

Corridor Entertainment beats the odds

Corridor Entertainment Group, owner of Studio 13, Joystick Comedy Arcade, and Players Sports Bar and Grill, managed to find success during a difficult time for many businesses.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Chief Executive Officer of Corridor Entertainment Group Jason Zeman poses for a portrait at Studio 13 in downtown Iowa City on Feb. 3.

Sam Knupp
News Reporter

Despite the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic and current workforce shortages, Corridor Entertainment Group has managed to find success.

The business owns downtown staples such as Studio 13, Eden, Sanctuary, and Players Sports Bar and Grill. The business also owns the newly rebranded Joystick Comedy Arcade, formerly called the Yacht Club, and recently acquired Cedar Rapids bar, Belle's Basix, the city's only LGBTQ+ bar.

Jason Zeman, CEO of Corridor Entertainment Group, said his business has been lucky to receive the opportunities it has during the pandemic.

"Every time there's adversity, there's opportunity, and we're just trying to make the best of that," he said.

In January, Belle's Basix was set to close its doors. Then, Corridor Entertainment Group stepped in. Zeman said he knew the previous owner of Belle's Basix for 20 years before making the acquisition.

"The bar business is difficult, just in normal times, and then, last couple years have just been wild and stressful," Zeman said, "... I get it, why they were ready to walk away and do something else, because it's a lot."

Zeman said because of the infrastructure his business already has in Iowa City, the acquisition of Belle's Basix made sense, adding that it can help with cost savings and bringing in performers.

In the first couple of months of the pandemic, Zeman was unsure if any of his bars would open back up again. While none of his bars were open, he said the bill payments didn't stop.

"We did get some deferment from some people, and I know other bars have done that too," he said.

In fall 2021, Corridor Entertainment Group rebranded the Yacht Club, a bar that also acted as a music venue, turning it into the Joystick Comedy Arcade. The rebranding focused on stand-up, bringing in nationally famous comedians, alongside a variety of arcade games including Ski-ball, Pac-man, Donkey Kong, and Sno-Bros.

Zeman said that, despite minor initial resistance to the rebrand from Yacht Club's regulars, the change has been positive for Corridor and well-received by customers.

"I like to have activities that don't always involve drinking," Zeman said, adding that customers have the option to play arcade games, get some food, sing karaoke, or watch a comedian.

Amid nationwide staffing shortages, Zeman said Corridor's bars haven't had many issues retaining employees. He said this has been helped by their increase in wages and bonuses offered to employees.

Zeman said he attributes the success of his businesses during the pandemic to being transparent and gracious with customers. He added that the diversity in the genre of Corridor Entertainment Group's bars "doesn't hurt."

"Eden has a nightclub kind of vibe, obviously Players is a sports bar and Joystick's a comedy club, and

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INSIDE



Legislative 2022 priorities focus on retaining young Iowans

For the 2022 Iowa legislative session, both Republican and Democratic lawmakers are working toward attracting young people to the state. Some areas of focus include affordable housing, lower taxes, and child care.

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UI assistant professor to collaborate with NASA, UCLA

Alison Jaynes, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, is discovering mechanisms that conduct higher energies in Earth's radiation belt, made possible through a NASA Heliophysics Supporting Research award.

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DITV

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Dance Marathon raises \$1.36 million for "endless hope"

After the 24 hour Big Event on Saturday, the organization revealed it drew in slightly less cash than last year.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Dance Marathon captains participate in the captain's line during Dance Marathon's Big Event at the Iowa Memorial Union on Saturday.

Marandah Mangra-Dutcher and Emily Delgado
News Reporters

University of Iowa Dance Marathon 28 leaders stressed their commitment to helping families of those on the eleventh floor at the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital. Dance Marathon raised \$1.36

million though its fundraising efforts this year.

"We continuously strive to be a light for all families, and it allows us to provide support during their darkest times," UI Dance Marathon Executive Director Anna Dodge said during a livestream.

Dance Marathon raised a total of \$1,361,184.28, less

than Dance Marathon 27, which brought in \$1.42 million. Dance Marathon 27 was the first Big Event to be held virtually.

UI Dance Marathon tweeted its total amount fundraised is dedicated to "Endless Hope" — a phrase that was repeated throughout the event and when announcing the final

KN95s the way to go for COVID-19 protection

University of Iowa health experts advised on the best masks to wear based on level of protection.

Kate Perez
News Reporter

University of Iowa health experts recommend that the UI community wear KN95 masks instead of surgical masks for better protection against COVID-19.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, director of graduate studies in the UI College of Public Health Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, said N95 masks are most effective because of the tight seal formed to the face while wearing them, and surgical masks are the least effective.

"[N95 masks are] definitely the best protection. The surgical masks they've been passing out give the least protection," he said. "They were designed for source control. They're designed to protect others from you. They're designed to catch your output from your mouth, the droplets coming out as you talk, to prevent the transmission that way."

When the masks are looser, like the surgical ones, O'Shaughnessy said more leakage occurs out of the mask's sides.

O'Shaughnessy said it is better to wear a KN95 mask from the university than a surgical one, as surgical masks are not supposed to be used as the main way of combating COVID-19.

"They were never designed to be a

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complete protection for the person wearing them," O'Shaughnessy said. "That's where it's really important for the whole campus community together to be wearing the [KN95] masks."

The UI announced on Jan. 12 that it would stock each university building health station with KN95 masks, an upgrade from the blue surgical masks given out in the fall 2021 semester.

O'Shaughnessy said he ranks the KN95 masks that the UI are giving out somewhere in the middle of the other two types of masks, as they can form a tighter seal to the mouth than the surgical masks.

"Especially with the nose metal piece there, you get a better seal around your nose with the KN95," O'Shaughnessy said. "They filter very similarly to the N95s. It really just comes down to the construction of the mask and how well it fits against your face."

In an email to The Daily Iowan, Jeneane Beck, UI assistant vice president for external relations, wrote that the university follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines when evaluating masks.

Lately, counterfeit masks have spread throughout the country. The CDC reports that about 60 percent of KN95 respirators the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health evaluated during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 did not meet its requirements.



Photo illustration by Grace Smith

Deborah Zumbach, associate vice president and director of parking and transportation and business services at the UI, wrote in a statement to the DI that the university requests authenticity documentation before making purchases, including the distributed masks.

"The university is fortunate to have an experienced team making regular purchases for a large academic medical center," Zumbach wrote. "This results in business relationships with a variety of reliable vendors and suppliers in the United States. When making any purchase, the team requests all available documentation regarding a product's efficacy and authenticity."

The KN95 masks in distribution are from the company Dayhelp. The Dayhelp website states that the masks are FDA Registered Class 1. However, the company is not listed on the CDC website as a NIOSH-approved manufacturer of N95 respirators. According to the CDC, surgical masks are loose-fitting, disposable, and create a physical barrier between the nose and the mouth of the wearer. These masks, however, may not provide as much protection compared to a KN95 mask.

"While a surgical mask may be effective in blocking splashes and large-particle droplets, it does not filter or block very small particles in the air that may be transmitted by coughs, sneezes, or certain medical procedures," the CDC website states. "Surgical masks also do not provide complete protection from germs and other contaminants because of the loose fit."

Dan Diekema, professor of internal medicine and associate hospital epidemiologist, said in a recent post on the UI Hospitals and Clinics' website that he recommends people wear a medical-grade mask, whether it is a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask.

"We also consider unfitted N95s and KN95s to be equivalent to a medical-grade mask because they fit snugly against the face, allowing for fewer particles to break through," Diekema said. "The most important thing is the fit to the face to protect the person wearing the mask, as well as others."

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Sanctuary's an English pub-style restaurant," Zeman said.

Ingrid Lillskau, a Coralville resident who frequents Corridor Entertainment Group's bars, said Joystick Comedy Arcade and Studio 13 are two places in which she feels like she can be whoever she wants to be.

Lillskau said as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, it doesn't always feel like she has that luxury at other bars.

"And I just think that seriously, these two bars are my favorite bars in all of Iowa City," she said.

Ben Stoffer, operations manager for Corridor Entertainment Group, said he loves hearing people say that their bars provide a safe environment for everyone who walks in the door.

"Generally, you can go to any one of our bars, and you know that you're welcome there," he said, "I don't always refer to Studio [13] as the 'gay bar' either, because, honestly, it's just a bar. Anyone can come here ... We want to be a safe space for anyone."

Sam Knupp@uiowa.edu

"It's just a bar. Anyone can come here ... We want to be a safe space for anyone."

— Ben Stoffer, operations manager for Corridor Entertainment Group



Vince Filippini/The Daily Iowan

The new mural at Studio 13 is seen in downtown Iowa City on June 16, 2021.

UIDM

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tote board by Joe Briddle, UI Dance Marathon Finance Director.

"It is my privilege to reveal to Dance Marathon 28 what you have accomplished this year all for Endless Hope," Briddle said.

Because of the surge in COVID-19 cases, Dance Marathon was not able to hold the entire event in-person at the Iowa Memorial Union. Instead, the organization implemented a hybrid Big Event, where participants joined on Zoom and a select group of Dance Marathon members were allowed in the IMU.

The digital platforms used to broadcast the event consisted of periodic audience interactions, videos, and announcements of tote board fundraising amounts. Some of the videos included words from UI leaders like President Barbra Wilson and head football coach Kirk Ferentz.

"Your incredible support is so important to the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital, our patients, and their families and it is truly inspiring to the whole campus," Wilson said in her video. "As our largest student organization, you show all of us how we can commit ourselves to others and share our talents with heart and with enthusiasm."

During the opening ceremony of the Big Event, David Dickens, UI Dance Marathon chair in pediatric oncology, said the Stead Family Children's Hospital feels Dance Marathon's support.

"The funds you provide, the energy you bring to fundraising, and the special projects you create and sustain for our ecosystem has an enormous impact on the health and well-being of not just the children and families who seek our care in the hospital, but also the staff and faculty who are administering care to them," he said.

Participants said they were still interested and motivated regardless of the event being predominantly virtual for members.

"While participation is

different, and it is lower than previous years, we still see a lot of interaction, we still see a lot of donations and passion and excitement for organization," Dodge said in an interview with The Daily Iowan.

This year, UI Dance Marathon 28 added activities to make sure the event didn't feel like a workday on Zoom, Dodge said.

"They don't want to sit on the Zoom call all day, so we thought that these remote activities would add a really cool different layer to what we're already doing," Dodge said.

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Photo via Dance Marathon livestream

Dance Marathon leaders hold up signs revealing the total amount of money raised throughout the event on Saturday. The Dance Marathon Big Event was held virtually with limited in-person participants. Dance Marathon did not allow media to attend the final tote board reveal because of limited capacity.

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Legislators look to retain college-age lowans

During the 2022 Iowa legislative session, lawmakers want to focus on ways to attract young people to the state as the population gets older and growth only hits Iowa's largest cities.

Lauren White
Politics Reporter

Republican and Democratic lawmakers in Iowa agree that young people need more incentives to decide to settle down in the state.

At the beginning of the 2022 legislative session, legislative leaders said they wanted to convince more young people to stay in the state as Iowa's population ages and young, college-educated adults set out for other locales.

Senate Minority Leader Zach Wahls, D-Coralville, said that some of the biggest areas of focus for retaining and attracting new lowans include affordable housing, child care, and water quality. These are things, he said, that lowans are asking for.

"Outdoor recreation is incredibly important to millennials and Gen Z folks and making sure that we are making the necessary investments to have clean rivers and lakes is really important to people, so that people are able to get out on the water with their family and have a good time," Wahls said.

Wahls said the workforce shortage, which has also been a discussion on both sides of the aisle in the Statehouse, contributes to why young people continue to move to different states.

There are two sides to Iowa's workforce issues, Wahls said. The first is that there are staffing shortages in every industry across the state, while many lowans who work these jobs struggle to support their families.

Raising wages, Wahls said, will attract new residents and retain current lowans. Iowa's minimum wage has been \$7.25, the federal minimum wage, since 2009.

"We can't do that until we start getting after some of these issues that we talked about like child care and affordable housing," Wahls said.

Wahls and other Democrats have attempted to pin the blame for Iowa's workforce woes on Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds, dubbing it the "Reynolds workforce crisis."

Cambrian Helm, a third-year criminology major at the University of Iowa, said she plans to move back to Illinois following graduation. She said the two biggest factors she considers when finding a place to live are a solid job and housing market.

Because of what she sees as the economic climate that her generation is graduating in, Helm said most of the people in her graduating class will be unable to buy a house. She said this is one priority legislators should focus on.

"If you've been out of school for a while you have a steady job," Helm said. "You have enough money to afford a house. But a lot of us don't. So that's really going to impact whether we stay or

go depending on where we can afford to live."

Wahls said that offering affordable housing to lowans, especially in an era where people are working remotely, will grow the state's economy and population as graduates can work anywhere.

Democrats and Republicans agree that Iowa's workforce needs to be addressed if they want to welcome people to the state.

Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, said that Iowa's population shift has been a conversation for years, but those conversations are just now coming to fruition. He said this is partly because of the workforce shortage.

Psychology is a field that Iowa lacks as well as one that young people tend to be interested in pursuing, Kaufmann said.

House File 2137, introduced in January, would create a mental health practitioner loan repayment system to help students who want to study psychology pay for their schooling. The bill says



Iowa Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Muscatine, laughs during a committee meeting on the second day of the 2022 Legislative Session at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa, on Jan. 11.

Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

How many UI graduates stay in Iowa?

About 51 out of 100 employed graduates from 2019 and 2020 remained in the state.



Source: UI Placement report, 2019 and 2020.

that in order to receive funding, the student must practice in Iowa following graduation.

Kaufmann said this bill will encourage young lowans to stay in the state.

"I think picking up professions where there's a high level of competition, where there's a high level of need, and then strategically as a state investing in people's education and saying, 'Hey, we're gonna help you pay for it, if you stay.' I think people's wallets will speak," Kaufmann said.

Adriana Davila, a University of Iowa freshman who grew up in the state, said she is plans to move out of Iowa following graduation to find new opportunities and connections.

Most of the places Davila hopes to go to after graduation have high tax rates, and she said it would be much easier

to live somewhere with low taxes.

"It's a big deal that those places just happen to have really high taxes, just because they're like cities, like bigger. So that's a big deal and concerns me," Davila said.

Kaufmann said a competitive tax rate will attract young people to the state.

"Knowing that you're going to be able to keep a pretty decent chunk of your paycheck for your family, I think is a pretty strong consideration," Kaufmann said.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds unveiled her tax reform plan last week, detailing how the state will set the income tax at a flat 4 percent by 2026, a significant cut for most lowans.

In her Condition of the State address in January, Reynolds said making Iowa's tax rates more competitive will bring people to the state.

"They'll come because here they can find freedom and opportunity," she said. "Because of our small towns and thriving cities. They'll come because we reward work, value personal responsibility, and care for our neighbors."

Sauvik Goswami, assistant director of assessment and analytics at the UI Pomerantz Career Center, said most students who leave the state cite reasons such as career, family, education, and weather. Family and career were also reasons why students chose to stay in Iowa, along with affordability.

In a survey of 2791 employed graduates from the 2019 and 2020 classes, 1421 reported staying in Iowa.

Davila said legislators should focus on climate change in order to attract young people to the state.

Wahls said Iowa leads the nation in renewable energy, specifically electricity generated per capita.

In 2020, MidAmerican Energy supplied 83.6 percent of Iowa customers with renewable sources with their prices being the eleventh lowest in the country. Over half of the state's electricity generation has come from renewable energy — mostly wind.

While Iowa is ahead of the curve, Wahls said, the state needs to make changes to its farming and agricultural practices.

Wahls said finding new uses for ethanol beyond powering cars is important, as Iowa is a major contributor to corn and ethanol production.

"I think we're just going to continue to see more [research and development] done on those best practices for farmers that

can reduce the carbon footprint in ways that are not as invasive as people might be worried about," Wahls said.

House Minority Leader Rep. Jennifer Konfrst said legislators have learned a lot from young lowans and about what is important to them — climate change, student debt, and college affordability.

Konfrst said that keeping the priorities of young people in mind could not only attract them to the state, but also help elected officials learn more.

"We're not recent grads, so we don't always know exactly what it's like out there. If we didn't have your perspectives, we wouldn't know to make these things priorities. And we are making them priorities," Konfrst said.

The bills that the House and Senate are passing, Konfrst said, are not bills that are sending a welcoming message to those who might want to move to Iowa, she said.

"When we're focused on being exclusionary with our legislation or lashing out at the LGBTQ community, we're not making Iowa a welcoming state," Konfrst said. "We need to sell our state to people who are graduating and remind them that we're a place that welcomes everyone."

Konfrst said affordable housing is high on her list of priorities as well as investment in arts and culture.

There is bipartisan support for some ways of incentivizing young people to come to Iowa, Konfrst said. Both parties agree that child care and housing should be more affordable, she said, but few legislative moves have been made to make them

a reality.

Iowa's overall population rose by 5.3 percent, between 2010 and 2020, but population growth only occurred in 33 of Iowa's 99 counties, while population decreased in the other counties. The counties where population grew the most were Dallas, with 53.6 percent growth, Johnson, with 16.3 percent, and Polk, with 15.9 percent.

Population shrank in most rural counties in the state. Wahls said that more focus needs to be had on small towns as they continue to shrink.

Having a good economic policy for midsize towns, Wahls said, is one way to invest in small communities where families travel for recreational activities. Supporting these communities will keep younger lowans coming through, he said.

"Iowa's always going to have hundreds of small towns, and the small town way of life is worth protecting and fighting for because there's so many people who love and cherish their small town communities," Wahls said.

Wahls said investing in the state's public education will further incentivize young people to want to settle down in Iowa.

House and Senate Democrats proposed a plan to boost public school funding in Iowa by 2.25 percent — an increase of \$300 million.

"There is a competing vision for the future of our state right now, one that really taps back into the roots that gave Iowa the nickname, 'The Education State,'" Wahls said.

Kaufmann said that he has spoken to lowans who moved away from the state but plan to come because of what he called the freedoms the state offers. Iowa's stance on COVID-19 restrictions and 2nd amendment rights has an impact on whether people stay or leave, Kaufmann said.

"I realized that if you're somebody who has liberal leanings, you want to move because you don't like some of that stuff," Kaufmann said. "I do get that."

Kaufmann said it's important for young people to stay in the state because they build families which increase the population, they bring new energy to their communities, and they bring a lifetime of spending.

"If you're a young couple that's just getting ready to buy your first house and have your first couple kids, and you stay here for the next 50 years, that's huge for whatever community you decide to locate in," Kaufmann said.

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

House Minority Leader Jennifer Konfrst speaks during the opening of the 2022 Legislative Session at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa, on Jan. 11. Konfrst addressed the workforce crisis in Iowa. "And honestly, let's imagine a young family deciding whether to move to Iowa for good jobs or some other state in the Midwest," Konfrst said. "Will we create a state where they can find affordable child care, where they have access to quality health care, and quality affordable housing?"

Opinions

COLUMN

Shampoo Your way to sustainability

Daily bathroom routines are a major source of plastic waste and environmental degradation.



Grace Hildahl

Opinions Contributor

In recent years, we have seen an emergence of eco-friendly consumers opting out of traditional plastic usage. Navigating through the climate crisis, people have passed up on single-use plastics such as bottles, bags, cutlery, and straws for reusable versions.

These lifestyle adjustments, most common at supermarkets and restaurants, are a step in the right direction. However, these progressive improvements often cease when it comes to changes in the bathroom.

Although shampoo and conditioner bottles may last a bit longer than the average plastic water bottle, they are still single-use products. However, an environmental solution has evolved: refill bottles.

We've all heard the classic saying "reduce, reuse, and recycle," but I think

it's time we add "refill" to that list.

Refill stations are a semi-new concept that need to become a viral, lifelong trend for everyone.

Using refill stations, consumers can directly cut out plastic waste when buying new bathroom products. Instead of repurchasing a plastic bottle and creating waste, simply bring the empty bottle, or even a glass jar, to a refill station.

While hygiene is vital to human health, the plastic-contained products we rely on in the bathroom are dirtying and destroying the environment.

A bathroom plastic study by Johnson & Johnson estimated that 552 million 15-ounce shampoo bottles end up in landfills each year.

As unnecessary waste piles up, the toxic chemicals used in plastic production, such as BPA, leach into water sources, the atmosphere, and soil to further damage ecosystems and pose a threat to human health.

These plastic landfill residents also biodegrade at extremely slow rates, taking up to 1,000 years to decompose. During decomposition, the plastic

bottles break down into microplastics, or miniscule nonbiodegradable plastic pieces. Microplastics bioaccumulate and eventually harm all organisms who ingest them — even humans.

Considering the toll plastic pollution has on the environment and ourselves, one would think we would be willing to make some serious sustainable lifestyle changes in the bathroom.

However, nearly 40 percent of Americans don't recycle in the bathroom, according to the Johnson & Johnson study.

But are these statistics even surprising?

Think about your bathroom routine. Are you taking the time to recycle your empty toiletries bottles? Most likely the convenience of your bathroom waste bin compared to bringing bottles to your recycling bin, if you even have one, triumphs over the latter.

Even if you are recycling used products, sadly, you have to question if the products make it through the process. For example, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, only 32.1 percent of recyclable materials were recycled in 2018.



Dimia Burrell/The Daily Iowan

A refill station for shampoo bottles is seen at Basic Goods in Iowa City on Feb. 2.

Instead of relying on recycling centers and the comfort that millions of others are polluting through bathroom plastics, you should change the way you consume bathroom products.

At a refill station, you can restock any container with your desired product, whether that be shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and even more house-wide products like hand soap, dish soap, and

laundry detergent.

Refilling prolongs the use of one container while minimizing the need to buy another, therefore reducing excess air, and water pollution that is derived from the plastic bottle's toxic lifestyle.

Luckily, some Iowa City stores are adapting to the positive lifestyle change that is the normalization of refills.

If you're looking to adapt to a more sustainable lifestyle in downtown Iowa

City, both Basic Goods and The Shop offer refill stations to the community.

As University of Iowa students and residents of Iowa City, we can make positive, environmentally friendly lifestyle changes by using refill stations.

The culprit isn't the conditioner bottle, but convenience. Get out of your comfort zone, and start refilling your bathroom products.

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COLUMN

End erasure of MENA identities

The UI and U.S. Census don't have a designation for MENA ethnicities, leading to a lack of resources and information.



Yasmina Sahir

Opinions Columnist

Missing from conversations about the institutionalization of the terms diversity, equity, and inclusion is a demand for proper categorization for Middle Eastern and North Africans living in the U.S.

The University of Iowa and the U.S. Census continue to recognize all Middle-Eastern and North African (MENA) descendants as racially "white" without an ethnicity option on demographic reports, such as the case with Hispanic and Latino/a/x/e peoples in the U.S.

This population deserves more recognition and cultural awareness. The UI and Iowa City communities can address this injustice through the addition of a MENA ethnicity option on demographic forms and by establishing a MENA cultural house on campus.

Whether the UI intends it or not, students directly affected by lack of institutional change wonder if this is directly tied to Islamophobic ideas. Making this connection is far from over exaggerated.

An often-harmful stereotype continued in the U.S. is cultural ignorance about the difference between Muslims and Arab populations.

While many Arab parts of the world have heavy Islamic influences, not all MENA

peoples are both Arab and Muslim. In fact, some MENA people don't fit in either of these categories.

According to a 2021 poll distributed by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs, results showed that 20 years after the World Trade Center attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, 53 percent of Americans said they retain unfavorable opinions of Muslims.

Simply put, demographic data matters. According to NPR, census data can turn into resource allocation, victimization reporting, health and educational statistics, and protection from discrimination.

There are currently four cultural houses on the UI campus. These include the Afro-American Cultural Center (Afro House), Asian Pacific American Cultural Center (APACC), Latino Native American Cultural Center (LNACC), and the Pride Alliance Center (Pride House).

Serena Qamhieh, a law student and president of the Middle Eastern/North African Student Association, or MENASA, on campus, commented on the want for a MENA cultural house.

"Having a consistent place where we can celebrate our collective MENA identity is an important part of building community on campus," Qamhieh said. "Last semester, our MENASA meetings took place in the English-Philosophy Building. This semester, we found a room in the Iowa Memorial Union. We can't be an effective cultural resource this way."

Asel Nasr, a Libyan-American third-year undergraduate, is one of the students putting a lot

of energy into this cause through meeting with UI administration, professors, and cultural house staff to figure out a solution that works for both the school budget and demands from MENA students.

"To continue the belief that MENA students on campus aren't a part of communities of color is continuing an incorrect, potentially harmful stereotype about the rich diversity of these peoples," Nasr said.

This fight does not come with consequences. Census data has been used in the U.S. to target groups based on their race, including during World War II when Japanese-Americans were forced into internment camps following the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941.

Similar patterns toward Arab-Americans have been noticed in recent U.S. history. During the Trump presidency, several Islamic countries were impacted by travel bans. He was noted for making the campaign promise that — if elected — he would call for a ban on Muslim populations entering the U.S.

The same *New York Times* article stated in 2020 that many people traveling from these countries — even those who held green cards or residency status within the U.S. — were held and questioned about political and religious affiliations at border points.

If someone has the ability to appropriate or attack a culture, they already hold the tools to educate themselves and respect that culture. It is an active choice to go one way or the other.

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COLUMN

Biden's path to approaching Gen Z

Biden's social media strategies and youth engagement could potentially improve his poll numbers.



Elise Cagnard

Opinions Contributor

I think it is safe to say that being left out of a conversation is a universal experience we all unfortunately endure. Whether it's your friends discussing plans or your parents talking about you as if you weren't sitting right next to them, this exclusion has a way of making us feel unimportant or neglectable.

The government can elicit a similar reaction from the younger generation, albeit on a much larger scale. From proposals to policies, the language used is seemingly gibberish and nobody seems interested in explaining it to us.

However, the way President Joe Biden conducts himself on social media has been impactful and helps break down the barrier between the youth and policymakers. Ever since he came into office on January 2021, the executive branch has made a perceivable effort to further engage Gen Z.

Over the years, Biden has amassed an impres-

sive internet following. With 17.6 million Instagram followers and 32.3 million Twitter followers, it is no leap to say that he has a strong social media presence.

Through social media, Biden has made himself personable to the American population. While scrolling through Biden's social media, you might forget you're stalking the president of the U.S. and instead think you're on a normal person's account with the typical funny pet pictures and casual photo dumps.

Additionally, some notable celebrities have either been featured on his social media, or vice versa. Having an artist that you look up to and admire post funny content with the POTUS can change your perspective of them and possibly make you feel more confident in engaging in politics.

Among these celebrities, some of the most notable outreach include Olivia Rodrigo, a famous singer and actress, who came to the White House to shoot a promotional video to encourage young people to get vaccinations. Biden also appeared in a TikTok with the Jonas Brothers with the same goal of spreading vaccine awareness.

Having superstars that are often put on a pedestal associate themselves

with Biden has to have some positive effect on his popularity.

It is no secret that over the past year, Biden has not done well in public polls. Due to many legal roadblocks, Biden has not been able to live up to all the promises he made while running for president, such as student-loan forgiveness and vaccine mandates. This is not a partisan trend, as both Democrats and Republicans have lost confidence in the Biden Administration.

When asked if they were confident about Joe Biden's capability of handling COVID-19, poll percentages have dropped to 44 percent. Only about one in every five Americans now believe that Joe Biden will be a successful president. Among democrats, that fraction increases to about one in every three democrats, but that is still considerably lower than a year ago today.

With these pessimistic outlooks on the Biden administration, it is more important now than ever before to foster that sense of community throughout all age groups. Biden's attempts to accomplish this through social media is an admirable goal, and it has the potential to work.

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UI professor collaborates with UCLA, NASA

Allison Jaynes, assistant professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Iowa, is researching to detect specific mechanisms that conduct higher energies in Earth's radiation belts.

Simone Garza
News Reporter

A University of Iowa assistant professor is discovering specific mechanisms that conduct the higher energies in the Earth's radiation belts through a NASA Heliophysics Supporting Research award.

Allison Jaynes, assistant professor of physics and astronomy at the UI, received \$84,000 from the University of California Los Angeles.

Jaynes said NASA ended a spacecraft mission in October 2019, the Van Allen Probes, that studied the radiation belts around Earth. The project is called "The role of local and radial diffusion in the multi-MeV electron acceleration," and is expected to take three years.

"Some of the questions that UCLA and I wanted to answer with that mission still remain unanswered," she said.

Jaynes said the NASA Heliophysics Supporting Research award will fund the data analysis of the Van Allen Probes spacecraft data.

"There's a lot of things that can get disrupted if we have larger solar storms, or larger space weather events, which we have not had very much recently, because the sun has been a little bit quieter than it has in previous

decades," Jaynes said.

George Hospodarsky, UI research scientist and engineer, and Jaynes' colleague, said a solar storm is a process where the sun is constantly shooting particles into space, called the solar wind.

On rare occasions, space tends to have coronal mass ejections, which is when energetic particles shoot up into space, Hospodarsky said. If these particles hit the earth's magnetic field, it will vibrate at low frequencies.

"These particles also get trapped, which is one of the things we are trying to understand — exactly how this all works out," Hospodarsky said. The radiation belts basically get much more intense, or they can actually get weaker."

He said the radiation belts get either more energetic with more particles, or can lose some of the particles and rebuild over time.

Jaynes said her research study will try to figure out if high energy electrons are coming from within the radiation belt — a process that makes the changes from inside, compared to a process that brings in electrons from outside, into the location of the radiation belt.

Jaynes said the research is currently in a preliminary



Allison Jaynes, assistant professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Iowa, poses for a portrait with a space instrument she designed. Jaynes researches heliophysics while also building instrumentation for rockets and space craft.

nary stage.

"With the UCLA group, we need to first see what happens when we put all this data into the Versatile Electron Radiation Belt (VERB) models," she said. "From there, we can decide to do one thing or the other based on what the preliminary work shows."

Hospodarsky said the VERB model is basically trying to model the radiation belt in three dimensions.

"Taking account of the particles and how things will change with different inputs and taking account of the different parameters in space and how

strong the solar wind is to predict how things are going to change in the future," he said.

Kristine Sigsbee, UI associate research scientist and engineer, said Jaynes and her collaborators at UCLA are combining a computer model with actual satellite observations

to better understand what causes space weather.

"I think her work is really exciting because she's collaborating with researchers who have developed a computer model that helps predict radiation belt dynamics," she said.

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Iowa City continues affordable housing push

Since the creation of the Affordable Housing Fund in 2016, Iowa City has funded several programs designed to bring more housing options to Iowa City. The city will budget another \$1 million toward these efforts in fiscal 2023.

Emily Delgado
News Reporter

One of the Iowa City Council's goals in its 2022-24 strategic plan focuses on fostering affordable housing throughout Iowa City.

Since the creation of the Affordable Housing Fund in 2016, the city has deposited \$1 million annually to the fund.

In 2021, the council bought eight duplexes in the South District. The duplexes were bought to open affordable homeownership in the South District.

"I'm really, really happy that especially in the South District, that there's attention to strengthening the neighborhood but also to do it from within, that this is not a gentrification project," Iowa City Mayor Pro Tem Megan Alter said. "This is about being able to help the neighborhood, strengthen their commitment to it, and to give them opportunities."

The Affordable Housing Fund was a part of the Affordable Housing Action Plan. After the council's prioritization of affordable housing, a fund was created, said Erika Kubly, Iowa City's Neighborhood Services Division coordinator.

The purpose of the Af-

fordable Housing Fund is to "account for developer fees and contributions towards the development of affordable housing throughout the City," according to the description in the Master Proposed Book of FY23.

"Substantial resources are again devoted to affordable housing with another \$1 million earmarked for the affordable housing fund, bringing the total for this line item to \$5.4 million over five years," Iowa City City Manager Geoff Fruin wrote in a letter concerning Iowa City's budget for fiscal 2023.

Currently, there is \$3.6 million in the Affordable Housing Fund and the money is apportioned into several different projects, including:

- The Johnson County Housing Trust Fund
- An emergency fund
- Healthy Homes Program
- An opportunity fund and programs to help acquire housing and emergency situations.

"A portion of the funds goes to our Healthy Homes program, which is a housing rehab program for renters and homeowners to mitigate environmental issues in their homes so they have asthma," Kubly said.

Alter said she felt ex-

cited by the City Council's mostly unified opinions about prioritizing housing.

"It's not simply something on paper. It's not theoretical," she said. "There are a lot of community members who need affordable housing and frankly, an incredibly expensive market."

In addition to city-sponsored programs, Iowa City also participates in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Community Development Block grants programs.

Iowa City goes through a consolidated planning process to gauge public opinion on how to spend the money given to the city by the federal program.

Iowa City used the money from the federal grant for COVID-19 relief programs most recently, Kubly said.

"I think people have suffered through the pandemic with unemployment, you know, unexpected costs...housing tends to be less affordable over time," Kubly said.

Kubly and her team at Neighborhood Services have developed new programs since the start of the fund in 2016 to address different aspects of affordable housing.

"We've definitely been expanding the work that we do and even with COVID we've been kind

of adjusting to eviction prevention and making sure we're meeting all the different needs of

people who are looking for housing," Kubly said.

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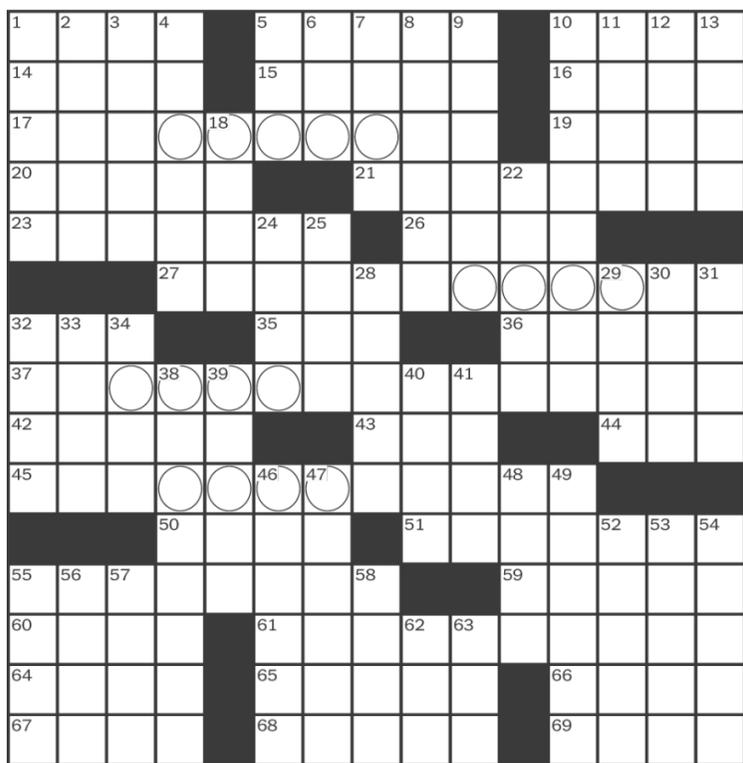
To everyone who is part of UI Dance Marathon, **THANK YOU!**

The Daily Break

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0103

Puzzle solutions on page 2



Across

- 1 "First, do no ___" (physician's maxim)
5 Claim on some food packaging
10 Simplicity
14 Cookie often dipped in milk
15 Barclays Center in Brooklyn, for one
16 Ending with Insta-
17 Telepathic sort
19 Halliwell of the Spice Girls
20 Makeup mogul Lauder
21 Determines the money needed to get out of jail
23 Affirmative response to "Shall we dance?"
26 Greek letter that one might expect to come last
27 Embedded spy awaiting a mission
32 Minor-league level
35 With 59-Across, "Madam Secretary" star
36 Curbside coin collector
37 Scattered here, there and everywhere
42 Animal that dances ballet in "Fantasia"
43 Apple mobile devices run on it
44 Locale for clouds
45 "Quit arguing, kids!"
50 Cuatro + cuatro
51 1988 Best Picture winner starring Dustin Hoffman
55 People who "sow" evil
59 See 35-Across

- 60 Antioxidant-rich berry
61 Intuition without logical explanation, or a hint to this puzzle's circled letters
64 Dryer fuzz
65 "Ciao" in Chihuahua
66 Singer India. ___
67 Border
68 H. Ross ___, candidate of 1992 and 1996
69 Banana skin

Down

- 1 Invitingly warm and cozy
2 Come up, as issues
3 Amounts on Monopoly cards
4 X and Y, for Tesla
5 Scottish refusal
6 Pop star Rita
7 Doc's prescriptions
8 "Gesundheit!" elicitor
9 Hose holder, or a kind of snake
10 Breakfast roll with another breakfast staple added in
11 Locale
12 Dress in India
13 Jannings who won the first Best Actor Oscar
18 Highlight ___ (sports compilation)
22 "Forever" purchase
24 Head: Fr.
25 Clairvoyant sort
28 Outdoor furniture setting
29 Sched. listings at JFK or LAX
30 Long part of a giraffe
31 Card above deuce
32 Oohs and ___
33 Landed, as on a wire
34 Fido fare, maybe
38 Night, to day
39 Soprano or alto
40 60 minutes
41 This: Sp.
46 Something to "mind" at a British train station
47 "What's up, my man?!"
48 ___ E. Coyote
49 Up and back, in a pool
52 Wavy-patterned fabric
53 Photographer Leibovitz
54 ___ Barker, fashion photographer and reality TV judge
55 Bundle of hay
56 You'll trip on it if you drop it
57 "Shoot!"
58 Commotion
62 Rock's ___ Fighters
63 Ballpark guess: Abbr.

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7	6		5		1	
4				8		6
3			1			
			9	8		3
	1					9
	7		4	2		
				5		3
9			8			2
	2		9		7	8

WRESTLING

Continued from Page 8

er-Hawkeye Arena on senior day Saturday.

Marinelli defeated sixth-ranked Dean Hamiti via 8-5 decision, and Kemerer earned an 11-2 major decision against Wisconsin's Andrew McNally.

"It's hard to put into words the amount of time and amount of things we've experienced together," Kemerer said. "It's been amazing. It's a special kind of relationship we've built over the years that I don't think a lot of people could understand, except us."

During their six years together at Iowa, Kemerer and Marinelli helped shape the Iowa wrestling program in profound ways.

Kemerer was the first of six Pennsylvanians to commit to the UI over the last seven years. One of the five Quaker Staters to pledge their allegiance to the UI shortly after Kemerer was now-three-time NCAA Champion Spencer Lee, who, like Kemerer, is from Murrysville.

Last season, five of Iowa's 10 starting wrestlers hailed from Pennsylvania. This year, none of the Hawkeyes' 10 starters



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's No. 2 174-pound Michael Kemerer, No. 10 157-pound Kaleb Young, and No. 5 165-pound Alex Marinelli take a selfie after a senior recognition during a wrestling meet between No. 2 Iowa and No. 9 Wisconsin in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Saturday. Kemerer defeated McNally by major decision, 11-2. The Hawkeyes defeated the Badgers, 29-6.

grew up in Iowa. "There's a lot of ways you could talk about the awesome things they've

done for this program," Brands said of Marinelli and Kemerer. "... It's hard to stay somewhere six

years and not leave a footprint of some kind. "They care about each other, and they care

about the future, and they care about their team," Brands added. "The place is better be-

cause of them, and that's a really good feeling."

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BOWL

Continued from Page 8

NFL season. The 6-foot-7, 285-pounder has made four appearances for the Rams this season.

Daniels, a former Pro Bowler with the Green Bay Packers, has spent the past two seasons with the Bengals — the third professional team of his 10-year career. The former fourth-round draft pick has appeared in three games for Cincinnati this season. The 6-foot, 310-pounder led Iowa in tackles for loss and sacks in his junior and senior seasons. Daniels will be joined on the Bengals' sideline by Reiff — his former Iowa teammates and a former first-round draft pick who is in his 10th year in the NFL. The former first-team All-Big Ten performer, who has spent time with the Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings, was placed on injured reserve on Dec. 16 to end his first year with the Bengals.

As a bonus, Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow — a Heisman Trophy winner at LSU and the first-overall pick by Cincinnati in 2020 — was

born in Ames, Iowa.

57 — Former Hawkeyes who have made Super Bowl appearances

Going into the 2021 season, 53 former Hawkeyes had appeared on football's biggest stage, per the Iowa football media guide. Add four more onto that after Sunday.

Iowa's Super Bowl history spans decades. Bob Jeter, who won MVP of the 1959 Rose Bowl for his 194-yard rushing performance, started at cornerback in Super Bowls I and II for the Green Bay Packers. In last year's Super Bowl (LV), offensive tackle Tristan Wirfs started at right tackle as a rookie for the world-champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers, while defensive lineman/linebacker Anthony Nelson also won a ring. Wirfs (then 22 years old) is the second-youngest former Iowa player to play in a Super Bowl, only behind offensive tackle Bryan Bulaga (21) for the Green Bay Packers in 2011.

James Ferentz, the son of Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz, has won two Super Bowls — one with Tom

Brady as his quarterback and the other with Peyton Manning under center.

Minnesota Vikings outside linebacker Wally Hilgenberg and safety Paul Krause (the NFL's all-time leader in interceptions) both started four Super Bowls — all losses — the most of any former Hawkeye.

A former Hawkeye has appeared in the Super Bowl in 17 of the last 18 years.

The most memorable performance in that time-frame may have come from hard-hitting safety and former NFL Defensive Player of the Year Bob Sanders. The former Hawkeye recorded three tackles, a forced fumble, and an interception in the Indianapolis Colts' 29-17 win over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLII. The Athletic regards Sanders' performance as the greatest ever by a former Hawkeye in the Super Bowl, just ahead of Tim Dwight's in Super Bowl XXXIII.

As a member of the Falcons, Dwight returned a kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown in a 34-19 loss to the Broncos. The former Hawkeye wide



Brad Mills/USA TODAY Sports

Washington Football Team quarterback Alex Smith (11) is pressured by Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle Mike Daniels (76) during the second half at FedExField on Nov. 22, 2020.

receiver and return specialist tallied 210 kickoff return yards in that game, the second-most ever in a Super Bowl.

11 — NFL franchises Iowa alums have won Super Bowls with so far

Over the span of 55 Super Bowls, 24 former Iowa players have earned the Lombardi Trophy

for 17 different Super Bowl-winning teams. Eleven franchises have won Super Bowls with at least one Hawkeye on the roster.

Sunday will mark 12. The Rams have never won a Super Bowl with an Iowa alum on the roster. The Bengals have never won a Super Bowl at all. Five former Hawkeyes have won Su-

per Bowl rings with the New England Patriots. No franchise has made more champions out of Iowa players than the Patriots.

Super Bowl LVI kicks off at 5:50 p.m. on Sunday. The game will air on NBC with Al Michaels giving play-by-play and Cris Collinsworth providing commentary.

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SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 8

sees a lot of great pitches on her drop ball or change up, she moves the ball really well."

Gilispie said the third Hawkeye slated to move into the starting rotation is freshman right-handed pitcher Devyn Greer, who hails from Huntington Beach, California. She posted a 1.42 career ERA in high school.

From a bullpen stand-

point, Iowa has three freshman reserve pitchers on its staff.

Right-hander Emma Henderson is from Battle

"We're strong. [Breanna] Vasquez has come in and transferred from UCF, and she's going to step in right away as our No. 1."

— Softball head coach Renee Gillispie

Ground, Indiana, and posted a career ERA of 2.30 in high school. Emma's twin sister, Anna, is a catcher on the Hawkeye softball team.

Freshman Haley Downe from Norfolk, Iowa, was a two-time all-conference selection

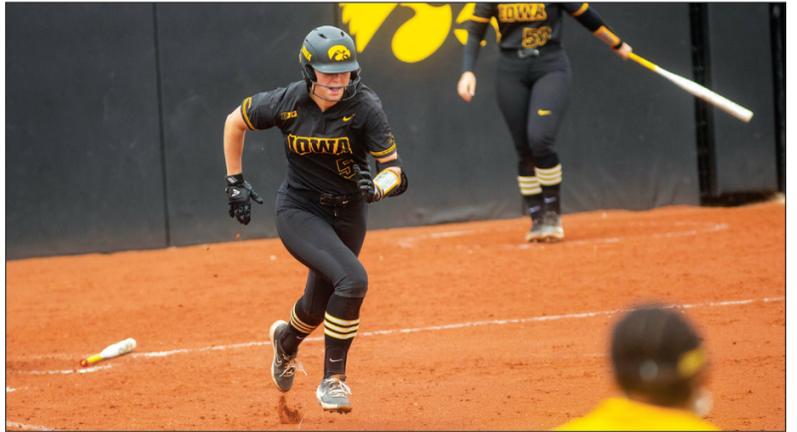
out of high school.

The last bullpen arm is Katherine Serna from Santa Fe Springs, California. The right-handed pitcher

posted an ERA of .079 in her senior year and was named all-league in her conference.

Iowa will officially kick off the 2022 season on Feb. 11, taking on Eastern Kentucky at the Northern Lights and Southern Nights Invitational in Leesburg, Florida.

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa utility player Denali Loecker runs to first base during a softball game between Iowa and Nebraska at Pearl Field on May 8, 2021. The Huskers defeated the Hawkeyes, 4-0.

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Ella Schmit commits to Iowa women's wrestling team

The Iowa women's wrestling program landed its second-ever commit on Saturday morning, as three-time girls Iowa state wrestling champion Ella Schmit announced her intention to join the Hawkeyes.

Schmit will join Kylie Welker as a 2022 recruit for the women's wrestling program. While Welker and Schmit will be on campus next fall, they won't officially be competing as Hawkeyes. They'll wrestle unattached from the UI as the Hawkeye women's wrestling team won't officially take the mat until 2023-24.

"I am beyond excited to announce that I will be continuing my academic and athletic career at the University of Iowa," Schmit said in an Instagram post. "I want to give a shoutout to my amazing coaches, family, and supporters that have helped make this possible. It is hard to believe my biggest dream as a little girl is coming true. I am pumped to reach my full potential at Iowa and can't wait to start the journey."

Schmit is the Hawkeyes' first in-state recruit, as Welker hails from Franksville, Wisconsin.

Schmit went 16-0 in her senior season at Bettendorf, including 13 pins. She has a 70-18 record over the past four years against boys and girls wrestlers. Schmit qualified for the boys' state wrestling tournament in 2021, becoming just one of four girls to ever do so.

Keegan Murray named Karl Malone Award Semi-finalist

Iowa men's basketball sophomore forward Keegan Murray is one of 10 semifinalists for the Karl Malone Power Forward of the Year Award, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced Thursday.

The annual honor goes to the nation's best power forward in Division I men's basketball. Ohio State's EJ Liddell and Indiana's Trayce Jackson-Davis also represent the Big Ten as semifinalists.

Murray is also on the John Wooden Award Late Season Top 20 List and the Lute Olson National Player of the Year midseason list. *Sporting News* also named Murray a midseason second-team All-American.

The 6-foot-8 forward ranks first in the nation with a 38.3 player efficiency rating. He averages 22.3 points per game — fifth in the nation.

Murray has also tallied over 25 points in a game an NCAA-leading nine times this season.

Only one player in the history of the Iowa men's basketball program has won a position-based award. Former Hawkeye Luka Garza won the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Center of the Year award in 2020 and 2021.

Iowa baseball media day set for Thursday

The University of Iowa baseball team will host its annual media day this Thursday at 1 p.m. at Iowa's indoor practice facility.

Head coach Rick Heller and select student-athletes will be available for interviews before practice begins. Heller is entering his ninth season as Iowa baseball's head coach.

Daily Iowan Sports Editor Austin Hanson and Assistant Sports Editor Chloe Peterson will attend the media day. Follow them on Twitter, @ahanson_41 and @chloepeterson67.

Check dailyiowan.com on Thursday and over the weekend for baseball coverage.

Iowa baseball won a program-record 26 Big Ten games in a conference-only schedule during the 2021 season. Four Hawkeye players — pitchers Trenton Wallace, Jack Dreyer, and Drew Irvine and position player Ben Norman — joined the Major League Baseball system.

Iowa finished fifth in the conference in 2021, behind Nebraska, Maryland, Michigan, and Indiana.

The Hawkeyes will start their 2022 season at the Swig and Swine Classic in Charleston, South Carolina, on Feb. 18. Iowa will take on Air Force to kick off the season.

The Hawkeyes' first home game will be on March 1 against Loras College at Duane Banks Field.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We continue to make history in Iowa City."

— Iowa women's wrestling head coach Clarissa Chun on Kylie Welker's commitment

STAT OF THE DAY

2

Commits for Iowa women's wrestling over a three-day span

One last time

Seniors Alex Marinelli and Michael Kemerer wrestled their final matches at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Saturday. The two have spent six years together on the Hawkeye wrestling team.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's No. 2 174-pound Michael Kemerer grapples with Wisconsin's No. 23 Andrew McNally during a wrestling meet between No. 2 Iowa and No. 9 Wisconsin in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Saturday. Kemerer defeated McNally by major decision, 11-2. The Hawkeyes defeated the Badgers, 29-6.

Austin Hanson Sports Editor

Iowa men's wrestling head coach Tom Brands isn't always sure what he'll get out of his wrestlers when he recruits them out of high school. Some have unsuspected pitfalls, and others don't.

Brands might've ended up with something better than he ever could've imagined when he brought 165-pounder Alex Marinelli and 174-pounder Michael Kemerer into his wrestling room.

Kemerer is a four-time

All-American and Big Ten Champion. Marinelli is a three-time Big Ten Champion and All-American.

"When you're dealing with young people, there's just a lot of pitfalls in the world," Brands said after Iowa defeated Wisconsin, 29-6, Saturday afternoon at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. "You don't know what you're getting, even though you do your job as a recruiter. What you end up with, with those two in particular, and really the group, is some really good people that are solid."

Marinelli came to the

University of Iowa from Miamisburg, Ohio, in 2016, opting to don the Black and Gold, rather than Ohio State's Scarlet and Gray.

"I had a picture of Carver above my bed [as a kid]," Marinelli said Saturday. "Now, I can put myself in that poster."

Kemerer joined the Hawkeye wrestling program in 2015, moving 679 miles from Murrsville, Pennsylvania, to Iowa City.

Both Marinelli and Kemerer redshirted during their respective freshman

seasons. "Kemdawg" actually began his Hawkeye career as a 149-pounder.

Kemerer cracked Iowa's starting lineup for the first time in 2016-17. Marinelli did so in 2017-18.

Marinelli and Kemerer have been an effective one-two punch in the middle of Brands' lineup since 2017-18. Kemerer wrestled at 157-pounds in 2017-18, so Marinelli was his follow-up act.

After a year off in 2018-19 with an injury, Kemerer bulked up to 174 pounds. Kemerer's multi-class move-up made him the

Hawkeyes' explosive en-core to Marinelli.

"I don't think you'd rather have anyone else than Michael Kemerer to back you up, right? I know he's giving me a high-five after I get off the mat," Marinelli said. "Then, he's going and doing his job. He is the epitome of class. One of my best friends."

The pair has been wrestling successively in duals for the better part of the last five years. Both put their own stamps on their last-ever matches at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

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Super Bowl bound

Brush up on Iowa's history of having players in the Super Bowl ahead of the Rams-Bengals battle for the Lombardi Trophy next weekend.



Mark J. Rebilas/USA TODAY Sports

Los Angeles Rams offensive tackle AJ Jackson (68) and linebacker Von Miller (40) against the Arizona Cardinals at State Farm Stadium on Dec. 13, 2021.

Robert Read Pregame Editor

No matter the result of Super Bowl LVI, two former Hawkeyes will soon be champions.

The AFC's Cincinnati Bengals will play the NFC's Los Angeles Rams at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles on Super Bowl Sunday. Three former Iowa football players will have a chance to suit up in the final game of the NFL season — while one former Hawkeye will be in street clothes on the sideline, nursing an injury. Offensive tackle Alaric Jackson and defensive back Jake Gervase are both on Los Angeles' active roster, while defensive tackle Mike Daniels is currently on Cincinnati's practice squad and offensive tackle Riley Reiff is on injured reserve.

Either a Rams or Bengals win next weekend will result in two players who used to play inside Kinnick Stadium being fitted for

a Super Bowl ring. Brush up on Iowa's history of having players in the Super Bowl ahead of what will likely be one of the most watched events of 2022.

4 — First-time Super Bowl participants among former Hawkeyes

Jackson, Gervase, Daniels, and Reiff are all making their Super Bowl debuts in Los Angeles.

Gervase and Jackson are both former undrafted free agents who have spent their entire professional careers with the Rams. Gervase, who played at Iowa from 2014-18, led Iowa in tackles as a senior and picked off seven passes in his college career before joining the Rams in 2019. Jackson, a four-year starter at left tackle for Iowa, is in his rookie

Softball relies on young pitchers

After three pitchers graduated, the Hawkeyes are reloading their pitching staff with underclassmen.

Dawson Moore Sports Reporter

Iowa softball compiled a 26-18 record in the 2021 season with the help of its three senior pitchers: Allison Doocy, Lauren Shaw, and Sarah Lehman.



Loecker

The Hawkeyes relied on their three seniors to pitch a combined four games each weekend, and all three starters compiled ERAs of under three in 2021.

Now, the trio has graduated, and Iowa must rely on its young pitchers to rebuild a diminished staff.

"I think we're pretty solid," head coach Renee Gillispie said of her pitching staff on Feb. 4. "A lot of questions were about losing our senior pitchers from last year, and they have great opportunities and they get the chance to go on to some incredible masters programs."

Doocy played as a graduate student in 2021 and completed a master's degree in the University of Iowa's higher education and student affairs program last spring.

Lehman transferred to DePaul with two years of eligibility remaining to play softball and obtain a master's degree at its business school.

Shaw, also with two years of eligibility remaining, decided to transfer to UCLA to join the Bruins' softball team and work toward a master's degree in education.

The Hawkeyes have one senior in their starting rotation for the upcoming 2022 season, as Breanna Vasquez transferred to Iowa from University of Central Florida. In her sophomore season at UCF, Vasquez posted a team-low 1.79 ERA.

"We're strong," Gillispie said. "Vasquez has come in and transferred from UCF, and she's going to step in right away as our No. 1."

Sophomore Denali Loecker will also enter Iowa's rotation this season. Loecker was a second-team All-Big Ten selection in 2021 as a position player, mainly at first base. She posted a team-high .322 batting average with an on-base percentage of .399 in 39 starts last season.

Loecker got minimal action as a pitcher last season, appearing in just one game.

"Denali didn't get a chance to pitch last year," Gillispie said. "She'll be a sophomore this year and is really holding down the number two spot. She

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