

The Daily Iowan

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DAILYIOWAN.COM

KID CAPTAIN'S FIELD OF COURAGE

Liam Doxsee – an energetic fourth-grader and Iowa baseball's Kid Captain – lives with severe combined immunodeficiency, but he isn't taking a day for granted.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Liam Doxsee, 9, stands with Iowa baseball athletes Ben Wilmes (19), Michael Seegers (10), Gable Mitchell (2), and Blake Guerin (45) during a baseball game at Duane Banks Field in Iowa City on Sept. 21. Doxsee was diagnosed with severe combined immunodeficiency – a rare genetic disorder that affects the immune system – when he was just five days old.

Grace Smith
Photojournalist
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Liam Doxsee pumps his legs as fast as he can next to his best friends. They're sitting on the colorful swings of a large backyard playset while Liam's dogs run by in the wet grass. The 9-year-old's siblings – Harper Reese, 6; Gracelyn Reese, 5; and Samuel Reese, 4 – watch the action as Liam attempts to reach the height of his friends. He can't quite swing as high, but he's giving it all he's got. Liam, who lives in Coal Valley, Illinois, was diagnosed with severe combined immunodeficiency – a rare genetic

disorder that affects the immune system – when he was just five days old. About one in 58,000 children are born with SCID each year in the U.S.

However, as his Instagram profile biography and mother Mary Matheson notes often: "SCID won't stop this kid."

Liam lives by this mantra.

At two months old, Liam received a bone marrow transplant that saved his life at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Now, he visits the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital a few times every month, takes a variety of medications each morning, afternoon, and night, and gets his nutrients from a gastrostomy tube three times a day.

In a life full of many ups and downs, Liam finds support through family members, friends, and the families three dogs, specifically Liam's pug Lulu.

"[Lulu] always knows when to [comfort me]," Liam said.

Matheson said their family works hard to figure out what's best for Liam, deciding who goes with him when he's admitted into the hospital and who stays back to take the other kids to school.

"How we support him is just giving him a little bit of grace and time," Matheson said. "...With him and all he's been through, he has a lot of trauma and anxiety."

LIAM | 2A

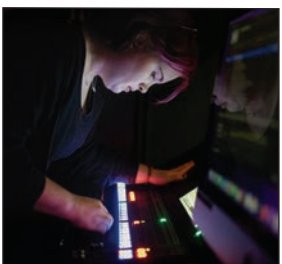
INSIDE



Federal law leaves some high-THC products legal

A loophole in the federal farm bill allows consumable hemp products to be legally sold in Iowa.

EPI | 7A



Inside a UI theatre production

From composing and sound designing to stage managing – no theater production would exist without tech work.

80 HOURS | 1C

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IC librarian recognized with state award

Angela Pilkington won the 2023 Quality Time award for her work creating new programs.



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

Librarian Angela Pilkington reads and dances with babies and toddlers at a "Book Babies" interactive reading activity on Oct. 24. The event is every Tuesday in the Public Library's Storytime Room. Pilkington is a librarian at the Iowa City Public Library who recently won the 2023 Quality Time Award from the Iowa Library Association.

Isabelle Foland
News Reporter
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Angela Pilkington had an irrational fear of libraries for most of her youth, so much so that

she asked her mother to pick out the books she needed for her college classes and drive hours to deliver them to her.

Later in her college years, however, her mom convinced her to apply for a librarian position in Burlington, Iowa, where Pilkington fell in love

with the job and worked for 13 years.

She then applied for a similar role at the Iowa City Public Library, eventually becoming the library's children's services coordinator.

"I want to make sure that kids have a different experience than what I did," Pilkington said.

Pilkington has worked at the Iowa City Public Library for eight years and was recently awarded the 2023 Quality Time Award by the Iowa Library Association for her leadership and contributions to the youth programs at her library.

In her time at the Iowa City library, Pilkington has been a driving factor in starting up new programs, including the Student Access to Information and Material, or AIM, library cards, which started in 2019.

The program created a library card for all Iowa City Community School District students that can be used to check out books at the public libraries in Iowa City, North Liberty, and Coralville. As long as a student goes to school in the district, they are eligible for a card.

Students are able to return their books to the public library they got it from or even to their own school libraries. There are also no late fees or fines for students if they misplace a book, to remove barriers to accessing materials, said Pilkington.

Pilkington said she has spoken at several state and national conferences to educate other public libraries about how to create their own version of the AIM card program.

This program was especially helpful during the COVID-19 pandemic because it could be used to check out digital versions of books for both students and teachers who needed classroom materials, Pilkington said.

LIBRARY | 3A

Eviction filings reach all-time high in JoCo

Johnson County is experiencing unprecedented eviction numbers, exceeding last year.

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Eviction filings continue to soar in Johnson County, exceeding last year's record-high number, and prompting county officials to allocate additional funds to continue eviction diversion services.

In a unanimous vote at the Oct. 26 formal session, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors approved the eviction diversion program's request for an additional \$80,000. An original agreement between the county and Shelter House was finalized in May, however, a rise of evictions in the county resulted in a need for additional funds.

The county recorded 737 evictions last year. As of October, the county has already surpassed

the previous record with 744 evictions filed for this year, according to the most recent data from Iowa Legal Aid.

Funds will come from these American Rescue Plan Act funds given to the county, increasing the program's budget from \$60,000 to \$140,000.

Compared to previous years, the numbers are a dramatic increase. The data dates to 2015, in

EVICTON | 3A



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Health Professional RN Elizabeth Giza helps Liam Doxsee, 9, with his feeding tube at Bicentennial Elementary School in Coal Valley, Ill., on Sept. 18. Liam gets nutrition through a gastrostomy tube three times a day: in the morning, at school during lunch, and at night before he goes to bed.

LIAM
from 1A

Finding support through Iowa baseball

Liam also leans on Iowa baseball for friendships and support, a relatively new bond he has formed in his young life.

As the fourth-grader walked down the hallway of Bicentennial Elementary School in Coal Valley, Illinois, in mid-September, one of the teachers asked a few students what their favorite NFL team was.

The teacher asked, "What's yours, Liam?"

Liam answered quietly, "The Hawks."

A little over a year ago, Liam joined the Iowa baseball team as its Kid Captain, with help from the organization Team IMPACT. This two-year contract gave Liam the chance to deepen his connections with his favorite team and sport.

Between attending a few baseball practices and most games and joining in on pregame huddles, Matheson said Liam treats this opportunity as a job, enjoying every second of it. Liam sat on a bench in the dugout, rolling around a baseball wet from the rain. After the athletes warmed up, they made their way through the dugout, high-fiving and eagerly exchanging "hellos" with Liam.

"These are real friendships he's made with the team, which is really special for him," Matheson said.

One of these close friendships includes Iowa baseball infielder Ben Wilmes, or "Benny boo boo bear," as Liam would call him, similar to Liam's nickname for his dad, which is "Benny." Wilmes and Liam met during the first baseball practice Liam attended.

Wilmes said when he first met Liam, the boy was a bit shy walking into the hitting facility. Now, Liam serves a key role in bringing out the laughter and youth of the baseball players.

"Liam is a very loving child and very happy and really doesn't take anything for granted," Wilmes said. "...We see his happiness side because whenever we're together, we take away the aspect of his life in the hospital and kind of help him completely forget about that in the moment."

"Every time he's not there, I'm kind of sad a little bit because I can always look back and say that my little buddy was standing next to me the whole time."

"Benny boo boo bear" Ben Wilmes
Iowa baseball infielder

Wilmes said Liam stands in between him and infielder Michael Seegers during the National Anthem before almost every game. The athletes taught Liam the respectful way to hold his oversized baseball cap over his heart.

"Every time he's not there, I'm kind of sad a little bit because I can always look back and say that my little



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Mary Matheson hugs her son Liam Doxsee, 9, at their home in Coal Valley, Ill., on Sept. 17. Matheson said she wouldn't change this journey with Liam, as it shaped her life and view on life.

buddy was standing next to me the whole time," Wilmes said.

Along with being a kid captain for Iowa baseball, Liam has been given numerous other opportunities, including watching the Savannah Bananas — the Harlem Globetrotters of baseball — entertain a crowd in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and traveling to the Mall of America with his family.

Matheson said Liam always asks, "Why me?" in response to the opportunities he receives.

"I try to remind him that he gets these [opportunities] for a reason and there's a purpose behind it and that he deserves it," Matheson said.

Life's hardships

Not every aspect of Liam's life involves new experiences. Liam said living with SCID is a challenge, especially having to go to doctor appointments often as a kid with a sensitive body.

"Especially the needles," Liam said. "See, the longer needles, everyone says they don't hurt a lot. But when I feel them, it's like I'm getting thrown into a firepit. It hurts bad."

After a long day at the hospital, Liam and his mom usually walk over to a cafe at the University of Iowa Stead

Family Children's Hospital and order him a vanilla steamer.

Along with the challenges Liam encounters, Matheson said the family deals with financial hardships that come with multiple doctor appointments and frequent travel from their home in Coal Valley to Iowa City, which takes over an hour. Matheson said during

Location of Coal Valley, Illinois, in relation to Iowa City



Map by Bri Brown | The Daily Iowan

the difficult days she faces, she leans back on her husband Ben Reese for support. The duo met in Geneseo, Illinois, when Reese was working at a grocery store. After plenty of interactions, the two became a couple.

Almost a decade of marriage later, as Matheson walks out to the family's driveway in her scrubs, leaving for work as a registered nurse in Davenport, Reese

pulls into the driveway after his day at Lowe's as a flooring specialist. The duo exchange a quick hug and a quiet goodbye while the streetlights illuminate their still-running cars.

"The confidence comes from just being together for so long and being through so much," Matheson said. "And no matter what we go through, we do it for each other and the kids."

Despite occasional overwhelming hardships, Matheson said she's grateful for the family's switch to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, as it improved Liam's health and introduced him to new experiences in Iowa.

"The move did a lot for Liam," Matheson said, "but then it also kind of partnered us with...everybody at Iowa too."

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Individuals supporting Pauline Taylor for the District A City Council seat:

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- Former Council Member Mazahir Salih

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I originally decided to run for Council because I realized that it would be more beneficial to be on the Council rather than sitting on the sidelines complaining about their decisions.

PAULINE TAYLOR
City Council

The Daily Iowan

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IC considered for \$5.6 million housing grant

The federal grant would help address barriers in accessing affordable housing.

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City of Iowa City officials are in the process of applying for a \$5.6 million federal grant, which would be used to address various barriers to affordable housing in the community.

The city has identified certain barriers to more affordable housing in the city including zoning regulations, land use policies, the capacity of local development, and incomes that are low compared to the high costs of housing and construction.

By removing these barriers, the city would be able to develop more affordable housing, thus increasing supply and lowering the cost.

According to the Oct. 17 city council agenda, the grant, called Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing, is from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

On top of the \$5.6 million grant, the city also plans to commit \$2.85 million to the planned projects to show they are committed to the cause and to give them a leg up over other cities that are applying, said Kirk Lehmann, the city's associate planner. He said this grant is competitive, as it will only be awarded to 20 cities in the nation.

The 10 total projects the city plans to complete with the combined \$8.45 million are split into three categories: planning-related activities, housing-related activities, and administration-related activities.

The planning-related activities include three different studies to identify what city regulations and standards should be changed to accommodate more housing growth. These standards include parking regulations and the city's comprehensive plan.

Other actions under this category will evaluate the area's housing market to identify the region's housing needs and shortcomings, rezone the city to allow increased density and look at the feasibility of creating a city department that will solely undertake affordable housing projects. This category would spend a total of \$650,000 of the grant.

The second category, housing-related activities, would spend the majority of the grant, totaling \$7.25 million. Two of the proposed projects in this category would create new programs in the city.

One program would provide financial assistance to property owners to incentivize the construction of accessory dwelling units, also known as in-law suites. The other would offer temporary financial assistance

in the form of security deposits or short-term rent assistance to help those at risk of being unhoused.

The last two projects in the second category would construct 24 affordable dwelling units and offer counseling to lower-income households to help them make smart financial decisions, improve their financial stability, and educate them about fair housing practices to help mitigate housing discrimination.

The third category, administration-related activities, has one project that would cost \$550,000. This project would fund a full-time position to manage the funds of this grant and oversee the activities.

The city is taking steps to address the issue of housing affordability in Iowa City by amending city regulations regarding design and zoning to help increase housing supply. At its next meeting on Nov. 6, the city council will also vote on proposed changes to the city's regulations surrounding accessory dwelling units as another way to increase supply.

At the Oct. 17 city council meeting, Anne Russett, the city's senior planner, said these amendments show the

city is actively pursuing solutions to its expensive housing market, which could help give the city an advantage over other cities applying for the grant.

At the meeting, several city councilors expressed their gratitude toward city staff for applying to this opportunity.

"I think it's a great opportunity," Iowa City Mayor Bruce Teague said. "I hope we get the funding to do this."

Iowa City City Councilor Laura Bergus said this opportunity would be positive not only for Iowa City, but also for surrounding communities who could benefit from the various programs and studies.

Lehmann said it is unknown when the city will be notified if they have been awarded the grant or not. The deadline to file the grant application is Nov. 6.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has stipulations around the projects' timeline. Projects must begin before Sept. 30, 2026, and be finished by Sept. 30, 2029. The agenda states some activities can begin as soon as funding is awarded, but some will have to wait for the completion of prerequisite work.



Teague



Russett

EVICTION from 1A

point of 720 in 2019, the numbers continued to increase before falling to 537 evictions in 2021. Over the past two years, however, the numbers have steadily grown.

The approval to increase the funds by \$80,000 allows the program to continue to help Johnson County residents who face eviction.

Jim Kringle, managing attorney of the Iowa Legal Aid Iowa City branch, attributed the sustained surge to dwindling pandemic rent assistance funds, rental rates going up within the past four years, and the lapsing of financial resources available to low-income households.

Kringle said eviction can be devastating for families, especially those who do not have alternative housing arrangements.

"We do have resources for people who are experiencing homelessness, but sometimes they are stretched too thin, and the resources are not adequate," Kringle said.

Developed at the end of the COVID-19 national eviction moratorium, the eviction diversion program provides a safety net for households facing eviction due to individuals not paying rent. Iowa Legal Aid and Shelter House also created a weekly eviction diversion help desk at the courthouse.

As part of the program, Shelter House, a local nonprofit focused on providing housing and resources for the unhoused, mediates between landlords and tenants. Shelter House also provides funding for rental arrears in instances where eviction can be averted by paying back rent.

Rental assistance is limited to households with an area median income of 50 percent or below.

If mediation is unsuccessful, Iowa Legal Aid represents the tenant in court. In the first quarter of fiscal 2023, Iowa Legal Aid helped 18 tenants to maintain stable housing, preventing eviction.

Johnson County Vice Chair Rod Sullivan said the decision to provide more funds was made because of the growing issue of eviction and the positive results

already seen from the eviction diversion program.

Sullivan said evictions negatively impact all parties involved and the program helps find a solution other than eviction.

The escalation of evictions burdens not just Johnson County, but the nation as a whole. Eviction filings are up more than 50 percent than the pre-pandemic average of some cities, according to the Eviction Lab, which tracks filings across 10 states in the U.S.

Johnson County social service director Lynette Jacoby said the high cost of living in Johnson County and inflation place stressors and economic hardship on households that have not fully recovered from the pandemic.

"We know when families lose their housing that it causes instability in so many other areas of their life, like their employment, school for the children, added stress and burden, additional financial costs," Jacoby said. "It's to everybody's advantage if we can divert those and try and reconcile so that they can retain their housing and maintain stable housing, of course."

LIBRARY from 1A

materials, Pilkington said.

Part of Pilkington's job as children's services coordinator is to organize and oversee the various outreach programs her department does. Last year, her department carried out 701 programs both inside and out of the Iowa City library, Pilkington said.

Aside from her accomplishments at the Iowa City Public Library, Pilkington's positive demeanor and love for her job made her a candidate for this year's Quality Time Award.

Elsworth Carman, the director of the Iowa City Public Library, said Pilkington has a great personality as well as a wide array of skills and knowledge to ensure the library's children's program continues to do great work.

"She's like a quintessential children's

person," Carman said. "She's bubbly and friendly and really fun but also has this backbone of incredible knowledge and skill. It's the perfect combination."

Pilkington said she credits her colleagues with helping her carry out the many endeavors children's services tackle.

Pilkington also worked to break down barriers to accessing the library for children. Carman said she was instrumental in developing a bilingual position for children's services so programs can be done in both English and Spanish.

Not only has Pilkington already established a lasting impact on the Iowa City Public Library, but she also has had a positive influence on her colleagues. Sam Helmick, the Iowa City Public Library's community and access services coordinator, nominated Pilkington for the Quality Time Award because of her impact.

"Her mark has been made on this

community and this profession in a way that has uplifted her team and not spread us too thin," Helmick said. "It's a very difficult note to find and [Pilkington] continues to sing in that key, and it blows me away that she has that ability to do it because I know there's hard work, but she makes it look easy."

Pilkington said she is immensely grateful for her colleagues, staff, and most of all, the community that has supported her through everything.

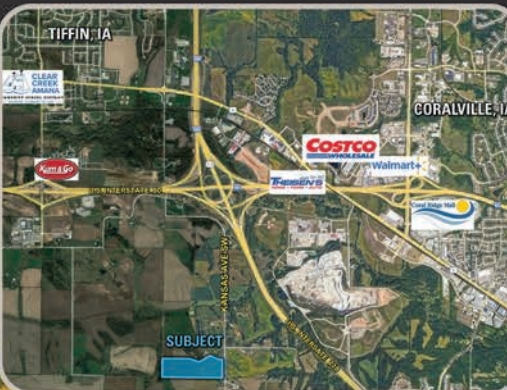
"I love just being there and out in the public," Pilkington said. "I love interacting with kids every single day. They bring such joy."

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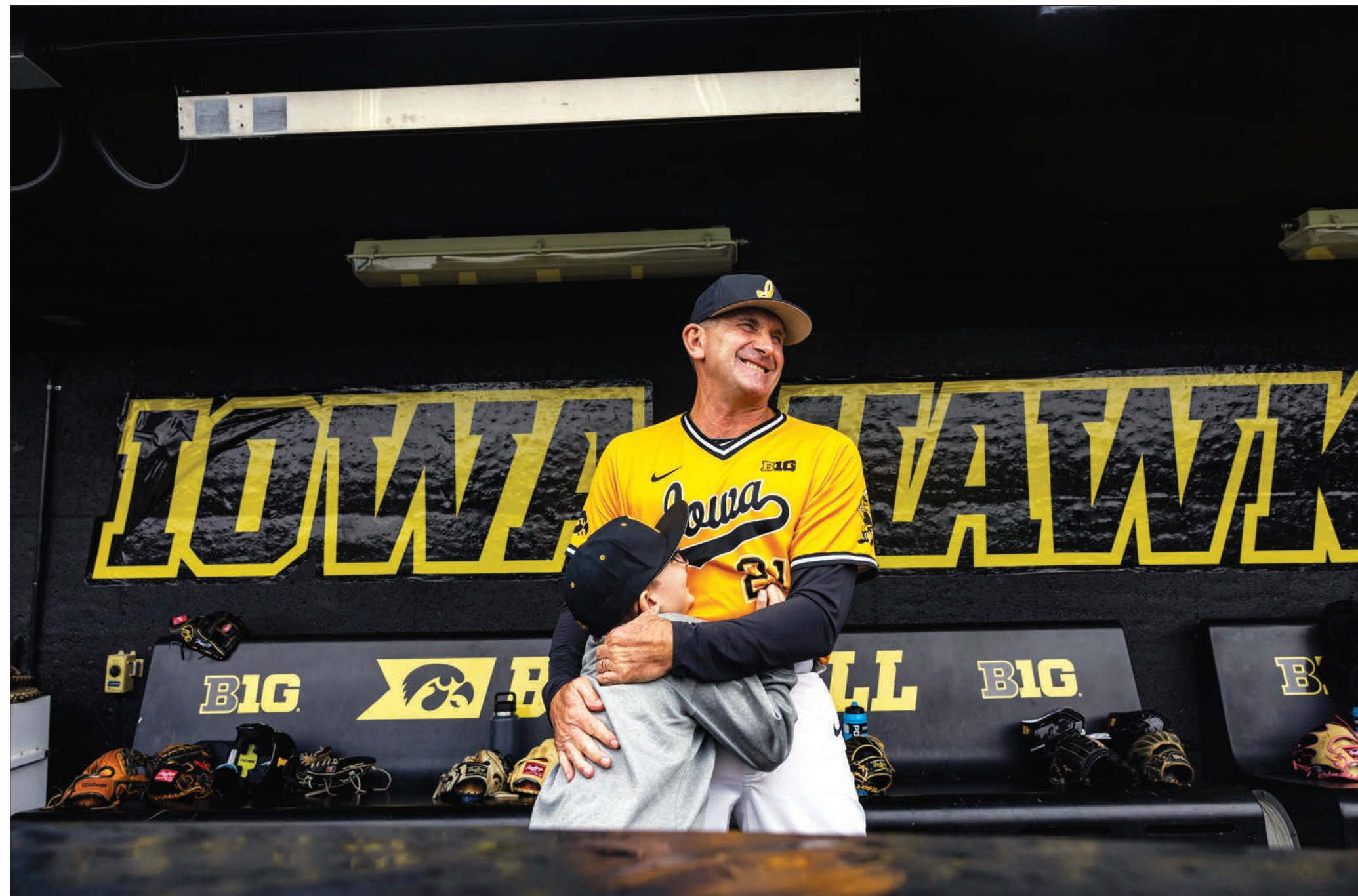
UIHC'S IMPACT ON LIAM'S HEALTH CARE JOURNEY

Liam Doxsee transferred from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital over two years ago, improving his health while introducing him to new friendships and opportunities in Iowa.



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Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan
(Top left) Liam Doxsee, 9, stands to get his height measured during an appointment at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City on Sept. 22. Normally, Liam goes to about four to six appointments a month, depending on his health. **(Top right)** Liam talks with neurologist Leah Zhorne during an appointment at the hospital on Sept. 19. Liam has been a patient at UI Stead Family Children's Hospital for about two years and has made numerous connections with his caregivers. **(Middle left)** Liam hugs Iowa head baseball coach Rick Heller before a baseball game at Duane Banks Field in Iowa City on Sept. 21. Iowa infielder Ben Wilmes said Liam brings out the youth and joy of the team. "We like to laugh and have jokes and kind of make fun of each other like brothers would do," Wilmes said. "But once he's not there ... we're still kind of missing a part of our team." **(Middle right)** Mary Matheson looks outside a window at the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital before an appointment on Sept. 19. Constant appointments and health challenges for Liam also take a toll on Matheson, but she leans on her husband, Ben Reese, for support. "I just take it day by day, honestly," Matheson said. "And some days are more difficult but I usually just try and spend the time when I need to deal with it." **(Below middle left)** Matheson carries her son inside their home in Coal Valley, Ill., on Sept. 17. Liam was diagnosed with severe combined immunodeficiency, a rare genetic disorder that affects the immune system, just five days after birth. **(Bottom left corner)** Liam spends time in the cafeteria with his friends at Bicentennial Elementary School in Coal Valley, Ill., on Sept. 18. **(Bottom right)** From left: Gracelyn Reese, 5; Kyran Anderson, 10; Julian Oliva, 10; Liam, 9; Samuel Reese, 4; and Harper Reese, 6, play outside at Liam's family's home in Coal Valley, Ill., on Sept. 17.

Find more online:
See more of Liam's story and his journey as a Kid Captain for the Iowa's baseball team at dailyiowan.com.





Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan
(Top left) Liam Doxsee, 9, stands to get his height measured during an appointment at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City on Sept. 22. Normally, Liam goes to about four to six appointments a month, depending on his health. **(Top right)** Liam talks with neurologist Leah Zhorne during an appointment at the the hospital on Sept. 19. Liam has been a patient at UI Stead Family Children's Hospital for about two years and has made numerous connections with his caregivers. **(Middle left)** Liam hugs Iowa head baseball coach Rick Heller before a baseball game at Duane Banks Field in Iowa City on Sept. 21. Iowa infielder Ben Wilmes said Liam brings out the youth and joy of the team. "We like to laugh and have jokes and kind of make fun of each other like brothers would do," Wilmes said. "But once he's not there ... we're still kind of missing a part of our team." **(Middle right)** Mary Matheson looks outside a window at the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital before an appointment on Sept. 19. Constant appointments and health challenges for Liam also take a toll on Matheson, but she leans on her husband, Ben Reese, for support. "I just take it day by day, honestly," Matheson said. "And some days are more difficult but I usually just try and spend the time when I need to deal with it." **(Below middle left)** Matheson carries her son inside their home in Coal Valley, Ill., on Sept. 17. Liam was diagnosed with severe combined immunodeficiency, a rare genetic disorder that affects the immune system, just five days after birth. **(Bottom left corner)** Liam spends time in the cafeteria with his friends at Bicentennial Elementary School in Coal Valley, Ill., on Sept. 18. **(Bottom right)** From left: Gracelyn Reese, 5; Kyran Anderson, 10; Julian Oliva, 10; Liam, 9; Samuel Reese, 4; and Harper Reese, 6, play outside at Liam's family's home in Coal Valley, Ill., on Sept. 17.

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See more of Liam's story and his journey as a Kid Captain for the Iowa's baseball team at dailyiowan.com.



ETHICS & POLITICS

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Federal law leaves some high-THC products legal

A loophole in federal farm bill allows high-THC consumable hemp products to be legally sold across the U.S.

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Through a loophole in federal regulation, the sale of consumable hemp products containing intoxicating levels of the psychoactive substance in cannabis are making its way to Iowa consumers.

The recreational use of cannabis is illegal both in Iowa and federally, but the loophole in the most recent version of the farm bill, which authorizes federal subsidies and other programs for farmers every five years, left a loophole allowing the legal growth, sale, and consumption of hemp products.

Hemp is the less potent, male version of the cannabis plant that has less than 0.3 percent THC by weight.

With Republicans opposed to legalizing recreational marijuana, and drinks containing thousands of milligrams of the psychoactive part of the cannabis plant, THC, is on the market.

Lawmakers are at an impasse on a solution to taking the intoxicating products off the market.

Products containing less than 0.3 percent THC by volume are legally allowed to be sold under the loophole. In a 1-liter drink, it can contain up to 1,000 milligrams of THC. According to a study in the National Library of Medicine, anywhere from 5-20 milligrams of THC is intoxicating and can leave consumers impaired, meaning the 1-liter drinks contain more than 200 times the minimum intoxicating amount of THC.

Other cannabis products like gummies, candy, and other consumables can be found in Iowa retailers as well. They are legally sold as long as they contain less than 0.3 percent THC by volume. However, major concerns lie with liquid products that contain much higher amounts of THC.

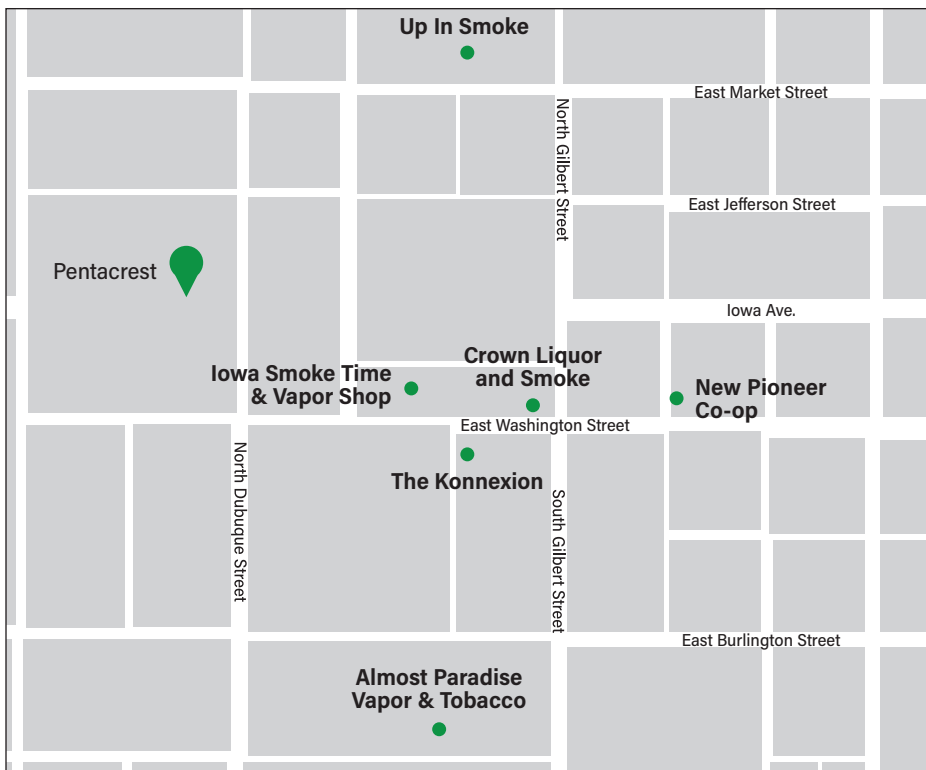
Products like these are bought and sold in Iowa City stores, including 21 locations in Iowa City listed as retailers licensed to sell consumable hemp products.

Farm bill aimed to facilitate hemp production

The most recent version of the policy, signed into law by former President Donald Trump in December 2018, allowed the production and selling of hemp by farmers in all 50 states in the U.S. as long as it contains less than 0.3 percent of THC.

A nonpartisan Congressional Research Service report stated that this and other provisions in the bill were made to facili-

Iowa City Retailers registered to sell hemp products within one mile of campus



Locator map by Bri Brown | The Daily Iowan

tate the growth, sale, and consumption of hemp. The report also stated that for any state or tribe to regulate the production of hemp, it must implement a plan that contains specific requirements. Those plans must then be approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under their regulations.

Robin Pruisner, the hemp administrator at the Iowa Department of Agriculture, said hemp growers are held under specific rules. Under Iowa's plan to regulate the production of hemp, farmers must apply and be accepted for a hemp license to grow the plant, as well as not having a controlled substance felony conviction.

Pruisner said the state allows the hemp to contain up to 0.39 percent of THC to buffer the uncertainty of measurement.

When farmers grow hemp, the levels of THC are tested by the Iowa Department of Agriculture when they harvest the crop. If the hemp crop has too much THC content, they are required to destroy it.

In an email statement to *The Daily Iowan*, Alex Carfrae, the public information officer of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, wrote regulations allow for manufacturers to add fillers to the consumable hemp products of non-THC products that are aimed to

increase overall volume.

These regulations fall under the farm bill after their addition to the 2018 version.

Currently, the reauthorization of the farm bill is stalled in Congress due to protracted political battles over choosing a House speaker to succeed U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and budget negotiations. The majority of the provisions under the farm bill expired in September, and the rest expire at the end of the year. This could impact programs that operate under the farm bill but do not stop regulations contained within the farm bill.

The products containing high levels of THC are being legally sold in Iowa

because the hemp being grown contains no more than 0.39 percent of the psychoactive chemical. Iowa's consumable hemp program allows for 0.39 percent by weight, but with additives by manufacturers, products can have more than 1,000 milligrams of THC.

Pruisner said she has always held a strong stance that in the state of Iowa, any product on the market should be safe and sanitary for consumers.

"If the industry wants to build a sustainable, long-term product that consumers are going to buy, I think consumers are going to get soured when they find something that is not what its label is supposed to be, or potentially, contain all this other garbage," Pruisner said. "So, without the consistent, minimum, regulatory oversight at a federal level, this is the chaos that we get into with everybody trying to beat the system and get away with everything they can possibly get away with."

University of Iowa public health pro-

fessor Brian Kaskie said these high-level THC products can be dangerous when the consumer isn't regulating how much they consume.

"When the products come in with high THC, it's like having a drink with a high amount of alcohol," Kaskie said. "That should be a signal to the person that you shouldn't have 10 of these because this is a high THC product or a low THC product. You don't want to have 10 shots of something that's 80-proof as opposed to having 10 light beers that are pretty minimal in alcohol. People may not be able to self-regulate how much they should take and then that could lead to problems."

Kaskie said those consuming these legal products containing high levels of THC must be cautious of the products as they are not fully regulated.

which has THC qualities, there's no regulation of what people are actually selling," Bolkcom said. "If there's policy going forward that needs to be put in place, the Food and Drug Administration needs to regulate these products nationally."

For the loopholes to be properly closed and THC products to be regulated, Congress must work to reauthorize the federal farm bill, and Bolkcom said they will most likely want to keep allowing farmers to grow hemp.

"I think people would want to keep that going," Bolkcom said of hemp production. "They could regulate it and say that THC is illegal in that [hemp] plant ... You can't have very much of it."

Pruisner said to close this loophole causing the legal sale of consumable hemp products with high levels of THC in them, there must be strong federal oversight.

"You can see that regulation all over the place whether it's the sale of meat across state lines or the sale of dairy," Pruisner said. "If everyone is not at least adhering to some type of minimum standards, it's a free-for-all because there's always a state somewhere that is going to let people get away with it."

The *DI* contacted State Rep. Devon Wood, R-New Market, who referred the Daily Iowan to the state's hemp administrator and the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

The *DI* contacted Iowa Sen. Mark Costello, R-Imogene, the vice chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee who declined to comment.

The *DI* contacted Iowa House and Senate leadership and only received a response from Senate Leadership referring to Sen. Jeff Adler, R-State Center, the chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee who could not be reached by phone or email.

The *DI* also contacted Senate Agriculture committee Republican leadership Dawn Driscoll, R-Williamsburg, and Ken Roozenboom, R-Oskaloosa, by phone and did not receive a response.

Status of federal farm bill:

The 2018 farm bill mostly expired on Sept. 30 and will fully expire on Dec. 31.

- Dec. 20, 2018: The 2018 farm bill that authorized the growth, sale, and usage of hemp products, was signed into law.

- Sept. 30, 2023: Parts of the farm bill required fiscal year authorizations to expire.

- Farm bill programs like organic farmers, farm-to-food bank assistance and some agricultural research cease without funding.

- Dec. 31, 2023: Dairy Subsidies and crop protection programs expire if the farm bill is not reauthorized by the end of the year.

"As a result of this policy, anyone, regardless of their age, can purchase hemp-derived THC that is otherwise federally banned in other forms."

Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senator, R-Iowa

Lawmakers work on solutions



Grassley

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, called for the supporters of the production of industrial hemp in the 2018 farm bill to find a way to close this loophole.

In an email statement to the *DI*, Grassley said legislators were "promised" that industrial hemp could not be used to mimic the effects of marijuana.

"I was skeptical at the time and voiced my concerns," Grassley said. "It turns out my skepticism was well-placed. As a result of this policy, anyone, regardless of their age, can purchase hemp-derived THC that is otherwise federally banned in other forms. It's incumbent on those who championed industrial hemp to take action to address these unintended consequences that allow the sale of intoxicating THC."

Iowa Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, D-Ames, ranking member of the House Health and Human Services committee, criticized the House for the delayed reevaluation of the federal farm bill that has allowed this loophole to continue.

"[Congressional lawmakers] have not gotten to it because the House is in total disarray and has no leadership," Wessel-Kroeschell said. "It's a very important bill to Iowans because it does provide a lot for our agriculture. It provides food for people who can't afford it in the span of grants, and it's just a very important bill, but it has not been reauthorized and I don't know if there's any intention to close that loophole."

Former Iowa Sen. Joe Bolkcom, D-Iowa City, expressed his frustration with the products on shelves with high levels of THC and no national regulations.

"The difference with this federal stuff, the hemp plant

"It's a very important bill to Iowans because it does provide a lot for our agriculture."

Beth Wessel-Kroeschell
Iowa Rep., D-Ames

Wessel-Kroeschell

Bolkcom

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Photo illustration by Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

OPINIONS

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COLUMN

The pink tax should be eliminated

Period products are taxed as a luxury product in the U.S. instead of a necessity.



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A menstrual cycle is not a luxury whatsoever.

According to The National Organization of Women, “the average woman spends about \$20 on feminine hygiene products per cycle, adding up to about \$18,000 over her lifetime.”

Feminine hygiene products, such as pads, tampons, and over the counter menstrual cycle medication, are heavily taxed in the U.S. In 26 states, period products are taxed as a luxury product rather than a medical necessity according to U.S. News & World Report.

Period products and other female marketed products should be tax-free. People with uteruses should not be charged extra for experiencing a natural part of life.

If you have ever talked with someone about their period, they won't shy away from telling you that most of the time they are in hormonal hell. So why are period and other female-marketed hygiene products taxed, especially when it is something

they cannot control?

Period products and other feminine hygiene products are just as much of a necessity as anything else.

The American Medical Women's Association defines period poverty as “the inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and education, including but not limited to sanitary products, washing facilities, and waste management.”

Period poverty is also related to the pink tax, which refers to the discriminatory pricing linked to products labeled in purple, pink, or feminine colors that indicate they are marketed for women. These products are not limited to just period products, but also items like razors, soap, lotion and more.

“Kara Stevens, founder of the The Frugal Feminista and author of ‘Heal Your Relationship with Money,’ says that the pink tax harms women more than people think,” according to U.S. News & World Report.

While these products are taxed heavily, similar products marketed to men are not. For example, the Women's Association states that products, such as “men's grooming and erectile dysfunction medication” are not taxed at all.

It should not be more expensive just to have a uterus. Female-marketed personal care products cost about 13 percent more than products targeted toward men,



Photo illustration by **Emily Nyberg** | The Daily Iowan

according to a study from The Balance.

If erectile dysfunction meds are seen as a medical necessity, then a period should be seen that way as well.

In January 2023, Iowa had the pink tax on feminine hygiene products exempted. Although this is a federal issue, Iowa and

other states that have started to erase the pink tax are leading as examples and stepping stones to combating this issue.

The federal government needs to understand that this is a problem and federally ban taxes on period products so that no one fears the cost of necessary products.

COLUMN

Universities should not be victims of Republican excuses

While antisemitism is a growing problem, Republicans' use of it to try to defund universities is disgraceful.



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Once again, education is on the federal funding chopping block — and not for a good reason.

In recent weeks, some Republican politicians have called to defund some U.S. colleges over the presence of anti-Israel statements and protests. These politicians, such as Sen. Joni Ernst, R-IA, and Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., claim to be combatting antisemitism.

While antisemitism is a very real and heightened threat during this time, it is only being used by Republicans to make baseless claims and try to defund educa-

tion. Defunding education is the last thing we need to be doing.

If these politicians are going to stop sending money to universities, they must prove that the universities are directly promoting and teaching antisemitic principles.

It is clear and tragic that in the wake of the start of the Israel-Hamas war, antisemitism has become an increased threat and one that must be stopped in all forms. However, these politicians have not proved that what is being taught at these universities is perpetuating antisemitism.

Antisemitism is undoubtedly present on these campuses, but the solution is not to stop giving the entire university money and call it a day. Students, organizations, and professors who spout antisemitism should be dealt with accordingly, but cutting funds to the entire university is unfair to students and faculty who do not hold those beliefs.

The only reason that funds to the entire

university should be withheld is if there is proof that a university condones antisemitism on a widespread scale.

These politicians are also doing a poor job identifying antisemitism. Being anti-Israel does not inherently mean being antisemitic. Much of the current opposition to Israel is based on their horrendous actions during this war and has nothing to do with their Jewish foundations and culture.



Iowa GOP chair Jeff Kaufmann claimed that a protest held in the Pentacrest at the University of Iowa was “pro-Hamas.” However, this protest was clearly not to support Hamas, and instead simply called for a ceasefire to end the violence.

Additionally, Republicans wanting to defund education is a headline we repeatedly see. It's one of their favorite places in govern-

ment to cut funds to feel like they're fulfilling their “small government” fantasy while actually causing significant harm. Maybe it's because they know that educated voters are much less likely to vote for Republicans than Democrats. Maybe it's because they resent how education proves all their beliefs wrong.

In any case, Republicans are just using the very real threat of antisemitism to push their agenda on an entirely different issue. They would never just fight antisemitism for the noble cause of actually fighting it; they are using it as a vehicle to make themselves feel better about cutting education funding. After all, this is the same party that ran over 100 far-right candidates in 2022.

This issue is ultimately another example of an absence of critical thinking from conservative politicians in both their assessment of the issue and their proposed solutions. Universities are not promoting antisemitism, and we do not need to defund them.

DOC IS IN

Students need to watch caffeine intake to live a healthier life

Caffeine drink use is incredibly common during college years. Here's what to know about safe caffeine use.



Photo Illustration by **Emily Nyberg** | The Daily Iowan

Sydney Soeder
Guest Columnist

Alex Marti
Guest Columnist

If you like to sip on a fresh cup of coffee or tea in the morning to jump-start your day, you certainly aren't alone. In fact, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 80 percent of Americans consume caffeine every day. While caffeinated beverages can help push

you through a long day, sometimes too much has negative consequences.

How much caffeine consumption is safe?

The Federal Drug Administration recommends that healthy adults consume no more than 400 mg of caffeine per day, the equivalent of about four cups of coffee or eight cans of soda. While this is a general guideline, it is important to remember that

each person's body is different, and some people are particularly sensitive to the effects of caffeine. The average person consumes roughly 165 mg of caffeine per day, about the equivalent of a large iced coffee. However, it is becoming easier to consume significant amounts of caffeine without realizing it.

How much caffeine is in coffee and other popular beverages?

Not every caffeinated beverage is made the same. A typical cup of coffee made at home contains about 80-100 mg of caffeine, while an 8-ounce cup of brewed coffee from Starbucks is about 160 mg of caffeine, almost double that amount. Additionally, many popular energy drinks contain 300 mg of caffeine in a single can. Smaller cans of energy drinks often contain more caffeine than larger cans, so remember to check the label before choosing an energy drink to avoid over-caffeination.

What happens if too much caffeine is consumed?

Overconsumption of caffeine can cause jitters, anxiety, increased heart rate, muscle tremors, upset stomach, nausea, headache, difficulty sleeping, and low mood. Consumption of extreme amounts of caffeine — over 1,000 mg — has been linked to heart rhythm disruptions, seizures, and even death.

How can someone decrease their caffeine consumption?

Decreasing caffeine consumption can be difficult, so it's important to know what to expect. Caffeine is a stimulant and abrupt decreases can lead to withdrawal symptoms such as tiredness, headache, irritability, and trouble focusing.

The most effective way to reduce reliance on caffeine is to slowly cut back on consumption. This can be done by drinking smaller amounts each time, choosing less concentrated products, or incorporating decaf products into your routine. Another strategy is increasing your water consumption to help your body stay hydrated and prepared to combat symptoms of withdrawal; since caffeine causes dehydration, drinking water can make you feel better than just coffee alone.

While caffeine may be a component of your daily routine, it is important to be aware of the amount being consumed. Though many people consume moderate amounts of caffeine, it is becoming easier to unwittingly consume more than anticipated. Limiting caffeine intake can be a positive step toward meeting your goals. Even drinking one less cup per day can make you less prone to nasty withdrawal effects, keep you more hydrated, and help you feel healthier and happier.

Sydney Soeder is a second-year pharmacy student.

Alex Marti is a third-year medical student.

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Meet the candidates for IC school board

Seven candidates are running for four seats in the Nov. 7 ICCSD election.

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Seven candidates are vying for four open seats on the Iowa City Community School District's school board election on Nov. 7.

The seven candidates, three of them incumbents and four of them newcomers, are running for the district. Unlike the Iowa City City Council election, also occurring on Nov. 7, candidates are not split into districts based off where they live. Instead, all the candidates are being elected to equivalent at-large positions.

Incumbents



Molly Abraham

Molly Abraham worked at Iowa City schools at West High School as a special education teacher for 18 years and 20 years as an assistant principal. Although she is retired, she said she couldn't stay away from working in education and is running for Iowa City School District School Board for the first time after replacing Shawn Eyestone in 2022.

Abraham wrote in a newsletter to her voters that her main goals are to ensure equity in access to high quality instruction and top-notch facilities for all students, retention and recruitment of diverse and highly qualified staff, commitment to the supports and services provided to students with individualized education programs and section 504 plans, and the realization of dynamic programming at the ICCSD Center for Innovation.



Charlie Eastham

School board incumbent Charlie Eastham has lived in Iowa City for over 50 years and watched his children grow up in the ICCSD. Since becoming a board member, Eastham said he has been committed to diversity and equity for all students regarding education and disciplinary action.

If reelected, Eastham aims to resolve retention issues the district is facing among teachers and other staff. He wants to see the board be more receptive to comments from teachers about why they chose to leave the district so that their issues can be resolved going forward. Eastham believes one of the most important issues to tackle is creating post-graduation opportunities for students to pursue employment or technical paths.



Lisa Williams

Fourth generation Iowan Lisa Williams is the current vice president of the ICCSD Board. She attended Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she enrolled in the U.S. Army Reserves where she was called into active duty, and later completed her law degree at the University of Iowa. She now works for the Department of Justice as a federal criminal prosecutor and lives in Iowa City with her family.

Upon reelection, Williams said she aims to lessen the opportunity gap between students in the district by ensuring universal pre-Kindergarten. She also plans to fight state enacted legislation that attacks the district's most vulnerable students.



Newcomers

Micah Broekemeier

Current UI student and ICCSD student teacher Micah Broekemeier said he comes from a family of teachers that have propelled his desire to uphold the values of proper education. Broekemeier is a former Marine and is now working to receive a master's in education from the UI College of Education.

If elected, he aims to improve local student safety, increase communication between teachers and parents, make the classroom experience more attentive by decreasing class sizes and hiring more teachers, provide post-graduate opportunities for those not choosing the college path, and using tax-payer money responsibly and transparently.



Robert Decker

North Liberty resident Robert Decker has three children enrolled in ICCSD schools and one that graduated from Liberty High School. Decker is an Army veteran and has a master's degree in theology. Currently, he works with people who have physical and intellectual disabilities to ensure everyone receives the same educational opportunities.

According to Decker's website, he is running for ICCSD to make curriculum changes transparent to families, return curriculums "back to the basics" of reading, writing, and arithmetic, provide tools for success and steer away from victimhood, and ensure equity in education as well as the workplace. He also believes climate change is not "con-

firmed science," and that schools must teach both sides of the issue, according to his site.



Mitchell Lingo

Mitchell Lingo formerly worked as a middle school teacher in Omaha, Nebraska, moving to Iowa City in 2014 where he now researches post-secondary issues in the state of Iowa.

In an email to *The Daily Iowan*, Lingo wrote that one of the main reasons he is running is to ensure ICCSD remains a competitive district despite the state's implementation of private school vouchers.

If elected, Lingo plans to provide universal pre-kindergarten for all families, providing secondary school offerings for all paths that students want to take, and complete transparency about curriculum and policy changes decided upon by the school board.



Jacob Onken

Jacob Onken is from Davenport, Iowa, and ran for the 89th district for the Iowa House of Representatives in last year's election, but did not win.

In a question and answer session with the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Onken shared his ideas for improving public schools. He believes that taxpayers' money should "follow the student" and be spent towards private or home schooling. Additionally, he discourages LGBTQ+ topics being discussed in schools because "students are too vulnerable for the information" and is against school bathrooms that don't align with students' birth-assigned genders.

Decision coming soon on UI's Mercy IC acquisition

A sale hearing on Nov. 6 will determine if the UI's bid will go through after a previous decision reversal.

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After a whirlwind few months, Mercy Iowa City is now leaning toward a University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics ownership.

A sale hearing will be held on Nov. 6, and the decision could be finalized to give all assets of Mercy IC to UIHC, according to a press release from Mercy.

The saga started over the summer in July when the hospital filed for bankruptcy. This was followed by a lawsuit from Preston Hollow Community Capital to place the hospital in a court-appointed receivership as a result of the financial situation of the hospital.

According to a webpage from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, a court-appointed receiver is a "third-party custodian" who is responsible for managing the assets and property of an individual or company that may otherwise waste such items.

Then, in August, the UI requested that the state Board of Regents approve a proposed \$20 million bid from the UI to acquire Mercy and its assets. This would include Mercy's real estate, employees, equipment and supplies, and active business operations according to an agenda from regents during a special session to discuss the bid.

The agenda also stated that under the proposed bid, the UI would not be responsible for paying back Mercy's debt, expense, or liability of the hospital.

The regents then met on Aug. 8 to discuss the bid where they unanimously approved it, which moved the process to bankruptcy court. During this meeting, Denise Jamieson, UI vice president for medical affairs and dean of Carver College of Medicine, said the UI would continue to provide patient care during the bankruptcy proceedings.

"We know that this bankruptcy proceeding is very complex, and it's going to take some time to play out in court," Jamieson said. "We still have many unanswered questions, but at the same time, we're very confident that if approved by the bankruptcy court

to move forward, that affiliation between University of Iowa Health Care with Mercy Iowa City would really be in the best interests of our patients and the community."

UI submits "stalking horse bid"

With the approval of the regents, the UI submitted a \$20 million bid with the courts to acquire Mercy, which was approved by the judge and would become the "stalking horse bid" for the proceedings.

Investment website Investopedia defines "stalking horse bids" as bids that set the floor price of the auction. According to court documents, the UI's bid meant that other bidders would be required to submit a bid of at least \$20.9 million, plus an additional \$800,000 fee to be paid to the UI and a minimum bid increment of \$100,000.

If no competing bid was entered by 5 p.m. on Oct. 2, the UI would have obtained Mercy uncontested.

But as the deadline approached, court documents showed that another bidder had also entered the picture. Although unnamed in the documents, the bidder had submitted a legal bid that met the requirements, setting up an auction between that bidder and the UI that would take place in Chicago, with the auction proceedings to involve Mercy picking a winner from the list of bidders.

Mercy picks Preston Hollow, switches to UI

On Oct. 10, it was announced that Preston Hollow had been selected as the auction winner by Mercy after talks between the two parties and unsecured creditors of Mercy.

Preston Hollow had partnered with the company American Health Systems to submit the winning bid, according to court documents. Preston Hollow had bid \$29 million to successfully win the hospital.

After winning the auction, hospital operations would have been managed by

American Health Systems with financial support from Preston Hollow investors. The UI, despite losing the bid, would have received a payout of \$800,000 as a result of being the "stalking horse bidder."

But in a reversal 17 days later on Oct. 27, the UI's bid was selected as the top choice in the auction. According to court filings, there was a "material disagreement" between Mercy and Preston Hollow. Preston Hollow was unwilling to pay Mercy's debt upon obtaining assets for the hospital.

The UI's final and ultimately winning bid was \$28 million, a figure revealed during a

UI interview with Jamieson. On top of the bid, Jamieson said another \$25 million commitment was made for facility upgrades, and \$23 million for salaries and benefits. UIHC also agreed to pay Mercy's debt.

"If the University is approved as the buyer by the bankruptcy court, it says it plans to conduct an in-depth analysis of the healthcare needs of the Iowa City community before making any modifications to the hospital or its services," the release read. "In addition, the University intends to make employment offers to substantially all Mercy employees."

This November, we can all be thankful for STI testing

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like gonorrhea and chlamydia are both more common and easier to get than you might think. Many people experience no symptoms. If you are sexually active, make STI testing part of your regular health routine!

Find a testing location near you: gettested.cdc.gov

Public Health IOWA HHS

We can stop HIV, Iowa.

HIV treatment has come a long way, and it's extremely effective.

If you're living with HIV, getting medical care and taking your HIV medication will help you live a long, healthy life.

Staying on your HIV treatment almost eliminates the chance of transmitting HIV to your partners.

There are programs to support you and your family and help pay for your care and treatment.

Learn more at stophiviowa.org

STOP HIV IOWA



- Hawkeye Updates
- Gambling Updates
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FOOTBALL

Hawkeyes stung by injury bug

Two torn ACLs and a broken ankle took out the Hawkeyes' top three weapons.



Grace Smith and Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

Iowa football players Luke Lachey, Erick All, and Cade McNamara stand on the field after sustaining an injury in various games throughout the 2023 season. Lachey sustained a broken ankle on Sept. 16 in a game against Western Michigan, McNamara sustained an ACL injury on Sept. 30 in a game against Michigan State, and All sustained an ACL injury on Oct. 14 in a game against Wisconsin.

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The Iowa offense looks much different now compared to the beginning of the season.

Two torn ACLs and a broken ankle took out the Hawkeyes' top three scoring weapons — quarterback Cade McNamara and tight ends Erick All and Luke Lachey.

The Iowa faithful hoped for a better offensive output in 2023 when McNamara

and All announced they were transferring to Iowa from Michigan in the offseason.

But without the former Wolverines and an NFL-caliber pass catcher in Lachey, it has been quite the opposite.

The Hawkeyes rank last in the FBS with 232.4 yards per game, 19.1 yards fewer than the next-best team in Eastern Michigan.

"It's very frustrating, very bad to see those types of things. These guys work hard, but it's a part of football," first-string running back Leshon Williams

said of his three teammates' injuries. "Our coaches always preach, 'next man up.' Of course, we want them guys out there with us, but they wouldn't want nothing less for us than to just go out there and move on and try to improve."

The injury bug

Lachey was the first to go down of the three Hawkeyes.

The tight end was injured while

attempting to make a catch near the sideline on third down against Purdue on Sept. 16. After the incompletion, he was helped off the field by trainers and couldn't put any weight on his right foot. The fourth-year later came back to the sidelines on crutches wearing a boot. Head coach Kirk Ferentz said it was a clean ankle break and nothing medical professionals had not seen before.

FOOTBALL | 3B

FOOTBALL

Brian gets the boot

Beth Goetz announced Oct. 30 the offensive coordinator will not return after this season's bowl game.



Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

Iowa offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz walks off the field during a football game between Iowa and Wisconsin at Camp Randall Stadium on Oct. 14. Iowa currently has the worst offense in college football, averaging 232.4 yards per game.

Kenna Roering
Sports Editor
mckenna-roering@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz said in a statement she informed offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz that "this is his last season with the program" said in a statement Oct. 30.

Ferentz will remain the offensive coordinator through the bowl game.

Goetz's entire statement reads as follows:

"Anyone who loves Iowa football recognizes both the success and challenges that have brought attention to our program this season. Our struggles on offense coupled with the offensive coordinator's contract make this a unique situation.

After conversations with head coach Kirk Ferentz, coach Brian Ferentz and President Wilson, I informed Brian that our intention is for him to be with us through the bowl game, but this is his last season with the program. Making this known today is in the best interest of the program and its loyal fans; it provides clarity during this pivotal time in the schedule," Goetz said in the statement.

"It is not my practice to be involved in assistant coaching decisions and certainly not to make public such a change during a season. Our priority is to put all our student-athletes in the best position to have both short-term and long-term success, on and off the field. Our football team has a group of outstanding young men and talented athletes, who at 6-2, have a lot to play for. As a former athlete, I know every opportunity to put on the

"Anyone who loves Iowa football recognizes both the success and challenges that have brought attention to our program this season. Our struggles on offense coupled with the offensive coordinator's contract make this a unique situation."

Beth Goetz
UI Interim Athletic Director

jersey is a cherished one.

As Hawkeyes, let's continue to support all our coaches, staff, and student-athletes in their pursuit of a Big Ten Championship and bowl game victory," she continued.

Brian Ferentz also sent a statement regarding the news to ESPN reporter Pete Thamel.

"For the vast majority of my adult life I have had the privilege to represent the University of Iowa as a football player and coach. I have always considered and will always consider it an honor," the statement reads. "In that time, my singular goal has been to contribute to the football team's success. As long as I am employed by the University of Iowa my stated goal will not change. My priority will continue to be the wellbeing of our students and the success of our team."

BRIAN | 3B

CROSS COUNTRY

Tough conference competition

Max Murphy, Abby Ryon lead Iowa cross country in Big Ten tournament.

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

The Iowa men's and women's cross country programs competed on Oct. 27 at the Big Ten Championship meet in Madison, Wisconsin. Both teams finished in the bottom half of team competition — the men's squad in 10th and the women in 14th.

Individually, the Hawkeyes were led through the rainy, mud-covered race by third-year Max Murphy and fourth-year Abby Ryon.

It isn't uncommon for Murphy to lead the pack. During the season's first race, Murphy broke the 6,000-meter school record by 13 seconds on Iowa's home course. Murphy is the first Hawkeye to finish every race he's competed in so far this season.

"Consistency is really important in running," Murphy said. "It comes from having consistent training for years and years."

In the less-than-ideal course conditions, Murphy crossed the line in 34th place with a time of 25:21.3. As Murphy and the rest of the Hawkeyes forge forward into the rest of their challenging postseason schedule, they recognize there is room for improvement.

"In the sport in general, there are a lot of highs and lows," Murphy said. "You just can't get too high or too low and put in the work no matter what."

On the women's side, Ryon was the first Hawkeye finisher, running her 6,000-meter race in 22:49.3 and earning 68th place.

"I was really pleased with what I was able to do, but I wouldn't have gotten to where I am without everybody else," Ryon said.

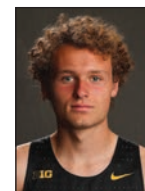
After finishing last in the conference for the second year in a row, the Hawkeye women's team believes the scoresheets do not reflect its success in the meet.

From the Big Ten race, Ryon and the Hawkeye women learned to have more confidence in their training. This will be key to earning better team results at their next meet — NCAA Midwest Regionals on Nov. 10.

"We need more speed and reactivity, but also to realize the pace will slow down in the middle," Ryon said. "It was good to get back in the heightened level of competition and hopefully build some confidence for some people."

Similarly, first-year Iowa assistant distance coach Shayla Houlihan highlighted the importance of getting out quickly to make strides toward a better team placement.

"We will be looking for a more aggressive start at regionals to set us up for a position in the field that we are more deserving of," Houlihan told Hawkeye Sports.



Murphy



Ryon

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Women's basketball

Monday, Nov. 6
vs. Fairleigh Dickinson
6:30 p.m., Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye Radio Network

Men's basketball

Tuesday, Nov. 7
vs. North Dakota
7 p.m., Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye Radio Network

Women's wrestling

Saturday, Nov. 4
at East Stroudsburg
3:30 p.m., FloWrestling

Sunday, Nov. 5
at Princeton Tiger Collegiate Open
8 a.m., FloWrestling

Field hockey

Nov. 2-5
at Big Ten Championships
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Volleyball

Friday, Nov. 3
at Michigan
5:30 p.m., Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye Radio Network

Saturday, Nov. 4
at Michigan State
6 p.m., Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye Radio Network

GAMBLING UPDATES



Hawkeye men's wrestlers Abe Assad and Nelson Brands confirmed to the *Des Moines Register's* Eli McKown on Oct. 25 that they are involved in the sports gambling investigation happening at Iowa and Iowa State.

The two found out they were under NCAA investigation in May, and with just days until the first dual of the season on Nov. 4, the pair still doesn't know their eligibility status. The NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee postponed its vote on proposals for changes to current student-athlete reinstatement guidelines related to sports gambling violations until Nov. 8.

RETURN OF MCNAMARA



Quarterback Cade McNamara will be back in Iowa City next fall. The Michigan transfer, who tore his left

ACL against Michigan State on Sept. 30, announced via X, formerly known as Twitter, and Instagram on Oct. 25 that he will return to Iowa next season. Head coach Kirk Ferentz said on Oct. 3 that the hope is McNamara will be fully healthy by next year's fall camp. "I want to thank everyone for all the love and support. The road ahead is a rigorous one but nothing I haven't overcome before. I can't wait to get back to Iowa City to support my teammates for the rest of this season!" McNamara continued. "I had a vision when I decided to come to Iowa, and that vision remains the same. There is still a lot I want to accomplish in the Black and Gold and look forward to bringing it to life in the 2024 season. Go Hawks!"

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Whether we're wrestling Penn State or Cal Baptist — it doesn't matter. Everyone needs to be ready."

Rookie Iowa men's first-year **Gabe Arnold**

STAT OF THE WEEK

6

The seed number Iowa field hockey received for the eight-team Big Ten Tournament that starts on Nov. 2.

WRESTLING

New opportunities on the mat

Iowa men's wrestling aims to fill the holes left by team veterans.

Kenna Roering
Sports Editor
mckenna-roering@uiowa.edu

New season, same goals. The Iowa men's wrestling team will kick off the season at Cal Baptist on Nov. 4.

The Hawkeyes are fresh off a national runner-up finish and must fill the holes left by veterans Spencer Lee, Jacob Warner, and Max Murin.

For Tom Brands, who is in his 18th season as head coach, losing experience on the roster isn't an excuse for a down season but a way for others to take advantage and prove themselves.

"Everybody on that roster has an opportunity now," Brands said. "This is something where the eyeball test is important. We've got a lot of upgrades in the depth of that roster."

The Hawkeyes welcomed 10 newcomers in the offseason, including four transfers.

Michael Caliendo and Jared Franek both made the move to Iowa from North Dakota State.

Caliendo achieved All-American status and finished seventh at 165 pounds at nationals last season as a first-year. He is ranked fifth in preseason polls.

Franek, a graduate student, won the Big 12 Championship at 157 pounds last season and earned All-American honors after placing fourth at nationals. He is ranked in the top three in his weight class heading into the season.

Despite their age gap, the pair's relationship is tight.

"I went to North Dakota State because of Jared Franek," Caliendo said. "So, I went in thinking he was going to be my training partner for the rest of his career. So, when we found out our coach left, that was kind of our plan, just go somewhere together."

The other two transfers are from the Sooner State. Victor Voinovich III was an NCAA qualifier for Oklahoma State at 149 pounds last season after redshirting in 2022.

Joey Cruz went 2-2 for Oklahoma at 125 pounds before missing the rest of last season with an ankle injury.

Voinovich III has trained with the



Iowa head coach Tom Brands prepares to talk to the wrestling team after the Iowa men's wrestling media day at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Oct. 26.

Hawkeyes since this summer and has enjoyed his time in Iowa City so far.

"I'm surrounded by a different environment that I feel like is more suited to where I wanted to be," Voinovich III said. "Everyone's just coming in ready to work, and everyone on the team wants to win, so it's nice to be surrounded by people that are like-minded."

Brands said the four transfers were on his watch list when they were in high school.

"They're not just new additions. Two of them are All-Americans, and one of them was in the Round of 12," Brands said. "We looked at these guys. We know where they come from. We know where their strengths were as high school wrestlers."

The head coach is confident Iowa's decorated rookie class will make meaningful contributions to the team this season.

Two of those rookies, Ben Kueter and Gabe Arnold, came from Iowa City High School, about 15

minutes away from Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Kueter is a two-sport athlete and plays linebacker for the Iowa football team. He went 111-0 during his wrestling career for the Little Hawks to become the seventh athlete in Iowa prep history to post an undefeated record.

Arnold took home a U20 Pan American gold medal at 79 kilograms in July after not giving up a single point to his opponents. He won a state title at 182 pounds last season and is listed at 174 pounds on Iowa's roster.

Key returners include heavy-weight Tony Cassioppi and 141-pounder Real Woods.

Cassioppi, now in his sixth season, has yet to accomplish his ultimate goal of a national title. He placed fourth at the NCAA Tournament last season to become the 25th four-time All-American in program history.

"Iron sharpens iron. Having the best guys in the room is what you want," Cassioppi said. "You

want your toughest match to be in here and then walk through the national tournament."

Real Woods fell to Northern Colorado's Andrew Alirez, 6-4, in the NCAA title bout. Hailing from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Woods is far from satisfied with his second-place finish.

"Big year last year? Not so much — I took second," Woods said. "My expectations are a lot higher than that."

Along with adjusting to a new roster, the Hawkeyes will have to adapt to new rules on the mat this season. The NCAA decided on June 8 that all takedowns will be worth three points instead of two.

Iowa will host two-time reigning national champion Penn State on Feb. 9. Other squads traveling to Carver-Hawkeye Arena this season include Oregon State, Columbia, Minnesota, Purdue, and Wisconsin.

Iowa's away slate features trips to Iowa State, Penn, Nebraska, Illinois, Northwestern, Michigan, and Oklahoma State.

Q&A | ANNA DAVIS

Middle hitter talks hobbies, books and daily routines



Anna Davis
Fourth-year Redshirt
Middle hitter
Castle Rock, Colorado
6-foot-1

Chris Meglio
Sports Reporter
chris-meglio@uiowa.edu

The Daily Iowan: What do you like to do for fun?

Anna Davis: I like going on walks with friends. I like reading and baking. I love playing board games and occasionally doing puzzles.

What's your favorite puzzle?

My roommate Michelle and I — she's on the [volleyball] team as well — we went through this one phase where we did all these Disney villain puzzles. The Disney puzzles are our favorite.

If you could eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Ice cream.

What's your favorite book?

That's like picking a favorite child. Recently, I've read "[The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo]" but all time you just have to like the classics of "Harry Potter." I'm a diehard fan — love the books, love the movies.

Favorite sport to watch?

Volleyball. That sounds funny because we play it all the time, but within my free time, all I'm doing is also watching volleyball. I also love watching college sports.

Favorite song at the moment?

All I've been playing lately is "Needed Me" by Rihanna.

How long does it take for you to get ready in the morning? What do you need to do to get ready?

It takes me about 30 minutes to go through my routine. My alarm goes off, then I'd be out the door in 30 minutes later for classes. So, I

wake up, take a cold shower, do my hair, brush my teeth, make my coffee, make breakfast. For breakfast, I'm just heating something up like a breakfast burrito.

Dress to impress or dress for comfort?

Normally dress for comfort. But, like I'm telling someone, 'Dress well, test well.' If I have a test, and you see me dress nice it's like, 'Oh, she has a test today.' It just depends, but normally I dress for comfort.

Do you have a piece of advice or motto that you live by?

There are only two things you can control and that's your attitude and effort. At the end of the day, I want to be laying down in my bed thinking I gave my 100 percent attitude and effort and all I could of those two things that day in my relationships, my friendships, my sports, my school, everything else. If I know I did the best I could in those every day, then I'm taking care of everything I need to.

POINT | COUNTERPOINT

Is it time for Kirk Ferentz to retire from Iowa?



Brad Schultz
Sports Reporter

YES

Without a doubt, Kirk Ferentz will go down as the greatest coach in Iowa football history.

In his 25 years as head coach, he's led Iowa to two Big Ten titles, two Big Ten West championships, and is a four-time Big Ten Coach of the Year honoree.

However, as the saying goes — all good things must come to an end.

This season, the Hawkeyes have hit rock bottom on offense. Iowa currently ranks dead last in the entire nation in total offense with no signs of improvement.

I'm well aware that Iowa has lost its starting quarterback, its top two tight ends, and several offensive linemen to injury, but that's no excuse for its porous play on offense.

In the second half of Iowa's

loss to Minnesota, the Hawkeyes mustered only 12 yards, which is unfathomable and unacceptable for any football team, let alone a Big Ten team.

The bottom line here is that the game has simply passed by Ferentz. He isn't willing to adjust to mobile quarterbacks and utilize the passing game to its full potential. He also hasn't shown any willingness to make a change at quarterback, despite Deacon Hill only completing 37 percent of his passes in three starts thus far.

With the Big Ten expanding to 18 teams next season, 2024 is going to be a make-or-break year for the Iowa football program. There isn't going to be a soft Big Ten West schedule that allows the Hawkeyes to continue their predictable, snail-paced style of play.

Ferentz should retire on top, rather than on the bottom, like his predecessor Hayden Fry. A 10-win season and a Big Ten Championship Game appearance will be the perfect send off to allow the program to start fresh and prepare itself for the new era of college football.



Jake Olson
Sports Reporter

NO

Following the Iowa football team's loss to Minnesota on Oct. 21, the Hawkeyes' road to the Big Ten Championship got a lot more difficult.

Iowa must win their remaining four games against Northwestern, Rutgers, Illinois, and Nebraska in order to have a chance to advance to Lucas Oil Stadium in December.

While fans have been at the neck of offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz all season long, some are questioning the place of head coach Kirk Ferentz.

Kirk Ferentz is the longest-tenured head coach in college football by six years. He has been under the helm of the Hawkeyes since 1999.

Known for his old-school style of play using fullbacks and double

tight end packages, Kirk Ferentz certainly likes to play his brand of football and seems reluctant to change it.

With the third consecutive season having one of the worst offenses in the country, Hawkeye fans are wondering if it's time to move on to a more modern style of football.

While it has been frustrating watching Hawkeye football the past three seasons, I believe Kirk Ferentz isn't the problem.

In actuality, he has been one of the most consistent head coaches in college football over the past five seasons.

Iowa is one of 10 teams that has won 70 percent of its games over the past four years with a 43-18 record — including going 29-15 in the Big Ten.

In those five seasons, the Hawkeyes have gone 3-1 in bowl game appearances, with the 2020 Music City Bowl getting canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's simply difficult to find another coach as consistent as Kirk Ferentz. Letting him walk sooner than later could prove to be fatal for the program. It would be hard to find a successor that can fill his shoes.

BRIAN
from 1B

The Hawkeyes currently have the worst offense in college football, averaging just 232.4 yards per game.

In February, former Athletic Director Gary Barta amended Brian Ferentz's contract for the 2023 season. The contract included designated performance objectives of at least 25 points per game and seven wins, including the bowl game. Iowa is 6-2 on the season and averages just 19.5 points per contest.

There are 10 Big Ten teams currently averaging less than 25 points per game. Of those 10, only Iowa and Rutgers have six wins.

Brian Ferentz was asked about his amended contract before the season. The offensive coordinator said he wasn't going to approach his job any differently.

"That's probably a better question for the head coach. I'm not interested in that, and I couldn't care less," Brian Ferentz said on April 20. "If this is my last year being the offensive coordinator at Iowa football, I'm at peace with that. And if we're beating Wisconsin 24-10 with 30 seconds left, you can bet your ass I'll be at peace with that."

Brian Ferentz directly reports to Goetz. In Goetz's introductory press conference in August, she said Brian Ferentz's 25 points per game objective was not something she would focus on during the season.

"As we look at those types of things, just like we would in any sport, you're going to evaluate a season at the end and see how you did," Goetz said at the time. "But the goal is to win along the way. I've won some ugly games as a coach, and I never gave any of them back."

Brian Ferentz was promoted from offensive line coach to offensive coordinator on Jan. 9, 2017. Iowa has averaged over 25 points per game in four of his six seasons as offensive coordinator. The Hawkeyes averaged 28.2 points per game in 2017, 31.2 in 2018, 25.8 in 2019, 31.8 in 2020, and 23.4 in 2021.

One of the worst offensive seasons of Kirk Ferentz's tenure came in 2022. The Hawkeyes averaged just 17.7 points per game — 123rd in the FBS — and ranked second-to-last in total offense with just 251.6 yards per contest.

Hawkeye fans have called for the dis-



Iowa fans hold up a sign saying "Fire Brian" during a football game between Iowa and Michigan State at Kinnick Stadium on Sept. 30. The Hawkeyes defeated the Spartans, 26-16.

missal of Brian Ferentz for the last couple of years. On Saturdays inside Kinnick Stadium, some attendees adorn T-shirts and hold up signs with "Fire Brian" on them. If an offensive drive results in a three-and-out, or fans don't like a play call, "Fire Brian" chants, usually started by the student section, ring throughout the stadium.

Iowa lost, 12-10, to Minnesota on Oct. 21. Following the abysmal offensive performance against the Gophers, Kirk Ferentz expressed his concern.

"We're going to have to find answers moving forward," the head coach said. "Clearly we want more points and more yards. I'm not sitting here saying whatever we had was enough. It's not enough. We need to do better."

The Hawkeyes are fresh off a bye week. In past years, coordinators have been available to the media during the bye week. This season, only athletes were available to be interviewed.



An Iowa fan watches 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.

FOOTBALL
from 1B

On Sept. 30 against Michigan State, the injury bug struck again.

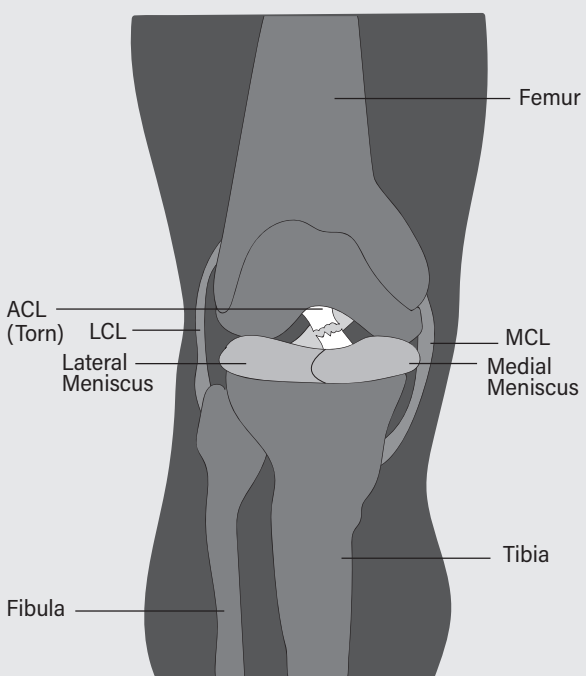
McNamara tried to scramble under pressure on second down deep in Iowa territory. He moved up in the pocket, made a cut off his left leg, and went down on the turf without any contact with another player.

McNamara tore his left ACL, one of the bands of tissue that help connect the thigh bone (femur) to the shinbone (tibia). Matthew Bollier, an orthopedic surgeon in the UI Sports Medicine Clinic who specializes in knee and shoulder injuries, said the ACL helps stabilize and control the front and back motion of the knee.

ACL injuries most commonly occur during sports that involve sudden stops or changes in direction, jumping, and landing. According to the National Institute of Health, 70 percent of ACL injuries occur in non-contact situations.

Anterior view of an ACL Tear

Cade McNamara and Erick All are both out for the rest of the 2023-24 football season with ACL tears.



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher

"Typically, when you have a contact injury when someone hits the leg when it's planted or the foot is planted, there's more than just the ACL that's torn," Bollier said. "For non-contact injuries when the knee shifts when someone's planted and cutting or twisting, it's more common that it is just an ACL tear."

McNamara had right knee surgery in November 2022, and just when he started feeling 100 percent, he suffered a right quad injury in Iowa's open spring practice, forcing him to miss two weeks of practice.

He started all five games for the Hawkeyes this season as he continued recovering from the quad injury.

"Pre-existing injuries can play a role, but I would say most of the time that their ACL injuries are unrelated to pre-existing stuff," Bollier said. "It's just kind of the nature of especially football. There's just a lot of injuries like that. So, I'm kind of speaking more generally, you know, without speaking specifically about [Cade's] situation."

While McNamara suffered a non-contact ACL injury, All's was more gruesome.

On Iowa's second offensive drive against Wisconsin, All caught a 5-yard pass over the middle and was hit hard in the right knee by Badger defensive end Cade McDonald.

He was carted off the field and later came back to the sidelines on crutches to cheer on his teammates to a 15-6 win over the Badgers. It was the first time the Hawkeyes won in Madison since 2015. Punter Tory Taylor revealed on the "Men on Melrose" podcast that when All returned to the sideline, the tight end told him, "They could've snapped my leg in half, but they're not going to get to my heart."

"It's obviously tough seeing him go down. But even on the sidelines, he still had a smile on his face. That just kind of speaks to who he is," Iowa tight end Steven Stilianos said of All. "He's kind of the glue guy in our room, always making everyone laugh, always having a positive spirit. He's just like the best dude."

All is still the team's leading receiver with 299 yards and three touchdowns on 21 receptions. Lachey is the next top pass-catcher with 131 yards on 10 receptions.

The future

Lachey, McNamara, and All had surgery to repair their respective injuries.

Bollier said it's typical for someone recovering from an ACL tear to start doing physical therapy in the first couple of weeks post-op. He added those in recovery don't jog for three to four months and can't "hardcore" sprint until four to five months after surgery.

"It's usually six to nine months until someone comes back and can play full go," Bollier said.

The rehabilitation process for a broken ankle, on the other hand, takes at least six to eight weeks, according to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Shortly after Lachey was injured, Ferentz said the tight end was "most likely" out for the season, but the head coach said on Oct. 27 that there is a "window open" for Lachey to return for the bowl game.

Lachey could enroll early in the NFL draft following this season. In July, Pro Football Focus rated him among the top five tight ends for the 2024 NFL draft class.

"There is not a better guy in our program than Luke Lachey," Ferentz said. "He's going to be fine, but just a tough, tough development."

McNamara confirmed via X, formerly known as Twitter, and Instagram on Oct. 25 that he will return to Iowa next season. Ferentz said on Oct. 3 that the hope is the QB will be fully healthy by next year's fall camp.

Bollier said the rehab journey can be "grueling" and "frustrating," but a lot of the time, suffering an injury gives athletes extra motivation to get back on the field and succeed.

"I had a vision when I decided to come to Iowa, and that vision remains the same," McNamara wrote in his social media post. "There is still a lot I want to accomplish in the Black and Gold and look forward to bringing it to life in the 2024 season. Go Hawks!"

Ferentz said All is on about the same timeline as McNamara, but the tight end has not announced whether he will return to Iowa next season or enroll in the NFL Draft. All was listed as one of ESPN's NFL Draft sleepers in early October.

"Over 90 percent get back to full go, full function," Bollier said. "So, it's a pretty reliable surgery and recovery, and most get back and do very well."

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Easy

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THE DAILY IOWAN PREGAME
• EVERY FRIDAY •

ROAD TO ANN ARBOR

The now sixth-seeded Iowa field hockey team will face third-seeded Maryland in the Big Ten Tournament quarterfinals on Nov. 2.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa midfielder Dionne van Aalsum attempts a goal up the field during a field hockey match between No. 1 Iowa and Michigan State at Grand Field in Iowa City on Oct. 1. The Hawkeyes defeated the Spartans, 3-1. Over the season, van Aalsum scored 27 goals, tying the record for most goals by an Iowa rookie since Krissy Gleason in 1989.

MAPPING THE JOURNEY

The Hawkeye field hockey team will face the Terrapins in the Big Ten Tournament after a 13-4 regular season.

AUG. 27

Iowa took down top-ranked North Carolina on the road in overtime, 3-2. The Hawkeyes have defeated the top-ranked team in three straight seasons, including a 3-1 victory over the Tar Heels in 2021 and a 2-0 win against the Northwestern Wildcats in 2022.



N

OCT. 6

The Hawkeyes hosted the Northwestern Wildcats in a top-five matchup and fell, 2-0. It was the first and only game of the season in which Iowa was shut out. Northwestern earned the No. 1 seed at the conference tournament and will play the winner of Ohio State and Penn State in the semifinals.



OCT. 16

First-year Dionne van Aalsum earned her third Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week honor. She scored at least one goal in 12 of Iowa's 17 regular season games. Her 27 goals on the season are tied for the most by an Iowa rookie in program history with Krissy Gleason's 1989 record.

R

OCT. 27

Iowa ended the regular season with a 7-2 win over No. 3 Rutgers on Senior Day. Seven goals is the most the Hawkeyes have scored against a NFHCA ranked team and the most versus a Big Ten opponent since 2017 when Iowa defeated Michigan State, 7-1.



Sara Stumpff | The Daily Iowan

Merrimack College midfielder Julie Wester hits the ball past Iowa Hawkeye forward Annika Herbine during a field hockey game between No. 1 Iowa and Merrimack College at Grand Field in Iowa City on Sept. 17. The Hawkeyes were the No. 1 team in the nation for seven games, but fell out of the top position after falling to No. 11 Ohio State on Sept. 29.



Lua Rasga | The Daily Iowan

Iowa forward Annika Herbine loses the ball to Northwestern midfielder Chloe Relford during a game between No. 3 Iowa and No. 2 Northwestern at Grand Field in Iowa City on Oct. 6. The Wildcats defeated the Hawkeyes, 2-0. Iowa's other losses were against Ohio State, Maryland, and Penn State.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa defender Hillary Cox high-fives her teammates after scoring a goal during a field hockey match between No. 1 Iowa and Michigan State at Grand Field in Iowa City on Oct. 1. The Hawkeyes defeated the Spartans, 3-1.

80 HOURS

ARTS & CULTURE | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023



Before curtain call

From composing to sound designing to stage managing — no theater production would exist without the tech work behind the scenes.

CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2

• THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL

Directed by Adam Knight and written by Horton Foote, this production tells the story of Carrie Watts, a woman seeking reconnection with her Texas hometown.

7:30 P.M. | RIVERSIDE THEATRE
119 E. COLLEGE ST.

• 319 ON TAP

Attend this monthly showcase series featuring the best local and regional music acts at Elray's.

9 P.M. | ELRAY'S LIVE & DIVE
211 IOWA AVE.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3

• THE SOUND OF WAVES CRASHING ON AN ISLAND OF BROKEN GLASS

This play by Shawn Overton is about a 13-year-old girl in a remote cabin confronting her family's criminal history.

7 P.M. | ARTIFACTORY
120 N. DUBUQUE ST.

• IOWA CONSERVATORY: LATTES WITH LESLIE NOLTE

The Iowa Conservatory Founder and Head of School Leslie Nolte and the Iowa Conservatory Admissions Director Jessie Ferich will be in conversation with audiences.

7:30 A.M. | IOWA CONSERVATORY
123 N. LINN ST.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4

• BLACK & WHITE BALL

The Friends of the Animal Center Foundation is presenting its third annual gala to fundraise for animals, featuring a plated dinner, live music, a silent auction, and more.

6 P.M. | HILTON GARDEN INN
328 S. CLINTON ST.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

• PIANO SUNDAYS @ THE OLD CAPITOL: ALAN HUCKLEBERRY AND STUDIO

Listen to Alan Huckleberry, professor of piano pedagogy and collaborative arts at the University of Iowa, perform at the Old Capitol.

1:30 P.M. | OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM
1 N. CLINTON ST.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7

• GRADUATE SESSIONS: UI JAZZ JAM

Visit the Graduate Food Hall for a Jazz Jam session with School of Music faculty and friends.

7 P.M. | GRADUATE FOOD HALL
210 S. DUBUQUE ST.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8

• SURVIVING A DICTATOR, A DICTATOR SURVIVING

As a part of the Humanities Iowa Global Connections Across Iowa 2023-24 program, Eyad Said will be discussing how he came to Louisiana from Syria in 2012 as a graduate student.

6 P.M. | IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
210 S. DUBUQUE ST.

• THE DEL MCCOURY BAND

Del McCoury is a standout musician linking bluegrass and digital streaming, as he is popular on late-night television talk shows and has headlined sold out concerts to music festivals of all genres.

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

Iowa City's haven for gamers

For almost 20 years, Critical Hit Games has been the hub for local players.



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

Patrons of Critical Hit Games play a board game during a Magic: The Gathering event on Oct. 21. The local community meets almost every night for events, leagues and tournaments hosted by Critical Hit Games.

Charlie Hickman
Arts Reporter
charles-hickman@uiowa.edu

Walking down the stairs to Critical Hit Games' basement game room feels like entering another world. Surrounded by games, merchandise and decorations of all kinds, anyone's first step into the store immediately recognizes the variety of interests it serves.

Critical Hit Games, located at 115 S. Linn St., has been an Iowa City tabletop store since 2005 and, from its conception, it has provided a space that fans of all facets of gaming can call their own.

"Our four big pillars are card

games, miniature gaming, board games, and roleplaying games," the store's owner Chance Kirchof said. "We reflect the interests of our community."

Kirchof has been the owner of Critical Hit Games since 2015. It has always been his goal to provide a place for players to gather and collaborate, serving the same purpose game stores did when he was younger.

Several long tables take up a majority of Critical Hit Games' basement space, indicative of their emphasis on being a spot to play just as much as buy.

"There are several hobby and game stores around, but they primarily just sell. This place has always had gaming tables,"

regular customer Michael Gannon said.

A large appeal of tabletop gaming comes from its social aspect. Having a space to play games also means meeting new people to play those games with.

"It's a hobby overall. But it's also a social experience because you're actually playing with a person," Gannon said.

The basement location of Critical Hit Games harkens back to classic memories of tabletop gaming for both Kirchof and Gannon.

"A lot of [the stores in my youth] were in basements too. We were very lucky to get this space here downtown," Kirchof said.

Even if a town doesn't have a dedicated gaming shop, there are usually other means to participate in the hobby separately. Having a dedicated area makes finding groups of like-minded hobbyists much easier, though.

While finding these groups can be challenging for some, Critical Hit Games makes sure groups are beginner-friendly.

"We have reservations every night, some groups have been playing here for over 10 years," Kirchof said. "One of the main requirements of getting a reservation here is that you're always welcoming to new players."

Heading up the Warhammer players, Gannon remembers being a newcomer to the tabletop gaming scene. As the leader of the group, he now makes sure it is always welcoming to curi-

ous players. "If you want to learn how to play the game, just ask," Kirchof said.

Iowa City poses a unique challenge for the game store. Every year, new students arrive wanting to explore new hobbies, and the store tries to cater to them.

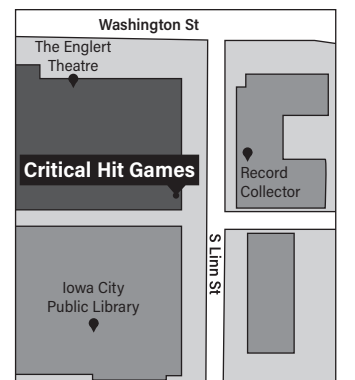
"We have a well-balanced staff so we can meet the needs of a well-balanced community," Kirchof said.

From antique toys and arcade cabinets to video games and collectibles, everyone's interests are present at Critical Hit Games.

Providing a space for new and old players alike and making sure all corners of the community are represented in the store is key to the success of Critical Hit Games, Kirchof said.

"It's all about growing the community," Kirchof said.

Location of Critical Hit Games



Locator map by Bri Brown

REVIEW

Martin Scorsese's newest film worth its lengthy run time

The film explores an often untold story in Native American history.

Will Bower
Arts Reporter
william-bower@uiowa.edu

"Killers of the Flower Moon," the latest release from seasoned director Martin Scorsese, has been on the radar of film critics since 2017. At 80 years old, Scorsese shows no sign of slowing down in this momentous film.

Based on a book of the same name, the film highlights an incredibly grim period in Native American history: the Osage Indian Murders. Dozens of members of the Osage Nation were murdered over several years in the 1920s and 1930s, often at the command of William Hale and his nephew Ernest Burkhart, eerily portrayed by Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio, respectively.

Several aspects of this film stuck out to me, but perhaps the most captivating element was the performance of Lily Gladstone. Gladstone, who grew up on the Blackfeet Nation reservation in Montana, plays an Osage woman named Mollie Burkhart.

Targeted for their oil wealth, Mollie's family was killed one by one during the Osage Murders.

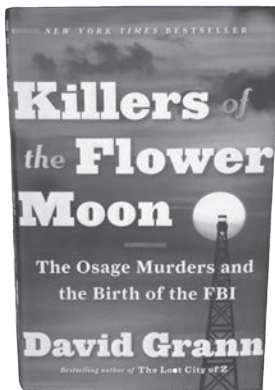
Gladstone's performance is, in one word, haunting. She brings a subtlety to the role that allows her to steal every scene she's in. In an industry where emphasis is put on over-the-top performances, Gladstone offers a uniquely brilliant take on a complicated character.

I fully believe Gladstone gives the best performance of 2023 in "Killers of the Flower Moon."

In addition to Gladstone's performance, Scorsese's masterful direction inserts a variety of elements that demonstrate his genius, but what stuck out most to me was his use of shadows.

In a particularly haunting scene, De Niro sits at the end of a bed with half his face shielded in darkness — a visual that stuck with me well beyond my time sitting in the theater.

Running 206 minutes, "Killers of the Flower Moon" may seem intimidating, but every minute is worth it. By the end, you are only left craving more.



Nuria Martinez-Keel/Oklahoma Voice / USA TODAY NETWORK

CARTOON



Cartoon by Avi Lapchick | The Daily Iowan

"HE HATES BEING PERCEIVED"



SCORPIO SEASON

- FADE INTO YOU | Mazzy Star
- PAPER BAG | Fiona Apple
- DARK RED | Steve Lacy
- BLOOD IN THE CUT | K. Fly
- SWIM GOOD | Frank Ocean
- GLORY AND GORE | Lorde

IC theater shows dark play

Run of the Mill Theatre brought the intense, macabre play from California to Iowa.

Charlie Hickman
Arts Reporter
charles-hickman@uiowa.edu

Twelve-year-old Malibu entered the kitchen and started a pot of coffee, unfazed by the old man chained to the floor. The man, revealed to be her grandfather, told Malibu her parents were not good people. Malibu, sharp-tongued, insisted "My parents love me."

Malibu, beginning to understand her dangerous reality, was faced with the decision of what she wanted for her own life, even if it meant isolation in an unknown world.

Run of the Mill Theatre presented "The Sound of Waves Crashing on an Island of Broken Glass," a new play by Shawn Overton at the Artifactory running from Oct. 27-29 and Nov. 5-7.

The play premiered in March 2019 in Merce, California. Among the original audience members were Run of the Mill Theatre Productions Director James McIntyre and Production Assistant Nicole Terry; both were haunted by the performance and jumped on the opportunity to produce it.

"It really kind of dives deep into the individual and the choices you make and the importance of family, but how that can be damaging," Terry said.

The show used the depiction of Malibu's memories to guide the audience through her point of view. As the show progressed, Malibu realized the horror of her

parents' criminal lifestyles and the role they expected her to play.

Actor AJ Sear said the show portrays the demand between loyalty and individuality.

"When those who are supposedly in your corner [and] their demands are so high, you have to sacrifice your own individuality," Sear said.

In one scene, Malibu, played by 12-year-old Viola McConville, wakes to Astin, played by 10-year-old Maxwell Seaman G'sell, handcuffed at her kitchen table.

The two bond over their strange names, dysfunctional families, and their love of dance. For a moment, it seemed Malibu made a friend, but the scene took a horrible turn as Malibu was faced with an impossible task.

"It breaks me," McConville said of the scene.

Considering the dark nature of the show, RoM was careful to maintain the emotional safety of the cast. An intimacy coordinator gave them the tools to maintain separation between their characters and themselves.

"I can stay in a room and be myself but then walk through the aisle onto the stage and know, 'Okay I'm in my character right now,'" Seaman G'sell said.

RoM's production of "The Sound of Waves Crashing on an Island of Broken Glass" is the first performance outside California. Co-director Rich LeMay expressed that RoM's mission fit that of the original play: to tell an unseen story.

Inside a UI theater production

Composing, sound designing, stage managing – no production would exist without the work behind the scenes.

Zhenya Loughney
Arts Reporter
zhenya-loughney@uiowa.edu

To say live theater is difficult would be an understatement. Behind every production are countless hours of design, assembly, planning, and tech work that often goes unrecognized, especially by audience members.

I have been involved with theater my entire life. From playing the baby Jesus in a Nativity production as an infant, to costume dressing, set shifting and assistant stage managing, I have discovered that theater is beyond complicated.

When I started college, I wanted to be more than a costumer. Sure, I'm good at sewing, but I wanted to learn how to do more technological work than only helping with quick changes.

The University of Iowa provided endless opportunities, including the biggest role in the biggest show I have ever done: sound designing and composing "Macbeth" for the UI's Mainstage Productions this semester.

I have never been one to understand computers, but I am determined to learn as much as I can. During fall 2022, I took a class on audio plays, which was a hybrid creative writing and theater design class that introduced me to the world of sound design. I had been an audio mixer before for live bands and choirs, but never had I designed anything on a digital audio workspace, or DAW.

This spring, I took the official theatre sound design class and instantly fell in love with studying the world of sound. I've always been interested in music — I have a string of failed attempts at learning to play instruments, choral books where I couldn't get the pitch high enough, and a fat C- in 10th grade AP Music Theory — but with this abstract medium, it finally clicked. Having the ability to re-record dissolved my fear of music.

In May, thanks to my mentor Mark Bruckner, a UI lecturer in sound design and music theatre, I was offered the experience to sound design "Macbeth." I was extremely hesitant at first; I had no experience designing sound for a full-length show before, especially such a large-scale show. I took a few days to think

"I was really nervous because I've never done anything like this at the collegiate level. I've only done it in high school, and it was a really great experience."

Meredith Onions

Lighting designer of "Macbeth"

about it but eventually decided it was an opportunity I couldn't turn down.

Upon joining the production and becoming familiar with everyone working on it, I quickly realized I was not alone in my fears. Meredith Onions, a second-year student at the UI studying information systems and the lighting designer of "Macbeth," was just as nervous about stepping up to the plate.

"I haven't ever designed anything at the University of Iowa before so coming in I was really nervous because I've never done anything like this at the collegiate level," Onions said. "I've only done it in high school, and it was a really great experience."



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Zhenya Loughney explains setup to a crew member during "The Space Between Coke Bottles and Orange Slices" tech rehearsal on Oct. 24. Loughney has been involved in theater their entire life, starting with a role as baby Jesus in a Nativity production.

Theatre UI has three types of productions: MainStage, Gallery, and Workshop. MainStage productions are the largest with the biggest budgets and are usually directed by faculty. Gallery productions are reserved for playwriting graduate students, and workshop shows are low-budget, original undergraduate productions.

Given that it is such a huge opportunity for an undergraduate to have this position, I decided I wanted to go big or go home. I designed live foley, vocal manipulation, immersive atmospheres, and — my biggest feat of all — composed original music.

It all started with a guitar riff I wrote on a MIDI keyboard on the DAW Pro Tools. When my spring semester of 2023 ended, I didn't have the money to buy Pro Tools, but I did have \$14 to download FL Studios on my iPad.

The direction the design team took was a theme of duality, or more simply put, "the good and evil inside us all." "Macbeth" is Shakespeare's shortest play, but nonetheless a long and sometimes boring story about kings and power. My goal was to examine "Macbeth" through a modern lens.

Blaring electric guitars were obviously the right choice. I also wanted a lot of synthesizers, but I wanted classical, medieval strings, too. With extreme pitch manipulation, I was able to make those three types of music melt together.

Splitting "Macbeth" into three worlds, the world of the witches is my favorite. Light synth bells illuminated the atmosphere, and piano music surrounded their magical powers. I liked the idea of the unnatural and the natural world mixing and distorting together for the not-exactly-human witches to come to life.

Composer Nate Mercereau inspired me most for the electric guitars in the world of Macbeth himself. Everything for Macbeth was written in a moody F minor key, depicting the character's struggle between

right and wrong.

The third world is everything else around Macbeth. I produced more classical and medieval sounds with a virtual lyre and harpsichord. Lady Macbeth is almost in her own world with the acoustic guitars playing beneath her entrances, but they sound similar enough to the lyre I used.

For bows, I mixed all three worlds together in one piece of music. Titled "Commemoration," this is the longest piece of music I wrote at nearly seven minutes long. I wanted to honor all of "Macbeth's" pointless bloodshed over the throne and communicate that the fight for power will never truly end.

Running from Oct. 6-14, "Macbeth" was the scariest, most wonderful, stressful, and rewarding experience I've ever had. I tried it just because I could — and it was a success.

"Everyone was so nice and just so much fun to work with ... I really learned a lot and I'm proud of my work, and I hope that everybody else who came to see the show enjoyed it because I really enjoyed working on it."

Meredith Onions

Lighting designer of "Macbeth"

With over four months of blood, sweat, and tears devoted to this show, I couldn't be prouder of what I accomplished, and Onions shared my sentiment.

"Everyone was so nice and just so much fun to work with," she said. "And I really learned a lot and I'm proud of my work, and I hope that everybody else who came to see the show enjoyed it because I really

enjoyed working on it."

After closing night, I started straight away on a workshop show titled, "The Space Between Coke Bottles and Orange Slices," written and directed by undergraduate student Nat Payán. I agreed to wear two hats for this production as sound designer and stage manager.

I have never been a full stage manager before, either, but I have been an assistant manager many times. Since this is a workshop show made by a friend, I assumed it wouldn't be as much pressure, so I agreed — all in the spirit of gaining experience.

Running for three days only, Oct. 27-29, this show was a political play about trans rights, depicting a romance between a cisgender man and a transgender man.

As stage manager, I had to keep everyone on schedule, send out rehearsal calls, rehearsal reports, production meeting reports, take notes of everything, label everything from costumes to props and facilitate what the designers needed.

As sound designer, I had to be in two places at once, studying what the music sounded like in the audience, checking the mic, and curating music while also paying attention to cues — all on top of my stage management duties.

It wasn't easy, but I'm never going to stop learning. Maybe my next stop is learning lights. Though that seems beyond daunting now, I want to learn everything I can about the art of production in general. If I could get my start on a show like "Macbeth: The Rock Opera," anyone can learn anything.

More online

The Daily Iowan arts reporter Zhenya Loughney worked as sound designer and composer for UI's Mainstage Productions' "Macbeth." Read more of the story at dailyiowan.com.

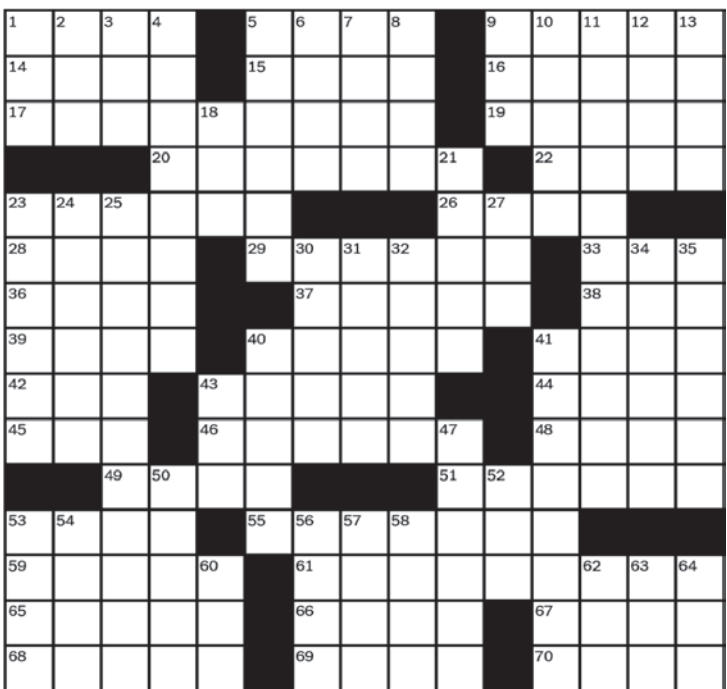
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON 3B

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The New York Times Crossword

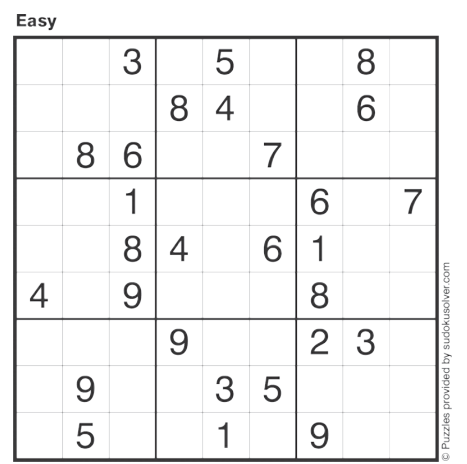
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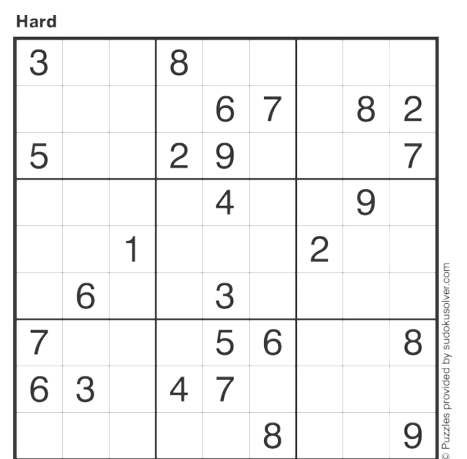
- 43 Recharge, so to speak
- 44 Did in
- 45 Classic "Simpsons" sound
- 46 Second social media account for posting private jokes and such, informally
- 48 Like father, like son
- 49 Plains people
- 51 Big batteries
- 53 A well-known Stone
- 55 Golf ball features
- 59 Alternating current pioneer
- 61 Following 17-, 37-, 40- and 43-Across, end of a properly formed yet 11-Down sentence by 25-Down demonstrating the distinction between syntax and semantics
- 65 Beseched
- 66 One guilty of disorderly conduct?
- 67 Smoothie seed
- 68 Parental authority
- 69 Parents, to kids
- 70 Edible seaweed
- 12 Quick cut
- 13 What ":" might represent in a text
- 18 Kid
- 21 Chimney vents
- 23 Past one's prime, with "up"
- 24 Westernmost city in Texas
- 25 So-named "father of modern linguistics"
- 27 Ache
- 30 Nash who called the rhinoceros "preproceros"
- 31 Plains people
- 32 Vaulted
- 34 "You've got my attention"
- 35 Dwellings
- 40 "OK, so that's not exactly true"
- 41 Doomscrolling, e.g.
- 43 West Coast hub for United
- 47 Unrehearsed lines
- 50 "___ From the Crypt," HBO horror anthology
- 52 Big boss, informally
- 53 Midflight stats
- 54 Butte, but bigger
- 56 On the off chance that happens
- 57 Chew on
- 58 Nudge
- 60 Ruckus
- 62 "___ Drives Me Crazy" (1989 #1 hit)
- 63 Teeny-weeny
- 64 Talk, talk, talk

- Across**
- 1 Playfully tap on the nose
 - 5 Hindu Mr.
 - 9 Step after lather
 - 14 Throw a ball for a strike, say
 - 15 Intl. price-setting group
 - 16 Fake
 - 17 Like helium and carbon dioxide
 - 19 Object of wishful thinking?
 - 20 Sealed with a knot
 - 22 Symbols of Egyptian royalty
 - 23 Was known as
 - 26 Instrument that Hermes made from
 - 28 Tortoise shell and reeds, in myth
 - 29 Sunburn soother
 - 29 "I haven't the foggiest"
 - 33 Secrecy-enforcing contract, for short
 - 36 Get into it
 - 37 Indication of correctness in Wordle
 - 38 Let it all out, in a way
 - 39 "Steamed ___," classic "Simpsons" sketch
 - 40 You might entertain them
 - 41 Eponym of a popular vodka brand
 - 42 "Cancel!" on a keyboard

- Down**
- 1 Aired of many David Attenborough documentaries
 - 2 On vacation, in work calendar shorthand
 - 3 Hooter
 - 4 They're up to no good
 - 5 Number two of six for Henry VIII
 - 6 Imitated
 - 7 Spanish smooch
 - 8 Bay Area sch.
 - 9 D&D or WoW, e.g.
 - 10 This is how rumors get started
 - 11 Meaningless



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DANCE GALA

November 10 & 11 / 7:30 p.m. / Hancher Auditorium

Co-produced by the Department of Dance, Performing Arts Production Unit, and Hancher Auditorium

The Department of Dance presents a rich program of both new and restaged works by faculty members and creative collaborators as well as a work by distinguished guest choreographer Aaron Samuel Davis.

\$5 UI Students | \$10 Non-UI Students and Youth (17+ under) | \$15 Seniors (65+) | \$20 Adults

GET TICKETS: [HANCHER.UIOWA.EDU/2023-24/DANCE-GALA](https://hancher.uiowa.edu/2023-24/dance-gala)



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Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Paris Sissel in advance at (319) 467-4849 or at paris-sissel@uiowa.edu.

The Daily Iowan

PREGAME

EVERY FRIDAY BEFORE GAME DAY

WEEKLY WAGER - COVER STORY
TEAM ROSTERS - BIG GAME GUIDE
POWER RANKINGS - KID CAPTAIN
ONE ON ONE INTERVIEWS



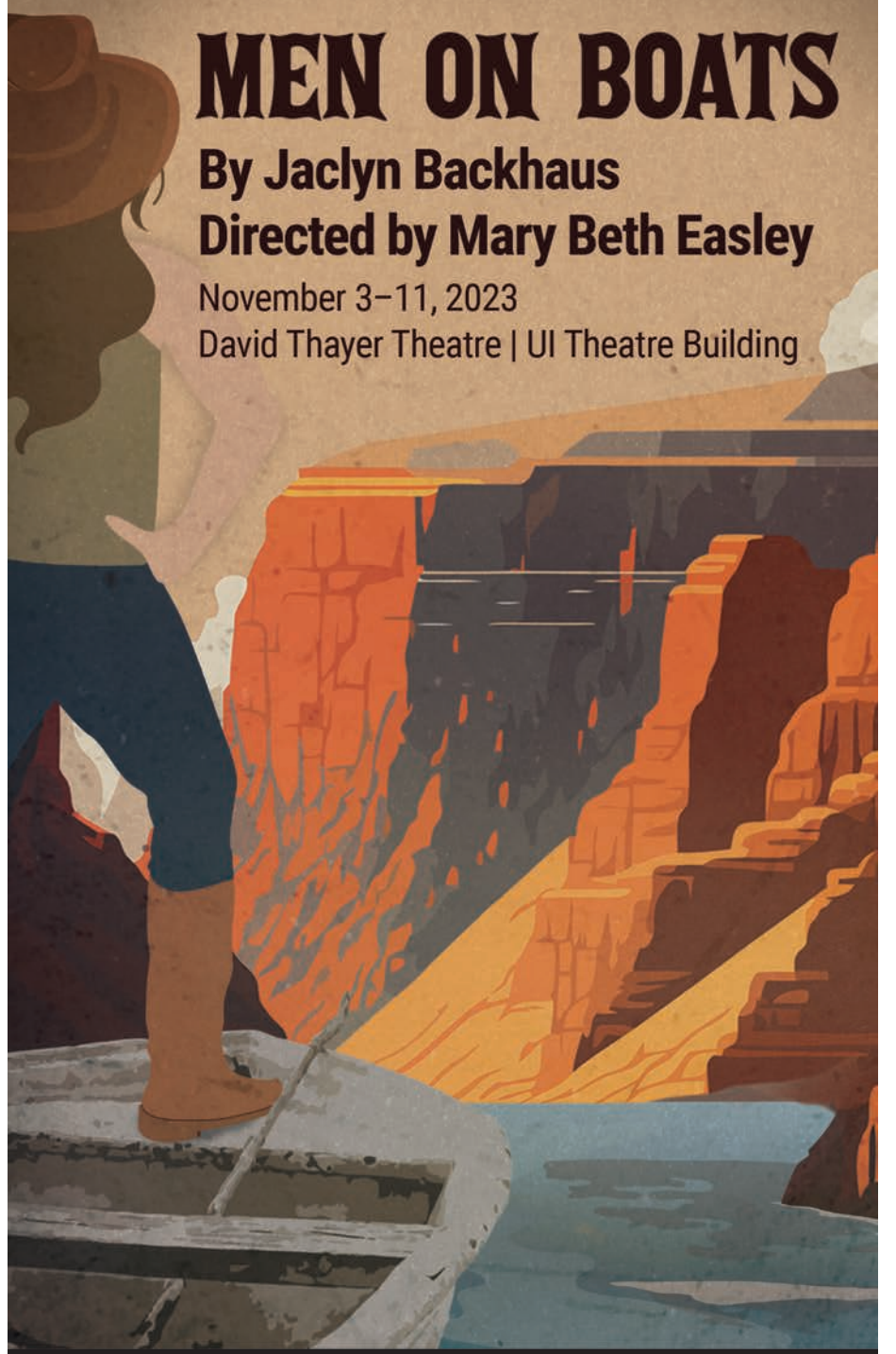
MEN ON BOATS

By Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Mary Beth Easley

November 3–11, 2023

David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building



GET TICKETS: [THEATRE.UIOWA.EDU/EVENTS](https://theatre.uiowa.edu/events)

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IOWA Theatre Arts

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TAKÁCS QUARTET

Thursday, November 9 / 7:30 p.m.
The Englert Theatre

Formed in Budapest in 1975, the Takács Quartet garnered international attention two years later by winning first prize and the critics' prize at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France. Now the quartet-in-residence at the University of Colorado, the Takács is renowned for "marrying aristocratic elegance and red-blooded energy to everything they play." (*Seen and Heard International*) Presented at The Englert to increase the immediacy of the performance, the concert will put the audience up close to one of the world's legendary string quartets.

TICKETS
Adults \$40
Students & Youth \$10

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MIDORI AND FESTIVAL STRINGS LUCERNE

Tuesday, November 14 / 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium

Grammy Award-winning violinist Midori made her professional debut with the New York Philharmonic in 1982—when she was 11 years old. In 2021, she was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honor for her lifetime artistic achievement. Rightly recognized as one of the most outstanding violinists of our time, she is also an activist and educator who is devoted to crafting connections between music and the human experience. *The Washington Post* says, "Midori is still the singular sound of familiar from her long affiliation with the virtuosic standards: big, focused, strongly projected, uncannily smooth and consistent bowing across a broadband spectrum of volume and color."

TICKETS
Adults \$75 / \$55
Students & Youth \$10

HANCHER EVENT PARTNERS
Robert J. & Sue B. Latham



ROOMFUL OF TEETH AND GABRIEL KAHANE

Thursday, November 16 / 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium / Onstage Seating

A HANCHER CO-COMMISSION

Founded to "mine the expressive potential of the human voice," Roomful of Teeth delivers performances that can be summed up in a single word: exquisite. The Grammy-winning ensemble—self-described as a "vocal band"—is dedicated to creating and performing meaningful and adventurous music that amplifies voices old and new. *The Boston Globe* says, "Experimentation may be this group's calling card, but its essence is pure joy."

Gabriel Kahane is a composer and singer-songwriter who has collaborated with and composed for everyone from Sufjan Stevens to the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

TICKETS
Adults \$25
Students & Youth \$10

HANCHER EVENT PARTNERS
Mark & Fran Lundy

\$10 STUDENT & YOUTH TICKETS

HANCHER AUDITORIUM

→ LEARN MORE AND GET TICKETS AT [HANCHER.UIOWA.EDU](https://hancher.uiowa.edu)

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Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Paris Sissel in advance at (319) 467-4849 or at paris-sissel@uiowa.edu.