

The Daily Iowan

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INSIDE



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The bill's recent passage in the Iowa Legislature leaves school board members concerned about the future of public schools.

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UI faces lawsuit for alleged breach of public/private utility contract

The lawsuit claims the breach resulted in millions of unpaid fees and repairs.

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Iowa City retirement homes adapt to new COVID-19 variants

Coming up on the three-year anniversary of COVID-19, retirement homes hope to continue with their daily lives as new variants spread.

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McCaffery returns

After taking a leave of absence because of anxiety, the junior returned to a standing ovation at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Sunday.

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ONLINE



Alix O'Brien proves herself for Iowa swimming and diving

The Division III transfer has taken home five first-place finishes for the Hawkeyes this season.



IC mayor, police chief issue joint statement denouncing police brutality

The statement came after the release of the arrest video of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee, on Jan. 7. The video shows Nichols being beaten, pepper sprayed, and tased.

DITV

Watch for campus and city news, weather, and Hawkeye sports coverage at dailyiowan.com



Iowa City Indigenous parents speak out against racism

Parents are hopeful the city and school district will improve in future meetings.



Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

Marie Krebs, a member of the Apache Nation and commissioner of the Iowa City Truth and Reconciliation Commission, sat down for coffee with Sikowis Nobiss, a member of Plains Cree/Saulteaux of the George Gordon First Nation, and her daughter at Bread Garden Market in Iowa City.

Kate Perez
News Editor

Sikowis Nobiss, a member of Plains Cree/Saulteaux of the George Gordon First Nation, has enrolled all of her children in the Iowa City Community School District. Each child had a negative experience

regarding representation of Indigenous culture, from inaccurate curriculum to offensive school programs.

The breaking point for Nobiss came in late 2022 when she watched a school program at Shimek Elementary School. During the program, her daughter

and other children were told to dance to traditional powwow music used by Indigenous people.

"I just couldn't handle it anymore. I was like, this is too much because the children were literally playing Indian. And that is really, really not okay," Nobiss said. "It's almost

like it's too close to home, and it really hurts to see my daughter dressed in her skirt and her hair ties and braided hair and to be standing in the back of all that and really uncomfortable and confused."

Events like these programs contribute to the erasure that Nobiss said

Indigenous people face everyday regarding their history and culture because a powwow is a sacred event in their culture.

"It seems like it's okay to still be openly racist and to play Indian and mock us and take our culture

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ETHICS & POLITICS

Bill to change SNAP benefits limits food options

Under the proposed law, fresh meat, American cheese, and white grains would be prohibited.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa House convenes during the first day of the 90th Iowa General Assembly at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines on Jan. 9.

Emily Delgado
Politics Reporter

Iowans could see fewer food options eligible for food stamp benefits if a bill proposed by Iowa House Republicans is enacted into law.

An Iowa House committee is discussing legislation that would modify specific food and eligibility requirements for Iowa's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The bill would consolidate SNAP with the Special

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to save on administrative costs, thus restricting the purchase of certain food items not allowed under the state's WIC program. The WIC program pro-

hibits the purchase of certain food items with the benefits, including white grains, baked or refried beans, chili beans, fresh meat, and sliced, cubed and American cheese. The bill in its current state has been recommended for passage by the subcommittee assigned to the bill. It passed 2-1, with the Democrat on the panel voting against the bill.

The chair of the subcommittee, Thomas Jeneary, a Republican from Le Mars, said the restrictions on food types would be eliminated from the bill, but no formal amendment has been introduced.

Opponents say the bill would limit access to food for many Iowans

Community advocates say these restrictions will limit food choices for Iowans. Christopher Ackman, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program's communications and volunteer manager, said the bill would severely limit how Iowans can spend

their benefits and drive an increase in food pantry traffic.

"Families who are low income are already having a tough time," Ackman said in an interview with *The Daily Iowan*. "This kind of makes it tougher. By limiting the SNAP benefits, it also puts a strain on the whole economy as well."

Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, a Democrat from Ames and a member of the subcommittee that discussed the bill, said imposing restrictions on what families can eat is wrong. Wessel-Kroeschell also said the main argument for changing the qualifications of the program is that it will save the state money.

"There's not a good solid reason for me that we're doing — except for public perception. There are people who think there's way too many people on SNAP benefits, but that's purely a perception problem," Wessel-Kroeschell said.

SNAP | Page 2

UI Health Care to open facility in southeast Iowa City

University of Iowa Health Care will offer a new facility for areas with few immediate primary care options.

Sydney Libert
News Reporter

A new University of Iowa Health Care facility specializing in primary care services is slated to open in 2025 in southeast Iowa City.

While the project is in the beginning stages of development, the facility's planned location will increase access to health care in an area of the city with the fewest

primary care options.

"In order to build strong neighborhoods and a healthy community, we need to make sure everyone has access to high-quality health care," Iowa City Mayor Bruce Teague said in a press release. "By placing primary care services in this currently underserved neighborhood, we can have a positive impact on the health of our

community for years to come."

According to UIHC, the university started the request for proposal process but has not decided on the developer or the exact location of the new facility in the selected area.

"By adding services in southeast Iowa City, we are increasing access and reducing barriers for individuals seeking high-quality care," Kim Hunter,

interim chief executive officer and chief nurse executive at UIHC, said in a statement.

Jessica Bovey, a member of the South District Neighborhood Association's Leadership Committee and southeast Iowa City resident, said she is excited to see improved access to medical resources in the community.

"There are a lot of people in the

neighborhood that don't have the time or mobility available to drive all the way across town," Bovey said. "With the medical clinic on this side of town, you know, it would make a lot of people very happy to know that medical care is easier to access."

With a lack of nearby primary care options available, some residents of the South District

UIHC | Page 2

League of Legends "L"



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa second-year student Alex Barloon and his team, The Clear Favorites, compete in the University of Iowa's League of Legends club tournament against The Underdogs on Sunday. "Don't pick Veigar, man!" Barloon said to a teammate while reflecting on their 3-0 loss.

ICCSO Continued from Front

and flip it around and sell it or act it or make fun of it, whereas other groups in this country, if that were to happen openly like that, there would be a huge outcry," she said.

Nobiss is one of five people who have recently spoken out against the school district or Iowa City, stating in written testimonies that they, or their child, experienced discrimination or inaccurate descriptions of Indigenous people.

Now, the school district and the city are working with those who wrote testimonies to ratify the situ-

ation. Stefanie Bowers, Iowa City equity director and LGBTQ liaison, wrote in an email to The Daily Iowan that the commission discussed the letter at its meeting on Jan. 23, but decided to table the meeting until after the writers met with the school board.

Additionally, Iowa City schools Superintendent Matt Denger wrote in an email statement to the DI that the district is aiming to meet with the testimony writers in the future.

Nobiss said she is hopeful working with the district will incite change and is happy that they have reached out.

"It's not that the school

themselves was actually actively trying to carry out a racist act, but just by sheer ignorance, they did," Nobiss said. "I've never

It's not that the school themselves was actually actively trying to carry out a racist act, but by sheer ignorance, they did.

— Sikowis Nobiss, a member of Plains Cree/Saulteaux of the George Gordon First Nation

seen other Native American children at the school for as long as my children had been there ... I've never seen any Native American curriculum talk about Native American history, either."

Nobiss said the group

plans to meet with the school board soon to discuss the situation and the best way to move forward. "Our method of dis-

cussing this issue hasn't been one to make people feel like bad," she said. "We really want to educate people, and we want them to understand that ignorance is also a form of racism, and erasure is also a form of racism, and stereotyping is also a form of racism."

Marie Krebs, a member of the Apache Nation and commissioner of the Iowa City Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said she is hoping for the same results as Nobiss. Krebs, whose testimony was about her experience attempting to remove her son from an Iowa City youth football team named the "Redskins," said she has had positive experiences with the school district but still wants racial sensitivity to improve across the county.

"We really want to do things correctly, and as long as we're all learning, that's really what I want. I just want people to learn," Krebs said. "Mistakes are going to happen. Let's fix them. Let's come togeth-



Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

Marie Krebs met with Sikowis Nobiss and her daughter at the Pedestrian Mall park in Iowa City on Jan. 28. The two discussed upcoming projects for the Great Plains Action Society, a group of Indigenous people living in the Great Plains region who are resisting colonization and re-Indigenizing the land.

SNAP Continued from Front

CEO of Food Bank of Iowa Michelle Book said it is her guess that the reason politicians want to restrict SNAP is because they think it will encourage people to stay in the workforce.

Subcommittee met on Jan. 26, passed the bill 2-1, now heads to whole committee for consideration

Lawmakers discussed the proposed alignment of SNAP and WIC during the final subcommittee meeting on the bill Thursday morning. SNAP and WIC programs are both public welfare services, but WIC is meant to aid pregnant women, while SNAP benefits low-income households.

"That's a program that's specifically designed for

pregnant mothers, and so they have some restrictive benefits and food items that they can get with those. And essentially, that's the type of benefits that they are looking towards," Ackman said. "So, there are foods that are not really sustainable for family. There will be that more choice in the category of benefits."

Wessel-Kroeschell said WIC-approved foods are not enough to fit the nutritional needs of a family because WIC is targeted at pregnant women.

Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley, a Republican

The federal government paid Iowa

\$20 million for the costs of the SNAP program.

from New Hartford, is one of the many sponsors of the bill and said the program is costing the state too much money to administer.

"Everyone wants to make this new ESA program look like the true threat to public education," Grassley said to Iowa PBS. "If you want to look at a true budget impact on what things are really challenging in the budget for public education or private education, its these entitlement programs. They are the ones growing on the budget and putting pressure on us."

States do not fund SNAP alone, rather they split the administrative costs with the federal government. In 2020, the federal government paid Iowa \$20 million for the costs of SNAP. The state bears half the administrative burden for the program, according to state budget analysis.

In 2021, 9 percent, or around 286,100 Iowans, received SNAP benefits, and each household received an average of \$212 in SNAP benefits.

Another part of the bill would impose asset limits on Iowans seeking or already receiving SNAP benefits. The cap for SNAP benefits eligibility is no more than \$2,250 for a household and no more than \$3,250 if a household

The cap for SNAP benefits is no more than

\$2,250 for a household.

contains a person who is 60 years and older or who has a disability.

Lawmakers explained this would only enforce current federal guidelines that Iowa hasn't done in

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STAFF

Publisher | 335-5788 Jason Brummond

Executive Editor | 335-6030 Hannah Pinski

Managing Editor Sabine Martin

Managing Digital Editor Ryan Hansen

Creative Director Jerod Ringwald

News Editors Kate Perez and Cooper Worth

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Phone: (319) 335-6030 Email: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu

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Send address changes to: The Daily Iowan, 100 Adler Journalism Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2004

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager | 335-5786 Debra Plath

Advertising Director and Circulation Manager | 335-5784 Juli Krause

Production Manager Heidi Owen

er and talk about it."

The important thing for people to remember is to be mindful of their differences as they learn about cultures that are not their own, Krebs said.

"As long as there's that mutual respect, and they're willing to learn, and they're willing to evaluate what's happening, that's what I hope for personally," Krebs said. "We can all learn and have a good community for these kids."

Going forward, Krebs said she hopes people in the city and county develop more awareness about the different cultures in the area.

"We have a small group of Indigenous people here in Iowa City, and I think this is good that people are coming together and speaking out, so I just hope the city hears us,"

Krebs said. "... Our community should be inclusive in all of our walks of life. Because our diversity that makes us a strong community."

Overall, the group's goal going forward is to properly educate both the district and the city on the accurate history of Indigenous peoples, Nobiss said.

"We're not trying to demonize the city. We don't want to demonize the school district," she said. "But we do want to have a public conversation about it because I do hope they come through and they do provide ... their teachers with proper education on teaching and interacting with Indigenous folks plus teaching about Indigenous history and about issues that affect Indigenous agency."

katharine-perez@uiowa.edu

the past.

"This simply is working to knock people off of SNAP and not help them with, you know, the bottom line — what's the real problem," Wessel-Kroeschell said.

Wessel-Kroeschell said this bill will knock people off the program, meaning less money would be coming from the federal government to the state.

Ackman said the effects of changing Iowa's SNAP benefits go beyond the choices made at the grocery store. Ackman said because many families use their

SNAP benefits the minute they receive them, the program gives a boost to grocery stores, farmers, and local economies. Ackman said groups like the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, which are non-profits and not government agencies are at the mercy of political issues.

The bill is still in the legislative process but is likely to be considered and discussed at the next Health and Human Services committee meeting in the Iowa House.

emily-delgado@uiowa.edu

UIHC Continued from Front

must consider workday availability, child care, transportation, and other conflicts before seeking care.

Bovey mentioned that while the South District doesn't have any other permanent clinics in the district, there are periodic mobile health units. Bovey said there is a dental van that comes through from the university and a van from a free medical clinic that comes once a week.

To reach existing medical facilities, Bovey said some South District residents may need to cross the highway, which is not ideal for people.

"The only way to cross the highway is either by

car or bike or on foot, and a lot of our residents are not game for that on foot, and they don't have cars," Bovey said. "I'm lucky I have a car. I'm also lucky that employers that I am able to work for are usually pretty cooperative about needing to have time off if I'm not well. That's definitely a privileged thing that not everybody can claim."

Audra M. King, another southeast Iowa City resident, also expressed her support for how the new facility will reduce the challenges for residents in accessing health care.

"I think that something physically on this side of town would open up so many doors for people that have just hurdles that maybe other people

don't have," King said. "It really just kind of levels the playing field a bit more by having a facility like this embedded in the community versus the expectation that people will always be able to, you know, go across the river or take the bus or find a ride or whatever."

As a parent, King said having a nearby primary care facility would also make it easier if any of her kids needed medical attention.

"While I have a primary care doctor that I'm very comfortable staying with, if there's a facility that makes it easier for us to run the kids to the doctor when they get sick or, you know, receive their primary care and then still be able to get them all to school more quickly

so they miss less school, I'm all about that," she said.

King, who works for the UI Carver College of Medicine in the Office of Student Affairs and Curriculum, added that while the closer location of the facility will be beneficial for traveling reasons, it also may make receiving health treatment less intimidating to residents.

"I feel like having something on the east side of town, it's kind of like having it on your own turf, like you're in your community where you feel comfortable, and [that] might make it a little bit easier for people to take advantage of the services," she said.

sydney-libert@uiowa.edu

A 10x10 word search grid with words like BERG, MAZE, RESTS, ODOR, URIS, ULTRA, ONCE, DINS, MERIT, MAKE, FACE, VAPE, ORAL, XSHAPED, APP, HOPS, HAT, GOE, SWIT, CH, ENARS, DORM, WIT, EA, GNAP, CHANGE, HANDS, TIA, EEL, LEIA, INN, GRAMMYS, SCAT, ROLO, CLOCKWORK, IWONT, ROMA, OXEN, PENIN, USER, LINE, ERECT, MEND, SNOW.

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IC school board responds to Students First Act

The law's recent passage in the Iowa Legislature leaves school board members concerned about the future of public school funding.



Grace Kreber/The Daily Iowan

The Iowa City Community School District sign is seen in Iowa City on Sept. 13, 2022.

Virginia Russell
News Reporter

Following the recent enactment of the Students First Act, some Iowa City Community School District Board members are concerned about the future of funding for public schools.

The new law, which was passed in the Iowa Legislature on Jan. 24 and signed into law later that morning, will use taxpayer money to fund private school student education through educational savings accounts.

The education savings accounts total \$7,598 a year per private school student to spend on tuition and other education expenses. This is the same amount of state aid given

and rural communities because there are fewer private schools in rural areas, and urban areas receive more funding.

"Chances are, we'll see those schools hit hardest first," Malone said. "There will be a lot more consolidation and/or elimination of those rural schools because they're all fighting for the same number of students and the same amount of money."

School board member Maka Pilcher Hayek said education savings accounts do not cover the full tuition for private schools, so students of lower socioeconomic status will be unable to attend.

"Do you think that people that have low

"Is this the most important thing for your state government to be working on? For example, why not make pre-school free for everyone instead?" he tweeted on Jan. 20.

Williams said the law is a direct choice from lawmakers to stop supporting public education.

"We could have



Lisa Williams
School board vice president

"We could have invested that huge sum of money into making our public schools stronger, but that's not what they wanted to do. They want to channel that money into private institutions instead.

— School board vice president Lisa Williams

to public schools per student, according to Gov. Kim Reynolds' office.

Some school board members say this law signifies a shift in funding toward private institutions, which will leave public schools at a disadvantage.

"I think the best way to describe it is a profound disappointment," Lisa Williams, school board vice president, said. "It's really sad for me to witness this historic moment in Iowa."

Iowa City School Board President Ruthina Malone said she is concerned about the law's lack of transparency requirements for private schools, as private schools do not have to accept all students and use public funds.

"We accept any student



Ruthina Malone
Iowa City School Board President

that lives in our school zone," Malone said. "They should be held to the same standards, and we should know what those standards are."

Malone said there are disparities between urban

"We accept any student that lives in our school zone. They should be held to the same standards, and we should know what those standards are.

— Iowa City School Board President Ruthina Malone

income, and in fact, middle income with a voucher of \$7,600 can afford the rest of the tuition at these private schools? No," Pilcher Hayek said.

"These vouchers aren't



Maka Pilcher Hayek
School board member

"These vouchers aren't going to help the masses. These vouchers are going to allow private — mostly Christian — schools to decide who they want to let in.

— School board member Maka Pilcher Hayek

going to help the masses. These vouchers are going to allow private — mostly Christian — schools to decide who they want to let in."

According to a report from the Legislative Services Agency, about \$345 million in taxpayer dollars will be spent on the education savings accounts after four years of the law's installation.

Iowa City schools Superintendent Matt Degner critiqued the law via Twitter before its passage.

don't change. They still cost the same," Williams said. "... The \$1,200 is an attempt to help, but it's not going to be sufficient."

As for the district, board members remain firm that the bill is not going to change the strength of public education.

"We have leadership that is going to double down its efforts to serve these kids when our state is sending messages to undermine the system that we have committed to," Pilcher Hayek said. "We will remain the system that protects Iowa's social fabric. We will remain the entity that is committed to serving children and to ensuring that Iowa has a better future."

virginia-russell@uiowa.edu

There's always something exciting going on at the Stanley Museum of Art.



The Art of Conservation

Learn about the fascinating science of art conservation. Paintings conservator Nina Roth-Wells will be your guide.

February 12 at 2 p.m.
Stanley Museum of Art Lobby



Meet one of the most important American artists working today. University of Iowa alumnus

Oliver Lee Jackson

Jackson's five-decade career began at Iowa. His monumental paintings are proudly featured at the Stanley Museum of Art.

February 23 at 7 p.m.
Stanley Museum of Art Lobby



Write at the Stanley with DK Nnuro

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February 26 at 3 p.m.
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Free and open to all.



Full calendar of events on our website:



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Opinions

Increase pay for instructional track faculty

Many UI faculty report feeling disrespected, and the university must address these concerns.



Evan Weidl
Opinions Columnist

There is a workplace cultural crisis running rampant across the nation, and the University of Iowa is not safe from it. At the UI, instructional track faculty reported feeling like “second-class citizens” compared to tenured track faculty. Those instructors voiced concerns about issues such as job insecurity, low starting pay, and lack of appreciation.

What we are seeing at the UI is a symptom of a nationwide system that corners less experienced workers into being paid less and being treated with less respect. The university must treat all employees with dignity, no matter how long they

have been working there or what job they work.

The results of this mistreatment have been staggering. A whopping 50 percent of faculty, staff, and postdocs have seriously considered leaving the UI in the last year. The amount of faculty that say they feel valued by the university has fallen 15 percent since 2018.

Workers across the country feel underappreciated. A survey of 2,000 American workers by OnePoll found that 59 percent have never felt appreciated by their boss.

Feeling appreciated is not just a courtesy that workers deserve — it is a necessary business practice for employers. According to the American Psychological Association, feeling valued is a key indicator of job performance. Of the 59 percent of workers who say they’ve never had an appreciative boss, 65 percent say they’d stay at a job with an unappreciative manager if their co-

workers and peers were appreciative.

Making an employee feel appreciated takes more than casual Fridays and a dozen cheap donuts a week. Employees at the UI and everywhere must receive better pay and better opportunities.

There are many steps that bosses and employers at the UI can take to make their instructional track faculty feel more valued. The issues the faculty reported feeling most concerned about were “job insecurity, lack of leadership opportunities, lack of appreciation, low starting pay, and small salary increases.”

If the university is not going to increase starting pay, they must make raises larger if they want to make their employees feel more respected.

The UI will spend \$288,793,123 for faculty and instructional officials in fiscal 2023. To pay for a salary increase, the university should consider slightly lowering the pay



Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan
A member of the audience asks a question at the Faculty Senate Meeting in the Old Capitol on Sept. 13, 2022.

of some of their tenured professors.

The UI Faculty Senate caps the amount of instructional track faculty representation at 10 percent of any college, or one Senator, whichever is greater. Over 80 percent of the instructional track faculty felt this cap is inappropriate.

The UI should eliminate this cap immediately. It is unfair and disrespectful to the instructional track faculty to deny their representation. If they want a UI Faculty Senate that is truly fair and representative of the faculty, they must scrap the cap.

It is time to change the culture of work in the U.S.

Bosses have made workers feel as though they are being provided a service by being hired and that they should always be at the mercy of their boss. Companies — and universities — need their employees more than their employees need them.

evan-weidl@uiowa.edu

Do not reinstate the death penalty

The death penalty is discriminatory and ineffective as a crime deterrent.



Kyle Tristan Ortega
Opinions Contributor

Debates about the implementation of capital punishment have recently been renewed in Iowa. Specifically, state Sen. Brad Zaun is making efforts to reinstate the death penalty for specific crimes like the kidnapping and rape of a minor.

Similar bills aiming to advance the death penalty in legislation were introduced in 2019 and 2021, but they did not reach the floor for consideration. Zaun has reintroduced the debate in Iowa, arguing that criminals almost have

an incentive to murder potential witnesses to their crimes because the penalty for murder is not severe enough.

However, though common conceptions of justice and fairness would intuitively tell us that criminals who commit heinous acts deserve death, the death penalty has negative consequences that make it morally precarious to implement. The death penalty should not be reinstated because it is discriminatory and does not effectively deter crime.

One of the main arguments for the death penalty, aside from justice for victims, is that it deters crime.

Research has show this isn’t the case. However, for the sake of argument, let us assume that capital punishment does deter crime.

It would be too dangerous of a deterrent because of the existing biases against minorities and people of color in the criminal justice system with regards to sentencing. Iowa’s justice system is no exception to this.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, in the U.S., people of color or have accounted for 43 percent of total executions since 1976, with 80 percent of these cases involving crimes against white victims. Additional studies in the Civil Liberties Law Review have garnered similar results, showing that execution rates for defendants in cases where the victim was white are 17 times higher than for defendants in cases where the victim was Black. In Iowa prisons specifically, one in every four prisoners is Black, which has remained the

case for decades.

These statistics showcase a systemic racial disparity when it comes to how death sentences are decided. With execution being an irreversible punishment, it is clear why this would be an issue.

Regardless, capital punishment and arguments for it have a fundamental problem. Does the death penalty really deter crime? Research suggests that it does not to any significant degree.

A study by the Committee on Law and Justice claims that findings on the deterrent effect of capital punishment are too weak to guide policy-making decisions. Essentially, there is not enough evidence to prove or disprove that the death penalty deters crime.

This is a problem for capital punishment because

if it does not conclusively deter crime, there would be no reasonable justification for Iowa to reinstate it.

To reiterate, the death penalty is discriminatory. There are costs and risks associated with capital punishment that do not make its implementation worth it considering that its supposed benefit — crime deterrence — is not guaranteed.

Therefore, on the basis of its high costs and low benefits, Iowa should not reinstate the death penalty.

Regardless, there are still arguments to be made for it. The ones that always come to mind are arguments based on justice and fairness. It seems intuitive to think that if someone commits an atrocious act, they forfeit their right to life.

Views on this will vary;

however, implementing the death penalty would have severe and irreversible implications for not only criminals but also innocent people. Even with moral or justice-based arguments for capital punishment, it should not be reinstated in Iowa.

Instead, Iowa should retain the life sentence as its most serious punishment. It is cheaper than the death penalty, saving \$90,000 taxpayer dollars per death row inmate per year, according to the ACLU. Moreover, it allows people who were falsely convicted the opportunity to regain their freedom, should it be discovered that they were innocent. Overall, there is less risk involved, which makes it the better alternative to capital punishment.

kyletristan-ortega@uiowa.edu

THE DOC IS IN

When your discharge is normal and when to see a doctor

Vaginal discharge is not a common topic, leaving many people with little info about what is healthy for their bodies. Understanding when you’re normal can give you the tools to detect changes and get treatment early if a problem occurs.

For many people, it is often uncomfortable to discuss vaginal discharge. However, this natural phenomenon is completely normal and healthy. The term vaginal discharge refers to the fluid or mucus that comes from the vagina. It keeps the vagina moist and helps protect against infection.

Why is vaginal discharge important?

All people with a uterus experience vaginal discharge, and knowing what is normal and what is not can give clues to one’s health. It is typically odorless, has a thin to sticky consistency, and can be milky-white to clear in

color.

The average female produces 0.5-1 teaspoon of vaginal discharge per day, but this can vary due to factors such as the menstrual cycle. Changes in estrogen levels contribute to such changes. For example, discharge often becomes thinner near ovulation.

What does abnormal discharge look like?

Other reasons a person’s discharge may change include menopause, infection, chemicals in soaps/bubble baths, and foreign objects. Color is an important indicator of abnormality. Here are some common color changes and what they may mean:

- **Brown or red:** This is usually related to bleeding. It may be normal early or late in the menstrual cycle. If it occurs during other parts of the menstrual cycle, it may suggest a problem.
- **White and clumpy:** Often seen in yeast infections. Some people even describe the appearance to be like “cottage-cheese.” It can be associated with redness and itching.
- **Grey and/or white:** Can be a sign of bacterial vaginosis, which occurs when there is too much of a normal bacterium in the vagina. It is not a sexual transmitted infection. There can be an associated

- “fishy” odor described.
- **Green or yellow:** This is frequently a sign of a bacterial infection from an STI such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, or trichomonas. Discharge may also be frothy with a foul smell.

Other signs of abnormal discharge include large changes in amount, a different or bad odor, thicker consistency, and any discharge associated with pain, itching, or swelling. In any of these cases, it is important to contact a physician.

What happens at the doctor?

In most cases of ab-

normal discharge, simple tests can be performed in a health care provider’s office to determine the cause. More work-up and testing may be necessary if a more complex issue is expected.

Attempting self-treatment is not recommended, as it can delay diagnosis and cause worsening of symptoms. Treatment is important, as untreated infections can potentially lead to spreading of infection, chronic pelvic pain, and infertility. Some vaginal infections can have little or no symptoms, so yearly STI screening is recommended in sexually active females less than 25 years old to prevent such complications.

How to keep the vagina healthy

Vaginal hygiene tips include using non-scented cleansers, avoiding douching (washing or cleaning the inside of the vagina with water or another fluid), wearing loose fitting cotton underwear, and using barrier protection during sex (ex. condoms).

Vaginal discharge is normal and healthy for all women. In general, it is always correct to contact a health care provider with questions in case of abnormal discharge or other health concerns.

Ali Hagenow, she/her/hers,
3rd year Medical Student,
Class of 2024

STAFF

Hannah Pinski, Executive Editor
Sophia Meador, Opinions Editor

Elise Cagnard, Shahab Khan, Chris Klepach, Jr., Evan Weidl, Yasmina Sahir Columnists

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Sophia Meador, Shahab Khan, Yasmina Sahir, Hannah Pinski

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UI faces lawsuit for alleged breach of public/private utility contract

The lawsuit claims the University of Iowa breached its contract with the UI Energy Collaborative, resulting in millions of unpaid fees and repairs.

Grace Katzer
News Reporter

Three years after entering its 50-year contract, the University of Iowa Energy Collaborative, which oversees the utilities across campus, filed a federal lawsuit against the UI for a breach of contract.

The lawsuit claims the UI refused to make payments and rescinded approvals for repairs to utility systems. The lawsuit also claims the UI failed to file claims for casualty insurance coverage for damages and the rising cost of turbine repairs, according to a complaint in the lawsuit.

The UI's public-private partnership was established four years after the state Board of Regents approved the contract with the UI Energy Collaborative in exchange for \$1.2 billion upfront. The deal required the UI pay \$35 million annually to the UI Energy Collaborative, with the annual amount increasing after the first five years of payments.

The UI Energy Collaborative is a product of the public-private partnership between ENGIE North America Inc. of Texas and Meridiam Infrastructure North America Corp. of New York. The company manages

two power plants, a water treatment plant, a chilled water plant, and a distribution system for the UI, according to the UI Energy Collaborative.

Fees mentioned in the lawsuit include \$1.5 million compensation packages for the company's CEO and CFO, administrative costs, costs of maintaining investment-grade credit, and \$2.5 million from the UIEC for the overhauling of a previously committed utility system turbine, alleging bad repair due to inadequate maintenance.

UI public relations specialist Steve Schmadeke wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that the UI's public/private partners disagree regarding some of the terms and conditions of the 50-year utilities agreement.

"The university has been working with its utilities partner to resolve these differences," Schmadeke wrote. "We are disappointed that



The University of Iowa Power Plant as seen on Oct. 19, 2021.

Ayrton Breckenridge/The Daily Iowan

"We are disappointed that our utilities partner has a different interpretation of the contract and felt the need to file a lawsuit against the university.

— UI public relations specialist Steve Schmadeke

our utilities partner has a different interpretation of the contract and felt the need to file a lawsuit against the university.

of the contract and felt

We are eager for the court to provide us with a clear definition of the contract for both parties to adhere to."

The lawsuit also seeks relief from the university's threatened litigation after two power outages in 2021. The UI Energy Collaborative claims the power outages were planned for months;

however, the university sought \$5 million in compensation, according to the lawsuit.

State Auditor Rob Sand cautioned government officials in December 2022 of future public-private partnership agreements following an investigation of the ongoing UI deal. Sand wrote in the audit that the transaction

has become one of the largest financial obligations held by Iowa taxpayers.

The company claimed that despite bearing the costs of damages, the UI Energy Collaborative was not responsible for the damages and casualty events in the lawsuit.

grace-katzer@uiowa.edu

UI researchers find genes associated with cleft lip and palate

Through testing on frogs and fish, researchers came across three genes that, when deleted, can cause birth defects like cleft lip and palate.

Sofia Mamakos
News Reporter

University of Iowa researchers conducted a study using frogs and fish to identify certain human genes that are associated with causing cleft lip and/or palate when deleted.

Clefting is a malformation in humans in which a gap can form during development in the palate, lip, or both. This gap can lead to several problems, including difficulty feeding, problems in overall speech function, ear infections, and social impacts. It could also require fairly extensive surgeries.

The birth defect affects about one in every 1,600 babies born in the U.S., according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

This research took place over a 10-year time span, beginning around 2010. The study was published on Jan. 5 in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

By searching through the genomes of more than 1,000 patients with cleft lip/palate, researchers found small sections in the genome that were deleted or duplicated, known as copy number variants.

The copy number variants also occur in the genomes of healthy individuals, which meant researchers needed to come up with a strategy to identify those that might be involved in clefting.

"I thought what might be a first step in identifying genes driving the disorder would be first to only focus on deletions in the genome, rather than both deletions and duplications," John Manak, UI biology professor and the study's corresponding author, said.

The researchers looked for genes that were removed by the deletions at a rare frequency for

people with the disorder. For people without the disorder, which was the control group, researchers looked for the deletions at an even rarer frequency.

"I thought this would be a really cool strategy because genetic variants that do bad things, including deletions of genes, tend to be quite rare in a population," Manak said. "So, we were hoping that this strategy would select for deletions that really drove the disorder, deletions that were really critically involved in causing the cleft lip and/or palate."

The study's first author, Lisa Lansdon, earned her doctorate in genetics from the UI in 2018 and is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. She performed most of the human data analysis, and collaborators then used African clawed frogs and zebrafish to test the genes by disrupting their function in the two species.

"By using fish and frogs, our group was able to show that we could successfully use our data to find plausible new genes that, when deleted, could cause a cleft," she said. "That was the really exciting part of our study, identifying these new candidate genes."

The fish and frog testing models ultimately contributed greatly to the results, Lansdon said.

"They're really useful tools for modeling these deletions," Lansdon said. "They have pretty rapid development from fish eggs or frog embryos to when you can actually detect craniofacial changes."

Another reason these animals were chosen for the study is that the developmental pathways in cleft lip and palate and face formation are con-

sistent across humans to fish and frogs.

"This means that if we disrupt a gene and it leads to a cleft-like face in a fish or a frog, then it is possibly applicable to humans as well," Lansdon said.

Moving forward, Lansdon believes the next steps in this research would involve further investigating these candidate genes.

"Clearly, when dis-

rupted, [the genes] cause craniofacial abnormalities," she said. "Now the next question is, well, why? What pathways are being disrupted, and at what developmental time points?"

Because they only specifically highlighted three candidate genes, the researchers also want to continue to look into the long list of other genes identified in their study that were deleted at a

higher frequency.

"All of those genes could be further investigated in animal models to see if there's additional support for their involvement in clefting," Lansdon said.

Even though there is a lot of work to do for researchers, Manak emphasized the importance of continuing to identify as many genes involved in craniofacial development as possible.

"Craniofacial defects are among the most common birth defects on planet Earth," he said. "Making a face is an incredibly complex process that involves a lot of signaling pathways, and we need to understand how these pathways are integrated before we stand a chance at preventing these kinds of defects."

sofia-mamakos@uiowa.edu

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Executive Editor for the 2023-24 year

The board of Student Publications, Inc., which oversees The Daily Iowan, is seeking applicants for the 2023-24 Executive Editor position.

Details and application available at:

dailyiowan.com/editor-application

Deadline: February 24, 2023

Iowa City retirement homes adapt to new COVID-19 variants

With the third anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic approaching, retirement homes hope to continue their daily lives, even as new variants spread.

Sofia Mamakos
News Reporter

Retirement homes nationally faced high rates of infection during the height of COVID-19. As new variants are introduced and pose risks to residents, Iowa City retirement homes are still taking precautions.

Kim Bergen-Jackson, an administrator for Oaknoll Retirement Residence in Iowa City, said residents and staff have become one small community during the pandemic.

"We joined together so that no one was really feeling like they were alone," she said. "We were able to keep COVID-19 out of the health center until last year, which was a huge accomplishment as far as I was concerned."

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 163,231 total nursing home resident COVID-19 deaths have been recorded in the U.S. since 2020.

Bergen-Jackson said Oaknoll is using all of the standard precautions for infection control. Though residents are taking precautions, the new variants cause some to worry about infections, she said.

In May 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services required nursing homes to report vaccinations of residents and staff.

"People don't want to be sick, and they don't want to be in the hospital, and they certainly are tired of worrying about it," Bergen-Jackson said. "I get questions every week about if there's any new ideas coming out of public health and if there's any new variants to be worried about."



Photo illustration by Avi Lapchick.

Bergen-Jackson added residents are specifically concerned about the new omicron variant XBB.1.5, which is highly contagious.

"They're all worried about this latest variant because the news is putting out there that it's like, five times more contagious than the last variant, and so that makes people really nervous," she said.

XBB.1.5 is the latest descendant of the omicron variant. This subvariant was reported in late 2022 and quickly rose to the top of all strains of the virus circulating in the U.S.

Residents at Oaknoll are ready to get back to nor-

malcy, Bergen-Jackson said.

"We have to get back to living. At Oaknoll, that means great big parties and events and dining together," she said. "So, we're doing all of that, but we're asking people if they've been exposed or don't feel well to not participate."

Meghan Adam, marketing manager at Melrose Meadows Retirement Community in Iowa City, said her facility follows the guidelines for vaccinations and hasn't seen any recent spikes in COVID-19 infection.

"We haven't had any outbreaks. We haven't had any deaths. There have

been a number of folks who have had COVID-19 at this point, and all of them have recovered," she said. "We're trying to move forward and be smart about things while still staying social and keeping our sanity."

Adam said she believes the small case numbers are largely because of the nature of her specific assisted living community. She stressed the importance of understanding the difference between a nursing home and an assisted living facility, which can be commonly misconceived.

"Nursing homes have a population that is a lot

more fragile and a lot more at risk, so it makes sense that they would need to have stricter guidelines," Adam said. "Independent living and assisted living – you know, our population – isn't necessarily quite as fragile. We're a little bit stronger and more capable of handling things as they come up."

As new variants arise, the Melrose Meadows facility plans to continue to follow CDC precautions.

"We'll deal with things as they come, but what we have been doing so far has really been working well for us," she said. "If somebody does test positive,

then we just ask them to isolate themselves in their apartment for whatever the current CDC guidelines are and then follow the current guidelines after that."

Bergen-Jackson is taking COVID-19 seriously even though she thinks fewer people are falling ill than before.

"The numbers are still out there, but it's less scary to me because of the vaccinations and the boosters," she said. "I don't think it's ever gonna go away, but we're figuring out how to live life again and compensate for that."

sofia-mamakos@uiowa.edu

The Daily Break

The New York Times
Crossword

Puzzle solutions on page 2
Edited by Will Shortz No. 1226

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- Across**
- 1 Floating ice chunk
 - 5 House of mirrors at a carnival, for one
 - 9 Takes a load off
 - 14 Skunk's defense
 - 15 Leon who wrote "Exodus"
 - 16 Super-
 - 17 "___ upon a time ..."
 - 18 Loud, prolonged noises
 - 19 ___ badge (award for a scout)
 - 20 Stick your tongue out, say
 - 22 Use an e-cigarette
 - 23 Kind of exam at school or the dentist's
 - 24 Like old-fashioned railroad crossing signs
 - 27 Tinder or Hinge
 - 29 Beer ingredient
 - 32 ___ trick (hockey feat)
 - 33 College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 - 34 Move onto a new topic of conversation, metaphorically
 - 39 Campus quarters
 - 41 Beverage that comes in green and black varieties
 - 42 Jacket fastener that's not a button
 - 43 Pass to a different owner, as a business
 - 48 Aunt: Sp.
 - 49 Electric ___
 - 50 Princess who says "Into the garbage chute, flyboy"
 - 51 Traveler's stopover

- 52 Best Rap Performance and Best Instrumental Composition, for two
 - 56 "Get outta here!"
 - 58 Hershey's candy with a caramel center
 - 59 Epitome of precision ... or a description of 20-, 34- and 43-Across?
 - 64 "You can't make me!"
 - 66 Capital of Italia
 - 67 Yoke-wearing animals
 - 68 Enclose, as on a farm
 - 69 ___-friendly
 - 70 One-dimensional drawing
 - 71 Upright
 - 72 Put a patch on, say
 - 73 Winter forecast, often
- Down**
- 1 Sound of an explosion
 - 2 ___ Mode of "The Incredibles"
 - 3 Pink Floyd's "The Wall," for one
 - 4 Actress Garson of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips"
 - 5 Landslide of wet sediment
 - 6 Diva's delivery
 - 7 97.5% of a penny
 - 8 County in England or New Jersey
 - 9 Pirate's bottleful
 - 10 Gives a lift
 - 11 Wristwatch component
 - 12 Balderdash

- 13 Having had enough food
- 21 Sounds from a sauna
- 25 "Quiet!"
- 26 Witch
- 27 "Back in Black" band
- 28 "Hunny"-loving A. A. Milne character
- 30 Bitter part of an orange
- 31 Thief
- 35 Bit of Christmas candy
- 36 Venom neutralizer, e.g.
- 37 Spring forecast, often
- 38 Bridge
- 40 Memory device like "How I wish I could calculate pi," e.g.
- 44 Jewel
- 45 Ron of "Tarzan" fame
- 46 Throw out
- 47 Bag
- 52 Complaint
- 53 Crew team member
- 54 Flying solo
- 55 Rugby formation
- 57 Army no-shows
- 60 Finish last, say
- 61 A rainbow may be seen as a good one
- 62 Nevada's "Biggest Little City in the World"
- 63 Understood
- 65 Maker of an explosion

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MCCAFFERY
Continued from Page 8

Iowa forward Patrick McCaffery throws a pass to forward Kris Murray during a men's basketball game between Iowa and Rutgers at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Sunday. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, 93-82. Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

and grateful for the Hawkeye fans that came out today," McCaffery said postgame. "That ovation meant a lot ... It's been a really emotional couple of weeks."

McCaffery did not take the fanfare for granted, either, as he wasted no time making an impact in his homecoming game. He took and made his first open shot — a 3-pointer from the right wing — to push Iowa out in front of Rutgers, 15-14.

"As soon as it came off my hand, I was like, 'Oh yeah, that's going in,'" McCaffery said.

"Seeing it going in, and hearing the crowd, it was a moment I'll remember for the rest of my life. It got me going, and it made me feel great about coming back."

McCaffery didn't quit while he was ahead. He knocked down a pair of 3-pointers in the middle of the second half to push the Hawkeye lead back to double digits on consecutive possessions.

McCaffery has been day-to-day for the past couple Hawkeye games, and teammate Kris Murray said his return to the floor en-

ergized the Hawkeyes and motivated them to get the win.

"For him to come in and hit his first shot ... you can't write something like that," Murray said. "That was really special."

In total, McCaffery recorded nine points on 3-for-5 shooting in limited minutes. The Hawkeyes picked up a conference win to improve to .500 in the Big Ten and swept the season series against Rutgers with a 93-82 final score.

Fran McCaffery, his father and head coach, praised Patrick's mentality

following the game.

"The thing that was most impressive to me was, as soon as he got in the game, he raised up a shot," Fran McCaffery said. "He didn't think about it, didn't hesitate ... He did the same thing on the other two [made threes]. I was really happy for him, and I'm really proud of how he's attacked this issue."

Despite just 13 minutes of playing time, Patrick McCaffery joked that it felt like much more. He said he was fatigued, but he'll be back in playing shape soon.

"It felt like [I played] 40

minutes," he said. "The legs are always the first thing to go when you sit a couple of games, but those will come back soon enough. The wind usually comes back pretty quick too ... I was definitely feeling it out there in the first half, it was rough for a couple minutes."

Patrick McCaffery also thanked a handful of his Big Ten opponents for their kindness during his absence.

"A bunch of players from the Big Ten were reaching out, guys that we had played against, and every-

body would say something [kind] to me," Patrick McCaffery said. "Juwan Howard was great, [Ohio State head coach Chris] Holtmann was great. The support really let me know I was doing the right thing for myself and the team."

Rutgers head coach Steve Pikiell expressed well-wishes for Patrick McCaffery after the game.

"I'm happy that he got back playing," Pikiell said. "You always want your players to be healthy and happy."

grant-hall@uiowa.edu

AFFOLTER
Continued from Page 8

spark off the bench," Affolter said of her and Stuelke's play. "We know we need to play hard

when we go and give our starters a break."

The Hawkeyes currently have a 9-1 conference record — tied for first in the Big Ten with Indiana. Iowa will put its

league-leading record on the line when it takes on Maryland at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Thursday.

samuel-knupp@uiowa.edu



Grace Smith/The Daily Iowan

Iowa teammates celebrate during a women's basketball game between No. 10 Iowa and Nebraska at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Jan. 23. The Hawkeyes defeated the Huskers, 80-76.

TERRITORY
Continued from Page 8

arrives in Iowa City this summer.

"The maturity, work ethic, and character of this group is a great fit on and off the court," Yale said in a statement about the 2023 class. "Athletically, they provide a great deal of versatility and add immediate depth within each of our positional groups. We're thankful that each felt as strongly about their fit at Iowa and with our new staff, as we did about them."

Gabby Deery, Mateo, Worden, and Lombardi have already built strong relationships with one another, as they took a visit to the university together in October 2022 and attended two Iowa volleyball games at Xtream Arena.

During the visit, they hung out with their future teammates and coaches. The visit only reassured Gabby Deery that she wanted to be a Hawkeye.

However, she didn't choose Iowa solely for athletics. An honor roll student all four years of high school and a National Honor Society selection as a junior and senior, she has aspirations to become a dentist, follow-



Contributed

ing in the footsteps of her sister Gracie Deery and uncle Brad Randolph.

The UI College of Dentistry — the only dental school in Iowa and one of few dental schools in the nation with advanced programs in all specialty areas — felt like a perfect fit for

Gabby Deery. "When I was looking at schools, team connection, a coaching staff I work well with, academics, and location were all very important for me," Gabby Deery said. "Iowa has it all."

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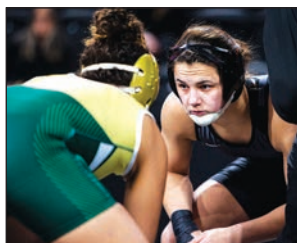
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HAWKEYE UPDATES



UFC signs Iowa women's wrestler Bella Mir to NIL contract

Iowa women's wrestler Bella Mir is the first name, image, and likeness ambassador for UFC, the mixed martial arts organization announced Friday.

Mir, a Las Vegas native, has dabbled in MMA fighting, making her professional debut on Oct. 10, 2020. She has a 3-0 record as an MMA fighter and was the 2022 Female Fighter of the Year.

"I'm super grateful, and I honestly couldn't be more thankful to [UFC President Dana White] and UFC for giving me this opportunity," Mir said in a statement. "I'm going to make sure I do my best to represent UFC and show the world what I'm all about."

Mir won state wrestling championships in all four years of her prep career at Centennial High School, and she ranked sixth nationally at 144 pounds.

She is also the daughter of two-time UFC champion Frank Mir.

"Bella was destined to become a member of the UFC family her entire life, and I'm proud that she's making history as our first NIL ambassador in one of the best programs at the University of Iowa," White said in a statement.



Iowa men's wrestling falls short in Happy Valley

The No. 2 Iowa men's wrestling team fell to top-ranked Penn State, 23-14, on Friday in State College, Pennsylvania.

The Hawkeyes are now 12-1 on the season and 5-1 in the Big Ten. The Nittany Lions have now won 39 consecutive dual meets.

"We have to take our medicine in this loss," Iowa head coach Tom Brands said in a release. "We took our medicine too much in some positions during that match, and you can never take that medicine when that match is going, and the clock is ticking. That happened too much, and we have to get better."

The Hawkeyes won four of the 10 bouts, and four matches on Friday were decided by two points or fewer.

Iowa men's wrestling will be back in action on Feb. 3 against the Minnesota Golden Gophers at 8 p.m. in Minneapolis. Iowa beat Minnesota, 22-10, in last year's dual meet.



Iowa's women's basketball keeps winning streak alive

The Iowa women's basketball team won its sixth straight game against Nebraska on Saturday.

Coming off an 83-72 win on Jan. 23 against No. 2 Ohio State, the Hawkeyes defeated the Cornhuskers, 80-76, at Carver Hawkeye Arena. Junior guard Caitlin Clark netted her fourth 30-point game of the season with 33 points, lifting the Hawkeyes over a persistent Nebraska squad.

Senior Molly Davis started her second consecutive game for the Hawkeyes in replacement of senior forward McKenna Warnock, who was out again with a rib injury she sustained against Michigan State on Jan. 18. While Warnock is day-to-day, Bluder said there's no timetable for her return.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Kate is our do-it-all girl."

— Iowa women's basketball head coach Lisa Bluder on guard Kate Martin.

STAT OF THE DAY

3

— Number of times this season Iowa women's basketball guard Caitlin Clark has come one rebound or assist away from a triple double.

McCaffery returns

After taking a leave of absence because of anxiety, the junior returned to a standing ovation at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Sunday.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Patrick McCaffery puts up a 3-point shot during a men's basketball game between Iowa and Rutgers at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Sunday. McCaffery hit his first 3-pointer after returning to the court for the first time since taking a leave of absence to deal with anxiety. The Hawkeyes defeated the Scarlet Knights, 93-82.

Grant Hall
Sports Reporter

away from the program on Jan. 3, citing struggles with anxiety.

Iowa men's basketball forward Patrick McCaffery is back from his extended leave of absence. McCaffery stepped

While McCaffery said the leave would be indefinite, he was adamant that he would be back on the floor this season.

"I will return when I feel like myself," McCaffery said in a release.

Six minutes and five seconds into Iowa's home matchup against Rutgers on Sunday, McCaffery entered the contest for his

first game action in nearly a month. The 6-foot-9 Iowa City West High School graduate had not seen the court since a Jan. 1 loss at Penn State.

As soon as No. 22 stood up at the scorer's table to

enter the game, the Carver-Hawkeye Arena crowd erupted in applause and gave him a standing ovation.

"I'm really appreciative

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COLUMN

Affolter becoming viable bench option

The sophomore is one of the first Hawkeyes off the bench, playing in 20 of Iowa's 21 games so far this season.



Madyson Gomez/The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Sydney Affolter runs with the ball during a women's basketball game between No. 10 Iowa and Nebraska at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Jan. 23. The Hawkeyes defeated the Huskers, 80-76.

Sam Knupp
Sports Reporter

Sydney Affolter is becoming a solid option off the bench for the Iowa women's basketball team in her second season on the squad.

The sophomore from Chicago has seen an uptick in playing time in the Hawkeyes' recent games and has scored 37 points in 115 minutes of conference play.

While Affolter isn't typically a high-scorer, head coach Lisa Bluder said she brings value off the bench with offensive rebounding. She's also improved significantly on defense since last season, Bluder said.

Affolter has historically been a 3-point threat, as she twice qualified for the Illinois Queen of the Hill 3-point shootout in high school. She was also a three-time All-State and All-Region honoree for Marist High School.

"I don't expect Syd to come off the bench and have 15 points," Bluder said. "But if she can be a threat from out-

side like she has been the last few games, and really make defenses play her out there, to me that's significant."

Affolter has played in 20 of the Hawkeyes' games this season and put up a career-high 12 points in Iowa's 108-67 win over Penn State on Jan. 14.

Despite averaging 10.1 points per game, she didn't play over 10 minutes against a ranked opponent until Iowa's 83-72 win over then-No. 2 Ohio State in Columbus on Jan. 22. Affolter bagged four points and two rebounds in 11 minutes, shooting 2-for-5 from the field.

Part of what makes Affolter an appealing option is her efficiency, Bluder said. The sophomore guard shot 23.7 percent from the field as a freshman, and she's shooting 50 percent this year. She's also nearly doubled her assist total from the 2021-22 season — Affolter dished out eight assists in 19 games last season and has 15 in 20 games in 2022-23.

"It's one thing to have depth, and it's another thing

to have depth you can count on," Bluder said. "And Syd has turned into that person that we can count on. And we know she's going to come in and provide us with a spark off the bench."

Bluder said depth is going to be huge for the Hawkeyes come February when Iowa will play eight games throughout the 28-day month. Three of those games will come against top-10 opponents — the Hawkeyes will play No. 6 Indiana twice and No. 10 Maryland once.

Affolter is one of the first players off the bench this season, along with freshman Hannah Stuelke.

Stuelke has played more than 20 minutes in each of Iowa's last two games and grabbed nine and 13 rebounds against Michigan State and Ohio State, respectively. Stuelke has averaged 14 minutes and 9.57 points per game since Iowa's contest against Purdue on Dec. 29.

"I think we just focus on being a

AFFOLTER | Page 7

In familiar territory

Iowa volleyball 2023 commit Gabby Deery will be the fifth Deery sister to attend the university.

Kenna Roering
Sports Reporter

Iowa volleyball 2023 commit Gabby Deery grew up surrounded by Hawkeyes.

The 6-foot-2 Burlington, Iowa, native has four older sisters — Niko Deery, Bridget Deery, Gracie Deery, and Evie Deery — who all attended the University of Iowa and introduced her to Iowa City from a young age.

"Ever since I was little, I have been a Hawkeye fan," Gabby Deery told *The Daily Iowan*. "My four older sisters attending the University of Iowa is how I discovered my love for the school ... I was lucky to be able to attend football, basketball, and volleyball games [growing up]."

Gabby Deery will graduate from Burlington Notre Dame High School in May, where she has solidified herself in the volleyball history books.

She holds school records in career kills, career blocks, single-season kills, single-season blocks, and single-season aces. She also led the Nikes to back-to-back state titles in class 1A in her sophomore and junior seasons in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Despite changing positions from middle to outside hitter in 2021, Gabby Deery was named Player of the Year by the Iowa Coaches Association and a member of the All-Hawk Eye volleyball team. She also earned All-Iowa volleyball team, first-team All-State, first-team All-District, and first-team All-Conference honors her junior year.

Iowa head coach Jim Barnes and associate head coach and recruiting coordinator Brian Yale recruited Gabby Deery as an outside hitter, but she prides herself on her flexibility on the court and believes it can help elevate the Hawkeyes in the Big Ten standings.

"I believe I bring versatility to the program, as I have played outside, middle, and right," Gabby Deery said. "I am a competitive, hard-working player with a positive attitude ... It is very exciting to be a part of the Big Ten conference and compete against some of the best teams in the country."

Gabby Deery's experience playing multiple rotations is crucial for a rebuilding Iowa squad that lost two key attackers in seniors Amiya Jones and Edina Schmidt, a middle and outside hitter, respectively.

Despite missing part of the 2022 season due to illness, Schmidt played in 25 matches and tallied 1.32 kills per set. Jones started every match for the Hawkeyes last season and led the team with 2.5 kills per set, 0.36 service aces per set, and 0.68 blocks per set.

Gabby Deery will join three other 2023 commits — setter Kaia Mateo, outside hitter Alyssa Worden, and libero Olivia Lombardi — when she

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