

The Daily Iowan

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022

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INSIDE



UI Black Student Union returns

The University of Iowa Black Student Union returned to virtual and in-person events during the spring semester after a COVID-19 hiatus. The student organization has hosted a cookout, a fundraiser, and virtual general body meetings.

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New omicron subvariant rises in JoCo

Cases of a new COVID-19 omicron subvariant are on the rise in Johnson County, which has moved from a low to medium community level.

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Anne Frank sapling planted

A historic tree-planting ceremony honored Anne Frank and the power of her writings. University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson and Executive Officer for University, Equity, and Inclusion Liz Tovar said the sapling symbolizes equality and cultural exchange at the UI.

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Tracking former Hawkeyes after 2022 NFL Draft

In the last 24 years under head coach Kirk Ferentz, 81 Iowa players have been drafted. Tyler Linderbaum is the 11th first-round pick in that time frame.

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UPCOMING

Charting the Ped Mall's future

Check out Wednesday's print edition of *The Daily Iowan* for the final installment of the *DI*'s three-part project on the development and future of Iowa City's Pedestrian Mall. Find out what new businesses and attractions are coming to the downtown hub in the next few years.

Wednesday, May 11 will be the final print edition of the academic year for *The Daily Iowan*. The issue will feature graduating seniors who have left their mark on the UI and others who are looking toward the future. The *DI* will resume printing for the summer session on June 15.

DI TV

Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage at [dailyiowan.com](#)



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IC ends Wednesday farmers market

Iowa City decided to cancel Wednesday night markets because of a decline in vendor participation.



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa City Farmers Market is seen on May 1, 2021.

Marandah Mangra-Dutcher
News Reporter

The Iowa City Farmers Market will no longer host Wednesday night markets for the 2022 season because of a decrease in attendance and participation.

Juli Seydell Johnson, director of Iowa City Parks and Recreation, said Wednesday night

markets have experienced a steady decline in both vendors and shoppers over at least the last five years. There were no longer enough of either to justify the Wednesday market, she said.

"We don't know which came first, fewer vendors or fewer shoppers," Seydell Johnson said. "But, in either case, there just doesn't seem to be

enough of a market there to justify the staff time and using the ramp and everything else."

Seydell Johnson said the Wednesday markets were fairly large several years ago and would fill the entire Chauncey Swan parking ramp, but numbers have now dwindled to only about a dozen vendors.

The Wednesday night

markets lack food vendors in particular, she said.

"The farmers market is all about fresh fruits and vegetables," Seydell Johnson said. "We were getting down to maybe one or two food vendors that were even interested."

She said the city has tried to increase interest in the market by amping up entertainment and marketing efforts.

"We offered some different incentives for vendors last year with some lower prices or 'buy-one-get-one' type of vendor fees," she said.

Marissa Good, a third-year University of Iowa student who sells handmade jewelry, was an

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UI graduate assistant finds bacterium to improve farming

University of Iowa Graduate Research Assistant Emily Schmitz found a bacterium that may help decrease water and air pollutants caused by farming.



Contributed photo of Emily Schmitz

Simone Garza
News Reporter

University of Iowa Graduate Research Assistant Emily Schmitz has found a bacterium that can help make farming more eco-friendly.

Using this specific bacterium may help farming, as it can consume toxic chemicals like nitrate and methane.

Schmitz presented her research at the Three Minute Thesis competition, during which UI students are evaluated based on how well they can communicate their complex research to a non-expert audience in a

short amount of time.

Despite the challenge of compressing her 100-page thesis into a three-minute presentation, Schmitz said participating in the competition was helpful.

"I feel like, if we're ever going to get anything done, we have to be able to communicate our science effectively," she said.

Schmitz said she hopes to complete her research by the time she graduates in 2024.

Graduate Research Assistant for IIHR Matthew Nagorzanski, Schmitz's colleague who has also participated in the competi-

UI strategic plan nearly complete

University of Iowa officials have been crafting the 2022-27 strategic plan for over a year, and it will soon be finished.

Kate Perez
News Reporter

The University of Iowa's 2022-27 strategic plan is nearly complete after the project began in March 2021. It will be finalized and presented to the state Board of Regents next month.

The university is currently receiving feedback on the draft plan's strategies, critical tasks, and metrics solicited from campus after it submitted the draft to the regents in March.

According to the university's strategic plan website, the plan outlines the vision for the coming years to make the UI a "destination university."

In an April 20 interview with *The Daily Iowan*, UI President Barbara Wilson said the writing of the strategic plan is going well, with lots of opportunities for input and voices on the project.

"I can't even tell you how many groups have been involved in this project, because it started before I got here, but there have been lots of groups around each of the different areas and working constantly," Wilson said. "And then also holding sessions with other stakeholders to make sure we're representing a lot of voices in the plan."

Wilson said the draft of the plan focuses on the main goals of the university: student success, learning and teaching, well-being and success, and transformative societal impact.

The addition of the well-being and success initiative is something Wilson loves, she said. She added that the inclusion of transformative

BACTERIUM | Page 2

PLAN | Page 5

A keepsake edition to be published on Wednesday, May 11, 2022

After a memorable year, it's time to recognize the graduates of 2022.

Celebrate your family member or friend's momentous achievement in *The Daily Iowan's Graduation Edition*. This special keepsake issue will feature graduate profiles and stories, along with congratulatory advertisements placed by parents, family members and friends of University of Iowa graduates.

For more info and to place an ad online, go to: [dailyiowan.com/grad](#)

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Old Cap and gown

Grace Kreber/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa graduates take photos on the Pentacrest in Iowa City on Sunday.



Jeff Sigmund/The Daily Iowan

MARKET
Continued from Front

on-call vendor last year. Good attended some Wednesday night markets because of the incentives offered, she said.

"The reason I actually decided to do the Wednesday [market] was because they offered a deal for us ... as kind of an incentive, it was like a

reduced price," she said.

Matt Stewart, owner of Noble Bee Honey, has been a vendor at the Iowa City Farmers Market for more than 15 years. Stewart said he and his wife attended both the Wednesday and Saturday markets.

He said he is preparing for the Wednesday market cancellation to hit their business hard, and he was surprised the city made the decision.

"I figured they'd hang in there because we're not the only ones benefiting — our customers benefit from it," he said. "There are quite a few that still came through."

Stewart said he knows a lot of big vendors stopped attending the markets because — when the pandemic hit — many of them started Community Supported Agriculture on their farms. The program allows individ-

uals to purchase shares, similar to a subscription or membership, and receive products in return, such as a box full of vegetables.

"When those things start back up again, they had plenty of customers coming to them, so they don't have to come anymore," he said. "That knocks down quite a few of those big vegetable vendors that pull the people."

Seydell Johnson said the changing availability of fresh goods has contributed to the decline in overall farmers market attendance.

"There are just a lot of other options now with a lot of the online farmer's markets, with a lot of Community Supported Agriculture groups. Several vendors sell directly and the internet has made that possible," she said. "I think it's just the product of just the whole number of changing market conditions."

Valérie Martin, owner of Valérie's French Cooking, has been a vendor at the Saturday markets for four years. She said she's noticed a decline in farmers market attendance and vendors overall, and found it especially noticeable last year.

"I think what really pushed people away is that they have to wear a mask," she said. "I think it scared many people,

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Market conditions would need to change.
I really think that some of the online markets have taken away the fruit and vegetable vendors. If, for some reason, that didn't work out or they decided they wanted to have one in-person venue again, we'd be open to talking about it again in the future.

— Juli Seydell Johnson, director of Iowa City Parks and Recreation

especially older people ... and they didn't come last year because of that."

Vendors are found mainly through promotional ventures, she said.

"We do some announcements through press releases, social media, Farmer's Market web page, and the city web page for the farmers market — all of that," she said.

Seydell Johnson said reintroducing Wednesday night markets in the

future is possible.

"Market conditions would need to change," she said. "I really think that some of the online markets have taken away the fruit and vegetable vendors. If, for some reason, that didn't work out or they decided they wanted to have one in-person venue again, we'd be open to talking about it again in the future."

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Contributed

BACTERIUM
Continued from Front

tion, commended Schmitz for her submission.

"Schmitz is a great researcher and a great student," Nagorzanski said. "When I was watching her video, what really stuck out to me is just the passion that she brings to her research."

UI Associate Professor Craig Just said Schmitz navigated challenges while conducting her research. Labs were closed for almost four months in 2020, and impacted her work with the Iowa Geology Survey, Johnson County Historic Poor Farm, and Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development.

Just said the treatment

process Schmitz is trying to optimize requires land that is managed in a specific way.

"Iowa has a lot of tile — that's about 2 million miles," he said. "That's enough to go to the moon and back four times."

Tile, a system to drain water from fields, short-circuits nature's natural ability to treat nitrogen in the soil profile. The Johnson County Historic Poor Farm has tile water control structures.

"We can manipulate the water table in the soil to essentially engineer for these types of organisms that Emily's trying to work with," Just said.

He said the system is not available widely across Iowa. Many farmers can't optimize in the

way that Schmitz does.

"We've also been working with the Iowa Geological Survey," Just said. "They put in monitoring wells and got the soil cores that Emily needed to hunt for that DNA to search for this class of organisms."

Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development and Grow Johnson County helped by offering the field site for research.

"Schmitz is a powerful combination of scientific knowledge and

community engagement in public speaking," Just said.

Schmitz said bacteria serve a vital role in people's lives by keeping the climate and humans happy and healthy.

"There are bacteria out there in the world and the soils, and we need to think of more sustainable farming practices for bacteria processes," Schmitz said. "If we can move forward like that, I think it will be just fine."

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There are bacteria out there in the world and the soils, and we need to think of more sustainable farming practices for bacteria processes. If we can move forward like that, I think it will be just fine.

— Emily Schmitz, UI graduate research assistant

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ARIA	EAST	ETSY	3	4	9	6	2	5	8	7	1
RETWEET	OBAMA	ADDDED	7	1	5	8	3	9	4	2	6
URANUS	LOAN	UTES	8	2	6	4	1	7	5	9	3
GELS	SIX	CITE	9	8	4	1	5	2	3	6	7
GAL	SPAS	BHUTAN	1	3	7	9	4	6	2	5	8
SLASHED	TIRE	BLEAT	6	5	2	7	8	3	1	4	9
BUOY	OTTO	WANE	4	6	3	5	9	8	7	1	2
ADA	DASHED	HOPES	5	7	8	2	6	4	1	3	0
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END	DAYS	ODDLY	7	1	3	4	6	8	5	9	0

Bicycle Tips: Repair Stations

**Need air in your tires?
Brakes need adjusting?**

- 10 FREE campus DIY bicycle repair stations.

Stations have tools for basic bike repair and an air pump.

- Locations listed online.

transportation.uiowa.edu

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR JOHNSON COUNTY
CASE NO. ESP035304
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF
EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
SHIRLEY A. RUTH, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Shirley A. Ruth, Deceased, who died on or about March 11, 2022:

You are hereby notified that on April 20, 2022, the Last Will and Testament of Shirley A. Ruth, deceased, bearing date of September 28, 1999, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Lucinda Marie Rohret was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Black Student Union returns after COVID-19 hiatus

After halting programming because of COVID-19, the University of Iowa Black Student Union returned to virtual and in-person events for the spring 2022 semester.

Arabia Parkey
News Reporter

To create unity through academic excellence and cultural involvement, the University of Iowa Black Student Union, or BSU, returned to campus this semester after a hiatus caused by COVID-19.

a lot of in-person meetings," Christiansen said.

BSU hosted multiple general body meetings over Zoom throughout the spring 2022 semester and recently held its first in-person event — an End of the Year Cookout at City Park on April 23. Afro House Coordinator

first, or how I could support the students in getting it restarted," Gladney said. "But I think, honestly, once the students were involved and interested, things went pretty seamlessly."

Christiansen said BSU aims to bring newer and younger voices onto the executive board to "show them the ropes" of leading the organization.

"We were really focusing on making sure that the youth of the University of Iowa were able to speak and have a voice in BSU, because they are going to be the ones that are going to eventually lead the Black community once we're gone," Christiansen said.

The executive board of BSU is finding ways to hit the ground running next semester, he said, after reintroducing itself to campus this spring.

Partnerships with the Afro House, creating podcasts, and hosting events at the beginning of the semester are some of the

BSU's many goals, Christiansen said.

"Also, just making sure that the community is helping local Black organizations and local Black businesses because that's the main thing BSU has always done since I was a freshman," Christiansen said.

BSU's collaborations with local Black businesses have already started. The organization partnered with Iowa City restaurant Mama's Chicken and Fish for a fundraiser in April to raise money for the End of the Year Cookout.

With only a short period for event organizing this year, BSU couldn't host its annual BSU Gala. The Gala is a Homecoming event, where Black students can wear black-tie attire and vote for the Gala's king and queen.

UI third-year student and BSU Secretary Lily Hester said the organization aims to celebrate Black joy in the upcoming school year, including through a return of the



Contributed photo of Lily Hester by Samm Yu

Gala.
"I think BSU not having a presence was very strange," Hester said. "And so, we want to have a big gala, where we can all get dressed up again and stuff like that and just, like, celebrating our presence on campus."

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...They are going to be the ones that are going to eventually lead the Black community once we're gone.

— Darius Christiansen, BSU vice president

Darius Christiansen, UI third-year student and BSU vice president, said the biggest challenge the organization faced in its return was finding its way among other Black organizations that had already planned many events throughout the year.

"Also, we had to find a way to make sure that the BSU was still for the people, while also dealing with the effects of COVID-19, and without being able to have

Shalisa Gladney supported BSU's student leaders through the process of restarting the organization this semester, with the help of a succession document created by Arika Allen, former BSU president.

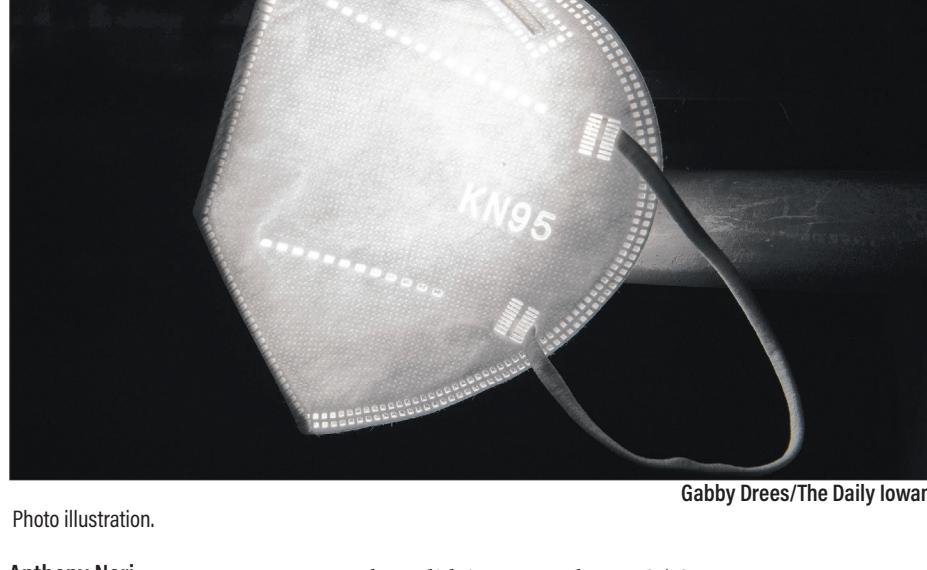
Figuring out the best plan of action in the extensive process of reactivating BSU was an obstacle for the organization, Gladney said.

"I think, originally, it was just trying to figure out what steps to take

Partnerships with the Afro House, creating podcasts, and hosting events at the beginning of the semester are some of the

Johnson County moves from low to medium COVID-19 community spread

Johnson County is one of three Iowa counties that moved from a low to medium community level spread on Thursday. While cases are steadily increasing, the outbreak is still less severe than previous ones.



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

Photo illustration.

Anthony Neri
News Reporter

Johnson County moved from a low to medium community spread level on Thursday as COVID-19 cases increased in Iowa. Poweshiek and Howard Counties also shifted to medium community levels, while the rest of Iowa remains at a low level.

Daniel Diekema, clinical professor of internal medicine-infectious diseases at the University of Iowa, said cases have increased over the past few weeks, but not as steeply

as they did in December 2021 and January of this year during the initial omicron surge.

The recent increase is due to two subvariants of the omicron variant called BA.2 and its descendant, BA.2.12.1, Diekema said. Both make up over 95 percent of current COVID-19 infections in the U.S. and are known for high transmissibility, but not severity.

As of April 23, BA.2 made up 68 percent of the COVID-19 cases in the region, including Iowa, while BA.2.12.1 made up

25.9 percent.

Diekema said the omicron subvariants are generally better than previous variants at evading immune responses from prior infection and vaccination.

"The mutations in the gene that encodes for the spike protein were quite frequent, and so that protein was able to — [to] some extent — evade the immune response from previous infection and vaccination," he said.

Johnson County Public Health Community Health Manager Sam

Jarvis said that, while the department did see a slight increase in cases over the course of April, hospitalizations and mortality rates have not risen quite as much.

"At the moment, it's not a similar situation that we've seen in the past, where we've seen cases increase and then hospitalizations shortly follow," Jarvis said. "It has been more of a step-wise increase instead of a surge."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, there are currently 305 COVID-19 cases per 1,000 people in Johnson County, compared to 174 cases the previous week and 145 the week before that.

There have been 6.7 new admissions due to the virus per 1,000 people to county hospitals over the past seven days.

The CDC recommends the following to those living in medium level communities:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines

He said he encourages those who can continue physical distancing and mask-wearing in public spaces to do so, especially to protect their family, friends, and colleagues who might be immunocompromised or susceptible.

Diekema also stressed the importance of vaccines and booster shots as well as medications available to those who are in the early stages of infection.

"If you develop symptoms, you need to get tested promptly because there are medications that can reduce your risk of having a severe infection, but those need to be given within the first five days of symptoms," he said.

Diekema said even a mildly infected person can get long COVID-19 symptoms that can be extremely debilitating.

"Until we learn more about some of these manifestations of COVID-19, it's good to try to protect yourself from infection," he said. "One way to do that is to be vaccinated, and, like I said, wear masks in indoor settings, whenever there are elevated rates of infection in the community."

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We're making a plan to stop HIV in Iowa—and we need your help.

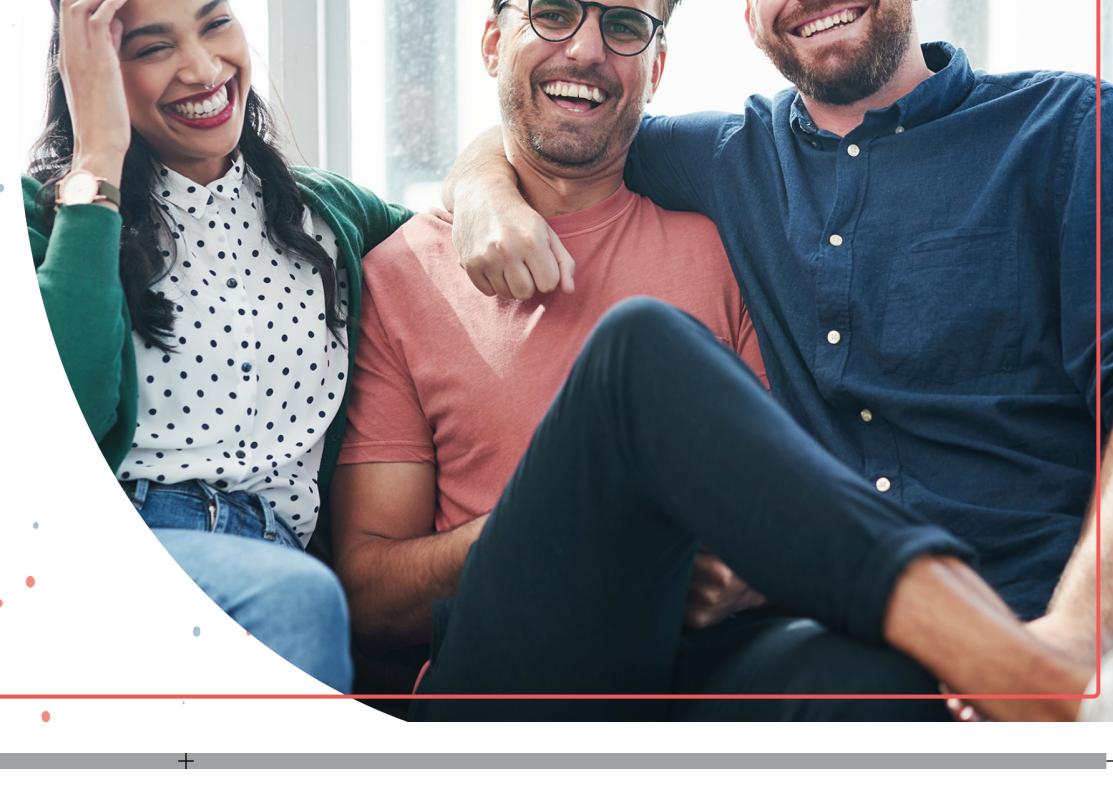
We can stop HIV in Iowa. We're creating a plan with input from partners across the state. Our team includes people living with HIV, folks from local and state health agencies, and community advocates.

But that's not all—we want to hear from you! Send us your feedback, ideas, and questions. Your voice is an important part of this story.

THE TIME
IS NOW
STOP
HIV
IOWA



To learn more & get involved, visit StopHIVIowaPlan.org



Opinions

COLUMN

The harm of mass incarceration

Mass incarceration affects millions of people and families in the U.S. The University of Iowa supports the system through use of prison labor to supply dorm and classroom essentials.



Yasmina Sahir
Opinions Columnist

more expensive. Mass incarceration costs Americans \$182 billion annually. Slightly more than \$13 billion is allocated to pre-trial detention.

The source of these funds? Tax dollars.

Iowa has an incarceration rate of 528 per every 100,000 people. This rate is higher than some countries including, but not limited to, the U.K., Canada, Italy, and France.

Iowa is a leader for mass incarceration practices and ranks in the top 10 states for the following categories: jail and prison admissions, jail pretrial holding, and jail sentence holding population.

Disproportions in incarceration rates are noted when factors like race, gender, socioeconomic status, level of formal education, as well as the absence or presence of a prior criminal record are considered.

As of April, the overall incarcerated population in the U.S. was approximately 38 percent Black.

In Iowa, incarcerated Black people account for 20 percent of people in jail and 24 percent of people in prison. Black Iowans, however, only make up 4 percent of the state's population.



While nationwide protests addressing police violence have waned in the past two years, Iowa City community members have not stopped fighting for reform of the criminal justice system.

Included in these calls for reform of how the U.S. handles criminalized activity and behaviors is an ask for support to end mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex.

As someone who has had a loved one fall victim to the injustice of mass incarceration and wrongful conviction, I have directly witnessed how this system negatively affects families.

The prison industrial complex is responsible for the surveillance of over 6 million people in the U.S. The title "prison industrial complex" is given to the intersection of government and capitalism, a relationship that uses in-

“ As someone who has had a loved one fall victim to the injustice of mass incarceration and wrongful conviction, I have directly witnessed how this system negatively affects families.

The effects of incarceration are not limited to the person who is physically confined behind bars.

In 2019, the total U.S. youth population was 73 million. Of those children, 5 million had a parent who was either currently or previously incarcerated.

Parents aren't the only connection that children — disproportionately, children of color — have to the justice system. Approximately 48,000 children are confined outside their homes per day in the U.S.

The collateral consequences for those with criminal records, adults and youth alike, include lack of access to employment, loss of voting rights, and an inability to have a driver's license in many cases, as well as stigmatization.

In 2020, one in every 44 adults was ineligible to vote in the presidential election because of a felony conviction.

My biological father is a registered sex offender, the result of an accusation against which he has maintained his innocence.

Because of this, I grew up ashamed of my background. Having an incarcerated parent is alienating and stigmatizing, considering the current U.S. sociopolitical climate that tells us criminals are lazy, liars, and must be guilty if convicted.

I am often met with disbelief when I stand behind my father on his claims of innocence. It's

important to remember that the U.S. justice system is not infallible.

In 2019, it was estimated that 2 to 10 percent of those currently incarcerated are innocent of all charges. The same report stated that approximately 2,400 people in the U.S. have been pronounced innocent after conviction since 1989.

When I left my hometown, I found groups like Transform Justice Coalition. Through this work and connections I've made, I now know my experiences aren't unique and I have no reason to be embarrassed.

Heather Erwin is a lecturer at the University of Iowa College of Education. She initially started the Transform Justice Coalition to bring attention to mass incarceration as well as the UI's involvement with these incarceration practices.

The UI Transformed Justice Collaborative is one student organization spreading awareness of

the connections between the UI and state prisons.

"The mission of the [Transform Justice Coalition] is to build community for people directly impacted by the criminal legal system, to bring awareness on campus to the insidiousness of the prison industrial complex, and to advocate for abolition of the carceral state," Erwin said.

All three state universities in Iowa — the UI, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa — participate and promote mass incarceration through their use of underpaid prison labor.

The list of campus equipment produced through prison labor includes dorm furniture, hand-sanitizer stations, desks, and chairs, among others.

While simultaneously claiming that incarcerated people are not forced into unfair work or wages, a publication from the Iowa Prison Industry stated that the highest com-

mon wage in Iowa prisons is \$2.00 per hour. The current legal minimum wage in Iowa is \$7.25.

In a demand-supply market system, we cannot ignore that willing consumerism of products made via prison slavery tells those in power that mass incarceration is supported. For me, I know I don't want my tuition dollars supporting a system that has directly and permanently harmed my family.

Mass incarceration cannot possibly end with only grassroots efforts or the work of a few student organizations. There are interconnected systems purposefully in place to ensure our dependence on keeping a large number of people behind bars.

As a campus community currently implicit in large-scale harm, we are all obliged to remember the sacrifices made to provide us with places to sleep and study.

— yasmina-sahir@uiowa.edu

THE DOCTOR IS IN

Medical research and how to find reliable data

Using these tips can help you search for accurate medical information and sort fact from fiction.

1. Is the resource reviewed by an expert on the topic?

A reputable resource clearly states where the information is coming from. This could be in the form of an "About Us" link on a website or an "about the author" at the end of an article, with a clear description of their qualifications and affiliations.

2. Is it too good to be true?

When it comes to medical advice, claims of certainty are not commonplace. Always be skeptical of any source that is making a bold or absolute claim.

3. Is this information evidence-based? Is it up to date?

A reliable resource will include clear indications about where and when the presented information was obtained. This may include article citations in a footer or toward the bottom of the resource.

4. Is the information strictly positive?

Recall that absolutes are rare in medicine. A balanced article will weigh the pros and cons of specific treatment in order to reduce biased opinions and help consumers of the informa-

tion make an informed decision based on their health. If the source you are looking at does not do this, you are likely not receiving all the relevant information.

Based on these criteria, there are many reliable online resources you can use to find medical information. MedlinePlus is a website from the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) that provides easy-to-understand health information.

Websites from reputable medical institutions like the Mayo Clinic or organizations like the American Diabetes Association also pass as reputable sources for medical information. These websites will often include

“ When looking for information, especially about your health, accuracy is imperative.

links to research for further exploration.

If you are a visual learner, the NLM website includes a short walk-through on how to evaluate health information websites, and a video from University of Iowa Information Literacy Librarian Tim Arnold for a discussion on disinformation can also be found online.

When looking for information, especially about your health, accuracy is imperative. Following these four quick and easy steps will allow you to efficiently find

the most accurate answer while avoiding false medical information. If you are in need of assistance in your research, do not hesitate to contact UI Libraries or one of the Health Sciences librarians on the Hardin Library website.

As always, feel free to talk to your medical provider if you have questions about what you are reading, and if you have any questions about your health.

— Landon Crippes, second-year medical student, Class of 2024

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be submitted via email to daily-iowan@uiowa.edu (as text, not attachments). Each letter must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be edited for clarity, length, and style.

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PLAN

Continued from Front

societal impact is important for remembering the university's bigger impact.

"We can't ever lose sight of the fact that we're a public university, and that we're partly supported by the state. Our role is to be an engine of good things in the state," Wilson said.

"That pillar really reminds us of our commitment to being a great public institution in the state of Iowa and in the Midwest."

Wilson said she is very supportive of where the university and the strategic plan are headed, but the plan will only work if it motivates lots of people to want to work on it.

"The good news about this is, if it's really truly a working document, people are already behind it because they've been involved in it and they're excited by it," she said. "It's going to drive us to work together to even greater levels of excellence."

During the strategic plan drafting process, a strategy team and four developmental teams were created to:

- Analyze and incorporate themes and priorities from collegiate and unit plans
- Hold listening sessions and focus groups across campus
- Identify areas of distinction
- Submit draft plans to the strategy team

UI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Development Team

Liz Tovar, executive officer and associate vice president of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and lead of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team, wrote in an email to the *DI* that the DEI team was a mix of various UI community members, and it took three months to assemble the final team.

"The membership of the DEI Development team consisted of individuals representing deans, faculty, staff, and students appointed in consultation with their respective governing bodies," she wrote. "We tried selecting a diverse group representing critical areas of our campus that are moving the needle in the DEI space."

As the lead, Tovar wrote that she ensured that those with the best knowledge in the DEI space could provide their voice. She also worked with communications and strategy teams to ensure alignment with campus feedback, needs, and other strategic plan pillars.

"We helped guide the development team groups and set/manage expectations while staying on the institution's timeline," she wrote.

Tovar wrote that it was important for the team to understand the strategic plan themes from the various central and collegiate units.

"Our statistics and data

liaisons helped us know where some gaps or areas need improvement," Tovar wrote. "I genuinely feel the diversity of our team led to an innovative approach to setting a new standard of DEI work over the next five years."

Throughout the team's time together, members split into subgroups that met with stakeholders and provided a draft of the most critical themes from those meetings. The groups included:

- Welcoming and Inclusive Culture
- Population Specific Supports
- Recruitment, Onboarding, and Retention
- Training and Policy Development

The DEI team wanted to draft a plan that could address specific needs and gaps on campus and be flexible and actionable, Tovar wrote.

"We began by setting a goal of developing one to three goals per subgroup with objectives and tactics," she wrote. "As our discussions progressed, we determined that if we achieved a proactive, cultural change throughout campus by embedding the ideals of respect for each other and a focus on inclusion, we could make substantial progress over the next five years."

Overall, Tovar wrote, it was important for there to be a DEI team contributing to the strategic plan internally because the previous DEI plan was drafted outside the strategic plan process.

"This time DEI is infused throughout and not thought of as a separate element," she wrote. "You can see aspects of our work in each of the five key priorities and the mission and values of the university."

UI Student Success Development Team

The Student Success Development Team also worked over the past year to establish the goals presented in the draft.

Tanya Uden-Holman, associate provost for Undergraduate Education and co-leader of the team with Amanda Thein and Angie Reams, wrote in an email to the *DI* that the team began meeting at the end of the spring 2021 semester and met throughout the summer and fall 2021.

"During that time, we engaged in discussions about student success priorities and reviewed the collegiate and central unit strategic plans to pull through student success ideas that could be explored or implemented at the institutional level," she wrote.

The team participated in listening sessions, key informant meetings, and focus groups to learn about areas of success and opportunities for improvement.

This resulted in a drafted student success plan submitted to the strategy team that included goals and strategies around facilitating growth in teaching and learning and supporting mental health and basic needs, Uden-Holman wrote.

A writing team integrated content from all four

development teams to produce a cohesive draft that spans the five overarching goal areas, Uden-Holman wrote, with student success aspects woven throughout the goals:

- Excellence in teaching and learning
- Innovative research and creative discovery
- Welcoming and inclusive environment
- Holistic well-being and success transformative societal impact

The Student Success Team wanted to create a plan that would facilitate the success of all students in their academic and professional goals, while also providing holistic support and fostering a sense of community and belonging, Uden-Holman wrote.

"We recognize the impact that the pandemic has had on students, and this planning context was critical in exploring ways we can provide support and connect students to the unique learning opportunities and communities at UI," she wrote. "We also recognize the need to weave diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our efforts."

One strategy the Student Success Team came up with involved equitable access to experiential learning opportunities, such as undergraduate research, mentored campus employment, and internships, Uden-Holman wrote.

Overall, Uden-Holman wrote that student success is foundational to what the UI is as an institution and was an important aspect of the strategic plan.

"What became even more apparent during feedback sessions last year was the high level of commitment and care our faculty and staff dedicate to supporting our students," she wrote.

UI Research and Discovery Development Team

University students and faculty were also able to connect on the Research and Discovery Development Team. Edith Parker, dean of the College of Public Health and team lead, said she wanted both staff and student representatives who were involved in research and discovery.

"We worked through shared governance to identify folks and then we wanted to make sure that we had the different college's disciplines — not one from each, but sort of major ones," she said.

Parker said the team was working to advance and enhance discovery and knowledge at the university.

"If you think about it, [the] University of Iowa is unique in that we have such amazing faculty doing research and discovery in the arts, be it dance, the visual arts, creative writing," Parker said. "We also have very strong health sciences, biomedical public health, dentistry, nursing, psychology, chemistry ... That's the strategic plan, to make us even stronger in all of these areas."

Like the DEI and Stu-

dent Success teams, the Research and Discovery Team broke into subgroups to tackle different aspects of the strategic plan, including:

- Critical Research Infrastructure
- Faculty and Staff Research
- Student and Post-doc Research
- Important Concentrations of Research

The groups met with around 20 to 25 focus groups and conducted key informant interviews with people across campus to receive their input, Parker said.

The group wants to build on the UI's reputation for excellence in research and bolster areas of distinction, she said. Additionally, it wants to continue supporting the university's culture of creativity and innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration on campus.

"We want to make sure that we have that critical infrastructure to enable and support our research, and then we want to support efforts to increase involvement of students at all levels of research and creative work," Parker said.

Parker said she was pleased with the outcome of her team's work alongside co-lead Joshua Weinert, and thinks it's important to let research have a voice in the plan, as well as a focus on more opportunities and promotions for student success in research.

"One of our roles is really to generate new knowledge and discovery, be it in biomedical or health care, or the arts or astronomy or psychology," Parker said.

UI Faculty and Staff Success Team

The fourth and final development team was the Faculty and Staff Success Team, headed by Associate Provost for Faculty Lois Geist and Cheryl Reardon.

Geist said the team did not come in with any specific goals, and instead looked at what was needed as a campus to support faculty and staff.

At its meetings, the team looked at collegiate plans for references in supporting faculty and staff, campus data such as Working at Iowa surveys, and campus climate surveys.

"We were still in the pandemic, so we were looking at things around well-being, but also wanted to make sure we were encompassing things like recruitment, retention, career advancement, and campus infrastructure," Geist said.

She said the team was able to incorporate the needs of the faculty into the strategic plan.

"We needed to ensure that their voices were heard, that we were looking at the people who were there after the students leave, both faculty and staff, and make sure that we were creating an environment that continued to attract strong, talented people to then be able to support our educational mission," she said.

The final strategic plan will be submitted to the regents on May 13. The board will vote on approval of the strategic plan at its June 2 meeting.

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SPI Board STUDENT VACANCY

The Board of Trustees of Student Publications Inc., which oversees *The Daily Iowan*, has two vacancies for

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

This is a one-year term covering the period from September 2022 through May 2023 with an option to serve a second term.

Nominees must be current undergraduate or graduate students of the University of Iowa and must be committed to working on the board until the term expires.

Duties include monthly meetings, committee work, selecting an editor and budget approval.

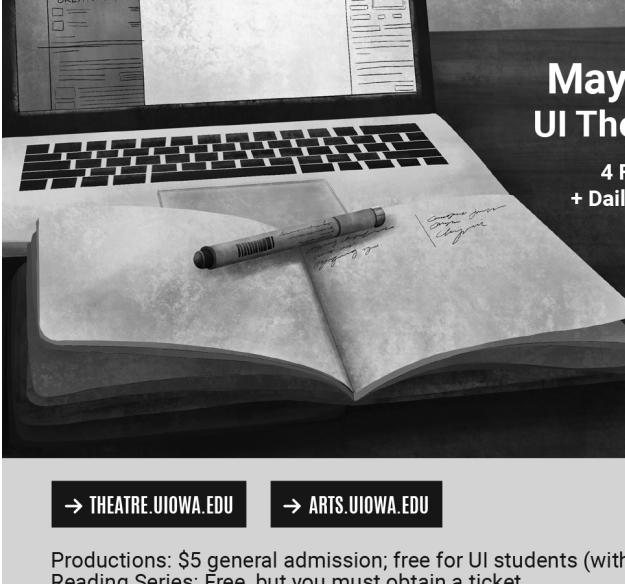
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APPLY TODAY

Anne Frank sapling takes root

The tree-planting ceremony honored Anne Frank and the power of the written word.

Natalie Dunlap
Politics Editor

When Anne Frank was hiding in a secret annex in an Amsterdam house for over two years, a chestnut tree outside her window served as a comfort and a symbol of freedom. On Friday, a sapling from the tree was planted on the Pentacrest lawn, bringing a piece of history to the University of Iowa campus.

"This tree will outlive all of us," said Kirsten Kumpf Baele, lecturer and outreach coordinator of German in the UI Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Culture at the tree-planting ceremony. "Let us care for and cultivate it together with annual commemoration, educational programming, literary output, and more, so that it will always serve as a reminder of Anne's story and her dedication to peace in the face of in-

justice."

At the ceremony, UI President Barbara Wilson said the sapling represents cultural understanding and free speech.

"It really, for me, is a symbol of building consensus and building community. We talk about that a lot here at the university," Wilson said. "We talk about diversity, we talk about how do we bring people together? How do we listen with the heart? How do we open people's minds? And how do we create cultural understanding? And I think Anne's diary has helped show the way."

Liz Tovar, UI executive officer and associate vice president of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, said at the tree-planting ceremony that the UI campus is a melting pot and living symbols such as the tree serve as a reminder of hope, unity, and resilience

among people on campus.

"Today, we look to the past to plant a symbol representing Anne Frank's spirit and humanitarian message for the future," Tovar said.

Kumpf Baele requested the sapling from the Anne Frank Center in 2018. She said Iowa City is an ideal home for the sapling because it is a UNESCO City of Literature, the state's original capital, and home to the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Anne Frank's tree will be planted in a place associated with free speech, activism, and celebration," she said.

Kumpf Baele said the sapling on the Pentacrest lawn in front of Macbride Hall is located at the intersection of campus and city life.

Members of the campus and all ages of the Iowa City community welcomed the tree on Friday evening. Nearly ev-



Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

A community member shovels dirt onto the Anne Frank sapling at a planting ceremony on the University of Iowa Pentacrest on Friday. The sapling was propagated from the chestnut tree behind the annex where Frank and her family hid.

ery seat in the Macbride Auditorium was full for the ceremony. The event

was inside instead of on the lawn because of rain showers.

"This shift in location ... has been a humbling experience," Kumpf Baele said. "It makes me reflect on how Anne may have felt all those months cut off from the tree that she admired, and how lucky we are that we have the freedom to go out and stand under its branches following this ceremony."

After the ceremony, more than a hundred people gathered outside and enjoyed a moment when rain wasn't falling and the sun appeared from behind the clouds.

The tree is now a part of the campus landscape and culture. Carolina Kaufman, director of education and engagement at the Pentacrest Museums, gave her first tour of trees on the UI campus on Friday. The newly planted chestnut tree is one of her stops on the tour.

Kaufman told *The Daily Iowan* in an interview following the ceremony that trees are significant because they represent

resilience, rebirth, and wisdom, and provide the materials used to document human history.

"I think, no matter what situation people are in, whatever tough situation they're going through, being in nature is helpful and healing," she said.

The tree-planting ceremony included a spoken word piece performed by Amal Kassir. The planting committee selected Kassir to perform because she embodies the spirit of Frank. Kassir is the daughter of a German-American woman born in Iowa and a Syrian man. In the Syrian war, 49 of Kassir's family members died. Her performance drew on hope in the face of adversity and celebrated the power of the written word.

"The problem starts with a closed door and keeping people out of the human heart," she said. "When it comes to humanity, there is no us versus them, there is only us."

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Gabby Drees/The Daily Iowan

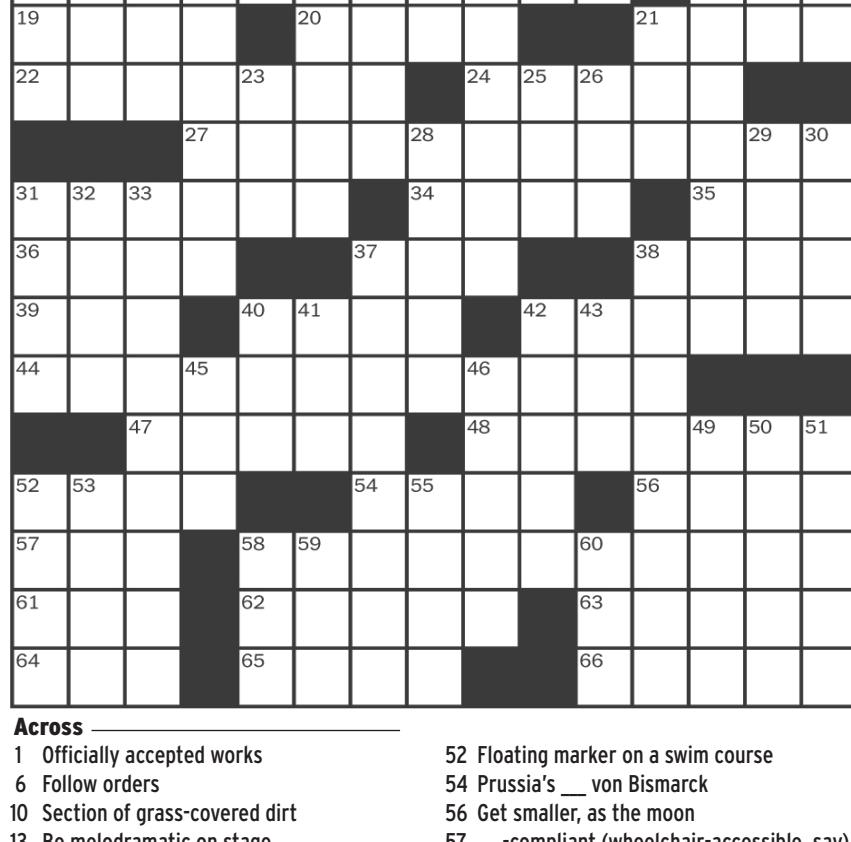
Attendees celebrate at a planting ceremony for an Anne Frank sapling on the University of Iowa Pentacrest on Friday.

The Daily Break

The New York Times

Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0328



Across

- 1 Officially accepted works
- 6 Follow orders
- 10 Section of grass-covered dirt
- 13 Be melodramatic on stage
- 14 Actor Carell of "The Office"
- 15 Wonderment
- 16 Q.U.E.U.E.S.
- 18 The "N" of N.Y.C.
- 19 Opera highlight
- 20 Direction of the morning light
- 21 Site to buy and sell handicrafts
- 22 Share, as a Twitter post
- 24 Barack, Michelle, Sasha or Malia
- 27 E+X+T+R+A+S
- 31 Seventh planet from the sun
- 34 Money for a mortgage
- 35 Salt Lake City collegian
- 36 Longer-lasting nail polish options
- 37 Highest number on a die
- 38 Give credit in a footnote
- 39 "Wonder Woman" star Gadot
- 40 Places to relax while getting all steamed up?
- 42 Himalayan country that's home to the world's highest unclimbed mountain
- 44 W/H/E/E/L/S
- 47 Lamb's cry
- 48 Continuously

- 52 Floating marker on a swim course
- 54 Prussia's __ von Bismarck
- 56 Get smaller, as the moon
- 57 __-compliant (wheelchair-accessible, say)
- 58 D-R-E-A-M-S
- 61 Neither's partner
- 62 Prove helpful
- 63 School vacation
- 64 Finale
- 65 Calendar boxes
- 66 In a strange way
- Down
- 1 Fragrant wood
- 2 Love, to Michelangelo
- 3 Cry heard at the start of a game of tag
- 4 Residents of Canada's capital
- 5 Once named
- 6 Redding who sang "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay"
- 7 Compartmented Japanese lunch
- 8 Allhallows __
- 9 "I'd love to!"
- 10 Costume for St. Nick
- 11 Is behind financially
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- 14 Bluish gray hue
- 17 Owners' papers

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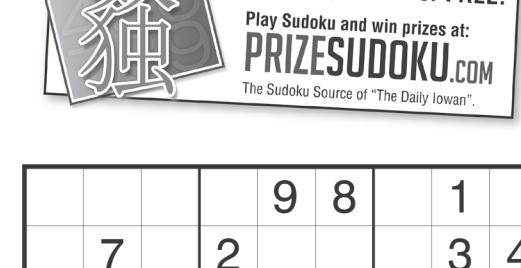
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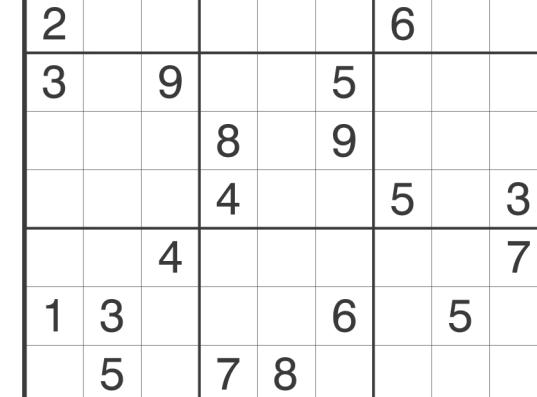
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LAPORTA

Continued from Page 8

team as a whole, I'm excited for my leadership role. I feel like it's continuously growing."

LaPorta started two games as a freshman in 2019. But, he said he didn't really know what was going on. LaPorta collected 15 receptions for 188 yards while playing behind former Hawkeye and current Denver Bronco Shaun Beyer in the 2019 football season.

"As a freshman, I really didn't know a whole lot," LaPorta said. "I was kind of just like running routes, the routes that they were telling me... like, 'Hey Sam, go out here and run a basic route.' Oh, I can do that."

Now, LaPorta said, he has a more diverse understanding of the Hawkeye offensive playbook. This season, he said, the entire Hawkeye offense is trying to improve. Iowa ranked 10th in the Big Ten in total offense in 2021, with 23.4 points per game. The Hawkeyes also ranked 109th out of 130 FBS teams in passing offense, with just 180 yards per game.

The Hawkeyes, howev-



Iowa tight end Sam LaPorta jogs into the end zone after a touchdown reception during a football game between Iowa and Colorado State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 25, 2021. Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

er, ranked above six other Big Ten institutions: Northwestern, Indiana, Rutgers, Minnesota, Wis-

consin, and Illinois in passing offense.

"Just the implementation of small things, and

we have a lot of returners," LaPorta said. "So, being able to, you know, pick the minds of veterans and

continuously learning. It's always a process — 'The hay's never in the barn,' we say, and we've never

arrived. So, continuing to grow at the little things."

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NFL DRAFT

Continued from Page 8

"We've had two Hawkeyes that were very successful here, and I'll just try to get on that same path as them," Linderbaum said.

It sounds like the former defensive tackle will have the chance to be successful from the start.

Harbaugh said he anticipates that Linderbaum will be Baltimore's starting center as a rookie. The Super Bowl-winning coach said Linderbaum adds intensity and toughness to the Ravens' offensive line.

"Just one of the most enjoyable football players to watch this year," Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta said. "I think all the scouts would say that. You're talking about one of the best technicians — strong, physical, tough, quick-footed. Somebody said it on TV, I think, if he was an inch taller and his arms were a half-inch longer, he would've been a top-five pick, and I believe that. He's probably one of the better centers we've seen come out in a long time. So, it filled a huge need for us."

Linderbaum is set to sign a four-year, \$13.24 million contract with a \$6.8 million

signing bonus, per Spotrac.

DB Dane Belton: Round 4, New York Giants (No. 114 overall)

The 6-foot-2, 205-pounder declared for the NFL Draft after his junior season and was selected in the fourth round, like current Tennessee

hybrid safety/linebacker role) the past two seasons, proving his versatility to NFL teams.

Belton is set to sign a contract with the Giants worth \$4.4 million (\$784,000 signing bonus), per Spotrac.

Iowa's last three starters at "cash" (Hooker, Geno Stone, and Belton) have all

last season, last in the NFC East. The franchise, which ranked 23rd out of 32 teams last season — allowing 24.5 points per game — is entering its first season under head coach Brian Daboll.

Undrafted free agents

Linderbaum and Belton

players' phones kept ringing.

So far, six undrafted Hawkeyes have signed with a team or received an invitation for a tryout:

- Tyler Goodson, running back: Signed with Green Bay Packers.
- Matt Hanks, cornerback: Signed with Atlanta Falcons.
- Jack Koerner, safety: Signed with

New Orleans Saints.

Caleb Shudak, kicker: Signed with Tennessee Titans.

• Zach VanValkenburg, defensive end: Signed with Las Vegas Raiders.

• Kyler Schott, guard: mini-camp tryout with Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Check back at dailiyowan.com for the latest signings.

robert-read@uiowa.edu



Iowa defensive back Dane Belton reads the Indiana offense during a football game between No. 18 Iowa and No. 17 Indiana at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 4, 2021. Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Titans safety and fellow former Hawkeye Amari Hooker. Belton played Iowa's "cash" position (a

declared early and will be in NFL training camps this summer.

The Giants finished 4-14

were the only Hawkeyes drafted over the weekend. But, even after the final round ended, former Iowa

gonna try to do that for as long as I can," Brecht said. "Obviously, at some point, I'm probably gonna have to prioritize one over the other."

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BRECHT

Continued from Page 8

baseball team in summer 2021 over attending Iowa football summer workouts.

One week into fall workouts with the football team, Brecht sustained a thumb injury, keeping him out for the 2021-22 football season.

Now, Brecht has recovered from the injury on his pitching hand, but his commitment to the baseball team put him behind in football spring training. Brecht has been very limited in Hawkeye football's spring practice, wide receivers coach Kelton Copeland said.

"When he can and when he's available, basically non-game days for base-

ball, he's practicing with us," Copeland said. "He still is in attendance at practice, but most of those baseball game days he's not dressed, for obvious reasons, because he has to play a game potentially later on that afternoon."

Copeland stressed that baseball is currently the priority for Brecht because the sport is in season.

"Football offseason

lifting is obviously very important," Brecht said. "But this is the main baseball season. We're gonna be traveling a lot. So, it's pretty busy."

Brecht is again prioritizing baseball over football for the upcoming summer. He is heading to Clinton, Iowa, to pitch for the Clinton Lumberkings in the Prospect League.

The Lumberkings' sched-

ule runs from June 1 to Aug. 6, which will force Brecht to miss Hawkeye football's summer workouts.

Brecht has a lot of potential, both as a wide receiver and as a pitcher. But his ceiling as a pitcher is higher. He has a 100-mile-per-hour fastball — a rare sight in collegiate, and even professional, baseball.

In 13 appearances for the Hawkeyes this season, he has a 2.37 ERA — second-lowest on the team. He has 36 strikeouts over 68 batters faced for a 52.9 percent strikeout rate, as of April 29.

Brecht knows he'll have to choose sooner rather than later, and it should be baseball.

"I've been trying to go all in on both and I'm

gonna try to do that for as long as I can," Brecht said. "Obviously, at some point, I'm probably gonna have to prioritize one over the other."

chloe-peterson@uiowa.edu



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa pitcher Brody Brecht throws a pitch during the second baseball game of a doubleheader between Iowa and Illinois at Duane Banks Field in Iowa City on April 9. Brecht struckout two Illini in one inning.

HELP WANTED

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Department of Environmental Services is seeking custodians to provide a safe, clean and healthy environment for patients, guests, visitors and staff of UIHC.

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Sports

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Northern Iowa's Trevor Penning picked in first round of NFL Draft

Trevor Penning made history on Thursday night, becoming the first-ever University of Northern Iowa football player to be selected in the first round of the NFL Draft. Penning was selected 19th overall by the New Orleans Saints.

Penning was the first player from an Iowa school off the board. Former Hawkeye All-American center Tyler Linderbaum was the only other player from an Iowa school to be selected in the first round, as he went 25th overall to the Baltimore Ravens.

Penning only had Division I offers from UNI and South Dakota when he started his collegiate football career.

The 6-foot-7, 325-pound offensive tackle won a starting offensive line job in 2019 and spent three years as the Panthers' star tackle. Penning started all 12 games for UNI in 2021, allowing just 11 pressures and one sack. He was a finalist for the Walter Payton Award, which goes to the best offensive player in the FCS.

Penning ran a 4.89-second 40-yard dash at the NFL Draft Combine.

Josh Ogundele returning to Iowa men's basketball

After putting his name in the transfer portal on March 30, rising junior center Josh Ogundele announced Thursday via Twitter that he is returning to Iowa men's basketball for the 2022-23 season.

Ogundele played off the bench in his first two years as a Hawkeye. The 6-foot-11 center appeared in 27 games over two seasons.

During his sophomore season in 2021-22, Ogundele totaled 29 points, 24 rebounds, five blocks, and four steals over 19 games.

In the 2022 Big Ten Championship Game, Ogundele played 10 minutes off the bench with the defensive assignment of guarding Purdue 7-foot-1 center Zach Edey. Ogundele scored four points in the Hawkeyes' Big Ten Championship Game victory, while holding Edey to 12 points.

Ogundele was one of three Iowa men's basketball players from the 2021-22 squad to enter the transfer portal. Point guard Joe Toussaint, who put his name in the portal on March 29, transferred to West Virginia. Guard Austin Ash is still in the portal.

The Hawkeyes will now likely return 11 players from the 2021-22 team. While sophomore forward Keegan Murray will enter the NBA Draft, guard Connor McCaffery announced on April 22 that he will come back for a sixth year with the Hawkeyes.

Sophomore forward Kris Murray is also entering the NBA Draft, but he is not hiring an agent. He will retain his collegiate eligibility for a possible return to Iowa in 2022-23. Kris Murray has until June 1 to withdraw his name from the draft to return to Iowa.

Molly Davis transferring to Iowa women's basketball

Central Michigan guard Molly Davis announced Thursday on Twitter that she will transfer to Iowa women's basketball for the 2022-23 season.

Davis, who played three years at the Mid-American Conference institution, will have two years of eligibility remaining.

The 5-foot-7 guard started every game in her Chippewa career. She earned All-MAC second-team honors in her freshman season in 2019-20, and was a first-teamer in 2020-21.

In her junior season in 2021-22, Davis averaged 18.6 points, 3.8 rebounds, and 4.7 assists per game on the way to an All-MAC second-team honor.

Davis is leaving a Chippewa program that went 4-25 overall for a Hawkeye program that achieved a 24-8 record and won both the Big Ten regular season and tournament championships.

Iowa is returning all five starters — fifth-year senior Monika Czinano, seniors Gabbie Marshall, Kate Martin, and McKenna Warnock, and junior Caitlin Clark — for the second straight year.

Davis will likely come off the bench for the Hawkeyes, filling in for Clark at point guard when necessary.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm speechless."

- Tyler Linderbaum to Ravens head coach John Harbaugh

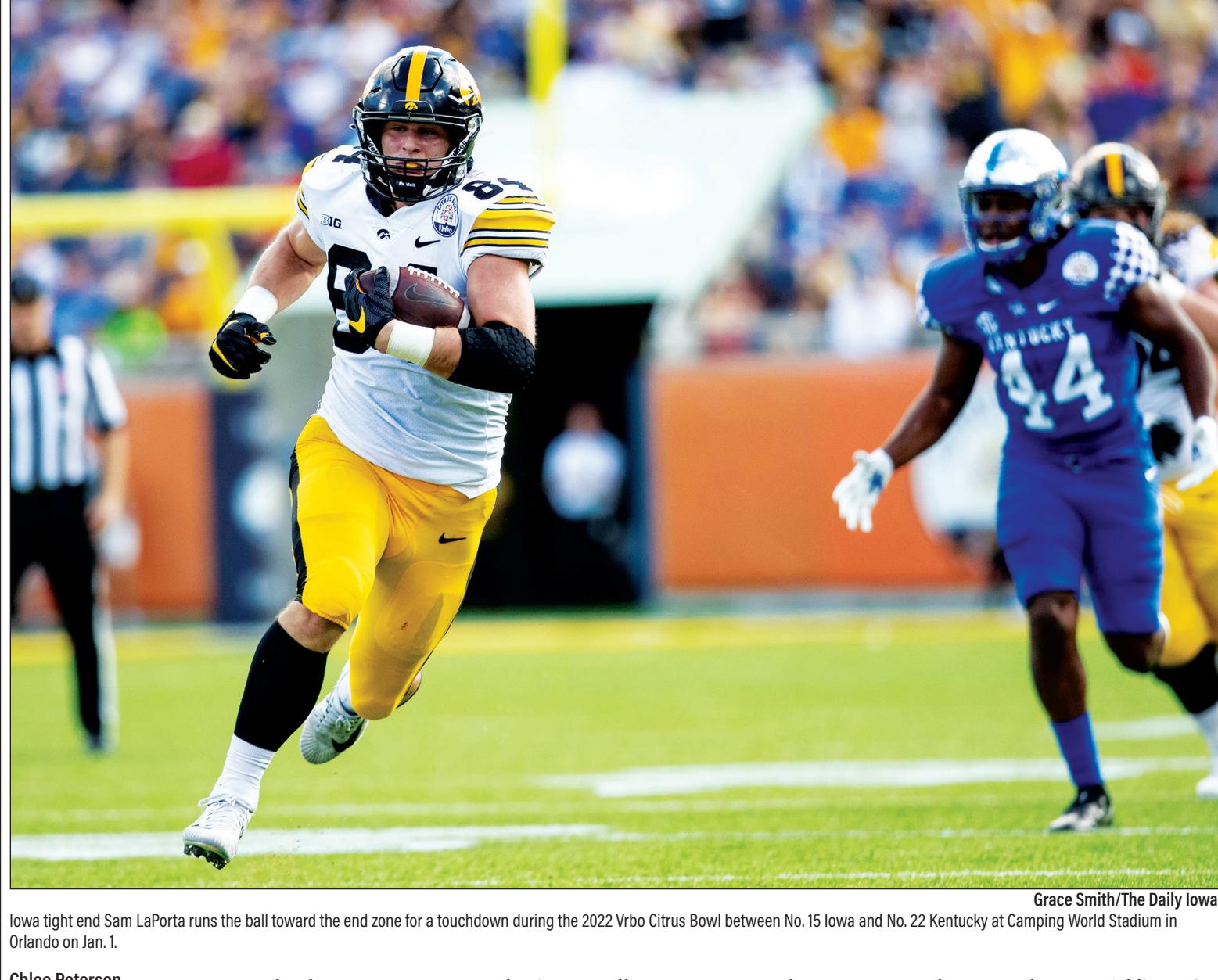
STAT OF THE DAY

7

Total wins for Iowa women's tennis in the 2022 season

LaPorta ready for senior year

The tight end is prepared to make a difference in possibly his last season with the Hawkeyes.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa tight end Sam LaPorta runs the ball toward the end zone for a touchdown during the 2022 Vrbo Citrus Bowl between No. 15 Iowa and No. 22 Kentucky at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on Jan. 1.

Chloe Peterson
Assistant Sports Editor

Iowa football head coach Kirk Ferentz thinks Sam LaPorta has "a certain knack" about him.

LaPorta was a 2019 three-star tight end recruit out of Highland, Illinois, when Ferentz and the Hawkeyes extended him an offer. Although LaPorta had a bevy of offers from Division I football institutions, including Western Illinois, Central Michigan, and Northern Iowa, Iowa was the only Power Five

school.

"Some guys just have a certain knack, or air, about them," Ferentz said. "He's had that. It's a little bit ironic because he was not a five-star recruit. Took us a while to figure it out. Thank goodness we did."

"Since the day he walked in here, he acts like a football player," Ferentz added. "... He makes decisions — has a knack for doing things the right way. That's good to see. He's got a confidence about him, an air about him, just the way

he is naturally. He's one of those guys that people gravitate towards."

LaPorta considered entering the NFL Draft after his junior season in 2021. After receiving feedback from the NFL regarding his draft status, however, he decided to return to Iowa for his senior season.

"I had to think about the opportunity it presented for my family as well," LaPorta, a business major, said. "But being able to come back and finish up my degree and play my senior year with

my boys, I mean, I don't know how I can pass that up. There's no place like the University of Iowa. I truly believe that."

Now, as a senior, LaPorta is excited for the chance to become a leader in the locker room.

The 6-foot-4 tight end led the Hawkeyes with 670 receiving yards in the 2021-22 season — almost doubling freshman wide receiver Keagan Johnson's second-place mark of 352. LaPorta averaged 12.6 yards per catch.

Iowa has three incoming freshmen to the tight

end room: Addison Ostrenge from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, Kyson Van Vugt from Hull, Iowa, and Cael Vanderbush from Plainfield, Indiana.

"I feel like I have to start with the young guys in the room ... coaching young guys, trying to let them pick my brain a little bit," LaPorta said. "Hopefully they don't make the same mistakes that I did in the past, because I'm teaching them that. Of course, expanding to the offense as a unit and the

LAPORTA | Page 7

On to Baltimore

The Daily Iowan broke down which players signed with which teams after three days of the NFL Draft.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa center Tyler Linderbaum prepares to snap 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.

Robert Read
Pregame Editor

Tyler Linderbaum, Iowa's Rimington Trophy-winning former center, isn't known for being chatty. After the Baltimore Ravens selected the consensus All-American in the first round of the 2022 NFL Draft on Thursday night, the right words were becoming even tougher for Linderbaum to find.

"I'm speechless," the Iowan from Solon told Ravens head coach John Harbaugh over the phone when he found out he was being selected 25th overall by Baltimore. "I don't even know what to say."

"You'll be blocking people soon enough," Harbaugh answered moments later.

Linderbaum and defensive back Dane Belton were the two former Hawkeyes selected in this year's NFL Draft. In the last 24 years under head coach Kirk Ferentz, 81 Iowa players have been drafted. Linderbaum is the 11th first-round pick in that timeframe. Along with the two draft picks, several other Hawkeyes signed with teams as undrafted free agents.

The *Daily Iowan* broke down where these players are headed and what is in store for them at the next level.

C Tyler Linderbaum: Round 1, Baltimore Ravens (No. 25 overall)

The first question Linderbaum was asked during his introductory press conference in Baltimore had to do with other Hawkeyes who have made an impact with the Ravens.

Offensive lineman Marshal Yanda, an eight-time Pro Bowler, spent 13 seasons with the Ravens after being a third-round pick out of Iowa. Ferentz spent three seasons in Baltimore as offensive line coach/assistant head coach.

COLUMN

Decision time

Iowa two-sport athlete Brody Brecht will have to choose between football or baseball sooner rather than later.



Chloe Peterson
Assistant Sports Editor

Decision time is coming for Brody Brecht. And it already seems like he's chosen baseball.

Brecht, who was recruited by both head football coach Kirk Ferentz and head baseball coach Rick Heller, came to Iowa in 2021 with the intention of playing both sports for the Hawkeyes.

"It was a lot, deciding, you know, should I do both?" Brecht said at Iowa baseball's media day on Feb. 10. "Should I just play one — focus on one? But ultimately, I decided the best thing for me to do was to do both."

In his final football season at Ankeny High School in 2020, Brecht had 42 receptions for 599 yards and 12 touchdowns. Brecht's offensive abilities on the football field convinced Ferentz to extend him an offer, even though Ferentz knew he'd be sharing Brecht with the baseball team and Heller.

"God has blessed me with the ability to play both at the Big Ten level," Brecht said. "So, it was really cool, you know, to have the opportunity. They both communicated well, and I'm glad that they've been able to work well together to make this work."

But he had to make another decision before he even came to the University of Iowa: whether he wanted to attend college or go into the 2021 MLB Draft.

Brecht was the No. 77 prospect in the MLB Draft, but he ultimately couldn't give up his dream of playing for the Hawkeyes. Brecht told the *Des Moines Register* in July 2021 that he set a seven-figure price tag to be drafted, and teams decided to pass on him throughout the 20-round draft.

So, he made the two-hour trek from Ankeny to Iowa City before his freshman football season in fall 2021.

But at every turn, Brecht has chosen baseball over football. First, Brecht decided to play a final season with the Ankeny Hawks