

# The Daily Iowan

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## CLEAN UP ON AISLE KINNICK

In return for funding, Iowa City school district students help clean Kinnick Stadium.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Iowa City Community School District students clean up Kinnick Stadium on Oct. 22. The cleanup operation at Kinnick is a partnership between the Iowa City Athletics Booster Club and the University of Iowa, where students clean Kinnick Stadium after gameday for athletic booster club funding. Part of the operation includes sweeping trash into the aisles of Kinnick.

**Isabelle Foland**  
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Bright and early on Sunday mornings during football season, Kinnick Stadium is filled with the rumble of garbage trucks, aluminum cans clinking against each other, and the scrape of hundreds of shovels hitting concrete.

For decades, Iowa City junior and high school student-athletes and musicians, their coaches, and their parents have

cleaned Kinnick the day after every home football game.

In return for their help, the University of Iowa pays the Iowa City Athletic Booster Club and the Iowa City Music Auxiliary a set amount per game. The amount is then equally distributed to the different booster clubs in the school district, according to Kristin Pedersen, the director of community relations for the school district.

Participants all help clean up Kinnick's seating areas. They split up into different sections, pick up trash, and sort it into

different trash bags to be trashed or recycled. The cleanup attendees are armed with shovels, gloves, and leaf blowers to help get the job done.

According to the contract between the Iowa City Athletic Booster Club and the UI obtained by *The Daily Iowan*, the Iowa City Athletic Booster Club will receive \$7,700 per game from the UI for the 2022-23 season. For 2019-21, the booster

**KINNICK | 2A**

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With few interpreters in Iowa, members of the Deaf community are sparking a discussion on education.

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While there is a growing preference for cremation over traditional funerals in Iowa City, the art of preparing the deceased remains important.

80 HOURS | 1C

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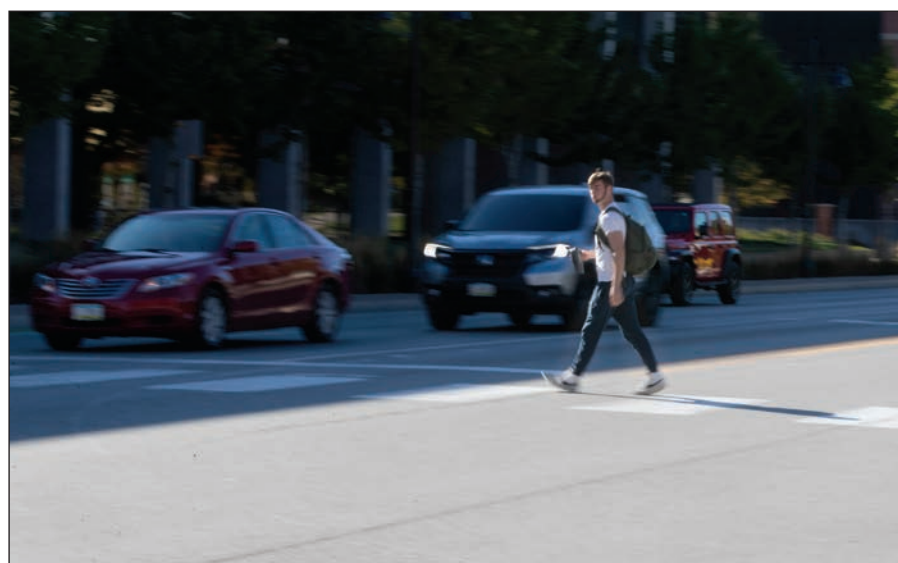
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## IC pedestrians safer than Iowa, US trends

The city had three pedestrian deaths in the last decade.



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

A pedestrian walks across West Burlington Street in Iowa City on Oct. 22. According to a city report, Iowa City has fewer pedestrian and vehicle collisions than state and national averages.

**Isabelle Foland**  
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Havel

A recently released city report shows that Iowa City has significantly fewer pedestrian and vehicle collisions than state and national averages.

The report, which was released in the Sept. 28 Iowa City City Council information packet, showed that from 2017-21, Iowa City had an average of 0.27 pedestrian deaths per 100,000 population. Statewide, this number was 0.7, and nationally the rate was 2.26.

The number of instances where a car collided with a pedestrian has been on a downward trend since 2013. It was especially low during the COVID-19 pandemic, going from 25 collisions in 2018 to 11 in 2020.

The number of collisions has been bouncing back to pre-pandemic numbers, with 2022 seeing 27 collisions.

From 2011-22, there were three pedestrian fatalities, 31 serious injuries,

and 155 minor injuries.

The report also identified intersections or streets where pedestrian injuries happened most frequently and severely. The top five locations included:

- Burlington Street and Gilbert Street
- Burlington Street and Clinton Street
- Washington Street and Clinton Street
- Jefferson Street between Madison Street and Clinton Street
- For The Kids Way and Hawkins Drive

The City of Iowa City is constantly working to make intersections safer for pedestrians, Iowa City's engineer Jason Havel said.

The city makes intersections safer by shortening the distance pedestrians have to walk across roads by narrowing the length of the street or adding medians in the middle of multiple lanes where pedestrians can wait to cross, Havel said.

Adequate pedestrian and bicyclist signage on streets also helps make drivers more aware that they need to pay attention

**PEDESTRIAN | 3A**

## Indoor golf facility PinSeekers to open in Johnson County

Located in Tiffin, the business is set to open in the first two weeks of November.

**Jack Moore**  
News Reporter  
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A new indoor golf range called PinSeekers is set to open within the first two weeks of November.

The venue will blend driving with indoor entertainment offering an 18-hole putting course, three multi-sport simulators, six lanes of duckpin mini bowling, a 200-person event space, two bars, and a restaurant.

The facility is located at 1515 Andersen Plaza in Tiffin, off Interstate 380. PinSeekers will be the first indoor golf range in Johnson County. The facility is built to contain 1,200 people and 92 staff members.

Construction on the facility started in December of 2022 and was set to open in the summer of 2023, however, construction delays have pushed the opening to November.

Operations Manager Brian Kloess said the exterior is complete and that work is being done to put the finishing touches to the interior such as adding in drywall and painting.

Once open, PinSeekers will offer year-round golfing opportunities for those wishing to enjoy a game of golf and learn and grow their skill in the sport.

PinSeekers General Manager and PGA Professional Ben Splichal said that they are excited to provide a venue that will be able to cater to all ages and abilities. A golf academy composed of PGA-certified instructors will offer lessons with accurate feedback to help those wishing to develop their skills in golf.

Kloess said one of the instructors will be Iowa City golf club professional Jeff Schmid who has played in the senior PGA Championship.

Using Toptracer technology, which uses sensors to track the golf ball through the air, golfers and lesson instructors will be able to see accurate data from their swings. Toptracer is the official range technology used by the PGA of America. At PinSeekers, there are 10 interactive targets on the range which will light up at night and show exactly where the player hit the target.

Splichal said the venue is not meant to replace traditional green-grass facilities. Instead, he hopes it will help develop the love of golf for everyone in the community.

"We're very excited to be part of the community and we just want to really drive people to the other area xgolf courses and golf facilities just to help each other out," Splichal said.

Splichal said the indoor amenities separate the facility from other indoor golf ranges like Top Golf and that there is a need for more indoor entertainment

**GOLF | 3A**

**FOOTBALL**  
from 1B

club received around \$2,000 more per game because they also helped clean the stadium after the spring football games, which they will not do this year.

This translates to about \$18,000 for each of the three schools for the season. To split up the money to the various sports teams, the three high schools' athletic directors assess how much funding each team needs and determine how the funds are divided from there, said Angela Rogers, co-president of the Iowa City Athletics Booster Club.

The way the three schools go about the cleanup differs, said Rogers. West High School has every single team come to each cleanup, while City High School and Liberty High School rotate which teams come to clean, she said.

The junior high schools also differ in their methods, said Kelli Taeger, co-president of the Iowa City Athletics Booster Club. Each individual junior high school of the three Iowa City schools comes to two cleanups. For the last game of the season, though, all three junior high schools participate to make the cleanup in colder weather go faster, she said.

According to Damian Simcox, the UI's associate athletics director for capital projects, this agreement has included West High School and City High School since at least the 1980s, with Liberty High School joining the effort shortly after it opened in 2017.

Payment per game was not increased when Liberty High School was added to the agreement, Simcox said.

Simcox said the cleanup benefits several groups, even ones outside of the Iowa City schools. The aluminum cans collected in the cleanup, for example, are recycled and redeemed, and those funds are donated to Dance Marathon.

The cleanup itself is a group effort that consists of more than just students, coaches, and parents, Simcox said.

Members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church from Washington, Iowa, clean the inside of the stadium and load trash into garbage trucks. ServiceMaster, a cleaning company, cleans the restrooms and assists with picking up trash. The Thursdays before events in the stadium, AllSpray, a power washing company, comes in and sprays down the inside of the stadium.

Simcox said these groups on top of the agreement with the Iowa City booster club make the total cost of cleaning up Kinnick Stadium amount to \$19,280 per game.

**Other ways universities clean**

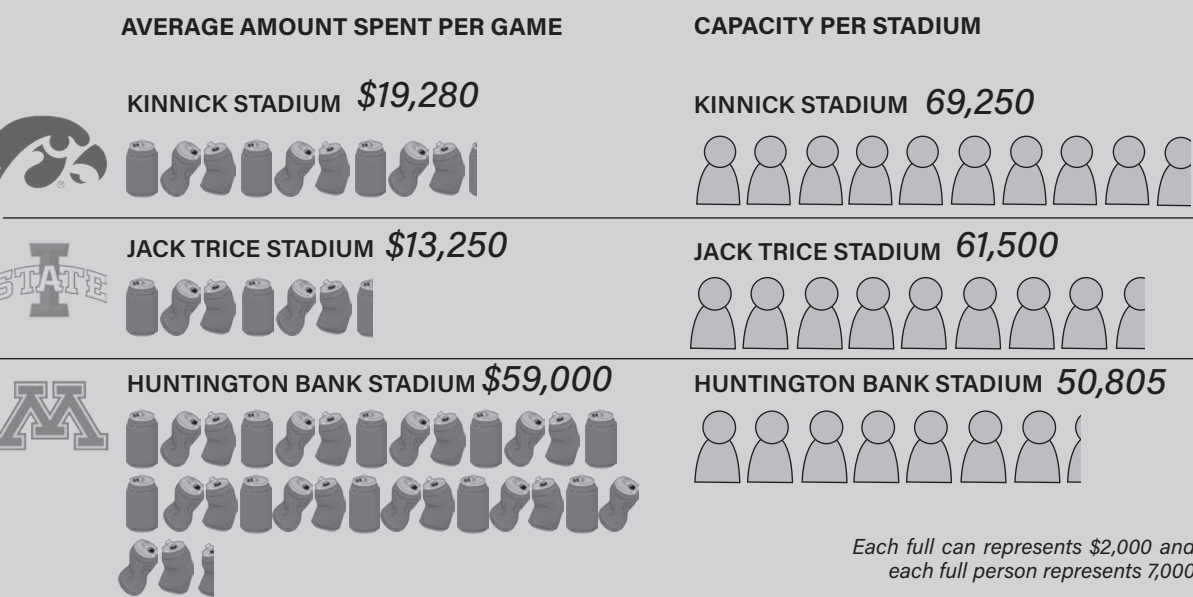
Other Big Ten and Big 12 universities choose to contract cleaning companies or other outside groups to clean their football stadiums after games.

According to Brian Honnold, Iowa State University's assistant athletics director for facilities and events, Jack Trice Stadium and its paved parking lots are cleaned by Cornerstone Church immediately following a game.

Iowa State pays them \$10,000 per game, with an additional \$2,000 added for any games that start after 6 p.m. Additionally, Crossroads Baptist Church

**COMPARISON OF BIG TEN AND BIG 12 UNIVERSITIES**

Iowa spends less on cleaning than other schools like Minnesota in the Big Ten despite its capacity. ISU, a regent university, spends less than Iowa but also has less stadium capacity.



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Students clean trash out of the stands at Kinnick Stadium the morning after a football game between Iowa and Minnesota on Oct. 22. The students started cleaning around 7 a.m.

cleans the grass parking lots around the stadium for around \$2,250 per game.

This totals about \$12,250 per game and \$14,250 for night games. Jack Trice Stadium's capacity is 61,500, which is about 8,000 less than Kinnick's capacity of 69,250.

The University of Minnesota also contracts out its cleaning to an outside company, according to Paul Rovnak, the university's director of communications for athletics.

Minnesota hires a cleaning company named Marsden to do continuous cleanup and trash sorting in all areas except the seating bowl before, during, and after each football game in Huntington Bank Stadium, which has a capacity of 50,805. Minnesota pays Marsden around \$40,000 per game for their services.

The day after the game, another cleaning company, Multi Venue Productions, comes in to pick up and sort trash as well as spot-clean the seating bowl. They are paid anywhere from \$15,000 to \$23,000 for their work. This means that the University of Minnesota pays a total of anywhere from \$55,000 to \$63,000 per game in cleaning costs.

Michigan State University employs a similar method to the agreement between the UI and Iowa City School athletics. According to Mark Bullion, a media and public information communication manager for the university, university staff as well as a cleaning company help do the cleanup.

The cleaning company also hires out some help

from local clubs, organizations, or nonprofits as a fundraiser for those groups, Bullion wrote in an email to the *DI*. He wrote that Michigan State University spends between \$60,000 to \$65,000 per game to clean Spartan Stadium, which has a capacity of 74,866.

**Parent and student experiences**

Some Iowa City high school students, as well as parents, have mixed feelings about the cleanup program.

Grace Bartlett, who is a junior at West High School, said she has participated in cleaning up Kinnick since her freshman year. She is a cheerleader at her high school.

She said attendance for the cleanups has always been made mandatory by her coach, but this was not consistent among different sports teams. For example, she said her brother, who plays on the baseball team, was not required to go to every single cleanup.

Cleaning up the stadium has not always been the most pleasant experience, Bartlett said. She said she has encountered things like vomit and used chewing tobacco while cleaning. However, Bartlett said she is grateful for the fundraising opportunity the program gives her team.

"I'm definitely grateful for the opportunity for fundraising just because sometimes it is very hard for cheer and dance teams, especially just in my experience," Bartlett said. "We have a hard time sometimes

getting funding for things."

Sebastian Cochran, a UI third-year student who graduated from West High School in 2021, said he was grateful for the funding as well but found some aspects of the cleanup to be unfair to the students.

"I understand why the university and [the Iowa City Community School District] made this the solution because it's probably the easiest way to get a large number of people to do it," Cochran said.

Cochran also said he was never personally aware of how the funding was split up among sports teams and was never told an exact dollar amount of how much money his team got as a result of the cleanups.

Isaiah Svoboda, a UI second-year student who went to Iowa City High School, said while his track and baseball coaches verbally mandated students attend the cleanup, this requirement and repercussions for not showing up were not always kept consistent for the entire team or other sports.

He said some of his teammates or other athletes were not expected to show up in the same capacity as other teams, and it came down to coaches on how they enforced participation in the cleanup.

For example, City High School's band directors require that students come to at least four out of the

seven total cleanups unless they have an excused absence, such as religious obligations on Sunday morning, said Mike Kowbel, a band director at the school. If students do not meet the participation expectations, they will be docked points from their grade.

Svoboda said the cleanup does provide an opportunity for the community to get together and bond with people from the other schools. Participants were also provided snacks and treats after they finished cleaning, which Svoboda said he appreciated.

A parent whose child participates in band at one of the Iowa City high schools said they feel that students should not have to clean up the messes of others in order to make sure the activities they like to participate in receive funding.

The *DI* granted the parent anonymity because of the sensitive details around this topic.

"It's disheartening to tell young people that they need to fund their art form or sport by acting as the modern-day chimney sweeps in picking up trash left behind by adults at a major stadium event," the parent said.

Some parents feel the opposite, though, and see the cleanup as a way to make students more conscious of where their trash goes during a game.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

An Iowa City Community School District student shovels trash in the parking lot outside Kinnick Stadium on Oct. 22 the morning after a football game between Iowa and Minnesota on Oct. 21. The University of Iowa first sold alcohol in Kinnick in the fall of 2021.

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# Nonprofit gives IC family newly renovated home

Heidi Aviles and her children were surprised with a new home earlier this month by nonprofit Impact Cares.

**Sydney Becker**  
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Just over a year ago, Heidi Aviles quit her job, sold her house, and relocated to Iowa City with her three children to help take care of her mother who was sick. Aviles spent nearly all of her life's savings for the move, only to be misled about the conditions of her family's new home.

Colorado-based nonprofit organization Impact Cares has been renovating homes across the country for those in need, and earlier this month, it surprised Aviles with a new and improved home in Iowa City after Aviles and her three children spent the past year living in poor conditions.

Aviles recounted visiting her newly-bought trailer before moving in, when it was furnished and decorated with multiple large rugs, wall decorations, and plants.

Arriving shortly after to move in, the family noticed holes in the flooring and walls, as well as an infestation of cockroaches.

"I had to put pieces of plywood on the floor because I was scared that the floor was going to cave in," Aviles said. "It didn't matter how much I [bug] bombed the house or sprayed, it's just piles and piles of roaches and it would be the same the next day."

The living conditions were so bad that Aviles didn't allow Heidi's mother into the home, fearing she would fall through the floor. Making sure everyone had cotton in their ears became a nightly routine after multiple hospital visits to remove bugs as well.

Aviles was in contact with the property's management team about the living conditions before Impact Cares shared the good news.

Hosting a community dinner in the area last month, the nonprofit was introduced to Aviles and began preparing



Contributed photo by Tory Wilson. Heidi Aviles and her family pose for a photo with members of the Colorado-based nonprofit Impact Cares.

to repair her home. After an initial walk-through of the home, the organization decided it was beyond repair.

The organization then became aware

of an abandoned trailer in the area, which they purchased and renovated for the Aviles family.

Tory Wilson, project manager at Impact Cares, said they were able to help others in the area with small home projects leading up to the big reveal of the Aviles home.

"The relief in a mother's eyes to know that she is going to be able to put her kids in a good, safe home — it's the best feeling in the world," Wilson said.

Cindy Schwalm and her husband have worked with the organization for over five years. The couple work with oth-

er volunteers on the homes, cleaning, painting, and repairing appliances that are no longer functioning.

Schwalm said the experience is gratifying, as well as heartbreaking.

"You know that you've only helped one and there's so many more that you couldn't get to because you don't know about them," she said.

The home was presented to the Aviles family on Oct. 14 with a grand reveal.

"I was like my kids, screaming for joy and crying because I couldn't believe it," Aviles said. "I never thought that they had this in mind."

"I had to put pieces of plywood on the floor because I was scared that the floor was going to cave in."

**Heidi Aviles**  
Iowa City resident

## GOLF from IA

in Johnson County to families when other activities are closed during the winter.

"It's for the entire family," Kloess said. "The restaurant is going to be open and that's going to be serving some really good food. I think quite honestly it's just a whole different venue and an option the area doesn't have right now."

Each membership allows for two hours a day in the inside driving ranges with the ability to bring up to five people.

Human resources specialist Rachel

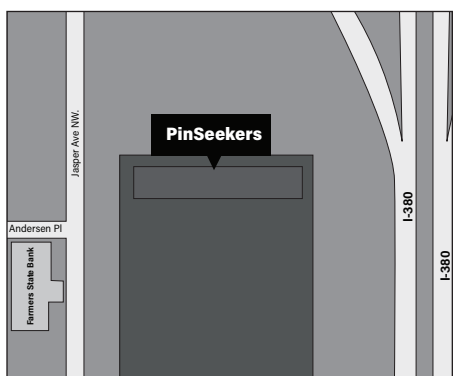
Luke said they wanted to make sure their prices were accessible to anyone who wants to play golf.

"We really wanted to make sure that our prices are to the expense where anyone from any income — college students, adults, or families — can come to play with us and it's pretty cost-effective," Luke said.

Kloess said he hopes the facility will help bring new golfers to the game, and continue the love of golf that so many have found in the sport.

"I think it's gonna be awesome for all involved really," he said.

## Location of PinSeekers in Tiffin, Iowa



Map by Henry Tran

## PinSeekers rates to play:

The new facility is located off of Interstate 380 in Tiffin.

- Hourly rates vary from \$20 to \$48
- Tiffin individual membership - \$1,350 from open and all of 2024
- Tiffin family membership - \$2,700 from open and all of 2024
- Tiffin putting course individual membership - \$499



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

PinSeekers driving range is seen in Tiffin, Iowa, on Oct. 19. The golf range will open in early November.

## PEDESTRIAN from IA

Another area where many collisions have occurred was along the State Highway 1 and U.S. Highway 6 corridor, which is near the Iowa City Municipal Airport. Two of the three pedestrian fatalities, as well as 27 percent of all severe accidents from 2013 to 2022, occurred in this area.

Havel said there have been several city projects completed and in the works for the future to improve the pedestrian facilities in the area.

In the last few years, the city added trails or wide sidewalks near the highways to cater to pedestrians in the corridor, he said.

"I think that's part of it is giving pedestrians a place to go and have it where we can make sure that people that are using

those corridors have a safe place to make those movements," Havel said.

With Iowa City being a walkable town that is home to a large public university, it has always been a priority to make sure there are lots of sidewalks and crosswalks, Sarah Walz, an associate transportation planner for the Metropolitan Planning Organization of Johnson County, said.

"We have sidewalks most places," Walz said. "That is not true everywhere."

The University of Iowa also takes steps to ensure pedestrian safety on campus. The UI performs regular upkeep of its sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, and underpasses on campus, Steve Schmadeke, a public relations manager for the university, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*.

A recent example of infrastructure the UI implemented to increase pedestrian safety is by the installing motion-activated lights at the intersections of the T. Anne Cleary walkway on Jefferson Street and Market Street in 2019, Schmadeke wrote.

These lights flash as pedestrians walk by to alert drivers to be aware of when people are crossing the street in the dark.

The UI is always trying to make campus safer for pedestrians, Schmadeke wrote.

"The University of Iowa is a very walkable campus, and we're always looking for ways to improve safety for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors," Schmadeke wrote.

"I think that's part of it is giving pedestrians a place to go and have it where we can make sure that people that are using those corridors have a safe place to make those movements."

**Jason Havel**  
City of Iowa City Engineer

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# IC Deaf community calls for interpreters

Members of the Iowa Deaf community are sparking a discussion on the shortage.



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Olivia Buerger signs after winning a point for her team during the Deaf Awareness Week volleyball game at the Iowa Field House on Sept. 18. In Iowa there are 50 deaf people for every one interpreter.

Noora Minalla  
Amplify Reporter  
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Member of the Iowa City Deaf community Robert Vizzini scribbled down some notes an interpreter provided to him, but when it was finally his turn to speak at a Cedar Rapids school board meeting, the interpreter gave an inaccurate depiction of Vizzini's speech with shaky, slow signs.

"[My message] wasn't as professionally stated as I wanted. I was going up there fighting for deaf children's rights and I was very passionate, but how it came out from the interpreter's voice and perspective made me sound and feel I was inadequate to my peers," Vizzini said.

"Go to the deaf schools, look at the ASL clubs, participate. You need to meet the deaf people, and you will see the difference."

**DJ Meyer**

President of the Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf

Vizzini, who is also a lecturer for the University of Iowa American Sign Language program, said this is a prevalent issue that members of the Deaf community face. Other members of the community have their own stories on how a lack of qualified interpreters affected them, including moments where they were given interpreters of other languages, and navigated medical situations by themselves without the help of an interpreter.

## Number of interpreters in the nation

Interpreters are in high demand in Iowa but also across the U.S.

**75** registered interpreters in the state.

Sourced from U.S. Registry of Interpreters

One of the main issues the Deaf community faces with interpreters is the small number of qualified individuals. Interpreters serve as the bridge between the hearing and Deaf community to communicate with one another. There are 10,000 certified American Sign Language interpreters, according to the U.S. Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. There are 75 interpreters in Iowa, and there are 50 deaf people for every one interpreter in the state.

Tim Sheets, an instructor in the UI ASL program and a member of the Deaf community in Iowa City, said he once had a heart attack and was rushed to the emergency room. There he was given what he described as a phenomenal interpreter.

Unfortunately, after being there for 15 hours, the interpreter had to go home to rest, leaving Tim and his sister to fend for themselves.

Cassandra Alexander, an interpreter for the cultural Deaf community, explained how deaf interpreters work with hearing interpreters as a communication liaison with the deaf person. The hearing interpreter will pass on information to her so she can communicate it to the deaf client.

"[They] will understand me better because I am from the community myself. I am deaf, and that is my identity,"

**50** deaf people for every interpreter in Iowa.

Graphic by Panfua Thao

Alexander said.

The importance of discussions about interpreting has increased in recent years following a bill proposed to the Iowa Legislature at the beginning of 2020: Senate Bill 3088 introduced by Sen. Jason Schultz, R-Schleswig. The bill proposed the removal of a need for licensure in order to become an interpreter for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Schultz tabled the bill after hearing concerns from Iowa's Deaf community.

The bill proposed lowering the barrier of entry to become an interpreter, to increase the number of interpreters available. However, the Deaf community argues that this bill will only lower the quality of interpreters in the state.

DJ Meyer, President of the Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf, said licensure can help indicate the skillset, credibility, and validity of an interpreter.

"If you come to my appointment, you could just be making things up left and right," Meyer said. "This has happened a few times personally."

Amber Tucker, an interpreter in Des Moines, said licensure is essential.

"It's compulsory, and interpreters have a code of professional conduct as well," Tucker said. "And kind of like a code of ethics,

if there is no licensure, for example, that means anybody can show up and say, 'Hey, I'm the interpreter for this.'"

Tucker added that licensure can also help promote and validate the position and job.

"Interpreters are asked all the time 'How do you know them? Are you the helper? Are you the sister,'" Tucker said. "We show up to the appointment and it's like no I'm a paid working professional and the licensure validates that."

Vizzini discussed how many people he has met do not believe interpreting is an actual job. They view it as a side gig and never as a serious career that is helping their community.

"And kind of like a code of ethics, if there is no licensure for example, that means anybody can show up and say, 'Hey I'm the interpreter for this.'"

**Amber Tucker**

Interpreter in Des Moines

He said it is up to doctors, teachers, and other professionals to ask a client's child to interpret for them.

Upon being asked how to learn more about ASL and broaden knowledge about the cultural Deaf community besides taking classes, Meyer emphasized the importance of going to Deaf community events.

"Go to the deaf schools, look at the ASL clubs, participate. You need to meet the deaf people, and you will see the difference," Meyer said. "I mean really, those interpreters that do take that upon themselves, you can see it in their body language, their facial affects, their facial grammar, I mean it's a new ball game."

Meyer tells a story about a deaf friend he grew up with who never attended a deaf school.

Meyer recommended he attend a deaf school, but his friend refused as he was "mainstream," a term used within the community for someone who attends a school designed for hearing students and is largely filled with hearing students.

Later on, his friend attended a school for the deaf. Meyer noticed a difference in his friends after only three months.

"I was absolutely amazed at this difference. In this short amount of time, this person's fluency, just, their ability to communicate about sports with their teachers, with anybody, their peers," Meyer said.

Alexander shared stories about her access to interpreters, as someone who has lived all over the country. In Las Vegas, she believes it was better compared to Iowa. However, in California, she had a completely different experience.

"I mean, ASL was accessible everywhere," Alexander said.

She said no one called ahead to see if there was an interpreter at a presidential rally she attended, however, they found that one was available without even asking.

This shows how diverse the experiences of deaf people are in every city, every state, every country. Access to interpreters, resources, and a community to find a home in vary widely depending on location.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

A member of the University of Iowa American Sign Language Club introduces themselves during a club meeting at Phillips Hall in Iowa City on Oct. 17. DJ Meyer, President of the Cedar Rapids Association of the Deaf, said learning ASL is important to education on deaf awareness.

# OPINIONS

DAILYIOWAN.COM

COLUMN

## The US must end military aid to Israel

Israel's relentless brutality against the citizens of Gaza should not be funded or supported by the U.S. in any way.



Shaely Odean | The Daily Iowan  
Pro-Palestine protesters hold up signs to passing cars on the Pentacrest in Iowa City on Oct. 15. The Israel-Hamas War started on Oct. 7.



Evan Weidl  
Opinions Editor

The U.S. must take an uncompromised stance against genocide and oppression.

Recently, Hamas launched an abominable surprise assault on Israel, killing at least 1,400 Israelis. However, Israel's subsequent response has been horrifying and brutal. In addition to killing over 3,000 Palestinians, as of Oct. 22, almost half of which are children, some reports say they bombed al-Ahil hospital in Gaza, killing over 500 doctors and patients. It doesn't stop at bombings. Israel demanded over a million civilians move to the south of the territory, an order that was condemned by the United Nations, then proceeded to bomb the border post that they encouraged Palestinians to use. They also cut off food, water, and access to fuel for civilians and children in Gaza.

While Israel has historically been an ally of the U.S., it is time to demand a ceasefire and publicly condone Israel's actions by ending our financial and weapons support for their military. We cannot allow them to use our weapons and resources to commit genocide.

This is not to say that Hamas is a noble organization or worthy of cele-

bration in any way. Their antisemitic intentions and the targeting, kidnapping, and killing of innocent civilians must be condemned by those who support Palestinian liberation.

In condemning Israel's actions, a crucial distinction must be made: Their actions have nothing to do with their Jewish foundations and culture. Imperialism and war crimes committed by anyone of any faith must be condemned.

With our defense of Palestinians and Muslims, we must also acknowledge that Jewish people around the world, including the U.S., are at an increased risk of becoming the victims of prejudice and hate crimes. Jewish people must be protected by the law and by their fellow citizens, and those who support the Palestinian cause must denounce any antisemitism stemming from this issue.

A major question amid the chaos is how the U.S. will respond to one of the biggest crises in the recent history of the region. Some action has already been taken, including 2,000 U.S. troops told to be ready to deploy in response to the war, and a visit from President Joe Biden to Israel.

Military action is the last thing the U.S. needs to be taking. In any case, but especially now, we must prioritize de-escalation through diplomacy. The world's most prominent military superpower should not be risking intensifying the tension and violence by sending troops.

Furthermore, the U.S. gives billions of dollars to Israel annually. Almost all of this aid has been military-based as opposed to economic aid. U.S. aid makes up 16 percent of Israel's military budget, not including the \$10 billion we have given to their missile defense systems. Additionally, President Joe Biden just announced a \$100 million aid package to Palestine.

If you are a taxpayer, you have a stake in this as well, no matter how much attention you've given this issue. Your dollars are being spent on missiles that are hitting hospitals and slaughtering hundreds of children. You must ask yourself: Are you okay with that?

Domestically, both U.S. military involvement on the side of Israel and support of Israel's actions from the media and government has and will continue to put Palestinian Americans and Muslims in danger. There have already been domestic deaths as a result of reactions to the war. A 6-year-old Palestinian American boy was murdered and his mother injured in a knife attack by a neighbor in Chicago. Prosecutors say the attacker was influenced by conservative talk radio.

While the \$100 million humanitarian aid package the U.S. is giving to Gaza is a plus, it is not enough. Biden must join the many nations of the world who have called for a ceasefire and condemn Israel's actions. The fact that he has not only failed to do so is a stain on his legacy and an embarrassment to the nation.

COLUMN

## Voters need to get more involved in local politics

People need to pay more attention to the officials who make crucial policy changes.



Caden Bell  
Opinions Columnist

Democracy thrives at the local level, but only 15 percent of voters participate in local elections.

Local politicians, such as school boards, mayors, and state representatives and senators, play an important role in the daily lives of the communities they serve, but they only hear the voices of a small percentage of their constituents. This hurts local democracy — a concept the country was founded on.

Many people will ignore or overlook local politics as they feel it is not important, but local politics have a big impact on people's daily lives, including taxes, budget allocation, and laws and policies that affect the daily lives of the community. Local politics are closer to the more direct democracy we value. The Nov. 7 local elections in Johnson County is a great way to get more involved.

While governors live in capital cities and state members of Congress can spend months at a time in Washington D.C., local politicians are almost always members of their own community. The accessibility of these politicians mimics that of ancient Greek democracy. Today it is easier than ever to reach out to politicians and make your views and priorities known.

Local politics make it incredibly easy to participate in democracy. You are not able to sit in on Congress while they meet or have a direct meeting with the President, but you are able to sit in on school board meetings, city councils, or ask for a meeting with your city's mayor.

This gives the citizens a stronger presence in the operation and opinion of the government, which in turn, is a more democratic populous system than that at the federal level.

Younger people often overlook the need to be involved at the lower levels of politics. As citizens, it is still important for them to express their ideas. It is easy for local politicians to overlook the wants and needs of younger citizens when they are less vocal.

Voting is not the only way to get involved. There are city council or school board meetings that are open to the public, including here in Iowa City. This is a great way to see how the system works first-hand and to get a better understanding of our government. This is also a way to directly talk with community members and representatives.

County and city governments are the bedrock of our democratic system, but many people ignore their community elections and meetings. Our country values democracy and allows every individual citizen to have the ability to impact their government, which should be acknowledged.

Local government has a bigger impact on our day-to-day lives than we realize. It is easy to dismiss local elections as trivial, but participation in local elections and politics would help shape a government that better represents its community and stays true to its democratic roots.

COLUMN

## Social media is damaging for mental health

Online influencers need to stop promoting false information about mental illnesses to get clicks and views.



Natalie Nye  
Opinions Columnist

There is a critical need for online mental health influencers and social media platforms to combat the issue of the spread of misinformation of mental illnesses that is becoming increasingly popular on social media.

As the prevalence of mental health misinformation on social media drags on, young people are encouraged to self-diagnose mental illnesses and disorders.

This spread of false information is creating problems within young minds that do not exist without the spiraling paranoia TikTok creates. This type of misinformation is happening on a broad scale because of how popular the topic is, and social media websites and apps need to take action to make sure these videos are properly labeled as misinformation.

CBS News stated on TikTok, the hashtag "mental health" has over 67 billion searches. The National Library of Medicine initiated a study of how much circulation 100 videos with the hashtag received, the result being 1.3 billion views; 266 million likes; and 2.5 million comments.

For struggling teens or adults, social media sites such as YouTube, Tumblr, Reddit, and TikTok can be positive places to seek community, support, and escape. Yet, social media is seeing an increase of misinformation about mental illnesses, contributing to the perpetuation of negative stigma about mental health, which can lead users to rampantly self-diagnose, then self-doubt and ultimately cause depression.

According to the New York University student publication *Confluence*, many videos on TikTok discussing mental illness are observed to be made into either traditional explanations of disorders through "POV" or "point-of-view" content, where personal perspectives of mental disorder symptoms are displayed through dramatic portrayals.

One of these TikTok videos comes from influencer Alyssa Kellner, @alyskakellner2. In a video captioned "signs you're bipolar," Kellner describes emotions which can be common symptoms of other disorders or nearly everyone experiences, making the specific disorder relatable to a wider audience. Some comments in the video talk about how they think they "might have it" after watching her video, while others criticize her for misdiagnosing symptoms.

Another especially harmful example from popular influencer @sambucha on TikTok is a video with 123,500 likes. Their video essentially states that to know if someone is a narcissist, the answer is not a long form personality test but a simple question, "Are you a narcissist?" Comments under that video were falling for this fake personality disorder test, saying, "I said yes way too fast."

Judging from the comments of that TikTok, this type of content can lead a child to overthink their personality and lead them to believe they have a disorder, rather than someone who is just growing up.

This type of content should be paired with a disclaimer from TikTok stating the video is exaggerated and includes generalized symptoms.

Another issue is the easy accessibility of misinformation to young children who cannot tell what is true or false, and when they come across these videos they could think they have multiple disorders.

Social media platforms need fact-checking regulations for this content, specifically moderation on misinformation, because it could cause adults and young teens to be paranoid about their mental state when they should be seeking professional help or proper online support groups.

These platforms have a duty to their users who rely on them for information and news to self-regulate their content. According to Harvard Business Review, "A lack of trust destroys the environment that has allowed digital platforms to thrive."

It is also the moral responsibility of social media influencers to provide accurate information to their audiences and of the social media sites to implement a fact checking source below any video or post with inaccuracy. Influencers have a duty to combat misinformation by providing accurate information, so they don't confuse their potentially young audiences.

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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.

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# GAMEDAY AFTERMATH

Iowa City Community School District students clean Kinnick Stadium after games.



Emily Nyberg and Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

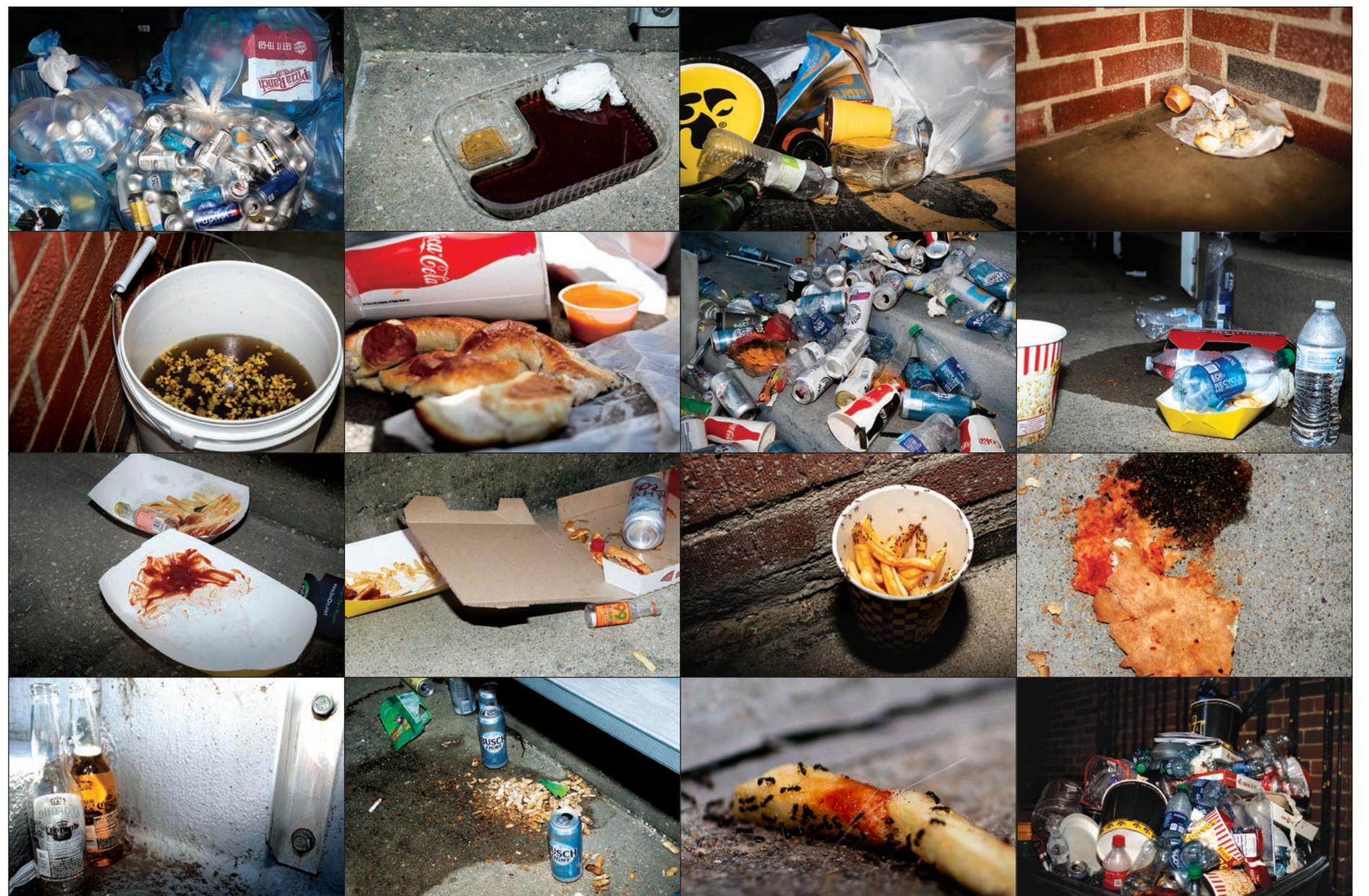
(Above) Iowa City Community School District students clean up Kinnick Stadium on Oct. 22 following an Iowa football game against Minnesota on Oct. 21. The cleanup operation at Kinnick is a partnership between Iowa City Athletic Booster Club and the University of Iowa, where students clean Kinnick after gameday for athletic booster club funding. (Right) A group of students clean up trash in Kinnick. Cleanup started at 7 a.m. (Below) Trash is seen in Kinnick after several Iowa home football games from Sept. 2 to Oct. 22. Iowa City Community School District students spent Sunday morning cleaning the stadium. The partnership provides funding for sports, clubs, and other activities.



Iowa City schools have sent students to clean up Kinnick Stadium after football games for decades in return for money from the University of Iowa to go toward athletics and music programs. The Iowa City Athletics Booster Club receives \$7,700 per game to be split between West, City, and Liberty High Schools. Participants scoop, sweep, and blow trash out of the stadium, armed with shovels, brooms, gloves, and leaf blowers. Parents and coaches say this cleanup has more benefits than fundraising because it also helps students learn to be more aware of where their trash goes after events. Other groups also benefit from the cleanup, including Dance Marathon, which receives funding from the recycling and redeeming of cans.

### More online

See more online of *The Daily Iowan* coverage surrounding the cleanup operations of Kinnick Stadium at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com).





- Hawkeye Updates
- Player of the Week
- Stat of the Week
- Point/Counterpoint

**WRESTLING**

## Iowa women's wrestlers 'doing it for her'

The three Hawkeyes who hail from Iowa on the women's wrestling team are excited to represent the state.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's unattached 143-pound Ella Schmit wrestles Iowa Wesleyan's Isabelle Hawley during day two of the 2022 Soldier Salute College Wrestling Tournament at Xtream Arena in Coralville on Dec. 30, 2022. Schmit defeated Hawley by fall, 1:44. Schmit is one of three Iowa natives on the inaugural women's wrestling team.

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"For her."  
That's the motto Iowa women's wrestlers have been living by since arriving on campus. "For them, it's a good reminder of how to represent themselves and as a program when we can lead with gratitude and know that there is a bigger why than themselves," head coach Clarissa Chun said.  
Three homegrown Hawkeyes are especially embracing this 'For her' mindset — Spillville, Iowa, native Felicity Taylor, Lilly Luft out of Charles City, Iowa, and Ella Schmit from Bettendorf, Iowa.

Taylor and Luft, along with several others on Chun's squad, have 'For her' tattooed on their arms. For the three Iowa wrestlers, doing it 'For her' means appreciating the women that paved the way for them as well as inspiring young girls throughout their home state who are just beginning their wrestling careers.



Taylor Luft Schmit

Taylor, Luft, and Schmit have a close relationship being from the same state and want to embrace the "Iowa style" in the Hawkeye wrestling room. This "Iowa style" is defined by grit and mental toughness.

"I think it's really important because you look around, and there's a lot of girls from all over the country, but I think it's really motivating for the girls in high school in Iowa to see that you can go from high school in Iowa and wrestle Division I here," Schmit said.

**Homegrown Hawks**

Taylor was cut from the South Winneeshiek High School wrestling cheerleading squad her freshman year.

But this didn't steer her away from the wrestling mat.

To stay in shape during the winter for cross country, Taylor decided to try the sport her father had long encouraged her to pursue.

"I mentioned it to a classmate, I was like, 'Oh, I'll just try wrestling,'" Taylor said. "And then he was like, 'You would never even make it through practice.' So, then I was like, 'Okay, well now I really want to try it.' So, I went home and talked to my parents, and here I am."

Taylor went on to ink her name in the history books.

**WRESTLING | 3B**

**FOOTBALL**

## Iowa's next man up

Tight end injuries have pushed Steven Stilianos into a bigger role.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Iowa tight end Steven Stilianos blocks Western Michigan linebacker Donald Willis during a football game between No. 25 Iowa and Western Michigan at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 16. The Hawkeyes defeated the Broncos, 41-10.

**Colin Votzmeyer**  
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Steven Stilianos was Iowa football's fourth-string tight end one month ago. Now, he has embraced the "next man up" mentality as tight end injuries have pushed him into a bigger role.

Stilianos has embarked on a path culminating in his listing as starting tight end on the Iowa depth chart ahead of the Hawkeyes' matchup with Minnesota on Oct. 21 — a path that has been paved by a Hawkeye tight end room plagued by injuries this season.



Lachey

Starting tight end Luke Lachey — Stilianos' roommate and groomsman in his wedding — went down with a right ankle injury against Western Michigan on Sept. 16, and backup tight end Erick All filled his role until he suffered a torn ACL against Wisconsin on Oct. 14, which effectively ended both of their seasons.

Third-string tight end Addison Ostrenga came back from an injury of his own against Minnesota, but Stilianos is still primed to carry a lot of the weight going forward.

"You always have to be ready to go," Stilianos said. "You always have to prepare like you're going to be that guy playing, so I feel like I approach every week like that. I'm ready to go. I'm 23 years old [and have played] quite a bit of football, so I'm ready to roll."

Each succeed, the Hayes, Virginia, native embraced taking the plan they have laid out for him.

"I think ... confidence has been built," Stilianos said. "[I'm] getting more comfortable out there, but I'm just trying to keep learning and keep improving every day and be in a spot to be able to do my job well enough to keep this team moving forward."

Both Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz and tight ends coach Abdul Hoge have recognized



Ferentz

**FOOTBALL | 3B**

**VOLLEYBALL**

## Playing closer to her home

Third-year libero Amanda Darling transferred from Niagara after two years to see her family more often.

**Chris Meglio**  
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Darling

It's difficult for some college athletes to say they're achieving exactly what they hoped for at their dream schools — but Iowa volleyball third-year libero Amanda Darling is doing just that.

Darling's journey to the Hawkeyes has been a long time coming, dating back years before her destination in Iowa City.

Growing up in Oswego, Illinois, she had used volleyball as a bonding tactic to spend time with the other girls in her neighborhood, but this developed into a deeper love for the game as she started to play in a local recreational league as well as for a travel club at 11 years old.

Darling played volleyball at Oswego High School, where she was named a three-time all-conference nominee and set the school record for digs in a match with 27 in just two sets.

She gave high praise to her coaches upon reminiscing about her high school days.

"It was a very big deal — it was super cool to hit that record," Darling said. "And the coaches always believed in me. They said they would do anything it takes to get me to the next level, so it was super nice to have their support."

After graduating in 2020, Darling had limited options on where she could play collegiate volleyball.

She opted to attend Niagara University in New York as she thought it would be best to go to a big city away from home. She had two great seasons there — most notably her second-year campaign in which she ranked fifth in the NCAA with 5.55 digs per set.

After her two years at Niagara, though, Darling missed her family and wanted to move somewhere closer to home.

She said she wrote letters to her three dream schools, Iowa being one of them. After sending her highlight clip and taking a phone call with Hawkeye volleyball head coach Jim Barnes, she was offered a position on the team.

"Amanda's one heck of a person, and her family are incredible people," Barnes said. "The first thing that popped [out to me about her] was that she's an incredible defender ... This is one of the hardest-working kids, just really

**DARLING | 3B**

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

- Men's Basketball**  
**Monday, Oct. 30**  
Exhibition game vs. Quincy 7 p.m., Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye Radio Network
- Field Hockey**
- Friday, Oct. 27**  
Close regular season vs. Rutgers 4 p.m., Big Ten Plus
- Soccer**  
**Sunday, Oct. 29**  
Big Ten Tournament Quarterfinals vs. Michigan State
- Volleyball**  
**Friday, Oct. 27**  
vs. Rutgers 6 p.m., Big Ten Plus
- Saturday, Oct. 28**  
vs. Maryland 8 p.m., Big Ten Network
- Men's and women's cross country**  
**Friday, Oct. 27**  
At Big Ten Championships 10:45 a.m. at Columbus, Ohio

**PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

**Ortega**  
Iowa volleyball setter Bailey Ortega reached 2,000 career assists during the Hawkeyes' 3-0 loss to No. 11 Penn State on Oct. 20, where she totaled 26 assists. The Dav- enport, Iowa, native is the 10th Hawkeye in program history to achieve the feat. The fourth-year has ap- peared in all 22 matches for Iowa this season, averaging 20.2 assists and 6.2 digs per contest. "I'm really excited to be hitting this milestone with the girls that are on my team," Ortega said of her accom- plishment. "I wouldn't be able to get an assist if it weren't for the passers giving me a good ball and if it weren't for my hitters putting it down. I'm really appreciative that this team is so supportive of me and loves me as much as I love them. I'm just really grateful that this is the team that I got to do it with."

**A STRONG START**

The No. 3 Iowa women's basketball team throttled Clarke, 122-49, in an exhibition game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Oct. 22. The victory came a week after the historic Crossover at Kinnick event — an exhibition game between Iowa and DePaul that attracted over 55,000 people to break the all-time women's basketball attendance record. Second-year Hannah Stuelke led the Hawkeyes in scoring. She posted a double-double with 27 points and 10 rebounds. Iowa point guard Caitlin Clark finished the game with 24 points, four boards, and nine assists, while forward

Sharon Goodman nearly posted a double-double with 14 points and nine rebounds. Clark

Iowa will open the regular season on Nov. 6 at home against Fairleigh Dickinson and then face a tough Virginia Tech squad in the Ally Tipoff on Nov. 9 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"If the Big Ten deems it necessary to fine me, hopefully they will find it in their hearts to send it to a good cause like the children's hospital."

Head coach **Kirk Ferentz** following the 12-10 loss to Minnesota on Oct. 21.

**STAT OF THE WEEK**

**2**  
The net number of yards Iowa football gained in the second half against Minnesota on Oct. 21.

**SOCCER**

# Big Ten Tournament bound

The Iowa women's soccer team barely qualified for the tournament.

**Isaac Elzinga**  
Sports Reporter  
isaac-elzinga@uiowa.edu

The Iowa women's soccer team found itself in familiar territory this season on the edge of postseason qualification late in the year.

Last season, the Hawkeyes narrowly missed out on the Big Ten Tournament, finishing ninth in the conference with the top eight teams qualifying.

"I think this team differs from our last one because of how young we are," fourth-year goalkeeper Macy Enneking said. "[The younger players] are so excited to see what happens when we do win and when we do go further."



**Enneking**  
Enneking added the seniors and upperclassmen on the team have encouraged that excitement, but they need to trust the process and put in the work because that's what will lead the Hawkeyes to long-term success.

Growth has been a theme for Iowa head coach Dave DiIanni. Iowa added 16 newcomers to the roster ahead of the season with 13 of them being first-years. Nine of those 13 have seen playing time this year, and DiIanni thinks this fresh set of rookies can leave their mark on the program if they adopt the right mindset.

"I think extending the season and playing meaningful games when results matter has two

"I think when you're in one of the best conferences in the country, there's an understanding that it's going to be challenging."

**Dave DiIanni**  
Iowa Head Coach



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Iowa soccer players cheer on the starters before a soccer game between Iowa and Illinois at the University of Iowa Soccer Complex on Sept. 17. Last year, the Hawkeyes missed out on the Big Ten Tournament, but qualified this year.

purposes," DiIanni said. "One, it often puts a nice cap on the upperclassmen's careers, but it also allows freshmen to understand what development looks like and how to play under pressure."

The Hawkeyes had a great start to the season as they went undefeated in their non-conference slate, but the team slowed down once the Big Ten schedule started.

"I think when you're in one of the best conferences in the country, there's an understanding that it's going to be challenging," DiIanni said. "I think what our team has done a fantastic job of is they've really tried to not ride the wave of emotion up and down and stay relatively calm in the process."

Enneking added that the team wasn't frustrated with its play in the Big Ten. She said the team had to realize what playing in the Big Ten was like and understand

that every team is good, while continuing to find new ways to grow as players and as a group.

Before Iowa's final two games against Michigan and Michigan State, the Hawkeyes sat in seventh in the conference but had five teams within three points of them.

Enneking said Iowa wanted to make the tournament but didn't want to look ahead too much. She added the Hawkeyes had to focus on the teams in front of them and win one of their final games to secure qualification for the Big Ten Tournament.

A 1-1 draw against Michigan on Oct. 19 dropped the Hawkeyes down to eighth — just one point ahead of Northwestern and Michigan and one point behind Rutgers and Ohio State.

Despite the disappointing result against Michigan, DiIanni said the team played well for the full 90 minutes against a quality opponent

and praised the team's togetherness in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, the following morning.

After the Michigan game, Iowa played its final game of the season against Michigan State on Oct. 22.

The Spartans won the matchup against the Hawkeyes, 3-0, but Iowa still qualified for the Big Ten Tournament after North-western and Michigan both lost.

The Big Ten Tournament Quarterfinals will begin on Sunday, Oct. 29.

"It's been really important for our staff, program, and players to make sure they are taking a day-to-day, growth-minded, process-driven approach," DiIanni said. "I think when you focus too much on goals and the end out-come you can get yourself to be too results-driven. We want our team to enjoy the process and focus on the reasons why we're successful versus the end result."

**Q&A | MIA MAGNOTTA**

## Iowa field hockey goalie talks athletic inspirations



**Mia Magnotta**  
Second-year Redshirt Goalkeeper  
Forty Fort, Pennsylvania  
Education major

**Brad Schultz**  
Sports Reporter  
bradley-schultz@uiowa.edu

**The Daily Iowan: Beside field hockey, which sport do you consider your favorite?**

Mia Magnotta: I grew up playing basketball with my family and played a lot of pickup games growing up, so I would have to say basketball.

**Who's an athlete who inspires you?**

I feel like as a woman in sports, [when I was] growing up I always looked up to Serena Williams. I think she's done a lot of cool things for women's sports in general. She's a powerhouse, and I think she's really empowering.

**If you won the lottery**

today, what would you do with the money?

I would probably go on a trip after the season with all of my teammates to somewhere warm and tropical.

**If you could take a vacation anywhere, where would you go?**

I think I'd go maybe to Italy. [I would] just travel over there. There's a lot of good food and a lot of cool things to see.

**What is your favorite food?**

Definitely pasta. Any sort of pasta. My mom cooked a lot [when I was] growing up, so I think it's just nostalgic.

**What is your favorite movie and why?**

"Mamma Mia." I don't think I

need to explain that one.

**What's your favorite thing to do here in Iowa City?**

My favorite thing to do is go to other sporting events with my teammates and just enjoy being a Hawkeye.

**Are you a dog or a cat person?**

It's a tough decision, but I would have to say I'm a dog person.

**What do you like to do in your alone time?**

Go on walks and listen to podcasts or music.

**Who is your favorite music artist?**

My favorite is Chris Stapleton.

**What was your favorite thing to do back in Pennsylvania?**

Probably eating home-cooked meals with my family.

**Do you have a favorite home-cooked meal?**

My favorite is chicken cutlets and pasta with red sauce.

**What's your favorite class you've taken at Iowa so far? Why?**

My favorite class that I've taken at Iowa so far is Learners II because the professors are super personable and care a lot about their students.

**What advice would you give to other student-athletes?**

Try your best to keep a balanced lifestyle.

**POINT | COUNTERPOINT**

## Could Iowa contend for a title with a better offense?



**Brad Schultz**  
Sports Reporter

**YES**

Under head coach Kirk Ferentz, the Iowa football team has been defined by a strong defense, amazing special teams, and a below-average, anemic offense.

Each year, fans and media alike poke fun at Iowa's inability to put up points, but it begs the question of if Iowa will compete for a national championship with an above-average offense.

It's certainly not out of the question.

If we take a look back in time, Iowa has had its fair share of success on offense.

In 2002, the Hawkeyes put up 37.2 points per game with Heisman runner-up Brad Banks calling the signals. When paired with fantastic defense and special teams, that unit was nearly unstoppable, going 8-0 in confer-

ence play and winning a share of the Big Ten title.

In 2015, Iowa went 12-2 and barely missed out on the College Football Playoff after a 16-13 loss to Michigan State in the Big Ten Championship Game. The Hawkeyes weren't spectacular on offense but didn't need to be as they were carried by a stout defense that allowed only 20 points per game.

Any casual college football fan can argue that Iowa has had a championship-caliber defense the last two seasons, and the numbers don't lie. The Hawkeyes held their opponents under 25 points for a whopping 29 straight games — a streak that lasted for nearly three full seasons.

The bottom line here is that Iowa has proven it can have an offense good enough to sustain long drives and put up points. This season, the Hawkeyes have been decimated by injuries and yet still sit at 6-2 due to their dominant defense.

If Iowa can gain average production from Deacon Hill and the offense the rest of the way, there's no reason not to believe that it can be a contender for the College Football Playoff.



**Colin Votzmeyer**  
Assistant Sports Editor

**NO**

The question of whether Iowa football would contend for a national championship with an improved offense is not contingent just upon the Iowa program itself — it is contingent upon other contenders.

The Hawkeyes sit in the wake of a brutal loss to Minnesota on Oct. 21 that saw the Iowa offense compile all of two yards in the entire second half.

Thus, it is clear no matter how well this offense meshes for the next four games and beyond, it is a limited offense. It can only be so successful with the personnel at hand, execution, and decision-making across the board — whether you think it is a management issue or not.

Even in some of the program's best seasons in history, the

Hawkeyes have come close — but not close enough — to contention for a national championship. It's not because they haven't had what it takes but because the teams around them are always much better.

That 2002 team, no matter how great its offense was, had reached its ceiling and could give nothing more upon losing to a USC Trojans team by three whole touchdowns. The result only could have been worse against Ohio State or the loaded Miami powerhouse of that season.

The 2015 team had also reached its peak, losing a toss-up to Michigan State but dropping a 45-16 landslide to the Stanford Cardinal in the Rose Bowl.

The very best this team can do this season can only go so far before running into Big Ten powerhouses and national championship contenders Ohio State and Michigan — teams that are so strong that the Hawkeyes could be perfect against them and still lose, dashing their hopes of championship contention.

Even with an improved offense at its very best, history has shown the Hawkeyes can only produce so much come bowl season.



CROSS COUNTRY

# Crossing the threshold

The men's cross country team wants more than it achieved in recent Big Ten Championships.



Theodore Retsinas | The Daily Iowan

Members of the Iowa men's cross country team compete during the Hawkeye Invitational at Ashton Cross Country Course in Iowa City on Sept. 1. The team's goal is to finish higher than sixth place at the Big Ten Championship.

**Mia Boulton**  
Sports Reporter  
mia-boulton@uiowa.edu

The Iowa men's cross country team has been on and off throughout its past Big Ten Championship performances. This year, the Hawkeyes want more.

The Hawkeye men finished seventh as a team in last October's meet in Ann Arbor, Michigan, setting the scene for this year's goal of improving and breaking into the top five.

The 2023 Big Ten Championship meet will take place in Madison, Wisconsin, on Oct. 27. In preparation for the race, Iowa distance coach Randy Hasenbank reflected on his teams' past performances and future expectations.



Hasenbank

"We've been sixth in this meet and seventh in this meet, but we haven't gotten past that threshold," Hasenbank said. "It would take a

great performance to get past that mark, but our goal is to get in that upper division."

In order to achieve this goal, Hasenbank said the top runner will have to place in the top 10 or 15. Likewise, he says the rest of the pack will need to follow suit and stay focused.

"We've been very inconsistent throughout this season, so we need to have everyone on the same page and dialed in," he said.

Leadership will be key to executing this plan.

With just one senior on the roster in Jack Pendergast, the Hawkeyes will need to lean on the experience of everyone on the team.

"We need a lot of leadership out there," Hasenbank said. "We've got some experienced guys who run at a high level. There's just no margin for error, and every guy matters."

Hasenbank will thus depend on standout third-year distance runners Max Murphy and Aidan King, who hope to lead the team both physically and mentally.

"We have a very, very young team," King said. "For me, [leadership] is about being that calm, steady voice telling the guys what I know and what I've experienced."

This will be King's fourth Big Ten Championship meet while it will be Murphy's third.

Last year, Murphy finished in 37th place with a time of 24:58.8 in the 8,000-meter race. King followed behind in 83rd place with a time of 25:51.0.



Murphy

With his past experience, Murphy sees the 2023 meet as an opportunity to lead others by staying calm in the intense environment by treating it like "just another race" — setting him up well if his breakout season thus far is any indication.

Murphy broke the men's program's 6,000-meter race record at the Hawkeye Invite on Sept. 1.

"It's an important meet, but we still want to keep the same mindset that we had for the regular season," Murphy said. "We just need to build off of that and then put it all together."

Murphy's goal is to stay at the front of the race and remain in the top pack.

To accomplish this, he continues to rely on his teammates in training. Murphy noted how the underclassmen's youth has brought a lighter dynamic to the group and encouraged veterans such as himself to continue to enjoy the sport.

"The youth of the team is something we really haven't had before," King said. "The energy those guys bring and the talent those guys bring is great."

Similarly, Murphy sees the team's dynamic of first- and second-years in addition to the upperclassmen as unique, which he argues will benefit the team at conference.

"We have a really good group of guys who have worked really hard and bought into the program," Murphy said. "It also helps going into conference that we enjoy it and have fun. When you're enjoying it and excited, you race a lot better."

**WRESTLING**  
from 1B

With two state titles and 109 career wins under her belt, she became the first Iowa high school girl's wrestler to reach the 100-win milestone.

After she graduated in 2018, Taylor continued her wrestling journey at McKendree University.

There, she helped the Bearcats win three national team titles and took home an individual championship in March 2021.

Later that year, the University of Iowa announced it was adding a women's wrestling program — the first NCAA Division I and Power Five conference school to offer the sport.

Taylor was on the fence about moving back to her home state when she heard the news, but when McKendree head coach Sam Schmitz announced he accepted a role at a different school, it made the decision easy for Taylor.

"Once I knew that we had an opportunity to bring Felicity back home, I knew we had to try," Iowa women's wrestling head coach Clarissa Chun said after Taylor committed to the Hawkeyes on June 28, 2022. "She is a great leader in the sport of women's wrestling and in Iowa. I think it creates a lot of hope and opportunities for aspiring athletes from Iowa."

However, Taylor was not the first Iowa native to commit to the Hawkeyes.

It was Schmit, who was also the first girl's wrestling varsity starter at Bettendorf High School. Over her prep career, Schmit won three state titles and was named the 2022 Dan Gable Ms. Wrestler of the Year as a senior.

She committed to Chun and the Hawkeyes on Feb. 5, 2022. For Schmit, who grew up watching Iowa sports, it was a dream come true.

"I think it's kind of my thing at this point. I like to be the

first, kind of like a pioneer paving the way," Schmit said.

Schmit's older brother wrestled, so she would get "dragged along" to his practices. Schmit said she would sit and do homework during practice, which she "didn't like."

One day, she climbed all the way up the body-weight rope after practice. The coach was impressed and told Schmit's parents that she should wrestle.

Schmit recalled her first time wrestling inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena when she was a child for an all-day youth tournament called Conflict at Carver. She said no one at the time imagined that Iowa would ever have a women's wrestling program.

"I still go back and look at the pictures of me," Schmit said. "I was probably, like, 60 pounds wrestling in Carver and now to think that we're going to be doing that in a few weeks — it's crazy."

Schmit witnessed girl's wrestling take off in her final years of high school. Taylor, on the other hand, was at McKendree when girl's wrestling started to make major strides in Iowa.

Though the pair experienced the growth of the sport from different perspectives, it means just as much to both.

When Taylor went to the first ever sanctioned girl's state wrestling championship meet last March in Coralville, Iowa, happy tears streamed down her face.

Taylor only competed against a girl once in high school, so watching hundreds of girls wrestle for championship titles in front of a sold-out crowd of approximately 5,000 people was surreal for her. In 2022-23, more than 2,400 Iowa girls wrestled, according to Trackwrestling. Just 164 girls participated during Taylor's senior prep season.

"It's kind of hard to think about it now," Taylor said of the growth of the sport. "I think as time goes on it will be easier to see how big it is. But for now, it's cool to just, like, be in the moment and take everything in. But it'll be cool to look back on it someday, for sure."

While Schmit and Taylor watched from the stands, Luft

was competing in Iowa's first sanctioned girl's state tournament in March.

Luft ended her final year with a 40-0 record and a state title — the third of her career. The 130-pounder holds the state record for most career wins by a female wrestler at 125-6.

Throughout her high school career, Luft kept her brother, Logan, in mind. Logan died in an ATV accident in 2017 when he was just 15 years old, and wrestling was his favorite sport.

"I think of him every second of every day," Luft told *The Des Moines Register*. "I know that he's watching over and cheering me on, and I just want to make him proud."

Choosing to be a Hawkeye was a no-brainer for Luft as Iowa had "everything she ever wanted." She committed to Iowa prior to her senior season in September 2022.

"We have two Olympians on our team with just such a great coaching staff and the variety of partners that we have to practice with every single day," Luft said. "I feel like it's just at such a high level that when we do step on the mat at tournaments, I feel like it'll just make it that much easier when we've been practicing at such a high level every day."

Luft said her fellow teammates from Iowa have displayed great leadership and helped acclimate her to college life in her first year.

As the season starts in just under two weeks, the Hawkeyes are focused on becoming "1 percent better each day," acknowledging that they still have plenty of things to work on.

"Lilly is tough as nails and gritty. She goes hard. She won't back down from anything or anyone, which is awesome," Chun said. "Like everything else, we want to keep nurturing that piece she has and still work with other elements of it. There is still room for growth. That's the great thing. There is always room for growth for each and every one of our student-athletes here."

**FOOTBALL**  
from 1B

Stilianos' improvement from last year to the beginning of this season.

"Last year was a transition year for him, and in the spring, you could see him operating [as] a guy who can help us play and help us be successful," Ferentz said. "He's going to be called upon to do more now as we move forward."

Stilianos played four seasons for Lafayette, earning All-Patriot League First Team honors twice and playing a big role in the team's run offense. The offense averaged 82 rushing yards per game without him but 129 with him on the field.

After graduating and transferring to Iowa with two years of eligibility remaining in the fall of 2022 — unable to enroll early due to his graduation — Stilianos spent the Iowa off-

season camps adjusting to the way Hawkeye tight ends play and learning from the likes of Lachey and current Detroit Lions tight end Sam LaPorta.

In that adjustment, Stilianos has even seen his blocking game improve. He believes he is more active on the line and thus better equipped to block opposing defenders off the line of scrimmage.

"I think it's just a level of [every player] knows what they're supposed to do," Stilianos said. "Everybody's getting out there and working hard every single time since the offseason. That's been the biggest thing, is everybody's got it ready to go."

Indeed, Stilianos credited his adjustment from Lafayette football to the Hawkeye way to the coaching staff's encouragement of resilience.

"[The coaches push us to] where if we get into a dogfight,

you've got to keep pushing, and so I'd give that to our coaching staff," he said.

With Stilianos in replacement of the injured tight ends before him, he will be yet another passing target option for Hawkeye quarterback Deacon Hill.

The pass-thrower had nothing but praise for Stilianos. "I have all the faith in the world in him," Hill said. "He's a tremendous run blocker and tremendous route runner. He's got great hands. I think he's just one guy [who is the] next man up, but it's not that big of a drop-off."

Hill's praise for Stilianos went beyond the tight end's ability to block and receive.

"He's one of those leaders who leads by example," Hill said. "He's always a guy you can depend on. I depend on him a lot now. He's just a guy who's always going to get the job done."

**DARLING**  
from 1B

smart in the classroom and just a great student athlete."

In attending the University of Iowa, the student-athlete is studying secondary education to pursue her dream of becoming of a high school English teacher.

"I knew I wanted to be a teacher my whole entire life," Darling said. "I just have this heart to help people. I want to see people grow up and succeed, and [I want to] be a safe spot. There's no better fit for that than education."

Darling appreciates her time at Niagara but is grateful to now be a part of the Iowa volleyball program — a collective she calls "a sisterhood."

"Everyone believes in you, and they want what's best for you no matter what," Darling said. "That's probably the coolest thing to see is everyone's backing me up, and then I'm backing everyone else up. We just have this sisterhood culture, and I just love that."

Darling is listed as a redshirt for the 2023-24 season as she tore two ligaments in her ankle the last day of the pre-

season. She said she looks forward to returning to a fully healthy status so she can help this team amid a program rebuild in progress.

ISSA	TAROT	ATOM	3	2	7	4	1	5	6	8	9
MOCS	OLIVE	RAVE	1	5	8	9	6	2	7	3	4
BLACKMAGIC	FLEA		9	4	6	7	3	8	5	1	2
ADMIRER	SHE	ERG	8	6	9	5	4	7	3	2	1
COP	AIMS	RENEE	5	3	4	6	2	1	9	7	8
KNICK	SUPERSTAR		2	7	1	8	9	3	4	6	5
LOB	NEE	PET	7	1	5	3	8	4	2	9	6
POWERBALLAD			6	8	3	2	5	9	1	4	7
PAC	SUE	SIN	4	9	2	1	7	6	8	5	3
ROCKETMAN	FARES										
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# IOWA'S MISSED SIGNALS

Minnesota defeated Iowa, 12-10, and took the Floyd of Rosedale Trophy for the first time in almost nine years after many Hawkeye turnovers and a called back go-ahead score.



**Cody Blissett**  
| The Daily Iowan  
**(Above)** Fans react after officials overturned Iowa defensive back Cooper DeJean's punt return touchdown during a football game between No. 24 Iowa and Minnesota at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Oct. 21. The Golden Gophers defeated the Hawkeyes, 12-10. **(Left)** Iowa defensive back Cooper DeJean carries the ball during a punt return. Officials later ruled the motion of his left arm as an invalid fair catch signal.

"The receiver makes a pointing gesture with his right hand and he makes multiple waving gestures with his left hand. If you look at the video you'll see that. That waving motion of the left hand constitutes an invalid fair catch signal ... It's legal to point but any waving motion of the hands during a kick play is considered an invalid signal."

**Tim O'Dey**  
Big Ten Referee



**Emily Nyberg and Cody Blissett** | The Daily Iowan  
**(Above)** Iowa wide receiver Seth Anderson attempts to catch the ball during a football game between No. 24 Iowa and Minnesota at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Oct. 21. **(Below)** An Iowa fan watches a football game between No. 24 Iowa and Minnesota at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on Oct. 21.



**Iowa had 3 TURNOVERS.**



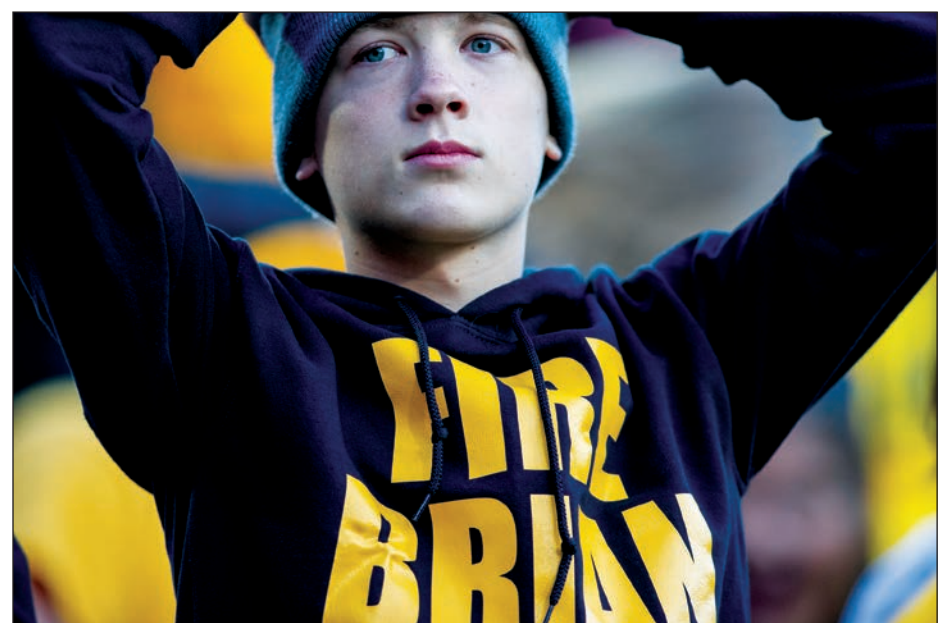
**Tory Taylor punted for 444 yards.**



**Minnesota had 0 TURNOVERS.**



**Mark Crawford punted for 359 yards.**



See more online

The Daily Iowan covered the Hawkeyes against the Golden Gophers at Kinnick Stadium on Oct. 21. See more content at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com).

# 80 Hours

ARTS & CULTURE | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

## A 'dying' art

Despite growing preference for cremation in IC, the art of preparing the deceased remains important.

Avi Lapchick  
Arts Editor  
olivia-lapchick@uiowa.edu

**F**or most artists, there is an expectation of immutability with the creation of any piece — whether on public display in a museum or simply bound to the confines of a canvas, traditional art has an indefinite shelf life.

The art of funeral preparation, however, is done with the intention that the result will only be seen once. But, for its viewers, this art form holds the utmost permanence.

“Most of our work is with the living,” Dan Ciha, a funeral director and the owner of Gay & Ciha Funeral Home in Iowa City, said. “Families are trusting us with their

loved ones.”

That trust, Ciha believes, is paramount in preparation for open casket funerals. According to him, the work of any mortician not only requires extreme delicacy and precision, but a sensitivity to death.

“I never use the word ‘bodies,’” Ciha said. “‘Body,’ to me, desensitizes death.”

Despite the prevalence of death in his daily life, Ciha refuses to reduce his clients to their inanimate state.

Instead, he and his staff refer to their clients by name. By working with the loved ones of the deceased — learning about their life, interests, and hobbies — funeral directors like Ciha can develop a plan for how they will present the deceased at their funerals, the first step of which is preservation.

“The most artistic part [of the process]

truly is the embalming and preparation of the deceased,” said Michael Lensing, the co-owner of Lensing Funeral and Cremation Service.

According to Lensing, to preserve a deceased person for public viewing, natural decay needs to be slowed. This is usually done through embalming, which means draining the body’s natural fluids and replacing them with embalming fluid, a preservative.

The blood’s removal from the body results in a “ghostly white” complexion, according to Ciha. Embalming fluid, however, often contains a red tint that can partially restore color to the skin and deliver a livelier appearance.

After being embalmed, the deceased person is bathed and dressed for makeup and hair.

FUNERAL | 4C

# CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

## THURSDAY

OCTOBER 26

### • ICPL KNIT & CROCHET HANGOUT

Knit or crochet with others every last Thursday of the month.

6 P.M. | IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
123 S. LINN ST.

### • HASTA VERANO

Enjoy the lineup of local bands including Soup Riot, Just 4 Tonight, and One Exit Down.

9 P.M. | GABE'S  
330 E. WASHINGTON ST.

## FRIDAY

OCTOBER 27

### • THE BEAKER BROTHERS: CREAM AND BEYOND

For over 15 years, the Beaker Brothers Band has celebrated iconic jam bands from the '60s and '70s.

7:30 P.M. | ENGLERT THEATRE  
221 E. WASHINGTON ST.

### • FILMSCREAM 2023

Dive into a 12-hour horror movie marathon at FilmScene's annual fright fest. Tickets include free coffee, breakfast, a commemorative keepsake, and other perks. Don't miss out on secret screenings, six featured films, trailers, short films, and more.

8 P.M. | FILMSCENE  
404 E. COLLEGE ST.

## SATURDAY

OCTOBER 28

### • STANLEY CREATES: POG BY LYN LEE & MONSTER MASKS AND CROWNS

Dive into the whimsical tale of Pog, a little monster with an overwhelming fear of children.

2 P.M. | STANLEY MUSEUM OF ART  
160 W. BURLINGTON ST.

### • BAWDY BAWDY HA HA

Revel in a Halloween-themed evening with Bawdy Bawdy Ha Ha's 18+ burlesque and variety show.

7 P.M. | THE JAMES THEATER  
213 N. GILBERT ST.

## SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29

### • DRAWING SALON WITH ROBERT CAPUTO

Explore and interpret artworks at the Stanley Museum of Art in this hands-on drawing session led by Robert Caputo, an acclaimed Iowa City-based painter and sculptor.

2 P.M. | STANLEY MUSEUM OF ART  
160 W. BURLINGTON ST.

## MONDAY

OCTOBER 30

### • EXEGESIS MATTERS

Delve deep into the influence of Exegesis on core Biblical and theological concepts with Louis DeGrazia.

10 A.M. | IOWA CITY SENIOR CENTER  
28 S. LINN ST.

### • HORN STUDIO RECITAL

Revel in a night of classical horn music as the UI Horn Studio takes center stage for a two-hour recital.

7:30 P.M. | VOXMAN MUSIC BUILDING  
93 E. BURLINGTON ST.

## TUESDAY

OCTOBER 31

### • TUBA/EUPHONIUM STUDIO RECITAL

Prepare to be captivated this Halloween night by the tuba and euphonium at the Voxman Music Building's Recital Hall.

7:30 P.M. | VOXMAN MUSIC BUILDING  
93 E. BURLINGTON ST.

### ASK THE AUTHOR

# Tim Johnston

The renowned thriller author spoke with *The Daily Iowan* about his latest novel, "Distant Sons," and his recent reading at Prairie Lights in Iowa City.

Isabelle Lubguban  
Arts Reporter  
lubguban@uiowa.edu

*Tim Johnston is a New York Times bestselling author who graduated from the University of Iowa and went to the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for graduate school. He has written "The Current," "Descent," "Never So Green," and a collection of stories called "Irish Girl." Johnston won the Iowa Author Award in 2015 and is currently living in Iowa City.*

### The Daily Iowan: What drew you toward the thriller genre?

Tim Johnston: What drew me to the literary thriller genre was just writing stories — it wasn't really to write a thriller. I was trained and interested in writing what were called literary stories, which were stories that would show up in literary journals like *The Iowa Review*. My way of thinking about it was that I wanted to raise the stakes and make them more exciting, rather than a quiet novel about family or relationships, that kind of thing.

I really didn't set out to write thrillers. I was sort of adding that element to the literary writing I was trying to do. And I think that's still what I'm doing to this day with a new book.

I will say this: I've read Stephen King as a kid. I read thrillers and horror. I loved that stuff and so it wasn't like I grew up reading Chekhov. I didn't read that stuff until college told me to read it. Until then, I was reading the most exciting — sort of weird — violent stuff I could find, so I imagine that carried over into my writing eventually.

### Who or what was the inspiration for "Distant Sons"?

I had this idea early on to take a

character from my previous two books and have them meet in a new book and have an entirely unrelated story to those previous two books. It wouldn't go away, and eventually, I just started to write it to see what would happen.

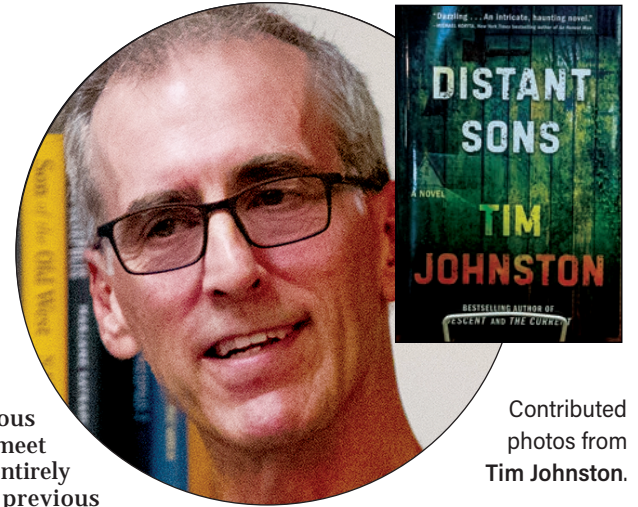
There are always elements of me and my life that seep into the characters, and occasionally the character will have some resemblance to someone I've known.

I'm not really modeling them on anyone in particular but elements do sneak in. If it sounds too biographical, I veer directly away from that. I don't want to write anything that resembles me, myself, or my life. The more fictional it feels and seems, the more fun it is for me to write and the more free I feel.

### What is the best piece of advice you can give to people who want to write their own stories?

My go-to advice is to first read — to read what you love, to read things you've never heard of, to read widely, and to learn to read carefully. When I was teaching creative writing, I was really more concerned with teaching how to read like a writer, to notice how stories are put together, how grammar is used, and how punctuation is used. If you can learn to read like a writer, then every book is going to teach you something. It's going to slow the process down. It might even for a little while take the pleasure out of reading because you start paying attention to how that world was constructed physically on the page. But ultimately, I think that could make an even more rewarding and powerful experience.

Writing takes time. If you love to write, then just write.



Contributed photos from Tim Johnston.

### What made you choose to read at Prairie Lights instead of other venues?

I grew up here. I am a big believer in supporting independent bookstores. Prairie Lights is one of the great ones, they've been around since 1978, and I've always gone there and bought books. This is probably the fifth or sixth time I've done a reading there. It's natural for me to go there again. It's a great environment, there are great people, and I have a history with them. As long as they would take me, and they seemed willing to do so.

### What do you want readers to take away from your stories?

It's not like I have a message. My philosophy is, I need to have a compelling story and I'm not going to worry about what life instruction or lessons or whatever a reader might get from them [the stories]. What I'm interested in is writing a story that moves a reader, that they become involved in emotionally. That's all that really matters. When people react to a book on an emotional level, that's satisfying enough for me.

The book is meant to be entertainment. It's meant to give somebody not necessarily an escape from life, but maybe a different kind of world to be in for a while and when they're done, wish it hadn't ended. That's what I really want. When I [was] a reader, that was the coolest thing in the world, like "I want to just stay in this world with these characters," you know. So that's what I'm hoping for.

### ADVICE

# Last-minute Halloween costumes

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Panicking because you forgot to order that one piece of your costume? Trying on your outfit and deciding you want to completely change your look? Deciding an hour before your friends leave for a party that you want to go with them?

1. **Regina George.** Name a more iconic queen bee than Regina George. In the 2004 film "Mean Girls," Regina rules the school with a fresh manicure and a miniskirt. You might be most familiar with her "A Little Bit Dramatic" baby tee outfit, but don't forget she also owned the shirt chest cutout look that Cady, played by Lindsay Lohan, tried to sabotage her with. Grab a white tank top, cut two small holes out of the front, and slip it on over something purple. If you can add a black skirt, even better.

2. **Barbie.** Since Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" hit theaters in September, the color pink is back in style — not that it ever really left. When you think Barbie, you think pink, which is very convenient for anyone looking to become a Halloween Barbie. Grab anything pink — and I mean literally anything and everything — and play dress-up. If people don't take the hint and ask who you are, tell them you are the doll brought to life, and no one will question it.

3. **Ceiling fan.** If you're looking

for a costume that's a little more explicit, scrawl "I love ceilings" on a piece of packing tape and stick it to your chest. Yes, that's it. Though this costume might not be culturally trendy, it is guaranteed to get some good laughs, and it is easy to accessorize. You can basically wear anything else you want, and the tape will, as tape does, put everything together.

4. **Ghost.** Can any list of DIY costumes be complete without the classic cutouts in a sheet? The tried-and-true ghost costume can be done with nearly any piece of fabric. Just snip two holes in the center as far apart as your eyes and one where your mouth would be and throw it on. If you want to be able to move around more, you might also want to cut holes for your arms. This outfit is bound to crack people up, and you'll be extra mysterious because no one can see your face. As a bonus, ghost costumes make for fun photos.

5. **Zombie.** Zombies never go out of style, and there are so many ways to be one. Anything can be zombified. Start with any outfit you want to wear. Transform into the undead with one or all of the following: red lipstick, red food coloring, and corn syrup, or, if you have some lying around, fake blood. Apply it however you see fit until you are satisfied with your level of undead. Add some dark eyeshadow for a gaunter look, and then you're good to go eat some brains.

### CARTOON



Cartoon by Avi Lapchick | The Daily Iowan



### A SOMBER FALL

- THE GAPING MOUTH | Lowertown
- I'M NOT HUMAN AT ALL | Sleep Party People
- ALIEN OBSERVER | Grouper
- BONES | Imagine Dragons
- THRILLER | Michael Jackson
- MONSTER MASH | Bobby "Boris" Pickett, The Crypt-Kickers

### UI ALUM SPOTLIGHT

# 'Interconnectivity I' exhibit displays PTSD visibility

Kenzi Rayelle's Public Space One Close House show runs until Nov. 4 in Iowa City.

Zhenya Loughney  
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Kenzi Rayelle has always admired the grotesque. Her favorite movies growing up were "Nightmare Before Christmas" and "Beetlejuice." Nothing about her spirit has changed.

"Interconnectivity I," her most recent exhibit, is open at Public Space One Close House in Iowa City until Nov. 4, displays the feelings of familial trauma through sculpture. Rayelle said this exhibit helped her process what love really means.

"I didn't know what unapologetic love meant. I didn't know what it meant to unapologetically love myself," Rayelle said. "I didn't know what it meant to allow people in my life at all."

The exhibit served as a nine-month process of healing for Rayelle's inner child. She said this exhibit makes pain prettier, or more presentable. Lining the insides of the PS1 Close House are almost miles of sculpted organs presented in Baroque picture frames.

"Trauma is withheld in the body, and it was this natural transition to use my internal parts to show

that hurt, that presence, and to show that narrative and that connection with my past selves," Rayelle said.

Rayelle said developing the exhibit was a powerful and visceral experience for her. She said the sculptures are directly linked to a memory of trauma for Rayelle. This exhibit is deeply personal and aims to amplify post-traumatic stress disorder visibility, she said.

"I'm telling my story and these experiences that just don't even sometimes do it justice or how intense these moments were truly," Rayelle said. "I really hope that some of that healing energy comes across."

Rayelle graduated from the University of Iowa in 2021 with a bachelor's in fine arts in printmaking. She relocated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she works as a marketing manager and designer at Milwaukee Sculpture, a contemporary arts nonprofit dedicated to making art accessible.

"I think it's so crucial for everyone to be able to witness and experience other people's emotions, shared viewpoints, and everything else in between," Rayelle said.

# Riverside Theatre show comes alive on stage

The local theater's latest production of the "The Trip to Bountiful" hit delivers dense emotion on the set.

**Caden Gantenbein**  
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On the opening night of "The Trip to Bountiful," Riverside Director Adam Knight spoke to a packed theater, expressing his excitement for the play.

The stage was strategically filled with furniture, set to visually mimic the claustrophobia that Mrs. Watts, played by Jody Hovland, felt in her home. "The Trip to Bountiful" will be playing at Riverside Theater until Nov. 5.

As the play started, it quickly became clear that the narrative operates off unique contrasts that drive the story, like the juxtaposition of Mrs. Watts and her daughter-in-law, Jessie Mae, when the two are first seen together on stage.

The actresses who played Mrs. Watts and Jessie Mae, played by Jessica Link, carried the play on their shoulders with their tedious back-and-forth over their behavioral differences.

The character of Jessie Mae is an insufferable, fiery woman who never allows herself to be in the wrong. Jessica Link's portrayal of this character offers an undeniable disdain that justifiably propels Mrs. Watts away from her home and son, whom she cares for deeply.

This is where a distinct contrast between the first and second acts can be seen. The first hour and a half act as a slow burn, allowing the audience to sit with Mrs. Watts in her discomfort and showcase why this final trip to Bountiful before she passes is of such great importance to her.

At the end of this act, Jody Hovland gives an endearing monologue to Thelma, played by Jessica Murillo Kemp, a young woman her character meets on the bus as her voyage begins. Hovland's performance fully enralls the audience with her compelling nature as an overly optimistic, hymn-singing old woman.

The second act serves as the back half of the voyage and ultimately the play's overall payoff. The concept of "Bountiful" is metaphorically tied to Watts herself: a land that was once plentiful and ready for harvest is now destitute and isolated.

The narrative of this play accounts for the success it had on Broadway, and Riverside brought together an eclectic group of individuals to perform this emotionally dense piece as if it were still showing in Times Square.

The stage directions were an additional contributor to the success of this rendition. The way the actors engaged with each other in the scene by doing things like yelling down imaginary hallways gave the stage a well-constructed atmosphere.

A great example of this is the way bus stop scenes were constructed. A bus pulling up during the play was not only represented by a large shining light and some sound effects on the set, but also involved believable acting to the nonexistent scenery or aspects of a play.

Along with this, the stage was utilized well and nearly every inch of it was used for something at a point during the performance. Whether the actors were tucked away in the back corner, left or right center stage, or visually blocked by the props in some aspect, the stage felt alive.



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

Jody Hovland, playing Mrs. Watts, and Phil Jordan, an ensemble member, perform during a production of "Trip to Bountiful" at Riverside Theater in Iowa City on Oct. 20.



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

Jessica Link, playing Jessie Mae, and Martin Andrews, playing Ludie Watts, perform during a production of "Trip to Bountiful" at Riverside Theater in Iowa City on Oct. 20.

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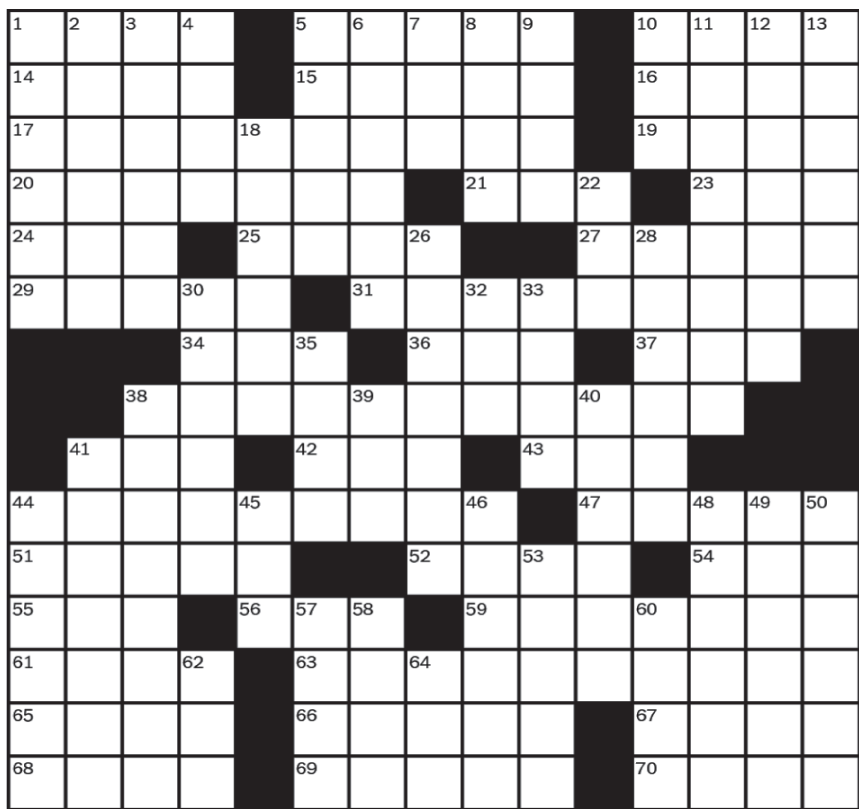
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## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  
No. 0920



### Across

- 1 "Insecure" star Rae
- 5 Deck divided into the Major and Minor Arcana
- 10 It has small orbits
- 14 Footwear to knock around in
- 15 Israel's national tree
- 16 All-night dance party
- 17 2015 hit for Little Mix
- 19 Tiny pest
- 20 Fan
- 21 Who blows thar?
- 23 Rowing machine, informally
- 24 Own up (to)
- 25 Intentions
- 27 \_\_\_ Elise Goldsberry, portrayer of Angelica Schuyler in the original "Hamilton" cast
- 29 M.S.G. athlete
- 31 1971 hit for the Carpenters
- 34 Useful shot against a volleyer
- 36 Michelle Obama \_\_\_ Robinson
- 37 House sitter's responsibility, perhaps

### Down

- 1 "It's me again!"
- 2 Convinced about
- 3 Garlicky shrimp dish
- 4 Saclike structures produced by fungi
- 5 Marisa \_\_\_, portrayer of Aunt May in the Marvel Universe
- 6 Wake-up calls
- 7 Sailboat apparatus
- 8 Sheep genus
- 9 A.I., e.g.
- 10 Canine warning
- 11 Gifted
- 12 Celebrate Thanksgiving, maybe
- 13 Scant
- 18 Onetime capital of Poland
- 22 "The cautious seldom \_\_\_": Confucius
- 26 Ray of light
- 28 Neighbor of Francia
- 30 They have time on their hands
- 32 "Once Upon a Mattress" prop
- 33 Creatures that are often

- 38 Slow rock song with an emotional vocal delivery ... whose start can follow each half of 17-, 31-, 44- and 63-Across
- 41 Campaign grp.
- 42 Be litigious
- 43 One of a famous septet
- 44 1972 hit for Elton John
- 47 Orbitz listings
- 51 Top-tier invitees
- 52 Castle defense
- 54 \_\_\_-country
- 55 One who cries "Foul!"
- 56 Ingredient in Roman concrete
- 59 Word with clam or trunk
- 61 Children's author Blyton
- 63 1986 hit for Steve Winwood (and a 2019 hit for Whitney Houston)
- 65 "Handle" of a pumpkin
- 66 "So long!"
- 67 Snake eyes
- 68 Sea dogs
- 69 Implied
- 70 Treats, as leather

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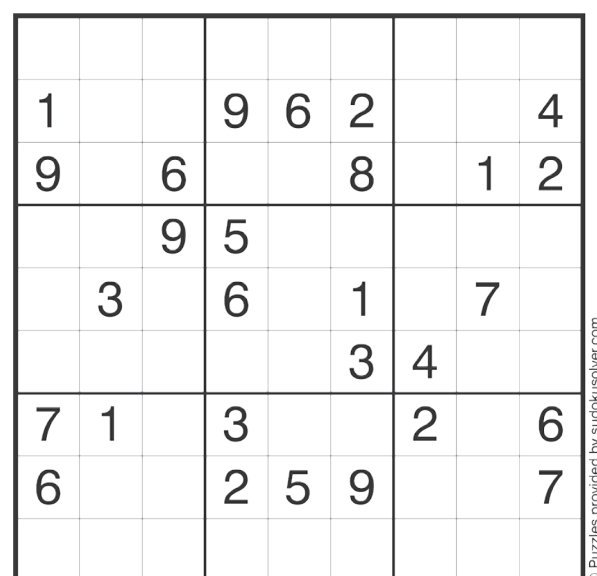
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**FUNERAL**  
from IC

The process is unlike traditional makeup application in many ways. Most funeral homes replace foundation with creams containing skin-colored dye matching the shade of the deceased, so the pigment is absorbed by the tissue. The same product can also act as blush.

In other ways, though, the makeup application process needs to be identical to that of a living person, with the same products — lipstick, highlighter, eyeliner, eyeshadow, and mascara.

“Families will bring pictures that we incorporate into the funeral service through a memorial folder, a video, or picture boards,” Ciha explained. “Then, I’ll look at those pictures and get a feel for what [the loved ones of the deceased] were used to seeing when they were alive.”

To the best of his ability, Ciha replicates the makeup look most often worn by the deceased, adhering to the sentiment that less is more.

“The artistry part isn’t to deny death,” Lensing said. “While you want [the deceased] to be presentable and to look like themselves, you aren’t trying to have them be remembered that way.”

Though makeup and cosmetic restoration are typically done by funeral directors and assistants, funeral homes will often enlist professional hairstylists in the preparation of a deceased person for their open casket funeral.

For Lensing, he often calls on the expertise of Molly Reynolds, a local hairstylist and owner of Mad Jac Salon.

Reynolds started working with hair 35 years ago. Before receiving her cosmetology degree and working professionally in salons, one of her first and most loyal clients was her grandmother.

“I did her hair all the time,” Reynolds recounted. “I used to curl her hair. She had been used to roller sets.”

That loyalty was mutual. When Reynolds’ grandmother passed away, she decided to style her hair one final time.

“She would haunt me if I didn’t,” Reynolds joked.

Since then, Reynolds has worked with many other deceased clients outside of her family, often on recommendation from her living clients.

“It’s an honor to send people on the way they want to look,” Reynolds shared.

Like Ciha, Reynolds typically works off pictures provided by their client’s loved ones just as a living client would provide a



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

The Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service building is seen in Iowa City on Oct. 21. During the makeup process, foundation is replaced with creams containing skin-colored dye to match the shade of the deceased.

reference image at an appointment.

But unlike the process of styling a living person’s hair, when Reynolds and other hair stylists arrive at a funeral home, their client’s hair has already been washed and dried. To style a deceased person’s hair, they must work around the client’s supine position, curling or straightening as close to the head as possible without moving it.

However, Reynolds noted a recent decrease in the frequency of work done on deceased clientele compared to previous years, citing an increase in cremations as a cause for the decline.

“Forty years ago, most everybody was viewed in a casket,” Ciha said. “Now, they are the minority.”

His funeral home’s cremation rate has recently exceeded the casket burial rate, and he predicts that the cremation rate in Johnson County will easily reach over 80 percent in his lifetime.

Likewise, now more than half of the fam-

ilies Lensing works with choose cremation. To adjust for this and to continue meeting the needs of clients, both Lensing and Ciha have added in-house crematories to their respective funeral homes within the past two decades.

Lensing explained that the growing preference for cremation and the deviation from traditional burials in the U.S. could be the result of many things. Cultural practices and financial limitations are among the biggest reasons, but Lensing also feels the shift is in the reactions to seeing death itself.

“For most people, the hardest part of death is the stillness,” Lensing said. “But that’s also what’s peaceful about it.”

In the case of a traumatic death or visible injury, more work is required to restore the deceased to a state that is considered presentable for open casket viewing. This process is called restorative art.

“I could rebuild an ear just by measuring with my fingers,” Ciha said, explaining that the length of one’s nose from the top of the bridge to the septum is often the same length as their ear — one of the many techniques he learned while attending the Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science.

Unfortunately, there are cases in which the visible damage, whether because of its severity or location on the body, is unable to be restored for viewing. Lensing recounted

an experience he had early on in his career with one client, a young woman, who was the victim of a fatal car accident. The brunt of her injuries was facial.

Because of this, Lensing kept the young woman’s face covered upon visitation from her parents. The wounds were traumatic, he shared, but her parents insisted on an open casket service.

Lensing recounted feeling at a crossroads. Though her injuries were beyond restoration, Lensing was determined to give the family the burial they desired. So, he got creative.

“She played tennis in high school, and whenever she played, she would pull her hair back and use a blue bandana,” he said.

Lensing used this bandana to partially cover her face. Her hands and wrists, decorated with her tennis sweatbands, were positioned to hold a tulip bouquet that covered the remainder of her face.

“I had done as much as I could, but the kids her age — they knew that was her,” Lensing said.

He believes that the goal of funeral preparation is never to mimic life, but to establish comfort with death.

“Sometimes it’s just about being in the presence of the body, which can be artistry in itself,” Lensing said. “What people really want is to celebrate a life.”

“For most people, the hardest part of death is the stillness. But that’s also what’s peaceful about it.”

**Michael Lensing**

Co-owner of Lensing Funeral and Cremation Service

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