



NATIONAL POLITICS

## Iowa's senators a 'no' on Jackson

With support from Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Mitt Romney of Utah, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is still expected to be confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, speaks during an interview at the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday.

**Natalie Dunlap and Caleb McCullough**  
Politics Editor and Executive Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson approaches a floor confirmation vote this week, Iowa's U.S. senators will not be voting to confirm the judge to the court, they announced this week. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, told *The*

*Daily Iowan* that Jackson's judicial philosophy, which he said is fundamentally different from his own, outweighed her qualifications in his decision.

"[Democrats] voted against Gorsuch and Barrett and Kavanaugh," he said. "Nobody said they weren't qualified to be on the Supreme Court, but it's how some senators approach the Constitution and what judges ought to do versus

other members of the Senate."

Grassley announced on Monday he would vote against confirming Jackson to the court. Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, announced in a floor speech on Tuesday that she, too, would vote against the nomination.

Ernst echoed many of the comments Grassley and other Republicans made, saying she had concerns about Jackson's

approach to deciding cases.

"If a justice's legal interpretation has no philosophical grounding, that provides flexibility for a justice to bend their thinking to achieve a desired outcome instead of following a structured analysis," she said.

Ernst also invoked many Republican

SENATOR | Page 2A

### INSIDE



#### 80 HOURS: Mission Creek returns

This weekend, Englert Theatre's Mission Creek Festival will return to Iowa City in person for the first time since the pandemic began. The festival celebrates literature and music, bringing artists in from all over the country.

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#### 80 HOURS: MFA student to create book inspired by Game Boy

First-year MFA student Lauren Coghlan uses her love of video games to inspire her art. She plans to create a book based on the original Game Boy using only the colors cyan, magenta, yellow, and key (black) for an upcoming art gallery.

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### DITV

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## New Iowa City fire chief to foster city-wide connections

Scott Lyon will focus on connecting with the community with his prior experience in growing towns.



Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan

Scott Lyon, the new firehouse chief, poses for a portrait in the Fire House Quarters in Iowa City on Monday.

**Ryan Hansen**  
News Reporter

Scott Lyon, who stepped into his new role as Iowa City's fire chief on Sunday, is ready to use prior knowledge from working in growing towns to focus on community outreach efforts.

Lyon said he has lots of firefighting experience, as he spent eight years in several positions with the Urbandale Fire Department, including its fire chief.

He said he chose to apply for the Iowa City job because it is a very progressive, growing community with significant history.

"Iowa City stood out from any other organization I would want to work for," Lyon said. "The diversity and inclusion in Iowa City is something that is very important to me and my family. It was an easy fit."

Lyon said he wants to focus on diversity and inclusion during his time as his family has many direct connections to diverse populations. His daughter is the resettlement coordinator for refugees from Afghanistan, Lyon said, and in his free time, he works with the center, as well.

Lyon is replacing John Grier, who served as the city's fire chief for the past 10 years and retired in February. The de-

partment opened two new fire stations and a training facility under Grier.

The new fire chief has a bachelor's degree in fire service administration and a master's degree in organizational development and leadership from Waldorf College. He is also a certified paramedic in Iowa.

"Iowa City has a lot of attributes that I appreciated both professionally and personally," he said.

As Iowa City fire chief, Lyon said he wants the Iowa City fire department to continue

FIRE CHIEF | Page 2A

## Deer causing more vehicle collisions

Iowa City's deer population is contributing to an increase in deer-vehicle collisions, causing thousands of dollars in damages.

**Emily Delgado**  
News Reporter

Iowa City reported an increase of deer-vehicle collisions in the last year as the city's deer population continues to grow.

During 2019-20, the city reported 14 collisions. In 2020-21, there were a total of 36 deer-vehicle collisions in Iowa City.

The deer population increase and its effect on the city is outlined in the city's 2020-2021 Deer Management Report.

Iowa City City Manager Geoff Fruin wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that the increase of accidents is correlated with the increase of deer population. After the hunting season ended in January, the deer population was 400,000.

The deer-vehicle collision accidents occurred primarily on Highway 6 and U.S. Route 218, resulting in a total of \$61,000 in damage in the past year.

"Other than immediate public safety response to the accident, the City is not involved," Fruin wrote. "Those issues would be between a vehicle owner and the appropriate insurance company."

Fruin wrote that Iowa City community members have expressed concern for the deer population but also want to see

DEER | Page 2A



# County construction companies struggle with supply chain, staffing issues

As Iowa City's housing market continues to increase for the third year in a row, construction companies are struggling to keep up with demand for new houses in the community.

Samantha Bielema  
News Reporter

Johnson County construction companies are struggling to keep up with supply chain and staffing shortages as the demand for housing in Iowa City soars to an all-time high.

"It's happening all over the country, but it's been happening here for about three years and it doesn't appear to have an end in sight," Ruhl and Ruhl Realtors Manager Mark Signs said.

Many construction companies are having trouble finding supplies and staffing because the demand is so high and the market is competitive, Signs said, especially in Johnson County.

Johnson County is labeled as a seller's market, according to the Johnson County Housing report, meaning that home prices tend to be higher and sell faster.

Signs said Iowa City is

a popular area right now both for young families because of its schools and for older adults because of its accessibility to quality medical care.

"People are buying holes in the ground from the construction companies," Signs said. "This is the way things go sometimes — the trends always move up and down."

The housing cost in Iowa City has increased by 11.8 percent in the last year, according to Zillow's Home Value Index. For most people, Signs said, their mortgage or rent is a primary expense, meaning their cost of living has increased with housing expenses.

Because of the high demand for homes, construction companies have to charge more for supplies and labor, Adam Hahn, director of construction services at the Watts Group in Coralville, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

"We have experienced increases in both labor and materials necessary to build homes," he wrote. "Recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows construction costs went up by 17.5 percent year-over-year from 2020 to 2021, the largest spike in this data from year to year since 1970."

The industry thought it would slow down this year, Signs said, but that hasn't happened.

"There's still a very high buyer demand," he said.

Hahn wrote that it's uncommon for people to take longer to sell their homes. It's a trend now to sell over the asking price and ask for higher interest rates, due to quicker closing dates.

The state of the housing industry right now has led companies to emphasize their pre-planning techniques, Hahn wrote.

"Items like cabinets, roof trusses, and garage



Dimia Burrell/The Daily Iowan

A Watts Group construction site is seen in Solon, Iowa, on April 3.

doors that previously were delivered 2-4 weeks after order and now 10-12 weeks," he wrote. "We went through a stretch where new garage doors were over a six-month lead time."

Amanda Sabin, real estate coordinator at the Watts Group, said there are still many problems with the supply chain when receiving home interior and exterior.

"There is still an issue of

getting houses completed on time, but builders are adjusting to the change and doing their best to ensure the customer has a good experience."

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# Money allocated to transit, street repair

Iowa City's fiscal 2023 financial plan includes increased funding for transportation and street improvements.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Iowa City City Manager Geoff Fruin speaks at an Iowa City City Council work session at the Senior Center in Iowa City on March 22.

Emily Delgado  
News Reporter

Iowa City residents will see improvements to public transportation and street repairs with funding through Iowa City's fiscal 2023 financial plan, which aims to make city transit more environmentally friendly.

The Iowa City City Council adopted the fiscal 2023 financial plan at its March 22 meeting.

Iowa City City Manager Geoff Fruin said city staff considered the decrease in Iowa City Transit ridership, placing economic stress on the city when making the financial plan.

"As the pandemic carries on, we still haven't recovered to full ridership levels that existed pre-

COVID," Fruin said. "Both those operations saw significant revenue losses."

The Iowa City Transportation Department will see an increase of \$280,000.

"The biggest impact from COVID was in our transportation service operation," Fruin said.

The City Council recommended the Iowa City Transportation Department come up with ways to increase ridership.

City Councilor Janice Weiner said she hopes the city can make transportation more environmentally friendly.

"In transportation, I think we've been fortunate to get a fair amount of funding in grants ... if we can succeed to get ridership back up and make it

greener," Weiner said.

Fruin said city departments supported by property taxes, like the Iowa City Police Department, will not see a substantial increase in the fiscal 2023 financial plan.

"We are able to respond to the needs of the enterprise, or our utility accounts a little bit more, because they're not dependent on property taxes," Fruin said. "They're dependent on the fees that we charge for those services."

For the fiscal 2023 financial plan, city staff distributed more federal funding, such as the \$18.3 million of American Rescue Plan Act money that the city received.

This doesn't have a huge effect on the city's budget, Fruin added.

"Those generally don't have a significant impact on the budget because they are revenue and expenses out," Fruin said. "So, you have to include those and incorporate those but they generally don't put any more or less financial pressure on a particular budget."

**Financial plan allocates money for street repairs**

The City Council allocated most of the capital improvement financial plan, a separate project in the fiscal 2023 financial plan, to street improvement.

The capital improvement financial plan increases funding for street improvement by \$1.84

million.

"The reconversion of Market and Jefferson ... so that we cannot have what can sometimes be a racetrack through town, so that it's not such a break in the town, so that you can continue to [have] that walkability," Weiner said.

Looking ahead, Weiner said she hopes the city can be more walkable.

Weiner said the passage of the fiscal 2023 financial plan ensures the city has funding for projects that will improve the community.

"It means that we have to keep our eye on all these balls and make sure ... that we don't spend more than we have," Weiner said.

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## Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. Early numbers show a **75% increase** in syphilis cases in Iowa from 2020 to 2021.

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# Opinions

## EDITORIAL

# Legalize recreational cannabis in Iowa

Iowans suffer under the criminalization of recreational cannabis. It's time to legalize it.

### DI Editorial Board

Iowans suffer under the criminalization of cannabis. Our prisons are overwhelmed with Iowans charged with possession of even small amounts of recreational marijuana — a misdemeanor crime punishable by up to six months' imprisonment for a first offense— and the economy loses out on revenue and jobs.

Even Iowa's medical cannabis program is severely limited in comparison to other states, restricting access to the drug to aid Iowans in need for conditions like Alzheimer's disease, cancer, multiple sclerosis, chronic pain, and many others.

The conversation about legalizing cannabis in the state is ongoing, and progress can still be made soon. In January, Iowa lawmakers Joe Bolocom, D-Iowa City, Sarah Trone Garriott, D-Windsor Heights, and Janet Petersen, D-Des Moines proposed a constitution-

make it legal for adults over 21 years old to purchase cannabis, establishing a tax rate of up to 20 percent by the state and a local tax rate of up to 2 percent on retail sales.

It is estimated that marijuana arrests cost the nation billions of dollars every year. This legalization would free up these costs and boost the economy in Iowa, especially with the high incarceration rate. It has been reported that, if Iowa was a country, it would have the second highest rate of incarceration in the world.

Of course, our governor is hesitant. Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has been firm and clear in her opposition to cannabis legalization, as has much of the GOP.

In order to address mass incarceration in Iowa, Reynolds needs to reconsider legalizing marijuana. There are alarming disparities in our prison system that are fueled by the crimi-



According to ACLU data from 2020, Black Iowans are 7.3 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white Iowans. Additionally, marijuana arrests make up 55 percent of all drug arrests in Iowa, despite the state ranking 47th in overall marijuana use, as of 2020. The criminalization of marijuana disproportionately displaces people of color serving as one part of a large oppressive system. Recently, Iowa was

ranked the third worst place for Black people to live. The data was based on housing gaps, education, prison rates, poverty level, and more. The mass incarceration of Black Iowans certainly contributes to all of those issues. To address these disparities, Reynolds needs to be willing to decriminalize marijuana.

In addition to the legalization of marijuana being necessary to address racial disparities, a

large part of Iowans are in favor of this decriminalization. Polls showed 54 percent of Iowans agreed with the legalization of marijuana. Additionally, 78 percent thought the medical marijuana programs should expand.

Several of Iowa's neighboring states have taken steps to either decriminalize certain recreational marijuana possession or make cannabis legal altogether. Illinois legalized marijuana use for adults. Minnesota,

Nebraska, and Missouri have taken steps to decriminalize simple possessions.

All the signs point toward decriminalization of marijuana being the best thing for Iowa. Legalizing cannabis is not just necessary economically but also to address mass incarceration. It is clear our leaders should take steps toward decriminalization to do what is right for Iowans.

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“Legalizing cannabis is not just necessary economically, but also to address mass incarceration.”

al amendment to legalize recreational marijuana in the state and regulate it similarly to alcohol usage.

Their proposal would

nalization of marijuana. Data showed Iowa has the seventh highest disparity in imprisonment between Black and white populations.

## COLUMN

# The harmful generalization of 'African'

To avoid appropriation of African cultures, the U.S. rhetoric stating Africa is home to one culture and an exclusively Black population needs to be criticized and rewritten.



Yasmina Sahir  
Opinions Columnist

U.S. rhetoric and structural systems about Africa often equate Blackness and African culture in an exclusive and synonymous way.

April is National Arab American History Month. A large portion of Arab people reside in North African regions, alongside indigenous North African tribes — most notably the Amazigh.

This false equivalency has encouraged colonization and appropriation of African nations by Black people living in the U.S. who don't have an ancestral or cultural claim to the continent as it exists today.

The U.S. Census currently defines "African Americans" as referring only to "a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa."

In the U.S., "African" is used in a universal sense, as though all of Africa is one culture — one nation — lacking diversity. It is also used to describe only

countries and peoples living in Sub-Saharan regions, excluding at least five countries — over 250 million people — who exist on the continent's land mass.

Why is one of these regions considered African and the other not? Skin tone.

Contrary to common American belief, the 54 African nations recognized today are split in their Christian and Islamic dominant belief systems, speak a variety of native and global languages, totaling over 2,000, and are home to white, Brown, and Black people.

The following must be said: it is not the fault of one's ancestors if slavery or colonization efforts forced them away from their cultures, languages, beliefs, and other ways of life.

This is the unfortunate reality for many Black people living in the U.S. — ancestral culture is not inherently that of descendants to claim.

Culture is not stagnant, rather, it is constantly evolving. The consequence of this can be that a culture or practice may have changed since a person's ancestors were forcibly removed.

This was felt in the 1920s with the rise of Black nationalist action

under Garveyism.

Although Marcus Garvey, the namesake for Garveyism, was a descendant of Jamaicans, he convinced many Black people living in the U.S. at the time to develop a "Black Star Line" and establish a Black state on the western coast of Africa.

When the first voyage of the Black Star Line landed on the Liberian coast, many descendants of and previously enslaved Black people did not speak the languages, understand the customs, or have a connection to the 1900s Africa they landed on.

While it is important to recognize that many Black leaders in the U.S., including W.E.B. DuBois, did not agree with Garvey's idea of a Black state in Africa, practices that reinforce the idea that Black people are the only ones with a claim to African or Afro culture continue today.

Haiti, the Caribbean, and Jamaica are all non-African places where Black immigrants in the 20th and 21st century originated from.

The 2020 Census included a spot for "Black or African Americans" to write down their place of origin.

In a conversation with NPR in 2018, Fordham University Professor

Christina Greer shared that she planned to write "Black American" for her origin since writing only "Black" was not an option.

Greer shared that her identity as "I.B.," or, "Just Black," stems from acknowledging forced removal of her ancestors from their culture through slave trade in the 17th-19th centuries.

Greer's explanation and decision, although disheartening, represents the only way that those without a direct cultural tie to Africa can avoid appropriation.

The distinctions between Black people born and raised in the U.S. compared to immigrants from African countries goes beyond nation of origin.

Similarly, studies based outside the U.S. note an issue with the country's demographic categorization that is often ignored by American researchers.

For example, recent studies in the U.K. note that 20th and 21st century immigrants from African regions and Black peoples who have been in the U.S. for centuries have vastly different ways of life, genetic health risks, and native languages.

Another common distinction between recent African immigrants and those possibly from an African culture who are

unsure of their heritage is the terminology used to describe their background.

While not a studied topic due to the label of African American as standard practice for U.S. demographic forms, many people in the U.S. consider "African" an identity. This is widely unspecified com-

“This is the unfortunate reality for many Black people living in the U.S. — ancestral culture is not inherently that of descendants to claim.”

pared to how more recent immigrants from an African region discuss their heritage.

Colonizing nations did not base their actions on an idea that two sides of Africa exist. Enslaved, raped, pillaged, and essentially destroyed nations exist in all regions of the continent. My home country of Morocco was colonized by the French and Spanish until 1956, and our other North African neighbors saw similar harm from Italian and English troops.

Nomadic behaviors did not pay attention to Western-enforced political borders either. Although my immediate family members were born and raised in Morocco, my genetic reports read Sierra Leonean, Ghanian, Egypt-

tian, and Amazigh, or a tribe originally referred to as "Berber."

Indigenous North Africans, traditionally lighter-skinned peoples, were given the colonized name of Berber by the Spanish to connect them to barbarians. Just like Sub-Saharan countries, North African

indigenous peoples braid their hair, perform tribal ceremonies and dances, and speak unique languages from other peoples living in the regions they originally called home.

I don't have any answers, and in research for this article, those with more expertise than I also seemed at a loss.

The question I am left with is: is it right to justify actions of appropriation and colonization as a response to one's own oppression?

If the answer is no, then steps must be taken to the end appropriation of African cultures for those who do not have cultural awareness, language, or religious ties to the continent as it stands today.

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# Iowa pedicab business cuts costs

Pedal Power, which began offering taxi services in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids in 2021, is resuming service in the spring, after a short break during the winter.

Sam Knupp  
News Reporter

Pedal Power, an Iowa City and Cedar Rapids pedicab business, is back for the spring season with a new goal — lowering costs with innovative advertising ideas.

Pedal Power, which began four years ago as an advertising company, started its pedicab services in Cedar Rapids in Iowa City in April and July of 2021.

Pedal Power founder Ben Snyder said the company aims to help Iowa City residents save money, while still getting to their destinations in a timely manner.

Pedal Power also provides novelty services for date nights, weddings, barhopping, or picnics, Snyder said.

"If somebody wants to take somebody on a picnic instead of a restaurant ... it can be a thing where it can be a surprise for one of the people, and we can roll up to a picnic set up with a wooden

wicker basket, and give them a blanket with food that they prefer and partnerships with restaurants," he said.

Snyder said advertising and partnering with businesses are integral to Pedal Power, because they allow the company to charge just \$5 per ride for each customer.

"Our goal, honestly, in the long run is to provide the rides for free and have the advertising revenue cover the free rides because that'd be better for the people we're advertising for as well," he said. "Then people would take note like, 'Oh, this ride's free, oh, it's paid for by this advertisement. That's really cool of that XYZ business.'"

Snyder said he would like to start partnering with local businesses to do a cash cab event once a month, during which customers could answer trivia questions and earn prizes from businesses for correct answers. Videos from the events could then

be published online with the customer's permission.

Emma Berry, a manager at Pedal Power, said ad partnerships have allowed the business to provide services outside its normal areas, including at the Iowa State Fair, while reducing costs for customers.

"We've done advertisements for Balloons Etcetera, here in town," she said. "We advertised for the Climate Fest in Iowa City last year, and we even had a banner ad for that one, too."

Pedal Power currently has seven bikers on staff and plans to resume its services in Iowa City this week, weather permitting.

Snyder said the pedicabs will take people where they need to go as quickly as an Uber, but in an environmentally friendly way and at a lower cost.

Kyle Hicks, who graduated from the University of Iowa in 2019, said he enjoys the convenience and affordability of companies



Contributed

like Uber and Lyft, but has noticed that their prices can fluctuate over time.

He said he would be open to using a pedicab service under the right circumstances.

"I could definitely see people in the right environment having that happen," he said. "Especially during

the warmer times of being in Iowa City, I could definitely see that being a fun attraction for the college kids to go around and do that kind of stuff."

While Pedal Power did not offer pedicab services this past winter, Snyder said he plans to do so in the future.

"That was just more of a maintenance issue," he said. "We got a new motor and stuff like that. So, it took some time with back-ordered parts just to kind of get everything back and up and running. But we will go year-round with it."

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# UI to request approval for higher residence hall rates

The University of Iowa will request approval to increase current residence hall rates by 3 percent at an upcoming state Board of Regents meeting. The change would apply to the 2022-23 academic year.

Kate Perez  
News Reporter

University of Iowa students may have higher boarding costs for the 2022-23 academic year. The UI is looking to increase the rates by 3 percent.

The university is requesting approval for the increased rates from the state Board of Regents at its upcoming meeting on April 7. Upon approval, the rate increase would apply to the 2022-23 school year and summer 2023 housing.

Additionally, 3 percent increase applies to the meal plans currently offered at the UI:

- The Gold (unlimited number of dining hall meals) meal plan would increase from \$3,955 to

- \$4,075.
- The Black (220 dining hall meals per semester) meal plan would increase from \$3,565 to \$3,672.
- The Hawkeye (75 dining hall meals per semester) meal plan would increase from \$1,530 to \$1,576.

According to regent documents, prices will remain the same for Hawkeye Dollars, the one-time housing application fee, and university-affiliated guest rates.

The university first proposed the increase at a February regents meeting. At the meeting, Von Stange, UI assistant vice president for student life and senior director of University Housing and Dining, said the university's support has helped keep rate increases low.

"The university has continued to support our departments and our students during the pandemic, allowing us to meet our obligations to our students and our bondholders," Stange said at the regents' February meeting. "Without their support, we wouldn't be able to limit our room and board increases next year to 3 percent, while inflation might suggest higher rates."

The residence-system governance report, presented to the regents at their February meeting, states the proposed increase is based on multiple factors, including infrastructure improvements, estimated operating costs, available capacity, and debt service requirements.

"Each residence sys-

tem operates in a unique competitive environment with individual capital and operational needs," the document states.

The report details that the fiscal 2023 budgets were developed with consideration to the expected number of occupants in the dorms, purchased meal plans, estimated operating cost increases, projected infrastructure improvements, and debt service requirements of the residence halls.

Additionally, the pandemic's impact reduced residence hall occupancy to approximately 80 percent in each of the regent institution residence systems, the document stated.

The UI intends to increase its occupancy ratio to:

- 84.7 percent in fiscal 2022
- 91 percent in fiscal 2023
- 91.7 percent in fiscal 2025

UI first-year student Amelia Spahn currently lives in Mayflower Hall. Spahn said she chose to live in the dorms for the 2022-2023 academic year because it is more convenient than finding an apartment.

"I knew what it was like to live here. And it was a reasonable price considering the amenities included," Spahn said. "I like the community, and I like how it's close to campus. You get the Cambus and everything."

Spahn chose to return to Mayflower Hall next year, partly because she found it was more financially sustainable.

"The price of living here is a cheaper price than finding an apartment that's potentially farther away, where you have to pay for gas as you don't have the Cambus, and you'd have to pay for water and electricity and all that. Where, here, it's all already included in the price," Spahn said.

Spahn said the potential rate increase has diminished her desire to live in the dorms for a second year.

"If I wasn't already in the contract, it would be another reason why I would try to look for apartments more seriously," Spahn said. "But, with a price increase, it would be like, 'Oh, I could get something better for the same price.'"

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# The Daily Break

The New York Times  
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0302

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- Across**
- The girl next door, for one
  - Polite term of address
  - Claire Dunphy of "Modern Family," for one
  - Act like some poles
  - One joining in the chorus
  - Energy-healing discipline
  - Put in the pot
  - Eager
  - Record of the year
  - Three world capitals (5,4,10)
  - My Chemical Romance genre
  - "Groovy!"
  - "Fancy \_\_\_!"
  - Like some meds
  - Hired security guard
  - Sounds of hesitation
  - Pi follower
  - \_\_\_ Lovelace, computer programming pioneer
  - Display one's humanity, in a way
  - Visible
  - Three U.S. states (4,4,10)
  - Racing shape
  - Metaphor for many a college dorm room
  - Dug-out material
  - Gun, as an engine
  - Club workers, informally
  - Malt shop selections
  - Sr.'s test

- "Bummer!"
  - Cow's mouthful
  - Sorrow
  - Three countries (6,4,9)
  - Believe unquestioningly
  - Speaker's quality
  - Going from 0 to 100, say
  - Line to the house
  - Put forth
  - Role once played on TV by Jay Silverheels
  - You, in Uruguay
  - Big name in little gumdrops
  - Spurred (on)
- Down**
- Post office inquiry
  - Edit, in a way, as a computer file
  - Possibility
  - Jury member
  - Sir Walter Raleigh's goal
  - Manage
  - Longtime "Jeopardy!" host Trebek
  - Wiped out
  - French term of endearment
  - Large expanses
  - Start of a Caesarian boast
  - Cookie with a green creme center

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Puzzles provided by sudokusolver.com

# DI in D.C. | Scenes from Capitol Hill

The Daily Iowan spoke with Iowa's congressional delegation as the U.S. Senate is weighing a vote on confirming Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court.



The United States Capitol is seen in Washington, D.C., on Sunday.

Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan



U.S. Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, speaks in an interview at the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. Axne answered questions about the upcoming election, higher education, the war in Ukraine, and COVID-19.

Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

“

I plan on coming back with two other great colleagues. I'm doing everything possible to make that happen. I don't plan on coming back being the lone [Democratic] delegate.

— Rep. Cindy Axne on upcoming election

“

It's kind of how you view what I'd call a strict constructionist, versus legislating from the bench, and I see her as somebody that would legislate from the bench. And then what's wrong with that is if you're assuming some of the responsibilities of Congress, you can't vote a judge with a lifetime appointment out of office.

— Sen. Chuck Grassley on Jackson



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, speaks in an interview at the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. Grassley answered questions about Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's SCOTUS confirmation, the upcoming election cycle, and the war in Ukraine.



U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, speaks to a group of tourists outside the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday.

Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

“

I am hearing from people, not just Black women, who are relating to me their stories about having to come into a room where you're more than qualified than the people who are sitting in judgment of you and having to endure the absurdities of disrespect that we saw Judge Jackson endure.

— Sen. Cory Booker on Jackson during his committee speech on Monday

**MERRIWEATHER**  
Continued from Page 8A

sites that had documented information. It was interesting. I think everybody that took part in that event definitely enjoyed it.”

Merriweather said the idea for the series hit him as Black History Month approached. Merriweather knew he wanted to spotlight Black excellence in a unique way. Highlighting Black inventors was an outside-the-box way to do so.

“I just wanted us to have something for the football team to actually do for the month of February,” Merriweather said. “I just wanted to focus on things you don’t really think about. I think, a lot of times, we focus on prominent people like Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, focus on prominent athletes like Jesse Owens, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan. You know, you focus on peo-

ple like that. We don’t talk about those inventors that created those little things throughout our history that we really don’t think about on a day-to-day basis.”

“I think that was kind of the main focus point,” Merriweather added. “Just bringing about knowledge of things that we use in everyday life. Even doing research I found out things I didn’t even know were created by African Americans.”

Merriweather won the first annual Duke Slater Golden Gavel Award in December 2021. The honor is bestowed upon an “Iowa football player, who not only is most cooperative with local media, but exhibits himself with professional integrity in all interactions.”

The recipient of the Golden Gavel is decided via a vote among select media personnel that cover Hawkeye football regularly. In a Dec. 23, 2021

story, *24/7 Sports’* David Eickholt wrote that, no matter the topic, Merriweather always exhibits professionalism.

Merriweather told reporters he’d like to become a two-time Golden Gavel Award-winner next season. Merriweather later added that he likes to speak honestly, especially on subjects that mean a great deal to him.

“I think it’s just something that’s kinda on my heart to talk about,” Merriweather said. “Just Black history in general and Black issues in America — being an African American myself — that’s something I have to live with every single day. So, I think just helping the populace or spreading information or informing people about Black history, that’s something that I feel like I should kinda do my part about. You know, bring about awareness of it.”

austin-hanson@uiowa.edu



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa defensive back Kaevon Merriweather uses a TV reporter’s camera to film teammates during the Vrbo Citrus Bowl Day for Kids at Fun Spot America Theme Park in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 30, 2021. Citrus Bowl Day for Kids is a 2022 Vrbo Citrus Bowl sponsored event that hosts both Iowa and Kentucky. Players from both teams grouped up with children and participated in rides and various activities around the theme park.

**STARTING QB**  
Continued from Page 8A

battle.

I say all this, however, with caution. As both Kirk Ferentz and Iowa offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz have said, the backup quarterback is always the most popular person on campus until they actually play in a game and make mistakes.

austin-hanson@uiowa.edu



Robert Read  
Pregame Editor

**Spencer Petras**

Will this be the final thing I write for *The Daily Iowan* regarding the Iowa football team’s whirlwind of a quarterback situation? One can hope.

Ever since three-year starter Nate Stanley graduated after the 2019 season, the Hawkeyes have had their fair share of inconsistent quarterback play. Spencer Petras has started 19 games over the past two seasons, including in the Big Ten Championship Game and Citrus Bowl last season, although his play has pushed the Iowa fanbase to the brink at times. For better or worse, I think Petras will be Iowa’s starting quarterback for the 2022 season.

Now, this is nothing against Petras personally. He is among the most insightful and comedic athletes I’ve talked to. But his performance on the field in his two years as a starter has been me-

diocre at best. He has a 57.2 career completion percentage and a 19-14 TD-INT ratio.

Heading into spring practice, Petras was the top quarterback on Iowa’s depth chart. That doesn’t necessarily mean much. Alex Padilla, who started three games last season, will have a chance to earn the starting job. Redshirt freshman Joey Labas will, too. But Padilla was quickly sent back to the bench when Petras recovered from an injury last season, and Labas is inexperienced — although, he has been reported to look good in practice.

Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz doubled down on his offense earlier this offseason by making offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz quarterbacks coach. I think Iowa will do the same by sticking with Petras as starting quarterback next season.

robert-read@uiowa.edu



Dimia Burrell/The Daily Iowan  
Iowa quarterback Joey Labas throws a pass during an Iowa football open practice at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City on March 29.



Casey Stone/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward/midfielder Kenzie Roling looks to gain possession of the ball during a soccer game between Iowa and Michigan State at the Iowa Soccer Complex on Oct. 3, 2021. Michigan State defeated Iowa, 2-1.

**SOCCER**  
Continued from Page 8A

es and lead the game in shots.”

Roling took a risk on Saturday when she forced herself into a one-on-one at midfield, bringing the ball downfield until striking it into the net.

The Hawkeyes have fared with limited athletes during the spring season by using men practice players. Dilanni is hoping to get through the next few weeks of the season uninjured while his incoming players get

experience and adjust to new roles.

Dilanni, entering his ninth season leading the Black and Gold, said he expects some of the roster to become available as they continue their spring schedule.

Defender Cassidy Formanek was out of town for her sister’s wedding on Saturday. She should return next Saturday when Iowa faces Arkansas in St. Louis. Dilanni also said that midfielder Natalie Massa, center midfielder Molly Gervase, and forward Meike Ingles should be back by the end of the spring.

“As we get a couple players back, we’re going to be able to play more aggressively in the main pressing and hopefully be a bit more versatile in how we play,” Dilanni said.

Following their exhibition versus Arkansas, the Hawkeyes will return to Iowa City to face Drake on April 15, and then cap off the spring at Missouri on April 23. The Hawkeyes open the regular season at UCLA on Aug. 18, with their home opener against Kansas on Aug. 25.

“We’re all about trusting the process,” Roling said. “So, just continue to get better, and we’re right there. Like, there was a lot of opportunities where just one more pass or just a little bit better finish would create a lot more goals. So, I think looking forward to scoring a lot more goals.”

isaac-goffin@uiowa.edu

— Iowa forward Kenzie Roling

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## HAWKEYE UPDATES

### Real Woods to join Iowa men's wrestling in 2022-23

Former Stanford men's wrestler Real Woods announced via Instagram on Saturday that he will transfer to Iowa for the 2022-23 season.

Woods, a 2022 All-American at 141 pounds, finished sixth at this year's NCAA Championships after entering the event as the No. 4 seed.

Woods spent four seasons at Stanford, redshirting his freshman year. He has accumulated a dual record of 64-9, won two Pac-12 individual championships, and is a two-time All-American. Woods is a three-time NCAA Championships qualifier.

Woods will likely replace Jaydin Eierman at 141 pounds in the Hawkeyes' lineup. After transferring from Missouri, Eierman wrestled his last two years of eligibility in Iowa City. Eierman ended his college wrestling career as a four-time All-American and a four-time conference champion.

Woods will come to Iowa with two years of collegiate eligibility.

### Wyatt Henson to transfer out of Iowa men's wrestling program

Freshman men's wrestler Wyatt Henson announced Monday via Twitter that he will transfer out of the Iowa program.

"I have entered the transfers portal!" Henson wrote. "I appreciate my experience with the Hawkeyes, but looking forward to the future!"

Henson redshirted his first season with the Hawkeyes, accumulating a 18-2 record at 141 pounds while competing unattached. He won three state championships in high school — one in Missouri and two in Pennsylvania.

Henson was a top-25 prospect out of high school and chose Iowa over offers from Iowa State, Michigan, and Nebraska.

### Iowa women's tennis signs Pia Kranholdt

Iowa women's tennis announced Monday that Pia Kranholdt will join the Hawkeye roster in 2022-23.

Kranholdt, who hails from Hilders, Germany, was part of her high school team that won a German national title. She has a top 100 German Women's Open Ranking.

"We are happy to be able to announce the signing of another outstanding addition to our team," Iowa women's tennis head coach Sasha Schmid said via release. "Pia Kranholdt is a driven, athletic, competitor who wants to play college tennis at the elite level and help our program achieve historic success. Pia had many options for her college tennis, and I am so excited she eventually found her home at the University of Iowa. Pia will make significant contributions to our team in all ways, and we cannot wait to have her join the program."

Iowa women's tennis is currently on a 12-match losing streak. The reigning Big Ten Freshman and Player of the Year, Alexa Noel, has not played in the Hawkeyes' spring season while rehabbing an ankle injury. Noel will leave the Iowa program after this year and announced plans to transfer to Miami for the 2022-23 season.

### Marty Sutherland named to 2022 Cascade Hall of Fame class

Iowa associate head baseball coach Marty Sutherland was named to the Class of 2022 Cascade High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Sunday.

The Cascade High School Hall of Fame was introduced in 2021, and the 2022 class will be the first to recognize former athletes and administrators.

"Few Cascade athletes have defined what it means to be a 'multi-sport star' like Marty Sutherland did in the mid-1990s," a release from Cascade High School read. "Sutherland is most known for his exploits on the baseball field, where he was a three-time All-State selection, including being the first Cascade player named to the Des Moines Register's Elite All-State team in 1997."

Sutherland was a four-sport athlete at Cascade from 1994-98, playing football, basketball, track and field, and baseball. Sutherland was the punter, kicker, and wide receiver for Cascade in 1997.

Sutherland continued his baseball career at Kirkwood Community College. He also played for University of Northern Iowa, earning All-Missouri Valley Conference and All-Region honors while leading the Panthers to their first NCAA Tournament berth in program history.

Sutherland is currently in his ninth season in the Hawkeyes' program. He has been Iowa's associate head coach and recruiting coordinator since 2017.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I've still got my clothes in a suitcase."

- New Iowa football tight ends coach Abdul Hodge on his move to Iowa City

## STAT OF THE DAY

# 6

- All-Americans on Iowa men's wrestling's 2022-23 roster

# Merriweather elevates Black voices

Iowa football safety Kaevon Merriweather has spearheaded the Hawkeyes' efforts to bring attention to Black history and issues Black Americans face.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa safety Kaevon Merriweather celebrates a safety during a football game between Iowa and Kent State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 18, 2021. The Hawkeyes defeated the Golden Flashes, 30-7.

Austin Hanson  
Sports Editor

Kaevon Merriweather has never been afraid to speak his mind, particularly on issues that matter to him.

When former Hawkeye football players brought allegations pertaining to racial bias within Iowa's program to light, Merriweather became one of the foremost voices on head coach Kirk Ferentz's active roster.

The 2020 season was the first in which Iowa football players could choose to kneel or stand during the national anthem. Some

Iowa fans had objections to Ferentz and his team's decision.

Merriweather met fan pushback head-on with a written statement of his own on Twitter. In the letter — released on June 8, 2020 — the 6-foot, 211-pound defensive back told fans that they should not root for Iowa if they do not support the Hawkeyes' national anthem movement.

"I would rather play in front of 1,000 fans who care about us as people outside of football and what we are standing for than 70,000 fans who only care about us when we are

in uniform and on the field entertaining them," Merriweather wrote.

A report from Husch Blackwell, a legal firm based in Kansas City, was released on July 31. The documents confirmed that Iowa football "perpetuated racial biases."

Before the report was released, the University of Iowa had already reached a separation agreement with strength and conditioning coach Chris Doyle — who was at the heart of many allegations of racial bias.

Since June 2020, the Iowa football program has made a number of changes to improve its culture

— many of which Merriweather has noted he is pleased with.

During February 2022, Merriweather spearheaded a new initiative. Merriweather and his teammates helped produce videos highlighting a number of Black inventors and innovators throughout Black History Month. The videos were distributed via the Iowa football team's twitter account (@HawkeyeFootball).

Lewis Howard Latimer, who developed the carbon filament for incandescent light bulbs, and Garrett Morgan, inventor of the stoplight, were among the

innovators profiled during the series.

"It's not publicized stuff," Merriweather told *The Daily Iowan*. "Some of the information was on web pages that probably don't even have 10 visitors a day or something like that ... It was a list of people, and you had to go find that list. Then, just start doing research on it. Start looking up the names and find tidbits of information and websites that talk about them."

"It wouldn't be any major websites," Merriweather added. "It was just web-

MERRIWEATHER | Page 7A

## POINT/COUNTER POINT

# Who will be Iowa's starting QB?

Will Spencer Petras, Alex Padilla, or Joey Labas be under center for the Hawkeyes next season? Two *DI* editors join the debate.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterbacks Spencer Petras and Alex Padilla walk onto the field during an Iowa football open practice at the Hansen Football Performance Center in Iowa City on March 29. Petras and Padilla both started for the Hawkeyes in the 2021-22 season.



Austin Hanson  
Sports Editor

### Joey Labas

Romance novelist Jayne Ann Krentz once said, "Embrace the unknown. It is the only certainty." Today, I'm going to take a page out of her book.

I've watched every in-game snap both Spencer Petras and Alex Padilla

have taken as Iowa football quarterbacks. Padilla has completed 56 of his 114 pass attempts, netting 648 yards, two touchdowns, and two interceptions. Petras has connected on 57.2 percent of his throws for 3,474 yards, 19 touchdowns, and 14 interceptions.

The only quarterback on Iowa's three-deep depth chart that I haven't seen in action is Joe Labas. The 6-foot-4, 194-pound redshirt freshman from Broadview Heights, Ohio, was given three-star status by *24/7 Sports* before he arrived at the University of Iowa.

Labas only appeared on Iowa's three-deep depth chart after Deuce Hogan entered the transfer portal on Nov. 30.

With over a year of practice with the Hawkeyes under his belt, Labas could surprise Iowa fans and win what head coach Kirk Ferentz has called a "wide open quarterback competition."

Obviously, I have no statistical basis to think Labas would edge Petras and Padilla for Iowa's starting QB job. The only real evidence I've got is what was seen from Labas at Iowa's open Citrus Bowl practice. *The Athletic's* Scott Dochterman wrote that Labas "turned heads" in Orlando.

Because I've seen what Padilla and Petras are both capable of, I'm picking the wild card in Labas to win this spring's quarterback

# Soccer builds with restricted roster

The Hawkeyes are low on players during their spring practice schedule, but are still working toward improving their offense.

Isaac Goffin  
Sports Reporter

Despite a restricted roster during spring practice, the Iowa soccer team is attempting to build off its fourth-place Big Ten finish from last fall.

The Hawkeyes dressed just 12 players for their Saturday exhibition contest against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at the Iowa Soccer Complex. With only one substitute, Iowa took a 2-0 victory over Milwaukee — a team that advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We've been dealing with a lot of adversity with injuries and things," forward Kenzie Roling said following the game. "So, kind of learning how to play through that and still keep up intensity while maintaining some sort of energy. I thought we did really well today and got a couple goals and a lot of opportunities, which is what we've been working on all spring."

Roling is the Hawkeyes' returning leading scorer from the fall 2021 campaign. Even after missing multiple games because of illness, she tallied six goals.

Roling said a focus for the Hawkeyes during the spring season is taking risks. Iowa knows it is strong in the backfield, Roling said, as it averaged one goal allowed per game in the fall. But the Hawkeyes want to improve on their 1.55 goals scored average — ranked eighth-best in the conference in 2021.

"Kenzie is the type of player that has to be aggressive, has to take risks, and is successful because of that," Iowa head coach Dave DiIanni said. "I think as she does that, the team follows that, and so we want her to be able to take chanc-

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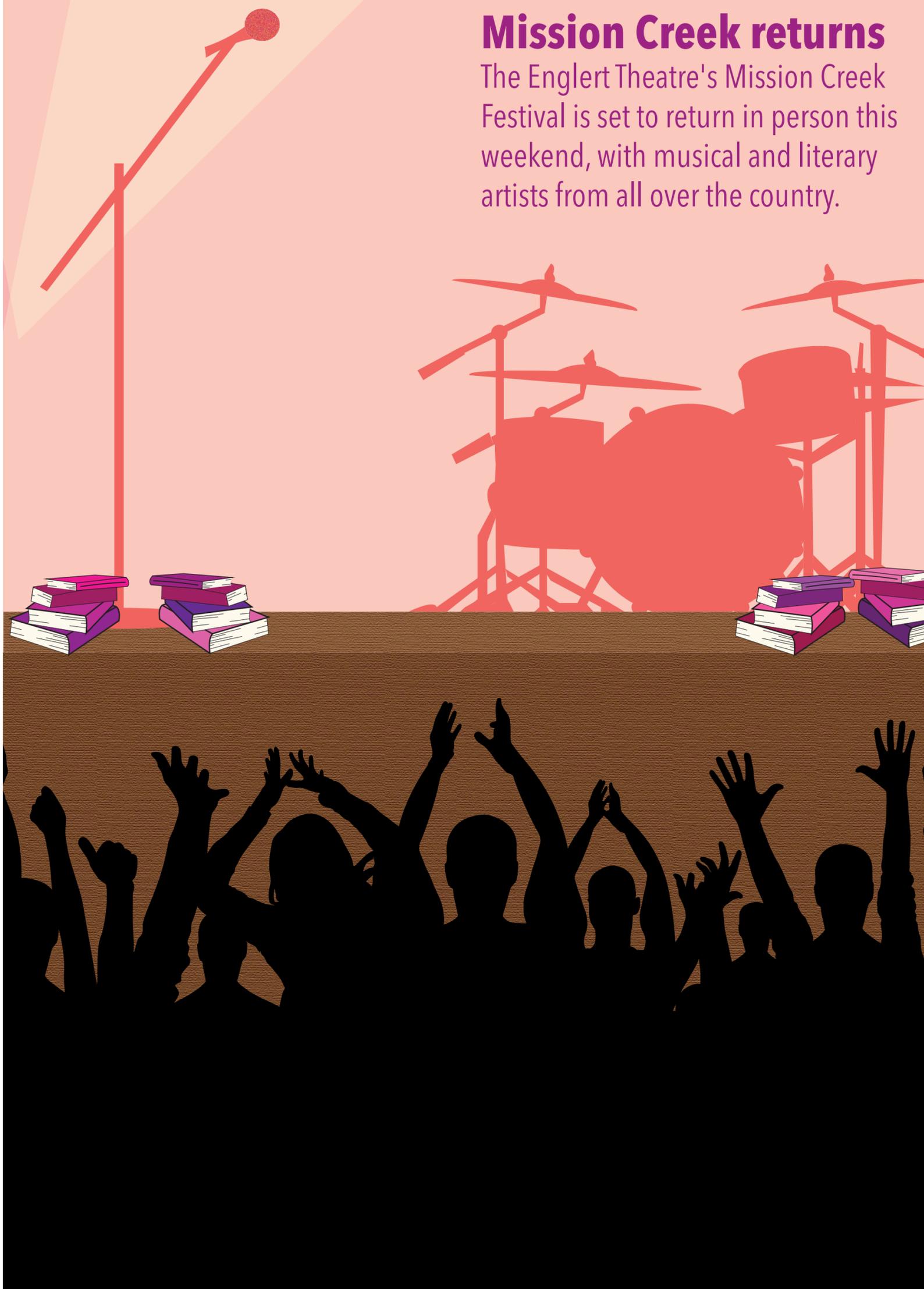
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

# 80 Hours

## This weekend in Arts and Entertainment

### **Mission Creek returns**

The Englert Theatre's Mission Creek Festival is set to return in person this weekend, with musical and literary artists from all over the country.



# Weekend Events

7

THURSDAY

- ART**
- **PHIL DOROTHY DRAWING STUDIO**  
6:30 P.M., THE ARTIFACTORY, 120 N. DUBUQUE ST.
- LITERATURE**
- **READING WITH SASHA TAQWŠE-BLU LAPOINTE**  
7 P.M., PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKSTORE, 15 S. DUBUQUE ST.
- MUSIC**
- **ALYX RUSH, ELIZABETH MOEN, TENNYSON**  
6:30 P.M., THE ENGLERT THEATRE, 221 E. WASHINGTON ST.
  - **RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS**  
8 P.M., ELRAY'S LIVE & DIVE, 211 IOWA AVE.
- THEATER**
- **MISSION CREEK PERFORMANCE: FENNESZ AND KMRU**  
7:30 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE, 119 E. COLLEGE ST.

8

FRIDAY

- FILM**
- **PICTURE A SCIENTIST: A SCIENCE ON SCREEN EVENT**  
7:30 P.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY, 404 E. COLLEGE ST.
- LITERATURE**
- **MISSION CREEK LIT WALK**  
5 P.M., DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY, DUBUQUE ST.
  - **WRITERS OF COLOR READING SERIES**  
5 P.M., PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKSTORE, 15 S. DUBUQUE ST.
- MUSIC**
- **GOOD MORNING MIDNIGHT, SON LUX, BEACH BUNNY**  
6:30 P.M., THE ENGLERT THEATRE
- THEATER**
- **ANASTASIA THE MUSICAL**  
7 P.M., IOWA CITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL, 2901 MELROSE AVE.

9

SATURDAY

- LITERATURE**
- **READING WITH SARAH GERARD AND KAVEH AKBAR**  
1 P.M., PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKSTORE
  - **SMALL PRESS & LITERARY MAGAZINE BOOK FAIR**  
11 A.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY
- MUSIC**
- **AROJ AFTAB, SOCCER MOMMY, RIC WILSON**  
7:30 P.M., THE ENGLERT THEATRE
  - **MAAAZE, WAVE CAGE, WILLY TEA TAYLOR, ADIA VICTORIA**  
2:30 P.M., BIG GROVE BREWERY & TAPROOM, 1225 S. GILBERT ST.
- THEATER**
- **ANASTASIA THE MUSICAL**  
7 P.M., IOWA CITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL, 2901 MELROSE AVE.
  - **RAMONA AND THE SOMETIMES, TRÉ BURT, AARON DILLOWAY**  
7:15 P.M., RIVERSIDE THEATRE

10

SUNDAY

- ART**
- **LONG POSE STUDIO GROUP**  
9 A.M., THE ARTIFACTORY
- FILM**
- **THE PICTURE SHOW FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERIES: CHICKEN RUN**  
11 A.M., FILMSCENE AT THE CHAUNCEY
- MUSIC**
- **CELEBRATING BEETHOVEN: COMPLETE 32 SONATAS UI FESTIVAL, CONCERT 8**  
3 P.M., UI SCHOOL OF MUSIC VOX-MAN BUILDING, 93 E. BURLINGTON ST.
  - **HARP STRINGS 2**  
3 P.M., THE ENGLERT THEATRE
  - **THELMA AND THE SLEAZE, PENNY PEACH, DEATH KILL OVERDRIVE, CASUAL DISASTERS**  
8 P.M., GABE'S, 330 E. WASHINGTON ST.

ASK THE AUTHOR:

## Mike Meginnis



Jami Martin-Trainor  
Arts Reporter

Mike Meginnis is an academic coach with the Center for Inclusive and Academic Excellence at the University of Iowa. Accompanying his previously published works, including *Fat Man and Little Boy* and other fictional short stories published in a variety of outlets, Meginnis recently released a new book titled *Drowning Practice*. Following the fictional lives of a mother and daughter who are quickly approaching the end of the world, Meginnis explored human nature and relationships through his work. Meginnis recently spoke with author and Assistant Professor at Coe College LaTanya McQueen at *Prairie Lights* on April 1. Meginnis answered *The Daily Iowan's* questions over email.

(This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Read the full interview at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com).)

**The Daily Iowan:** Your newest book, *Drowning Practice*, follows the story of a mother and daughter in an apocalyptic setting. How did you determine how you wanted to depict that familial relationship?

Meginnis: This is somewhat less true in the book world, but in popular culture, apocalyptic fiction is all about fathers: men protecting sons, men protecting daughters, men protecting wives and communities. You see this in TV shows and comic books like *The Walking Dead*, movies like *Children of Men*, and books like *The Road*. I like all of those stories to varying degrees but, taken as a whole, they are deeply weird. It seems like the end of the world shouldn't be reduced to an opportunity to reflect on different models of masculinity. My frustration with this dynamic peaked while I was playing *The Last of Us*, a blockbuster video game about a man who will do anything to protect his surrogate daughter. I felt like that game, which I do like, would immediately become ten times more interesting if it were about a mother and daughter instead — so eventually I decided to write that.

**DI:** Where did you get inspiration for the unique apocalyptic premise of your book?

Meginnis: In the book, everyone in the world has a dream in January where they are told that the world will end in November. They don't know why or how, but most people do believe — because the dream was the same for everyone — that it's true. This premise is the result of a series of small, intuitive decisions. I wanted the characters in the book to be pretty sure that the world was going to end, and when, but I didn't want them to be absolutely certain. A global dream seemed like a good way to achieve that, because it's obviously noteworthy, and yet dreams rarely predict the future. I decided to end the world in November because it's the month where the weather starts to turn cold, at least where I grew up — at least before cli-

mate change really got going — and because it sounds nice. "November" is a good and ominous word. I also chose it because it isn't December and ending the world in the last month of our human calendar felt too neat. I also chose it because it isn't September, which, being the ninth month, is associated with childbirth; the book was already clearly about motherhood and didn't need any additional pointers to that theme. The other good thing about having the story begin with a dream is that it gives me some license to make the book feel dreamlike.

**DI:** What aspect of the craft draws you to fiction writing?

Meginnis: Writing fiction is one of the richest, most rewarding things a person can do. A writer has to think about character, structure, plot, drama, and sonic beauty while also imagining hypothetical future readers and attending to their needs. It's nearly impossible to do right, partly because it's a frivolous way to spend time, and there's always more to learn. I can't imagine ever being bored by the challenges that it provides or feeling less than amazed when I read a book that I think really works. Seeing someone else write something great makes me want to see if I can do the same.

**DI:** Is there an overarching theme that you want your readers to take away from *Drowning Practice*?

Meginnis: Honestly, not really. I mainly hope that they find it a satisfying experience and that it gives them opportunities to think about things that they find interesting and useful. The book does make some arguments, I think, mostly because it can't help itself, but I don't really want to convince anyone. If anything, I prefer that my readers reject most of what I believe. They might find something better.

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## Streaming Highlight: *Our Great National Parks*



Illustration by Molly Milder

Parker Jones  
Arts Editor

Narrated by former President Barack Obama, Netflix's new original docuseries *Our Great National Parks* marks the one of the first releases in the Obamas' recently announced slate of collaborative programming with the streaming site.

Produced by Barack and Michelle Obama under their production company partnered with Netflix, Higher Grounds Productions, the first season of the series will be released on April 13. Each episode will focus on different National Parks from around the world and the wildlife that inhabits them, including parks in Monterey Bay, California, Tsavo National Park in Kenya, and Gunung Leuser National Park in Indonesia.

Although it is funded mainly by the Obama family, Higher Grounds is co-led by Priya Swaminathan and Tonia Davis, who also produced films like *Crip Camp* and *Becoming*, based on Michelle Obama's 2018 memoir of the same name. In addition to Swaminathan and Davis the five-episode series is also produced by James Honeyborne, who previously worked with the BBC Natural History Unit, where he led the production of over 30 nature-related films.

Although Obama has not narrated a film quite like this before, he has been featured in other nature-focused works. In 2016, he played a role in actor and climate activist Leonardo DiCaprio's documentary, *Before the Flood*, which documented the negative effects of climate change in various parts of the world. However, there is no indication yet that *Our Great National Parks* will have a climate change-related angle, instead focusing on purely educational footage of flora and fauna.

Despite its distinctly American narrator, *Our Great National Parks* will showcase an international spotlight on some of the world's natural wonders.

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## Playlist

Bubbly Springtime Jams

⋮

<p><b>Singin' in the Rain</b> Gene Kelly</p>	<p><b>Kiss the Girl</b> + Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid</i></p>
<p><b>Happy Working Song</b> Disney's <i>Enchanted</i></p>	<p><b>Un Poco Loco</b> + Disney's <i>Coco</i></p>
<p><b>A Spoonful of Sugar</b> Disney's <i>Mary Poppins</i></p>	<p><b>Here Comes the Sun</b> + The Beatles</p>
<p><b>Daylight</b> Taylor Swift</p>	<p><b>Mr. Blue Sky</b> + Electric Light Orchestra</p>
<p><b>King of New York</b> Newsies Soundtrack</p>	<p><b>I Won't Say (I'm in Love)</b> + Disney's <i>Hercules</i></p>
<p><b>Lay All Your Love On Me</b> ABBA</p>	<p><b>Chiquitita</b> + ABBA</p>
<p><b>Popular</b> Wicked Soundtrack</p>	<p><b>Hey Stephen (Taylor's Version)</b> Taylor Swift</p>

# Mission Creek Festival to fill downtown IC with music, art

The festival celebrates music and literature with artists from all over the country and this year, a brand- new layout.

Olivia Augustine  
Arts Reporter

Musicians, poets, and writers from all over the country will flood downtown Iowa City this weekend to celebrate music and literature. The events will mark the return of Englert Theatre's Mission Creek Festival after a pandemic-induced hiatus.

The three-day festival will present 12 literary artists and 39 musical artists, including headliners Beach Bunny and Soccer Mommy, and will take place across several different Iowa City locations, such as the Englert Theatre, Gabe's, FilmScene, Big Grove Brewery, Prairie Lights, and Riverside Theatre. The festival aims to bring in both recognizable and underground artists who represent a variety of cultures.

Englert's Senior Programming Manager Brian Johannesen said the festival is very accessible and representative of Iowa City. It offers both ticketed and free events that "encapsulate" Iowa City's best artistic qualities, Johannesen said.

Johannesen said the festival layout is different from how it's been done in the past. This year, Mission Creek will take on a more "traditional" layout, with more time between performances and separate locations around the city serving as "stages," rather than entirely different venues.

"There are several paths that you can take depending on your tastes and music, to make sure that people are able to see everything they want to see and also give them time and space to go check out something new and different that they haven't seen before," he said.

One of the festival's keynote speakers, Golden, is a poet and photographer out of Boston.

Golden said they have never been to Iowa before, let alone Iowa City, and that they truly "don't know what to expect."

"I feel like I would never pick it up on a map, but I'm excited because I've also obviously done a lot of research before, and Mission Creek has had several different poets that I love," Golden said.

Golden graduated from New York University in 2018 with a BFA in photography, and is the recipient of several fellowships and awards— most recently a Women Photograph Project Grant and the Mass Cultural Council Fellowship in Photography in 2021.

Their work centers around the intersections of Blackness, gender, and family in the U.S., they said, because they write from their personal per-

"I just love the Iowa scene and everybody there so much, and I'm just stoked to be back in Iowa City."

- Ella "Squirrel Flower" Williams

spective on being a Black trans person.

Golden also added that being able to write about their family in their poetry is what moves them the most emotionally within the medium.

Even though Golden's work is based on their identity and personal experiences, they said these topics can be broad, and because of that, their poetry is really more about people in general.

Golden said that, when speaking at an event, when speaking at an event, they think of it of it more as a performance than a reading. Once they take the stage, they have their poems mem-



Hooray for the Riff Raff perform during the annual Mission Creek festival at the Englert Theatre in Iowa City on April 6, 2019. Hooray for the Riff Raff is an Americana band hailing from New Orleans, Louisiana.



The Weepies perform at the Englert Theatre on April 5, 2018.

orized and incorporate their photography into the performance.

Golden's performance will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday at FilmScene as part of a keynote literature reading — a reading meant to unify the audience with common themes and ideas — with Eve L. Ewing and Fariha Róisín. Golden said they

include solo and full band music, with some heavy rock influences.

Williams said something she enjoys about Mission Creek is that it is not a huge corporate festival, and that it is truly about art. Something that

sets the festival apart from others is how it celebrates music and literature collectively, Williams said, allowing people in attendance to explore different artistic mediums.

"It really is about the art," Williams said.

"I think having a mix of literature and music shows, that it's just more interesting, you know, more variety and more crossover and more to experience."

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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

**BLKS**

by Aziza Barnes



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**IOWA**

# MFA student creates book inspired by Game Boy

First-year MFA student Lauren Coghlan is designing a book based on the original Game Boy and its video games for the upcoming CMYK art show through the University of Iowa School of Art and Art History.

Sydney Hurley  
Arts Reporter

CMYK — which stands for the four original colors that most ink printers use: cyan, magenta, yellow, and “key,” or black — is meant to represent the printing process.

It is also the theme of an upcoming gallery show at the University of Iowa School of Art and Art History. Students can create anything they want, as long as it’s in those four colors. First-year UI MFA student Lauren Coghlan chose to base her art on video games.

The graduate student

is creating a book that resembles the original Game Boy.

Coghlan specializes in graphic design, but is experienced in a variety of art forms — which is exemplified by her project for the CMYK.

Coghlan plans to create a book with written and visual portions based off the different video games that could be played on the original Game Boy console, which was released in 1989. Sections of the book will represent different games and assigned emotions, which she said she’s reframing to illustrate life.

“So, for example, *Te-*

*tris* will be like anxiety,” Coghlan said. “*Super Mario Land* will represent hustle culture, and stuff like that.”

Coghlan said her grandfather inspired her when it came to her creations for the CMYK show. His old stereoscope, a handheld device that depicts a pair of left-eye and right-eye views of the same scene as a single three-dimensional image, caught her interest. She decided to incorporate the use of three-dimensional images into her Game Boy-inspired books, Coghlan said.

“I’m playing around

with including three-dimensional stuff on the pedestal, which the books will rest on, so like a 3D *Tetris* sort of thing around the side,” Coghlan said.

Coghlan also applied the idea of three dimensions and the stereoscope to today’s world, outside of her work for the CMYK show.

“I’m hoping to design my own of these [stereoscope] cards with something like typographic, something graphic design, but make it three-dimensional,” Coghlan said. “Even exploring or seeing if I can build a rig in which you could do it with a phone. So, just placing your phone in here rather than making printed cards.”

Coghlan said she must have a personal connec-

tion to her art to create it, or she will not put in near as much effort com-

As a first-year student, she doesn’t yet have an overall theme to explore

“So, for example, *Tetris* will be like anxiety,” Coghlan said. *Super Mario Land* will represent hustle culture, and stuff like that.”

— Lauren Coghlan, University of Iowa MFA student

pared to something that she feels more connected to.

Coghlan said she wants to be a professor in the future, but would like to have industry experience before becoming a professor to have the highest potential. She said some of her dream jobs include being a book cover designer for the publishing company Penguin Teen, or a motion graphics designer for a video game company such as Ubisoft.

with her art, but topics she is interested in include being LGBTQ+, being a part of a same-sex marriage, the idea of domesticity, homes, the privileges of having a home, and more, Coghlan said.

“Especially since I’m in my first year, I don’t need to know that, and I don’t want to pigeonhole myself in that regard, either,” Coghlan said.

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Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan

Lauren Coghlan, a University of Iowa MFA student in graphic design, poses for a portrait in her studio in the Visual Arts Building on April 1.

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