

A fond farewell to The Mill



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Debris hits a window after a bulldozer demolished The Mill on Jan. 27. The Mill was known as an art and concert venue for Iowa City artists and musicians before closing in 2020.

The Mill was demolished on Jan. 27, ending decades of its presence in Iowa City. The vine-covered brick building hosted countless local and national artists over the years.

MILL | Page 6

UI ramps up COVID-19 test availability

The University of Iowa is providing free, at-home COVID-19 tests to students at multiple locations across campus.

Ryan Hansen
News Reporter

The University of Iowa has expanded COVID-19 testing availability for students.

The university purchased thousands of tests to expand options and capacity among students across campus, Undergraduate Student Government President Regan Smock said.

Angie Reams, UI associate vice president and dean of students, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that, because rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 have become more available, the university opted to increase access to them for students.

"Students can pick up a free take-home COVID-19 test kit at the Welcome Center in the Iowa Memorial Union, at Student Health locations in the IMU and at West-lawn, or at the front desk of their residence hall," Reams wrote.

Students are asked to pick up one testing kit at a time, Reams wrote.

The iHealth test kits, available at the Iowa Memorial Union, contain supplies for two rapid antigen COVID-19 tests.

TESTING | Page 2

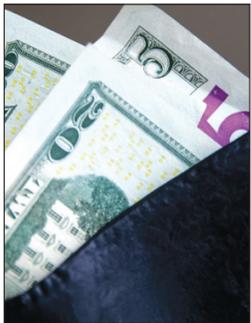
INSIDE



Student thoughts on the UI's COVID-19 protocols

The Daily Iowan spoke to 25 students last week to ask them their opinions on how the University of Iowa is and should be handling the COVID-19 pandemic. A general consensus was that most students prefer in-person classes, but many students thought a mask requirement was reasonable.

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OPINIONS: As Poverty Awareness Month ends, it is clear Iowa needs to do better

January is Poverty Awareness Month, and as it comes to an end, it is clear Iowa still has a lot of work to do to address the state's minimum wage issue, columnist Yassie Buchanan writes. The Iowa minimum wage stands at \$7.25, but the living wage for an adult with no children is almost double that.

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UPCOMING

The Daily Iowan will hold its first Community Chat of the spring 2022 semester via Zoom on Feb. 25 to celebrate Black History Month. *The DI* will host Venise Berry, professor of journalism and African American Studies; Ty Rushing from the Iowa Association of Black Journalists; and Dana James from Black Iowa News. All are welcome to attend!

DITV

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UI sisters build on social media stardom

Twin sisters Megan and Ciera Stitz have grown their social media presence across various platforms while working to complete graduate school.



Contributed

Photo of Megan (left) and Ciera (right) Stitz.

Madeleine Willis
News Reporter

University of Iowa graduate students and social media influencers Megan and Ciera Stitz are currently finishing their last year of physical therapy school while maintaining their social media stardom.

The two have studied to be physical therapists for the past six years, all while managing their YouTube Channel "Megan and Ciera," and hosting a podcast, "According 2."

Their podcast is in no specific niche, Ciera said. They continue their lifestyle-based discussions on the podcast, expanding on what the two have put on YouTube.

"Our audience just likes that we have a conversation with each other," Ciera said.

The twin sisters from Des Moines began making YouTube videos in 2011, when they were 12 years old. The then-seventh graders

auditioned to be a part of a gymnastics collaboration channel, which is where they gained most of their following from, Megan said.

Most of their audience has followed along with their journey, Megan said, but their vlogs about college life brought in new followers.

Their original channel, "The Cheernastics 2," has amassed more than 2 million subscribers. The channel focuses on cheer and gymnastics videos with Megan, Ciera, and their cousin Maggie Atcheson.

The original purpose for the sisters' second channel was to create an "extras channel."

"A lot of YouTubers were making an extras channel. We didn't want to post cheer and gymnastics content all the time, so that became our Megan and Ciera channel," Megan said.

The twins are now more focused on their vlog

STITZ | Page 2

State Hygienic Laboratory set to expand

The expanded State Hygienic Laboratory will include a new Bio-Safety Level 3 laboratory before July 2023.

Marandah Mangra-Dutcher
News Reporter

The University of Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory is set to expand before July 2023, after two years of responding to COVID-19.

The State Board of Regents approved the expansion at its Jan. 12 meeting.

Rod Lehnertz, UI senior vice president for finance and operations, said at the meeting that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will fund the project through a time-sensitive grant.

"This currently estimated \$9.2 million project would be in addition to the east end of the existing State Hygienic Laboratory building," Lehnertz said. "It would serve public health and enable health and safety testing for the state of Iowa and citizens of the state of Iowa at a very important time."

Wade Aldous, associate lab director of the diagnostic and clinical division at the State Hygienic Lab, said that while the lab receives funding from the CDC annually, this year was unique.

"They've been putting a lot of money into public health these last two years as we've been responding to the COVID outbreak," Aldous said. "What they did was, they said, 'You can use some of this money to actually help you prepare yourself or your institution so that it can respond to the next big outbreak.'"

The State Hygienic Lab, located at the UI Research Park in Coralville, is a public health laboratory that serves all 99 counties of Iowa with various responsibilities, Michael Patella, director of the State Hygienic Laboratory, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

"Working at the federal, state, and local levels, SHL's lab monitors and detects health threats ranging from rabies and dengue fever to radiological contaminants, genetic disorders in newborns, and biological and chemical threat agents," Patella wrote.

Patella wrote that the laboratory's responsibilities include COVID-19 testing, which, Aldous added, have been harder to keep up with as demand for them increases.

"SHL has performed over 1.5 million Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests to detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus," Patella wrote.

Aldous said this addition will give the staff of 130 at the State Hygienic Lab more room to work.

"It's going to work some additional space for our sessioning area and where the specimens get dropped off and logged in, because that's going to be on the main floor," he said. "Above that is where the new lab spaces will also give us a couple more offices because our workforce has expanded quite a bit to be able to match the demand."

LAB | Page 2

“Reading is a Hoot!”



Jack McGuire/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa City Public Library welcomed children to create and decorate wooden owls on Sunday. Kids participated in “Sunday Fun Day” for their Winter reading program. The theme for this season is “Reading is a Hoot!”

STITZ

Continued from Front

channel, called Megan and Ciera, which they started in 2014. The twins post lifestyle vlogs, days-in-the-life of a physical therapy student, and the occasional sit-down video to their 336,000 subscribers.

“When you are a busy person, vlogging becomes

one of the easiest things to do,” Megan said.

Ciera said YouTube is their favorite social media platform. Personally, her favorite type of video to put on their channel is vlogging trips and vacations, but Ciera said the videos that do best on their channel are “a day in the life” videos following the two to their physical

therapy classes.

In addition, Cierra said their audience always loves when the pair tries gymnastics again. Typically, they will film a video like this when they run out of ideas, Ciera said.

As the Stitzes prepare for full-time clinicals beginning in May until graduation in December, they plan to continue

their vlog channel.

The twins will continue to post on their vlog and lifestyle channel, it is just a matter of how often they can do it. Ciera said they will switch up when they vlog and are “focusing on a new lens.”

The last post on The Cheernastics 2 was two months ago. And as of right now, Megan said they are not planning any more content for their original channel.

“Realistically, our timeline through the end of this year and our cousin’s timeline through the end of this year isn’t necessarily getting less busy, from a motivation standpoint we want to find ideas to post on that channel that we really like. As of right now we have really liked the vlogging aspect of our personal channel,” Megan said.

As for managing social media while handling school, Megan and Ciera said it’s something they have gotten used to over the past decade.

“Taking a channel out of the loop has made it

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Contributed

Photo of Megan (left) and Ciera (right) Stitz.

even easier, but what is hard with social media is that it is not all about YouTube anymore,” Megan said. “You have to post and promote yourself on a lot of different platforms, and that’s something we haven’t been that great about.”

Megan added that planning and prioritizing is key to success in the field.

“I think it took us a lot longer than it probably should to find a schedule

that works for us, but plan things out in advance so you can manage content while also doing school work,” Megan said.

It is important to stay true to oneself and find a unique voice if someone wants to pursue social media, Ciera said.

“There are already a lot of college influencers out there so it’s really hard to stick out,” she said. “It’s important to just showcase who you are.”

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TESTING

Continued from Front

The availability of third-party rapid antigen testing for students is a first among public universities in Iowa. Students at Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa can only pick up TestIowa kits on their campuses, which may take more than 24 hours to deliver results.

Increased testing availability does not extend to staff and faculty, Reams wrote. Instead, she said staff, faculty, and students can all order free at-home

“I’ve heard from students, and from people in Iowa, that it’s just really hard to find a test right now,” Smock said. “I know that the take-home rapid tests are super exciting, but I feel like those have been really hard to come by as well.”

She said the UI has ordered “a ton” of at-home COVID-19 tests, and she hopes that the greater availability of these tests for students can help alleviate some of the stress on both individuals with exposure or symptoms of the virus and the hospitals and clinics in the area.

Sam Jarvis said the UI has been a good partner to the county throughout the pandemic. He said it has been great to have as much of a testing capacity as possible in Johnson County with the recent surge of the omicron variant.

As of Jan. 25, Johnson County’s seven-day positivity rate is 26 percent, according to data from the Iowa Department of Public Health.

“We saw a high amount of use before the holidays, before going to events, before seeing a loved one who might be at higher risk for severe outcomes,” Jarvis said. “I think many appreciate being able to take a test that day, that moment, and be able to know with some assurance whether they’re COVID positive or not.”

Jarvis said at-home tests can be less sensitive to detecting the virus in asymptomatic individuals, but that’s not to say that they’re less valuable than a traditional PCR test.

“We hope that folks recognize when and how to use it best,” Jarvis said. “Certainly, the quickness of the result and the availability also play a factor. Testing is one of the layers of mitigation, and it’s a tool in everyone’s tool vault to be able to have so they know whether they’re ill or not.”

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— Regan Smock, USG president

tests through TestIowa or the federal government website.

The UI reported 81 new student and 52 new employee COVID-19 cases on Friday. There have been 2,808 cases among employees and students since the beginning of the academic year.

Smock said she believes the UI has provided reliable testing through UI Hospitals and Clinics over the course of the pandemic, but with the emergence of the omicron variant, she said those systems have become more strained when it comes to providing testing.

Smock said she believes the policies the UI has been able to employ within state law, such as providing at-home tests, have been done well and she hopes that the tests are a “game-changer” for the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

“I think that within what we are able to do, we’re doing a really, really, really good job,” Smock said. “I think there’s certain limitations that have been put on us by our government that have made it hard to curb the spread.”

Johnson County Community Health Manager

LAB

Continued from Front

The expansion includes a new Bio-Safety Level 3 laboratory since there have been ventilation problems with the current BSL-3 laboratory, Aldous said. He said that the new laboratory will allow for a safer study of infectious diseases.

Aldous noted that the expansion will be a 5,000-square foot attachment to the southeast corner of the lab. The amount of money estimated to be spent on the project, he said, has increased from the \$9.2 million proposed at the regents meeting.

“We think it’s going to be higher than that now, because when we were making the initial estimates of things, we were planning on leaving some spaces as what we call ‘shell space,’” he said.

Aldous said the CDC wants the expansion furnished, with no shell space.



Grace Kreber/The Daily Iowan

The State Hygienic Laboratory is seen in Coralville on Jan. 27.

“The CDC said, ‘no shell space — if we’re going to give you money, you’re going to use the

entire space,’” he said.

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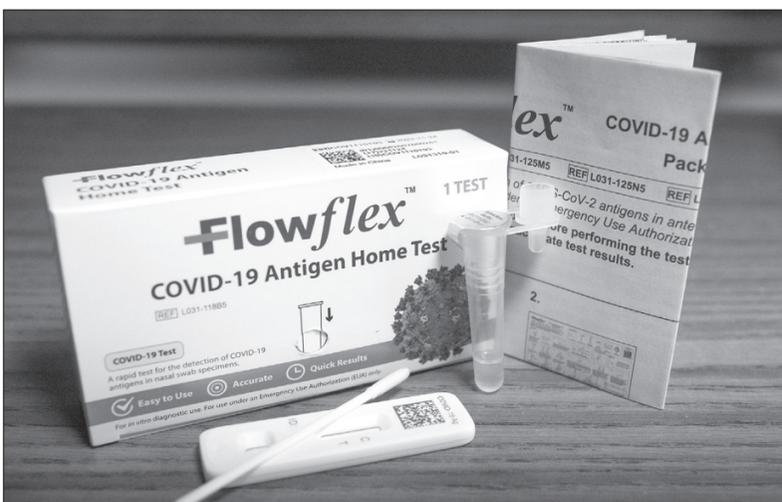
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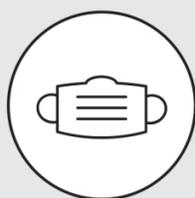
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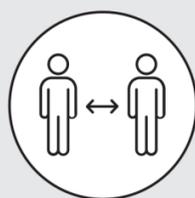
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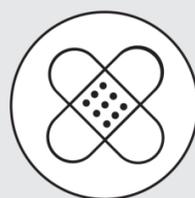
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Opinions

COLUMN

Iowa needs to raise the minimum wage

The \$7.25 minimum wage is long out of date and not enough money for Iowans to provide for their basic needs. It's time Iowa adjusted to a living wage.



Yassie Buchanan
Opinions Columnist

January is poverty awareness month. As it comes to an end, it is clear looking at Iowa's minimum wage that we still have some work to do to address the issue.

Poverty is a long-standing problem everywhere, and with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many people and families have been facing increased struggles. Iowa needs to raise the minimum wage and address the disparities communities of color face.

The minimum wage in Iowa is \$7.25 an hour. However, the living wage for an adult with no children is almost double, at \$13.62 an hour, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Living Wage Calculator. The poverty wage for an adult with no children is just below the minimum at \$6.13 an hour. For an adult with one child, the poverty wage is \$8.29 an hour.

Not surprisingly, Iowa

families cannot live off \$7.25 an hour and should not be asked to work a job that will not cover their basic needs. College students who are funding their own education and living expenses also could not live off Iowa's minimum wage.

Even more concerning is the higher rates of poverty among minority communities. Iowans of color face poverty at much higher rates than white Iowans. The most recent Census Bureau data shows 27.3 percent of African Americans and 31.7 percent of Native Americans experienced poverty in Iowa, compared to 9.7 percent of white Iowans.

Currently, African Americans make up just over 4 percent of Iowa's population and Native Americans account for under one percent of the population. It is alarming that such a large number within those small groups live in poverty.

Considering the pandemic has disproportionately affected minority communities, it has become even more pressing to address poverty and the minimum wage.

The COVID-19 pandemic in many ways has only exacerbated the income hardships many people face. A report showed over a sev-



Photo illustration by Grace Smith.

Grace Smith/ The Daily Iowan

en-day period in the fall 2021 that one in eight U.S. adults with children did not have enough food. Black and Latino adults were over two times more likely to face food insecurity.

The meat packing and processing industry is a perfect example of how we need to look at wages and poverty through the lens of a living wage rather than being above the poverty line.

In the country, a significant number of the people operating meatpacking

plants are from immigrant and minority communities. Around 38 percent of the workers in the meat-processing industry are immigrants with the top language spoken being Spanish.

Seeing as Iowa is has one of the highest concentrations of meatpacking workers in the country, many of those people come from minority and immigrant backgrounds because the job pays nearly double the minimum wage and does not require English.

Even with the increase in income, in the top five meat-packing states, the median yearly salary is \$35,000. According to MIT's living wage calculator for Iowa, this yearly salary is just enough to cover the typical expense of an adult with no children. Although this job is a significant step up from the minimum wage, it is still not enough for many households.

Even when a \$15 wage puts workers with no children above the poverty wage, it is still not a living wage for

adults with children.

We should not equate being above the poverty line with earning a living wage. Jobs in the meatpacking industry are essential in feeding the country. As we have learned through the pandemic, grocery store jobs are essential as well. Workers in these industries need wages that will cover their living expenses, regardless of whether they have children or not.

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COLUMN

Second amendment sanctuaries are unnecessary

Efforts to pass so-called second amendment sanctuary laws in Iowa distract from the real issues.



Sophia Meador
Opinions Columnist

Recent efforts in the Iowa Legislature demonstrate how engrossed some legislators are by gun rights.

A bill following the national trend of "second amendment sanctuaries" aims to prohibit federal gun control in Iowa. But all this measure will do is distract Iowans from real issues related to gun violence.

Senate File 2002, introduced by Sen. Zac Nunn, R-Bondurant, would prohibit state and local law enforcement from implementing federal laws, regulations, and executive orders that infringe on "the right to keep and bear arms."

Nunn told the *Des Moines Register*: "We're concerned that there could be a move at the federal level, through a department or agency, that could really place some restrictions on a gun owner's rights and have no one in the legislative body — either the federal level or the state level — making their voice heard."

The movement for second amendment sanctuaries spread in 2018 following multiple high profile mass shootings,

which advocates then called for more rigorous gun control laws. Across the country, more than a thousand local governments have declared themselves second amendment sanctuaries, meaning they have no intent of following federal gun control measures. However, many critics agree second amendment sanctuaries will not hold up in court.

Last July, Jasper County became the first in Iowa to become a second amendment sanctuary, soon followed by Hardin County. Since the summer, 33 counties across Iowa have adopted such measures.

"We do think it's a very important issue that the state make these statements — somewhat symbolic but also something to fall back on if they're pressed," Bill Richards, a lobbyist for the Iowan Firearms Coalition, told the *Des Moines Register*.

However, the movement for second amendment sanctuaries fails to meet the moment because gun rights are not under fire in the U.S.

President Joe Biden's campaign included a widely praised gun control agenda, which programming measures such as banning assault weapons. However, little has been done to regulate access to firearms. Unless Democrats sweep the Senate and the House in 2022, there is little hope that Biden can pass gun-control legislation

through Congress.

Americans have more guns than any other country, and in Iowa 43.6 percent of adults have guns in their home. With the prevalence of gun culture in America, it is unlikely any significant gun-control legislation will be passed in the near future.

Whether or not this bill is passed in Iowa, nothing will change. This "symbolic bill" is just a distraction from real issues.

Second amendment sanctuaries are merely a statement to show support for gun ownership. We do not need to concern ourselves with unnecessary measures.

Iowa legislators like Nunn should be concerned with legislation that can better protect Iowans, like gun-safety education, recognizing gun violence as a preventable public health problem, negotiating sensible gun laws, and promoting a culture of gun safety.

As the 2022 midterm election approaches, we must consider what our legislators have done for us. Iowans deserve lawmakers that are committed to progress, not meaningless publicity stunts.

While a number of issues relate to the accessibility of firearms, establishing second amendment sanctuaries and other dramatized actions are an unnecessary effort to distract us from real issues related to gun control.

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COLUMN

Stop banning books

People need to openly discuss books and not ban those with which they disagree.



Luke Krchak
Opinions Columnist

It's no argument that books are great tools for education. However, with the recent movement to ban certain books, we need to better understand the value each book brings to education. A new movement to ban certain books has

if sometimes sensitive topics in age-appropriate ways.

Keeping these books on the shelves allows students to understand and learn about the diversity and history that exist around them.

One often banned book is Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, because of its use of racial slurs and content about slavery.

It is understandable to be upset on either side of learning about slavery, i.e., feeling uncomfortable to learn your ancestors were a lot closer to villains when they enslaved people, or feeling

frequently challenged, even by blue states like New Jersey. From 2000 to 2009, *Huckleberry Finn* was the 14th book most requested to be banned, for its excessive use of racial slurs and inherent racism.

There are some who say we can't ban books when it's conservatives banning LGBTQ+ books, but when it comes to old "classics" like *Huckleberry Finn* and *Gone With the Wind* because of their frequent references of slavery and racism, some people turn a blind eye.

We need to realize that all books could provide education and discussion around our history.

One takeaway is that the main people encouraging the ban on these books are parents. These parents are scared, not knowing how their kid is going to react to these books, so they choose to ban them.

However, schools can be the frontrunner for true education by allowing students, parents, and teachers to communicate with one another on the books being read, and why they are important and what these topics mean or don't mean.

That is what this comes down to. People, whether teachers or parents, need to talk to their kids about these books. Topics may delve into sensitive issues such as racism or slavery, but we can still learn and have discussions about what it's trying to teach us.

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“But the discomfort felt from learning about these things is instructive, and it can be an important educational tool for people to decide what our society should do next.

spurred in red states. Some parents, politicians, and school board members want to ban books that include sex, LGBTQ+ characters and relationships, racism, and drugs.

In Iowa, one Republican politician has suggested teachers deserve jail time for books that are considered too graphic. Recently, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds pushed for more transparency in what books are offered and read.

People behind the movement believe the books portray content that is inappropriate for children, but most of the books being targeted present important,

uncomfortable to learn your ancestors were enslaved.

But the discomfort felt from learning about these things is instructive, and can be an important educational tool for people to decide what our society should do next.

While conservatives are the ones making a full-court press against books by LGBTQ+ authors and people of color, liberals have not been blameless in banning books either. Neither side should ban books, as learning all sides of an argument is important to coexisting with each other.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn has been

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Students weigh in on COVID-19 policies

Despite disputes about the handling of COVID-19, one thing many UI students agreed on is that they want classes to stay mostly in person this semester.

Sam Knupp
News Reporter

Despite differing opinions surrounding the University of Iowa's handling of COVID-19, one thing several students interviewed by *The Daily Iowan* can agree on is that they want classes to stay in person this semester.

The *DI* talked to 25 students last week about how they think the university should handle the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students were asked if classes should stay in person and about mask and vaccine requirements, vaccination status, and their personal experiences with COVID-19.

In-person instruction

Riley Coulter, a first-year chemical engineering major from Cedar Rapids, said as someone with asthma who has family members with health issues, she doesn't completely agree with the way the university is handling the pandemic this semester.

"Personally, I think that they should do it how they did last year with the big lectures being online, and then the smaller groups in person, but I think that they should really enforce masks," Coulter said.

Coulter expressed the need to look out for others, mentioning how the pandemic has affected people around her.

"I had an aunt who passed away from [COVID-19]. I've had a couple of close friends and family friends who have been in the hospital," she said. "I haven't gotten it myself, so I'm just trying to protect myself and make sure that I keep everyone else safe around me."

Eden Hatch, a third-year student from the United Kingdom who is studying abroad, said she enjoys in-person classes more, but it makes sense to be online while COVID-19 cases are high.

COVID-19 cases in Iowa, which reached record highs in January, have eased in the past week, following a national trend. As of Saturday, the seven-day average for new cases in Iowa was 4,275, down from a record 5,486 on Jan. 20, according to *The New York Times*.

Hatch added that she would have concerns if

classes were to move online as it takes away a more tactile element of the learning experience.

"For me, I'm a biomed student, so having labs taken away would suck," Hatch said. "Obviously, I can't really do a lab online, so I think it would kind of hinder it in a way."

Masking in class

Another topic students were generally in agreement on was masking. Most students interviewed agreed that masks should at least be encouraged by the university, and some would prefer that the UI required masks indoors.

Reasons given for why masks should be encouraged or required were:

- To curb the spread of COVID-19
- To protect others and oneself
- Masking isn't difficult

Diva Perez, a senior health informatics major, said she would prefer a mask requirement for all students indoors.

"You're just protecting everyone against any kind of virus, including colds and flus," Perez said. "At the very minimum, I think it should be for at least the unvaccinated. But, as we've seen throughout this pandemic, at this point, anyone could carry the virus."

Perez worked as a radiographer at St. Luke's Hospital in her hometown of Cedar Rapids before going to school full time.

"I had never experienced that level of stress in my life," she said.

Perez said she and her parents have been able to avoid getting the virus up to this point, which has been paramount for her parents, who both have cancer.

Gianna Rocca, a second-year student from Solon, said she would prefer if masks were only required for people who are showing symptoms.

Although it's possible to have and spread COVID-19 without showing symptoms, Rocca said she isn't concerned.

"People who are immunocompromised — they should take extra steps to ensure they don't get sick," Rocca said. "But it's such a small percentage of people that everyone shouldn't be forced to have to accommodate them."

Rocca mentioned her younger sister, who is immunocompromised. She said no one in her family has been vaccinated against COVID-19 because they have concerns about long term effects of COVID-19 vaccines.

There's no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause long-term health issues, and one vaccine, the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine, has full approval from the Food and Drug Administration, while the others passed rigorous trials and reviews, and are under emergency use authorization.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Adverse effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unusual following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination."

Rocca added that, despite not being vaccinated against COVID-19, she has gotten the flu vaccine on several occasions, along with the typical vaccines received during early childhood.

"I think COVID is different for everyone, but I haven't had any horror stories with it myself," she said.

COVID-19 vaccination

Students were split on the idea of vaccine requirements to attend the university. Many people interviewed agreed that vaccines should not be required but highly encouraged.

Joey Grabowski, a fourth-year international relations major, said he is mostly in favor of requiring students to get vaccines.

"I get why some people don't want to be mandated for it, but it's a vaccine," he said. "We've been doing it since we were in kindergarten, it shouldn't be anything different now."

Students against vaccine requirements held the opinion in favor of bodily autonomy or out of sensitivity for people who might not feel comfortable getting vaccinated.

Coulter said she was open to a mandate in the future.

"I am leaning more towards that they should [require COVID-19 vaccinations], but then I also can understand why people would want more testing done on it before it is required," she said.

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Larry Phan/The Daily Iowan

Fourth-year nursing student Tony Nguyen answers questions during a *Daily Iowan* interview at the UI Main Library on Jan. 25. Nguyen shares his perspective on vaccine mandates. "I think it should be heavily encouraged and pushed that people get vaccinated, but at the end of the day, I think it's the students' choice if they want to get vaccinated or not."



Larry Phan/The Daily Iowan

Fourth-year health informatics student Diva Perez answers questions during a *Daily Iowan* interview at the Seamans Center in Iowa City on Jan. 25. Perez had experienced what the pandemic was like in the hospital when it first broke out, stating "I was working as a radiographer at the beginning of the pandemic, and have transitioned out of that position now to go to school full time," Perez said. "For me personally, it was eye opening, seeing how I've never ever experienced that level of stress in my life."

The 2022 Iowa Democratic and Republican Precinct Caucuses will be Monday, February 7 at 7 PM.

Registration starts at 6:30 PM. You must be in line to register by 7 PM. To participate, you must be a registered Democrat or Republican in that precinct. You can register before the caucus begins.

Find your precinct on Johnson County Auditor website:
<https://johnsoncountyia.gov/auditor/elections>

For any questions about caucus please contact the Johnson County Democrats at Democratsjohnsoncounty@gmail.com, or call 319-337-8683.

JOHNSON COUNTY DEMOCRATS ARE GOING VIRTUAL



Given the nationally- and state-declared public health emergencies, the 2022 Democratic Caucuses for all precincts in Johnson County will be held jointly via Zoom on **Monday, February 7 at 7 p.m.**

Democrats wishing to take part in their Caucus process should register in advance at JCDems.org. Updated information is available at JCDems.org.

For any questions about caucus please contact the Johnson County Republicans at jcrepublicans52@gmail.com or call 319-333-2920

Caucuses start at 7pm
JOHNSON COUNTY REPUBLICANS WILL MEET AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

BIG GROVE - Lakeview Elementary School, 111 N Chabal St Solon
CEDAR - Lakeview Elementary School, 111 N Chabal St Solon
CV-1 - Brown Deer Golf Clubhouse 1900 Country Club Rd Coralville
CV-2 - Brown Deer Golf Clubhouse 1900 Country Club Rd Coralville
CV-3 - North Ridge Park Pavilion, 3250 Holiday Rd Coralville
CV-4 - Brown Deer Golf Clubhouse 1900 Country Club Rd Coralville
CV-5 - North Ridge Park Pavilion, 3250 Holiday Rd Coralville
CV-6 - Brown Deer Golf Clubhouse 1900 Country Club Rd Coralville
CV-7 - North Ridge Park Pavilion, 3250 Holiday Rd Coralville
CV-8 - North Ridge Park Pavilion, 3250 Holiday Rd Coralville
FREMONT/LONE TREE - Lone Tree HS, 303 Devoe St S, Lone Tree
GRAHAM - Lakeview Elementary School, 111 N Chabal St Solon
HARDIN - Tiffin Elementary School, 104 N Park Rd Tiffin
HILLS/LIBERTY/PLEASANT VALLEY - Stutsman's 350 Oakcrest Hill Rd, Hills
IC-01 - City High School, 1900 Morningside Dr, Iowa City
IC-02 - West High School, 2950 Melrose Ave, Iowa City
IC-03 - Iowa Memorial Union, 125 N Madison St, Iowa City
IC-04 - Brown Deer Golf Clubhouse 1900 Country Club Rd Coralville
IC-05 - Iowa Memorial Union, 125 N Madison St, Iowa City
IC-06 - Southeast Jr High School, 2401 Bradford Dr, Iowa City
IC-07 - West High School, 2950 Melrose Ave, Iowa City
IC-08 - West High School, 2950 Melrose Ave, Iowa City
IC-09 - West High School, 2950 Melrose Ave, Iowa City
IC-10 - E LUCAS SW - Southeast Jr HS, 2401 Bradford Dr, Iowa City
IC-11 - Iowa Memorial Union, 125 N Madison St, Iowa City
IC-12 - Southeast Jr High School, 2401 Bradford Dr, Iowa City
IC-13 - West High School, 2950 Melrose Ave, Iowa City
IC-14 - Southeast Jr High School, 2401 Bradford Dr, Iowa City
IC-15 - E LUCAS SE - Southeast Jr HS, 2401 Bradford Dr, Iowa City
IC-16 - City High School, 1900 Morningside Dr, Iowa City
IC-17 - City High School, 1900 Morningside Dr, Iowa City
IC-18 - City High School, 1900 Morningside Dr, Iowa City
IC-19 - Iowa Memorial Union, 125 N Madison St, Iowa City
IC-20 - Iowa Memorial Union, 125 N Madison St, Iowa City
IC-21 - Iowa Memorial Union, 125 N Madison St, Iowa City
IC-22/EAST LUCAS N - Liberty HS, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
IC-23 - City High School, 1900 Morningside Dr, Iowa City
IC-24 - City High School, 1900 Morningside Dr, Iowa City
IC-25 - City High School, 1900 Morningside Dr, Iowa City
IC-26 - West High School, 2950 Melrose Ave, Iowa City
IC-27 - Southeast Jr High School, 2401 Bradford Dr, Iowa City
JEFFERSON EAST - Shueville Comm Ctr, 2863 120th St NE, Shueville
JEFFERSON WEST - Shueville Comm Ctr, 2863 120th St NE, Shueville
MADISON - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
NEWPORT - Lakeview Elementary School, 111 N Chabal St Solon
NL-1 - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
NL-2 - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
NL-3 - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
NL-4 - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
NL-5 - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
NL-6 - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
NL-7 - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
NL-8 - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
OXFORD - Tiffin Elementary School, 104 N Park Rd Tiffin
PENN - Liberty High School, 1400 Dubuque St NE, North Liberty
SCOTT - Southeast Jr High School, 2401 Bradford Dr, Iowa City
SHARON - Sharon Center United Methodist Church, 2804 520th St SW, Iowa City
SOLON - Lakeview Elementary School, 111 N Chabal St Solon
TIFFIN1/CLEAR CREEK - Tiffin Elementary School, 104 N Park Rd Tiffin
TIFFIN2 - Tiffin Elementary School, 104 N Park Rd Tiffin
UNION - Sharon Center United Methodist Church, 2804 520th St SW, Iowa City
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS - West High School, 2950 Melrose Ave, Iowa City
WASHINGTON - Mid-Prairie HSAP, 1592 Angle Rd SW, Kalona IA
WEST LUCAS - West High School, 2950 Melrose Ave, Iowa City

The precinct caucus is a great way to get involved in grassroots activities with the local Republican Party. All Johnson County residents are encouraged to attend.

The purpose of a midterm year caucus is to:

1. Elect members of the Central Committee
2. Elect delegates and alternates to the County Convention
3. Submit proposals to be considered for the County Party Platform

Paid for by Johnson County Democratic and Republican Central Committees



Larry Phan/The Daily Iowan

First-year elementary education student Sydney Wade answers questions during a *Daily Iowan* interview at the Iowa Memorial Union on Jan. 25. Wade prefers to have class remain in person. "I think that it's better for students to learn in person rather than online, because some students, it's harder to focus [online]."



Larry Phan/The Daily Iowan

Fourth-year psychology student Ben Wootton answers questions during a *Daily Iowan* interview at the Pappajohn Business Building on Jan. 26. Wootton gave his perspective on vaccine mandates. "Given that younger people aren't at risk, I mean, they could still spread it, but I'd say it should still be left up to the person, the individual."

The Mill comes down after 60 years

A favorite venue for arts and entertainment in Iowa City, The Mill had been vacant since closing in 2020.

Daniel McGregor-Huyer
Photojournalist

After standing for nearly 60 years, The Mill, located on Burlington Street, was demolished on Jan. 27.

The Mill was an Iowa City restaurant and art venue that opened in 1962. The space was a mainstay of Iowa City culture, a local performance space for artists from Iowa City and across the nation to showcase their work.

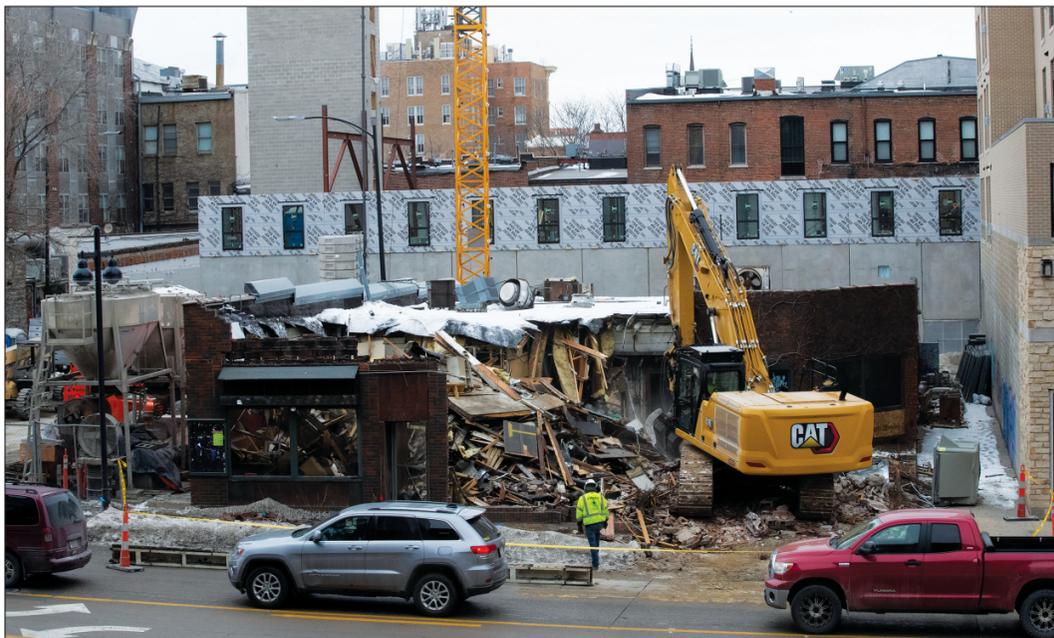
The Mill has hosted such artists as Joe Price, Bo Ramsey, and David Zollo, and Democrats seeking the presidential nomination swung through ahead of the 2020 Iowa caucuses.

The Mill closed in June 2020, shortly after the coronavirus pandemic put a strain on restaurants and businesses.

The building had stood vacant since then. Iowa City developer Marc Moen owns the property, and his development company has said it plans to make space on the lot for another arts venue to carry on the building's legacy.

"While we cannot preserve the old structure of the Mill, we will carry forward its values and build a venue that nurtures the local arts culture, acts as a community gathering space, and attracts up and coming national performers," Moen Group announced in a statement on its website this month. "We are thrilled to design a space that will be artist, audience, and venue-operator friendly. A state-of-the-art performance venue."

daniel-huyer@uiowa.edu



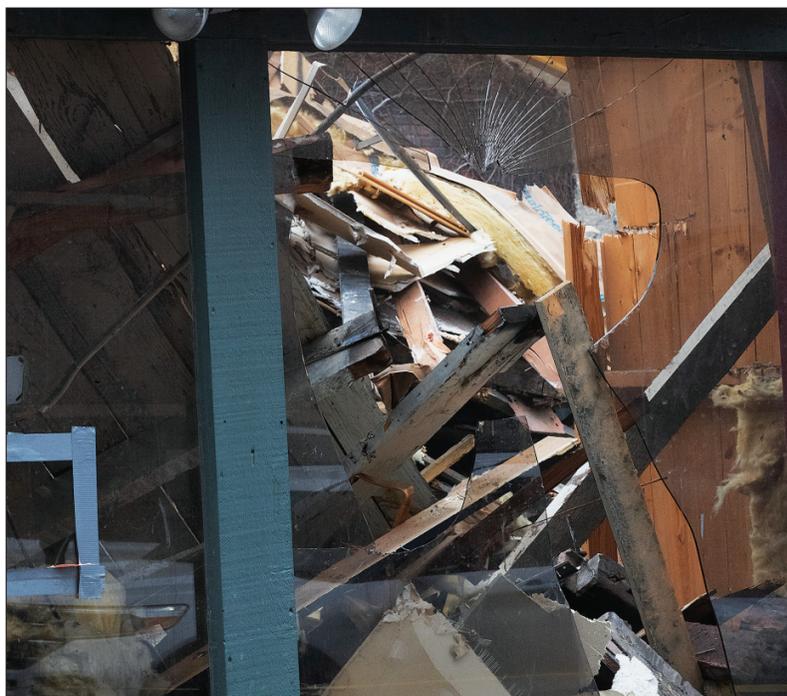
Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Demolition of The Mill is seen on Jan. 27. The Mill was known as an arts and concert venue for Iowa City artists and musicians before closing in June 2020.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Machinery breaks down The Mill in Iowa City on Jan. 27. The building was host to music and arts performances for decades. Marc Moen, who owns the property, has said he's planning a new arts venue to take its place.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Debris hits a window after a bulldozer demolished The Mill on Jan. 27. Located at 120 E Burlington St., the building had sat empty since it closed in June 2020.

The Daily Break

Puzzle solutions on page 2

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1227

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
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- Across**
- 1 "Ain't that the truth!"
 - 7 Use a swizzle stick
 - 11 "You don't need to be ___ Roy" (rhyming Paul Simon lyric)
 - 14 Human beings
 - 15 Keister, in Leicester
 - 16 Filmmaker DuVernay
 - 17 *TV remote inserts, often
 - 19 Implement with ink
 - 20 Technical detail, for short
 - 21 *Sobriety support group session, informally
 - 23 Give off, as vibes
 - 26 Little criticism
 - 27 Pub barrel
 - 30 *Animal whose name means "earth pig" in Afrikaans
 - 35 Line on a sales receipt
 - 36 Skirmish
 - 38 Lena of "Chocolat"
 - 39 Floor cover
 - 40 *"Winnie-the-Pooh" writer
 - 42 Lacto-__ vegetarianism
 - 43 Element that also names a household appliance
 - 45 Acknowledges with a head tilt
 - 46 Snag
 - 47 *4.0 on a transcript
 - 49 Shapes made in the snow
 - 51 Swing __ (when big bands were big)
 - 52 Disney snow queen
 - 53 *Three-time Emmy winner for "Breaking Bad"
 - 58 Word with butter or Stadium
 - 62 What's central in heliocentrism
 - 63 Tennessee Smokies or Portland Sea Dogs ... or what the answers to the starred clues comprise?
 - 66 Words from an altar ego?
 - 67 Fairy tale menace
 - 68 Section of a sentence
 - 69 What's inside an inner tube
 - 70 Fly high
 - 71 Summer wear with a T-shirt
- Down**
- 1 Many hoppy brews, in brief
 - 2 __ of faith
 - 3 One of four in the human brain
 - 4 Actress Sissy
 - 5 Ctrl-__-Del
 - 6 Nonetheless
 - 7 Singer Bareilles
 - 8 Minor haircut
 - 9 "Ah, gotcha"
 - 10 Forward, as mail
 - 11 Banking giant that makes the Venture card
 - 12 Bakery hot spot
 - 13 Yin's opposite
 - 18 "Don't starve yourself!"
 - 22 Big name in DVRs
 - 24 Prefix with physics
 - 25 Tropical lizard
 - 27 Indoor spaces with lots of natural light
 - 28 First lady Bush
 - 29 Arnold Schwarzenegger or Ronald Reagan, for California
 - 30 Parenthetical comment
 - 31 " __ Well That Ends Well"
 - 32 Car for a vacationer
 - 33 Archcompetitor
 - 34 Some volume controls
 - 37 Pollution in city skies
 - 41 Like, forever!
 - 44 Emperor during the Great Fire of Rome
 - 48 Total strangers, in modern slang
 - 50 Prefix with enterologist
 - 52 Right-angle shape
 - 53 Home of seven -stans
 - 54 A4 automaker
 - 55 Jumping stick
 - 56 Vibe
 - 57 Lyft competitor
 - 59 Consider, as a judicial case
 - 60 Down __ (Maine)
 - 61 Iowa campus town
 - 64 Mini-albums, in brief
 - 65 "Say __" (doctor's request)

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Medium

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	1					8	2	7	

Puzzles provided by sudokusolver.com

FORMANEK

Continued from Page 8

“She’s an absolute hammer as a center back. In my opinion, I think every team needs one of those. We just loved her tenacity and the way she went after the ball and her ability to win tackles was fantastic.”

Formanek said she enjoys playing center back not just for her love of hard-tackling other players, but because it gives her a vision of the entire field to lead her teammates. She was a team captain in her final season as a Cougar.

“Out on the field, I’m pretty vocal,” Formanek said. “I like to put people where they need to be, but off the field I like to lead more by example, and I like to work really hard and try my best in every drill and every day. Even when I’m not feeling the best, effort is really important to me. That’s the one thing that I think you can control is how hard you try every day.”

The defender from Evergreen, Colorado, started offseason practices with her new teammates during the first week of the spring 2022 semester.

Though the fall 2022 season won’t kick off until August, Formanek said she is thrilled to compete for a program that puts an emphasis on defense. Fifth-year defender Sara



Contributed via University of Houston Athletics

Wheaton, a 2021 All-Big Ten second-team selection, and senior Sam Cary will return for the

Hawkeyes’ backline. “Defense has always been my favorite,” Formanek said. “I know

there’s a saying like, ‘Defense wins games,’ and I think that’s true. If you keep a clean sheet, it’s a

lot easier to win a game and defense is just extremely important. I’m very excited to be a part

of such an amazing defense.” isaac-goffin@uiowa.edu



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Morgan Goldstein swings her golf club at practice at Finkbine Golf Course on Sept. 16, 2021.

PCP

Continued from Page 8



Austin Hanson Sports Editor

Yes
The 2021-22 Iowa women’s basketball team can still make the NCAA Tournament’s Final Four.

Sure, the Hawkeyes underperformed at the beginning of this season. Ad-

mittedly, Iowa’s 74-73 loss to IUPUI on Dec. 21 was pretty troubling — especially for a Hawkeye team that was ranked as high as No. 8 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll earlier this year.

The Hawkeyes have since steadied, winning eight of the nine games they’ve played since Dec. 21. Iowa is currently riding a win streak of seven games.

The Hawkeyes seem to have finally found their rhythm — something they struggled to do at the beginning of the year.

Six of Iowa’s games have been canceled or postponed this year because of COVID-19. As a result, the Hawkeyes have endured two stretches of 10 or more days without a single game.

Iowa didn’t play a game from Nov. 17 to Dec. 2

because some of its players tested positive for COVID-19. The Hawkeyes didn’t play a single game from Dec. 21 to Jan. 2 because their opponents were having COVID-19-related issues.

The more the Hawkeyes have played this year, however, the better they’ve gotten. Iowa seems to have all the ingredients Final Four teams need.

The last thing the Hawkeyes need to do to prove they are contenders is beat a ranked team. Iowa has yet to beat an AP Top 25-ranked for this year.

With a few wins over highly rated teams like Michigan and Indiana, the Hawkeyes could skyrocket in the AP Top 25 and prove to the country that they can contend for a national championship this year.

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Dimia Burrell/The Daily Iowan

Iowa huddles together before a women’s basketball game between Iowa and Nebraska at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Jan. 16. The Hawkeyes defeated the Huskers, 93-83.

GOLF

Continued from Page 8

the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook Golf Resort.

While the Copperhead Course isn’t the same as the Island Course, Miranda said, it is very similar to the track.

“Now that we’re practicing indoors, we have the TrackMan golf simulator and they actually have Innisbrook in there,” Miranda said. “We’ve been

playing that course virtually here in Iowa City. So, I think it’s a great advantage for us to see the course and get prepared for it.”

Although the Hawkeyes’ goal is to win as many matches as possible, Menzel said she’s hoping her student athletes will feel better about their golf games after the championship.

“I think that [it’ll be a good week if] we leave there just all feeling

more comfortable with our games,” Menzel said. “Obviously, we’d love to pick up a couple of wins and obviously that’s what we’re there to do. So, I think, you know, those two goals would be awesome. We just want to make sure each day we’re feeling a little bit stronger and a little more comfortable where our games are at.”

christopher-werner@uiowa.edu

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Iowa volleyball adds to coaching staff

Iowa volleyball head coach Jim Barnes has made the first additions to his coaching staff, Hawkeye Athletics announced Thursday.

Barnes, former Tulane volleyball head coach, recruited Brian Yale to his Hawkeye staff. Yale was the associate head coach and recruiting coordinator at Tulane. His role will be the same at Iowa.

"I'm incredibly fortunate to have Brian join me for a seventh year," Barnes said in a release. "He is a tremendous coach and recruiter. Our players will be served extremely well by Brian, and they will appreciate how hard he works for them. He is well respected in the recruiting world and will make the state of Iowa a top priority."

Yale helped Tulane's 2018, 2019, and 2020 classes to honorable mention status, according to PrepVolleyball.com.

Yale was also the head coach at the University of Texas-Pan American from 2011-14. He led the program, part of the Western Athletic Conference, to the NCAA Tournament in 2014 with an automatic bid.

Yale, originally from Eden, New York, played collegiate volleyball at Bowling Green State from 1993-97 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education.

Two former Tulane players will also join Barnes and Yale at Iowa in 2022.

Middle blocker Anna Davis played two seasons at Tulane before transferring to Iowa. Davis started all of the Green Wave's 32 matches in the fall 2021 season, totaling 232 kills and 92 blocks.

Outside hitter Michelle Urquhart will join the Hawkeye program from the Green Wave. Urquhart played one season under Barnes and Yale at Tulane before transferring to Iowa. She started in all but one match in the fall 2021 season, registering 341 kills and 235 digs.

Urquhart will attempt to fill the hole left by former Hawkeye Courtney Buzzerio, who was a second-team All-Big Ten selection in 2021. Buzzerio transferred to Pittsburgh for her fifth season of collegiate volleyball.

Aubrey Marsellis will also join Iowa's coaching staff as an assistant coach.

"Aubrey is a smart, dynamic coach that will balance our staff in many ways," Barnes said in the release. "She has great experience as a recruiter as well and is an excellent communicator. She will be a tremendous mentor to our players on and off the court."

Previously, Marsellis was an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for one season at Oral Roberts University.

Marsellis has also been an assistant coach at Davidson and Brown. She served as Florida State's director of operations for volleyball from 2016-17.

Marsellis played collegiate volleyball at Austin Peay State University, where she was a three-year starter at setter and opposite hitter.

She earned a bachelor's degree in communications and public relations from Austin Peay in 2016, and a master's degree in coaching and athletic administration from Concordia University-Irvine in 2017.

Drake Ayala does not compete against Penn State

Iowa men's wrestler Drake Ayala did not compete in the Hawkeyes' 19-13 loss to the Nittany Lions on Friday night.

The 125-pound true freshman has been filling in for Spencer Lee, who will miss the remainder of the 2021-22 season and undergo ACL surgery in both of his knees.

Ayala is currently ranked No. 11 in the nation at 125 pounds and has gone 3-2 in five matches in 2021-22.

Following the dual on Friday, head coach Tom Brands did not say if Ayala was injured or when he will return.

"It doesn't really matter," Brands said. "The status of him is, he's ready to go when he's ready to go. Medical, and coaches, and more importantly, Drake Ayala will be the one that makes that call. Love him in our program. I'll tell you that. We love him in our program and we know that our team's good with him in there."

Without Lee and Ayala, redshirt freshman Jesse Ybarra has been filling in at 125 pounds for the Hawkeyes. Ybarra is 1-3 in matches in 2021-22, including a loss via major decision to Penn State's Drew Hildebrandt on Friday.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I need to make the adjustment before I need to make the adjustment."

— Iowa heavyweight Tony Cassioppi on how he preps for matches

STAT OF THE DAY

1

Number of bonus points Iowa men's wrestling scored against Penn State

Formanek reunites with coach

Cassidy Formanek, a recent transfer for the 2022 Iowa soccer team, is reuniting with associate head coach Blair Quinn for her fifth season.



Contributed: University of Houston Athletics

Isaac Goffin
Sports Reporter

When Cassidy Formanek was seeking advice on where to continue her soccer career as a graduate transfer, she called a former coach — Blair Quinn.

Quinn, Iowa soccer's associate head coach, last instructed Formanek at the University of Houston in her freshman season in 2018. Before the 2019 season, Quinn

moved to Iowa to join the Hawkeyes' coaching staff while Formanek continued her soccer career in Texas.

Now, the two are reunited in Iowa City for the 2022 season. The Hawkeyes had an open spot for the graduate transfer when she reached out to Quinn. Formanek officially signed with Iowa in November.

"So, I've known Blair since I was really

young," Formanek said. "He's been a part of my recruiting process since I was in high school. So, that was part of the reason why I came here, just because Blair is an amazing coach and he's awesome. And then once I came to tour, I noticed that the facilities are amazing as well."

Along with her positive impression of the Hawkeyes' soccer amenities, Formanek liked the offerings of Iowa's

Tippie College of Business.

Formanek is looking to further her business education at Iowa after earning a degree in supply chain management at Houston. She's a non-degree seeking graduate student in the spring 2022 semester and will start her master's degree in the business analytics program in the fall.

Quinn first recruited Formanek to Arizona

State in 2016, when he was on the Sun Devils' coaching staff. Originally, Formanek committed to Arizona State, but a head coaching change caused her to withdraw her commitment. Quinn then became a coach at Houston in 2017 and convinced her to join him at his new program.

"The first thing I would say about her is she's tenacious," Quinn said.

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Women's golf starts season

Iowa women's golf will open the 2022 season in Florida at the Big Ten Match Play Championships.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Dana Lerner swings her club at practice at Finkbine Golf Course on Sept. 16, 2021.

Chris Werner
Sports Reporter

The Iowa women's golf team will start its spring season this week at the Big Ten Match Play Championship at the Island Course at Innisbrook Golf Resort in Palm Harbor, Florida.

The field for the bracket-style event includes 10 Big Ten teams: Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue, Rutgers, and Wisconsin.

Iowa, the No. 9 seed, will face 10th-seeded Rutgers on Monday and play another match that afternoon. The Hawkeyes will play a final match on Tuesday before returning to Iowa City.

Iowa finished 10th of 12 teams in the 2021 Big Ten Match Play Championships.

Hawkeye head coach Megan Menzel said the match play format — where score is kept by hole rather than by stroke — will be a good way for her team to begin the spring slate.

"Match play is a great format to kind of get some rust off and get to compete and

have some fun," Menzel told *The Daily Iowan*. "It's very different than stroke play. I think it'll be a really great way for us to get started."

"I think [the format] provides a little bit of freedom, you know, as you're kind of getting comfortable and getting back out to competition," Menzel added. "You can probably be a little bit more aggressive, at times, than you maybe normally would. It really teaches you to just kind of play hole-by-hole, which is what you should be doing in stroke play, but it's certainly easier when you're not writing down your score at the end of each hole."

Each team will bring five participants to the head-to-head matches. The first team to three match wins gets the overall victory.

Iowa will travel with six players: Freshman Paula Miranda, sophomore Klara Wildhaber, juniors Lea Zeitler and Morgan Goldstein, and seniors Dana Lerner and Manuela Lizarazu.

Miranda, Iowa's No. 1 player in the fall, said the Hawkeyes have worked with the TrackMan simulators inside of the Hoak Family Golf Complex. The simulator has an option to play

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Will Iowa reach the Final Four?

Two DI staffers debate if Iowa women's basketball will reach the NCAA Tournament's Final Four.



Chloe Peterson
Assistant Sports Editor

No
Iowa women's basketball has potential.

The Hawkeyes (arguably) have the National Player of the Year in sophomore point guard Caitlin Clark, senior center Monika Czinzano making 64.6 percent of her shots, and all five returning starters.

Still, I don't think that's

enough for Iowa to make it to the Final Four in Minneapolis this season.

Iowa started the season No. 9 in the nation — the highest preseason ranking for the Hawkeyes in program history. Since then, the Hawkeyes have fallen out of the Associated Press Top 25 Poll and jumped back in, hovering between No. 20 and No. 25 in the nation.

Iowa lost to teams it easily should've beaten — including mid-major opponent Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. IUPUI erased a 17-point halftime Iowa lead to take the victory in the final seconds, 75-74, on Dec. 21, 2021.

A Final Four team wouldn't lose to a mid-major opponent. Ever.

Now, the Hawkeyes are on a seven-game winning streak against Big Ten opponents. But all of Iowa's opponents in this stretch are unranked teams that the ranked Hawkeyes should be beating.

Iowa hasn't had a chance to prove itself with a statement win yet this season, partly because of scheduling issues. The Hawkeyes were supposed to play No. 6 Indiana, who is undefeated in the Big Ten, on Jan. 23. The Hoosiers pulled out of the game because of COVID-19 cases in their program.

The Hawkeyes are currently a No. 6 seed in ESPN's Women's College Basketball NCAA Bracketology. Analyst Charlie Creme has Iowa in UConn's region, giving the Huskies and the Hawkeyes a Sweet 16 rematch in the second round.

Even if Iowa could get past Paige Bueckers-less UConn, the Hawkeyes will be stopped in the Sweet 16 or Elite Eight.

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