

Remembering ground zero

University of Iowa alum Michael Weinstock was a volunteer firefighter in New York on Sept. 11, 2001. He ran from his apartment to ground zero when the twin towers collapsed.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

One of the two 9/11 Memorial pools is seen in New York City on Sept. 11, 2021.

Jami Martin-Trainor
Assistant Digital Editor

Editor's note: The following article includes content surrounding the falling of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, and other graphic descriptions.

The sound of the towers crashing onto the surface of New York City. The smell of fuel and decomposing bodies. The physical vibrations of the Earth as catastrophe took over.

These are the images that stick with Michael Weinstock, who was a first re-

sponder on 9/11. Weinstock started working as a volunteer firefighter in his home state of New York when he was 18 and continued to work after attending the University of Iowa. Inspired by Johnathan, his friend from high school who died while responding on 9/11, Weinstock served for over a decade before he arrived at ground zero.

From the panic in Howard Stern's voice over the radio to the lasting pain of losing a friend, Weinstock told *The Daily Iowan* his story of that fateful day.

The planes hit

I moved into a new apartment on September 1, 2001. A real tiny, tiny studio that had two great big windows, and those windows overlooked the World Trade Center. When I moved in, I said to the owner, "This is the best view in New York City. I love it." I think maybe God really wanted me to be there that day, because I just moved into that place.

Everyone in New York City had this little anecdote where they say, "I was supposed to be there that day." It seemed like everyone had a story about how they were almost there, that they were supposed to

be there that day. I was the only person who wasn't supposed to be there that day. I wasn't supposed to be in Manhattan. I was supposed to be chilling on my bed. It was the first day of my vacation.

I was listening to "The Howard Stern Show" that morning. I was lying in my bed, just chilling, and I had no intention of leaving the comfort of my bed. It wasn't until I heard the fear in Howard Stern's voice that I climbed out of my loft and looked out the window, because his fear told me this is not a normal plane crash

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INSIDE



Uncomplementary football

Iowa lost the Cy-Hawk Trophy for the first time since 2014 after a 10-7 loss to Iowa State. The Hawkeyes had four turnovers and only 150 yards.

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President Biden's student loan plan could affect midterm voter turnout

Democrats and Republicans wonder if young voter turnout will be affected for the midterm elections this November by policies such as the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and the student loan forgiveness plan.

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ONLINE

UI beats top universities for second spot in writing in national rankings

The UI is now second in the country overall for writing according to the 2022 U.S. News and World Report's newest ranking and remains at 83rd among both public and private universities. Among public institutions, the UI slipped to 35th overall.

DITV

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Iowa City children to sell goods at Kids Market

Local kids are excited to share their homemade and homegrown items with Iowa City residents



Stefany Claussen, 11, poses for a portrait at her home in Iowa City on Sept. 7.

Emily Nyberg
News Reporter

The Iowa City Kids Day at the Market is giving local kids the opportunity to show off their passions for a profit.

The Market takes place from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 24 at the Chauncey Swan Park. Vending at the market is free of charge but highly sought after by families. The Kids Market reached the maximum capacity of vendors again this year due to community interest.

"We have 50 kids signed up, and we have a waiting list of just under 30 and that number is growing, so it's a really popular event each year," Michelle Wiegand, Iowa City's recreation program supervisor for special events and communications, said. "We had our first application

within 3 minutes after I sent out the notification, and we were full within a few days."

Stefany Claussen, 11, is excited to return to the market for her second year as a vendor. At last year's market, she sold baked goods.

Claussen looks forward to preparing this year's selection and plans to showcase acrylic paintings, which will be available for purchase for the first time.

"I haven't started my baked goods yet because I want to make sure they're pretty fresh," Claussen said. "Luckily, paintings don't have to be fresh."

The market brings new people into the farmers market community every year. The Short sisters

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Rising costs hitting Iowa City Community School District

Costs for employee wages, food, and transportation are impacting the district.

Emily Nyberg
News Reporter

The Iowa City Community School District is facing a multitude of financial problems as prices for various supplies rise because of inflation.

The school district will spend more money on construction materials, fuel, and food for the 2022-23 school year.

Chace Ramey, deputy superintendent of the ICCSD, said the district is struggling, but other school districts have it worse.

"The shortages obviously exist, but we see Iowa City as a destination district for teachers and a place that they'd like to come to," Ramey said. "And there are a number of different factors for that, so we have not been as negatively impacted as some districts."

Across the U.S., resources are coming up short, and costs are rising for nearly everything. According to data from the U.S. Department of Labor, the 2022 annual inflation rate for the United States is 8.5 percent, while the 2021 rate was 7 percent.

Construction material prices are rising, but the school district has not canceled any major projects.

"Costs have gone up due to supply chain problems and timing of getting materials, and so we have seen that impact some of our projects," Ramey said.

Major projects in the district are underway at Iowa City West High School, including the addition of a new administrative office, student commons, entrance security, improved music rooms,

ICCS | Page 5



Contributed.

GROUND ZERO

Continued from Front

— this is something much, much greater. That's how I ended up — my life changed because there was fear in Howard Stern's voice that day.

There was never any question. As soon as I saw the huge — the massive amount of dark black smoke pouring out of the tower — I immediately went into action. I couldn't not.

Standard emergency protocol

Part of our regulations is that firefighters are required to go to the firehouse. In 12 years, I never violated that rule except for that one day.

As I looked out the window, I saw the smoke that was pouring out of the tower. I knew right away that it was a mass casualty incident.

And so, it was because I had that breadth of experience at 12 years that I said OK, I'm violating standard procedures and I'm offering it to the team. So, I grabbed my bag of emergency medical supplies. And I ran outside, and I weighed down the first truck I saw — which happened to be an ambulance — and I said, "My name is Michael. I'm a firefighter and EMT."

I grabbed a box of rubber gloves, and I brought it up front to these guys. And I said, "We're going to have lots of casualties on the higher floors."

We suspect[ed] that the second tower was hit while we were in the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.

And so, the plan was to pull out the stretcher and just fill it with all sorts of equipment that fire victims would need. And then just really, like, treat it like a wheelbarrow and drag it up to the 76th floor and started treating victims. Which, by the way, is nothing they teach you in the academy.

We're just taking all of our career experience and amending it on the fly to this mass casualty incident.

The first tower falls

We were pulled over by an officer at the scene, and he directed us where to park the ambulance. He said, "I want you to be careful. This is still an active scene."

[The officer] was choosing his words carefully. What he was saying was, "You're going to see, as soon as you turn the corner here, there are dead bodies. You're going to be driving, and try to drive over as few [bodies] as possible, because there were bodies and bodies all over the roadway."

There was a torso here and an arm here and whatever sweater there and that was all over. And I remember I had made eye contact with the guy I was working with, and I'm like, "You good? You good?" [He took] a second to compose himself. And then we were doing exactly what we said we were going to do.

We were loading up the stretcher with medical equipment and oxygen bottles, saline solution — all that stuff. All of a sudden, I felt it before I saw it. I felt the roadway rumble, and I heard dizzy, roaring, rumbling to my left.

We just dropped everything on the ground, and

we ran as fast as we possibly could to the closest building to our truck, popping over orange cones and also — quite frankly — hopping over bodies and body parts along the way.

We made it just in the nick of time. Then, the entire building came down right behind us and the ambulance was crushed and destroyed.

[It was like] there was white snow coming down ... For the first couple of minutes, I thought it was snowing, I was having a dream. [I thought], thank God, that was really scary. I'm glad that I'm really waking up and my bed is warm.

So, it's September. And I was 100 percent certain that that was [I] dreaming. And then I would wake up in my bed. I remember thinking, "Oh, thank god, that was so scary. I'm so glad that this is a dream, and I'm going to be waking up in a minute or two."

And I said to myself, "I'll keep playing along in this dream." I'll keep treating people, but I know it's a dream. And I'm going to wake up is like a guarantee, and then it just went on for like months, and it went crazy for a while.

And yet, I still — like — there's this little tiny, tiny part of me that is hoping and expecting that I'm going to wake up from this dream.

The second tower falls

The first time [a tower fell down], we all rushed into that building and found some safety and we're treating injured people ... [and then] a police officer had everyone gathered up near the elevator, and he raised his hand and he said, "OK, I want everyone to form a single file line."

There's a staging area being set up at Battery Park, and we're going to work in a walk up. And I tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Listen, I don't know what the hell's going on out there. But there are dead people all over the ground. But this is a nice, safe old building that would lock the marble, and we should sit tight by these elevator banks for at least 25 minutes to an hour. Then once we're certain that it's safe outside to move people, then we could move."

He didn't even look up to see who I was. He didn't know if I was a younger guy. He just nods his head, [and] he says, "Ladies and gentlemen, change your plans. This is a nice, safe old building, and we're safe here."

And about five minutes after, that is when the second tower came down. If these civilians had been outside as the officer wanted, they all would have been crushed. It's because I had had a drill at my firehouse after there was a traditional fire in an apartment building, and the former chief gave the drill and made a point of telling all of us what to do during a mass casualty incident and during a serious emergency.

If you're going to move civilians, you need to stop and ask yourself, "Am I 100 percent certain that I'm moving the civilians from an area of danger to an area of safety?" If you can't say that with certainty, then you don't move the civilians.

Johnathan Ielpi

The best part [of the anniversary] is that I get to talk about my friend Johnathan. I think about him every day all year long. But on this day, people have to listen.

He was a great mischievous human that I loved. He was my best friend.

When I ran for office [in 2020], the president of my old fire company sent out a press release to local papers saying that I was never a firefighter at ground zero. That was ludicrous. And the accusation didn't really stick because the photos spoke volumes.

I think he was motivated by envy. He didn't like the fact that I was receiving favorable attention from my service down there. Envy makes people do dark things.

When the president of our fire company sent out that press release, he also sent my campaign a cease-and-desist letter and, via stationery, and he forbade the campaign from producing campaign literature that included me wearing my fire gear at ground zero. When I got a cease-and-desist letter — which is completely illegal by the way, it wasn't justified — I imagined Johnathan standing behind me as I was reading the letter, and I imagined him just laughing and laughing. I felt so much better.

I had been so upset, and it was just so ludicrous. The accusation was just so stupid. Having the image of Johnathan laughing, which I knew he would, made me feel better, like, instantly.

The aftermath

The president came down. I think it was the 15th of September. That day was really tough, because rescuers wouldn't admit it, but we learned in training that this is the day that you learn that people are either recovered — they're pulled out of the rubble by this day — or they're not.

It was really nice that President Bush came that day. And nobody was [a] Democrat or Republican that day. Now, remember, we were told by the Secret Service that the president wants to come and shake hands and thank you guys. And everybody in my truck was dismissive.

The president came through and I could see exactly what he was doing. He was going to choose one specific firefighter to come up on board to stand next to him. Because I worked in politics and I knew a little bit about how things go, I thought about stuff I could say to the president to get chosen.

I thought of the advice that my college roommate's father told me freshman year at Thanksgiving dinner in Iowa. He said to me one day, "Michael, your life should never change formatively in one day, for good or for bad. It's not good, and it never ends well. I hope that never happens to you."

The president came through and I didn't tell him what he wanted to hear. He said, "Son, I'm very proud of you. Your country's very proud of you. I want you to keep up your work here and stay strong." And I said, "Thank you Mr. President." I am so glad that I didn't look for the attention.

[After 9/11], I was a

mess. I was. I wasn't sleeping. I lost like 15 pounds. I was traumatized and I wasn't myself. I dove into weightlifting. I made sure I was at the gym five or six days a week. I went heavy into snowboarding that season, because I found that when I was going down the mountain it was the only time I wasn't thinking about 9/11. I was just thinking about the five feet in front of me. It did catch up with me about 10 years later with PTSD and depression.

I went to the synagogue in the morning. I woke up and I'd go to the synagogue at 7 a.m. The rabbi had everyone praying for my friend Johnathan.

In the days that fol-



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BICYCLE TIPS: REGISTRATION

Assists UI Public Safety if bike is lost or stolen
May help deter theft

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President Joe Biden's new student loan plan could affect midterm voter turnout

Political experts say the effects on voter turnout from policies, like the student loan forgiveness plan and the overturning of Roe v. Wade, won't be seen until after the midterm election this November.

Emily Delgado
Politics Reporter

Both the Republican and Democratic parties are preparing for higher voter turnout among young people during the November midterm election.

The unveiling of the Biden-Harris Administration Student Debt Relief Plan on Aug. 24 turns attention to young voters and how the plan will affect the midterm election results. Experts say it's a waiting game.

The student debt plan will forgive up to \$20,000 in debt and extend the pause on student loan repayment until the end of 2022. President Joe Biden unveiled the plan last month after much anticipation by Democrats.

Those making under \$125,000 will receive \$10,000 in student loan debt forgiveness, and Pell Grant recipients qualify for an additional \$10,000.

"I know a lot of people were hoping for complete loan forgiveness, but with what we're working with right now, I think this is a very good step in the right direction," Nikša Poleksić, president of University Democrats at Iowa, said.

Timothy Hagle, a UI political science associate professor, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that Republicans are anticipated to do well in the midterms because Democrats currently occupy the White House.

"Regardless of anything else, the political expectation is that reducing student debt would benefit Democrats more than Republicans," Hagle wrote.

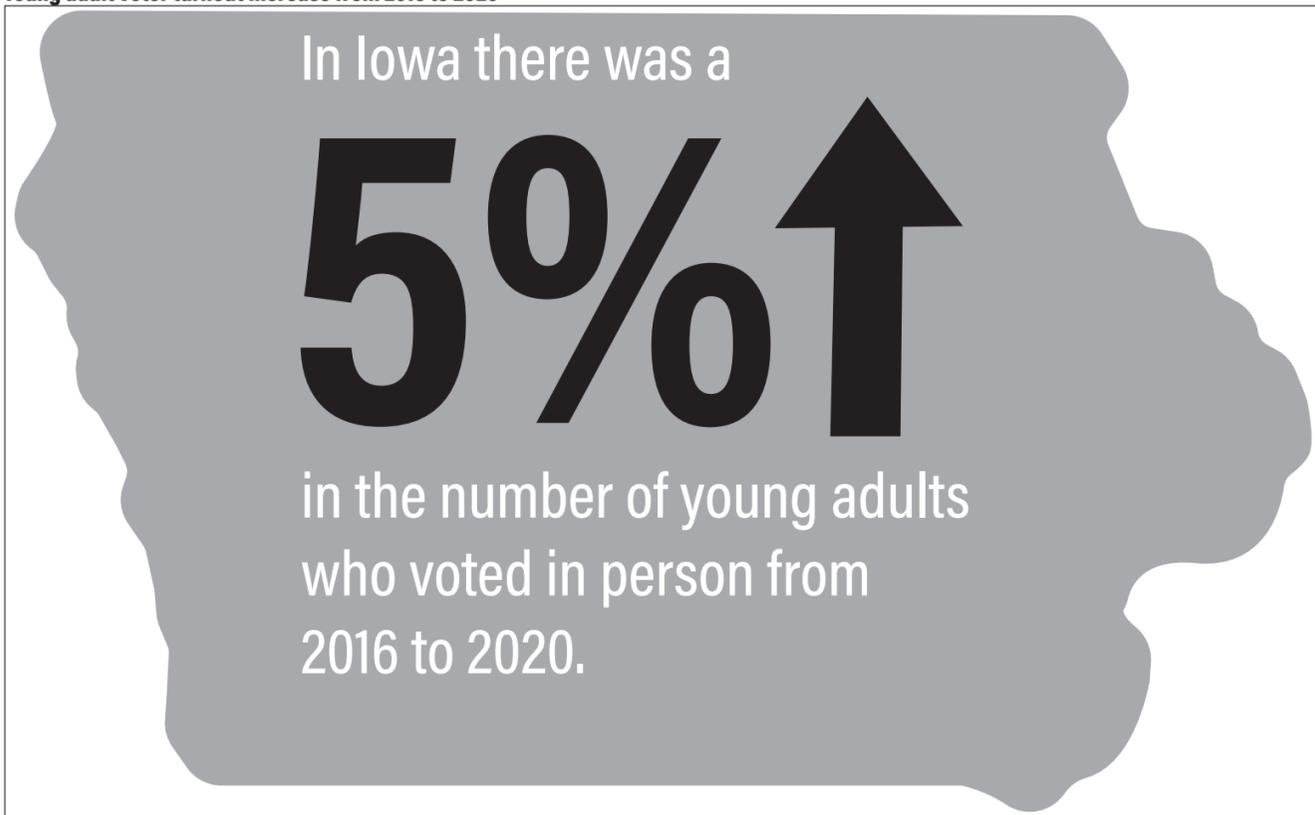
Hagle thinks a red wave in the midterms might happen because many people believe the increase in gas prices and inflation is caused by a democratic majority. Regardless, Democrats have looked for issues to motivate their voter base.

"The problem for Democrats, however, is that the plan has generated a fair amount of opposition and could end up motivating a lot of people to vote for Republicans," Hagle wrote. "That could include younger voters who did not have such debt or paid it off already."

From the 2016 to the 2020 presidential election, voter turnout for young adults in Iowa increased by 5 percent. In 2016, 50 percent of Iowa voters ages 18 to 29 turned out to vote; this rose to 55 percent in 2020.

According to Rock the Vote, a nonpartisan organization promoting voting, midterms don't bring out a high number of youth vot-

Young adult voter turnout increase from 2016 to 2020



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

Source: Tufts University's Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement

ers compared to presidential elections, as presidential elections see a higher voter turnout overall.

In the 2018 midterms, 39.6 percent of Iowa voters ages 18 to 34 turned out to vote — the highest percent since 2002.

Iowa's young voter turnout percentage in the 2018 midterm election was higher than the country's average of 31 percent. The high voter turnout during the midterm election was credited to the Parkland shooting, according to data from Tufts University's Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, which studies youth civic engagement in the U.S.

Hagle said the effect of the student loan plan won't be seen until after the midterm election results come out.

"The bottom line is that we probably have to wait to see what happens between now and election day to get a real sense of what effect the proposed plan had, if any," Hagle said.

Courtney Juelich, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, said young Iowa voters are unique because they are concentrated in college towns like Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Des Moines.

The current student loan plan, Juelich theorizes, will not increase voter turnout, but may keep it from decreasing.

As of August, Johnson

County has 46,190 registered Democratic voters — 2,798 more than it had in August 2018 prior to the last midterm election. Johnson County has 16,462 registered Republicans as of August, which is 1,360 less than in August 2018.

Poleksić said he hopes the student loan debt forgiveness plan will show students how politics affects their everyday lives and motivate them to pay more attention to politics.

"I think this is an action that will help open the eyes of those people, and they'll hopefully be able to see that voting does matter," Poleksić said.

"I hope, specifically with a student population, that this is sort of an action that caters towards them, that people will realize how important it is to have the right officials in office."

Poleksić said he thinks both Democratic and Republican voters favor the proposal to wipe out some student loan debt.

"Many people on both sides of the aisle have student loans. And I hope in the long run it affects voter turnout more than anything," Poleksić said. "A lot of people see this as an executive action that affects them directly, and that's something that people generally love seeing."

Ed Cranston, Johnson County Democrats chair, said since the last election cycle in 2020, he has seen more young people get involved in politics — specif-

ically on campus. Poleksić said the University Democrats club has registered 500 students to vote so far in the 2022 election cycle.

Johnson County Republicans Chair Teresa Horton Bumgarner said she recently has seen more young conservatives be more outspoken about policies.

"I think that the young people seem to be more interested in politics, and I see more young people now being more conservative," Horton Bumgarner said.

In addition to the student loan forgiveness plan, Cranston believes other topics like reproductive rights and the climate crisis are policies young people care about.

"You look at the issues that students care about — those are the things that are being addressed by the Democrats," Cranston said.

Horton Bumgarner said she thinks the student loan plan will also affect how older adults vote, as they are also impacted by the student loan forgiveness plan.

"It's not that people don't care about student loans, it's more that if you forgive the loan, you're only affecting a small number of people," Horton Bumgarner said.

Horton Bumgarner said Republicans don't favor the student loan plan because it doesn't fix the student loan system as a whole.

"If there's an issue with how these people got into this situation, then the system needs to be looked at."

Horton Bumgarner said to fix the student debt problem, the entire system needs to be fixed.

"Instead of putting a Band-Aid on the problem and passing the puck, we should be giving students and their families a clear picture upfront about the true costs associated with their education," Sen. Joni Ernst tweeted following Biden's announcement of his plan.

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-IA, wrote in a statement following Biden's announcement that the student loan forgiveness plan is irresponsible. Miller-Meeks calls the plan a debt transfer from citizens who attended college to those who didn't.

"It's unfair and undercuts students who work to afford tuition and parents who for years sacrificed and saved for the opportunity of a college education," Miller-Meeks wrote. "Student loans shouldn't be viewed any differently than a mortgage or car loan — money taken out must be paid back by those who benefit."

The president announced the student loan forgiveness plan as an executive order, meaning it was not passed through Congress. The way the student loan forgiveness plan will be executed

is still uncertain, Hagle said.

A main concern Republicans are voicing is how debt cancellation will work and whether there will be an increase in taxes, Horton Bumgarner said. Another option is for the money to be taken out of a federal program. Cranston said he doesn't know how the plan will be executed.

Hagle said Democrats will probably see more benefits from the student loan forgiveness plan. Cranston disagrees, saying the plan will help any student with a loan, regardless of their political affiliation.

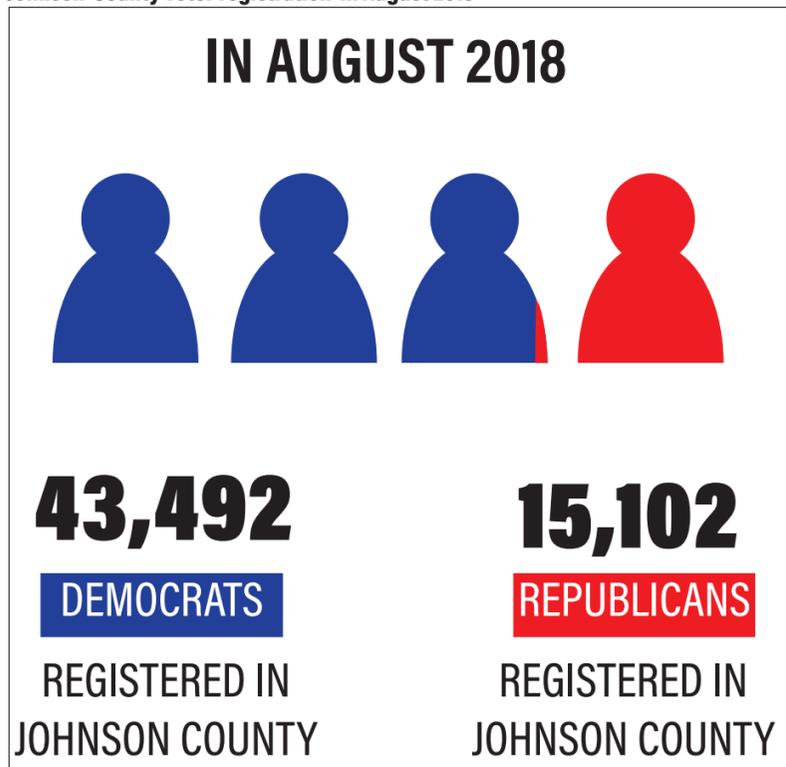
"We're not looking at it as we're doing this just for votes. We're doing it because it's the right thing to do," Cranston said. "And people and students are struggling, and they will continue to struggle. And then it really helps the entire economy."

Horton Bumgarner said Congress should have looked over the student loan program years ago to fix the number of students who have debt.

"I think that if we looked at the whole system, we can maybe fix it for the next group and do something really positive with our situation so that we don't have students who are graduating with tons of debt that they can't pay back," Horton Bumgarner said.

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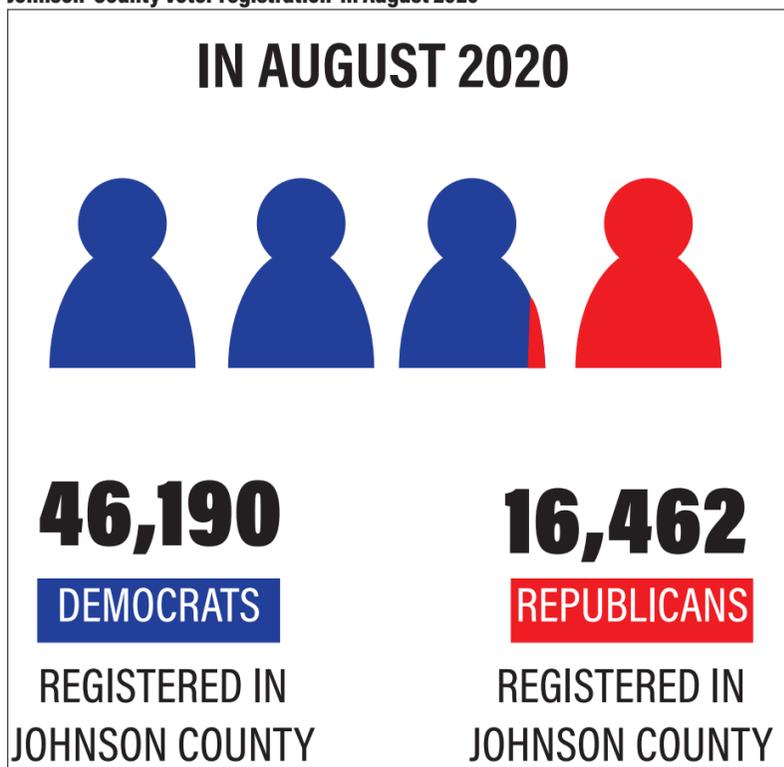
Johnson County voter registration in August 2018



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

Source: Iowa Secretary of State's Office

Johnson County voter registration in August 2020



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

Source: Iowa Secretary of State's Office

Opinions

Jackson Pollock's controversial price tag

Jackson Pollock's "Mural" is appraised at \$140 million. Should the University of Iowa sell its most valuable painting?



Sophia Meador
Opinions Editor

Hanging in the Stanley Museum of Art at the University of Iowa is "Mural," an 8-by-20-foot oil canvas painted by the late artist Jackson Pollock.

When I saw Pollock's painting, I was underwhelmed. While the painting is impressive in size, little else about it is notable. Arbitrary movements of lemon yellow, red, teal, and umber melt into each other, forming no clear objects or scenes.

"Mural" has been appraised at \$140 million. The debate over whether Pollock's painting should stay at the UI or be sold has raged for several years. To some, selling "Mural" is an opportunity to support art elsewhere. But to others, "Mural" is worth more than money.

Paul Jackson Pollock was born in Cody, Wyoming in 1912. Pollock spent his early life studying art under the artists Frederick John Vrain Schwankovsky and Thomas Hart Benton. Many remember him as an influential figure in the abstract expressionist

\$140 mil

Appraisal of Jackson Pollock, "Mural"



Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan

Eva Olson and Aidan Bolden examine the Jackson Pollock mural in the Stanley Museum of Art on Sept. 11. This was Olson and Bolden's first time walking through the museum. Olson said she was "very invested in figuring out what the color ombre was" within the Pollock mural.

movemovement, and he is most notably known for his "drip technique."

In 1943, American socialite and art collector Peggy Guggenheim commissioned Pollock to create a mural for her townhouse. This commission resulted in "Mural."

Guggenheim donated "Mural" to the UI in 1951. The UI loaned the painting to museums around the world, attracting more than 2.5 million visitors. After a two-year restoration and technical study, the painting returned to Iowa City.

"Mural" is no stranger to negative public attention.

For years, people believed Pollock painted "Mural" in one frenzied night after staring at the blank canvas for months. It was not until recently that experts debunked this myth, stating the painting was made over a series of months.

In Iowa, "Mural" has been a topic of financial debate for years.

In 2011, former Chairman of the House of Appropriations Committee Rep. Scott Racker proposed a bill to sell the painting.

House Study Bill 84 proposed, "The state Board of Regents shall provide for the sale of the Jackson Pol-

lock painting, 'Mural,' as held by the state University of Iowa."

The bill proposed that royalties of the sale be credited to a trust fund for providing scholarship assistance to undergraduate students majoring in art at the UI.

While this bill was shut down, many in Iowa worried about the future of the Pollock painting.

Artist and former UI student Deborah Stein said "Mural" belongs on the UI campus.

"I think the painting needs to be here as a tool to show art students what art looks like," Stein said.

"What an artist who is completely passionate can create. This is much more than monetary value."

When visiting the Stanley Museum of Art, I spent time with "Mural" to try and better understand the value of the painting. It did resonate with me.

"I don't think it symbolizes anything," Stein said. "I don't think that's what Pollock's artwork was about. It was a move for self-expression."

"What was the question before this art and what was the curiosity that made them want to continue," Stein said. "It's different for every artist. Not

all art, like not all poetry or literature is one thing. It's everyone coming from a different place and putting themselves into it. That's what makes this piece so powerful."

Despite my feelings surrounding "Mural," I am proud to have this work of art on the UI campus. "Mural" is more than a canvas — it's a movement. Pollock's painting shows what art is, in life and on canvas.

The UI should keep "Mural" on campus for future generations. Pollock's work is more valuable than its price tag.

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IDRs are a ticking time bomb

The Biden debt relief plan will create more problems.



Shahab Khan
Opinions Columnist

The structure of student loan repayments will be unstable in the near future.

When President Joe Biden canceled student debt for millions of Americans, liberals and progressives celebrated the order, arguing it would help Americans who need it the most. Naturally, conservatives made the same half-baked argument about personal responsibility.

Lost in the fray were the changes Biden's student loan relief order made to income-driven repayment plans. These specific changes will drive up the cost of higher education for college students.

When a recent college graduate begins paying off their student loans, they use an income-driven repayment plan to schedule their loan payments. Student debtors pay off their loans via a percentage of their income over 20 years. After the 20-year period, whatever was not paid off is forgiven by the government.

The popularity of an income-driven repayment plan increased in the pre-

vious decade from 10 percent to nearly 32 percent. The program will likely become the dominant repayment plan for student debtors.

In the past, if a debtor was enrolled in an income-driven repayment plan, 10 percent of their income was siphoned off to repayment. The Biden-Harris Administration cut the percentage down to 5 percent and mandated that no interest be accrued on the loan.

Furthermore, for people who had loan balances under \$12,000, their repayment period was reduced to 10 years. If a debtor is making under 225 percent of the federal poverty line, they do not have to repay their loans.

Income-driven repayment plans make the demand for college students more inelastic.

To put this into simpler terms, even if the average price of college were to increase by 10-fold, consumers would still choose to go to college because repaying loans has never been cheaper or easier. Even if the debt is not paid off by the end of the income-driven repayment plan period, it is canceled without repercussion.

Essentially, if people will still buy a good or service no matter the price of that good, suppliers have every incentive to raise the price of that good. In the case of paying for col-

lege, income-driven repayment plans make it so that college administrators and state lawmakers can dramatically increase the price, and students would still go to college.

The repercussions of this phenomena would create a credit bubble that could potentially swell to an astronomical size. When the government starts forgiving those loans, that bubble will eventually burst.

When it bursts, the economy will go with it, as trillions of dollars will be lost. This is because a bubble burst causes a chain reaction that will inevitably force all people (not just debtors) to cut back on their spending. This will, in turn, plunge the economy into a recession.

In other words, the changes made to the plans by the Biden-Harris Administration could unintentionally cause the formation of a dangerous credit bubble that would lead to economic calamity.

So, what could possibly be done to prevent a credit bubble from forming?

The answer is simple: the federal government must begin to regulate the costs of college. Otherwise, millions will lose everything once the credit bubble inevitably bursts.

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Social media is essential to news

Social media revolutionized how we stay up to date.



Elise Cagnard
Opinions Columnist

News consumption has drastically changed in the last century.

Instead of waiting for the newspaper delivery or watching the nightly news, consumers can find news instantaneously on social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

Despite this change, there is a stigma associated with news on social media.

Older generations may not accept news on social media for a variety of reasons, like distrust, unfamiliarity, and cynicism.

A reported 73 percent of the baby boomer generation solely uses social media to stay connected with friends and relatives.

Regardless of the weariness some generations have with social media, there are many benefits with having these platforms to see the news.

One of the major benefits of social media is convenience. No matter where you are, if you have access to the internet, you can stay up to date with the happenings of the world.

When Queen Elizabeth

II died on Thursday, the public knew in minutes thanks to social media. Within an hour of the announcement, "The Queen" trended number one on Twitter.

According to Statista, over 50 percent of teens get their news from social media. A staggering 60 percent of the boomer generation primarily view their news through local news outlets, and they don't intend to change that, according to Pew Research Center. Prisca Namutshibwe is an International Relations major at the University of Iowa. Due to the nature of Namutshibwe's major, she spends a fair amount of her day engaging with the news. She gets her news from a range of sources such as *VOA Swahili*, *Aljazeera*, and *Africanews*, to name a few. These resources are provided to her from cable news and YouTube.

Along with this, major news sites started upping their social media presence by having their own TikTok, Instagram, and Twitter — among other things. A prime example is the *Washington Post*, which has a whopping 1.4 million TikTok followers due to their funny and informative videos.

This point was reiterated by Namutshibwe, as she says she gets her hourly news from the various social media pages of *The*

Economist, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Social media added benefits of exposing more people to information they might never have sought out on their own. From learning new information from a random TikTok or being intrigued by an article title on Twitter, many people learn about events outside their usual sphere of interest.

Information is also often presented in more entertaining ways. Instead of having to sift through headlines for information, resources such as infographics have flooded social media pages. This gives the viewer easily digestible information to help contextualize the issue.

As expected, there are some drawbacks with using social media as your main source of news. Most notably, anyone can go on social media and post whatever they want, regardless of the truth. This reinforces the importance of fact-checking your news.

Social media is a powerful tool with many positives. Giving the public the ability to learn about global issues is essential to having an informed society.

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Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Community members attend the Iowa City Farmers Market on May 6.

Kids Market

Continued from Front

ers market community every year. The Short sisters — Saylor, 12, Brooklyn, 10, and Delilah, 7 — will sell handmade jewelry and cookies at the market. “I like to make a lot of jewelry and stuff, and I re-

alized that since I do it, I mean, I can just sell it and make a profit from doing something that I like,” Saylor said.

Their mother, Andrea Short, said the sisters have looked forward to selling at the market for over a year after missing out on a spot last year.

“I tried to sign them up for it last year, but it was full, so this is our first year,” Andrea said.

Wiegand said there are many reasons kids want to sell at the market, including for pocket money, a chance to share their passions, or to raise money for a specific cause.

“Some kids have participated in the past and really had a great time and are looking to showcase a new skill or talent they had,” Wiegand said. “We also have a number of kids who are raising money for a local organization. I know one group is trying to raise money for the Ronald Mc-

Donald house. Another is trying to raise money for a domestic violence intervention program.”

The Kids Market provides a way for young people to get involved in their community, Wiegand said. She also said she hopes it keeps them coming back to support the market after-

ward. Claussen is a regular attendee of the Iowa City Farmer’s Market when she isn’t a vendor.

“Me and my mom go to the farmers market every Saturday, so it is really fun to actually be a part of it,” Claussen said.

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ICCS

Continued from Front

trance security, improved music rooms, and fine arts HVAC.

Ramey said the district worried projects would be delayed, but all have remained on track.

“Our projects are still on time in accordance with our facility master plan,” Ramey said. “We did put out a new timeline, but that was because of the change of scope and

change of timing on projects at West High School and Hills Elementary. But we’ve been able to project in a way that we’ve not had to take anything off of the table.”

Ramey said the school district is working hard to stay within their set budget to keep consistent with the costs they proposed to families.

“Figures are set almost a year in advance, and there are things that, when costs fluctuate, we have to watch those as we

move through the year to make sure we stay within our budget,” he said. “We are constantly trying to be good stewards of our taxpayer’s dollars.”

Food costs are also impacting the school district.

Alison Demory, director of ICCSD nutrition services, said families are feeling the effects of the federal free lunch program for all students ending in the district.

“We have seen an increase in our families that are eligible,” Demory said.

“We have 500 more kids that have qualified for free and reduced benefits than last year.”

Additionally, staffing shortages are impacting nutrition services in ICCSD, Demory said.

“We’ve also had to increase our wages for staff with all the challenges we have with recruiting and retaining staff,” Demory said. “Our food costs have gone up, but so have our labor costs, so our meal cost went up as well.”

Increased transporta-

tion costs also hit the district. ICCSD has a contract with Iowa Central School Bus that was renewed in July 2022. The contract price increased from 2019.

Robert Hamel, contract manager for Iowa Central School Bus, said there are multiple factors at play when determining contract prices.

Three years ago, the new buses were purchased that now need to be paid off alongside other costs, Hamel said.

“You have insurance

costs; you have wages for employees, both the drivers and the full-time staff. And then, depending on the contract, you would also have, potentially, facility rent, gas — things of that nature,” he said.

Hamel said the increased price from the 2019 contract was consistent with rising gas, maintenance, and employee costs.

“It was kind of a standard as to what was going on,” he said.

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New “Grab & Go” option offered at tailgate

Black and Goal’d Remix Tailgates offer food and beverages to football fans hours before the gates of Kinnick Stadium open.

Danny Willis
News Reporter

The University of Iowa’s Black and Goal’d Remix Tailgates are offering a new “Grab & Go” option this fall before fans go to Kinnick Stadium and the Hawkeyes take the field.

This is the program’s third year of conducting substance-free tailgates as an initiative to prevent sexual violence. The table has free food and water for students and community members to take on their way to games.

The goal is to get people — particularly students — hydrated and fed on game

days, Associate Director for Harm Reduction Mara Cheney said.

“It’s an opportunity for people to come grab free food and water on their way to the game,” Cheney said. “It’s an alcohol harm reduction strategy. Eating before you drink is a really good way to not overdo it.”

Before the UI-South Dakota State game on Sept. 3, the Grab & Go table offered breakfast pizza, donuts, and bottled water to passersby. The committee elected to offer breakfast foods because the season’s first game began at 11 a.m.

The food offered will

vary depending on the time, but bottled water will always be offered, Cheney said.

“We’ve been talking about how can we get ... some fun, unique, different strategies that we haven’t used before to make sure that people are hydrated and fed on game days,” she said.

The Grab & Go table was not a student-exclusive opportunity. Tanya Villhauer, assistant dean and director of well-being and basic needs, said all community members are welcome to take food and participate in the substance-free tailgates.

“I think it’s just another way to kind of build community as people are gathering for game day,” Villhauer said.

Aside from students grabbing food in the sea of black and gold, other community members — Hawkeyes and Jackrabbits alike — were invited to use the Grab & Go table, Villhauer said.

The Black and Goal’d Tailgate Committee collaborated with the Alcohol Harm Reduction Advisory Committee in establishing the Grab & Go option.

“This is one of our missions ... in a culture of a lot of high-risk alcohol use,

we want to provide opportunities to reduce the harm,” Villhauer said.

Across the street from the Grab & Go table was the substance-free tailgate, another option for the community.

Senior Behavioral Health Consultant Karen Garczyk-Haddad said the event is an alternative for students that might not want to be under the pressure of substances when they tailgate.

However, one unforeseen effect of the Grab & Go option was the diversion of foot traffic away from the substance-free tailgate, she said.

“Right now, we’re having some issues with people stopping at the Grab & Go and not coming to the tailgate, which we hope could be better for future games since this is for students,” said Garczyk-Haddad.

Cheney said, judging from the first day of Grab & Go, the new table was an overall success. Twice as much food and water was ordered for the Iowa-Iowa State game on Saturday.

“[I’m] just grateful to the people that are helping out,” she said. “Super excited about how it’s gone so far today.”

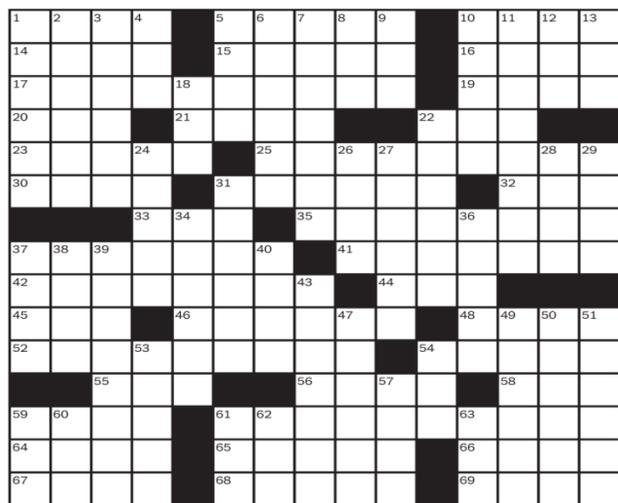
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The Daily Break

Puzzle solutions on page 2

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0808



Down

- 1 Buffalo’s N.H.L. team
- 2 Not sinking
- 3 Tutti-__
- 4 Greek goddess of the dawn
- 5 Opposite of reaps
- 6 One officiating at communion or hearing confession
- 7 Cattle-raising estates
- 8 Ginger __ (soft drink)
- 9 Atlanta-based TV channel
- 10 Family member acquired by marrying
- 11 Catamaran, e.g.
- 12 Rap’s Lil __ X
- 13 Explosive stuff, in brief
- 18 Boater or bowler
- 22 Combined, as money or resources
- 24 Hopping mad
- 26 Introductory drawing class
- 27 Subordinate of a 6-Down
- 28 Sheriff Andy Taylor’s boy on 1960s TV
- 29 More, in ads
- 31 Fourth-year student
- 34 Evening prayer
- 36 __ Bauer, clothing store chain
- 37 Reindeer herder of Scandinavia
- 38 “The way I see it,” to texters
- 39 Toddler’s winter wear
- 40 Vaccine pioneer Jonas
- 43 Really rake it in
- 47 Exit door
- 49 Dies down
- 50 Reconcile after a quarrel ... or a hint to the starts of 17-, 25-, 52- and 61-Across
- 51 Shrill and blaring, as a trumpet
- 53 “Same here!”
- 54 28-Down portrayer __ Howard
- 57 __ Poupon mustard
- 59 Org. sponsoring school fund-raisers
- 60 “Wise” bird
- 61 Biblical fellow with a salty wife?
- 62 “__ Were a Rich Man” (“Fiddler on the Roof” song)
- 63 Poem of praise

Across

- 1 In no danger
- 5 Jack who could consume no fat
- 10 “__ It Romantic?”
- 14 Hairstyle that may be parted and tied into two puffs
- 15 Big name in toothbrushes
- 16 Flatbread served with curry
- 17 Pale pink vineyard offerings
- 19 Something Santa makes (and checks twice)
- 20 Go bad
- 21 “Just __!” (“Hold on!”)
- 22 Buddy
- 23 Wipe out big-time
- 25 Practice boxing
- 30 Disobey James Bond when making a martini
- 31 Sound system
- 32 Choose
- 33 Manhattan’s Madison or Lexington: Abbr.
- 35 Stiffness that lingers in an unventilated room
- 37 Lends an ear
- 41 Refreshing summer beverage
- 42 One experiencing gaps in memory
- 44 Quirky
- 45 Vietnamese noodle-and-broth dish
- 46 Source of seasonal sneezes
- 48 Metrical foot in poetry
- 52 Barrel of explosive stuff ... or a situation that’s ready to blow
- 54 Steel support for concrete
- 55 Title bestowed on Mick Jagger in 2003 (although the queen refused to present the award herself)
- 56 Oscar-winning Ben Affleck film set in Iran
- 58 Letters preceding an alias
- 59 Sulky expression
- 61 Writings on an album sleeve or jewel case insert
- 64 Ninny
- 65 Handy
- 66 __ ex machina
- 67 Soprano’s choirmate
- 68 A bit buzzed
- 69 Award for athletic achievement

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HAWKEYE UPDATES

Grades

Offense — F

While Iowa's offense performed marginally better this week, the Hawkeyes' showing still deserves a failing grade.

In its 7-3 win over South Dakota State during Week 1, Iowa's offense gained 166 yards and scored a field goal. The Hawkeyes' defense scored Iowa's other four Week 1 points with two safeties.

In their 10-7 loss to the Iowa State Cyclones this weekend, the Hawkeyes doubled their offensive scoring, finding the end zone for their first touchdown of the season. But Iowa did find a way to gain fewer total yards, with 150.

The Hawkeyes' special teams unit blocked two punts Saturday, and as a result, Iowa started two drives inside the Iowa State 30-yard line. The Hawkeyes yielded just seven points from those two opportunities.

Iowa's defense forced four turnovers and held Iowa State to just 10 points. Still, that wasn't enough to push the Hawkeyes' anemic offense to victory.

Defense — A

Iowa's defense did just about everything it could to help the Hawkeyes win on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium.

The Cyclones gained 313 yards of offense but only scored 10 points. The Hawkeyes produced two red zone turnovers. First, Iowa safety Kaevon Merriweather forced Iowa State running back Jirehl Brock to fumble into the Iowa end zone for a touchback in the first quarter. Then, Hawkeye defensive back Cooper DeJean picked off one of Cyclone QB Hunter Dekkers' passes in the Iowa end zone for another touchback.

The only reason Iowa's defense doesn't get an A+ grade this week is because it let up a 99-yard drive. After Hawkeye fullback Monte Pottebaum fumbled at the Cyclone 1-yard line, Iowa State proceeded to put together a go-ahead, 99-yard scoring drive that started in the third quarter and ended in the fourth. In all, the drive ate up nearly 14 minutes of game clock.

Special teams — B

Iowa had an up-and-down week on special teams.

Defensive lineman Lukas Van Ness tied a school record by blocking two punts in a single game Saturday. Both of his deflections gave Iowa's offense the ball inside the Iowa State 30-yard line. Despite that, Iowa's offense only scored seven points on the day.

Still, at the end of the game, Iowa's special teams unit did have a chance to bail the Hawkeyes' ailing offense out. Sophomore kicker Aaron Blom failed to convert a 47-yard field goal attempt as the game clock expired. His kick would've tied the game had it gone through the uprights.

Punter Tory Taylor was exquisite again this week, downing two of his six kicks inside the 20-yard line. Four of Taylor's punts traveled 50 yards or more. Taylor has downed nine of his 16 punts this season inside the 20-yard line.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Not a very pretty football game."
— Iowa State head coach Matt Campbell on the 2022 Cy-Hawk matchup.

STAT OF THE DAY

6

Goals scored by Iowa soccer on Sunday.

CY-HAWK

Continued from Page 8

just consistent execution."

Petras overthrew multiple passes on Saturday afternoon, leading to a 46 percent completion rate for just 92 passing yards.

Despite pleas from fans on Twitter and at Kinnick Stadium to put backup QB Alex Padilla in the game, Ferentz stayed committed to Petras throughout all four quarters.

When asked directly, however, Ferentz did not say Petras would start Week 3 against Nevada on Sept. 17 at Kinnick Stadium.

"To me, both these games, he's still not getting enough help to really do a fair assessment," Ferentz said. "He hasn't been perfect — nobody has. We have a lot of moving parts right now on offense, and then we're shorthanded a little bit at a couple positions. We'll keep working through it."

The Hawkeyes have four injured wide receivers, including two starters in senior Nico Ragaini and sophomore Keagan Johnson. Iowa also has an inexperienced offensive line, with four sophomores starting.

In his last eight games, Petras has one pass-



Iowa fullback Monte Pottebaum dives into the end zone during the Cy-Hawk football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 10. The Cyclones ended a six-game Cy-Hawk series losing streak defeating Iowa, 10-7. Officials ruled the play a fumble and no touchdown was scored.

ing touchdown and nine interceptions. His last touchdown pass was against Kentucky at the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1.

In three starts when Petras was injured in 2021, Padilla accumulated two touchdown passes and one interception. Padilla threw both of his

touchdowns against Minnesota on Nov. 13, 2021.

While Petras and the Hawkeyes' offense have struggled in their first two games, Ferentz said he isn't ready to make any "wholesale changes" just yet.

"The best way I can phrase it is we have a lot

more exposure to what's going on with our players on a daily basis," Ferentz said. "You get to see them on Saturdays — obviously you get to interview them — talk to them and all that, but we see them on a daily basis, and this goes back to the spring and last fall as well.

"It has been our estimation that Spencer is the starter and wanted to give him that chance again today. We're sitting here right now. Clearly, we have to do better, and we'll reassess everything this week."

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QUARTERBACK

Continued from Page 8

quarterback. Overall, its head coach, Kirk Ferentz, and Iowa's offensive coordinator, Brian Ferentz, might be right about Petras being the best quarterback on the team.

What the father-son duo has failed to see, at least from my seat, is that Petras isn't the best quarterback for the hand Iowa has been dealt this season. The Hawkeyes' offensive line has surrendered three sacks in two games — which ranks in the bottom half of the Big Ten Conference.

Junior quarterback Alex Padilla, who is more mobile than Petras, can scramble out of the sacks, turnovers, and other negative plays Petras is constantly put in by his coaches and offensive line. I haven't seen Petras extend a play and create something positive once this season.

Yes, Padilla isn't the traditional strong-arm pocket passer the Ferentz family loves to have take its snaps. But with a bad offensive line, it's difficult for a strong-arm pocket passer like Petras and other Iowa quarterbacks of yesteryear to thrive.

In a different year, situation, or time, I'm sure Petras would be exactly what the Hawkeyes need. But this year, Padilla is the answer for Iowa — and he's proven that.

In his last eight games, Petras has thrown one touchdown and nine interceptions. With virtually the same offensive line and skill players as Petras, Padilla threw two touchdowns and one interception in his three starts in 2021.

I believe Kirk and Brian Ferentz when they say Spencer Petras is the best quarterback the Hawkeyes have. After all, they've coached a lot more games



Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras looks to pass during the Cy-Hawk football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 10. The Cyclones ended a six-game Cy-Hawk series losing streak defeating Iowa, 10-7. Petras threw for 92 yards and had a quarterback rating of 14.1.

than I have.

Still, one quarterback can be holistically better than another and still not be the best fit for a team. I don't know why the Ferentzes don't get that. They've worked a lot of games, surely they've seen a situation like this before.

Regardless, if the Hawkeyes' offense falters against Nevada next week, they might actually have to make a change. In last week's column, I wrote about how staunch Kirk's stance on his starting quarterback was. During his postgame press conference Saturday, Kirk was less apt to defend Petras.

"No, I didn't say that," Ferentz said in response to a question about Petras being his No. 1 quarterback next Saturday. "I just said today he played the whole game. My judgment was that was the best way to continue through

this game. I gave it some thought, and I felt like it was our best opportunity. We'll reassess everything tomorrow."

After that response, Ferentz went on to talk about Petras' leadership qualities, his experience, and how injuries at wide receiver have impacted his ability to play well. Still, even after the Hawkeyes put up 166 yards against South Dakota State last week, Kirk said he had a lot of confidence in Spencer Petras.

This week, Ferentz's confidence in Petras wasn't a topic of discussion.

"We'll assess all that tomorrow," Kirk said postgame. "Obviously — the

statement made about points scored — we're not going to win moving forward if we can't score more points than that, and we have a really good defense. But you're not going to win a game, seven points, 10 points a game, as a rule."

The Hawkeye offense has gained 316 yards and scored one touchdown in its first two games of the 2022 season. Its defense has allowed 436 yards, one touchdown, and forced four turnovers.

On top of that, punter Tory Taylor downed nine of his 16 punts inside the 20-yard line.

The Hawkeyes have generationally talented

special teams and defensive units. But until Iowa makes a change at quarterback or jumpstarts its offense in some other way, the Hawkeyes will be a two-phase show all season long.

At this rate, it's hard for me to believe the Hawkeyes will win six games to be bowl eligible come December. Like Kirk said, the Hawkeye offense's current seven-points-per-game pace isn't going to cut it for the rest of the season.

"We have work to do, obviously, to move the football," Ferentz said. "We're going to have to score points to be successful."

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Cy-Hawk Trophy leaves IC

Iowa State snapped its losing streak to Iowa on Saturday, winning the matchup for the first time since 2014.



Iowa players jog onto the field during a football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 10. Iowa was favored to win the game by ESPN.

Grace Smith/ The Daily Iowan



Iowa State quarterback Hunter Dekkers throws a pass during the Cy-Hawk football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 10.

Ayrton Breckenridge/ The Daily Iowan



Iowa State wide receiver Xavier Hutchinson attempts to catch a pass during the Cy-Hawk football game at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 10.

Grace Smith/ The Daily Iowan



Iowa State running back Jirehl Brock fumbles the ball during a football game at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 10.

Grace Smith/ The Daily Iowan



Iowa kicker Aaron Blom attempts a field goal during a football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 10.

Grace Smith/ The Daily Iowan



Iowa State defensive lineman Kyle Krezek (left) and offensive lineman Trevor Downing (right) carry the Cy-Hawk Trophy after the Cy-Hawk football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 10.

Ayrton Breckenridge/ The Daily Iowan

Postgame

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE IN IOWA

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Iowa - 7 Iowa State - 10

Uncomplementary football

In Iowa's 10-7 loss to Iowa State, the Hawkeyes had four turnovers and only 150 yards.



Grace Smith/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras loses possession of the ball during a football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 10. The Cyclones ended a six-game Cy-Hawk series losing streak and defeated the Hawkeyes, 10-7. Iowa had four turnovers.

Chloe Peterson
Sports Editor

Iowa football head coach Kirk Ferentz wanted to make a big jump following the Hawkeyes' 166-yard offensive performance against South Dakota State on Sept. 3.

"We've all got to get better," Ferentz said after Iowa's touchdown-less victory last week. "That's the bottom line. He'll [Spencer Petras will] get better as we get better as a team. That's really where our focus will be. It is every time. You go to Week 2, hopefully you make a big jump."

Instead of making the

jump Ferentz wanted, Iowa's offense got worse.

On Sept. 3, Iowa generated 166 yards of total offense against the Jackrabbits. On Saturday, the Hawkeyes gained 150 yards against Iowa State in a 10-7 loss.

Iowa scored its first and only touchdown of the game on its opening drive — and the Hawkeyes only had to go 16 yards.

Defensive lineman Lukas Van Ness blocked a Cyclone punt early in the first quarter, and the ball was downed on Iowa State's 16-yard line. Iowa executed two run plays, both with halfback Leshon Williams,

to find the end zone.

"We noticed that Iowa State had their two guys in the shield, which is the guys that protect the punter, offset off the line a little bit," Van Ness said. "So, they had me line up in a straight shot to run up the route and get my hand out there and block a couple punts. So, obviously I was able to get there a couple times. But again, it wasn't enough."

Following the touchdown, everything went downhill for the Hawkeye offense.

The defense tried to keep Iowa in the game, as Van Ness blocked another

punt in the third quarter and allowed just one touchdown. But it wasn't enough: the Cyclones walked out of Kinnick Stadium with the Cy-Hawk Trophy for the first time since 2014.

Ferentz, who is a big proponent of complementary football, isn't pleased with Iowa's offensive production.

"Part of complementary football is the other people helping out when one unit is not going well," Ferentz said. "But we're going to have to move the ball offensively. We're not going to sit around waiting on special teams and defense

to win every game for us. We can't do that. That's not realistic."

Iowa's offense had four total turnovers on Saturday afternoon. After Van Ness' second blocked punt, fullback Monte Pottebaum fumbled the ball at the goal line — although Ferentz thought he crossed the line before the fumble.

The Hawkeyes also turned the ball over on downs with 30 seconds remaining in the game, as sophomore wide receiver Arland Bruce missed a pass from Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras in the pouring rain.

To close out the game,

kicker Aaron Blom missed a last-second field goal that could've tied the game.

Petras directly caused two turnovers in the first half. He fumbled the ball in the first quarter and threw an interception late in the second frame.

"Off the top of my head, I can think of probably three or four plays that were on me," Petras said postgame. "I'm sure there's gonna be more once I've looked at the tape, you never really know though. You know, it's one of those things ... [our problem is]

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COLUMN

Iowa needs a change at QB

Starting junior quarterback Alex Padilla could provide the spark Iowa's offense needs in Week 3.

Spencer Petras



Austin Hanson
Pregame Editor

Saturday was chock full of firsts — for both Iowa football and myself.

The Hawkeyes lost to the Cyclones for the first time since 2014, and I can safely say I felt really uncomfortable during a postgame press conference.

I know I haven't been on the beat as long as other reporters, but I have attended quite a few pressers during my four-year career at *The Daily Iowan*, including a few where Iowa head wrestling coach Tom Brands has called reporters out or spoken with hostility after a tough loss at the NCAA or Big Ten Tournaments.

Still, I've never quite understood the phrase "you could cut the tension with a knife." That is, until tight end Sam LaPorta talked with reporters after the Hawkeyes snapped a six-game winning streak against the Cyclones.

The normally happy-go-lucky and polite LaPorta was uncharacteristically short-winded with some of the answers he gave reporters. Then, he got a question about senior quarterback Spencer Petras' play. His response shocked not only myself but the room.

"I think he's commanding the offense pretty well," LaPorta said. "I think we're going to keep relying on him and leaning on him for his experience and leadership on the offense. I think he's doing a great job."

"The average fan or the average reporter, you guys might shit on him,

but I don't. I see what he does in practice. I see the work that he puts in the film room and everything."

While Petras does deserve his due "shit" for Iowa's offensive performance, I'm going to take the high road this week. I won't defend Petras and demand he deserves the Hawkeyes' starting quarterback job. But I'm not going to place the blame for Iowa's poor offensive performance squarely on his shoulders, either.

It'd be easy for me to write a column condemning Petras for Iowa's 150-yard, one-touchdown performance. My clothes were soaked from watching the final three minutes of the game in a torrential downpour, and typing up 1,000 words on Petras would be a quick way for me to go home and put a dry shirt on.

But I'm not going to bring LaPorta's prediction to pass, mostly because the Hawkeyes are bad from top to bottom on offense.

On the game, Petras was sacked once and hit on four other occasions. He turned the ball over twice.

When he lost a fumble during the first quarter, his protection collapsed around him. He was stripped from behind and he probably never saw the defender that forced the ball from his hand.

All of that said, I think it's time for the Hawkeyes to make a change at quarterback. Overall, Iowa's head

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Alex Padilla

