

## IC Sober Living looks for home

Founded by two nurses in recovery from alcoholism, the nonprofit hopes to open the first sober home for women in Johnson County.

Gretchen Lenth  
Copy Editor

It started with a road trip from Iowa City to St. Paul, Minnesota, in fall 2020. Sue Gardner invited her friend and fellow nurse in recovery from alcohol use Merrilee Ramsey to visit a residential sober home where another friend was living. The two rented an Airbnb and spent a week engrossed in the culture of sober living. The experience opened their eyes to the possibilities back in Iowa.

"When we were driving home, I looked at Sue, and I said, 'We ought to do this,'" Ramsey said. "She said, 'Do what?' And I said, 'We ought to do a sober living house in Iowa City.'"

This small talk would eventually turn into Iowa City Sober Living, a registered nonprofit Ramsey and Gardner founded in July 2021. The business partners aim to open a sober living home located in the heart of Iowa City for women recovering from alcohol addiction. Once it opens, the sober home will be the only one available in Johnson County and one of few available for women in the Midwest.

Sober living homes provide people in recovery with a halfway point between rehab and a return to their normal life — a transition Ramsey and Gardner said can reduce the risk of relapse. It also provides support groups, programming, and a community of other like-minded individuals living under the same roof.

A self-described optimist, Ramsey said she hopes to open their doors by July. But before they can invite people into the home, they need to find one — and raise the funds to purchase it.

Ramsey estimated that the

cost of a residential home large enough to fit at least eight people will cost \$500,000, and the nonprofit is currently raising funds to make a 25 percent down payment. In addition to the down payment, Ramsey said they need to raise money to furnish the home before women can begin moving in. As of March 16, Ramsey said the nonprofit is well over halfway toward meeting its financial goal.

The July open date remains the nonprofit's goal, but it's faced with a hard deadline in October when a grant from the Johnson County Housing Trust Fund expires. The grant holders already extended the deadline last year, meaning they won't receive another chance, Ramsey said.

### Defining sober living

To raise money, the nonprofit hosts fundraisers, submits grant applications, and connects with potential corporate sponsors. Convincing people to donate often begins with educating them on what a sober living home does.

"A sober living home is a transition between what we all typically think of as inpatient rehab for substance abuse and the person actually moving back to their pretreatment living environment," Gardner said. "So, it provides accountability and structure. It places the person in a supportive environment with other women who are also in early recovery."

Unlike rehab treatment, which is typically covered by insurance plans for 30-60 days and happens in a medical center, sober living treatment lasts anywhere from three to six months and operates out of a residential home.

Insurance doesn't normally cover residential recovery programs, Ramsey said, but the cost



Iowa City Sober Living co-founder Merrilee Ramsey interacts with customers during a fundraiser at BlackStone American Restaurant in Iowa City on April 3.

of living at IC Sober Living will be comparable to that of rent in Iowa City, at an estimated \$850 a month per person. The nonprofit will furnish the home and provide residents with necessities like towels and linens. Two

spaces in the home will also be reserved for those with lower income.

For many people, Ramsey said, rehab is not enough time to build the habits necessary for long-term sobriety, and 70 percent of

those recovering from alcoholism will relapse at some point, according to the Recovery Village. This relapse rate declines the longer someone remains

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## INSIDE



**The man behind the mic**  
Mike Jay is one of the most recognizable track and field voices in the country, but his impact on the sport goes far beyond his work as a public address announcer.

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**80 HOURS: Floodwater Comedy Festival to return to IC**

Next weekend, Chicago-based comics Sarah Perry and Jamie Shriner will take Floodwater's mainstage alongside nearly 60 other performers.

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## ONLINE

**Dozens attend vigil for missing 20-year-old Cristian Martinez**

Nearly 100 people gathered at the Pedestrian Mall Tuesday for Cristian Martinez. He was last seen walking on West Harrison Street in Iowa City on Saturday.



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



## IC schools form book review committee

The committee will examine whether "This Book is Gay" is suitable for the district's libraries.

Virginia Russell  
News Reporter

The Iowa City Community School Board is continuing to evaluate what to do with the book "This Book is Gay" after it was pulled from school library shelves last month.

The school board approved three members to serve on a reconsideration committee for the evaluation of "This Book is Gay" by Juno Dawson.

The policy came after the book was removed from all district libraries in response to a series of bomb threats that were made against North-

west Junior High School in March. The emailed threats led to an evacuation of the school on March 23 and 24.

In an interview with *The Daily Iowan*, Iowa City Schools Superintendent Matt Degner said there might have been some correlation between the book and the bomb threats.

"There was some specific connections between this title and some specific connections directly to some of our staff members that escalated our level of concern with those bomb threats," Degner said.

The Sioux City Community School District also removed "This Book is Gay" in March.

Degner said the district's initial decision to evaluate the book would allow them to address the threats while also maximizing staff and student safety.

"We felt it was best to work our policy and make sure that we did a review of the book and try to move forward from there," Degner said.

Under the Iowa City Community School District's Objection to Instructional Materials-Reconsideration of

Instructional Materials Regulation policy, school district community members can formally challenge both instructional and library materials' appropriateness in the school district's programming.

According to the policy, the member must file the Request for Reconsideration of Instructional and Library Materials Form. Within two weeks of receipt, the district superintendent must convene a reconsideration committee.

The committee is made up of eight members: one licensed employee, one

teacher-librarian, one member of the administrative team, three community members, and two high school students.

The three community members selected by Degner and approved by the school board are the Executive Director of Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature John Kenyon, the President of the African American Council at the University of Iowa Monique Galpin, and the former Director of the Iowa City Public Library Susan Craig.

Degner said the three

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## UI to request approval of major campus capital projects

The requests will go before the state Board of Regents Wednesday.

Kate Perez and  
Alejandro Rojas

The University of Iowa will seek the approval of the state Board of Regents for multiple projects across campus on Wednesday, including tearing down buildings and building a new parking garage.

### Razing of west side buildings

If approved by the regents, the university plans to raze both the Pride Alliance Center and the South Quadrangle buildings, which currently stand on the west side of campus, to

make way for a new academic building.

According to the request, the razing would clear space for a new six-story building, which is part of the university's 10-year master plan. The razing of the Pride Alliance Center is expected to cost \$100,000, and the South Quadrangle's destruction is estimated at \$900,000.

Upon approval, the university would save up to \$3.85 million in deferred maintenance costs.

### Pride Alliance Center

The request states that

the Pride Alliance Center building, which is located at 125 Grand Ave. Court and built in 1922, is past its lifespan in use and does not have historical significance. The center was originally named the LGBTQ Resource Center until 2019 when the name was changed to increase inclusivity.

Additionally, it states that the Pride Alliance Center is expected to relocate to a different university building in May at 601 Melrose Ave. The center was temporarily closed for maintenance in January, according to the center's Instagram.

Upon removal of the

Pride Alliance Center, the space will be used as a new parking area for both the future academic building and the Gerdin Athletic Learning Center.

### South Quadrangle Building

The request also states the South Quadrangle Building, located at 310 S. Grand Ave., is also past its lifespan. The building was built in 1942, so it does not follow the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines and is also not historically significant.

The UI's ROTC program and part of the Health and

Human Physiology department currently operate in the building. Upon approval, the ROTC and Health and Human Physiology department would relocate to the old Pharmacy Building in May. The department would ultimately move into the new building when it is completed.

Currently, the South Quadrangle is in the same space as a utility connection that is needed in the construction of the new building. Without the razing of the South Quadrangle, the utility connection would

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# UI student orgs denounce Matt Walsh event

Several University of Iowa organizations oppose Walsh and Young Americans for Freedom for facilitating transphobia on campus.

Liam Halawith  
Politics Editor



Avi Lapchick/The Daily Iowan

People are seen writing with chalk on the Pentacrest in support of the transgender community on Monday evening.

Ahead of conservative commentator Matt Walsh's lecture Wednesday at the University of Iowa, nearly 10 student organizations declared their opposition to the event and called for the suspension of the student organization that invited Walsh.

In response to Walsh's lecture, student groups chalked the T. Anne Cleary Walkway in support of transgender people, planned counter-protests, and created at least two Change.org petitions against Walsh that have collectively garnered almost 4,000 signatures.

Walsh will lecture at 7 p.m. in the Iowa Memorial Union on Wednesday following a screening of Walsh's documentary "What Is a Woman?" at 4:15 p.m. in the Iowa Theater in the IMU. He was invited by the UI Chapter of the Young Americans for Freedom.

## Walsh lecture receives student pushback

LGBTQ+ and liberal UI student organizations released two statements over the last week denouncing an increase in on-campus transphobia and asking the UI to suspend Young Americans for Freedom for facilitating transphobia.

The University Democrats at Iowa, Young Democratic Socialists at Iowa Steering

Committee, Ignite UI, Student Advocates for Planned Parenthood UI, and the Environmental Coalition at Iowa called for the suspension of Young Americans for Freedom via a joint statement Friday for facilitating transphobia and hate speech, alleging that their behavior violated rule 9 of the bylaws governing student organizations at the UI.

Student organizations including Gamma Rho Lambda — the first LGBTQ+ sorority on the UI campus — Reaching OUT in Business, QTPOC Leadership, Trans Alliance, Queer Liberation Front, and Delta Lambda Phi released a similar statement Monday.

UI YAF chapter Vice Chair John Piaszynski wrote in an email to *The Daily Io-*

wan that YAF's mission is to foster debate on some of the most difficult issues in American society.

"While some groups may disagree with us, we believe that it is possible to have a civil, respectful discourse on any topic," Piaszynski wrote.

## UI aims to promote safe discourse, demonstrations at Wednesday's event

Several student organizations, including the unofficial University of Iowa chapter of antifa, or anti-fascists, have called for protests outside of the IMU, and the university has designated several protest rooms inside the IMU for protestors of the event.

Hayley Bruce, the UI Police Assistant Director of Communications and External Relations, said in an email to the *DI* that UI police is in communication with the event and the protest organizers to support a safe environment.

Piaszynski wrote in an email to *The DI* on Tuesday that YAF hopes to facilitate safe discourse on the issue and have been in contact with threat assessment officials to keep the event safe.

LGBTQ+ student organizations will be hosting several events aimed at supporting transgender students on campus following and during Walsh's event on Wednesday.

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## REGENTS

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have to be routed around the building and would cost the UI more than \$2 million.

### Request of seven new projects

Additionally, the UI is requesting approval to move ahead with plans for seven capital improvement projects involving buildings across campus.

In its request to the regents, the UI wants to split the projects into three parts, reflecting the different steps each project is at currently. In the first part, it requests approval to proceed with planning for the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science Research buildings.

### College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science research construction

For this project, the UI plans to build new medical innovation and biosciences laboratories on floors three, four, and five of the pharmaceutical science research building and floor six of the pharmacy building.

In the request, the UI states \$12 million to \$13 million of the project budget will come from the State of Iowa Economic Recovery Funds and Treasurer's Temporary Investment Income. The UI had previously been awarded an \$8.2 million grant for bioscience research and economic development, which would be used to renovate the College of Pharmacy building.

Also included in this part of the request is planning

for the building out of level seven in Stead Family Children's Hospital, with the goal to expand the neonatal intensive care unit and also extend the bridge connecting the hospital to the John Pappajohn Pavilion.

This project would cost roughly \$40 million to \$49 million and would be funded by University Hospitals Building Usage Funds.

### New parking ramp near Kinnick Stadium, updates to medical buildings

The UI is also requesting approval of "schematic design, project description, and budget" of three projects. The first project involves building a new, five-level parking ramp on the west side of campus, placed north of Kinnick Stadium.

The ramp is part of the 10-year master plan for the UI Hospitals and Clinics, with a goal to reduce the strain of parking in the area that currently exists. Included in the project plans is a new skywalk from the ramp which would be connected to the existing skywalk at the hospital.

The budgeted cost for the project is \$75 million, and the funding will come from the parking system revenue bond proceeds.

Project four is to renovate the Medical Laboratories Building for pediatric research, budgeted for \$7.8 million, which would be funded by the treasurer's temporary investment income.

For project five, the UI is requesting approval to build a two-story addition to the south side of the emergency

department and renovate the north side of the same building. It would cost \$37 million, with funding coming from the University Hospitals Building Usage Funds.

Under this project, the renovations will create new rooms, including nursing stations, waiting rooms, pediatric patient rooms, among others. The request cites an increase in demand and crowding as causing delays in patient treatment — something the proposal would likely address.

Additionally, there is a project included in the request centered around the renovation of 12 stairwells in different buildings of the UIHC campus. According to the request, the project will renovate the floors, guardrails, signage, and others in Boyd Tower, General Hospital, Roy Carver Pavilion, and John Colloton Pavilion.

The project is budgeted to cost \$2.27 million and will be funded by University Hospitals Building Usage Funds.

## UI to request renovations to Van Allen Hall

The UI's final requests are seeking approval of a project description and budget for Van Allen Hall. The first of these projects is the seventh-floor renovation of Van Allen Hall, specifically the western portion of the floor for the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Expected to cost \$7.5 million, the UI aims to have the project funded by the Building Renewal Funds. According to the request, the renovations will involve the addition of fire detection and suppression, new walls and floors, as well as providing humidity controls and temperature control.

The renovation of Van Allen comes after the UI announced plans to replace the stairs of the building in March to make them more accessible to comply with the American with Disabilities Act.

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Matt Sindt/The Daily Iowan

David Barker, a regent, speaks at the Iowa Board of Regents meeting hosted at the University of Northern Iowa on Sept. 15, 2022.

## BOOK

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will add a different viewpoint to the committee, which is needed.

"Three highly qualified individuals are prospective," he said.

At the school board meeting, multiple board members said they were satisfied with the people selected for the committee.

Board member J.P. Claussen said he is pleased with the committee members.

"I think we're lucky to have this caliber of individuals from our community who can go through this process,"

Claussen said.

Additionally, board member Charlie Eastham echoed Claussen's statements and said Degner's choice was a good one.

"I think it's a fantastic choice of brilliance [in] asking these particular three folks to serve on this committee," Eastham said.

After the five additional members are selected for the committee, they will have 10 days to schedule their first meeting about the book.

Degner said this is a chance for the district to utilize the policy to the best of its ability.

"We have a process that works right here, right? So, we should not be afraid to use it. We should not be afraid to say, this is something

that we can point to that can really deal with concerns when they come forward," he said.

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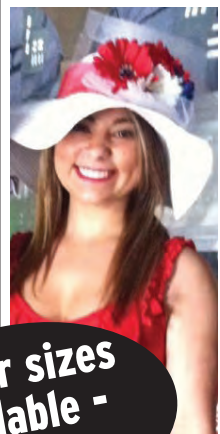
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**SOBER**

Continued from Front

embedded in a sober community, the same source wrote.

“Even if you can afford to pay for inpatient treatment for 60 days, 60 days is not enough,” Ramsey said. “It didn’t take 60 days to become an alcoholic, so what do you do when you leave treatment?”

Sober homes like IC Sober Living find a compromise between rehab, where residents are confined to the walls of a medical center, and the person’s everyday life, which could be filled with triggers or toxic relationships, Ramsey said.

Women admitted to IC Sober Living are encouraged to stay at the home for up to six months, though Ramsey said it isn’t uncommon for people to leave after three or four months.

**A national shortage of sober homes**

Residents will sign contracts before they move in promising they will abstain from substance use while staying at the sober home.

Women living in the home will also engage in their community, whether that be through a job, education, or volunteer work. They will also be required to enroll in a recovery program — most often a 12-step program.

Self-care activities like in-house yoga, meditation, book clubs, and pet therapy will also be provided to help residents develop healthy coping habits, Gardner said.

Currently, there are no long-term residential recovery communities for women in Johnson County or most surrounding counties. There are men’s homes in the Quad Cities and in Cedar Rapids, however, which follows the national trend of men’s sober homes outnumbering women’s two-to-one.

The nearest sober home for women is Cedar River Haven, which operates in the forests of Muscatine County. It’s a 45 minute drive from Iowa City.

Ramsey said Cedar River Haven created its own community, but its remote location makes interaction with the outside world difficult. She added that long-term treatment like that wouldn’t have appealed to her when she was in early recovery, so opening a sober home within an urban area was essential to her.

Gardner said it isn’t unusual for a place of Iowa City’s size to lack sober living care, but it is desperately needed.

“It’s not just Iowa City we’ll be serving,” Gardner said. “It’s all of eastern Iowa, really, and maybe beyond.”

So far, Iowa City Sober Living has turned down applicants looking for immediate placement in a sober home, and over 20 women are on a waitlist.

Ramsey said she hates turning women away because they lack a home. But the nonprofit’s hunt for a suitable location has been met with obstacles. Some dream homes came with price tags they can’t afford. Other places sold before the nonprofit could raise the funds to place a bid.

Even if the building the

nonprofit ends up purchasing doesn’t make Ramsey melt when she walks in the door, she said they can make it that way once residents fill the home.

IC Sober Living recently identified a woman in recovery herself who expressed interest in working as a live-in house manager once she’s finished with her own program. Having someone further along in their recovery serve as a resident manager can help build trust between the staff and the residents, Ramsey said.

“That’s a huge move because that’s not going to be a fun job,” Ramsey said. “That’s a lot of responsibility.”

**Combating Iowa City drinking culture**

Iowa City has a history of alcohol consumption. A *USA Today* article from 2021 ranked Iowa City the 31st drunkest city in the nation, a standing measured by the percent of residents who drink alcohol excessively and the percent of fatal car accidents where alcohol was involved.

Iowa also saw record-breaking liquor sales in fiscal 2022, according to a report from the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division. The ABD reported that \$431 million worth of liquor was sold in Iowa last year — an increase of around \$64 million compared to 2020’s sales.

Found between the liquor stores and clubs in downtown Iowa City is Unimpaired, a dry bar that serves non-alcoholic beverages. From the outside, Unimpaired doesn’t look much different than your standard bar, so much so that former Unimpaired employee Chapis Coronado thought it served alcohol the first time she visited with her family.

“We sit down, and then I remember the server brought menus to me, and I was like, ‘Oh no, I don’t want to drink.’” Coronado said. “I don’t even look at them just because they already looked like regular drinks like cocktails.”

Soon after this experience, Coronado picked up a job bartending at Unimpaired, where she learned to make the drinks she thought she had to avoid on her first visit.

Beyond the faux drinks, Coronado loved working at Unimpaired because it provided a calm environment compared to other bars, and her kids could attend events like Tuesday night karaoke.

Unimpaired was also Coronado’s first real taste of Iowa City’s sober community. When patrons came in asking for specific brands of non-alcoholic liquor, Coronado knew to ask how long they’d been sober and if they’d be willing to share their story with her. In most scenarios, someone might feel uncomfortable talking about something so personal, but Coronado said Unimpaired’s atmosphere created a sense of trust.

Coronado decided to stop drinking because she said she didn’t want to expose her children to that kind of behavior. She’s maintained sobriety for a year and half, and while it was awkward at first going to parties without drinking, she said



Iowa City Sober Living co-founder Merrilee Ramsey interacts with the board of directors at a fundraiser at BlackStone American Restaurant in Iowa City on April 3. Darren Chen/The Daily Iowan

her friend group supports her decision. Some even see it as inspiration.

“When they’re around me, they don’t want to drink as much,” Coronado said.

Sometimes Unimpaired sits empty, something Coronado attributed to people’s lack of interest in drinking something that doesn’t get them drunk.

“Everybody just wants to get messed up,” she added.

She envisioned Unimpaired one day becoming a stop on the bar crawls UI students commonly participate in, either at the beginning or at the end so people can sober up.

The UP’s spring 2021 National College Health Survey found that around 82 percent of undergraduate respondents have ever consumed alcohol — almost 14 percent higher than the national average.

Heidi Schmitt, a social worker for the University Counseling Service, serves as co-coordinator of the UI’s Collegiate Recovery Program, which she described as a community that supports students who want to make changes to their substance use.

One example of support provided by the Collegiate Recovery Program is harm reduction education, which are practices like counting and pacing the number of drinks consumed when going out to bars or parties. The Collegiate Recovery Program also provides the Mindful



Contributed photo of Merrilee Ramsey and Sue Gardner.

she hopes these events will contribute to greater awareness on campus about the Collegiate Recovery Program and other resources available — both for people who know someone with substance addiction and for those who want to change their drinking habits themselves.

“I am positive there are certain students on campus that may not know this exists and that would benefit from it,” Schmitt said. “That’s something we’re working really hard on with social media and marketing.”

Mariah McKenna, a UI third-year student and the health and safety director for Undergraduate Student Government, called students the true voices on

campus because they can best explain what drinking culture in Iowa City is like for young people.

“You can see statistics, but the student voice is really important because we actually are talking to each other,” McKenna said. “We’re interacting with one another. We’re going downtown.”

McKenna sits on the university’s Alcohol Harm Reduction Committee, which is composed of students, faculty, and community members and works to decrease high-risk drinking on- and off-campus.

McKenna said she advises students to never leave someone alone if they need help or if they’ve had too much to drink. She added that students shouldn’t be afraid to visit the GuideLink Center, which provides urgent substance use care.

Ramsey said there came a point where she would sneak downstairs to their in-home bar so she could take straight swigs of whatever was available.

Following a drunk driving accident, Ramsey’s husband admitted her to a rehab program at the Abbey Treatment Center in Bettendorf, Iowa. She hasn’t had a drop to drink since, she said.

Ramsey has been sober for five years, and Gardner for three. Even so, they both work on it every day. Ramsey said she still doesn’t know where the key to her husband’s beer fridge is, and she abstains from drinking non-alcoholic liquor as a matter of practice.

Both Ramsey and Gardner said working on IC Sober Living helps them maintain their sobriety.

**A race to open their doors**

“One of the clichés that goes along with recovery is that, to keep it, you have to give it away,” Gardner said.

Both Ramsey and Gardner said working on IC Sober Living helps them maintain their sobriety.

“One of the clichés that goes along with recovery is that, to keep it, you have to give it away,” Gardner said.

“We’re getting close,” Gardner said. “We’re generating interest. We’ve networked. We have contacts. You know, it’s just a matter of time.”

Gardner and Ramsey individually donated \$7,000 in support of the cause, and several members of IC Sober Living’s board have contributed similar amounts.

Though Ramsey recently retired, she picked up hours working part-time as a nurse practitioner doing insurance assessments. Ramsey said she continues to give to the nonprofit, and around half of her earnings go straight to the sober living house.

“This is my baby, and this is my passion, and I want to see it go,” Ramsey said. “To my dying day, I won’t give up on it.”

**“When they’re around me, they don’t want to drink as much.”**

— Chapis Coronado, a former Unimpaired employee who has been sober for a year and a half

Recovery support group for those looking to abstain from drinking altogether, Schmitt said.

“And then we’re offering recovery ally training,” Schmitt said. “And those are specific trainings to talk about what does it mean to be an ally to someone in recovery or someone who wants to make changes to their substance use”

This allyship training ties in with other events hosted by the Collegiate Recovery Program as part of April’s Alcohol Awareness Month. Schmitt said



Sign of Iowa City Sober Living and a glass of a non-alcoholic strawberry margarita as seen on the table of BlackStone American Restaurant in Iowa City on April 3. Darren Chen/The Daily Iowan

Despite this promise,

[gretchen-lenth@uiowa.edu](mailto:gretchen-lenth@uiowa.edu)

# IA ALCOHOL BY THE NUMBERS

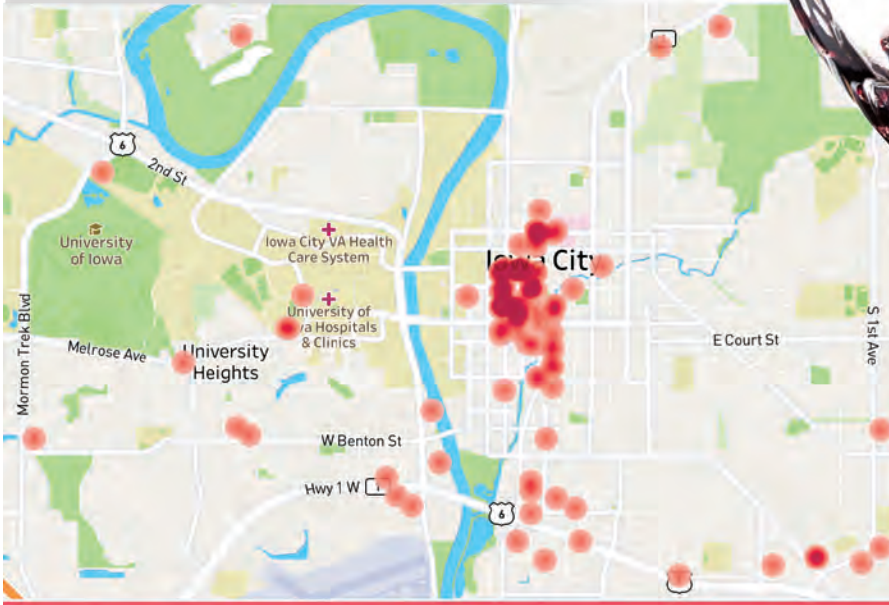
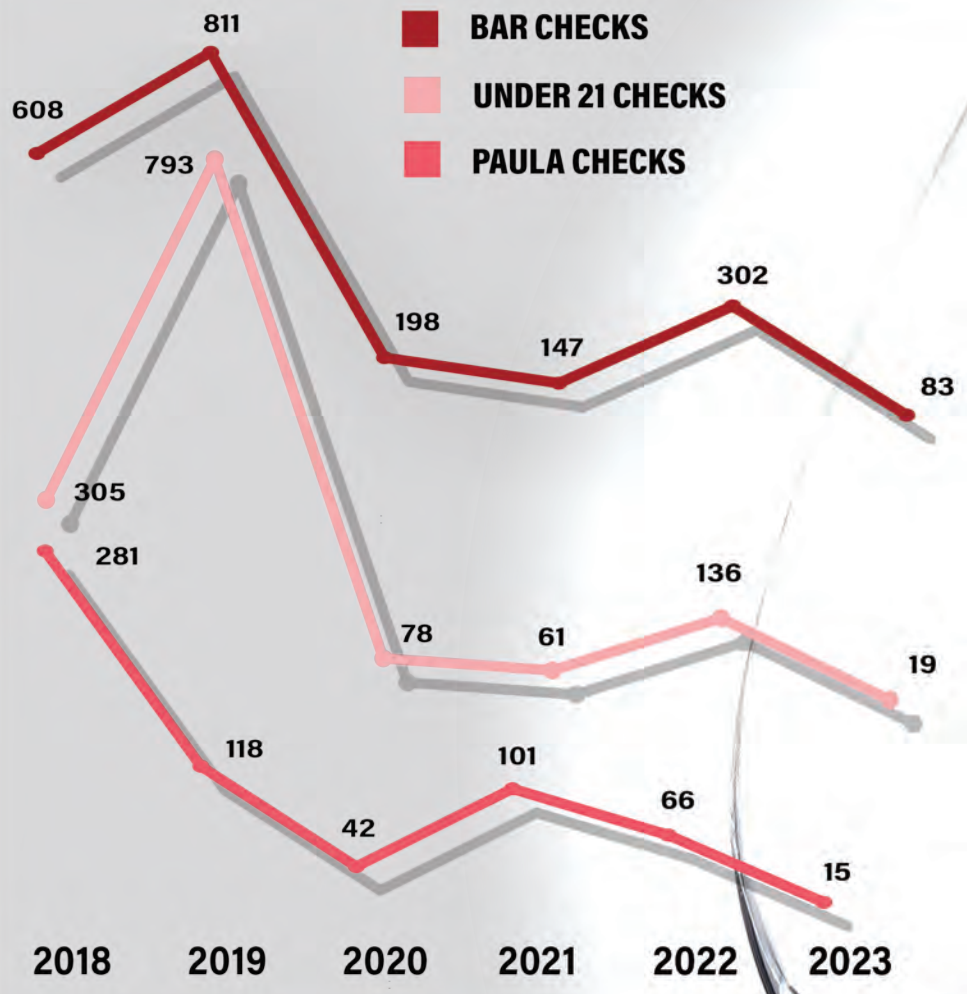
From visiting bars on the weekend to purchasing liquor at a convenience store, Iowa City residents consume alcohol in a variety of ways. Liquor sales in Iowa City and across the state sharply increased last year, but those numbers only tell part of the story.

Design | Marandah Mangra-Dutcher/Design Editor

Research and Visualization | Gretchen Lenth/Copy Editor

## IC BAR CHECKS 2018-2023

The Iowa City Police Department conducts bar checks to ensure local establishments with alcohol licenses aren't serving people under the legal age. People are charged with Possession of Alcohol Under the Legal Age when they are under 21 and have purchased, controlled, or possessed alcohol, and Under 21 charges are given to those under 21 who remain at bars past the 10 p.m. curfew. The number of bar checks, PAULA charges, and under 21 charges have decreased significantly since 2018, though partial data from 2023 as of April 6 remains on track to exceed 2022 numbers.



## LOCATIONS OF BARS IN IC

This map indicates the density of establishments with Class C liquor licenses in Iowa City. These licenses allow businesses to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption. These establishments include bars, taverns, restaurants, and sports arenas like Kinnick Stadium. Of the 129 establishments with Class C and Special Class C liquor licenses in Iowa City, many are located downtown. While some establishments are bars that specialize in serving alcohol, other license holders include bowling alleys, theaters, and hotels.

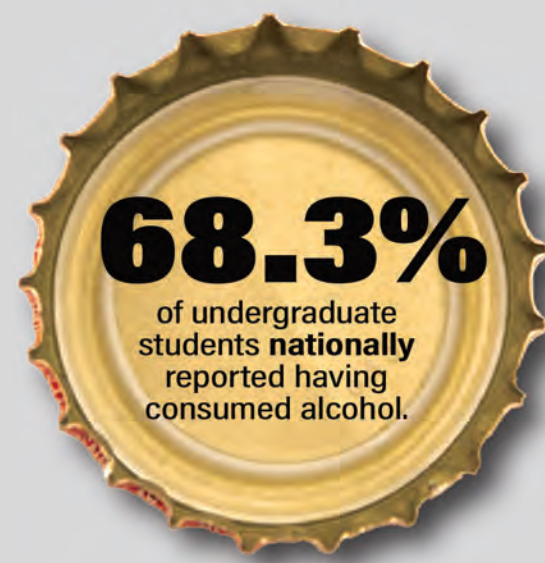
## LIQUOR SALES FISCAL 2018 - 2022

The numbers below refer to the dollars establishments with Class E liquor licenses in Johnson County and all of Iowa spent on purchasing alcohol from the Alcoholic Beverages Division — the state's sole alcohol wholesaler. Johnson County reported record sales numbers in fiscal 2022, which mirrors statewide trends. Class E liquor licenses allow businesses to sell customers alcohol for off-premises consumption. License holders include grocers, liquor stores, and convenience stores.

### IOWA CLASS E LIQUOR SALES



### JOHNSON COUNTY CLASS E LIQUOR SALES



Sources:

- UI Spring 2021 National College Health Assessment
- American College Health Association Spring 2021 National College Health Assessment
- Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division
- Iowa City Police Department

# Opinions

MARIJUANA - The *high*-tened debate

COLUMN

## Everyone wins when marijuana is legal

Taxing recreational marijuana will improve the state at all levels.



DI Staff/The Daily Iowan

Photo illustration.



Sophia Meador  
Opinions Editor

Legalizing recreational marijuana would have long-term benefits for public schools.

Sound bizarre? Nationwide, the total combined tax revenue for medical and recreational marijuana reached \$3.7 billion in 2021, according to the Marijuana Policy Project.

This year, Minnesota became Iowa's third neighboring state to legalize recreational marijuana, alongside Illinois and Missouri. It's time Iowa moves past its dated notions of marijuana and instead reap the benefits of marijuana legalization. Both recreational and

medical marijuana use is not legal under federal law. This leaves marijuana legalization in the hands of state legislatures. As of 2023, 21 states legalized the use of recreational marijuana.

The use of recreational marijuana is illegal in Iowa, but the state does sponsor the Medical Cannabidiol Program for those with certain medical conditions.

Like most things, this comes at a cost. Marijuana is heavily taxed in legalized states. On top of the state sales tax, marijuana receives an additional 10-15 percent tax rate in most legal states.

States make a substantial profit from this tax. Nevada — which has a similar population to Iowa — legalized recreational marijuana in 2016. In fiscal 2022, the state generated almost \$1 billion in tax revenue from marijuana sales, according to the Cannabis Compliance Board for the

state of Nevada.

Most of the state's profit from marijuana sales go back into the communities. In Colorado — the first state to legalize recreational marijuana in 2014 — recreational marijuana has a 15 percent sales tax and a 15 percent excise tax.

The 15 percent excise tax goes to the Colorado Building Excellent Schools Today fund. The BEST fund goes to repairing and replacing deteriorating schools in the state.

Iowa public schools could better serve their students and community with these tax dollars. Speaking from personal experience, my elementary school did not have air conditioning, an auditorium, or even enough classrooms.

Tax revenue from recreational marijuana does not just go to school infrastructure in states like Colorado, Oregon, and Nevada. Revenue also sponsors ed-

ucation and outreach programs. In most states, this is directed at districts with high percentages of at-risk and low-income students.

In recent years, Iowa's education rating has fallen. The state used to be rated top in the nation for public schools. U.S. News and World report ranks Iowa at No. 24 for pre-K education in the country. On top of this, the state is struggling to recruit and retain educators.

Iowa shouldn't fall behind as other states move forward with recreational marijuana legalization.

Of course, legalizing recreational marijuana will not magically solve all the issues in Iowa's public education system. But it would improve some of the state's ancient school buildings and aid worthy students in better educational experience.

This legislation would incentivize a new generation of farmers in Iowa to grow both their own net worth and boost local economics. Legalizing marijuana would also waive marijuana possession convictions from thousands of Iowans records.

Unless the state wants to reallocate millions of dollars into public education and community programs, there is no reason good enough to not legalize marijuana. After all, it's far safer than alcohol and guns — both of which are very legal and accessible in the state.

Lawmakers need to get past their dated views on recreational marijuana. If not for us, do it for the children.

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## April blog: pros and cons of marijuana legalization

The Daily Iowan opinions staff on legalizing recreational marijuana.

Kate Perkins  
Opinions Contributor



**Pro: safer alternative**

As opposed to other drugs, marijuana is safe. Its legalization for recreational purposes offers an alternative for some opioid users. It is not hard to find such substances unprescribed. Marijuana is a much safer substitute. One of the few substances that a person can suffer the most from when it comes to withdrawal symptoms, resulting in possible fatality, is alcohol.

Alcohol is widely used across the globe, as we know, and it is not seen as something that should be banned recreationally, though it causes much more addiction and suffering than marijuana. Marijuana is not only less addictive than alcohol, and it is also more natural and less toxic. Alcohol use is linked to aggressive behavior and violent crimes, and marijuana is not.

As a society, we should start treating marijuana as the safer alternative that it is.

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Yasmina Sahir  
Opinions Columnist



**Con: lack of resources**

For now, cannabis should stay unregulated until regulation and usage issues can be resolved. The ongoing opioid crisis is an example of how unregulated societal drug introductions can lead to harmful effects without safe spaces to use, widely available anti-overdose drugs, and completed research on when using for fun or to mitigate pain crosses the line into dangerous levels of drug use.

While legalization in the future may be an option, we need to invest in social services set up to combat drug abuse, overdoses, and youth drug use. Legislators also need to reconcile and clearly communicate intoxication limits for motor vehicle operation and public consumption before placing substances in public hands.

Not only would solving these problems help in deciding if legalization of cannabis products is the best move forward, but these same conversations could be quickly and more easily applied to legalization discussions on other drugs in the future.

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Evan Weidl  
Opinions Columnist



**Pro: decrease disparities**

Despite the legalization of marijuana by many states in the U.S., there are still glaring racial disparities in both arrests and convictions.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, Black people are 3.6 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white people, despite similar usage rates.

In every state, Black people are more likely to be arrested for possession than white people. In Montana and Kentucky, Black people are over nine times more likely to be arrested for possession.

While the arrest rate for white people stayed consistent throughout the decade, the arrest rate for Black people rose considerably. The best way to fix this injustice is to eliminate the cause at its root. There can't be a difference in rates of possession arrests if there aren't any arrests in the first place.

Keeping marijuana illegal has done nothing but cause harm and further perpetuate an unjust legal system.

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Gabriel Arboleda  
Opinions Contributor



**Con: black market**

A potential consequence of legalizing marijuana in Iowa is the growth of an illicit marijuana market in the state.

States that have legalized marijuana have made significant contributions to the ever-growing black market of pot that competes alongside the legal market. These states develop their illicit markets by selling large quantities of their legally grown products to states where pot is currently illegal or criminalized.

One of the key dangers presented by black market pot is the risk of counterfeit and potentially dangerous products being distributed. Since the products are sourced and produced by unknown sources, the buyer may not be aware of the quality and safety of the product they are purchasing.

By legalizing marijuana, Iowa runs the risk of developing an illicit market that competes against the legal market and distributes unsafe products. With a larger black market, the health and safety of marijuana users can be jeopardized.

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COLUMN

## Let's be careful legalizing cannabis

It's important to address the possible risks that come with legalization.



Sam Knupp  
Opinion Contributor

Legalizing marijuana is in style.

The drug is now legal for recreational use in 21 states. A 2021 poll showed that 54 percent of Iowans want to add our state to the list.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

There are obviously positives that come with legalization. It will require the drug to be regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, meaning the packaging will have ingredients listed on it, so users know what they're putting into their bodies. As someone who has eaten a government-regulated edible, I can say the recommended dosage listed on the packaging protected me from turning into the embodiment of the Grateful

Dead's fanbase.

It also allows law enforcement to focus on serious crimes instead of spending their time cracking down on cannabis use.

While I'm in favor of legalization, I still have concerns.

Aside from my fear that the Iowa Legislature will accidentally legalize cannibalism in some kind of autocorrect catastrophe, marijuana is also a drug that alters the mind, especially now.

For a while, there's been a narrative among liberals like me that portrays the drug as a great herbal remedy for the mind and ignoring its negative effects.

That's why it's important for us to realize and emphasize that the marijuana of today isn't the kind your grandparents were smoking while watching Jefferson Airplane at Woodstock. It's far more potent.

A 2020 study showed that THC — the psychoactive compound in marijuana — levels in herbal cannabis have risen significantly since the late 1960s, from less than 1 percent to more

than 12 percent.

It's also important that we emphasize that long-term effects are real and possible. Memory loss and impaired cognitive function have long been associated with heavy use, according to the National Library of Medicine. Daily cannabis users are at a significantly higher risk for temporary psychosis, according to a 2019 study. Results of studies about the relationship between cannabis use and other mental illnesses are scattered.

On a less serious, but still unfortunate, note, cannabis use has been linked to impotence in men, which is unappealing to men and the people who have sex with them, according to the Hartford HealthCare. Also, marijuana consumption by way of smoking and edibles is known to cause teeth-yellowing.

Another issue we need to tackle is that of road safety. Drunk driving is already a big problem, and with the legalization of marijuana comes the possibility of increased fatalities and injuries from high driving.

A 2017 survey by the Colorado Department of Transportation showed that 70 percent of marijuana users drove while intoxicated at least once in the past year.

That's especially troubling considering that there's not a reliable way to detect if someone is driving high on the spot. While a company has come out with a marijuana breathalyzer, it's not widely used by police departments in the U.S.

So yeah, let's legalize cannabis. With that, we should fund programs to educate kids and teens that marijuana won't ruin your future, but it can still have significant negative effects if used in excess. Additionally, we should educate the public on the risks of high driving and incentivize institutions to research different methods to efficiently detect if a driver is high.

But let's also acknowledge the risks that come with legalization and make sure we do something to limit them.

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Sophia Meador, Shahab Khan, Yasmina Sahir, Hannah Pinski, Naomi Rivera-Morales, Evan Weidl

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

GUEST OPINIONS must be arranged with the Opinions Editor at least three days prior to the desired date of publication. Guest opinions are selected and edited in accordance with length, subject relevance, and space considerations. The DI will only publish one submission per author per month. No advertisements or mass mailings, please.

READER COMMENTS that may appear were originally posted on dailyiowan.com or on the DI's social media platforms in response to published material. Comments will be chosen for print publication when they are deemed to forward public discussion. They may be edited for length and style.

**JAY**  
Continued from Page 8A

youth.”  
The foundation allocates money toward shoes and scholarships for student athletes.  
Through mainly T-shirt sales and donations, Jay’s initial goal for the foundation was to gift 25 pairs of shoes and two \$500 scholarships per year.  
The foundation accomplished that goal in 2019 and has grown exponentially since. Jay said the foundation has given away 512 pairs of shoes as of April 10. According to the website, it has raised money for 39 \$500 scholarships.

Mike Parker, the vice president of the Track Guy Foundation and Iowa City West High School girls track and field and cross country coach, said the foundation’s growth can be attributed to Jay’s notoriety and willingness to interact with the community.

“He has a voice throughout the entire country,” Parker said. “He literally is doing the NCAA Championships one day, and then he’s doing the USA Championships ... He’s one of the most humble men that I have ever met, and he is incredibly kind to everyone.”

Parker said not only will Jay take pictures with the athletes and fans that come up to him at meets, but he makes an effort to connect with everyone.

“We have high school athletes because they know he announces [the Drake Relays] and [the state championship meet]. You know, they want their picture with him, they know his Track Guy, and Mike doesn’t just say, ‘OK, here,’ snaps, the picture, ‘It’s great to meet you.’ Mike’s gonna have a little bit of conversation with you. He’s gonna make you feel, like, wow, ‘Mike Jay and I are friends.’ I think that makes people trust him. And so they’re like, ‘OK,



Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

Sports announcer Mike Jay announces during a high school track and field meet at Prairie High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

I want to be involved in what you’re doing.’”

Iowa City West junior hurdler Erinn Varga said Jay’s endearing personality and passion for track and field, along with the research he does about all of the athletes he watches, makes him special.

“I feel like everyone’s kind of connected to Mike Jay because he’s just always the biggest supporter of track and field for high school,” Varga said. “I feel like he’s at every meet and like he personally knows us and is excited to see us all run. I wouldn’t have anyone else announcing this.”

Varga remembers two instances where Jay went above and beyond to connect with her.

“There are hundreds and hundreds of high schoolers across Iowa that do track and field,

but as a freshman, he knew my name and, I think one time my mom got some Track Guy merch, and he personally wrote a note to our family congratulating me on the season. I think he’s just a super sweet guy that really cares about the student athletes here.”

Burlington High School boys track and field head coach Jordan Webb — whose team has been positively impacted by the Track Guy Foundation ever since its inception — said he knew of Jay well before he caught wind of the foundation.

Webb, who ran in high school at Burlington and collegiately at Northern Iowa, said he knew Jay as the Drake Relays announcer. But in the foundation’s first few months, their relationship grew, starting with one Facebook post.

“So, originally, I knew Mike Jay just as the voice of the Drake Relays, but I had never met him personally,” Webb said. “And then one of our school secretaries actually sent me a Facebook post of Mike Jay donating spikes to kids in need, and he said that he was doing it for anybody that he could. And she told me just to reach out and see what would happen. So, I reached out and just let them know what our situation was down here. And he said he’d be more than glad to help us.”

Webb said Jay’s foundation has helped Burlington, which he said was a low socioeconomic status school, every year since.

Webb said he had 10 athletes who needed new spikes for the 2022-23 school year — a value of approximately \$800 —

and Jay provided them through his foundation.

“It’s just amazing what he’s doing for not just us but other schools around the whole state of Iowa,” Webb said. “I know especially some of my kids that don’t have the resources that others have; to get a pair of spikes just means the world.”

One of the beneficiaries of the Track Guy Foundation this year was Burlington sophomore sprinter and high jumper Lederrias Shealey.

Shealey said he got a new pair of spikes in March, right before the season began.

“My [old] spikes had holes in them because I kept sliding my feet when I would run,” Shealey said. “As soon as I got [the new spikes] I was really excited because I feel like I can go faster with them on. It just feels like so

much better to be able to have somebody that can give you something and you can keep on going with it.”

Webb said he makes sure to show his appreciation to Jay each time the Track Guy Foundation gifts his school gear.

“Every time he donates something to us, we make a Facebook post thanking him,” Webb said. “We share it out to the whole world, and it gets hundreds of likes, so then people know the name Mike Jay. And then when they see it on another Facebook post or a story in the newspaper, they go, ‘I remember hearing about that guy.’ And they spread the word. All the great things he’s doing, that’s just the world coming back and thanking him.”

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Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Diante Vines runs after a reception during a football game between Iowa and Wisconsin at Kinnick Stadium on Nov. 12, 2022. The Hawkeyes defeated the Badgers, 24-10.

**FOOTBALL**  
Continued from Page 8A

tallied nine receptions for 87 yards in 2022 after working through injuries early in the year.

“That’s a big loss, but we can’t knock him — dude just threw 104 miles per hour,” Vines said. “I can’t tell him, ‘Come on dude, play football.’ He’s gonna make a million dollars in MLB. It’s a hard loss for us because we’re tight. We’re a tight receiver room, and he’s a good guy that we’d like to have around, and he’s also a great player.”

Vines and Ragaini top the Hawkeyes’ wide receiver depth chart for the spring. Behind them are redshirt freshman Reese Osgood and sophomore Alec Wick — both walk ons.

Wick saw some action

in the 2022 season when the Hawkeye wide receiver room again fought through injuries, and he registered two catches for 31 yards. Osgood did not play in 2022.

This spring, Vines said he’s seen encouraging play from the walk on wideouts.

“Reese Osgood is one of those guys that’s stepped up pretty big,” Vines said. “... He’s one of the fastest on the team as well. He makes a lot of plays. Reese every day is getting better, getting smarter, just knowing where he fits in.”

The thin wide receiver room also has to learn the Hawkeyes’ new offense. After an 18.6 point-per-game showing in 2022, Ferentz said the Hawkeyes will make some changes to their offense. Offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz

has an amended contract for the 2023 season, which requires him to score 25 points per game.

Michigan transfer quarterback Cade McNamara, who led the Wolverines to a College Football Playoff appearance in 2021, will captain Iowa’s new offense.

“We’re still gonna be playing Iowa football,” Vines said. “We’re just looking to key into all the details more and make these things happen that we didn’t make happen last year, and so far, it’s going pretty well.”

Iowa will conclude its spring practices on Saturday at Kinnick Stadium, which is open to the public. Practice will start at 10:45 a.m., and the gates open to fans at 9:45 a.m.

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**DORIGHI**  
Continued from Page 8A

Southern Conference has also allowed Dorighi to become an immediate leader for some of the younger Hawkeyes. Iowa has a young team, and Dorighi is the only graduate student on the roster.

But in his first season with the Hawkeyes, he also

recognizes that he’s learning from his teammates.

“I think it’s been equal,” Dorighi said. “I’ve learned just as much from them as they have from me, but just with time and playing as many games as I have out here, there’s been stuff I’ve been able to teach them. Ways to ride the wave and not get too high or too low based on results and just be process oriented.”

Dorighi will play out his final season of eligibility with the Hawkeyes in 2023. Iowa is 25-9 with a 4-5 record so far in Big Ten play. The Hawkeyes will host the Nebraska Cornhuskers, who currently have a 7-2 conference record, in a three-game series at Duane Banks Field this weekend.

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## HAWKEYE UPDATES



### Krikke signs with Hawkeyes

Forward Ben Krikke has officially signed with Iowa men's basketball, head coach Fran McCaffery announced Monday.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to become a Hawkeye," Krikke said in a statement. "I am excited to get to campus. I can tell the school is rich in tradition and history and is serious about success both academically and athletically."



Ben Krikke

I want to do everything I can to help the team win games and contribute to the school's legacy."

Krikke, a graduate transfer, has one season of eligibility remaining. He transferred to Iowa from Valparaiso, where he was a three-time Missouri Valley Conference selection. Krikke started all 32 games for the Beacons in 2022-23, scoring 19.4 points and grabbing 5.9 rebounds per game.

The 6-foot-9 220-pounder ended his career at Valpo with 1,596 points.

"We are excited that Ben is joining our Hawkeye family," McCaffery said in a statement. "Ben can score a variety of ways and



Fran McCaffery

shoots at a high percentage. He is excellent in transition and has a high basketball IQ. Having a need to bolster our front-court depth, Ben is a tremendous fit and addition to our program."

Iowa men's basketball lost five players from the 2022-23 squad. Forward Connor McCaffery and center Filip Rebraca are out of eligibility, center Josh Ogundele and guard Ahron Ulis both entered the transfer portal, and Kris Murray entered the 2023 NBA Draft.

Krikke will join four freshmen as newcomers to the Hawkeyes in 2023-24, including Brock Harding and Owen Freeman from Moline High School in Illinois, Pryce Sandfort from Waukee Northwest in Iowa, and Ladji Dembele out of St. Benedict's Prep in New Jersey.

"I enjoyed getting to know the coaching staff over my recruitment process and respect them both on and off the court," Krikke said in the release. "They want to win, and so do I. They are genuine people that are dedicated to seeing their players succeed. I also enjoyed getting to meet the players when I visited. I can tell they are serious about success both on and off the court, and many of us approach the game with a similar mindset. We all want to work and push each other to get better."



### Musco Twilight canceled

The Iowa track and field team canceled its annual outdoor meet, the Musco Twilight, this Saturday because of inclement weather conditions. A high of 48 degrees Fahrenheit is projected, while the low is expected to be 29 degrees.

The event would've been the Hawkeyes' sole home meet of the outdoor season. Iowa director of track and field Joey Woody said in a release that the Hawkeyes are looking for other meets to compete in this weekend.

Next week, the Hawkeyes will compete at the Drake Relays in Des Moines from April 27-29.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"They comment about the food. Our guys eat really well."**

— Iowa football head coach Kirk Ferentz on new recruits' reactions to Hawkeye facilities.

## STAT OF THE DAY

**.474**

— Nia Carter's batting average on the Iowa softball team.

# The man behind the mic

While Mike Jay is one of the premier track and field voices in the country, he has an impact beyond the announcer booth.



Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

Public address announcer Mike Jay announces during a high school track and field meet at Prairie High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

### Chris Werner Assistant Sports Editor

At Cedar Rapids Prairie High School on April 11, Mike Jay sat in a familiar spot: a press box overlooking a track, with his meticulous notes splayed out in front of him and a microphone in his hand. He was getting ready to announce the Hawkins Relays.

Jay, now 63 years old and originally from Columbus Junction, Iowa, has become one of the top track and field voices in the nation.

He has been the public address announcer for

the last 17 Drake Relays, has worked at many of Stanford's home meets in California, and has called Olympic Trials, the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor meets, the U.S. Indoor and Outdoor Championships, and college meets around Iowa — including nearly all of the Hawkeyes' home events since 1990. He was the 2014 Scott Davis Memorial Award recipient by the Track and Field Writers of America, which is given to the nation's best track announcer.

Even with that pedigree, Jay still announces many high school track meets around his home

state — the same way he got his start back in the 1980s.

After graduating from Columbus Junction High School in 1977, where he ran track and field and cross country, Jay went to the Brown Institute in Minneapolis, the same media college that Hawkeye men's basketball and football play-by-play announcer Gary Dolphin attended. He then worked in radio for a few years in Iowa and got his Iowa coaching certificate in 1983.

That same year, Jay began coaching cross country and track and field

at Columbus Junction. He continued to work as a coach for the next 30 years.

While there, he began announcing Columbus Junction's home events, and his voice echoed throughout the state.

"I announced our home meets, and then other schools that were coming to our home meets asked me to start doing their meets, and then it just trickled down," Jay said. "I started doing meets at the University of Iowa in 1990; just all by word of mouth. I've been blessed to never have asked for a job."

Jay began announcing full-time in 2011, where he announced for around 40 meets per year, he said. Seven years later, Jay started to give back to the sport.

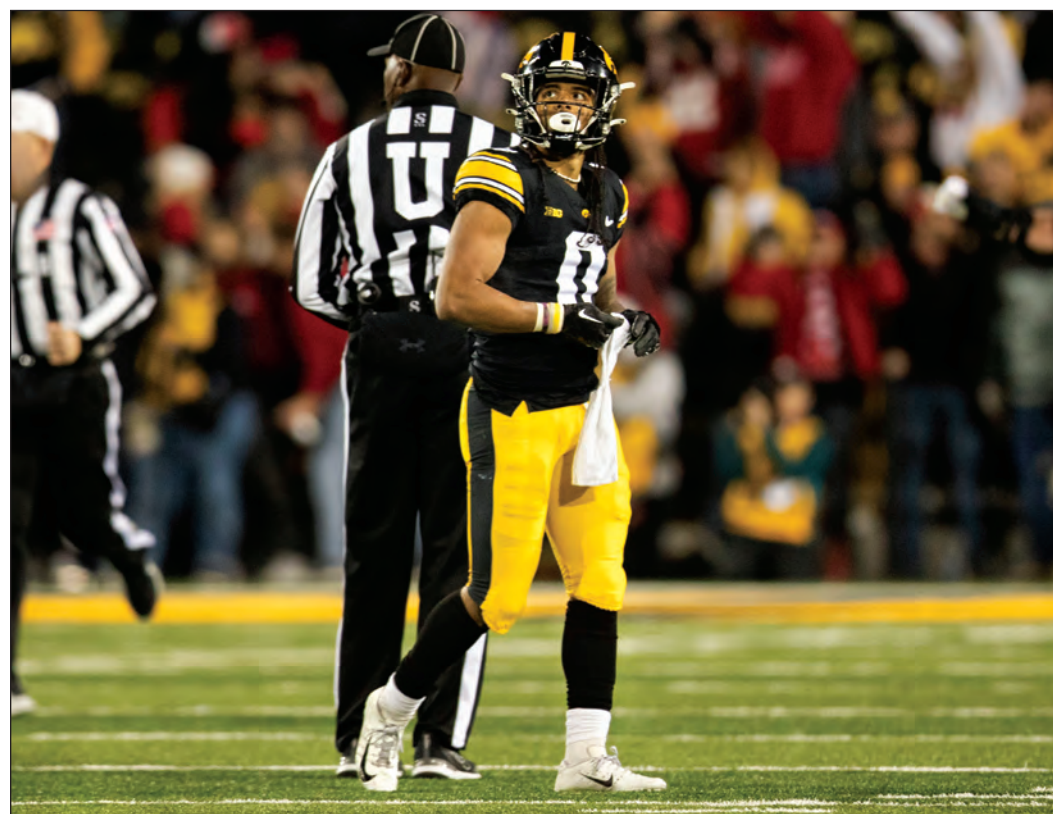
At the urging of his sons Joseph and Jon, Jay started the Track Guy Foundation in October 2018.

According to its website, "the Foundation is committed to putting Iowa's student-athletes first and ensuring that cross country and track and field experiences are available to all interested

JAY | Page 7A

# Working through injuries Finding a fit

With two scholarship wide receivers out for spring practice, the Hawkeyes are running with a thin wideout room.



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan

Iowa wide receiver Diante Vines during a football game between Iowa and the Nebraska at Kinnick Stadium on Nov. 25, 2022. The Cornhuskers defeated the Hawkeyes, 24-17.

### Chloe Peterson Sports Editor

Diante Vines is taking a lot more reps than usual throughout Iowa football's spring practices.

The junior wide receiver, who missed the first six games of the 2022 season with a fractured wrist, is currently one of two scholarship wide receivers who are healthy enough to practice. Sixth-year senior Nico Ragaini is the other.

"It's tough because you got to take a lot more reps and make the practice kind of around people who are not there," Vines said. "The people who are in got to take a lot more reps, but you like to work, you know, you need the

work, so you can't complain about it."

Iowa's lack of scholarship wide receivers started with injuries to sophomore Seth Anderson and redshirt freshman Jacob Bostick, both of whom are out for spring practice.

Anderson, who transferred to Iowa from Charleston Southern in South Carolina, has a soft tissue injury. The Suwanee, Georgia, product was the Big South Offensive Freshman of the Year in 2022, recording 42 catches for 612 yards and seven touchdowns with the Buccaneers.

Meanwhile, Bostick is out with a foot injury. Bostick redshirted his first season with the Hawkeyes in 2022 partly because injuries kept him out

of preseason workouts.

"When you train hard, things are going to break down sometimes," head coach Kirk Ferentz said at the start of spring practice. "How hard do you train, all that stuff. It's one of the byproducts. So hopefully we'll be getting some guys back."

While Ferentz said Anderson could possibly return by the end of spring practice, Bostick is out until at least summer workouts.

The wide receivers thinned out even more when Brody Brecht, who played both football and baseball at Iowa, chose to play on the diamond full-time on March 24. Brecht

Transfer Brennen Dorighi emerged as a key leader for the Hawkeyes baseball team. The former Wofford Terrier is batting .333 with five home runs so far this season.

### Keaton Speicher Sports Reporter

Brennen Dorighi came to Iowa with ample experience.

The Iowa baseball transfer spent the first four years of his career at Wofford, where he played in 30 games as a junior and 51 games as a senior — usually as a designated hitter. In his senior year, Dorighi had a .339 batting average with nine home runs — both good for third on the Terriers.

But because Wofford doesn't have a graduate school program, Dorighi knew all along his plan was to enter the transfer portal following his fourth season. He graduated from Wofford with a degree in finance and accounting in 2022.

"I entered the portal at the end of the year, and I didn't have a clear-cut plan yet," Dorighi said. "It wasn't like I was searching to go to Iowa. But after talking with a bunch of the coaches and players, it just checked too many boxes. It was too good of a fit for me not to come here."

Dorighi has had a stellar start to the 2023 season, batting .333 with five home runs and 31 RBI. He's played in all 34 of the Hawkeyes' contests this season, with 13 multi-hit games.

The graduate student credits his four years of collegiate experience for his solid start with Iowa.

"Having all the experience and at-bats I've had over the last four years, I think the biggest thing that's kept me going a little bit is my in-game adjustments," Dorighi said. "If I'm making a mistake in my first at-bat, I've been able to correct them quicker than I have in the past, and I think that just comes with experience."

He also points to Iowa head coach Rick Heller and associate head coach Marty Sutherland for helping him develop with the Hawkeyes.

"It comes down to preparation, with coach Marty and coach Heller," Dorighi said. "They work hard to get us going and that's also been huge for me."

Having four years of experience in the

FOOTBALL | Page 7A

DORIGHI | Page 7A



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023

A stylized neon sign for 'BOO HOURS' is mounted on a brick wall. The word 'BOO' is rendered in large, purple, glowing letters with a black outline, and 'HOURS' is in smaller, blue, glowing letters with a black outline. A black pipe with silver fittings runs horizontally through the center of the letters.

# BOO HOURS

THIS WEEKEND IN  
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## **Floodwater Comedy Festival to return to IC**

After nearly three years of COVID-19-related cancellations, Iowa City's only official comedy festival will return to town from April 26-29.

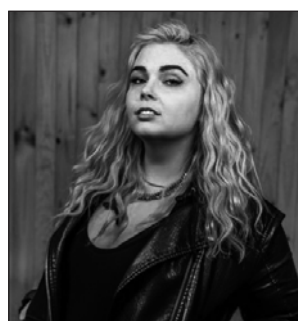


# Floodwater Comedy Festival returns

After nearly three years of cancellations, Floodwater Comedy Festival is coming back to Iowa City April 26-29.



Jamie Shriner



Sarah Perry

Parker Jones  
Arts Editor

After two years of cancellations, Iowa City's only comedy festival will return to bring laughs to locals and college students.

From April 26-29, the annual Floodwater Comedy Festival will showcase nationally recognized comics and Iowa comedic talent.

Previous headliners of the festival have included Amy Schumer, Paul Rust, and Jak Knight, among others. This year, Chicago-based comics Sarah Perry and Jamie Shriner will take Floodwater's mainstage alongside nearly 60 other performers.

Acts will be hosted at a variety of performance venues, including Joystick Comedy Arcade, Gabe's, The Englert Theatre, and Willow Creek Theatre. Certain performances will take place at bars like ReUnion Brewery, Sanctuary Pub, Eden Lounge, and The Green House. While some acts will be individual stand-up routines, others will be performances made by improv groups or open mics.

The last Floodwater Comedy Festival took place in February 2020 shortly before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival experienced multiple postponements and cancellations in 2021 and 2022 while pandemic restrictions were in effect.

Logan Pratt, a Univer-

sity of Iowa fourth-year student and Floodwater's executive producer, performed in the 2020 Floodwater Festival with an improv team called Great White Narcs. Pratt started talking with previous festival organizers in the fall, which led to Floodwater's return.

"I always knew that Floodwater was like this really awesome opportunity in Iowa City, and then the pandemic happened, and then it went away for many years," Pratt said. "I started talking to the people who originally started it, and we were like, 'We want to bring it back.' So now we have a new team of people."

Travis Coltraine is the talent booker at Joystick and another executive producer for Floodwater. He noted the impact of COVID-19 in terms of the festival's venues, recalling that it lost its main home, The Mill, in 2022.

"However, with Joystick

resurge," Coltraine wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

Coltraine described the largest change to Floodwater as its format, calling this year's festival a comedy crawl. The main festival pass available for purchase will allow attendees to visit any of the comedy performances at different bars and venues around Iowa City.

"We really wanted this year of Floodwater to feel not only large, but as integrated to the city as possible," Coltraine wrote.

Pratt emphasized that while the focus of Floodwater is comedy, the event also historically serves as a charity. According to Floodwater's website, the festival donated \$1,500 to various organizations in 2018 and hopes to surpass that number this year.

Organizers of Floodwater will donate a portion of the festival's proceeds to Johnson County's chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The percentage will vary based on the festival's ticket sales, donating as much as possible while still retaining enough to keep Floodwater running in the future.

Both of this year's headliners have performed in Iowa City before. Perry said she heard about the festival last year. While she does not

of Floodwater.

"I remember a bunch of my friends posting about getting in and going to it, and I made a mental note to apply this year," Perry wrote in an email to the *DI*. "Before I could, they asked me to headline which was so cool!"

Perry, who graduated from the renowned Second City Conservatory comedy program in Chicago, performed at Joystick in November 2022. Material usually spawns from her past relationships, experiences, and her family.

Perry will perform individually and alongside Jamie Shriner, another Second City alum from Chicago. She performed at Joystick in December 2022 and described it as a nerve-wracking but ultimately affirming experience, especially when performing for an audience of mainly college

students.

"I still consider myself young, but, like, people who are in college are younger than me. You really have to earn their respect," Shriner said. "And I remember being that age because it's like you're not in high school anymore, but you're not an adult yet. You've not been humbled by adult life. You kind of are like on your shit. You're like, 'Okay, make me laugh.'"

Shriner's material often incorporates music and draws on her experiences as a queer woman. She said that what inspired her to join the comedy scene in the first place was the lack of diversity among comics at shows she attended.

"Overwhelmingly, it was straight white men — straight, cis white men — and I just didn't find it funny," Shriner said. "And so, for me, it was like

'Okay, I want to try that.' And if I try and I can be good, then I can kind of be that person that I wanted to see when I was sitting in the audience."

Part of the Floodwater Comedy Festival's mission, as stated on its website, is to showcase groups often marginalized in comedy. With so many different comedians and groups set to attend this year's festival, Shriner said it will also be an opportunity to connect the local with the national.

"It's very rare, I think, for Iowa City to get this many really, really talented comedians all in one place all at the same time," Shriner said. "You're going to get to see a lot more variety of voices and points of view than you would normally get to see."

parker-jones@uiowa.edu

"I think [COVID-19] also forced us to take a hard look and figure out what aspects of the festival we wanted to keep and what aspects we felt needed to change."

— Travis Coltraine, talent booker at Joystick Comedy Arcade

Comedy Arcade and Willow Creek being pillars for stand-up and improv, it's gotten a chance to

know much about Iowa City's arts and comedy scene, Perry said she has heard others speak highly

MAY 1-6

## IOWA NEW PLAY FESTIVAL 2023

4 PRODUCTIONS • ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS • STAND-UP COMEDY SHOWCASE • READINGS



**Lil G: A Gatsby Remix**  
by Isaiah Reaves  
directed by Caroline Clay  
Monday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m. + 9:00 p.m.  
David Thayer Theatre



**BOOTH**  
by Amanda Keating  
directed by Ann Kreitman  
Tuesday, May 2 at 5:30 p.m. + 9:00 p.m.  
Alan MacVey Theatre



**Fathers and Sons**  
by Valerie Muensterman  
directed by Meg Mechelke  
Thursday, May 4 at 5:30 p.m. + 9:00 p.m.  
David Thayer Theatre



**You're Still Here**  
by Olivia Clement  
directed by Natalie Villamonte Zito  
Friday, May 5 at 5:30 p.m. + 9:00 p.m.  
Alan MacVey Theatre

→ For the full schedule of events and tickets, visit [theatre.uiowa.edu](http://theatre.uiowa.edu).

**Productions:** \$5 general admission; free for UI students (with ID).

**Reading Series:** Free, but you must obtain a ticket.

Funding for the Iowa New Play Festival is provided by The David and Jean Schaal Fund for Theatre Arts.

## The Daily Break

The New York Times  
Crossword

Puzzle solutions on page 2A

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0315

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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**ACROSS**

- 1 Many a rescue
- 5 Bit of wisdom
- 10 Playful sound while tapping someone's nose
- 14 Brainchild
- 15 Buildup of tanks?
- 16 Atmospheric glow
- 17 Barrel of monkeys
- 19 Symbol seen on more than 30% of the world's flags
- 20 Catalog
- 21 Person you might see in August?
- 22 Whac-A-\_\_\_
- 23 Word after high or seven
- 26 Rice option
- 28 With 50-Across, blue streak
- 32 Shapes up
- 35 Black, in verse
- 36 Barrier in certain zoo enclosures
- 38 Dora the Explorer's cousin
- 39 Bit of ink
- 40 Leather band used to sharpen razors
- 42 Landon who lost in a landslide to F.D.R.
- 43 Sch. with campuses in Amherst and Lowell
- 46 Eye affliction
- 47 Voter on a failed 2014 independence referendum
- 48 Ghost in the machine
- 50 See 28-Across
- 52 Partner of dreams

- 54 Life-or-death
  - 55 Blue-green shade
  - 57 Florida politico Demings
  - 59 "Toodles," but more formally
  - 63 Rip
  - 64 Knock me down with a feather
  - 67 Start of a fairy tale
  - 68 Actress Messing
  - 69 What the fourth little piggy had
  - 70 Batik worker
  - 71 Like many theater camp productions
  - 72 Shred the \_\_\_ (skiing slang for conquering difficult terrain)
- DOWN**
- 1 Skirt covering the knees
  - 2 Noodles often served in broth
  - 3 Oversee, as a flock
  - 4 Adopts
  - 5 Insert a token, say
  - 6 Sight at Rocky Mountain National Park
  - 7 Excited
  - 8 Accumulated, as charges
  - 9 Goes by foot, informally
  - 10 Rice option
  - 11 Unobtainable
  - 12 \_\_\_ motor skills (baby's development)
  - 13 Trim
  - 18 C.T.O. or C.F.O.

- 24 Paper pushers?
- 25 They can be parting
- 27 Captained
- 28 Sting operation, e.g.
- 29 "A Promised Land" author, 2020
- 30 "No way!"
- 31 "Mostly harmless" place, per "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"
- 33 Home with a dome
- 34 Giant head?
- 37 Messed (with)
- 41 Spa treatment, informally
- 44 Burn like embers
- 45 Chump
- 47 Playoff ranking
- 49 One side of the Hoover Dam
- 51 Get, as a quick lunch
- 53 More even-keeled
- 55 Walked (on)
- 56 Tiny, informally
- 58 Orientation inits.
- 60 It makes up about a third of our planet's mass
- 61 \_\_\_ Mode, "no capes" advocate in "The Incredibles"
- 62 Operator
- 65 B&O and others
- 66 "Huzzah!"

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9	5		1	8		
	6	7		8		5

数独

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# Japanese Papermaking Festival brings tradition to IC

Hosted by the UI Center for the Book, the Japanese Papermaking Festival hosted international artists for talkbacks and demonstrations from April 13-14.

Zhenya Loughney  
Arts Reporter

Paper pulp, woven threads, and fiber painting: The Iowa City public dipped their hands into traditional Japanese fiber arts and “washi” last weekend.

The series of events, titled “The Future of a Tradition: Asian Craft, Iowa Innovation, and Japanese Papermaking,” is an International Programs Major Project Award winner hosted by the University of Iowa Center for the Book. Public events included a paper artisan talkback and an interactive papermaking festival.

“The hope is that students will participate in the various events and learn from the resident artisans. It would be all the better if students tried their hand at papermaking themselves,” Russell Ganim, associate provost and dean of International Programs wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

Nicholas Cladis, co-organizer of the events and papermaking lecturer at the UI, took a group of grad students to Echizen, Japan, last summer to learn more about traditional Japanese papermaking with Masami Igarashi and Hideaki Taki.

“I lived there for a really long time before I moved to Iowa,” Cladis said. “So, I’ve known [Igarashi and Taki] for almost 10 years.”

The first public event of the festival was an artisan

talkback with Igarashi and Taki on April 13 in the Adler Journalism and Mass Communication Building. Igarashi and Taki are both generational traditional paper making artisans and will be in Iowa City until April 24.

“Both of their mills have more than 100 years of history. [Taki is] seventh generation, and Masami is fourth generation. Their mills have a long history in Japan,” Cladis said. “Because of that connection that they share, there’s a lot of satisfaction in what they do.”

The Papermaking Festival took place April 14 on North Hall’s lawn. Demonstrations were given by Cladis, Taki, Igarashi, and papermaking student volunteers.

“Having been able to come here to Iowa gives me energy to continue doing what I do because I can share it with people. People are really interested in what I’m doing here, and that drives and inspires me,” Taki said, translated by Cladis for *DI*.

Upon arrival, festival attendees were met with a name tag station and were given a handout with vocabulary and artisan bios to guide them through the stations. The participants were taken to a postcard making station where they could decorate their freshly made paper with the delicate flowers provided. Kelsey Voy, a Master of Fine Arts student volunteer, guided the participants at this station.

“I’m in the papermaking class this semester. Learn-

ing all of the techniques that go into this type of papermaking is so valuable,” Voy said.

The next station was a full-size traditional basin where participants could practice their techniques by making a 13-inch piece of paper. Traditional Japanese paper, or washi, is made by soaking fibers in water then collecting those fibers on a nylon screen to dry into usable paper.

“I want to show people and share the knowledge of washi with local Iowans and with students here, and that’s what I’m looking forward to doing the most,” Igarashi said, translated by Cladis. “I hope that people will come and get a good impression of Japanese culture, and that it will make them want to explore more and to deepen their knowledge of the craft of Japanese papermaking.”

The next station was a thread-making station. Using the same fibers from the paper pulp, Taki then took that thread for a pulp painting demonstration on canvas.

“Iowa is kind of the perfect place because you have a lot of people who make things here, right?” Cladis said. “You have writers, you have artists, and you have the students who went there [Echizen], so they have that experience. It’s a perfect synthesis of things.”

zhenya-loughney@uiowa.edu

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# BUDDY GUY

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Friday, April 28, 7:30 pm

At age 86, Buddy Guy is a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, a major influence on rock titans like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, a pioneer of Chicago’s fabled West Side sound, and a living link to the city’s halcyon days of electric blues. Buddy Guy has received eight Grammy Awards, a 2015 Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award, 38 Blues Music Awards (the most any artist has received), the *Billboard Magazine* Century Award for distinguished artistic achievement, a Kennedy Center Honor, and the Presidential National Medal of Arts. *Rolling Stone* ranked him #23 in its “100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time.” In 2019, Buddy Guy won his eighth and most recent Grammy Award for his 18th solo LP, *The Blues Is Alive And Well*. His most recent album is *The Blues Don’t Lie*.

### TICKETS

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