

## 'We want to serve you'

New University of Iowa Counseling Services director Michael Fletcher combats demand for mental health services.



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa Counseling Service director Michael A. Fletcher poses for a portrait at UCS Westlawn in Iowa City on Sept. 16. Fletcher started in his new position as UCS director in July with 14 years of higher education experience. He said he enjoys helping people reach their full potential. "There's something so gratifying about helping someone in need."

Danny Willis  
News Reporter

The University of Iowa Counseling Services welcomed Michael Fletcher as its new director in July, marking a switch in control for the program.

After five months without a director, the Jamaica native took the helm at both the west and east side campus locations.

Fletcher said growing up in a "collectivist community" — a community focused on the entire group as opposed to individuals — influenced him as an adult.

"I grew up with that mentality, that we build relationships and folks help," he said. "Not only in times of crisis or disaster. Most folks come together during that time, but even just regular times we are celebrating."

While growing up in Jamaica, Fletcher said mental health was conceptualized differently than in most Western communities.

"One of the values that we have in Jamaica growing up is this idea of being productive and hardworking," he said. "As a kid, I heard my mom and folks around the community chant this saying: 'The heights by great men reached and kept

were not attained by sudden flight, but they while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.'"

Fletcher said his mom was his greatest motivator over the years.

"She made the dedication and promise to herself that she was going to be there for us," he said. "As a kid, I just thought that was a big sacrifice. The one way to re-

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Iowa football true freshman Kaleb Johnson rushed for two touchdowns and 103 yards Saturday night at Kinnick Stadium.

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Three lightning delays pushed the Hawkeyes' matchup with the Wolf Pack to an early Sunday morning finish.

## DITV

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## 'A Yellow Rose Project' celebrates centennial year

The project highlights 100 women artists' perspectives on their right to vote through the passage of the 19th amendment.



Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

Photos that are a part of "A Yellow Rose Project" are displayed in the Richard and Jeanne Levitt Gallery at the Art Building West in Iowa City on Sept. 12. The project was created to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

Emily Nyberg  
News Reporter

Shining through the front windows of Art Building West are the words "A Yellow Rose Project" written in purple. Inside, 37 works from more than 100 women and female-identifying photographers hang on the gallery's plain white walls. The silent space brings a loud sense of empowerment to those who visit — the pictures say everything without uttering a word.

During the writing of the 19th Amendment in 1920, women wore yellow roses to signify their agreement with the women's right to vote, and those in opposition wore red. In response to the amendment's centennial anniversary in 2019, "A Yellow Rose Project" was created and quickly spread across the country to celebrate the ratification.

If there's one thing co-founder Frances Jakubek wants viewers to take away from the exhibit, it's the importance of voting.

Founding photographers Jakubek and Meg Griffiths began brainstorming the idea in 2019, and they wondered how to select pictures and artists. They decided to pull artists from the networks they made through their teaching, curatorial, and photography positions.

"Our main goal was to show a breadth of women's experience in this country, what we deal with, between families and professions and rights or lack of rights or access," Jakubek said. "What I feel is most important to take away is there's a safe place to talk about things, which doesn't always feel true in this country or depends what state you're in."

From Boston University to Washington and Lee University, the 37 pieces now hang in the Levitt Gallery of Art Building West at the University of Iowa, where they will stay until Sept. 30.

Rather than being a stationary gallery, Jakubek

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## COVID-19 concerns in UI dorms

Professors and peers are sick with COVID-19, creating student concern.

Isabelle Foland  
News Reporter

After Johnson County moved into a medium community level of COVID-19 risk from a low level on Sept. 7, some University of Iowa students living in residence halls noted that the number of students with COVID-19 in the dorms spiked.

Johnson County has an average of 35 cases per day and is in a medium level of community spread as of Sept. 15.

Previously, UI students with COVID-19 quarantined in isolation dorms to halt the spread of the virus.

Director of Housing Administration Virginia Ibrahim-Olin wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that isolation rooms are no longer a viable option for the university.

"Due to the number of students living in the residence halls, University Housing and Dining is not offering quarantine and isolation housing this academic year," Ibrahim-Olin wrote.

Ibrahim-Olin wrote students living in the residence halls were informed of this change before the start of the academic year. Students were also issued a new contract binding date that allowed them more time to cancel their housing contract if they felt uncomfortable with this change.

In August, the university opted to discontinue its self-reporting tool for students and faculty to report infections.

Like the UI, other U.S. state universities, such as the University of Illinois, advise students to isolate independently because of limited campus isolation spaces.

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Tailgate shenanigans in the rain



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa fan Jorge Pancho puts the ball in a game of Chipco before a football game between Iowa and Nevada in Iowa City on Sept. 17.

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FLETCHER

Continued from Front

pay her was to make sure that we were successful.”

With over 30 years of experience in the field of behavioral health and 14 years of experience in education, Fletcher defined the hiring process as very robust and rigorous.

“I must have answered about 100 questions from all the groups and individuals that I met with,” he said.

Fletcher said the pandemic gave people a lot of time to think about life, and the most widespread mental health issues he’s seen are stress and, by extension, anxiety.

“Rightly so, people are hesitant in many ways as to what tomorrow is going to look like. And so, stress-related factors are the biggest things that I see right across the board,” he said.

Fletcher said his goal as the new director of UCS is to meet the increasing demand for mental health services.

To meet this demand,



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa Counseling Service director Michael A. Fletcher poses for a portrait at the UCS Westlawn location in Iowa City on Sept. 16. “I’m really passionate about helping someone realize their full potential.”

UCS staff assist students who suffer from stress caused by academic to environmental factors.

“That’s really critical because we can’t be taught by ourselves, nor do we want to be by ourselves,” Fletcher said. “... That’s the only way

I think we’re going to be able to meet the ever-increasing demand. I think it also destigmatizes mental health when everybody starts to work towards improving mental health in the community.”

Barry Schreier, former

UCS director and current director of the Higher Education Program in the Scanlon Center for School Mental Health, said he feels good about what he accomplished during his 30 years in various positions at UCS.

Schreier said he pin-

pointed anxiety as the number one presenting concern to counseling centers, with depression as number two.

“Anxiety and depression account for over half the reasons why students come to the counseling center,” Schreier said.

Schreier also experienced the constant increase in need for student mental health services, he said.

“The Counseling Center just has to manage

what seems to be a bottomless need with simply just finite resources,” Schreier said.

Fletcher said he wants to break down any barriers that may stand in the way of the UCS building partnerships with these individuals.

“I am encouraging folks to reach back out,” Fletcher said. “... We want to serve you.”

daniel-willis@uiowa.edu

ROSE

Continued from Front

said they always knew they wanted it to be a web-based exhibit. The complete set of photos from every artist is available online, while the constantly shifting physical photography art has traveled throughout the country.

Thalassa Raasch, a UI assistant professor of photography and experimental media, pitched the idea to bring “A Yellow Rose Project” to campus. As a participant in the project, Raasch felt bringing the exhibit to Iowa during the fall election cycle could be riveting.

“What we didn’t anticipate is that recently there’s been so many interesting

political things unfolding over the summer, whether it’s overturning *Roe v. Wade* or other stories of voter suppression,” Raasch said. “It feels weirdly timely. We didn’t mean it to be that way.”

Photographers Amy Thompson Avishai and Serrah Russell both created pieces for the project, interpreting the centennial anniversary in their own ways.

Documentary and fine art photographer Avishai was inspired by a photo of a vote here sign in her hometown because it reminded her of her voting experiences.

When approached about commissioning a series of pieces for the project, Avishai thought back to when she voted in the 2018 mid-

term elections – when a record number of women ran for office. As a point, Avishai brings her daughters with her every time she votes to show them its importance.

“I usually go out of my way to do that. On this day, I didn’t have them,” Avishai said. “Ironically, that’s what probably allowed me the time to take the photo.”

The black and white photograph “Voting Day, Easthampton, Massachusetts” depicts a sign of the American flag with a rippled division down the center that’s covered in raindrops – or as Avishai sometimes sees it, covered in tears.

Russell also created a piece for the project that reflects on the U.S.’ first ladies and how they did not hold

governmental power despite their powerful titles. When it came to crafting the photo, she referenced archived *Vogue* magazines, realizing that every first lady has been featured at one point in the magazine.

“The way that these women get to be in the White House is like, through marriage, through a wedding dress,” Russell said.

She played with digital tools to remove the image, leaving a silhouette paired with a title that provides enough information for the audience to recognize who was in it. The title of her piece is taken from a quote in the “First Ladies” *Vogue* feature: “She knew how fragile things really were, and if she ever let go, even

for a moment, all her plans might quickly unravel.”

The 19th Amendment was monumental to women in the U.S., and “The Yellow Rose Project” shows

its power and longevity through the many artists’ thought-provoking photographs.

anaka-sanders@uiowa.edu

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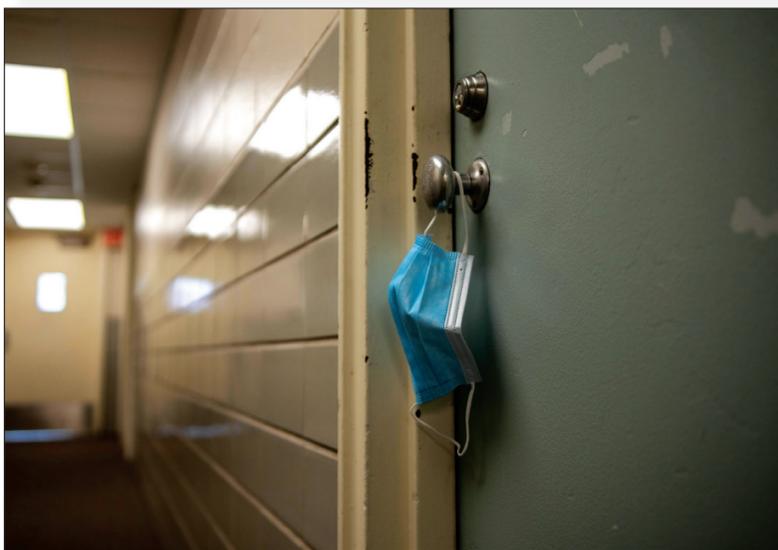
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Johnny Jarnagin/The Daily Iowan

Photo illustration

COVID-19

Continued from Front

Some UI students feel the university could do more to accommodate students who test positive in the dorms.

Third-year UI student Amin Elkeurti recently tested positive while living in the dorms. Elkeurti said he got a PCR COVID-19 test at UI QuickCare, a walk-in clinic.

He said he wishes the university offered a bit more help to students who test positive.

“It was weird. I mean, why don’t they have any

isolation rooms?” Elkeurti said. “But at the same time, it did make sense because they had a lot of people this year, at least moving into the dorms and stuff. But still, I wish they had something.”

First-year UI student Jessica Cygan said while it was a bit concerning to see some of her professors getting sick and teaching over Zoom, she is not concerned about catching COVID-19 herself.

“I was a little concerned after I found out some of the people on our floor had COVID-19 because I don’t really want

to run into anybody,” Cygan said. “And then it’s like, we’re sharing bathrooms but not really [concerned].”

Cygan said the UI’s current policies regarding COVID-19 are appropriate for the time being, and the university will respond accordingly to any major spikes in cases.

“I think that if COVID-19 starts getting even worse, I feel like they’re going to handle it well,” Cygan said. “I’ll just follow whatever the university says.”

isabelle-foland@uiowa.edu

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# College of Dentistry faculty member receives research grant

Associate Professor Akimasa Tsujimoto will take two years to research the best filling material for teeth.



Jordan Tovar/The Daily Iowan

The College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics as seen on Sept. 18. Associate Professor Akimasa Tsujimoto received the Nakao Foundation Research Grant award.

**Archie Wagner**  
News Reporter

A University of Iowa professor will determine which tooth filling material is best for adults in terms of longevity and health.

Akimasa Tsujimoto, a UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics associate professor, was recently awarded the Foundation Nakao Grant to conduct research on patients ages 65 and over to find the best restoration material for tooth fillings.

The Nakao Foundation for Worldwide Oral Health was founded in 2018, and the grant provides dentists with the resources to advance dental research.

The \$92,364 grant will be used for the comparison of different materials used for the restoration of

teeth as people get older.

Tsujimoto received the third round of grants and is the material scientist on the project. Important themes of the project are that it is minimally invasive for the patient and focuses on oral health for the aging population and oral frailty.

The four different materials being studied and compared are resin composition, glass hybrid, conventional glass ionomer cement, and resin-modified glass ionomer cement.

Different restoration materials last different lengths of time depending on the oral health situation, Daniel Caplan, head of the Preventive and Community Dentistry at UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, said.

“We’re looking to see how many of these fillings either had to be redone or how many of them are in teeth and ultimately got taken out,” Caplan said.

He said resin composition restoration is a more common way of completing fillings.

“One is a traditional plastic filling material that’s been around for many decades,” Caplan said. “The other three materials are different versions of a newer material called glass ionomer.”

Glass ionomer is a material that releases fluoride and can be the color of teeth.

Caplan also serves on the research team for the project. His job is to design the appropriate research protocols and data collection that are systematic and make sense,

he said.

Along with Caplan and Tsujimoto, the team includes Chandler Pendleton, a statistician in the UI dental college’s division of biostatistics and computational biology. According to Tsujimoto, multiple parts of the research have already started.

“When we checked the case we’ve done in the University of Iowa in the dental hospital, we saw we pulled out 17,000 alone for the glass ionomer cement since 2015,” Tsujimoto said.

Research and data analysis for the study will take two years and will be conducted at the UI.

“First, we will check the longevity of the glass ionomer cements and resin composite fillings for [patients] more than 65

years old within a university value or the hospital using the electric record system,” Tsujimoto said. “In a second year, we will check the data analysis through this BigMouth data repository.”

The UI recently joined the BigMouth Dental Data Repository, he said, which further analyzes data and compares it with data from other schools in the country.

Tsujimoto said several patient factors are going to be taken into consideration while conducting the study.

“We will check lots of variables: age, gender, the insurance the patient has, alcohol use, smoking. We will also check the clinic where [the patient was] treated,” Tsujimoto said. “We can check the longevity for many kinds of

perspectives.”

Age is an important variable for the research due to the changes in saliva production as people get older, he said.

Saliva is used for antibacterial repairs in the mouth because it contains fluoride and similar ions, Tsujimoto said. Saliva production decreases with age, so older adults have drier mouths and higher cardiac risk.

Once the research is done, he said his team will discover which filling material works best for older populations.

“If we know which type of material is the best for the specific patient,” Tsujimoto said. “We can give [a] good solution for them, [the] better solution for them.”

archie-wagner@uiowa.edu

# Iowa airlines struggle to replace pilots

Iowa airlines are finding it difficult to replace commercial pilots and are struggling to meet the demand of flyers.



Isabella Cervantes/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa City Municipal Airport is seen on Sept. 18.

**Alejandro Rojas**  
News Reporter

As a national pilot shortage sweeps across the country, Iowa’s commercial airports are also searching for more aviators.

Smaller regional airports, like the Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids, decreased the

number of flights they run, limiting access to travel for local Iowans.

Recently, American Airlines stopped its service in the Dubuque Regional Airport, the only airline to service that airport. This means flyers will have to travel at least 70 miles to the nearest airport.

Eastern Iowa Airport director Marty Lenss said

the pilot shortage deeply affects regional airports, including the Cedar Rapids airport.

“The pilot shortage has become pronounced to the point where, today, there’s 52 communities that have lost one of the big three airlines,” said Lenss.

Lenss said the pilot shortage isn’t the only

issue, as airlines also face a shortage of plane technicians and an increase in the cost of fuel.

The price of jet fuel in North America jumped 73.6 percent since September 2021.

Drew Lemos, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Regional Airline Association, said the shortage hurts more

than just customers.

“It’s having a negative impact on air service,” said Lemos. “There’s going to be less flight options, more delays, and more frustration. It’s bad for the consumer and bad news for the airports.”

In the short term, Lemos suggested raising the pilot retirement age from 65 to 67. Currently, pilots

flying for commercial airlines retire at 65 because of medical reasons.

The aviation industry has a mandatory retirement age of 65, and NBC reported roughly 5,773 pilots retire each year. During the pandemic, other pilots were fired or furloughed from the lack of air travel.

“Pilots have to go through flight medicals on a very regular basis,” said Lenss. “It’s really not a problem to change it from 65 to 67.”

## Efforts to increase number of Iowa pilots

Jet Air, a charter company that flies out of the Iowa City Municipal Airport, is offering students the chance to become pilots through its private flight school.

The company partnered with Kirkwood Community College to create an aviation technician program that will start in the fall semester of 2023.

Jet Air Vice President Matt Wolford said it is a service available to students who are willing to learn.

“It’s not impossible to become a pilot, and students can come here and learn at the airport,” said Wolford.

Lemos said people should take advantage of the piloting opportunities available to them.

“There’s never been a better time to be an airline pilot,” said Lemos. “It’s an amazing career and offers plenty of opportunities.”

alejandro-rojas@uiowa.edu

# Opinions

## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 calls attention to the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month.



Rachel Wagner/The Daily Iowan

Performers are seen dancing to music at the Latino Festival in Iowa City on Aug. 28, 2021.

**Naomi Rivera Morales**  
Opinions Contributor

Some may have heard of Hispanic Heritage Month and know of its purpose for the Hispanic and Latinx communities, and others may have only heard it in passing.

So, what is Hispanic Her-

itage Month and why is it celebrated? Which communities are involved?

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to commemorate and acknowledge those who are a part of Hispanic and Latinx communities.

When thinking about Hispanic Heritage Month,

it is important to not only celebrate one's ancestral roots, but it should also be acknowledged that Hispanic and Latinx communities are here, loud and proud, and are well deserving of time, attention, and respect.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget out-

lines that those in Hispanic and Latinx communities are from Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish cultures or origins regardless of race.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. This is the chosen

time frame because Sept. 15 marks the declaration of independence for five countries in Central America: Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Guatemala.

Mexico, Belize, and Chile also declared their independence during September in 1810 and 1981.

Hispanic Heritage Month was originally weeklong. In 1988, Rep. Esteban E. Torres, D-CA, suggested a longer time frame to allow more time for acknowledgment and respect.

Since then, it was extended to a month to commemorate the communities and those within them who have influenced and have had a positive impact on U.S. society.

Each year, the U.S. president delivers a proclamation covering Hispanic Heritage Month. There is a different theme for what the month will look like each year. This year, there is a focus on building prosperous and healthy communities.

Included with the list of events for what the month will look like in greater detail, drawing on the ways in which the U.S. administration has been supporting, and will continue supporting, Hispanic and Latinx communities within the country.

Having learned all of this, you might be wonder-

ing how you can contribute and give back to Hispanic and Latinx communities as well.

Fortunately, there are many ways you can help. You can support local organizations by donating or joining their groups, buying from small businesses, reading and keeping yourself updated on Hispanic and Latinx history and culture, and using your voice to stand up for these communities when they are faced with troubling times.

The University of Iowa hosts annual events in honor of Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month. This year includes a free screening and discussion of the film "Mija" at FilmScene at the Chauncey, the Sunset Sal-sa celebration at the Pentacrest, and a networking mixer at the Latino Native American Cultural Center, among other events.

As someone of Puerto Rican descent, this month reminds me that I am part of a growing community that runs on pride and determination. I am grateful to be a part of it.

There is much we have done for one another in support of our roots, and the celebration and acknowledgement of our communities has been long-standing, strong, and bold.

naomi-riveramoraes@uiowa.edu

## Unhoused residents deserve to be heard

Our unhoused neighbors are a valued part of our state and local community.



**Yasmina Sahir**  
Opinions Columnist

The City of Dubuque recently changed its policy on how police interact with and evict unhoused people from their encampments or other housing structures.

It is troublesome to think how this policy could spread and cause negative effects for unhoused populations in other Iowa towns.

Before the onset of the pandemic, roughly 2,700 Iowans each day experienced instability in their living situation. The risk of homelessness for Iowans increased with the spread of COVID-19 and the derecho in 2020.

The rate of homelessness is only counted by the government in a few — usually ineffective — ways, such as through census data or indirect estimations. Because of this, the best estimated impact of current events on the unhoused population is likely to be unknown until 2030.

Forced to move their belongings and temporary housing sites with only a few days' notice, some unhoused folks in Dubuque had to relocate miles away from where they were already established.

While the Dubuque City Assistant City Manager Cori Burbach said this is a move to make both the unhoused and housed residents of the city feel safer, it's obvious only one side of the narrative is being taken into consideration by officials.

Similar to recent actions

in Dubuque, Iowa City leaders and organizations have not always thought about the perspective of people who are unhoused when making decisions impacting the wider community.

The City of Iowa City webpage reads, "Diversity enriches our community with unique perspectives and variety of thought. Who better to welcome you to our area than folks who call Iowa City home."

Between fiscal 2014 and 2019, a reported \$4.1 million dollars were spent by the Iowa City City Council to improve conditions for Iowa City residents experiencing homelessness. Social services, mental health outreach organizations and clinics, and temporary housing were budgetary aims.

Within this same time span, however, actions conflicting this mission were city approved.

The 2018 bench project installed dozens of new benches in the pedestrian mall. Unfortunately, the multi-million dollars invested were spent on benches with metal dividers placed every few feet apart, making them difficult — if not impossible — to sleep on.

Current Iowa City loitering and property storage codes potentially create hardships for those without permanent residences to maintain any quality of living or transportation for belongings for people without proper storage.

Resources like Shelter House, one of just a handful of temporary housing organizations in Iowa City, exist to assist anyone experiencing homelessness in the area.

While places like Shelter House are essential to equity for anyone unhoused,

one policy at this specific shelter continues harmful stigmas: although approximately 38 percent of chronically homeless people live with addiction and/or other mental health disorders, Shelter House maintains a strict policy that drugs or alcohol are not allowed on their property.

In Des Moines, owners of Exile Brewing Company have recently garnered activist attention after public complaints made about unhoused people setting up tents and existing near the shelter's property.

"Our goal is to cultivate a thriving community by working with organizations that focus on an active lifestyle, health, conservation, and community improvements. We do this through ... using our brewery as a platform to create awareness within our community," reads Exile Brewing Company's mission statement.

Actions like these call into question whether our unhoused neighbors are truly respected and heard in Iowa.

In Iowa City, we all need to do more to support one of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups. Pay attention to the underlying intentions of politicians and those making decisions for the community, especially with the 2022 gubernatorial election occurring in November.

Doing more can simply involve saying hello, offering a smile, or sitting for a conversation if you have five extra minutes. Letting others know they are valued disrupts systems so well-tuned to oppression and silencing the voices that have a right to be heard.

yasmina-sahir@uiowa.edu

## Think green and compost your food scraps

Composting services are available, but apartment complexes make it difficult for tenants.



**Elise Cagnard**  
Opinions Columnist

As the climate crisis intensifies by the day, many have looked for ways to live greener.

This includes simple actions like picking up litter, using reusable grocery bags, or conserving water. Even through small efforts, people try their best to live more sustainable lives.

One impactful way to promote sustainability in your community is composting.

Composting is the process of separating trash that goes to the landfill from your leftover food scraps such as fruit and vegetable remains, tea leaves, egg shells, and more. These remains are treated and then reutilized as fertilizer.

When items that can be composted are put into landfills, they release greenhouse gasses such as methane. Greenhouse gasses contribute to the overall warming of the planet. In 2019, the U.S. released 6.6 billion metric tons of greenhouse gasses, according to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

But when these materials are composted, the amount of greenhouse gasses that are released are greatly reduced. Additionally, using composted materials as fertilizers reduces the need for chemical fertilizers which can have many negative externalities.

The City of Iowa City offers municipal compost services for apartment complexes through the Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center. The only aspect apartment complexes have to provide is a place to dispose of their compost.

Unfortunately, many apartment complexes in Iowa City do not have this method available for their tenants.

According to Iowa City regulations, all apartment complexes are required to provide their tenants with a means to recycle. In many

situations, this is not the case.

Esnee Belzer, the co-president for the University of Iowa's gardening club, said her apartment falls into the percentage that fails to provide recycling services. Even after reporting this indiscretion, nothing has changed.

This is why the City of Iowa City needs to hold these apartments accountable. Apartment complexes not abiding by the rules and regulations need to be penalized to encourage positive environmental action.

Once the issue of recycling is resolved, it opens the door to seriously implement composting efforts.

Belzer also talks about how she would love to see a community compost initiative. This would mean that composting boxes are readily available to everyone, whether it is provided by the apartment or not. Having sites where people can drop off their compost would only heighten the chances that individuals would compost.

Many people might shy away from composting because they do not believe they have the time to sift through all their trash to find what's compostable or not.

In reality, it takes little time to throw your compost scraps into a different bin, and it has major environmental benefits.

The UI itself has made some headway in terms of composting. Annually, the UI diverts 800,000 pounds of materials from landfills.

Three compost drop sites are located at the UI at the Catlett, Burge, and Hillcrest residence halls. The sites are available to all students at the university, not just the ones living in those dorms.

Composting is a win-win situation. For the general population, anything that can be done to help the earth is a win, as it is all our responsibility to care for it. For the City of Iowa City, they are able to sell the compost they collect after it is turned into fertilizer, which creates another source of revenue for the city.

There is no valid reason that composting cannot be implemented in every residence in Iowa City.

elise-cagnard@uiowa.edu

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# Officials tackle rural numbers declining

Iowa Democrats say Republican policies drive young people away from the state.

Liam Halawith  
Politics Reporter

*Editor's Note: This story is part of a series regarding rural population decline in Iowa.*

Iowa Democrats blame Republicans' "culture wars" for the lack of work done to improve rural population numbers and livelihoods.

Iowa's population rose 4.7 percent since 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Iowa's 38 rural counties, however, saw a net population loss since the 2010 census, while Iowa's five most populous liberal counties saw a net population increase.

According to the Census Bureau, 8 in 10 U.S. college students move back to or move within 10 miles of where they grew up. A *Washington Post* investigation into brain drain found more than 25 percent of college students who study in Iowa leave after graduation, most of them moving to Illinois.

Ryan Melton, a Democrat running for Iowa's 4th congressional seat against Rep. Randy Feenstra, R-Iowa, said in a tweet Saturday that Republican policies are driving young people out of the state.

"Too many of our young people are leaving the state. This will get worse if we have officials in office who don't respect them, and they ask for affordable college, robust career op-

portunities, and reproductive rights," Melton wrote in the tweet.

Iowa Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton, said in an interview with *The Daily Iowan* that this is a bipartisan issue, not partisan.

"That's kind of one of the fun areas to work when you can have everybody's input, Democrats and Republicans," Kaufmann said.

With bipartisan support for retaining rural residents, Iowa legislation on the issue has moved forward in the statehouse. Last year, the Iowa legislature passed legislation on broadband, childcare, rural economic development, and recreation development in the state. But many Democratic legislators are looking to do more and are blaming Republican policies for driving away young people.

A July survey by the Census Bureau said economic factors were the largest elements young people considered when they moved. Iowa Senate Minority Leader Zach Wahls, D-Coralville, said Republicans have no plans to save small towns.

"They have completely abandoned small towns in rural Iowa and instead are focusing all of their attention on culture war issues that are driving young people out of our state," Wahls said. "There are growing gaps between the haves

and the have nots, both in our small towns and our big cities, and Republicans made that issue worse when they passed a tax cut that is going to overwhelmingly benefit the ultra-rich and big corporations earlier this year."

Over the last decade, the bottom 20 percent of Iowa households' wages decreased by 6.1 percent, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

The bottom 20 percent of average yearly household salary was \$24,800, while the richest 20 percent of average yearly household salary was \$215,900.

Iowa's minimum wage is the same as it is federally, which is currently \$7.25 per hour if a person works 40-hours a week. A person would make \$15,080 a year before taxes if they earn minimum wage.

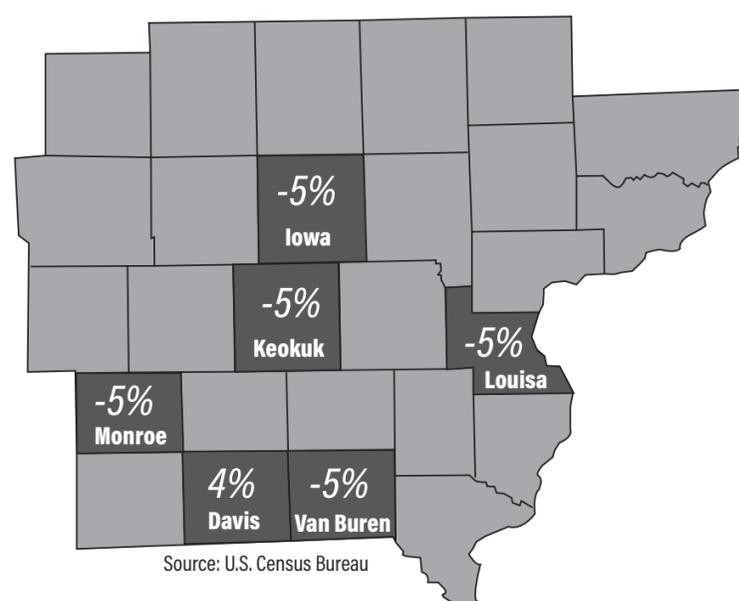
The average yearly salary in Iowa is \$51,873 a year; the U.S. average is \$51,916.27. While the median wage in the U.S. is \$34,248.45, Iowa's is \$39,083.20 — slightly above the national median.

Looking at these data points, Iowa's average yearly salary is on track with the national average. The state, however, still suffers from income inequality.

Kaufmann said income inequality isn't a major issue in his district, and there are companies offering high wages that support his

## Percent change for southeast Iowa rural populations

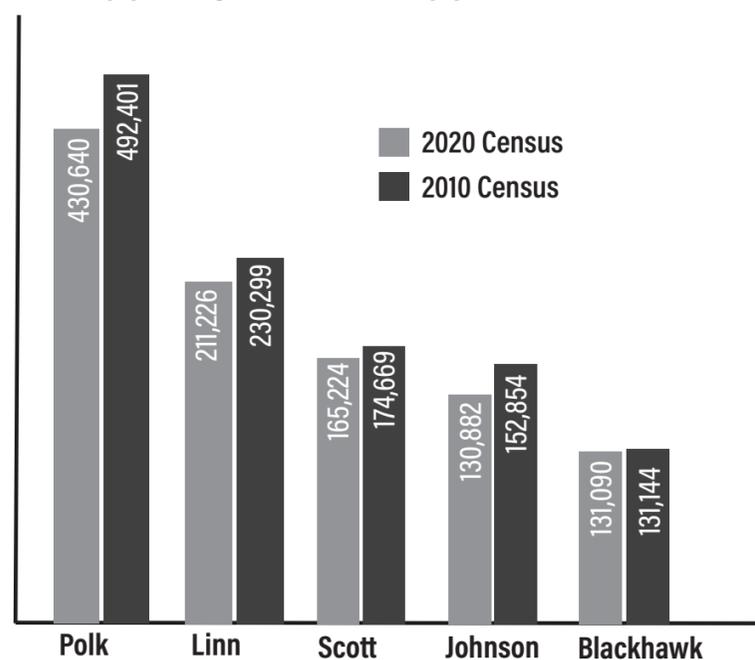
Iowa's rural counties are declining in population while the state's overall population is increasing. State Democrats blame Republicans for the lack of young people returning to rural areas.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

## Iowa's net population growth in its five most populous counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

district.

"We have a strong job market. We've got, I mean, in my district, I can name companies off the top of my head that have strong wages, good benefits, that are in small towns," Kaufmann said.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in July Iowa had an unemployment rate of 2.5 percent.

Wahls said young people are concerned about the climate, reproductive rights, the cost of college, and wages.

"Young people are rightly concerned about the future existence of our planet, which I think is a totally rational concern, not an extreme one at all," Wahls said. "Young people are concerned about maintaining bodily autonomy, which is a totally normal and rational concern that's shared by a wide variety of age groups."

According to a Pew Research Center poll, 74 percent of adults ages 18 to 29 think abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while only 25 percent think it should be illegal in all or most cases.

Another Pew Research poll showed 67 percent of Gen Z and 71 percent of millennials think climate solutions should be the top priority.

Wahls said young people want funding for public education in Iowa. Republicans have voted to cut funding from public universities in recent years.

"Republicans have systematically underfunded our region's universities and institutions, which has directly resulted in the increases of tuition that are making college increasingly unaffordable for middle class families," Wahls said.

Republicans have recently capped the yearly annual increases in the state's public education budget at 2.5 percent for inflation.

Democrats and teachers say 2.5 percent isn't enough. Deidre DeJear, the Democratic candidate for governor, recently put forth her education policy plan that includes a 4 percent annual increase to the state's public education budget and a \$300 million influx of cash from the state's budget surplus to Iowa's schools to use at their discretion.

Kaufmann said the Iowa legislature has moved forward on key issues affecting young people, like childcare and broadband internet.

"If you are young and want to have a family, look to childcare. We've been making some significant policy changes and investment in childcare, I think," Kaufmann said. "If you look at broadband, there's some pretty big [coverage] desert areas in Iowa. The governor asked for and we gave \$100 million two years ago and then again last year to complete that."

In 2021, the Republi-

can-controlled Iowa legislature passed a budget resolution providing \$100 million in funding for the state's broadband program, Empower Rural Iowa. Gov. Kim Reynolds also created a task force to address the childcare shortage and distributed \$13 million in Future Ready Iowa Child Care Grants.

Wahls said this was only part of what is important to young people. Wahls accused Republicans of "weaponizing cynicism" to siphon the hope out of the left.

"Republicans and kind of the right wing authoritarian forces in this country want young people to feel disaffected, to feel like there's no difference between the parties," Wahls said. "That's their strategy, right, is to muddle the differences."

Wahls said policies involving education, recreation, and social issues are on the ballot this fall.

"To fight for our interests, the most important thing that we can do is to participate in the electoral process, make sure that our friends and classmates are registered to vote, and have a plan to vote and show off this November," Wahls said. "And the Republicans are hoping that we don't do that. That's their whole political strategy."

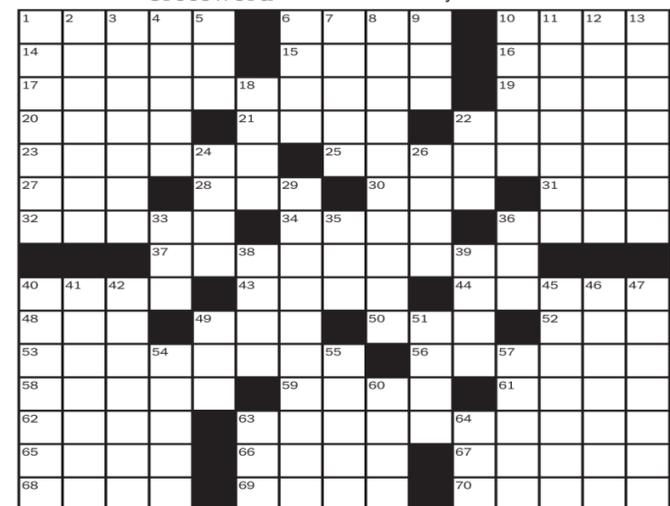
liam-halawith@uiowa.edu

# The Daily Break

Puzzle solutions on page 2

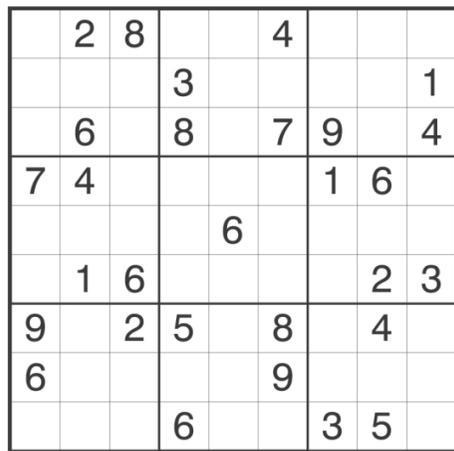
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0815

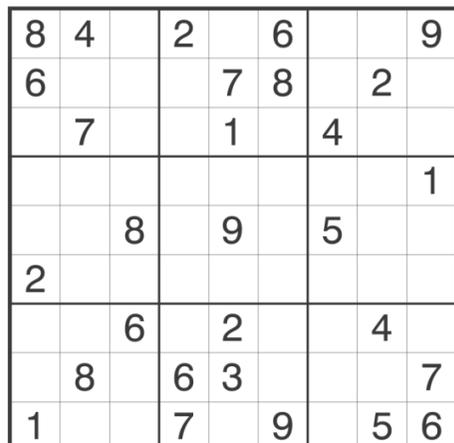


- Across**
- 1 Fast-food pork sandwich
  - 6 Fail badly at the box office
  - 10 \$20 dispensers
  - 14 Madison Square Garden, e.g.
  - 15 Minor hurt, in kidspeak
  - 16 "Dagnabbit!"
  - 17 Footwear giant headquartered in Boston, Mass.
  - 19 Hit 2021 film based on a Frank Herbert novel
  - 20 Give a hoot
  - 21 App customer
  - 22 TV, print, radio, etc.
  - 23 Parenthetical remarks
  - 25 Fait accompli
  - 27 Ex-Marine, e.g., informally
  - 28 Sounds of contented pleasure
  - 30 Do some threadwork
  - 31 Civil Rights \_\_\_ of 1964
  - 32 Places of bliss
  - 34 Easter flower
  - 36 Cry to a birthing mother
  - 37 Ump's call after a first pitch ... or a hint to the ends of 17-, 25-, 53- and 63-Across
  - 40 Actress Ward
  - 43 Fencing blade
  - 44 The "Aeneid" and "The Faerie Queene," for two
  - 48 Not get any younger
  - 49 Raggedy \_\_\_ (doll)
  - 50 Certain lap dog, informally
  - 52 Quick snooze
  - 53 Downward dog, for one
  - 56 Scribble absentmindedly
  - 58 Portly
  - 59 Jared of "Dallas Buyers Club"
  - 61 The "S" of A.S.A.P.
  - 62 Global center of Shia Islam
  - 63 Group of notes that often sounds sad
  - 65 Gossip, so to speak
  - 66 Work on, as an essay
  - 67 Like the sound of a creaky basement door
  - 68 Makes a choice
  - 69 Golf ball holders
  - 70 "Pointer" for giving presentations

- Down**
- 1 Counterpart of a "she-shed"
  - 2 Folded, as paper
  - 3 Overhaul, as an article
  - 4 Under the covers
  - 5 What did ewe say?
  - 6 Snakes that strangle
  - 7 Possessed
  - 8 Super-quick snooze
  - 9 "Busy" insect
  - 10 Did some summing
  - 11 Canadian P.M. Justin
  - 12 Fiends
  - 13 Kind of technology in some modern military aircraft
  - 18 Rich with vegetation
  - 22 Kitten's cry
  - 24 Either "E" of ESE
  - 26 R&B singer with the 2012 hit "Let Me Love You"
  - 29 Toy that attaches to a garden hose
  - 33 Top-secret government org.
  - 35 1950s prez
  - 36 Liveliness
  - 38 Nevada gambling city
  - 39 Dory's friend, in a Pixar film
  - 40 Commits at the altar
  - 41 Narcissist's "journey"
  - 42 Works made of toy bricks
  - 45 Not al fresco
  - 46 One of about 53 in a typical Oreo cookie
  - 47 Hardly a penny pincher
  - 49 Like the name Rob Banks, for a criminal
  - 51 Bad smell
  - 54 Mothers' sisters
  - 55 "\_\_\_, meenie, miney, mo"
  - 57 Irish surname that anagrams to A SHOE
  - 60 Young 'uns
  - 63 Was introduced to
  - 64 Sheet of an animated cartoon



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Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa running back Kaleb Johnson runs the ball during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17. Johnson scored a touchdown on the play. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wolfpack, 27-0.

**JOHNSON**

Continued from Page 8

son are all available. Senior quarterback Spencer Petras said he knew Johnson's Week 3 performance was coming.

The fifth-year senior recalled Johnson running through tackles when the Hawkeyes were practicing in just helmets and shoulder pads. "I'm sure there's going to be a lot of really good stuff on tape for him, and prob-

ably some stuff he should clean up," Petras said. "The sky's the limit for him." Johnson's physicality isn't the only thing that set him up for success, as his demeanor and energy also set him apart. "It was good to see him

run with confidence tonight, and he got a little bit of daylight and knew what to do with that, that's for sure," Ferentz said. "Coincidentally, there's a run he made in camp that was very similar to a couple that he made tonight.

That was good to see that transfer over to a game field. Hopefully that will be good for his confidence. It's going to help us. The more the merrier from that standpoint."

isaac-goffin@uiowa.edu



Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras releases a pass during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 18. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wolfpack, 27-0.

**OFFENSE**

Continued from Page 8

Through two weeks of play, Iowa's rushing offense ranked 127th in the nation at 1.89 yards per carry. If you take out Johnson's touchdowns, that's about where the Hawkeyes landed Saturday.

Sophomore Gavin Williams was Iowa's bell cow, accounting for 16 of their 35 rushes on the day. His long run of the game was just 12 yards. He gained 57 on the contest — that's about 3.6 yards per attempt. I will acknowledge that Gavin Williams has been dealing with a reported ankle injury for the first few games of the season. And Nevada's run defense ranked 37th in the nation after the Wolf Pack played their first three games.

Still, Nevada's defense earned that ranking after it beat up New Mexico State's 112th-ranked rushing attack in Week 1. Iowa also probably didn't have as good of a day as it should have had in the passing game.

With their top two options at their wide receiver, Nico Ragaini and Keagan Johnson, back in the lineup, the Hawkeyes racked up 175 yards and one touchdown through the air. While the numbers are significantly better than those Iowa posted in Weeks 1 and 2, they're likely not good

enough to propel the Hawkeyes to a Big Ten West title or even a bowl game, for that matter.

Appalachian State owned the 65th-best passing attack in the nation through two weeks of action with 247.5 yards per game. The Mountaineers are ranked almost directly in the middle of the 131-team FBS in passing offense. If Appalachian State's 247.5 yards per game is considered an average or slightly above average performance, then the Hawkeyes are still missing the mark in the air.

Iowa's best passing performance of the season to this point featured 175 yards and one touchdown. Using the Appalachian State example, Iowa is still almost 75 yards away from the national average on its best passing day of the year.

Even with Johnson and Ragaini, Iowa couldn't eclipse 200 passing yards. Granted, it was raining pretty hard throughout Saturday's game and the Hawkeyes did drop some passes.

I'm still passed to believe Iowa should score more than one touchdown and gain at least 200 yards through the air against the 121st-ranked pass defense in the FBS.

Don't get me wrong, the return of Ragaini and Johnson is a big deal, but it's a band-aid. You don't

put a band-aid on a bullet wound like the one Iowa's offense has been nursing all season.

Taking out Ragaini's 46-yard reception that probably would've been intercepted by a better defense, the Hawkeyes' offense only passed for 129 yards. Petras threw at least four other balls that could've been picked off, as Nevada racked up four pass breakups.

Petras almost over-threw his touchdown pass to Bruce in the first quarter, too. Bruce was wide open in the end zone, and he still had to sprint to get under Petras' throw.

Johnson and Ragaini caught a combined four passes for 67 yards — though Johnson didn't play in most of the second half because of the lightning delays.

"He just didn't feel like he could get loose," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said of Johnson postgame. "Such unusual circumstances, you know?"

Iowa's offense took some baby steps forward on Saturday. But if Incarnate Word can rack up 55 on Nevada, surely Iowa should score at least 30.

Like Ferentz said, the circumstances of Saturday's game were unusual. So, it's hard for me to make a complete judgment of Iowa's performance.

It's good that the

Hawkeyes showed signs of life Saturday, but I'm not going to take it as an indicator of things to come. Rather, it might

be a warning about how tough Big Ten play will be on Iowa this season.

austin-hanson@uiowa.edu

**HAWKEYE UPDATES**

**Grades**

Offense — C+

Iowa's offense showed significant improvement in the Hawkeyes' 27-0 win over the Nevada Wolf Pack Saturday night and Sunday morning at Kinnick Stadium. The Hawkeyes gained 337 yards and scored three touchdowns. Both totals are season highs.

In its first two games of the season, Iowa mustered a combined 316 yards and one touchdown. Against South Dakota State and Iowa State, Iowa scored seven points per game. The Hawkeyes' first touchdown of the season came from running back Leshon Williams in the Cy-Hawk game on Sept. 10. Iowa scored seven points against South Dakota State via two safeties and a field goal.

With that context as the frame, some might say Iowa's offense looked pretty darn good against Nevada. And the Hawkeyes certainly were explosive, as true freshman running back Kaleb Johnson scored 40-yard and 55-yard rushing touchdowns.

Iowa also registered its first passing TD of the 2022 season Saturday, as senior quarterback Spencer Petras connected with sophomore wide receiver Arland Bruce for a 21-yard touchdown. Senior Nico Ragaini also hauled in a 46-yard pass from Petras in the third quarter of Saturday's contest.

While the boost in offensive production is surely a welcome sign for Hawkeye fans, it's likely not an indicator of future success. Nevada came into Saturday's game with an overall defense that ranked 95th in the country and a pass defense that was rated 121st.

Against inferior competition like Incarnate Word, New Mexico State, and Texas State, Nevada surrendered 27 points per game. Incarnate Word hung 55 on Nevada during Week 2.

With that in mind, it's reasonable to estimate the Hawkeyes left some bread on the table, offensively.

**Defense — A+**

It's hard for a defense to be perfect, but Iowa was as close as it could be to perfection Saturday at Kinnick. The Hawkeyes held the Wolf Pack scoreless.

Nevada gained just 151 yards on 64 total plays — a 2.4 yards-per-attempt average. The Wolf Pack picked up 10 total first downs, and one of those conversions came via penalty.

Iowa defensive back Cooper DeJean also intercepted one of Nevada quarterback Shane Illingworth's passes with 4:36 remaining in the first quarter. DeJean picked Illingworth's pass near the 40-yard line. The 6-foot-1 defensive back even dragged his toes along the boundary like a wide receiver when he made the interception.

The only thing the Hawkeyes' defense didn't do Saturday was score. DeJean's interception did, however, set up Iowa's first passing touchdown of the year.

**Special teams — A**

Usually, A+ grades are reserved for perfect performances. And Iowa's special teams units were nearly unblemished Saturday.

The only visible mistake to point to is one Tory Taylor punt that rolled into the end zone for a touchback. In his defense, it was raining for almost all of Iowa's Week 3 matchup with Nevada.

Counting the touchback, Taylor racked up seven punts Saturday, downing four inside the 20-yard line. Taylor's longest punt of the day was a 62-yarder. He amassed 327 punting yards on the game.

Iowa also got a much-needed lift at kicker. True freshman Drew Stevens replaced sophomore Aaron Blom as the Hawkeyes' starter.

Blom went 1-of-3 on his first few attempts of the season. In his first collegiate start Saturday, Stevens went 2-of-2 with his longest make coming from 43 yards out.

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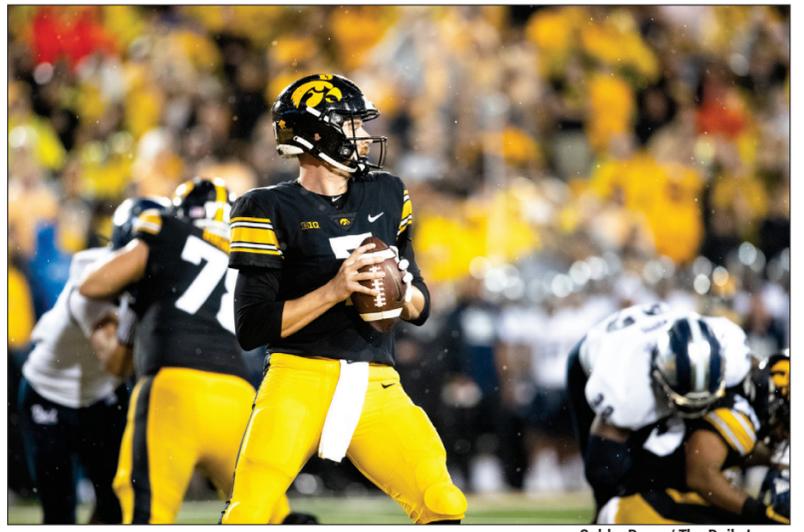
# Washed-out win

Three lightning delays pushed the Hawkeyes' matchup with the Wolf Pack to a Sunday morning finish.



Jerod Ringwald/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa fans observe action while rain falls down during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wolf Pack, 27-0.



Gabby Drees/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras throws the ball during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17. Petras passed for 175 yards and a touchdown.



Jerod Ringwald/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Nico Ragaini attempts to catch a pass during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17.



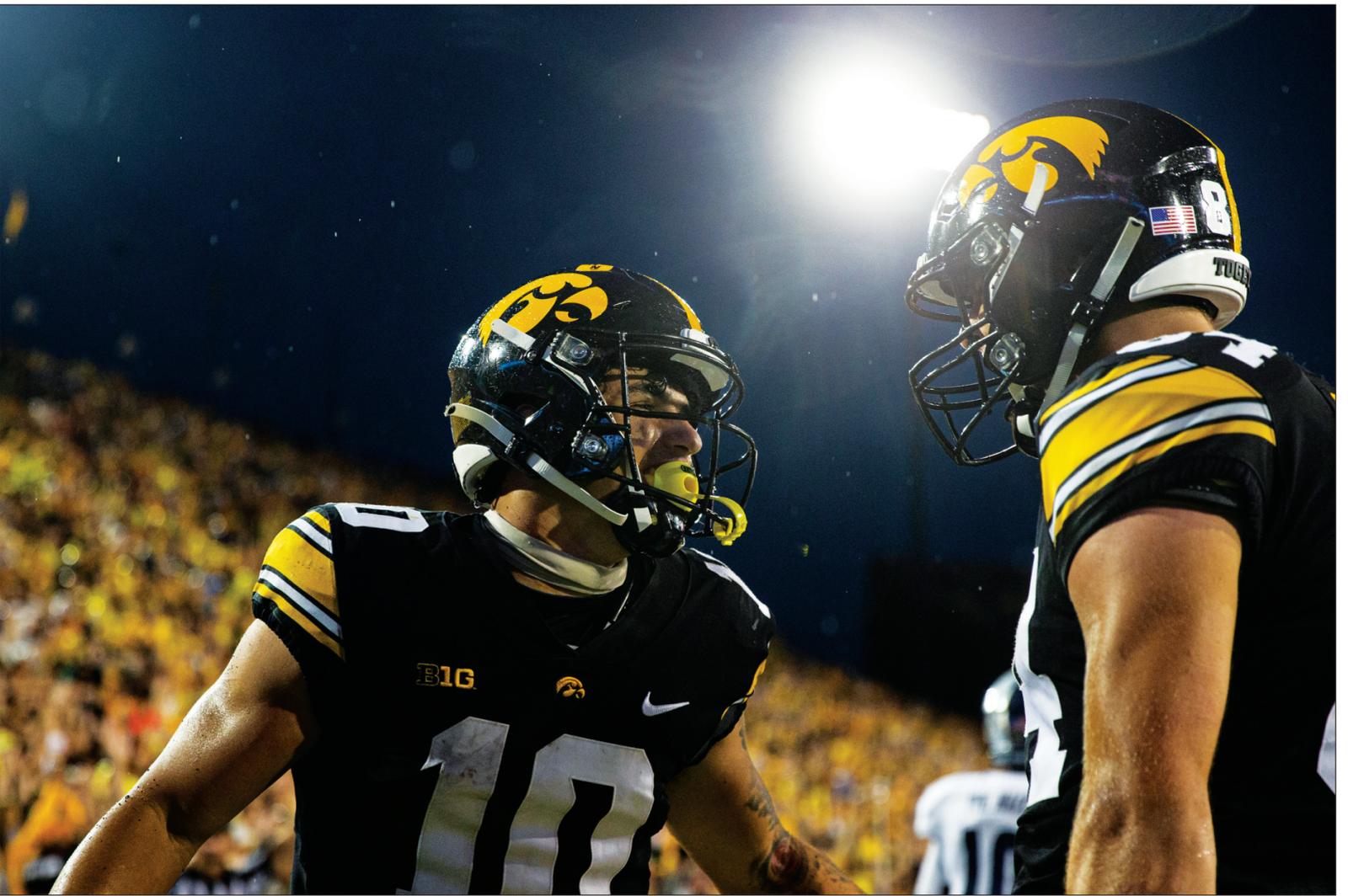
Jerod Ringwald/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa fans evacuate Kinnick Stadium after lightning strikes nearby during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17.



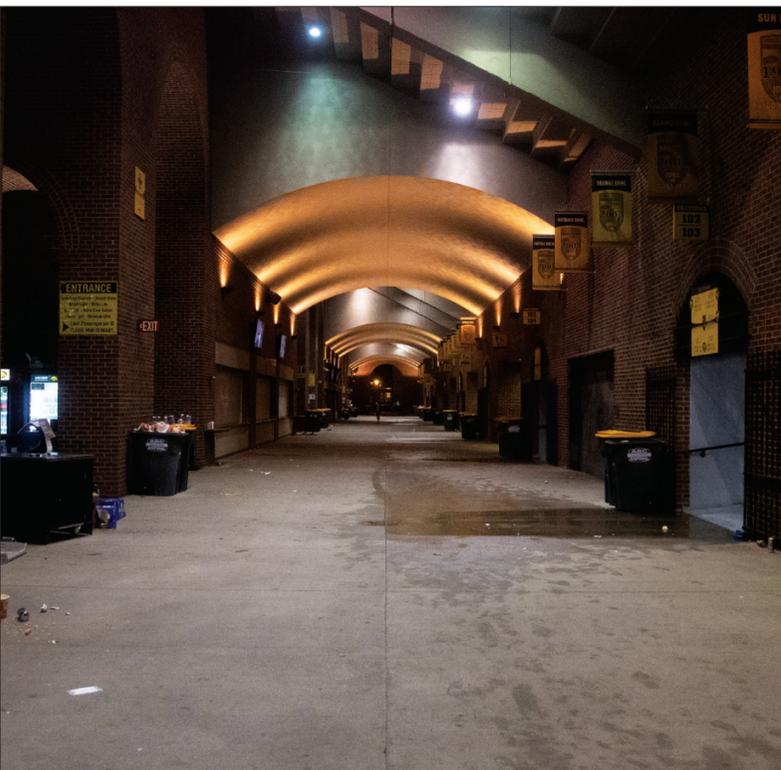
Jerod Ringwald/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Arland Bruce catches a touchdown pass during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17.



Jerod Ringwald/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Arland Bruce celebrates his touchdown reception with tight end Sam LaPorta during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17. Bruce caught three passes for 50 yards and a touchdown.



Gabby Drees/ The Daily Iowan

Kinnick Stadium's concourse is seen almost empty during a football game between Iowa and Nevada in Iowa City on Sept. 17. Several lightning delays sent most of the crowd home.



Jerod Ringwald/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa linebacker Jack Campbell and defensive back Quinn Shulte tackle Nevada wide receiver Dalevon Campbell during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17.

# Postgame

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE IN IOWA

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Iowa - 27 Nevada - 0

## Johnson bursts onto the scene

The true freshman scored his first two collegiate touchdowns against Nevada at Kinnick Stadium.



Gabby Drees/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa running back Kaleb Johnson runs the ball in during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 18. Johnson earned two touchdowns. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wolf Pack, 27-0.

Isaac Goffin  
Football Reporter

Before Iowa football's Week 3 contest against Nevada, true freshman running back Kaleb Johnson thought he wouldn't be a big factor in the Hawkeyes' offense this early in his collegiate career.

He proved himself wrong by recording two rushing touchdowns and 103 yards on seven attempts in Iowa's 27-0 win over Nevada Saturday night at Kinnick Stadium.

"I've been waiting for this since I got here," Johnson said postgame.

Johnson's first collegiate touchdown came on an in-

side rush he bounced out to the right sideline. Once the Ohio native hit the boundary, he cruised to the end zone for a 40-yard touchdown with 4:36 left in the first quarter.

"I just saw my blocker," Johnson said. "Read him, and I really thought I was going to go down, but I just told my mind to stay up."

Then, after three lightning delays spanning almost four hours, Johnson found the end zone again with under nine minutes remaining in the contest. Like his first touchdown, Johnson broke an inside zone run to the outside. He streaked down Iowa's sideline for a 55-yard touch-

down.

Iowa's offense ranked last in the 131-team FBS before Saturday's contest. The Hawkeyes were averaging 158 offensive yards and seven points per game. The only touchdown the Hawkeyes had scored was courtesy of a nine-yard scamper from sophomore running back Leshon Williams during Iowa's Week 2 loss to Iowa State.

Williams, who led the team in rushing before Johnson exploded onto the scene Saturday, had totaled 106 yards on 38 rushes in two games. Iowa's run offense accumulated 57.5 rushing yards per contest with Williams

at the helm, which ranked 127th in the country.

Williams was absent from the Hawkeyes' matchup on Saturday because his father died earlier in the week, Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said.

Sophomore Gavin Williams was Iowa's top running back on the pre-season depth charts. He missed Week 1 with a reported ankle injury and recorded two rushes for 10 yards against Iowa State in Week 2.

Gavin Williams was Iowa's top option at running against the Wolf Pack, taking a team-high 16 carries for 57 yards. His longest run of the day was 12 yards.

Overall, the Hawkeyes recorded 162 yards on the ground against the Wolf Pack.

Johnson failed to make a noticeable impact in his first two collegiate games, with zero yards on three rushes in the season-opener. He put up 13 yards on four attempts in Week 2 — though one of his rushes was for eight yards.

"First game, I started stiff," Johnson said. "I was kind of nervous and scared — a little bit excited because it was my first time. Second game, got in. Got a first down, it was cool. Then, the third game is when I just turned it on and just went up from

there. So, it was just really me getting used to the environment, getting used to the players, and getting used to the other teams that we play."

It is unclear how Iowa will split its carries out of the backfield next week against Rutgers at SHI Stadium in Piscataway, New Jersey, if Leshon Williams, Gavin Williams, and Johnson are all available.

Senior quarterback Spencer Petras said he knew Johnson's Week 3 performance was coming. The fifth-year senior recalled Johnson running through tackles when the

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### COLUMN

## Iowa's offense still underperforming

The Hawkeyes' 337-yard, three-touchdown performance left something to be desired.



Austin Hanson  
Pregame Editor

Saturday's Iowa-Nevada game is certainly one of the strangest I've seen in my three years covering the Hawkeye football team. The contest took about seven hours to play, featured three lightning delays, and ended just after 1:30 a.m. Sunday.

While Iowa did end up blowing Nevada out, 27-0, the matchup had some excitement and drama.

True freshman running back Kaleb Johnson scored one 40-yard touchdown and another 55-yard TD. Sophomore wide receiver Arland Bruce caught a 21-yard touchdown pass — the Hawkeyes' first TD through the air in 2022. And wide-out Nico Ragaini hauled in a 46-yard throw from quarterback Spencer Petras.

I'm sure that all sounds like cause for optimism for Hawkeye fans. At long last, Iowa's offense showed a pulse.

I agree with the senti-

ment — to an extent. The Hawkeyes' offense certainly did take a step in the right direction.

I'd still encourage Hawkeye faithfuls to proceed with caution. I wouldn't bank on Iowa's offense to look that good again at any point this season.

What we saw on the field on Saturday night was an augmented look at the Hawkeyes' offense. And I think there are a few indicators that illustrate my point.

First, I'll state the obvious. Nevada was an inferior opponent. From top to bottom, the Wolf Pack were clearly outmatched by the Hawkeyes at almost every position.

The Wolf Pack entered Saturday's contest with the 95th-ranked defense in the country. Their pass defense was rated 121st in the nation before Week 3.

In their first three games of the season, the Wolf Pack gave up 27 points per game. Coincidentally, that was the exact total the Hawkeyes hit Saturday night.

Here's the catch: Nevada played its first three games against New Mexico State, Incarnate Word, and Texas State. I'd consider all three teams inferior to the

Hawkeyes. Yet, on average, they still managed to score the same number of points Iowa did Saturday night.

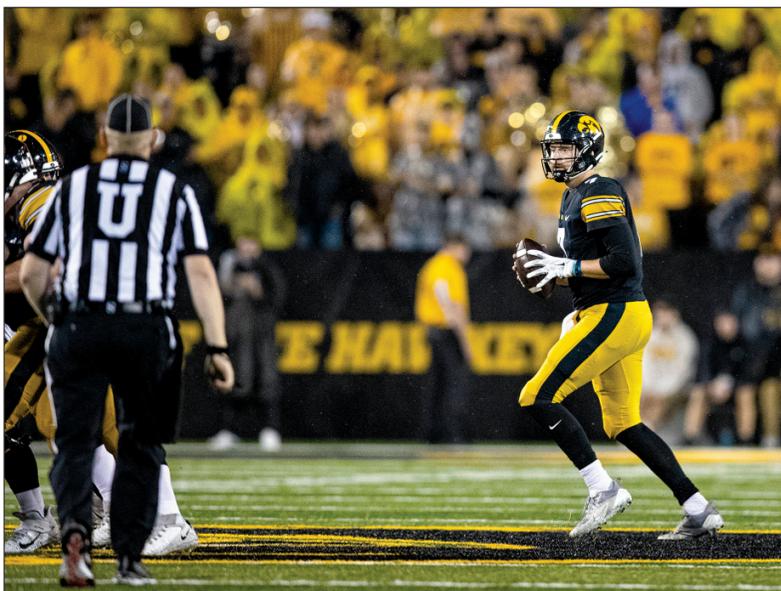
As of Week 2, both Texas State (88th) and New Mexico State (150th) ranked higher than Iowa in offensive production. Incarnate Word — an FCS team — even managed to hang 55 points on the Wolf Pack.

Had Iowa's offense not found ways to score against a horrid Wolf Pack defense this week, it really would've been time for the Hawkeyes to sound the alarm. But Iowa has staved off the panic button for another week.

Still, Iowa fans shouldn't think their team has turned the corner just because they aren't actively panicking.

The issues that plagued the Hawkeyes' offense against the South Dakota State Jackrabbits and Iowa State Cyclones' defenses were still pervasive during Week 3.

The Hawkeyes' offensive line, which entered the week ranked ninth in the Big Ten Conference in pass protection, let up a few massive sacks Saturday. Iowa starting quarterback Spencer Petras was sacked three times, netting 23 total yards lost.



Jerod Ringwald/ The Daily Iowan

Iowa quarterback Spencer Petras drops back to pass during a football game between Iowa and Nevada at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Sept. 17. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wolf Pack, 27-0.

Two of Nevada's sacks came via overload blitzes. The Wolf Pack blotted up pass rushers on one side of Iowa's offensive line, and the Hawkeyes failed to pick up the extra defenders. On at least one, if not two, occasions, defenders hit Petras unblocked.

Nevada's pass rush was tied for 64th in the nation before Saturday's game,

averaging two sacks per game. Iowa let up more than the Wolf Pack's average in sacks.

Playing seven or nine yards behind the sticks because of a sack doesn't prove costly against a poor team like Nevada, but I promise it will against the rest of the teams on the Hawkeyes' schedule.

For the most part, Iowa

also failed to run block effectively. Yes, I know I mentioned Johnson's two touchdowns. But, if you take those explosive plays away, Iowa gained just 87 yards on the ground. For those keeping score at home, that's 2.6 yards per carry.

Through two weeks of

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