

## A war of misinformation

Two Ukrainian University of Iowa community members say restricted media and misinformation can impact understanding of the Ukraine-Russia war.



Dimia Burrell/The Daily Iowan

Richard Yu holds a flag at a vigil for Ukraine outside of the Pentacrest in Iowa City on Sunday.

Rachel Schilke  
Senior Print Editor

Ukrainian members of the University of Iowa community are reflecting on their experiences with propaganda and misinformation during wartime, as the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues.

As of March 29, Russian forces began to retreat out of Kyiv in part of a "major strategy shift." The United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights reported on

the same day 3,039 civilian casualties in the country, with 1,179 killed and 1,860 injured.

Daria Kuznetsova, a UI doctoral student in political science from the Donbas region of Ukraine, said her research focuses on digital media and information communication technologies and their effects on protests and regime change.

She became interested in the topic after taking a course on it and reading articles about media technology as a weapon during wartime.

Some instances include the 2020 Belarus protests and Russian protests from 2011-13, when Moscow, Russia's capital city, saw its largest anti-government rally since the fall of the Soviet Union.

"People in Ukraine are aware of the scale of Russian propaganda, and it's not that easy anymore to make people believe in the messages that are seen on some social media, or just the internet," Kuznetsova said.

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### INSIDE



**1st District candidates are both confident in a 2022 election win**

Both U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, and state Rep. Christina Bohannon, D-Iowa City, are confident that they can win the upcoming 2022 election.

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### ONLINE



**Senate Judiciary Committee takes Supreme Court vote**

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee is voting this morning on whether to recommend Ketanji Brown Jackson for confirmation to the Supreme Court. Read *The Daily Iowan's* reporting from Washington, D.C. this week.

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## University of Iowa Powwow returns

The 26th Annual University of Iowa Powwow, hosted by the Native American Student Association, returned to campus after two years.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Attendee Tim Livingston, whose tribal affiliation is the Klamath Tribe from Oregon, performs during the 26th Annual University of Iowa Powwow at the Field House in Iowa City on Saturday. This is the second UI Powwow Livingston has attended.

Marandah Mangra-Dutcher  
News Reporter

The 26th Annual University of Iowa Powwow brought generations together as Native American community members congregated at the Field House on Saturday.

Dominique Badajoz, a non-enrolled citizen of the Meskwaki Nation and the UI Powwow committee chair, said the turnout was perfect in terms of the committee's expectations. About 460 people attended this year's event.

"We kind of set up last night around 5 p.m. and then got all the tables and chairs to

where we wanted," Badajoz said. "We did have a few hiccups but literally minor ones. We were able to fix them, and everything has been going to plan ever since. It's been really nice."

The event commenced with a Grand Entry, which is a favorite event among many who attended, like Darcy Spears, who is enrolled in the Red Lake Nation Band of Chippewa Indians in Northern Minnesota.

"I love Grand Entry just because that's when everyone is coming in and we're coming together, and then that's when we actually get to see people

because we tend to come from different areas in the country," she said.

Participants in the 26th Annual UI Powwow gathered in the center of the Field House behind the Color Guard. The participants, dancing in colorful regalia, began clanking once they crossed the threshold of the circle, outlined with small bleachers full of audience members.

Spears was a participant in the Adult Women Jingle Dance category. She said the Jingle Dance is a healing dance.

"I really dance for people

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## UI math department to temporarily move to Jessup Hall

The UI's 10-year master plan includes the modernization of MacLean Hall, which houses the math department. While renovations are underway, the department will move to Jessup Hall.

Kate Perez  
News Reporter

The University of Iowa mathematics department will move to Jessup Hall when modernization begins in MacLean Hall during the next decade.

MacLean Hall has housed the mathematics department for over 75 years. Construction on the building is raising concerns about where the program will end up during the modernization.

The master plan includes the modernization of MacLean Hall along with Jessup Hall and MacBride Hall over the next decade. According to the preliminary draft of the plan presented to the state Board of Regents on Jan. 12, Maclean Hall will be the first of the Pentacrest buildings to be renovated.

UI math Professor Bruce Ayati said he worries about how the construction could impact student learning.

"We're one of the most undergraduate-facing departments, possibly on campus, and the concern is when we heard [modernization] was happening, the temporary solutions might be quite damaging, particularly to deliver instruction to the undergraduate

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Dancers perform during the 26th Annual University of Iowa Powwow at the Field House in Iowa City on Saturday. Attendance was around 460.

**UI POWWOW**  
Continued from Front

who can't dance and [I] dance for my parents," Spears said. "I tend to dance for others."

The regalia that Spears donned during the Jingle Dance has metal cones attached, which were meant to mimic tobacco can lids, she said. "Originally they were bones and then they went to like Snuff can lids, tobacco can lids, and now you can order them from Native American stores," she said.

Jessica Alvarez-White, the mother of a Women's Fancy Dance participant, said her daughter has been Fancy Dancing since she was five years old. Alvarez-White said her daughter spends time beading and sewing her regalia with her grandmother.

"She loves to dance," Alvarez-White said. "Her grandma and her work on her outfit a lot."

Tim Livingston, whose tribal affiliation is the Klamath Tribe from Oregon, is a vendor and a participant in the Men's Traditional Dance. He said it feels good to dance again, as the UI Powwow was

his first since COVID-19 started.

"I can tell I'm out of shape," he said. "Just kind of gives you an idea of what you need to do to get better when you get to the next one."

Alicia Velasquez, who is Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, was also a vendor at the event. She said she grew up attending powwows, but this is her first time attending one as a vendor. Velasquez is the founder of The House of DOTE/IZHI, a business specializing in beadwork and silversmithing.

Velasquez said she is the first Native American woman to own a business in Iowa City.

"My dad taught me beadwork at a young age and I continue doing those techniques and use them in a modern version," she said. "Silversmithing is working with pieces using stones like natural turquoise and other stones to create rings, earrings, and things like that. I was taught by other elders in my community on how to keep those traditional techniques alive as well."

Rebecca Roberts, of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa, at-

tended the UI Powwow as an observer. She wanted her three sons to see their heritage.

"This is how we pray and it's important to bring these events to everybody," she said. "This is how we keep our traditions alive."

Roberts said powwows are a way for Native American people to reconnect.

"It's really important, especially for me. I grew up off the settlement," she said. "This is a good way for us to reconnect with our heritage and our

tribe."

Powwows are a great way to learn about the culture of Native American people, she said.

"This is just a great way to see our culture and heritage as it was hundreds of years ago," Roberts said. "It's very important for the youth to see and learn. Learn the songs, learn the reason why the songs are, and learn the different styles of dancing. Everything has a meaning."

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Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Karlina Alvarez, 15, performs during the 26th Annual University of Iowa Powwow at the Field House in Iowa City on Saturday.

**MATH**  
Continued from Front

level," Ayati said.

Ayati said that, as of March 25, the math department had not been consulted on where to put the program during modernization. He said he thinks the UI could benefit from involving the department, as its members can explain its specific spatial needs.

Joe Bilotta, UI director of campus planning, said in a UI Faculty Senate meeting on March 22 that the math department has not received much information about the plan because not much is known about the proceedings yet.

"We haven't started the process," Bilotta said. "The only thing that we have committed to is that we need to have math on the Pentacrest at all times."

At the time of the meeting, Bilotta said the university was exploring moving the department into Jessup Hall.

"We haven't started working with the college or the departments yet on all the details, what we have to be concerned with and sensitive to as we prepare for McLean," Bilotta said.

Bilotta said at the meeting that there will be communication in the weeks following the move.

Jeneane Beck, UI assistant vice president for external relations, wrote in an April 2 email to *The Daily Iowan* that the math department's future location was discussed with Department Executive Officers in December 2021.

She wrote that the 10-year plan is subject to change over time, but the current plan is to move the math department into a modernized Jessup Hall.

"The computer sciences department has grown substantially over the past 20 years, and as a result the two programs can no longer comfortably share their current space," Beck wrote. "This will ensure both programs remain centrally located and have the necessary classroom and lab space their programs deserve."

Josh Weiner, UI associate dean for research, wrote in an April 3 email to the *DI* that the math department has been notified of its planned location.

"As the ten-year master plan was being put forward for approval last fall, I had several email exchanges about the Pentacrest Modernization project with the Mathematics DEO," he wrote.

Weiner wrote that, throughout the fall, he updated the department's executive officer on information from Campus Planning. "Once the current plan,

which has Math moving to a modernized Jessup Hall on the Pentacrest, was clear, I met with the DEO in early December to convey this information and to ask him to inform his faculty," Weiner wrote. "Since then, we've been in touch a few more times as well."

As of an April 2 email, Ayati wrote there has been no conversation with the whole math department about the new location.

Ayati said he is worried about the department being placed in a space that is unsuitable for instruction, for too long a period of time, and the potential for funding to be stalled, he said.

"One of the fears that we had was to be put in some space that really is not appropriate for our mission, and it would become permanent or very long term, at least five to 10 years, while the money is being found for whatever comes next," Ayati said.

Another concern of Ayati's is how the university will replicate the office space and the Math Tutorial Lab that MacLean Hall has, which both contribute to student learning.

"Having space for things like our Math Tutorial Lab is a huge part of how we execute our mission...We don't have a math tutorial lab, it fundamentally alters how we deliver instruc-

tion," Ayati said.

UI first-year student Elizabeth Page said she goes to the Math Lab at least three times a week for help with her Calculus II course. Page said she likes the space because it allows her to go in with friends, work on homework, and get immediate help when needed.

"Once you're done with your question, you just go on and keep working and it's super nice because they have chalkboards everywhere," Page said.

Page said the potential of the Math Tutorial Lab moving worries her, as she knows she will need to use it in the future if she takes more math classes at the UI.

"Ideally, if there was more open space, I think that would work better so people are able to work on different things and with other people, without having to worry about space as a restraint," she said.

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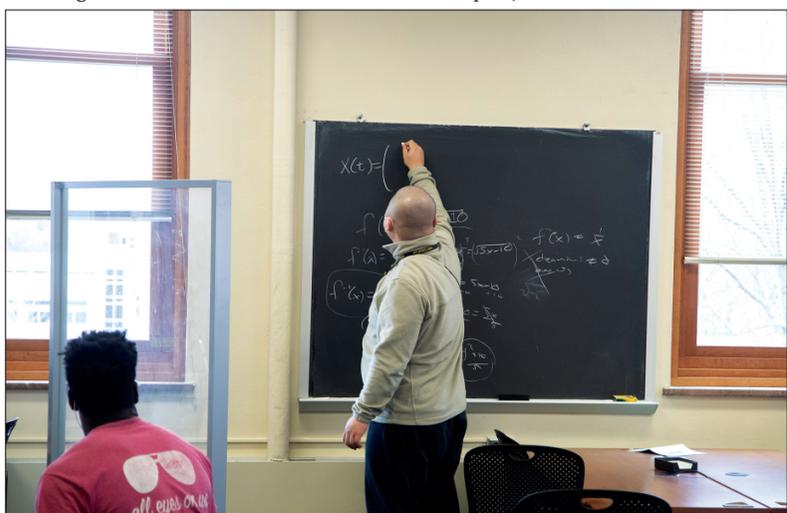
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Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa students study in the Math Tutorial Lab in MacLean Hall on Thursday.

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# ETHICS & POLITICS

## 1st District candidates feel confident in upcoming election

U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, and state Rep. Christina Bohannon, D-Iowa City, both say that they have reason to be confident they can win the 2022 election in Southeast Iowa this fall.

Meg Doster  
Politics Reporter

U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, and state Rep. Christina Bohannon, D-Iowa City, both say they're confident they can win the upcoming 2022 election in Southeast Iowa this fall.

In 2020, Miller-Meeks won her race for the 2nd Congressional District by six votes — the closest congressional race in the country that year. Now she's running for the newly redrawn 1st Congressional District, which contains most of the counties she currently represents.

On Oct. 28, 2021, the Iowa Legislature redrew Iowa's congressional districts, putting Miller-Meeks' residence in the 3rd Congressional District, which is represented by Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa.

"As we look at the 1st District, she's represented more than 88 percent of people in the district," Eric Woolson, Miller-Meeks' campaign spokesperson, said. "She knows the district. The district knows her, and she just has tremendous support."

Miller-Meeks plans to

tion on Red to Blue reflects that this will be a major targeted race and also reflects that we are running a very strong campaign," Bohannon said. "We are very honored to be on it. We're one of 12 candidates across the entire country on this list."

Woolson said that being on the DCCC's Red to Blue list doesn't affect the campaign and he doesn't believe the Democratic Party will be able to flip the district.

"[Bohannon] is an incumbent in terms of the current state legislative race, but that doesn't necessarily help her in a congressional race," said Timothy Hagle, a UI political-science professor and faculty adviser for the UI College Republicans. "She's going to be familiar in her district in Johnson County, of course, but that doesn't really help her in some of the other counties down in the Southeast part of the state."

Hagle said Miller-Meeks' strength was reaching voters who aren't loyal to any party. He said this gives her an advantage over Bohannon.

"The Democratic Party decided they weren't go-



Rep. Christina Bohannon poses for a portrait outside the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa, on Jan. 12, 2021. Bohannon represents the 85th District in Johnson County.

who are looking for better representation."

Woolson said Miller-Meeks has already made visits to the counties that she is not already representing: Jones, Jackson, Iowa, and Warren.

"[Bohannon is] a good

two competing messages, Mariannette's message is stronger."

Hagle said that Miller-Meeks' win by six votes in 2020 will not be a large factor in deciding the upcoming election.

"There may be fac-

Midterm elections have historically been bad for the party that occupies the White House — since 1900, the president's party has gained seats in the House of Representatives only four times.

Woolson said that he believes Miller-Meeks' support has only grown since 2020. Kaufmann said Republican support has grown as approval of President Joe Biden has fallen.

economic issues.

"How do we create those economic opportunities so that the Iowa businesses thrive?" Woolson said. "How do we make sure that Iowans and other folks have access to affordable health care, including mental health care?"

Bohannon said she's talking with voters about kitchen table issues and the economy.

"I'm mainly focusing



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, speaks during a press conference at Dahl Old Car Home in Davenport on Nov. 10, 2021.

have a residence in the 1st District, Woolson said.

According to the State of Iowa Voter Registration records, the 1st Congressional District has 464,534 active voters. Of those, 34.6 percent are registered with the Democratic Party, followed by no-party voters at 32.8 percent, and 31.8 percent as Republicans. The remaining 7.9 percent are registered with a third party.

Bohannon, a professor at the University of Iowa College of Law, hopes to flip the seat to blue in 2022. Since 2020, she has

ing to do any door to door during COVID, while the Republicans went ahead and did door to door," Cedar County Democrats Chair Larry Hodgden said. "Then they ended up winning by six votes."

Hodgden said the election this year will be more of an even playing field for the Democrats and Republicans.

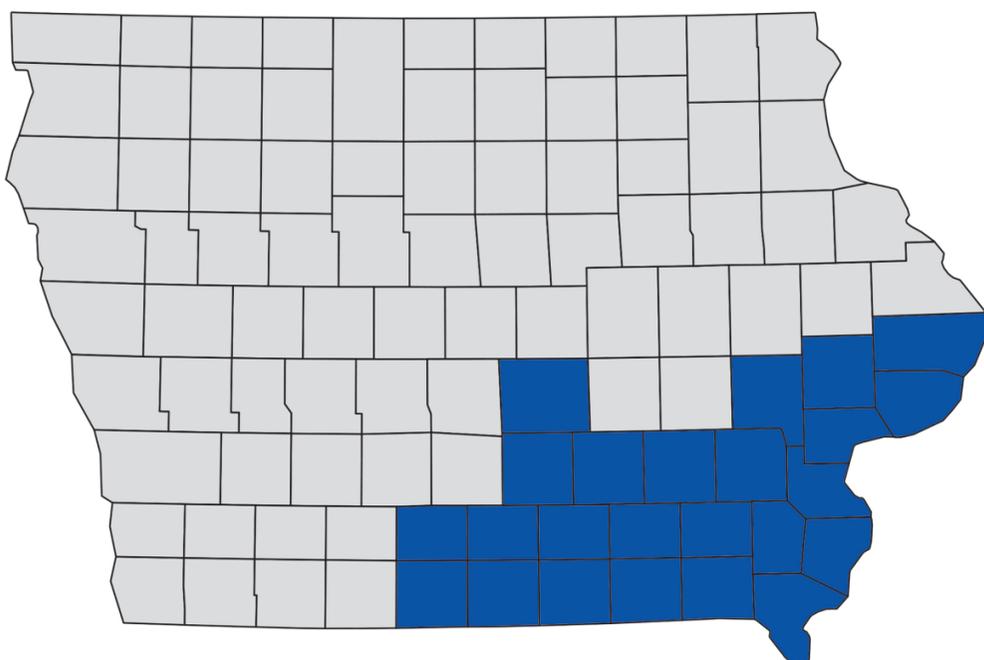
"The challenge for Bohannon is that she's got a lot of work to do, as any new challenger would, to get her name out," Hagle said.

Hodgden said he believes Bohannon is reach-

person, but her politics don't fit that district," Jeff Kaufmann, the chair of the Iowa Republican Party, said. "And I think that the DCCC involved simply means that there's going to be the support that she needs to get the message out. And I think at the end of the day, when you look at the

tors, and particularly if you're talking about congressional elections, because they happen every two years," Hagle said. "You've got one year as a presidential election. The next year is the midterms. And so, there's a whole different dynamic between those two types of elections."

### Iowa's 1st Congressional District



"I'm mainly focusing on the things that I'm hearing from people, from the constituents of the district.

— Rep. Christina Bohannon, D-Iowa City

represented the 81st District in the Iowa House after defeating Democratic incumbent Vicki Lensing, who had been in the House for two decades.

The race is on the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's "Red to Blue" list of political races the committee thinks can go from a Republican incumbent to a Democratic challenger.

"The DCCC's designa-

ing voters in his county and that Bohannon herself has visited Cedar County in person, and plans to continue doing so in the six months leading up to the election.

"We're reaching people digitally," Bohannon said. "I'm making phone calls, most of all. I'm out in the district. We're doing meet-and-greets and fundraisers. So I am talking to people all over the district

How do we create these economic opportunities so that the Iowa businesses thrive? How do we make sure that Iowans and other folks have access to affordable health care, including mental health care?

—Eric Woolson, Miller-Meeks' campaign spokesperson

"I think that the 2020 and the 2022 elections are completely opposite situations," Kaufmann said. "I don't think that people realized that Joe Biden was going to literally be incompetent and mess up literally everything he touched."

Linda Upmeyer, the former Iowa Speaker of the House, said she doesn't see how any Democratic candidate can get any sort of reach with voters.

"Everybody's really motivated to work hard and fight to hang on to this seat, but to take back the majority in Congress," Upmeyer said. "We can put an end here to this runaway spending and these extreme liberal positions that are being taken, get back on track."

Woolson said Miller-Meeks is focusing on issues that concern Iowans — primarily eco-

on the things that I'm hearing from people, from the constituents of the district," Bohannon said. "...We're talking about how people want to work, but they need good paying jobs. They need things like child care, transportation, broadband, you know, they're very concerned about inflation and we really need to get on top of inflation. We need to bring those prices down."

James Culbert, chair of the Warren County Democrats, said that people just want a government that works.

"We want a congressional party that actually is a Congress that actually sees to the needs of the people," Culbert said. "We want government to do its best to keep us healthy in these challenging times."

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# Opinions

## COLUMN

# Help those experiencing food insecurity

Food deserts are all too common in Iowa, but simple actions can help support people experiencing food insecurity.



Sophia Meador  
Opinions Columnist

You may remember strolling past empty shelves of cream cheese, pet food, and canned goods during nationwide supply chain shortages in January.

If you thought that was inconvenient, imagine going to your local grocery store, and everything is piled high on the top shelf. It could make your weekly shopping trip a stressful endeavor.

This is a reality that many Iowans face. Food deserts, or areas where access to healthy foods are limited or non-existent, are all too common in small-town Iowa. Simple actions, like giving food items or supporting local stores, can help people experiencing food insecurity in food deserts.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food insecurity is defined as “a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.”

With the popularity of corporations like Walmart, Costco, Kroger, and Target, many grocery stores struggle to make ends meet. In the last quarter of the 20th cen-

ture, half of Iowa’s grocery stores closed.

Sadly, the closure of grocery stores has impacted the accessibility of grocery shopping in small towns across Iowa. Only 63 percent of Iowans live within a 1-mile radius of healthy food retailers, which is 9 percent lower than the national average of 54 percent.

Although many are fortunate enough to have reliable transportation to nearby food retailers, people without cars or means of reliable transportation are left with limited options for getting groceries.

Food deserts often lead to food insecurity, as many are left with limited options like fast-food restaurants or convenience stores. Researchers have found a high correlation between food insecurity and diabetes, as a result. In Chicago, the mortality rate for diabetes is twice as high in food deserts.

At the University of Iowa, affordable healthy food options are scarce.

The average cost of groceries per month for a college student in Iowa is \$251, according to Education Data Initiative. While stores like Target, Bread Garden, John’s Grocery, and New Pioneer Food Co-op provide access to healthy food options, these stores are outside of many students’ grocery budgets. This can lead many to turn to fast food as an affordable al-



Food donations are seen inside of the CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank in Iowa City on Feb. 14. The center is a volunteer-driven organization for grocery assistance.

ternative.

Unfortunately, there is no simple solution for grocery deserts in Iowa.

More corporate grocery stores could give some Iowans better access to healthy foods. However, that would further hurt locally owned grocery stores. In turn, this would continue the cycle of grocery deserts.

On the contrary, more locally owned grocery stores would give Iowans access to healthy foods, but because of competi-

tion and operating costs, small grocery stores are out of budget for many.

While there is no simple path for eliminating food deserts, there are easy steps you can take to help people experiencing food insecurity in grocery deserts.

Local food banks, like CommUnity and the UI Food Pantry, serve low-income individuals in need of food. Donating to your local food bank is essential to keep this mission going.

Many communities have programs like Meals on Wheels that serve the elderly and people with disabilities who experience food insecurity. Donating and volunteering is another key way you can help those experiencing food insecurity.

If you’re able, shop at local grocery stores rather than large, corporate-owned stores. While grocery store chains are often cheaper, supporting grocery stores is essential to keep them run-

ning. Without sufficient business, grocery stores close and the food desert further unravels in many communities.

While the issue of food deserts in Iowa has no simple solution, you can make simple acts to help alleviate the stress and burden faced by people experiencing food insecurity. Please, do what you can to help bring healthy food options to people in food deserts.

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## DOCTOR IS IN

# Let’s talk about herpes

A nonjudgmental, informative discussion on what you need to know about herpes.

You’re in middle school. Acne and Axe body spray abound. Out of nowhere, you overhear someone sneer, “You know cold sores are herpes, right?” This may have been surprising the first time you heard it.

Many of us have been subjected to this not-so-fun fact on more than one occasion. For anyone who hasn’t heard this before, allow me to cut to the chase: yes, cold sores are a manifestation of a her-

never develop lesions. Some people experience only one outbreak. There are antiviral medications available to reduce symptoms in those with recurrent outbreaks. As always, if you choose to be sexually active, utilizing barrier protection such as condoms lowers your risk of getting sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including herpes.

In contrast, canker sores are not caused by a herpes virus and are

is a functional category that describes infections spread a certain way.

This categorization helps healthcare providers organize their thought process during evaluation, diagnosis, and patient education. It is important to remember that sexual contact is not the only way HSV is spread nor is it the most common mode of transmission. Furthermore, a diagnosis of cold sores or any STI is never a reflection of a person’s value, cleanliness, or morality.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention do not recommend testing individuals without symptoms. A blood test is available, but for HSV-1 it cannot distinguish between an oral and genital infection. If you have active symptoms, a healthcare provider can confirm the diagnosis by swabbing the lesion and testing the sample for the virus.

Herpes is incredibly common. Stigmatizing, shaming, or insinuating a person has herpes to put them down is unkind and is not an effective tactic to promote safe sex practices. Instead of relying on fear and shame, we can use nonjudgmental dialogue to discuss STIs, educate each other, and destigmatize herpes.

-Erin Sullivan, third-year medical student, Class of 2023

“ Herpes is incredibly common. Stigmatizing, shaming, or insinuating a person has herpes to put them down is unkind and is not an effective tactic to promote safe sex practices.

pes infection. Let’s talk about it.

Herpes is a common infection caused by Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)-1 and HSV-2. HSV-1 is the cause of cold sores, or oral herpes. Genital herpes can be caused by either HSV-1 or HSV-2. Sores caused by these viruses are painful wounds that tend to heal within a week, and usually these outbreaks do not have serious health complications. The World Health Organization reports that up to 80 percent of people in the world have HSV-1 or 2.

Many people contract the virus as children and

not contagious. They are painful ulcers, or shallow wounds, that appear on the inside of the mouth, as opposed to cold sores that occur outside the mouth, on, or near the lips. Canker sores occur for a multitude of reasons, including injury, stress, vitamin deficiencies, and irritating foods.

While genital herpes is considered an STI because it is transmitted through sexual contact, there is disagreement on whether cold sores should be classified as an STI. Oral herpes can occasionally be spread to the genitals through oral sex. At the end of the day, “STI”

## COLUMN

# Delaying video games does not help Ukrainians

Video game companies need to stand up for the people affected by war.



Luke Krchak  
Opinions Columnist

You wait for almost a year for one of your favorite games, *Advanced Wars 1+2*, to be remastered, only for it to be delayed even further because of international conflict.

Video game companies like Nintendo are choosing to delay video games that depict war in light of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, as their way of saying they are not trying to profit off war.

While that sentiment is noble, it does not do much for the people that are truly impacted and suffering. Ukrainian refugees on the ground need food, water, and other supplies to reduce pain caused by the war.

Delaying video games because of political conflict does not help the issues caused by war. Instead, companies need to advocate and set up methods to help those in times of crisis.

Video game companies should look into other options instead of delaying their video games. Such options could include raising the prices of their games and donating these profits to charities helping regions affected by the conflict.

One game company already doing something like this is Epic Games. Epic Games’ *Fortnite* allows players to use virtual currency to buy skins and other cosmetics. While Epic Games did not raise prices of the virtual currency, it did give a portion of the profits from these in-game sales to charities that support Ukraine.

Many companies that develop video games centered around war

wars, including more than just that within Ukraine.

If companies donate to charities like these, they are directly helping people in need, no matter which continent the war is on.

While one could argue video game companies are making decisions based on region, they are making directions based on today’s culture.

There are people on the internet who read too far into things and make a bigger deal than necessary, and video game companies want to avoid hassles and bad publicity.

This comes at a point when companies are appealing to a culture that wants to say they are in support without making

“ Delaying video games because of political conflict does not help the issues caused by war.

have donated a part of their profits, and have sold in-game content that promotes peace. This money going War Child’s Armistice.

War Child’s Armistice is a charity that aids children that have been caught in conflicts and

the effort required to do so.

People, as well as video game companies, need to directly help the people in dire need rather than playing the semantics of appearing helpful.

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**UKRAINE**

Continued from Front

Sujatha Sosale, UI associate professor of journalism and mass communication, has taught several courses in communication and change and in social media. Sosale said that what is occurring in Ukraine and Russia is an example of misinformation and disinformation.

Misinformation, Sosale said, is something misleading but not necessarily with an intent to do so, while disinformation is the intent to mislead, such as propaganda.

“The information war, in some senses, is about the influence of public opinion to support one side or another,” Sosale said.

Kuznetsova said most Russian media is not free; it is either state-owned or owned by Russian tycoons with close ties to the government. She said that, before 2011, the internet was an alternative source of information for people looking for independent press.

“Since then, the government recognized the potential of the internet to connect people, overcome the collective action problem, go on the streets,” she said. “Somewhere starting around 2012, we saw the Russian government consolidating the ownership of internet infrastructure, internet companies.”

She added that the ab-

sence of opposition leaders and media can negatively affect those who are on the ground. She said reporters who try to show Russians footage from Ukraine are met with fearful looks.

“A lot of people just say, ‘I’m for Putin’ and they pretty much ran away from the camera,” Kuznetsova said. “You can clearly tell that people are scared.”

For UI professor Marina Zaloznaya, her own identity complicates how she processes the war. Born and raised in Crimea, she said she has loved ones in both Russia and Ukraine, and she is concerned for all of their well-being.

Zaloznaya was the original organizer of the demonstration of peace rally held on the Pentacrest on Feb. 27. She said she was harassed for having both Russian and Ukrainian citizenship and told she was “on the other side.”

“There is definitely absolutely no question who the aggressor is and who is at fault for this unfolding tragedy — it’s Russia,” she said.

Despite being angry and sad at the comments she received, she decided it was best for her to withdraw her participation to protect her family.

Zaloznaya said seeing everyone come together during that rally without an organizer to lead them was incredibly powerful.

“Ukrainians in Ukraine really amaze the world

with the strength of their attachment to democracy, to freedom — the ability to express their political opinions openly,” she said. “And I think that the Ukrainian community here in Iowa City is showing just that, as well.”

She said the Russian government does not represent the opinions and beliefs of a lot of Russian citizens, and that many are against the bloodshed.

Zaloznaya’s family and friends are primarily in Kyiv, she said, and have been able to communicate through social media. The connection is not reliable, she said, because her family, like many, must seek shelter in the basement of their residential buildings during bomb raids, with limited internet access.

She added it is increasingly difficult to get objective information from the media, particularly in Russia.

“The state-curated propaganda that they see on TV, and official news sources in Russia, are underplaying the conflict, not reporting on the extent of civilian casualties, and are not fairly representing the suffering that they’re inflicting,” Zaloznaya said.

She said she would go so far as to say information is not being misconstrued — it is blatant lies.

“The government has basically cut off all of the channels for anybody who wanted to represent the opposing point of view,” she

said. Ekho Moskvyy (Echo of Moscow), one of Russia’s independent radio stations, was forced to shut down on March 3 after the Russian government took them off the air on March 1.

On March 14, Marina Ovsyaninkova, a journalist with Russian state TV station Channel One, was detained after going on air with a sign saying, “No War. Don’t believe propaganda. They’re lying to you here.”

“It’s a total crackdown on freedom of speech,” Kuznetsova said.

Zaloznaya said the current Ukraine-Russia conflict is an information war, more than any other war in the two countries’ history.

“It’s fascinating to watch how the traditional warfare — boots on the ground, airstrikes — combines with this new way of waging war by controlling what it is that people hear,” she said.

Sosale said information that goes out to the media is very important in shaping the way people view the conflict.

She said the U.S. media expressing pro-Ukrainian sentiments, such as highlighting Ukrainian wins over the Russian military, helps promote global support during wartime.

Sosale added that most of the younger generation receives information almost entirely from social media, instead of professional news outlets.



Contributed photo of Marina Zaloznaya

“I recently read a story on the website of a major news outlet, and they made an interesting observation — social media during wartime is like social media at any other time,” she said. “Along with partial information, exaggeration, fake news, [and] trolling, it’s not the entire picture.”

However, even accessing the internet has proven to be difficult. The *New York Times* reported on March 24 that as multinational companies and the Russian authorities have both blocked access to major websites, cutting off access between

Russia and the international community.

Zaloznaya said the internet has served as an important platform for anti-government mobilization in Russia.

“People connect through various platforms online and organize to go out to the streets or take to the streets to show their unhappiness and disgruntlement with that — with the government,” she said. “And, now that that’s being sort of limited, it’s also contributing to this terrible situation.”

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# Candlelight vigil held for Ukraine

University of Iowa and Iowa City community members showed their support for Ukrainians in Iowa City and abroad at a vigil on Sunday.



Dimia Burrell/The Daily Iowan

An attendee places a flower at a vigil for Ukraine on the Pentacrest in Iowa City on Sunday.

Lillian Poulsen  
News Reporter

University of Iowa students and Iowa City community members gathered in the rain on the Pentacrest Sunday afternoon, in support of Ukrainians who have been displaced or killed during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

The UI vigil, organized by sophomores Xiangheng Li and Yunseo Ki, featured speakers and displayed flowers and artificial candles to remember lives lost in the conflict.

“We denounce escalation and the Russian government invasion that has displaced over 10 million people,” Li said to the audience. “The death toll in Ukraine is equivalent to losing one-third of the Iowa City population.”

Xenya Mucha, 66, a Ukrainian American from Le Claire, Iowa, spoke at the vigil about her experience growing up speaking Ukrainian.

Mucha, who was born and raised in Philadelphia in a tight-knit Ukrainian community, said she was grateful for the exposure to Ukraine’s culture growing up. She said to the attendees that the war in Ukraine has been difficult on her family.

“I see people on the news who look like me, eat the same foods, and celebrate the same holidays as me,” Mucha said. “They could be me, and that hurts deeply.”

Mucha said she visited her 92-year-old mother, who lives in Colorado Springs, two weeks ago.

“Since my mother is old and doesn’t remember everything, she saw herself as the teenager in Ukraine that she saw on the news,” Mucha said at the vigil. “I never want anyone to go through this, and it’s important to keep sharing

our story.”

Anatoliy Gordiyenko, a Ukrainian and system safety engineer from Cedar Rapids, said he appreciates the support from the UI and young students.

“This is terrible, unusual, and completely unexpected for Ukrainians,” Gordiyenko said at the vigil. “This isn’t a fight between Russia and Ukraine — it’s between good and evil.”

UI postdoctoral student Leonid Shutov, from Kyiv, also spoke about his experience in Ukraine. He’s been away from the country for the past two years to earn his degree at the UI.

Shutov said in an interview with *The Daily Iowan* that he wants to go back to Ukraine after studying, but he feels unsure about what condition the country will be in then.

“This was a planned genocide — we are fighting against the new Hitler,” Shutov said at the vigil. “Putin won’t stop unless everyone tries to stop him together.”

Li, who serves as the Undergraduate Student Government’s first-generation senator, heard about a vigil held in West Des Moines on March 24 and wanted to have a similar one in Iowa City to show support.

Ki and Li met through the UI Honors Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, which led to them working together to organize the event and secure funding from USG to host it.

Ki said she and Li spent their own money on the flowers.

Since the vigil in West Des Moines happened over a week ago, the team had to quickly plan the event in Iowa City, Ki said.

On March 24, the Biden administration

announced that the U.S. would accept up to 100,000 refugees, according to AP News.

Ki said Iowa should be a place for the refugees.

“Iowa has a history of accepting refugees during times of crisis,” Ki said in an interview with the *DI*. “We are accepting and welcoming, which is why we should welcome Ukrainian refugees.”

UI junior Jade Utech said she attended the vigil after seeing a chalk message on the T. Anne Cleary Walkway.

“I’ve been following the crisis since the beginning and saw the brutal attacks from the Russian government on Bucha,” Utech said. “I saw executions and arms tied behind backs, which are acts of evil and disgusting to see.”

Bucha, a city recently recaptured by Ukraine, has experienced weeks of fighting between Russian forces and civilians. Photos from the city show civilians who had been executed, and have sparked calls for war crimes investigations into Russia.

Utech said it’s important for Americans to understand what’s going on and do something about it.

“I’ve donated money to the Bank of Ukraine and the Red Cross,” Utech said. “People should find charities to support and contact their elected officials to make sure they’re doing more to help people in Ukraine.”

UI sophomore Nick Nachtman said he attended the event to show support for Ukrainians and denounce Russian aggression.

“The big thing with issues like this is people like Putin won’t change unless there’s international backlash,” Nachtman said. “We have the power, even in Iowa City, to influence outcomes.”

Nachtman said he has shared information on social media, donated to organizations that support Ukrainians, and contacted senators and other legislators.

UI junior Nia Martinez said she wanted to show support for Ukraine, as a student interested in international relations.

“Russian aggression cannot be tolerated by

the international system,” Martinez said. “We need to condemn and act to prevent this from happening again.”

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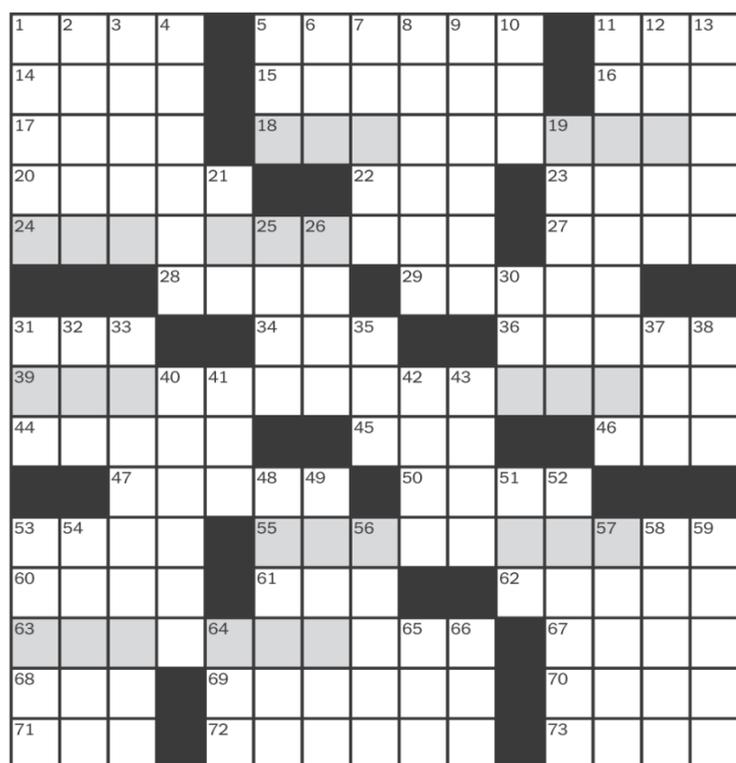
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# The Daily Break

The New York Times  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0228



## Across

- Bunch of wolves or cards
- Busy with other things
- The Beatles' "Till There \_\_\_ You"
- Jai \_\_\_ (sport)
- Francis of old TV's "What's My Line?"
- It clicks in a drink
- Nurses, as a drink
- Swamp in "Pogo"
- In few words
- Museum-funding org.
- Like auto shop rags
- 1990s cartoon series featuring Yakko, Wakko and Dot
- Org. featured in the documentary "This Film Is Not Yet Rated"
- Abbr. meaning "and others"
- Arizona college town
- Some Best Buy buys, for short
- Doggie doc
- Bones next to ulnae
- Baby-boomer series that starred Ken Olin
- Indian stringed instrument
- Around 50.25% of the world's adult population
- Letters before an alias
- Meters and liters
- Eve's man
- Pinnacle

- Poet William who wrote "The Prelude"
  - Play opener
  - Flamenco cheer
  - Reproductive cell for a fern
  - South American rodent with soft, dense fur
  - One may be half-baked or brilliant
  - "\_\_\_ soon?"
  - "Slouching Towards Bethlehem" author Joan
  - Must-have
  - ID in the form xxx-xx-xxxx
  - X-ray follow-up, perhaps
  - Deities
- ## Down
- Linguine or fettuccine
  - Not from Earth
  - \_\_\_ pants (cropped style popularized in the 1960s)
  - Instruction to Kate in a Cole Porter title
  - "\_\_\_ Te Ching"
  - Rub the wrong way
  - Justice Kagan
  - Reason for a markdown
  - Disquieted state
  - Writing implement filled with 37-Down
  - Popular online reference
  - Amtrak express train
  - "So long!"
  - Tuba sound

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**HODGE**

Continued from Page 8

said. “Those guys are rushing the passer, they played in a run game, but they also dropped it back in coverage. Obviously, we covered a lot of tight ends, so you kind of understand from an attacker perspective what that position group is trying to get accomplished.”

Senior Sam LaPorta and sophomore Luke Lachey were listed as first and second-team tight ends, respectively, on the Hawkeyes’ spring football depth chart.

LaPorta led the Hawkeyes in receiving in 2021, picking up 670 yards — an average of 47.9 per game. Lachey, a true freshman in 2021, had 133 receiving yards.

“It’s a great group of guys,” Hodge said. “Obviously, we’ve got a lot of experience on coming back, Sam Porta, Luke Lachey, obviously guys that have a ton of value, a ton of reps. So, they actually made my job easier.”

Iowa has a legacy of being “Tight End U” with former Hawkeye tight ends Dallas Clark, Noah Fant, T.J. Hockenson, and George Kittle becoming



Iowa tight end coach Abdul Hodge watches wide receiver coach Kelton Copeland speak during a press conference for Iowa football at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City on March 30.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

successful in the NFL.

As a former teammate of Clark’s, Hodge knows the importance of

tight ends at Iowa. And, Hodge said, he watched Clark’s work ethic set the tone for future Hawkeye

tight ends. “There’s a high standard of coaching tight ends, and playing tight

end at University of Iowa,” Hodge said. “But there’s also a spirit of excellence, not just in terms of the

football perspective of it, but away from the game.”

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**WILLIAMS**

Continued from Page 8

run game] through bowl prep and in the bowl game,” Ferentz said. “I really liked what I saw out of [Gavin Williams and Leshon Williams].”

Leshon Williams has carried the ball just 21 times in his career, rushing for 68 yards. In the Hawkeyes’ 20-17 Citrus Bowl loss to the Kentucky Wildcats at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Williams ran the ball 10 times for 42 yards.

Gavin Williams and Leshon Williams, who

son relies more on speed, quickness, and agility.

“I’ve been running between the tackles since I started playing football,” Gavin Williams said. “So, that’s where I kinda feel a bit more comfortable. I feel like Tyler is more of an edge rusher or kind of like a running back that can do a little bit of everything... He can go out, run a receiver route, and then come into the backfield. Something like that is a real dangerous weapon.”

“Not a lot of people like [running between the tackles],” Gavin Williams added. “I mean,

“I’ve been running between the tackles since I started playing football.”

— Iowa running back Gavin Williams

are not related, both have different running styles than Goodson.

Gavin Williams’ ball-carrying style, in particular, is most contrasted with Goodson’s. Gavin Williams’ game is centered around power and strength, while Good-

son’s is an acquired taste, for sure. It’s just what I’ve been doing since I started playing football. I kinda feel like my own inside running style complements inside running very well. So, that’s kinda what I like.”

Gavin Williams’ phys-



Iowa running back Leshon Williams during the 2022 Vrbo Citrus Bowl between No. 15 Iowa and No. 22 Kentucky at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on Jan. 1. The Wildcats defeated the Hawkeyes, 20-17.

Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

ical style will be on full display at Iowa’s open spring practice at 9:45

a.m. inside Kinnick Stadium on April 23. The Hawkeyes’ first game of

the 2022 season is scheduled for Sept. 3 against South Dakota State in

Iowa City.

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**PCP**

Continued from Page 8



Isaac Goffin  
Sports Reporter

**Ryan Kuffner**

I know forward Kris Bennett is dubbed the Iowa Heartlanders’ “cheat code” by the team, but forward Ryan Kuffner is its most valuable player.

Unlike Bennett, who’s tallied more goals than assists, Kuffner knows how to find his teammates in scoring position. The former Detroit Red Wing is up to 41 assists on his first ECHL season

With that, it’s no surprise Kuffner registered at least one point for 16 straight contests at one point during the season.

The left-handed shooter from Ottawa, Ontario, also knows how to score timely goals — and two come straight to my mind.

His first of 13 goals during the 2021-22 campaign came 25 seconds into the first game in Heartlanders history on Oct. 22, 2021. I knew right when the Heartlanders got into the Kansas City Mavericks’ zone before the score that something magical was occurring. It turns out Kuffner was the wizard in that moment, and I recognized he was a valuable asset.

He had another spectacular moment facing the Kalamazoo Wings on March 12. After the Heartlanders surrendered two goals and blew a 3-1 lead in the third period, Kuffner thwarted the comeback by recording

“Kuffner and Bennett are both great leaders for the Heartlanders, and Bennett is the frontrunner for ECHL Rookie of the Year. Yet, when it comes down to Iowa’s most valuable player, the evidence suggests Kuffner is the answer.

— tied for seventh in the league despite competing in 35 out of 66 Heartlanders’ games.

When you get over an assist per game, you’re helping your teammates, and that’s showing up in the statistics for the Princeton University graduate. Kuffner’s plus-5 rating is one of the best on the Heartlanders, while Bennett holds a minus-4 rating.

the game-winning goal with less than five minutes left.

Kuffner and Bennett are both great leaders for the Heartlanders, and Bennett is the frontrunner for ECHL Rookie of the Year. Yet, when it comes down to Iowa’s most valuable player, the evidence suggests Kuffner is the answer.

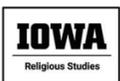
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Iowa forward Ryan Kuffner celebrates after a goal is made during a hockey game between the Iowa Heartlanders and Indy Fuel at the Xtream Arena in Coralville Nov. 12, 2021. Kuffner earned one assist. Iowa won, 5-3.

Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

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## HAWKEYE UPDATES

### Clark wins Dawn Staley, Nancy Lieberman Awards

Iowa women's basketball sophomore Caitlin Clark collected a pair of national awards on Friday night: the Dawn Staley and Nancy Lieberman Award, announced by the Phoenix Club of Philadelphia and the Hoops Hall of Fame, respectively.

Clark became the first two-time winner in the history of the Dawn Staley Award, which has been given out for the past 10 years, with her 2022 honor. Clark also earned the award, which is given to the nation's best guard who exemplifies Staley's skills of "ball handling, scoring, her ability to distribute the basketball and her will to win," in her freshman season in 2020-21.

"Every winner has been a special player and a special person, but this year's award is unique - in Iowa's Caitlin Clark, we have the first ever two-time winner and Caitlin absolutely deserves it," Dawn Staley said in a statement posted to her website.

"A dynamic offensive player with shooting range the likes of which our game has never seen, Caitlin led the nation in both scoring and assists this season," Staley added. "She's an absolute force, someone who is quite literally changing the way basketball is being played. She's a winner, leading her team to the Big [Ten] Tournament Championship and a shared regular season title. And she's also a terrific person, the type of player and the type of woman we can be proud to have as an ambassador for our game for years to come."

Clark was first in the country in 2021-22 with 27 points and eight assists per game, as well as 257 total assists. She also added on 79 rebounds per game. The 6-foot guard totaled 863 points in the 2021-22 season.

Clark will be honored with the Dawn Staley Award in a virtual ceremony on April 7.

The Nancy Lieberman Award is given annually to the nation's top point guard who shows the floor leadership, playmaking, and ball-handling skills of the Hall-of-Famer. Clark is the first Big Ten player in the award's 23-year history to earn the honor.

Clark tied a Big Ten single-game record with 18 assists against Penn State on Jan. 25. She also tallied five triple-doubles on the season, leading the nation.

She broke three arena scoring records, with a career-high 46 points at the Crisler Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, 44 points at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, and 39 points at Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In 2021-22, Clark also earned Big Ten Player of the Year and Big Ten Tournament MVP. She was a finalist for the Naismith, Wade Trophy, and John Wooden Award - given to the nation's top player. She is an Associated Press, John Wooden, and USBWA first-team All-American.

### Jordan Bohannon wins men's college 3-point contest

Iowa sixth-year senior guard Jordan Bohannon won the NCAA Men's College 3-point Contest on Thursday night at the site of the Final Four in New Orleans.

Bohannon, the Big Ten men's basketball 3-point leader, took down Wisconsin's Brad Davison in the championship, 18-17. Bohannon then prevailed in the "Battle of the Sexes," 21-19, against Florida Gulf Coast women's basketball player Kendall Spray.

Bohannon made eight straight shots against Davison and 11 consecutive shots against Spray to reign victorious.

"This had to have been one of the best fields this event has ever had," Bohannon said in a Thursday release. "This was a cool event. I was very fortunate to win."

Bohannon is the second Hawkeye in six years to win the 3-point title. Former Hawkeye Peter Jok won the 2017 edition of the event in Phoenix.

Iowa head coach Fran McCaffery and assistant coach Billy Taylor, as well as sophomore forward Keegan Murray, watched Bohannon win the contest in New Orleans. Mike and Patty Street, the parents of deceased Iowa men's basketball player Chris Street, were also in attendance.

"It meant the world to me that the Streets were here," Bohannon said in a release. "It almost brought me to tears. They are two of the greatest people I have ever met."

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"You have to go away from each other at some point."**

-Iowa MBB forward Keegan Murray on playing without his brother Kris

## STAT OF THE DAY

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- Consecutive duals Iowa women's tennis has lost.

# Hodge embracing new role

Iowa football's new tight ends coach will transition to the offensive side of the ball after coaching linebackers at the University of South Dakota.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa tight end coach Abdul Hodge speaks with media during a press conference for Iowa football at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City on March 30.

**Chloe Peterson**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Iowa football tight ends coach Abdul Hodge is stepping into unfamiliar territory with his offensive assignment.

Hodge, who played for the Hawkeyes from 2002-05, is returning to Iowa City as a coach for the Iowa football program. Hodge was a three-time All-Big Ten selection at Iowa as a linebacker and is third in the program with 453 tackles over his playing career.

Hodge played in the NFL from 2006-10 as a linebacker with the Green Bay Packers, Cincinnati Ben-

gals, and Carolina Panthers.

He was hired as the Hawkeyes' tight ends coach on March 2. Now, Hodge will coach the position he used to guard against as a player.

"I'm having a great time with it," Hodge said of his first few weeks on the job in a press conference on March 30. "Somewhat, it feels like I've never left. You know, I never really took my hand off the program in terms of building relationships with the guys ... coming from Iowa, it was my dream to somehow get back to coach one day."

Even though Hodge is returning to Iowa City after 17 years, he said his prior relationships with defensive line coach Kelvin Bell, special teams coordinator LeVar Woods, and offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz made him feel immediately welcome. Hodge, Ferentz, and Bell all played together in college.

Hodge attended Iowa football camps between his playing and coaching years at Iowa, staying close with the program.

"I've known coach Hodge for a while," Iowa wide receivers coach Keltan Copeland said. "Ob-

viously, he came back and was around campus, coming to camps and stuff like that ... he's been here about a month and he's exactly the guy that I knew before I was working with him. He's the same guy."

When former Iowa quarterbacks coach Ken O'Keefe stepped down in February, head coach Kirk Ferentz opted to move Brian Ferentz from tight ends to quarterbacks and bring Hodge into the fold.

"We believe this is the logical move for our football program," Kirk Ferentz said in a release announcing Hodge's hire on

March 2. "The person in charge of calling the plays should work most closely with the players who are in control of the offense."

Hodge was an outside linebackers coach and NFL liaison at the University of South Dakota for three years before coming to Iowa.

"One of the biggest things that helped me, and when I first went to University of South Dakota, where I was coaching the outside linebacker position, I think that's a unique skill set very similar to tight ends," Hodge

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# New faces, same game plan

Sophomores Gavin Williams and Leshon Williams will be Iowa football's featured running backs in 2022.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa running back Gavin Williams carries the ball during the 2022 Vrbo Citrus Bowl between No. 15 Iowa and No. 22 Kentucky at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on Jan. 1. The Wildcats defeated the Hawkeyes, 20-17. Williams carried the ball 16 times for 42 yards.

**Austin Hanson**  
Sports Editor

Iowa football gained 1,731 yards on the ground in 2021. The Hawkeyes ranked 102nd among 130 Power Five teams in rush yards.

Tyler Goodson was Iowa's featured tailback in 2021. He declared for the 2022 NFL Draft on Dec. 10, 2021, forgoing his senior year of college football.

Despite that, Iowa offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz doesn't plan to make any fundamental changes to his team's rushing attack ahead of the 2022 season.

"We're gonna do what we

do, at the end of the day," Ferentz said at a meeting with reporters on March 30. "We're gonna be a zone team that runs inside, runs slants, runs outside, and we're going to run gap schemes - more counter probably than power. That's gonna be the basis of the run game for us, always. That actually has a lot more to do with the guys we've got blocking."

"Certainly backs have their own unique styles," Ferentz added. "I think, within those things, guys have a tendency to be better at certain things than other things. When you have backs, you try to lean

to their strengths. You try to lean to what they do well."

Goodson gained 1,151 of Iowa's rush yards on 256 carries in 2021. The Hawkeyes' second-leading runner was Gavin Williams, who picked up 305 yards on 65 attempts.

Williams will likely be Iowa's lead back in 2022, as he was the Hawkeyes' first option out of the backfield in the Citrus Bowl. Williams carried the ball 16 times, picking up 98 yards in the process.

"I think we got a pretty good picture of [the 2022

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## POINT/COUNTERPOINT

# Who is the Heartlanders' MVP?

Two *Daily Iowan* staffers debate if Kris Bennett or Ryan Kuffner is the Iowa Heartlanders' most valuable player in 2021-22.



**Kris Bennett**

Although they'll most likely miss the playoffs, the Iowa Heartlanders have had a successful debut season in the ECHL. The first-year organization has proven itself in the league, taking down top teams like the Toledo Walleye and Fort Wayne Komets.

Much of that success can be attributed to first-year ECHL player Kris Bennett.

The prospect out of Ontario, Canada, has been on a tear this ECHL season. Bennett has gone back and forth from the Heartlanders to AHL affiliate Iowa Wild in Des Moines, but still leads the team with 34 goals in just 41 games. He is also third on the Heartlanders' roster, with 32 assists.

The Heartlanders' first captain in franchise history has now won back-to-back ECHL Rookie of the Month awards in February and March - the first player to do so since Jason Bast for Idaho in the 2014-15 season.

The rookie leads the league with 34 goals. Bennett is also leading all rookies in the ECHL with 66 total points. Bennett even notched one goal in his 12-game stint with the Iowa Wild.

A lot of the Heartlanders' success has been linked to great team hockey - executing power plays, stiff defense, and crisp offensive possessions - but the standout player for this season has to be their first captain, Kris Bennett.

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