

# The Daily Iowan

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## Iowa unemployment climbs

The Iowa unemployment rate just reached 4 percent. The last time it hit that mark was in October 2020. Rep. Bobby Kaufmann says the state is just getting its bearings, but Rep. Ras Smith says that there is work that needs to be done.



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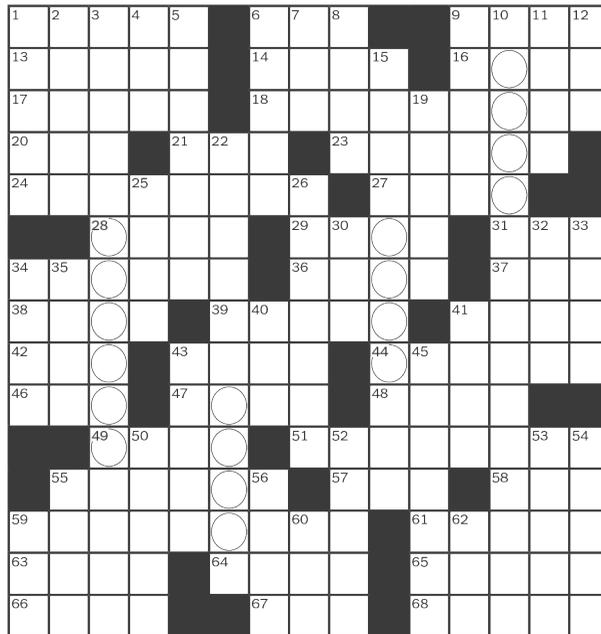
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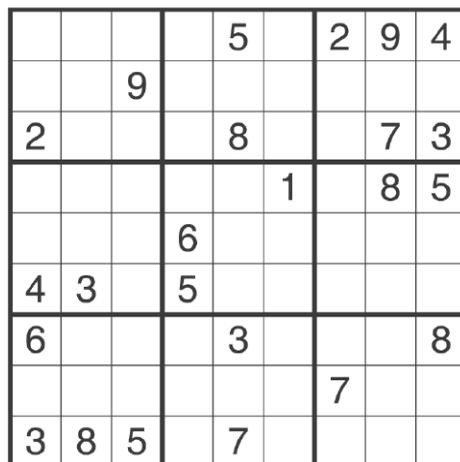
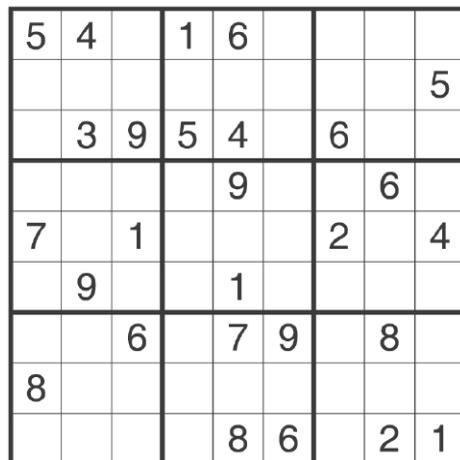
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# Iowa unemployment rate slightly rising

The unemployment rate has been rising since January, despite the Iowa Workforce Development reporting 70,000 jobs on the board.



Larry Phan/The Daily Iowan

A sign advertising employment openings is seen in a business window in downtown Iowa City on July 23. Johnson County's unemployment rate is higher than the state average, with a rate of 4.4 percent.

BY MEG DOSTER

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Iowa's unemployment rate now sits at 4 percent, according to the Iowa Workforce Development, up from the 3.9 percent reported in May.

The last time the state's unemployment rate reached or exceeded 4 percent was Oct. 2020, when it was

listed at 4.2 percent. The unemployment rate steadily decreased from its high of 11 percent in April 2020, but from January to July of this year, the number is once again climbing.

Iowa's Paycheck Protection funds ran out in May.

The program provided forgivable loans to eligible businesses so business owners could maintain their

staffs through the pandemic.

"It must be stated that during the pandemic we had plenty of employers clamoring for help," Iowa Workforce Development Deputy Director Ryan West said. "I don't want to negate that at all as employers were certainly needing help during the pandemic as well, but it's as we started coming out of this it just feels

different than we were last July."

The Iowa Workforce Development helps people and workplaces seek employment and employees. Despite the unemployment rate rising, the Iowa Workforce Development website states that it has 70,000 jobs on the board and believes the unemployment rate shouldn't affect the chances of

someone obtaining a job.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Iowa has the 12th highest unemployment rate compared to other states.

"We have lots of jobs obviously right now," Iowa Workforce Development District Manager Linda

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# UNEMPLOYMENT

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Rouse said. "We have employers hiring from all industries. So again, I think it depends on what that job seeker is looking for."

In March 2020, when the World Health Organization declared the spread of COVID-19 a pandemic, the unemployment rate for the United States was 4.4 percent, while the rate for Iowa in March 2020 was 2.9 percent.

Johnson County has a higher unemployment rate than the state as a whole, sitting at 4.4 percent, which is lower than some other districts. Des Moines's unemployment rate is 6.8 percent, and the lowest rate of unemployment in the state is in Lyon County at 2.3 percent.

"I think the issue is that we are in a flux period right now, where we had complete adjustments in how we work," Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, said.

Kaufmann said while Iowa's economy isn't ideal, it's nothing to be worried about. He said he believes that because the economy

has gone through an upheaval as a result of the pandemic, it's only natural that the unemployment rate would vary.

"You're going to have an adjustment period. We're in it right now, where employers and employees are adjusting to the new normal," Kaufmann said. "I think, in my opinion, we absolutely will correct back to among the lowest unemployment [rate] in the entire country."

Kaufmann said that there are plenty of jobs and that the Iowa economy is not going to crash and burn.

"To anybody that says they can't get a job that wants one, why? I can tell you, in my district, I've got an employer right now that I can dial up, and you can have a \$20 an hour job with benefits ready for anybody for very little training tomorrow... it's time to get back in the workforce," Kaufmann said.

Rep. Ras Smith, D-Waterloo, said he believes the unemployment rate doesn't seem to be caused by a lack of opportunity, rather a lack of quality.

He said a person can get a job no problem, but if that job offers too



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa Rep. Ras Smith, D-Waterloo, poses for a portrait in Iowa City on July 2. Smith said the state needs to work on incentivizing and protecting workers to reduce unemployment.

low of wages or does not provide benefits that an employee deems adequate, they will choose to stay on unemployment.

As a state, he said Iowa is not doing enough to incentivize and pro-

tect workers. Iowa's minimum wage has been \$7.25 since 2008.

"I think part of it is the wages. We have to ensure that the people are being paid a wage in which they feel as though they can work," Smith said. "I think we have to be more innovative, there are examples of employers here that are doing everything they can to cut the red tape for employment."

Chase Van Landen, who worked for Pullman Bar and Diner in Iowa City from August 2019 to August 2020, said he left his job at the restaurant when he was offered a new job at a law firm.

"Were we paid well enough salary-wise? Probably not, because, I think shift employees make something like \$4.35 an hour at Pullman or elsewhere," he said.

He said during his time working at Pullman, it was always busy and management was frequently trying to find new employees and offer them advanced payment in order to incentivize them to work.

Van Landen said he had financial support from his family when it came to his schooling at the University of Iowa, but his wages at Pull-

man were all he had to live off.

"Over the pandemic, I was kind of on COVID unemployment," Van Landen said. "Since that, I've had support from my family for school, but otherwise I support myself, even if I haven't been working."

Iowa's Paycheck Protection Program budget ended on May 31. The Paycheck Protection Program was given to businesses to help them afford to keep their employees during COVID-19.

Kaufmann said the government shouldn't be involved at all, and any further interference will only make it harder to go back to pre-pandemic normal.

"PPP was designed to help business owners stay afloat. Now that the economy's back up, it entails that a lot of individuals and groups are up," Kaufmann said. "There's gonna be that natural adjustment of relying on your own revenue as opposed to government revenue."

Smith said the state government isn't doing enough to lower the unemployment rate.

"The unemployment rate is alarming, but it lets us know what work we need to do," Smith said.



Larry Phan/The Daily Iowan

A sign advertising employment openings is seen in a Java House window in downtown Iowa City on July 23. Iowa's Paycheck Protection Program helped businesses afford to keep their workers during COVID-19, but Iowa's program budget ended May 31.

# UI seeks to expand mental health services in rural Iowa

A \$1.8 million grant will help train psychology and social work students to offer mental health services in Iowa's rural areas.

BY EMILY DELGADO  
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University of Iowa Health Care, alongside the UI's College of Education, will train students to develop a future workforce of mental health specialists in rural Iowa this fall.

The UI project, "Building a Mental Health Workforce to Serve Rural Iowa Youth," will provide training for students through a \$1.8 million federal grant from the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program.

The Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, assists those living in non-metropolitan areas with economic and medical vulnerabilities by improving their health care.

According to 2019 data, the Iowa Data Center reported that 35.7 percent of Iowa's population lives in geographically rural areas.

Through the UI Mobile Clinic, the grant will provide training for students at the UI pursuing a doctorate in counseling psychology, a master's in social work, and medical students from the UI Carver College of Medicine specializing in mental health services.

Saba Ali, a professor within the education college and co-director of the grant, said the grant's team will also be partnering with community agencies such as UI Hospitals and Clinics to give psychology and social work students opportunities to practice.

"If medical students come across working with folks in these communities who need mental health care, they can easily refer them to one of our students or our clinic in order to be able to get access to some of these services," Ali said.

Training will expand throughout the course of students' time as the project progresses, Ali said.

Many children drive up to 50 miles to reach mental health resources, Megan Foley Nicpon, a professor in the education college and co-director of the grant, said. She said going to communities with the mobile clinic is a better way to help children.

"I think that right now, access to mental health care in rural communities is much more challenging than it is in urban communities in Iowa," Foley Nicpon said.

Ali said she attributes the shortage of experts in rural areas to not having enough people trained in the primary care and mental health field.

"Health care has a shortage issue in general with other allied health professionals to primary care services," Ali said. "A huge hole for a lot of rural communities is getting access to good primary care or other health care services."

The Iowa Department of Education reported in 2017 that one in five children ages 13-18 have or will have a "serious mental illness."

Denise Martinez, faculty director for the UI Mobile Clinic and co-project director, said in a statement on July 12 that she hopes the program will inspire trainees to continue to work with patients in rural areas throughout their careers.

"There is evidence that shows that residents who train in rural communities are more likely to practice there after

their training is completed," Martinez said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children who are mentally healthy will ensure they reach developmental and emotional milestones, and live happy and healthy lives.

Foley Nicpon said a lot of habits that people develop in adulthood have their roots in childhood experiences. In Iowa, the second leading cause of death in ages between 15-24 is suicide, according to the Iowa Department of Education.

"I think that health across the lifespan is important. And so, a lot of the habits that we develop in adulthood have their roots in our childhood experiences," Foley Nicpon said. "If you can intervene at a young age and childhood or in adolescence, we anticipate and we hope to have better outcomes long term. It's more of a prevention sort of model."

*If you are having thoughts of suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) or go to [SpeakingOfSuicide.com/resources](http://SpeakingOfSuicide.com/resources) for additional resources.*



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University of Iowa students will travel with the UI Mobile Clinic around Iowa to provide mental health treatments for children in rural counties.

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# Coralville community gives blood at time of low donations

The Coralville fire and police departments and their supporters donated 36 pints of blood to the University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center, following the eighth annual showdown to see which department could receive the most community support.

BY LILLIAN POULSEN  
lillian-poulsen@uiowa.edu

During the eighth annual “Battle of the Badges” blood drive, the Coralville fire and police departments and their supporters donated over 30 pints of blood to the University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center.

During the summer, the departments are more likely to respond to severe traffic fatalities, resulting in injuries that need blood donations.

This year, the fire department beat the police in a showdown to see who could donate the most blood based on community support. The blood drive ran from July 21-23.

The “Battle of the Badges” blood drive started in 2013 under the leadership of Sgt. Mike Barney, who worked for the Coralville Police Department for 20 years before retiring in 2020.

“This was a big thing for Sgt. Barney because he was involved in a motorcycle accident off duty and he needed blood,” Sgt. Kyle Nicholson, patrol supervisor and community relations officer for the Coralville Police Department, said. “This became something that our department took to heart, and we’ve continued it over the past eight years.”

The goal of the blood drive is to promote healthy competition between the two departments to support the greater cause of donating blood, Nicholson said.

“We have a camaraderie between ourselves and the fire department — we joke back and forth all the time,” Nicholson said.

Aside from the competition, the “Battle of the Badges” promotes giving blood at a time of the year when donations are low, he said.

“It’s important for us to help out in any way that we can — getting donations into DeGowin is the biggest part of why we do this blood drive,” Nicholson said.

As previously reported by *The Daily Iowan*, the need for blood donations doesn’t go away. The summer is an especially critical time due to more accidents and an increase in traumas.

Nicholson said the police and fire departments notice this critical need as they respond to accidents.

“Summer seems to be a time when we handle a majority of accidents, and they can be a little more severe than other accidents,” Nicholson said. “During the summer, we have bicyclists, motorcyclists, and people who are on their phone or distracted, so these accidents tend to have injuries involved that require blood donations.”

According to the Iowa Department of Transportation, traffic fatalities increase during the summer months. Last year, June through August crash-related fatalities accounted for 35 percent of the year’s total.

As of July 23, there have been 26 more crash-related fatalities in 2021 than in 2020.

According to *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*, blood centers in Iowa have seen an increase in donation numbers in recent weeks. Despite this increase, blood centers expect to fall behind in their donations around Labor Day and as school starts.

Blood donations remain critically low, with some parts of the state only having one-to-two days’ worth of blood supply left.

Assistant Fire Chief for the Coralville Fire Department Nic Pruter said the departments’ competition prompted a donation of 36 pints of blood this year to the



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Sgt. Kyle Nicholson of the Coralville Police department waits his turn on July 22. Nicholson stopped in to give his support to the “Battle of the Badges” Blood Drive. The University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center hosted the event at the Coralville Public Library.

UI DeGowin Blood Center, which collects blood for UI Hospitals and Clinics and Stead Family Children’s Hospital patients.

Over the past eight years, the departments have donated 326 units of blood during their competition, with 2018 having the most donations — 49 pints of blood.

Iowa City resident Suzanne Harney-Wright said she donated her blood to support the fire department.

“My son used to be a volunteer firefighter at the Coralville Fire Department, so I supported them,” she said. “I am also a nurse, so I see the people that need blood.”

Coralville resident John Fisher said he attended the event to support both departments.

“I came out to donate because of the police and fire departments — I have placed people under arrest in my earlier days, but I also fought a fire,” he said. “I put a blue marble in to support the police.”

This year, the fire department beat the police department by 30 votes, Pruter said. Despite this landslide win, this is only the third year that the fire department won against the police department, he said.

“This is extremely rewarding, and it feels great to have support from the community and get that traveling trophy,” Pruter said. “The event is all in good fun and there’s good support for both departments in the community.”

In the future, both departments hope to expand this event, Pruter said. He said they want a bigger

turnout and have a goal of donating 50 pints of blood next year.

Even if the community doesn’t show up to donate blood to support the fire or police departments, Pruter said they encourage everyone to donate blood when and if they can.

“I think a lot of people are scared to donate blood, but it’s a super easy process and the benefits far outweigh the discomfort of getting your blood drawn,” Pruter said. “We are always looking for donations even if it’s not during our event — donate blood any time during the year.”

To learn how you can donate blood, contact the UI DeGowin Blood Center by phone at (319) 356-2058 or online at [uidegowinbloodcenter.org](http://uidegowinbloodcenter.org)

Jeff Sigmund contributed to this report.

# Parents, teens split over COVID-19 vaccine, per survey

Only half of adolescents aged 13 to 17 and parents of adolescents aged 12 to 17 would "definitely" get the COVID-19 vaccine.



Jerod Ringwald /The Daily Iowan

The UIHC is displayed on April 7. About half of parents and adolescents across the United States are split on their attitudes and intentions toward getting the COVID-19 vaccine, according to a national survey by UI assistant professor Aaron Scherer.

**BY LILLIAN POULSEN**  
lillian-poulsen@uiowa.edu

About half of parents and adolescents across the United States are split on their attitudes and intentions toward getting the COVID-19 vaccine, according to a national survey by University of Iowa assistant professor Aaron Scherer.

On May 10, the Food and Drug Administration expanded its Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to include adolescents aged 12 to 15.

Prior to the authorization, the group of researchers sent out non-probability-based surveys administered by the Healthcare and Public Perceptions of Immuniza-

tions (HaPPI) Survey Collaborative in April to assess parents' and adolescents' willingness for vaccination.

"In our survey, we found that only half of parents and adolescents reported intentions to get their adolescents or themselves vaccinated," Scherer, assistant professor of internal medicine in the UI Carver College of Medicine, said. "Most people just wanted more information about how safe the vaccine was and how effective it would be for this age group."

The online panel surveyed national samples of 985 adolescents aged 13 to 17 years and 1,022 parents of different adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, Scherer said.

Scherer said they recruited people through Qualtrics — an online

survey platform — because they could collect all their data in one week, rather than the usual weeks to months. Scherer's team also set up quotas on age, gender, race, and ethnicity so the samples were fairly representative of the U.S., he said.

The survey's findings were published July 9 in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, which included results from the HaPPI Survey Collective that Scherer leads.

The researchers found that 27.6 percent of parents whose adolescents were already vaccine-eligible reported that their adolescent had already received the COVID-19 vaccine, Scherer said.

Julie Fitzpatrick, a physical therapist from Iowa City, said her 13-year-old son is fully vaccinated

because she chose to trust the science.

"My spouse and I got vaccinated as soon as we could because the pros of getting the vaccine weighed stronger against any uncertainty with the vaccine," Fitzpatrick said. "We're going into it with the hope that what we are seeing for ourselves is going to be true for our kids."

Scherer said the best way to increase the percentage of vaccinated adolescents is through recommendations from public health officials and health care providers.

"We know that a strong provider recommendation is one of the best interventions we have to improve vaccine uptake," Scherer said. "We want to make sure health care providers and public health officials feel confident in the safety of vaccines so they can make those strong recommendations."

Natoshia Askelson, associate professor in community and behavioral health at the UI College of Public Health, said recommendations from these providers are necessary for more vaccinations.

"It's clear across the country that vaccine campaigns aren't going to be as effective as that one-on-one communication," Askelson said. "Health care providers need to be supported in this effort so they can become really good at having these conversations with parents and kids."

Scherer said it's important for adolescents to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible, in order to protect themselves and those around them.

"Younger people might not re-

alize that the variants of the virus will affect people who aren't vaccinated," Scherer said. "Since younger people have been one of the lowest vaccinated groups, the virus is hitting them harder now, which is why it's important for them to start getting vaccinated."

As states lifted restrictions based on older populations receiving the vaccine, younger populations experienced a rise in cases, Askelson said.

In June, the CDC found COVID-19 adolescent hospitalization rates peaked at 2.1 per 100,000 in early January 2021, declined to 0.6 in mid-March, and rose to 1.3 in April.

These increased rates in spring 2021 and the potential for severe disease reinforces the importance of vaccination, especially in adolescents, the report said.

"The risk to children and adolescents has been downplayed significantly over the pandemic, but now it's clear they are at great risk."

— Natoshia Askelson, associate professor at UI College of Public Health

# UI student given 'Greenlight' on film

Graduate Hao Zhou's film "Happy to Have You", received the state funded Greenlight Grant of \$50,000 for 2022.

**BRUCE BARTLAM, JR.**  
bbartlam@uiowa.edu

Hao Zhou's film, "Happy to Have You", recently won the federal Greenlight Grant. Zhou, a University of Iowa film graduate student, grew up in a rural area of Southwest China, and describes his sensibilities as a filmmaker as "grounded."

"Moving here to Iowa didn't feel unfamiliar to me. I'm a rural person from a small, rural town," he said. "I didn't grow up privileged. That definitely influenced me as a filmmaker."

Zhou and the film's co-writer, Tyler Hill, submitted their screenplay for the Greenlight Grant and were awarded \$50,000 through state funding to complete the film in Iowa with talent predominately from within the state.

In the program's third year, the Iowa Arts Council gave \$164,870 of state funding for fiscal year 2022 to five Greenlight Grants recipients for media productions to be produced in Iowa, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs website said.

Though Zhou kept most of the details of the plot private, viewers can expect a "fish out of water" story about a Chinese immigrant living in Iowa, he said.

Hill, producer and co-writer of "Happy to Have You" is a graduate of the University of Illinois, said the Greenlight Grant is one of the best grant programs for filmmakers in the country.

"Other state and federal grants may only support historical and scientific documentaries, and that's part of their agenda, but this grant will support a narrative feature," Hill said.

Zhou and Hill both have extensive lists of inspirations, but both mentioned on multiple occasions the influence of Chloé Zhao – the Chinese American filmmaker that recently



University of Iowa Graduate Student and Filmmaker Hao Zhou stands outside of the Visual Arts Building on July 22.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer /The Daily Iowan

won an Academy Award for her film, "Nomadland".

"It's a nice model for independent filmmaking, especially in rural areas. She uses a very small crew and often uses real people mixed with actors," Hill said. "That's something we would like to do."

The UI has also been important in supporting Zhou's work, he said.

"I knew about the University of Iowa because of the Writer's Workshop," he said. "I knew someone that had attended the International residency here, so I looked into the funding. I got into other programs, but the funding wasn't as good."

Zhou said the UI Department of Cinematic Arts provides equipment and support for students to work on their projects to completion.

"There are a lot of resources that I didn't expect before coming here. The funding and grants to support us through graduate school, but also the success program that helps us prepare applications for external funding," Zhou said.

Rachel Cox, the program head of photography in the UI School of Art and Art History, said Zhou is not a

one-note artist.

"It wasn't common when he'd show us his work, whether it'd be a short, long-form, or experimental, that it would be the same," Cox said. "That's something exciting to see... he's pulling what he's learned from photography classes and photo history and applying that to the moving image."

“ It wasn't common when he'd show us his work, whether it'd be a short, long-form, or experimental, that would be the same. That's something exciting to see... he's pulling what he learned from photography classes and photo history and applying that to the moving image.

– Rachel Cox, program head of UI photography

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# Arts & Culture

## Riverside Theatre performs Shakespeare's, 'The Winter's Tale'

The theatre brought six nights of free Shakespeare to City Park, this time with a classic comedy-meets-tragedy.

BY MADDIE JOHNSTON  
madjohnston@uiowa.edu

Sunday evening in City Park was a warm and merry one, as groups of Iowa City denizens gathered at Riverside Theatre's festival stage and its surrounding lawn to catch Riverside's final performance of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" on July 25.

The free event attracted large crowds every night of its two-week-end production. Pre-show activities drew in children and families to the picnic across from the theater, and lines for ice cream bars stretched long as people waited in anticipation for the play to start.

As folks settled into their spots before the show's start, there was a resounding feeling of gratitude in the air. Old friends shook hands and bonded over finally getting back to in-person theater.

When Riverside's artistic director and actor Adam Knight took the stage and spoke of this long-awaited return to in-person theater, a thunderous applause followed, and then began the two-and-a-half-hour production of "The Winter's Tale."

Off the bat, the show introduces the play's protagonist, Leontes, king of Sicilia, whose best friend, Polixenes, king of Bohemia, has come to Sicilia for a nine-month visit. Once Leontes begins to suspect Polixenes and his wife, Hermione, have formed a secret relationship, he is overtaken by jealousy. The rest of the play follows in the aftermath of his irrational actions.

Leontes' erratic and childish nature was captured perfectly by actor Martin Andrews, who used each soliloquy to draw the audience into his wild fits of rage and absurd plan to imprison his pregnant wife and kill Polixenes. Hermione, also known



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Young Prince Mamillius, played by Christina Sullivan, and Queen Hermione, played by Jessica Link, perform in "The Winter's Tale" on July 17 in City Park. The performance is part of Shakespeare in the Park on the Riverside Theatre Festival Stage.

as actress Jessica Link, held true to her strength and dignity as her husband's accusations caused suffering to her and her unborn child.

There to call out the king on all of his unfounded actions was the audacious Paulina, played by actress Crystal Stewart, who offered consistent realism and a surprisingly feminist twist to the 16th century play. Stewart added a level of depth and empathy to her character that made her one of the most likeable in the play.

Without giving too much away, the first half of the play ends quite sadly in the shadow of Leontes' fury

in the midst of a massive thunderstorm. As if on cue, the sun dimmed in City Park and the wind picked up. When audience members returned from intermission for the second part of the play, the set had been transformed into the festive and liberal Bohemia.

Quite different from the frigid set of Sicilia, the Bohemia set was appropriately adorned by green vines, fairy lights, flowers, and fake sheep. The characters in Bohemia dressed in colorful, loose-fitting clothing, and held a more jovial disposition than in that of Sicilia.

Whatever tragedy Leontes in-

flicts on the other characters in the first half of the play, Autolycus, played by actor Patrick Dulaney, is there to balance out with comedy by the second half. Dulaney was a definite crowd favorite, whose silly antics and willingness to let it all hang out (for those who saw the show — you know what I mean) had the crowd rife with belly laughs and knee slaps.

Overall, the play was happy, sad, funny, surprising, and most shockingly, had a happy ending.

As with all his plays, there is something contagious about the nature of Shakespeare, and this affec-

tion is only amplified by the setting of Riverside's amphitheater and its high-spirited actors and actresses.

For those looking to enjoy a night of fresh air, good company, and grown men overusing the word "bosom," look no further than a weekend of Shakespeare at the park. In just two weeks, Riverside Theatre will suit up for its next round of free Shakespeare, this time with the farcical, "The Comedy of Errors."

More information about the next Shakespeare show to take place on Riverside Theatre's festival stage can be found on the company's website.

# Opinions

COLUMN

## Iowa City can return as a 'city of the arts'

As theatre productions are returning to in-person, Iowa City can reclaim its title of being a city dedicated to the arts.



LUKE KRCHAK  
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With theatre productions coming back to live venues, Iowa City can reassert itself as a city of the arts.

It has been over a year since the pandemic shut arts down completely. As more events are returning to in-person, one can assume the arts will return, as well.

For the past year, many events have been held virtually, including plays and musicals. While this provides people with access to the events and minimizes exposure to COVID-19, it also limits the impact of the events.

Since mid-May, Johnson County has had a single digit 7-day average of COVID-19 cases. While I do not condone nor agree with people acting like it's pre-pandemic,

“While theatre productions returning in person is one major step toward revitalizing art city in Iowa City, it is part of a bigger movement.

it is time for people to safely return to seeing plays in person.

Local theatre organization, Riverside Theatre, started performing free in person plays for their Riverside Shakespeare Festival. Their most recent play, "The Winter's Tale", was held July 15-July 25. The event was hosted at the River-

side Festival Stage in City Park, an iconic homage to the playwright William Shakespeare.

Producing artistic director Adam Knight said performances of "The Winter's Tale" were emotional and joyous at times, stating how much of an impact it had on both the performers and the audience.

One major lesson Knight said he and other staff at the Riverside Theatre learned is to "just be normal." That lesson comes after the past year not being normal by any means. They had to learn how to produce for a virtual audience, as well as how to be quick on their feet and more reactionary to the new limitations.

Riverside Theatre pushed the dates of their in-person productions as far as they could pending improvements in the COVID-19 pandemic to not put anyone at unnecessary risk or harm.

Giving people free admission to events like "The Winter's Tale," gives them every opportunity to rejuvenate the theatre scene in Iowa City. The events

are also near downtown Iowa City, making it accessible for downtown residents.

Another plus is it is an outdoor event, which minimizes the spread of COVID-19. While Riverside Theatre does not enforce mask requirements, it does encourage attendees to follow mask



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

Director Adam Knight speaks to the audience before the start of "The Winter's Tale" on July 17. Knight is part of the Riverside Theatre staff as producing artistic director.

and other COVID-19 guidelines.

While theatre productions returning to in person is one major step towards revitalizing the art scene in Iowa City, it is a part of a bigger movement.

It is one goal of Riverside Theatre to promote works of art, whether it be plays or concerts. Iowa City has many art programs being presented by the Summer of the Arts.

The Summer of the Arts provides Iowa City with many other festivals, like the Jazz Festival. Similar to the Riverside Shakespeare Festival, all of the festivals have free admissions and are held downtown.

On July 30 and July 31, the Soul

and Blues Festival will be held at the main stage on the intersection of Iowa Avenue and Dubuque Street.

Summer 2021 has more than made up for the summer that was mostly missed in 2020. Events were held virtually last summer, but it does not compare to seeing the arts live. Take movies for example. People can stream most movies in the comfort of their home, yet it does not feel the same as watching the movie on the big screen.

The COVID-19 limitations were necessary to keep people safe, but as the days of summer dwindle, pushing for more events, including plays, to be in-person is the

right way to go. Iowa City can only provide so many opportunities to enjoy and participate in the arts, so it is up to more people to attend.

While I do understand reservations about seeing a play during a pandemic, people should still try to attend. Performing or attending artistic events is one of the few ways of revitalizing Iowa City's artistic community. People should think about attending the upcoming play "The Comedy of Errors" at the Riverside Festival stage.

Over the past year, Iowa City held onto its title of being a city of the arts the best it could. But now, it's time to bring it back home.

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## July 31

10:00 am

**Black Business Owner's Forum**  
@ The Graduate Hotel

11:00 am

**Black Author's Panel**  
(Virtual Event)

12:30 pm

**Kevin Burt**  
@ Main Stage

1:30 pm

**Ship of Fools, Eastern Iowa Arts Academy**  
@ Main Stage - Soul & Blues Festival

2:30 pm

**String Prophets**  
@ Main Stage

5:00 pm

**Ivy Ford Band**  
@ Main Stage

7:00 pm

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10:00 pm

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# Students should be vaccinated before returning to campus

Despite no vaccine mandate set by the state Board of Regents, all students should be vaccinated for COVID-19 for fall



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

A University of Iowa student receives the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at the Iowa Memorial Union at the University of Iowa on April 21.



**SOPHIA MEADOR**  
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As students prepare to come back to the University of Iowa, there is a more optimistic attitude for the upcoming academic year than the previous year, which was centered around COVID-19.

The university plans to transition back to in-person instruction for classes under 150 students; lift mask mandates in most areas; invite fans back to Kinnick Stadium for football games at full-capacity;

and allow for face-to-face student club and organization meetings, along with a multitude of relaxed COVID-19 restrictions.

With the UI slowly moving back to pre-pandemic life, it is comprehensible to think COVID-19 is history. Sadly, this is not the case. COVID-19 has not vanished, and it is actually getting worse.

Since July 21, COVID-19 cases have more than doubled across Iowa. Along with the increase in cases, hospitalizations in Iowa related to the virus are over 100 for the first time since May.

Most public health experts point to the Delta variant as the culprit behind the national surge of cases. The Delta variant, which is a mutation of SARS-CoV-2, has proven to be more contagious than previous strains of COVID-19. According to

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Delta variant currently contributes to 83 percent of all COVID-19 cases in the U.S.

In recent days, leaders of the Republican Party have encouraged Americans to get vaccinated despite a history of indifferent attitudes surrounding COVID-19 vaccines. Conservative pundit Sean Hannity recently said on television that, “it absolutely makes sense for many Americans to get vaccinated. I believe in science. I believe in the science of vaccinations.”

With the increased support of COVID-19 vaccinations across political spectrums, some states have seen a slight boost in vaccinations. However, many states still see a decline in overall vaccination rates.

In Iowa, only 46.6 percent of residents are fully vaccinated. In

comparison to the state, Johnson County has seen a higher percentage of vaccination rates, with 58.4 percent of eligible persons vaccinated. However, some counties in Iowa report vaccination rates as low as 29.4 percent.

Despite their eligibility, young Iowans also report relatively low vaccination rates. Only 35 percent of Iowans ages 18-19 are fully vaccinated, with Iowans ages 20-28 at 38 percent.

With vaccination rates where they currently stand in Iowa, and across the country, the pandemic is far from over. Some experts suggest we will not reach herd immunity until 70-90 percent of the population is vaccinated – this includes children under 12 who are not currently eligible for a vaccine. At the country’s current rate of vaccinations, we will not reach the 90 percent target until August of 2022.

Despite the atmosphere and enthusiasm heading into the coming school year, COVID-19 has not disappeared. But we as students can help defeat the persistent virus by getting vaccinated.

The state Board of Regents has not set a vaccine mandate for stu-

Although COVID-19 vaccines are not mandated, all students have the obligation to their community and school to get vaccinated to help slow the spread of the contagious Delta variant and work towards herd immunity.

Though vaccinated individuals have tested positive for COVID-19, vaccinations prove to be largely effective in protecting individuals against the virus. Unvaccinated individuals are twice as likely to be hospitalized by the Delta variant than the Alpha variant, previously seen amid soaring outbreaks.

As the previous school year exemplified, COVID-19 puts hard restraints on the quality of education the UI can provide. Though online classes are largely dismissed, and masks are not widely mandated, these restrictions can be reinforced in no time. As the virus has proven time and time again, becoming negligent to COVID-19 precautions has irreversible effects.

With the current success seen from vaccinations, this school year can be far better than the one we previously experienced. Students can go about their ed-

“ We as students can help defeat the persistent virus by getting vaccinated.

dents coming back to campus. The UI website instructs, “Consistent with that guidance, the university urges everyone eligible to receive a vaccine when it is available to them, in consultation with their health care provider, through established protocols and recommendations of their health care provider.”

ucation with less risk of getting sick, and Iowa City citizens can see their community come back to life. However, this will not happen if people choose to not get vaccinated.

Together, let’s move forward and work to make COVID-19 history. Please, get vaccinated and stay safe this school year.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Tyrone Tracy Jr. poses for a photo during day two of Big Ten Media Days at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 23. Tracy Jr. is planning to release a logo and merchandise under new name, image, and likeness guidelines.

## Tracy taking advantage of NIL

Before the football season starts, Hawkeye wide receiver Tyrone Tracy Jr. has a personalized logo and merchandise in the works.

BY CHLOE PETERSON  
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INDIANAPOLIS — In a perfect world, Tyrone Tracy Jr. would form a partnership with Nike. Or his favorite sports

drink — Bodyarmor.

Now, the Hawkeye junior wide receiver has the chance to capitalize off his name, image, and likeness, but head coach Kirk Ferentz has made one thing clear to the Hawkeyes:

football comes first.

“Coach Ferentz had a meeting with us and made it a point for us to understand that, you know, we don’t want this to get in the way of football,” Tracy said at Big Ten Media Days on

July 23. “So, it is a great opportunity, it’s a blessing, but as we start to do stuff and capitalize, we don’t want it to be a distraction.”

After a years-long push from student-athletes around the

country, the NCAA changed its name, image, and likeness guidelines on July 1. Collegiate athletes can now capitalize off their name, image, and likeness, including hosting athletic camps and selling merchandise.

“ The other thing I told our guys is that it’s probably going to help you to be on a good team. Be a good player on a good team.

— Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz

For Ferentz, it’s one more thing in his student-athletes’ already busy schedules.

“I think it’s probably gonna take a while to really understand it fully,” Ferentz said July 23. “One thing is really apparent to me, right from the get-go... it’s gonna be one more tug on our guys for time management, energy management. And they’ve already got a lot of those anyway. Every college athlete’s had that forever, like

you know as long as there’s things to do outside of sports or academics. So that the energy and time management can be big.”

Tracy quickly took advantage of NIL, hosting a signing event at Graze in Iowa City with junior running back Tyler Goodson and defensive back Dane Belton. He also partnered with YOKE gaming — a platform for fans to play videogames with their favorite athletes.

And there’s more to come from the Hawkeye wide receiver.

“I actually have a lot of stuff coming out soon before the [football] season,” Tracy said. “I have my own logo that will come out with some apparel. The launch day, I think, will be a week before the actual game. So, I think that’s



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz discusses NIL opportunities with reporters during day two of Big Ten Media Days at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 23.

going to be pretty big for me, just to get that out there.”

But when the season comes

around on Sept. 4 against Indiana, Tracy is going to focus on football, connecting with teammates, and leading his team as a captain. After all, Tracy said, the best players get the best NIL opportunities.

“If you just play good football, you go out during the season and play really good football, you won’t have to start searching for NIL opportunities,” Tracy said. “The opportunities will present themselves.”

Athletic success could also help the Hawkeyes in their name, image, and likeness ventures, Ferentz said.

Alabama sophomore quarterback Bryce Young is already approaching \$1 million in endorsement deals before making a start for the Crimson Tide. Alabama was the 2021 College Football Playoff champion.

Iowa is listed at No. 10 in the 2020-21 NCAA preseason top 25.

“The other thing I told our guys is that it’s probably going to help you to be on a good team,” Ferentz said. “Be a good player on a good team. That’ll probably make you more marketable, like the NFL Draft or anything else.’ So, it’s gonna be interesting.”



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa players Zach VanValkenburg and Tyrone Tracy Jr. smile on the set of Big Ten Network during day two of Big Ten Media Days at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 23.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

**Top:** Iowa players Zach VanValkenburg, Tyrone Tracy Jr., and Tyler Linderbaum discuss Iowa football on Big Ten Network during day two of Big Ten Media Days at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 23. **Middle:** Iowa wide receiver Tyrone Tracy Jr. answers questions during day two of Big Ten Media Days at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 23. **Bottom:** Michigan State head coach Mel Tucker shares a moment with Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz during day two of Big Ten Media Days at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 23.

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# Iowa rebounding after departures

The Hawkeye men's basketball team lost four contributors from last season but is anxious to prove it can still win.

BY ROBERT READ  
robert-read@uiowa.edu

The 2021 Iowa men's basketball team doesn't want to be defined by what it doesn't have. Or, more specifically, who it doesn't have.

Luka Garza, Joe Wieskamp, CJ Fredrick, and Jack Nunge all departed the program in the offseason. Garza, the reigning National Player of the Year, graduated. Wieskamp, a three-year starter and 2020 second-team All-Big Ten selection, entered the NBA Draft. Fredrick (Kentucky) and Nunge (Xavier) both transferred, leaving Iowa without one of its sharpshooting guards and one of its top post players off the bench.

But the Hawkeyes aren't dwelling on what they have lost as much

a they are set on developing chemistry with what remains of the roster.

"We don't care," forward Patrick



P. McCaffery

McCaffery said of anyone who doubts Iowa. "We do not care. We know what we have in our locker room. Everyone is confident in what we have. We know the talent we have, the ability we have. We know the versatility we have. We don't really care about the outside noise. We kind of embrace being underdogs."

Jordan Bohannon and Connor McCaffery are the two regular starters from last season's team returning for 2021-22. Keegan Murray, Patrick McCaffery, Joe Toussaint, Ahron Ullis, Tony Perkins, and Josh

Ogundele are among the bench players expected to see increased roles in the new-look rotation.

Four players are new to coach Fran McCaffery's program this year: North Dakota transfer Filip Rebraca, three-star recruits Riley Mulvey and Peyton Sandfort, and walk-on Luc Laketa.

"Mostly right now we're getting up to speed with our new four guys," sophomore forward Kris Murray said of what the team's focus is in summer workouts. "They've transitioned really well. I think this summer's just been developing our guys and making the most of the time that we have. And we're grateful to have the eight weeks [of practice] we didn't have last year."

Iowa led the Big Ten, averaging 84 points per game last season. But

Garza, Wieskamp, Fredrick, and Nunge accounted for 64 percent of that production.

Toussaint is stepping into the starting point guard role this season, as Bohannon replaces Fredrick in an off-the-ball role. Keegan Murray and Patrick McCaffery will likely see their roles expand with the losses of Garza, Wieskamp, and Nunge in the frontcourt.

"I think I'm somebody that's gonna need to score the ball a little more," Patrick McCaffery said. "I think that's something our coaches and our team in general count on me for — to score the ball. Also, I think I'm somebody who can be an effective weapon for us defensively as well, just with my length and my athletic ability."

Iowa entered last season ranked

No. 5 in the nation and stayed in the top 10 for all but one week en route to a No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament. This year's team, after losing some of its top players, will likely be unranked to start the season.

There's nothing the Hawkeyes can do about that now. But when the season starts in November, the group is anxious to prove, despite all it lost, that a return trip to March Madness is a realistic goal.

"We all want the same goal at the end of the day: to win a Big Ten championship and go as far as we can," Toussaint said. "If we all lock in, to be honest with you, we'll still be up there. Obviously there's no Luka Garza, there's no Joe Wieskamp, but I feel like if we believe in each other, we can accomplish anything."

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