumbs up on June 25 while donating blood during a blood drive that is being held for her son Tyler who is battling cancer.

ning low and needs blood donations as soon as possible.

Donation supervisor Kerry DuBay said these shortages of blood products have made the UI DeGowin Blood Center sound the alarm for donations.

DuBay said there's been an increase in traumas and elective surgeries this summer, where group O blood — a universal group whose red cells can help all patients — is especially important.

"The increase in traumas is a pretty normal reason for a summer shortage," DuBay said. "Peo-

As the summer continues, DuBay said she wants to stress the importance of blood donations in general. She said it's also important to recruit new donors, which the center has lacked this past year.

"The need for blood never goes away... we need an increase in donors every day, all summer long in order to help this shortage," DuBay said. "Getting new donors to come in for the summer is really important."

Juhl said she's had a lot of conversations with Tyler about how he can use his experience to help

challenging, is a way for us to do something bigger than ourselves and help more people than just Tyler."

In an effort to give back, Tyler's family held a blood drive in April at the Solon Community Center. According to a Facebook post on April 21, 62 people donated, which could potentially save

“ We appreciate the fact — more than anyone truly knows — that people are willing to take the time to do something bigger than themselves, be selfless, and donate.”

— Tyler's mother, Kari Juhl

# UI student Pareen Mhatre advocates for immigration rights in D.C. on recent trip

The biomedical engineering major is involved with Improve the Dream, an organization defending the rights of Dreamers.

BY EMILY DELGADO  
ejdelgado@uiowa.edu

Pareen Mhatre said she has been in constant fear of her path to American citizenship for the past five years. Mhatre, a University of Iowa student and immigration advocate for Improve the Dream, is legally considered an international student, despite living in Iowa City for 20 years.

Improve the Dream is an organization led by young immigrants who grew up in the U.S. as child dependents of long-term visa holders. The organization has raised awareness for over 200,000 documented Dreamers since 2017, the Improve the Dream website said.

Mhatre's parents moved their family to the United States when she was four months old. She said she came to the U.S. as a dependent on her mother's student visa.

In April, Mhatre was invited to virtually testify in front of the Subcommittee on Immigration of Congress with Improve the Dream to tell her story as a Documented Dreamer.

When she was testifying, Mhatre said she felt that she was being heard and she was grateful to have had that opportunity.

Mhatre told U.S. lawmakers in her testimony to the House Judiciary Committee that for the last nine months, she has been awaiting approval for the change of her immigration status to full-time student.

Mhatre, who also turned 21 two weeks before testifying, said she no longer has dependent status and "aged out of the system."

"Unless my application is ap-

proved, I am not allowed to enroll in classes in future semesters," Mhatre said

She said she felt empowered to share her story with Congress be-

she met with Mhatre, they spoke about how the U.S. needs young people like her who grow up in the United States, attend American schools, and graduate from Ameri-

to have her representative listen to her story and ideas for legislative change.

"The fact that she thinks that people like me are important for

ing from immigrant families but, I think she's a role model example for all her peers," Raghavan said.

The UI and Iowa City have been home for Mhatre for more than a



Kate Heston /The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa student Pareen Mhatre poses for a portrait in Iowa City, IA on June 22. Mhatre is an immigration advocate for Improve the Dream.

cause growing up, she didn't know about other people in her situation.

In her recent trip to the District of Columbia with Improve the Dream, Mhatre met with Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa.

Miller-Meeks wrote in a statement to *The Daily Iowan* that when

can universities.

"I believe we must ensure that first and foremost our immigration system protects those who come here legally and supports them as they work to contribute to and improve our country," Miller-Meeks wrote.

Mhatre said she felt fortunate

our city, really meant a lot,"

Suresh Raghavan, a UI biomedical engineering professor and educational mentor of Mhatre, said he is proud of her for testifying while having undergone some struggles because of her immigration status.

"Certainly, she's a role model for other students who are com-

decade. Like Mhatre, she said both of her parents pursued their education at UI.

"I am so grateful for all of the support that I've gotten from my friends, my professors, my family...my support system is something that I don't take for granted," Mhatre said.

# Johnson County growers battling drought

Despite recent rainfall, farmers in the area are still working through a harsh summer with below-average participation rates.

BY JAKE OLSON

jake-olson@uiowa.edu

Steve Swenka, owner of Double G Angus Farms in Johnson County, said this summer, his farm has experienced one of the worst droughts in his life.

“We have had only about two inches of rain in the whole month of May and only two-tenths of an inch in the month of June so far,” Swenka said on June 22, before Johnson County experienced several rain showers over the next few days. “We have cow pastures burning up, creeks are shrinking all the way to the bed, and you see corn in the middle of the hot day start to curl up.”

The National Integrated Drought Information System, last updated June 24, said Johnson County’s drought condition is “abnormally dry” and is listed with a below-average participation rate from the last 30 days.

In the United States, 181.5 million acres of crops and 14.4 million beef cattle are currently experiencing drought, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Jake Kundert, the food systems director of Grow Johnson County, an Iowa Valley nonprofit organization, said he has also felt the impact of the drought on their produce.

Grow Johnson County produces over 25,000 pounds of organic vegetables every year and donates them to local hunger-relief agencies.

“Everything we grow gets donated,” Kundert said. “We give jobs on the farm and teach people how to do these techniques by themselves.”

Kundert said food organizations like Grow Johnson County have been having a tough time in countering this recent struggle to grow crops.



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Corn leaves turning brown due to lack of rain on June 21. A field planted with corn start showing the effects of lack of rain fall. The leaves are turning brown, and the stalks are short.

For Grow Johnson County, Kundert said the team has been working to irrigate as much as it can until it sees more rain.

“The challenge is putting our crops that have been inside the garden centers, which are in perfect condition, and then taking them out into the dry and hot sun. The plants are dying,” Kundert said.

Kundert said Grow Johnson County is trying new watering systems that can hold water more efficiently, like a no-till production method, and adapt to the recent Io-

wa weather.

If water is not immediately given to the plants from creeks and irrigation systems, Kundert said, then they will have less volume and may not even produce the same crop.

Buyers of these crops are seeing less and less volume of production since the lack of rain has hit them.

“Some producers I know couldn’t list a lot because the weather affected it and they could not get water systems on the plant,” said Ben Dolan, a worker at Field to Family.

Field to Family buys crops from

other producers to resell.

Farmers must keep adapting and overcoming obstacles like weather change, Dolan said.

As soon as Grow Johnson County is done replanting the crops in outdoor soil, Kundert said Grow Johnson County staff will do everything they can to water them.

“Once we plant them, we are thinking about what water and irrigation system we can use to give these plants the water they need,” Kundert said.

Swenka said farmers are not

able to put up irrigation systems at the moment, so his first goal is to take care of the cattle.

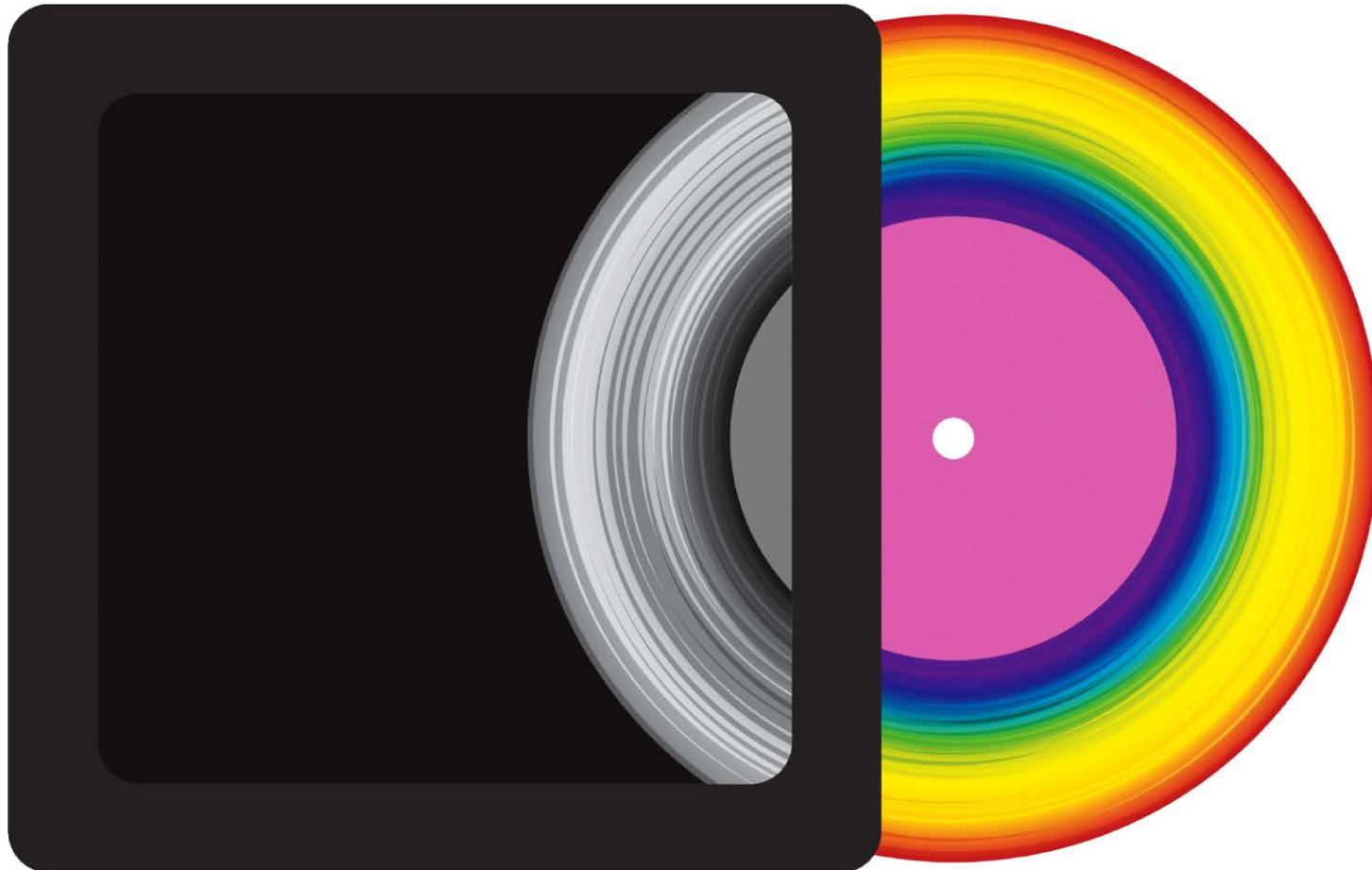
“We are pumping as much water as we can out of the creek to water the burning up cow pastures,” Swenka said. “Goal one is to get feed for the summer, goal two is to get feed for the winter.”

Swenka said multiple times that farmers are a resilient bunch.

“We are always overcoming and adapting to new things every year,” Swenka said. “It is all about managing risk and resources.”

## Gaga for Lady Gaga's anniversary album

A new rendition of "Born This Way" is here to celebrate pride month with covers of six songs recorded by LGBTQ artists.



BY JENNA POST  
jenna-post@uiowa.edu

Lady Gaga cemented herself as an LGBTQ icon with the release of her hit album "Born This Way" in 2011. A decade later, the bisexual performer is embracing the spirit of the original album by having LGBTQ artists and notable advocates reimagine six of its songs.

"Born This Way" was a call to proudly be one's most authentic self, and the inclusion of multiple genres on the anniversary album is a clever artistic interpretation of that message. The covers range

from dance-pop, to piano-rock, to country.

Of the covers, Ben Platt of "Dear Evan Hansen" is the only artist with a music video accompanying his track—a heartfelt piano rendition of Gaga's, "You and I."

It comes as no surprise that the Broadway singer is able to match Gaga's impressive vocal range and ability to convey powerful feelings through song. The cover is deeply moving and captures Gaga's essence, while still managing to stand on its own if the listener (somehow) hasn't heard the original version.

While Platt captures the emotional side of Gaga, best-selling Australian artist Kylie Minogue emulates the spirited and high-energy pop side of Gaga with her rendition of "Marry the Night."

Like Gaga, Minogue holds icon status in the LGBTQ community for her danceable beats and willingness to celebrate her queer fans, so "Marry the Night" was a great match for her. What Minogue lacked in vocal range she made up for in style and enthusiasm, proving that the right attitude can make or break a cover.

Country artists The High-

women and Orville Peck took the opposite approach of Platt and Minogue by respectively covering "Highway Unicorn" and the titular "Born This Way" in a genre the tracks aren't particularly well-suited to.

While this could have worked well, both artists simply lacked the conviction and camp that made the songs work for Gaga. However, the importance of notable country performers being on an

album that celebrates queerness shouldn't be overlooked, even if their covers didn't quite land.

Country as a genre generally reinforces the heteronormative status quo. Male country singers' lyrics are often hypermasculine, and female country singers' lyrics almost always involve their relation to men. The Highwomen and Peck turned that notion on its head by putting a country twist on songs that are beloved in queer culture.

LGBTQ advocate Olly Alexander's cover of "The Edge of Glory" falls somewhere between the country artists' misses and Platt and Minogue's hits.

While Alexander is well-suited to the song stylistically, he's unable to capture Gaga's passion. In fairness, "The Edge of Glory" is by far the most passionately sung track on the original album, and matching Gaga's raw energy is a truly difficult—and potentially impossible—feat. Despite not living up to Gaga's rendition, the cover is still an enjoyable play on the original.

The most unique take on the anniversary album came from Big Freedia, who put a jazzy spin on "Judas." While this may seem like an odd choice, it works perfectly. Big Freedia seems to understand the layers to Gaga's lyrics as well as Gaga herself, which made the interpretation endlessly fun to listen to.

The album was the cherry on top of Gaga's decade of advocating for self-love and LGBTQ acceptance.

“ The album was the cherry on top of Gaga's decade of advocating for self-love and LGBTQ acceptance.

Illustration by Kate Doolittle



..... JULY 2, 2021 .....

- 4:30pm - Schoolhouse Jazz @ Weatherdance Fountain Stage
- 6:30pm - NOLA Jazz Band @ Weatherdance Fountain Stage
- 8:10pm - Big Fun @ Weatherdance Fountain Stage

..... July 3, 2021 .....

- 11:30am - United Jazz Ensemble @ Main Stage
- 12:15pm - North Corridor Jazz All Stars @ Main Stage
- 1:00pm - Bad News @ Side Stage
- 2:00pm - Giveton Gelin @ Main Stage
- 3:00pm - Peterson/Thaker Quartet @ Side Stage
- 4:00pm - Immanuel Wilkins @ Main Stage
- 5:00pm - Jim Buennig @ Side Stage
- 6:00pm - Bonegasm @ Main Stage
- 7:00pm - Wave Cage @ Side Stage
- 8:00pm - Cory Wong @ Main Stage
- 9:30pm - City of Iowa City Fireworks @ Old Capitol Museum

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**NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS:**

July 9, 2021

6:30 pm James Tutson & The Rollback @ Weatherdance Fountain Stage

July 10, 2021

6:30 pm Winterland @ Northside Market Place  
9:00 pm Who Framed Roger Rabbit @ Chauncey Swan Park

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# AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

*ABT ACROSS AMERICA*



Melvin Lawovi, Duncan McIlwaine, and  
Hannah Marshall in *Indestructible Light*.  
Photo: Todd Rosenberg Photography.

**Sunday, July 4, 8:00 pm**

Gates open at 6:30 pm

**Hancher Green**

The wonderful dancers of American Ballet Theatre are hopping on a bus and touring America—and they'll stop at Hancher on the Fourth of July!

The evening's 50-minute show will be performed without an intermission. Repertory for ABT Across America will feature Lauren Lovette's *La Follia Variations*, a work for eight dancers set to music by Francesco Geminiani; Jessica Lang's *Let Me Sing Forevermore*, a pas deux blending ballet and jazz vocabulary set to songs sung by Tony Bennett; Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Indestructible Light*, a celebration of American jazz; and a classical pas de deux from ABT's extensive repertoire.

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# 4th FEST

**S.T. Morrison Park**

- 12:00pm - 4thFest Parade, for parade route visit [www.coralville.org/422/Parade](http://www.coralville.org/422/Parade)
- 12:00-9:00pm - Food Concessions
- 12:00-9:00pm - Vendors
  - The Hang Bar Challenge
  - U.S. Army Career Center
- 2:00pm - Cube artist Jack Dreyer
- 2:00pm - Ambition Baton Twirling performance
- 3:00pm - City Circle Acting Company performance
- 3:00-6:00pm - American Legion Bingo (Hilltop Shelter)
- 3:30pm - Games in the park: water balloon toss
- 4:00pm - Games in the park: sponge bucket race
- 5:00pm - Crafts in the park: popsicle stick flags
- 8:30pm - Iowa City Community Band
- 9:45pm - Fireworks



## ★ ★ ★ Friday, July 2 ★ ★ ★

- 4:30-8:00pm - Cube artist Jack Dreyer
- 5:00pm-dark - Carnival, Aquatic Center Parking Lot  
Kid rides cost 2 coupons; major rides cost 3 or 4 coupons.
  - Buy 22 coupons for \$16 in advance (sold until July 2 at 4:00 pm at City Hall and the Coralville Rec. Center).
  - Or, buy coupons at the carnival: \$1 per coupon, or 22 coupons for \$20.
- 6:30-8:00pm - FREE 4thFest Feast  
The Coralville Fire Department and the Coralville Police Department are grilling, with fun for all ages!
  - Enjoy a free meal and music in the park.
  - Check out the children's activities provided by the Iowa Children's Museum.
  - Help make a "community chain" to be displayed in the Coralville Public Library.
  - Outdoor games provided by Coralville Parks and Recreation.
  - See special guest and speed cube artist Jack Dreyer create a one-of-a-kind mural.

\*Tables and chairs are not provided; bring your own blankets or lawn chairs.

- 6:30-8:00pm - DJ Music

## ★ ★ ★ Saturday, July 3 ★ ★ ★

- 12:00pm-dark - Carnival
- 12:00-12:30pm - All American Lumberjack Show  
Two teams, ten exciting events, and 10,000 gallons of water! Be ready to compete, you might be called to help out your team. When the sawdust settles, you can meet the lumberjacks, grab a cookie, and get autographs.
- 12:30-3:00pm - Lumberjack Camp is a hands-on lumberjack event for all ages.
- 2:00-9:00pm - Food Concessions
- 3:00-3:30pm - All American Lumberjack Show
- 3:00-6:00pm - American Legion Bingo (Hilltop Shelter)
- 3:30-6:00pm - Lumberjack Camp

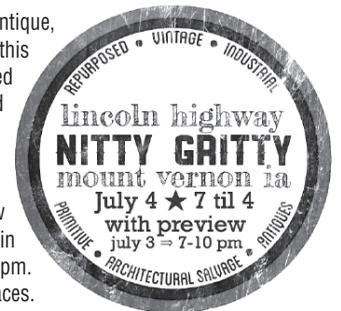
- 4:00-9:00pm - Vendors
  - The Hang Bar Challenge
  - U.S. Army Career Center
- 4:00pm-concert start - Cube artist Jack Dreyer
- 6:00-6:30pm - All American Lumberjack Show
- 6:30pm - FREE outdoor concert  
The Danny Whitson Band
- 8:00pm - FREE outdoor concert  
Josh Turner

## ★ ★ ★ Sunday, July 4 ★ ★ ★

- 8:00am - Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast To Go, Coralville Rec. Center  
Buy tickets in advance (\$5 each) at the Coralville Recreation Center, or on July 4th at the ticket booth outside the Rec. Center.
  - Bags contain pancakes, sausage, syrup, juice.
  - Volunteers handing out bags will wear face masks.
  - Ends when the food runs out or the parade begins.
- 12:00pm-dark - Carnival

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# UI assistant professor launches health equity projects

Martha Carvour will use funding from the public-private partnership with the goal being to alleviate inequities in health care.

BY LILLIAN POULSEN  
lillian-poulsen@uiowa.edu



**Carvour** of Iowa to launch campus and community-wide projects that aim to alleviate health care inequities.

"This is a really critically important time to think about health equity," Carvour said. "The COVID pandemic has highlighted a lot of long-standing inequities in health care systems and in public health."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the effects of the pandemic, including exposure to the virus, illness, hospitalization, and death, are higher among racial and ethnic minority groups.

Carvour said the early years of the project will also focus on diabetes care, because COVID-19 made care more difficult and inaccessible for patients.

With the help of other colleges, community partners, and members of the Iowa community, Carvour's team will use a three-year, \$758,000 grant to address equity in health and science.

As previously reported by *The Daily Iowan*, Carvour was one of seven recipients who received funding through the public-private partnership known as P3.

Carvour's team will focus on issues that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities, as well as people who live in rural settings. The team plans to do this by working directly with these populations.

"One of the core principles of doing community-engaged work is to not just design a plan and have people say yes or no to it," Kimberly Dukes said, who is a research assistant pro-

fessor of internal medicine at the UI Carver College of Medicine. "Instead, we have to involve those community partners and those community partners from the beginning."

Ebonee Johnson, assistant professor in the department of community and behavioral health at the UI College of Public Health, said the team plans to spend the first year of the project focused on non-healthcare frontline workers in Iowa affected by inaccessible health care.

The Baker Teacher Leader Center in the UI College of Education is one of the campus partners that the team plans to work with, Johnson said.

"This [partnership] affords us the opportunity to listen to the lived experiences of teachers and other staff

to figure out what we can do to better improve things, including access to personal protective equipment and vaccine rollout access," Johnson said.

Dukes said they also plan on collaborating with community partners, including the Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa and the UI College of Law's Labor Center.

"Both these organizations have long-standing relationships with Iowa's workers," Dukes said. "They're going to be really important in connecting us with actual workers who may benefit from an intervention ensuring that they have safe working conditions and access to health care."

Dukes, Johnson, and Carvour plan to create sustainable infrastructure so people can use the systems and

changes for years to come.

Johnson said the team intends to develop a better understanding of what communities and individuals need based on structured interviews and surveys via email.

"We want to know what are some strengths, what are some of those things that are working in those communities that we can amplify," Johnson said, "...and then what are some things that aren't working there in terms of individual behavior and structural factors."

Dukes said they plan to create an advisory council that will have representatives from different community partners and community members.

"I think a lot of times research happens in a way that is the institution to

the community," Dukes said. "We're really invested in making sure that it's not one-directional, that the community partners and collaborators are equal partners in designing and carrying out the work."

Carvour said she's excited about this project and how they can research while they work to alleviate these health care disparities in Iowa.

"As researchers in our own specific project, but also broadly in terms of health care, public health, and the systems we set up, it is our responsibility to make our system fair and trustworthy," Carvour said. "One way to demonstrate our own commitment to this is to not just collect data on the problem, but do something about the problem."



The Science Library and Biology building is seen on June 23. Martha Carvour, an assistant professor in the department of internal medicine, plans to work with other University of Iowa departments using public-private partnership project funding.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

# Opinions

COLUMN

## Tourism is as sustainable as you make it

We should travel more sustainably because conventional methods of tourism are gradually harming the environment.



SAMUEL O'CONNOR  
sdoconnor@uiowa.edu

I was in Olympic National Park in Washington, walking the short, wet distance from our tent to the garbage drop-off, when I started thinking about sustainable tourism last month.

The bear-proof dumpster is a funny contraption in that it requires opposable thumbs to operate. I've always found humor in devices such as this — devices which make one imagine animals

“ The main idea behind sustainable tourism is being accountable.

doing people things — because they take my mind off of people doing people things, like trashing the planet.

Tourism, whether it's hiking in a national park or taking the family to Disney, is terrific for the economy. In pre-pandemic times, one in 10 jobs worldwide were in travel and tourism, while the industry itself made up 10 percent of the global economy. Though these figures plummeted in 2020, it is in the wake of their imminent rebound that we should start considering the non-

economic consequences of our travels.

The fiscal prowess of tourism as an industry often overshadows its environmental detriments, and these detriments are anything but small. Billions of tons of waste and carbon dioxide are produced by the industry while it sucks up trillions of tons of freshwater every year. The overuse of these resources puts tremendous stress on the land, which trades its health for money.

Nearly all of the carbon footprint of tourism comes from methods of travel. Tourism makes up about 5 percent of global emissions, while 90 percent of those emissions come from travel. Airplanes and cruise ships leak poison into the atmosphere every second of the day, and by flying

and going on cruises, we drastically increase our carbon footprint. So, what's the solution?

Sustainable tourism is defined by the World Tourism Organization as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.” That, I think, is the answer.

But we don't need to keep track of statistics or weigh out our waste when we hike or camp



— that would be silly — as simply being mindful of our impact can help make a positive difference. Statistics can bog us down, while simple decisions like packing your food in Tupperware or bringing your own water can be enough to increase most people's sustainability. Or at least clear our environmental consciences, at any rate.

If you're worried about your carbon footprint, then traveling more sustainably will make the biggest difference. For example — going across the country? Maybe consider driving. That way you can dump your money into local

economies that need it along the way. Plus, traveling this way allows one to uncover the many hidden gems of America. Going on a cruise? Maybe reconsider, as cruise ships are notoriously harmful for the environment.

The main idea behind sustainable tourism is being accountable. If our country — for all its many flaws — has the foresight to

preserve its best features through the national park system, the least we can do is take stock of our actions as participants.

We don't have to buy a Tesla, hug trees, or refuse showers when they are there. But we can buy local, hike instead of going on a cruise, and try our best to not over encumber the bear-proof dumpsters.

“ But we don't need to keep track of statistics or weigh out our waste when we hike or camp — that would be silly — as simply being mindful of our impact can help make a positive difference.

# Qualified immunity is dangerous to society

Qualified immunity has been used as a means to excuse police brutality. We need to dismantle this law, not enforce it.



**YASSIE BUCHANAN**

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Qualified immunity has a long history of perpetuating racism within the judicial system, and now Iowa's government is adding fuel to the fire with the issue.

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed the "Back the Blue" bill into law on June 17. While the bill increases

stead of the officers' arguments that it was to prevent violence.

In the ruling of the case, Chief Justice Earl Warren coined the language we use today, saying police do not have a right to "absolute unqualified immunity" — meaning there would be complete immunity from criminal charges. However, officers are not held liable if they acted in "good faith", which means judges today must grant immunity if there is no clear precedent that the officer's actions were out of line.

This bill is even more troubling when considering the increase in force used by Iowa police. With the ongoing civil rights initiatives and heightened instances of po-

and had been left alone in his cell. He was banging his head and howling in distress all night into the morning.

When officers came in the morning to restrain him for medical assessment, Harrell resisted. The officers then tazed him twice and pinned him to the ground. By the time they were done with him, he had died. The autopsy was said to have revealed it was only a freak accident. However, a photographer noted there was a large pool of blood in his cell.

The officers were not charged due to qualified immunity, saying the use of force was justified. It is cases like these that remind us of the dangers of justifying

people's death in the hands of law enforcement.

If Harrell had been given proper care sooner and in his handling during restraining, his death could have been avoided. Law enforcement and legislature should be more pressed with avoiding these situations than protecting the police involved from repercussions.

Oftentimes when conversations come up regarding police brutality

the argument is not whether the actions of the police were harmful. It is about whether or not the lives harmed matter enough for there to be repercussions.

Time and time again, the judicial system devalues Black and Brown lives while protecting the perpetrators of this brutality. While qualified immunity is one small part of the problem with policing in America, we should be working to dismantle it, not enforce it.

“While Reynolds and supporters of this bill see it as a necessary protection, this is just another harmful way for Iowa's government to uphold racism within the judicial system.”

“Time and time again, the judicial system devalues Black and Brown lives while protecting the perpetrators of this brutality.”

penalties for protesting, it also increases qualified immunity for law enforcement.

While Reynolds and supporters of this bill see it as a necessary protection, this is just another harmful way for Iowa's government to uphold racism within the judicial system.

Qualified immunity has a tumultuous history in our country, rooted in racism. The concept and language surrounding qualified immunity emerged during the Civil Rights Movement.

Following racism within the public transit system, 15 priests were arrested while protesting in Jackson, Mississippi. The priests filed a lawsuit because they believed that their arrests were aimed to enforce segregation in-

lice brutality, there has been an increase in suspects fleeing from police, as well as a significant increase in force.

Officers and Iowa State Patrol were reported to have drawn weapons 296 times in 2020, which was an 83 percent increase from the previous year.

Along with the increase in unrest related to policing, Black Iowans are disproportionately involved in these incidents. While making up only 4.1 percent of the population, Black Iowans make up 30 percent of the people involved in increased force cases.

An example of qualified immunity can be seen in the 2017 case of Jerome Harrell. Harrell had turned himself in to the police after having had a traffic violation,



Ryan Adams/The Daily Iowan  
Gov. Kim Reynolds listens to Senate President Jake Chapman speak during the State of the State address in the house chamber of the Iowa State Capitol on Jan. 12 in Des Moines. Reynolds recently signed the "Back the Blue" bill into law, which gives extra protections to law enforcement officers and increases penalties for protestors.

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Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa setter Bailey Ortega jumps up after a win during a volleyball match between Iowa and Michigan State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on March 27. Volleyball, along with soccer, field hockey, and both cross country teams, will have little time to prepare for the fall season after competing in the spring.

## Fall sports adjust to short offseason

After the Big Ten moved fall 2020 sports to the spring of 2021, coaches and players are now adjusting to a shortened offseason.

BY WILL FINEMAN  
william-fineman@uiowa.edu

The 2020-21 season was unusual for all college student-athletes because of COVID-19, but it was fall sports that saw a drastic

change to their schedules.

After the Big Ten announced that fall sports, with the exception of football, would be postponed, it was uncertain whether Iowa volleyball, field hockey, women's soccer, and men's and

women's cross country would even have a 2020-21 season. That is, until the NCAA laid out a path for fall sports to play in the spring.

"It was a unique year all the way around," Iowa head soccer

coach Dave Dilanni said. "[Initially], we were told that we were not going to have a season, then we were told in February that we were going to have a season but that it was going to be Big Ten-only with no nonconference

games at all."

With the unconventional 2020-21 spring seasons now finished, fall sport coaches and athletes are adjusting to a short turnaround for the 2021-22 season this fall.

In a typical season, fall sports finish in November — depending on the team's postseason commitments.

Volleyball and field hockey have offseason training until January, with the exception of Thanksgiving and winter breaks. Soccer typically takes four weeks off after the season ends before starting to prepare for spring exhibition matches.

Teams have eight-hour training weeks for the first half of the spring before transitioning to a 20-hour week during their spring competition. Soccer's spring season has around six exhibition matches while volleyball and field hockey play spring tournaments that end before May.

The summer is filled with strength training and optional workouts run by players, as coaches are not allowed to run practices for most of the summer.

"The other aspect that we deal with in our sport, and field hockey does as

well, is our preseason is just not long enough," Dilanni said. "Basketball programs laugh at us because we have 14 days to be able to build a team and prepare to win at this level. Basketball is practicing right now, and they don't start until November."

In the 2020-21 season, fall sports played a more competitive schedule into April and May. Hawkeye field hockey and soccer face an even shorter offseason because of their postseason success in the spring.

Dilanni's soccer squad won the Big Ten championship in April and made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament before falling to No. 3 UCLA, 3-0.

Iowa field hockey fell in the semifinals in the Big Ten Tournament, but the Hawkeyes catapulted to a NCAA Tournament Final Four run in May.

"We spent a lot of time as a coaching staff with our strength and conditioning coach to adjust what our normal summer

training program would look like, because we had to give our team a needed break," field hockey head coach Lisa Cellucci said. "The training will ramp up a little bit more for us by July 1. That typically is a little late for us in the summer."

A shorter offseason, given the quick turnaround, also creates concern surrounding injuries.

"I think in our sport with only two weeks of preseason, [injuries] are always going to be something that is a concern," Dilanni said.

But now, teams have the opportunity to build on momentum created in the spring, or quickly wipe away the disappointment of a bad season.

"We're going to have pretty much the same team back, which is awesome," senior volleyball middle blocker Hannah Clayton said. "Having a season so close to our fall season kind of gave us more fuel to the fire and more excitement to play."

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Penn State midfielder, Sam Coffey, kicks the ball during a corner kick during the Iowa women's soccer match v. Penn State at the Iowa Soccer Complex on March 25. The Iowa soccer team will return to the field this fall only months removed from its Big Ten Tournament title.

# Clair Kaji returning for sixth season

After winning a Big Ten title with the GymHawks, the Vancouver native is taking advantage of an extra year of eligibility.

BY ISAAC GOFFIN

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Clair Kaji had no regrets after completing her fifth season on the Iowa women's gymnastics team.

Yet, she thought she had more to contribute to the program.

"So, it went to, 'Could I contribute physically?'" Kaji said. "Yes, I can still contribute physically, and I want to do that. I trust my team. I have an incredibly talented team, and if I can push someone to be better and push me out of the lineup, so be it because that's how we're all going to get to the top."

After her sophomore season was cut short in 2017-18 because of a torn Achilles, Kaji returned for a fifth season in 2020-21. Now, as the NCAA gave all 2020-21 student-athletes another year of eligibility because of COVID-19, Kaji had the option to return again to the Hawkeyes.

So, Kaji decided to compete for one final season with women's gymnastics at Carver-Hawkeye Arena during the 2021-22 season — her sixth at Iowa, a program that just had one of its best seasons in its history.

After losing their first meet — an exhibition against Minnesota — the Hawkeyes won seven straight dual competitions, including the Big Ten's Big Five meet, on their way to the program's first-ever Big Ten regular season title.

At the 2021 Big Ten Women's Gymnastics Championships, the Hawkeyes tied for third with a score of 196.625. At the conference meet, Kaji was selected to the 2021 All-Big Ten Championships team



Hannah Kinson/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Clair Kaji performs her floor routine during a women's gymnastics meet between Iowa, Minnesota, and Maryland on Feb. 13 at Carver Hawkeye Arena. Kaji, who performed on floor, beam, and bars last season, is returning for her sixth year with the GymHawks.

after finishing runner-up on bars.

Throughout the 2020-21 season, Kaji competed on bars, beam, and floor for the Iowa rotation. She posted a 9.900 or higher eight times on floor, five on beam, and three on bars.

After the 2020-21 season, Kaji earned first-team All-Big Ten honors — her third time making an All-Big Ten team. She was also the Big Ten specialist of the week three times, on Jan. 25, Feb. 1, and March 8.

"I think this past season was

the best for me personally," Kaji said. "And what works for me is just kind of letting go of the of the pressure of focusing a lot on the team and just trusting myself and trusting my gymnastics."

In her freshman season, she tied for first on the beam at the 2017 NCAA Regionals in Champaign, Illinois, with a score of 9.950. Kaji notched an individual spot at the NCAA championships, finishing in 17th with a 9.8650 score.

After recovering from her Achilles injury in 2018, Kaji earned

first-team All-Big Ten in her junior season in 2018-19 and garnered academic All-Big Ten honors after the shorted 2020 season.

The Vancouver, Canada, native ranks second in program history on beam with a 9.950 score and sixth on bars with a 9.925.

Kaji, who's now entering her final year of her master's program in social work, said she's excited to compete with an already accomplished Iowa team looking to improve.

JerQuavia Henderson, Iowa's

only all-around gymnast in 2020-21, will return for her junior season. Henderson was named a second-team All-American in 2020-21. First-team All-American Lauren Guerin will return for a senior season, competing on vault, balance beam, and floor.

"My team for sure is my family not blood because I could not imagine my life without these people," Kaji said. "I think these people will be the best people I will ever know in my life. So, yes I have absolutely loved it here."