

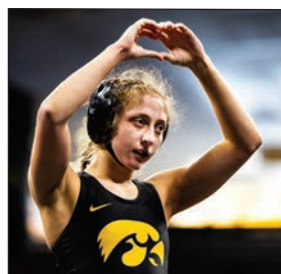
INSIDE



UI psych professor identifies link between pigeon brains and AI

Researchers in the study measured intelligence by showing pigeons a series of circles to categorize.

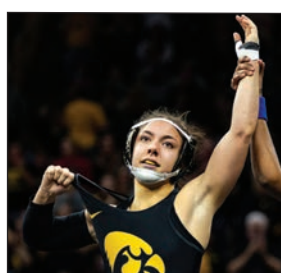
NEWS | 3A



Putting a pin in history

No. 3 Iowa women's wrestling made history on Sunday, hosting the first women's wrestling dual in Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

PHOTO | 8A



Lily Luft inspired by late brother

The Iowa first-year is known for her success on the mat.

SPORTS | 1B



Spectacle at Spectrum Center

No. 3 Iowa defeated No. 8 Virginia Tech, 80-76, at Spectrum Center in Charlotte, N.C.

PHOTO | 4B



Budding playwrights see the stage

Riverside Theatre's debut Playmaker's Project brings elementary students' plays to the big stage.

80 HOURS | 1C

ONLINE

• Listen to the latest episodes of *The Daily Iowan's* two podcasts, *Above the Fold* and *Press Box Banter*, where we cover the latest news and talk sports at dailyiowan.com.

• Look out for *The Daily Iowan's* coverage of the last home game of the season against Illinois on Nov. 17 at dailyiowan.com.

• Follow *The Daily Iowan's* politics coverage of Thanksgiving Family Forum held by The Family Leader, a Christian conservative group on Nov. 17. The event will feature presidential candidates.

DITV

Streamed live at 8:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Always available on dailyiowan.com

EXPLAINER

UIHC expands presence

The UI now owns Mercy Iowa City, a 150-year-old community hospital.

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After a months-long process with enough plot twists to keep those following the case on the edge of their seat, the future of health care access and coverage in Iowa City will be unified under one umbrella after the University of Iowa acquired Mercy Iowa City.

Mercy Iowa City, one of the oldest and longest-running hospitals in the state, was officially sold to UI on Nov. 6 after a bankruptcy court approved the sale.

But the UI's process to obtain Mercy has been a months-long process that at one point saw it lose in an auction for the hospital before decisions were reversed in the UI's favor.

Mercy Iowa City's bankruptcy filing

The case started when investors and creditors of Mercy Iowa City filed a petition with the courts on July 24 for the hospital to be placed in receivership. The plaintiffs noted that Mercy had been going through a period of negative cash flow, its liquidity having declined by \$42 million when the receivership request was filed.

Mercy had also received notice that it defaulted on bonds it received after the hospital had its credit rating decrease in May.

In response, Mercy asked a judge to dismiss the case shortly after the plaintiffs' receivership request and argued it worked to improve its financial situation. Mercy filed a second petition with the courts on Aug. 4 for the case to be dismissed.

Then days later, on Aug. 7, the hospital announced it had filed for bankruptcy. That same day, the UI announced its intention to acquire Mercy.

Mercy and the UI signed a letter of intent to merge the two entities with the goal of preserving health care access in Iowa City.

"Mercy Iowa City leadership did approach us and ask us to submit a bid, to continue their long tradition of health care in our community and beyond," UI President Barbara Wilson said during the regents' meeting.

This meant that the UI would receive Mercy's real estate, employees, equipment and sup-

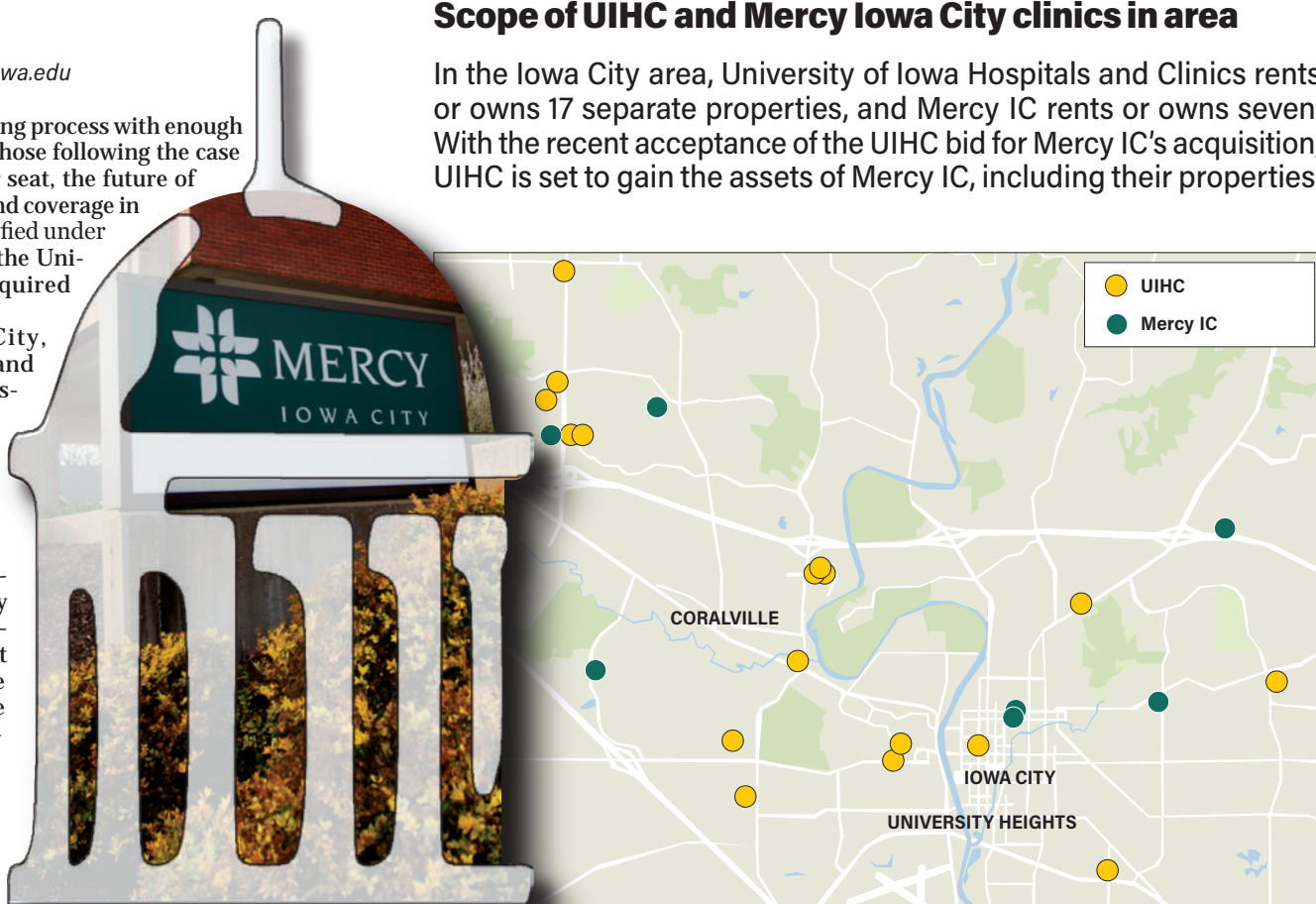
plies, and active business operations, although it would not take on the hospital's debts.

The UI and Mercy would subsequently file an agreement with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Iowa, aiming to have a deal completed by November.

Prolonged bankruptcy auction

Little would happen until September when the UI submitted a "stalking horse bid" in the bankruptcy proceedings. This early bid did a few things. First, it set the floor price for any subsequent bids; in other words, other bids

UIHC | 2A



Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan



Wilson

Hunters flock to Iowa for pheasants

Because of warmer winters in past years, the pheasant population in Iowa is resurfacing.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Aaron Ohlsen walks through a prairie during pheasant hunting season at the Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area in Oxford, Iowa, on Nov. 3. The pheasant population increased over 15 percent since 2022, according to a roadside survey where there were 23 birds per route.

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Hunters from across the country are heading to Iowa for this year's pheasant hunting season, which has seen the highest population of pheasants in the state since 2015.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources reported in the Iowa August Roadside Survey

that the number of pheasants present in the area was the highest it had ever been since 2015. The department collected this information by driving 218 30-mile routes along Iowa regions between Aug. 1-15.

The most populated areas with pheasants include the rural northeast and southwest regions of the state. In 2015, the average number of pheasants counted along these 30-mile routes was 23.2, which decreased until this

year, averaging 22.5 in 2023.

According to AZ Animals, Iowa is No. 5 among the top 20 states that are best for pheasant hunting. The highest population of pheasants in Iowa was in 1963, with the average number of pheasants in the state being 78.7.

The Iowa DNR has since stepped in by identifying low-population pheasant areas and has undergone habitat management building within those areas to increase the pheasant population.

"Our [pheasant] population can sustain a much higher, we just don't have hunters back yet," Mick Klemesrud, an information specialist with the Iowa DNR, said. "We should be harvesting over 500,000 birds."

Pheasant season is an economic boost for the rural regions of Iowa, whose communities cater to pheasant hunters from across the country, Klemesrud said.

In addition, certain small towns hold events like the annual "Tail and Spur" contest put on by the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City, Iowa, which has a population of 1,708 people.

The contest judges thousands of hunters for the one who holds the pheasant with the longest tail — this year's winner came in at 23 inches.

Female pheasants, referred to as hen pheasants, will move their chicks to the side of the road where the 218 routes are based, enabling Iowa DNR Enforcement and Wildlife Bureau personnel to count the female pheasants' broods, which is the number of chicks within their nest.

Mild winters breed a growing population

From 2007 through 2012, Iowa was hit with a series of harsh winters. Because of the past winters from 2020 to the present, in which tem-

PHASANTS | 3A

New UI food pantry location sees more foot traffic

The food pantry moved to its new home in the Iowa Memorial Union basement in August.

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Since its relocation to the basement of the Iowa Memorial Union, the University of Iowa food pantry has seen its number of clients nearly double since last year.

The UI food pantry was opened by a group of students in 2016 and in a secluded back hallway of the IMU. The pantry has utilized a new location since August and has significantly more storage space and a new organized look that is inviting for clients.

More storage has been crucial for the pan-

try because of the drastically rising number of clients. Stephanie Beecher, the UI's basic needs coordinator, said the pantry saw 1,046 clients throughout October, compared to only 629 in October of 2022.

The number of pounds of food distributed in October 2023 was 10,524, compared to 7,428 pounds in October 2022.

There has also been a shift among clientele who utilize the pantry. Graduate students have always made up around 60 percent of the people who use the pantry's resources. Since the relocation, however, undergrad clients have increased by 20 percent since the 2022-2023 school year, according to the UI basic needs

annual report.

Beecher attributes these upward trends to the increased visibility of the food pantry.

"It's destigmatized. When you're down in the basement of the IMU, there's the Hawk Shop, there's the Marketplace, and people are coming and going," Beecher said. "It's no big deal to be down there."

Beyond the statistics, Beecher said the pantry is a basic needs hub at the university.

"I think the biggest thing that I've noticed, especially with the new space, is it creates this community of care framework," she said. "It's really inspiring to see how our community is

PANTRY | 2A

UIHC
from 1A

would have to be worth more than the UI's bid.

Per court filings, the UI would acquire Mercy and its assets unchallenged if no other bid was made by Oct. 2 at 5 p.m.

For weeks, no other bids were entered, making it appear as though the UI would receive the hospital and related assets unchallenged. But court filings on Oct. 2 revealed that an unknown party had made a valid bid for the hospital.

According to the rules for the auction, any competing bids would have to match the UI's \$20 million, plus an additional breakup fee of \$800,000 and a required bid increment of \$100,000. As a result, the competing bid would have likely equaled a minimum of \$20.9 million.

With a competing bid made, the bankruptcy proceedings would head to auction for later in October.

The auction was briefly postponed following a continuance to allow for negotiations, although court documents stipulated that a final decision would be reached by Oct. 10.

The sale hearing would end up being postponed on Oct. 9 after Mercy filed a motion to move it, citing ongoing and unresolved negotiations for the sale. Behind closed doors, the negotiations would continue between Mercy, the UI, a committee of unsecured creditors, and the still unnamed bidder.

But on Oct. 10, the original date for when the final decision would be reached, the winner of the auction was revealed — Preston Hollow Community Capital. A private equity company based in Dallas, Texas, Preston Hollow was one of Mercy's bondholders, and it had teamed up with for-profit company American Health Systems to launch the successful bid.

In a press release shortly after being named the auction winner, Preston Hollow outlined its intention to keep Mercy as a

Auction results reversed, UI named winner

On Oct. 27, 17 days after Preston Hollow was named the auction winner, the results were changed and the UI was named as the ultimate winner.

According to court filings, the reversal came about due to "material disagreements" between Mercy and Preston Hollow. The filings revealed that Preston Hollow was unwilling to pay Mercy's debts if it were to acquire the hospital.

In comparison, the UI's bid included an obligation to fund the operating losses of the debtors on and after Dec. 1 until a closing occurred. Jamieson, in an interview from October, revealed that the UI's final bid was worth \$28 million.

In addition to the base bid, the UI had also made a commitment of \$25 million for facility upgrades and \$23 million for salaries and benefits for Mercy employees. The UI will pay for the debt of Mercy, which although the full amount is unknown, includes at least \$63 million owed to Computershare Systems and Preston Hollow, along with tens of millions more owed to other creditors.

Preston Hollow's bid was worth \$29 million, according to court documents, and a \$1 million addition was offered to its bid to convince Mercy, although the UI was still selected as the winner.

With the outcome of the auction decided, the UI would have to wait until Nov. 6 to find out if a bankruptcy court judge would approve the sale. And receive approval it did, finally closing the book.

After receiving the judge's approval, the UI put out a statement that outlined the four next steps with the acquisition now complete. The first was that all Mercy employees would retain their jobs and remain in good standing under the new ownership.

Next was that community

the firm McDermott Will & Emery Counsel, which was representing Mercy, the fee accrued between Sept. 1 and Sept. 30.

Although the UI agreed to pay Mercy's debts, its winning bid does not outline an obligation to pay for attorney's fees, meaning Mercy will have to pay the cost itself. Mercy will also have to pay any debts accrued before Dec. 1, per the language of the UI's winning bid.

History of Mercy Iowa City

Mercy celebrated its 150th anniversary in September, and its history can be traced back to 1873 when a group of four nuns first opened the hospital.

The nuns, members of the Sisters of Mercy, came to Iowa City from Davenport intending to establish a hospital. According to an article about the history of Mercy Iowa City from Our Iowa Heritage, the nuns traveled to Iowa City bringing what medical supplies and furnishings they could carry.

The building that Mercy was first established in was originally the Mechanics Academy, one of the original campus buildings of the UI in the 1850s. It was first built by the Mechanic of Iowa City for the Mechanics' Mutual Aid Association, but would later be used by the UI for varying uses, from a space for teaching classes to later being a dorm.

But by 1873, the building was being refurbished and utilized by the nuns to establish Mercy Iowa City, a hospital that served dual purposes. The main purpose was for the nuns to administer health care and aid to the Iowa City community, as was their goal from the beginning.

The other purpose was for the hospital to serve as a training ground for students interested in going into medicine. It was for this reason that the hospital entered a partnership between the UI's then-recently-established College of Medicine, and the hospital itself to provide students with first-hand experience.

The first person to be treated at Mercy, a man with tuberculosis, came on Sept. 27, 1893, a few weeks after the hospital first opened.

By 1885, however, the UI would separate from Mercy to establish its independent hospital in 1898 using funds given to it by the regents. With this separation, Mercy continued to operate as a community hospital for the area.

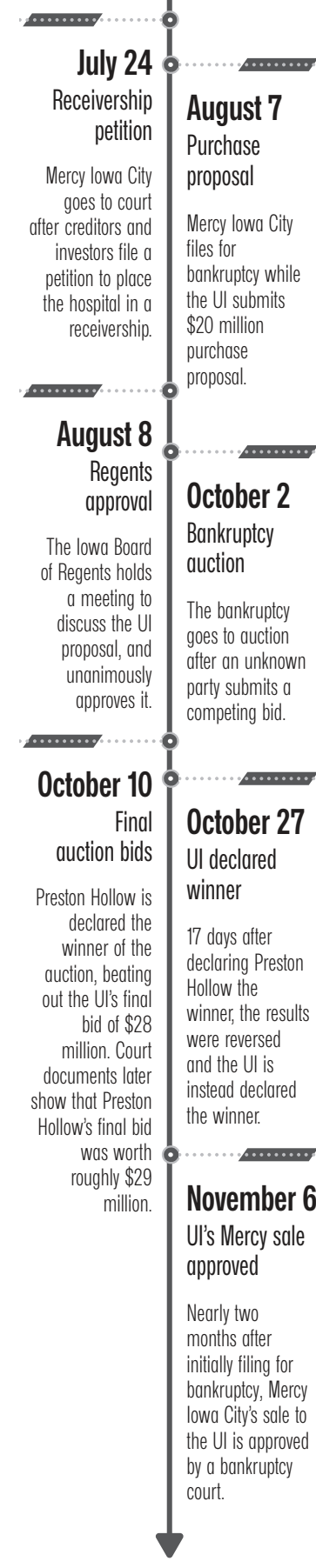
Member of MercyOne network

In 2017, Mercy would become a member of the MercyOne network based out of Des Moines. According to its website, the MercyOne network is comprised of 18 medical centers and 23 affiliated organizations in Iowa and select other states.

Locations for some of its hospitals or clinics in Iowa include Des Moines, Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Dubuque. Mercy Iowa City would first join the MercyOne network on June 1, 2017, paying an annual fee of \$2 million to the organization for its inclusion in the network.

But the partnership was short-lived, as Mercy Iowa City announced its intention to leave the network in 2021. The reasoning, it reported, was the goal to

Timeline of Mercy Iowa City's sale to UI



align itself with a different and larger organization.

An internal memo announcing its intention to sever its partnership revealed that one reason for the change was that the hospital was hoping to "further integrate its ministry into the health practices."

The change was also made at a time when the hospital, like most others, had gone through the COVID-19 pandemic, which presented it with different challenges. Despite the change in partnership, the MercyOne network promised it would continue to work with and help provide services to Mercy Iowa City.

During this time when the hospital was looking for a new entity to manage it, the UI submitted its first offer to purchase the hospital. According to the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, this offer rang out to the tune of \$605 million, or roughly 5 percent of what the UI would years later pay for the hospital.

The deal, however, never materialized, and neither did any other offers Mercy Iowa City received.

UIHC's North Liberty Hospital project

The UI would instead return its focus to building a new hospital in North Liberty, its ongoing project that is about halfway done. Construction on the new hospital began on Oct. 14, 2021, with the hospital being built roughly a mile north of the UI's research park on Forevergreen Road, and costing roughly \$525.6 million.

This is a 33 percent increase from the project's original budget of \$395 million, made to account for inflation.

The new North Liberty hospital will house UIHC's orthopedics and sports medicine, and feature a bevy of other things, including a rehabilitation gym for patients, and an onsite pharmacy for patients and the community alike, among others.

Construction for the hospital is slated to be completed in 2024, with the goal of beginning to receive patients in 2025.

"That's the most important thing for us for all along — it was how do we support community health care, because we can't take everybody over at UIHC ... That's been the challenge for a long time where we are stretched to the limit over there, and so we don't need Mercy to close because where are all these patients going to go?"

Barbara Wilson
University of Iowa President

community hospital. It was also revealed that American Health Systems would take over the operations of the hospital with the financial support of Preston Hollow's investors.

In an interview shortly after the sale results were announced, Wilson said the UI was disappointed by the outcome but happy that Mercy would at least stay open as a hospital.

"That's the most important thing for us for all along — it was how do we support community health care, because we can't take everybody over at UIHC," Wilson said. "That's been the challenge for a long time where we are stretched to the limit over there, and so we don't need Mercy to close because where are all these patients going to go?"

providers could continue practicing at Mercy under an "open medical staff model." This came after some community providers filed objections to the impending sale, including Steindler Orthopedic Clinic.

The final two commitments were that there would be no change of service for anyone who used or worked at Mercy and that the community should continue to receive its treatment at Mercy as normal.

The statement also said the two entities would officially merge in 2024.

In the meantime, those involved will have to pay attorneys' fees, which is close to \$1 million if adding up the fees for every party involved. This includes a \$649,102.80 fee from



Shuntaro Kawasaki | The Daily Iowan

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics main building is seen in Iowa City on Feb. 21. UIHC is one of many facilities that the health care system owns across eastern Iowa. IC Mercy is UIHC's newest addition to the system.

PANTRY
from 1A

saying "We need to do this, and we need to do it even better. Let's keep improving."

UI students are taking on large leadership roles at the pantry as well. Fourth-year students Faith Surface and Yunseo Ki said they put in roughly 30 hours a week working behind the scenes at the pantry while also being full-time students.

Surface said the job can be difficult because she has to take on so many different roles. But in the end, she believes she's working for a worthy cause and makes it very clear that the pantry is for any students who feel they need support in providing food for themselves and their families.

"If there's ever a question that your quality of life would be better if you were able to have your basic needs fulfilled, you qualify for the pantry," Surface said. "If you ever have an

inkling that this would help make your life easier, then it's for you."

First-year graduate student Vishuka Heenatigala Pathirana said she has used the pantry for about two months.

"It's cool because it helps us to get things here, so we don't have to go around to the other stores," Heenatigala Pathirana said. "We can find food items and other things near the university, and it really helps our time management as well as financial management."

The Daily Iowan

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UI researcher links pigeon brains, AI

The study at the UI measured pigeon intelligence by making them do sorting tasks.



Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

Edward Wasserman walks through his lab in the University of Iowa Psychological and Brain Sciences Building in Iowa City on Nov. 8. Wasserman found that pigeons learn to identify different stimuli using the same strategies as artificial intelligence.

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University of Iowa researchers are studying pigeons to better understand artificial intelligence and decision-making processes. These findings may make the term “bird brain” obsolete.

UI professor of psychology Edward Wasserman co-authored a study with Ohio State University psychology professor Brandon Turner. The duo found that pigeons learn to identify different stimuli using the same strategies as artificial intelligence.

Instructing and studying psychology at the UI since 1972, Wasserman said he has worked with pigeons for over 50 years.

“I started in human learning and found animal learning more fun, more interesting, and also more challenging,” he said.

Wasserman said to succeed, animals must adapt to the world and learn things they could never have anticipated. Additionally, to navigate their worlds they draw from past experiences like humans.

Because the world is always changing, understanding how organisms adapt to

their world is important, he added, noting that deeper questions swirl around how brains mediate these changes.

“What about our experiences changing our brains, and how do we then gen-

erate new adaptive responses based on our past?” Wasserman said. “The answer seems to be, for the pigeon, in a pretty simple way. To say that it’s a simple mechanism doesn’t mean that it can’t deal with complex problems.”

To test the mechanism, he developed a difficult task for pigeons. The study

found that the birds were able to successfully categorize images using an effective technique.

The pigeons were shown a series of circles filled with lines of differing widths

and orientations. Depending on the circles, the pigeons pressed a red button or a blue button to identify familiar stimuli.

Wasserman said the pigeons will then associate particular input stimuli with specific responses, and that feedback in the form of food makes their response stronger.

The associative mechanism used in the task is effective for pigeons, he said, but works for people and computers as well.

“Computers aren’t smart. They aren’t clever. They do what they do because we’ve put into them the learning mechanisms that you and I and pigeons use. We’re learning how the pigeon seems to work as though it’s a machine and then we understand that the machines that we’ve programmed respond as we would.”

Turner said this study shows that the power of AI may receive too much praise because the same strategies for recognition are naturally occurring in one of the humbler animals like a pigeon.

“What we see is that the same computational principles underlie both types of behaviors, so I think that that’s something that’s pretty profound,” he said.

“Computers aren’t smart. They aren’t clever. They do what they do because we’ve put into them the learning mechanisms that you and I and pigeons use. We’re learning how the pigeon seems to work as though it’s a machine and then we understand that the machines that we’ve programmed respond as we would.”

Edward Wasserman
University of Iowa professor of psychology

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found that the birds were able to successfully categorize images using an effective technique.

The pigeons were shown a series of circles filled with lines of differing widths

PHEASANT from 1A

peratures were mild, the pheasants were able to fight off exposure to cold and access food underneath ice more easily, increasing their numbers this year.

Pheasant diets typically include waste grain and other seeds available during the colder months. They also eat a variety of insects, worms, snails, or smaller animals of that caliber as they search for seeds.

Pheasants can be a difficult bird to hunt, considering their gold, brown, red, and black camouflaged feathers that blend into the prairie grounds around them. Female hen pheasants and male rooster pheasants have distinct differences in size and coloration.

Rooster pheasants are bigger than females and have green heads, red wattles with white beaks, and chestnut plumage, whilst hen pheasants are smaller, beige, with black spots all over.

Though they are capable, pheasants only take flight for short, low-to-the-ground periods.

“When you think about everything they’re enduring out there in the wild, they’re actually pretty darn Hardy animals,” Nick Martin, a hunter from Cedar Rapids, said.

There are more than 600,000 acres available to hunt on in Iowa. In Johnson County, the Hawkeye Wildlife Area in Swisher is one of the biggest, covering some of the most popular areas for pheasant hunting.

On a typical hunt, hunters are positioned in a straight line on the field about 20 yards apart to allow for the 45-degree angle zone of safe fire.

“We try to really encourage people to not just see the pheasant that you’re aiming at, but what’s in front of the pheasant or what’s behind the pheasant,” Klemesrud said.

Furry hunting friends

Some hunters are even accompanied by their dogs, who are trained to point pheasants out from yards away.

Aaron Ohlsen, a hunter in Johnson County, said he and his dog Boone — an English Setter whom he has trained since he was a puppy — often hunt for pheasants as a bonding activity.

“At the end of the day, it’s not about harvesting birds for me, it’s about just kind of having that bond with my dog and watching him work, and it’s pretty special,” Ohlsen said.

When it comes to hunting dogs, certain breeds specialize in certain things, such as spotting or tracking prey.

“The bird dogs and having pointing dogs are really kind of what sucked me in as I got older,” Martin said.

Martin’s 5-year-old Wirehaired Pointing Griffon named Sophie accompanies him on every hunt and has also been trained since she was a puppy. In January, Martin is expecting a new addition to his family — an English Setter puppy — as well as a newborn baby.

“So, the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon is a little slower, more methodical working dog,” Martin said. “It’s going to be a lot closer working compared to like a German Shorthaired Pointer.”

There are some regulations when it comes to pheasant hunting in the state of Iowa. Only male rooster pheasants can be shot, and only three can be taken home a day, with the total possession limit being 12 per season.

“The birds are out there, and people are excited to see them,” Klemesrud said. “For the bird business, it’s the prize, but the real trophy is being out there with your friends and your family and getting those memories and spending time together.”

“The birds are out there, and people are excited to see them. For the bird business, it’s the prize, but the real trophy is being out there with your friends and your family and getting those memories and spending time together.”



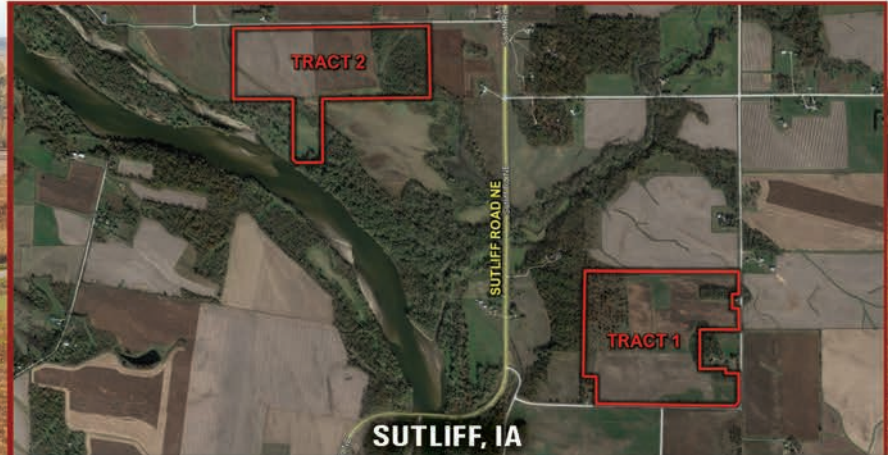
Mick Klemesrud
Information specialist with the Iowa DNR

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SMALL GAME, BIG NUMBERS

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' roadside survey found the pheasant population increased by nearly 23 birds per route in 2022.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

(Top) Aaron Ohlsen looks up from his GPS tracker during pheasant hunting season at the Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area in Oxford, Iowa, on Nov. 3. (Middle) Ohlsen looks over a shotgun during pheasant hunting season on Nov. 3. "I don't mind if I look like the Charlie Brown's great pumpkin. The more orange you can have the better, especially [when] you're hunting public land you want others to know where you're at," Ohlsen said. (Bottom left) Ohlsen gives his Llewellyn setter, Boone, water during pheasant hunting season at the Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area in Oxford on Nov. 3. Ohlsen points to consecutive mild springs and winters as the reason for the rise in pheasants this year. "It's relaxing for me even if we don't get anything. Being able to throw some orange on, carry a gun, and watch your dog do what it was put on this earth to do is pretty special," Ohlsen said. (Bottom right) Ohlsen cleans a pheasant during pheasant hunting season at his home in Oxford on Nov. 3. "It's cool to me to be able to know where your food comes from and to go out and harvest it yourself rather than go to the store and buy it, and you don't know where those things came from or how they were raised," Ohlsen said.

PHEASANT HUNTING BY THE NUMBERS

Pheasant hunting season began Oct. 28 and will end Jan. 10. Hunters, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., can harvest small game.

Since 2022, the pheasant population increased

15%

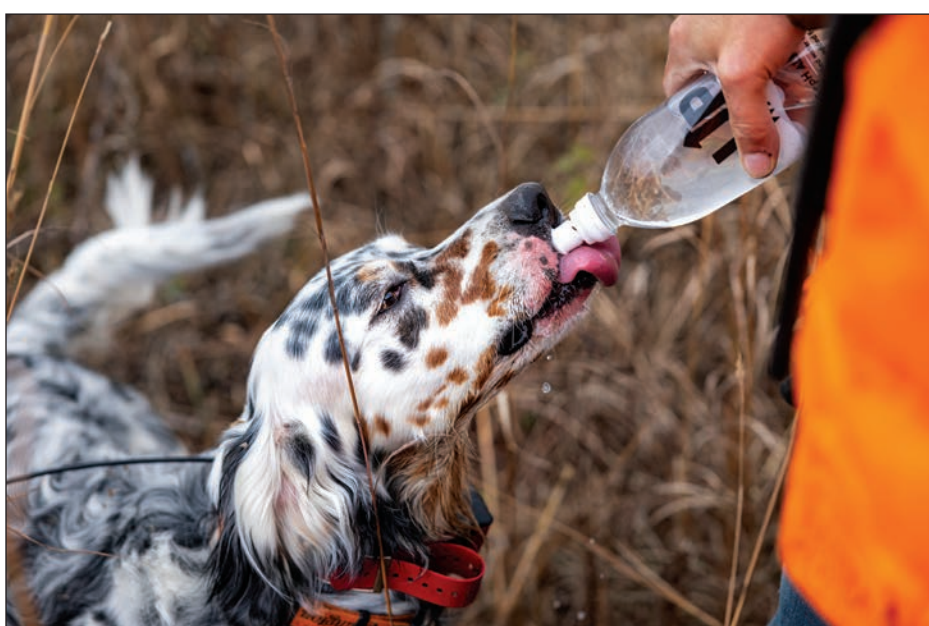
Hunters' bag limit per day for roosters is

3

Hunters must wear one external article of clothing; hat, vest, coveralls, etc. with solid blaze orange covering the surface area of at least

50%

Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan



OPINIONS

DAILYIOWAN.COM

COLUMN

Despite Caitlin Clark's success, sexism is still prevalent

Sexism in sports has been rampant for too long. Clark has helped try to change that, but it doesn't mean sexism no longer exists.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark dribbles the ball as Clarke guard Nicole McDermott defends her toward the basket during an exhibition women's basketball game between Iowa and Clarke University at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Oct. 22. The matchup marks Iowa's first game in Carver-Hawkeye Arena for the 2023-24 season. Clark played for 15 minutes and 43 seconds, scoring 24 points for Iowa. McDermott, a Cascade, Iowa, native, scored 10 points for Clarke. The Hawkeyes defeated the Pride, 122-49.



Kennedy Lein
Opinions Contributor

Caitlin Clark is changing the narrative of women's athletics, but there is still a lot of work to do in tackling rampant sexism in sports.

After finishing as the national championship runners-up last year, Caitlin Clark and the Iowa women's basketball team's 2023-24 season tickets sold out for the first time in history thanks to their unprecedented run and Clark's undisputed role as the face of the team.

Forbes Magazine wrote, for the first time, tickets for the women's Final Four were three times as expensive as the men's tickets. On top of that, the 2023 NCAA championship game averaged 9.9 million viewers and was the most watched women's basketball game final in history, according to *The New York Times*.

It is great to have a female athlete reset the sports world and become the biggest topic of conversation, but Clark's generational talent shouldn't make it acceptable for people to ignore that sexism is still prevalent in sports around the world.

Unlike the Iowa women's basketball team, other women's athletics struggle to see high attendance rates, but this is not the biggest issue within sexism in sports. The biggest issue is the degradation of women's sports on the basis of gender.

You can find this in the comments on social media posts. In the comments of a recent ESPN Instagram post detailing an upcoming women's basketball game between South Carolina and Notre Dame, people have posted jokes or criticism such as, "What is a woman?" or "Nobody will watch and not because of the time [but] because nobody cares."

This behavior reveals that there is still a lot of systemic sexism in sports, and many people use sports as a vehicle to air out their prejudices.

Many collegiate women's basketball teams still don't receive any recognition unless Clark is playing against them. Some teams are even ignored by their own schools and athletic departments on social media in favor of their male counterparts.

According to ESPN, "Of the 17 Power 5 athletic departments whose women's hoops team made the 2023 tournament but whose men's team did not, nine, or 52 percent, tweeted about their men's team more often during the regular season."

This is an embarrassing and hurtful statistic for female athletes.

There is no doubt that sexism still plagues the everyday lives of women in the U.S. If they make a mistake, if they miss a shot, or if they aren't doing things to a certain standard, they get dehumanized immediately.

Platforms such as ESPN, news networks, athletic departments and more need to do a better job of counteracting hate for women and sexist comments on their pages and in their stories. The sport is growing thanks to Clark, but these platforms need to let it grow into something beyond what past and future generations would have imagined.

COLUMN

The overlooked challenges of student veterans

The UI took a big step toward supporting student veterans. It's time for more schools to follow.



Jordan Coates
Opinions Columnist

Student veterans are not your typical college students. For many, their military experience leaves them with a need for personalized support and counseling. It's important to recognize and effectively address the mental health needs of student-veterans and the impact that mental health can have on their well-being and academic success.

In a commendable effort to improve veteran mental health outcomes, the University of Iowa has become the first Big Ten school to offer embedded counselors for student veterans.

We need to recognize that mental health problems can affect the everyday lives and academic experience of many student-veterans to offer students real solutions.

Of the approximately 19 million veterans across the U.S., at least 1 million received GI Bill benefits for higher education programs as of 2020. At the UI alone, there are approximately 608 veteran and active-military students and 1,624 military-affiliated students.

While the choice to join the U.S. military varies from homelessness and job stability to a desire for purpose, the fact remains that those who have left the military have a much harder time coping with traumatic experiences.

The purpose of veteran mental health services is to learn how to process your own emotions and how to deal with previous or current events. According to Chuck Xander, a licensed mental health counselor at the UI, "It does take a while to process what is going on and the most effective tool that we can offer is support."

Despite benefits, many veterans have reported having concerns about confidentiality and the stigma surrounding mental health that prevent them from seeking help. Even veterans with secure access to mental health resources often struggle with accepting the help.

According to Megan Schuler, a researcher at the Rand Corp. in a *Military.com* article, some outcomes of military service include underrecognized or undertreated behavioral health conditions.

"Bringing these to light can help establish that need along veteran populations and hopefully raise awareness and connect folks to treatment," Schuler said.

Mental health is important for everyone, especially those who have witnessed traumatic events such as war. More universities need to provide and bring awareness to veteran and military students with suicide prevention programs as well as mental health clinics and substance abuse services.

UI Director of Academic Resources Tara Lamb's ambitious vision to expand the program and introduce additional opportunities for students to access mental health resources includes organizing educational sessions to equip students with effective stress management techniques and help them understand how to cope with their emotions.

The UI is among the first universities to take a big step toward helping veterans with invisible wounds that need unique care. By working together, we can enhance the quality of care that we provide to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our country.

COLUMN

Iowa must ban the private sale of fireworks statewide

Banning the sale of fireworks to individuals is important due to the harm they can cause without precautions.



Caden Bell
Opinions Columnist

Every year, eruptions of freedom are shot into the sky at the private homes of many Iowans.

While fireworks are an exciting tradition for holidays such as the Fourth of July and New Year's, they can trigger those with post-traumatic stress disorder as well as frighten pets, children, and the elderly. Fireworks can also cause gruesome injuries if used improperly.

The explosives are seen as a staple of holiday celebrations but have the potential to cause too much harm for personal use to be allowed. Iowa should ban the sale of fireworks to individuals and only allow public officials to use fireworks, reversing the 2017 law that allowed the private sale of fireworks in Iowa.

Firework shows are often conducted by licensed professionals with fire crews nearby to help if any accidents were to happen. When private citizens obtain fireworks, they are often untrained and do not have safeguards in case of emergencies.

A study from the University of Iowa Department of

Public Health revealed a 12 percent increase in ER visits since allowing the sale of fireworks. Many patients were left with burns, lost limbs, or even died due to firework accidents, showing that momentary fun can lead to life-altering injury.

Fireworks can also cause and trigger psychological damage. Many veterans in our country unfortunately suffer from PTSD from their service. Fireworks can mimic the sounds of the battlefield and cause emotional stress to those affected by PTSD.

While cities and businesses announce the time and location of their firework shows, private individuals rarely announce when and how long they will shoot fireworks, increasing the potential to inflict stress on those with PTSD.

It is also extremely difficult to escape the sound of fireworks; though only two minutes at 110 decibels is enough to damage one's hearing — as loud as 160 decibels. The quick thrill of fireworks is also a slap in the face to those who have served our country and to others with PTSD, as well as those with sensitivity to loud noises.

Many argue fireworks are a personal freedom used to celebrate holidays, but the stress and potential damage outweigh the personal freedom of the individual.

Banning fireworks from individual sale but allowing the explosives for cities and businesses with permits is a fair trade off. This way, people will still be able to enjoy fireworks but in a safe, pre-planned environment.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Attendees observe fireworks shoot off after the 2022 Iowa City Jazz Festival on July 2, 2022. Thousands of people piled onto the Pentacrest lawn to observe the show.

While fireworks are a fun way to celebrate the Fourth of July or New Year's, private individuals owning and using them pose a steep risk. A ban on individual sale would help prevent the possibility of injuries and ease the stress of young children, pets, and those with PTSD. It is time we retract the law allowing private sale of fireworks in Iowa.

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PUTTING A PIN IN HISTORY

No. 3 Iowa women's wrestling made history on Nov. 12, hosting the first women's wrestling dual in Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Over 8,000 fans attended the historic dual.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's No. 2 143-pound Ella Schmit grapples with Lindenwood's Alana Duggan during the Trailblazer Duals between No. 3 Iowa, No. 6 Sacred Heart, No. 13 Presbyterian, and No. 11 Lindenwood at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 12. Iowa women's wrestling made history on Sunday, hosting the first women's wrestling dual in Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Schmit defeated Duggan by decision, 8-0. The Hawkeyes defeated Presbyterian, 44-1, Lindenwood, 43-0, and Sacred Heart, 40-4.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's No. 5 109-pound Ava Bayless gives love to the crowd during the Trailblazer Duals between No. 3 Iowa, No. 6 Sacred Heart, No. 13 Presbyterian, and No. 11 Lindenwood at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 12. Bayless outscored her three opponents, 30-0.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan







The Iowa women's wrestling team walks out before the Trailblazer Duals between No. 3 Iowa, No. 6 Sacred Heart, No. 13 Presbyterian, and No. 11 Lindenwood at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 12. There were over 8,000 people in attendance at the arena.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's 130-pound Lily Luft wrestles Sacred Heart's Bayley Trang during the Trailblazer Duals between No. 3 Iowa, No. 6 Sacred Heart, No. 13 Presbyterian, and No. 11 Lindenwood at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 12. Luft defeated Trang by technical superiority, 11-0.

OVERALL IOWA DUAL SCORES

	IOWA	44	Presbyterian	1	
	IOWA	43	Lindenwood	0	
	IOWA	40	Sacred Heart	4	



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa head coach Clarissa Chun hugs Iowa's No. 9 101-pound Sterling Dias during the Trailblazer Duals between No. 3 Iowa, No. 6 Sacred Heart, No. 13 Presbyterian, and No. 11 Lindenwood at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 12. Iowa is the only Power Five school with a women's wrestling program.



PREGAME: Iowa vs. Illinois

Check newsstands Nov. 17 for *The Daily Iowan's* 11th edition of Pregame.

INSIDE 2B:

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

THE MOST COMPLETE HAWKEYE SPORTS COVERAGE

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WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Lilly Luft inspired by late brother

The 130-pounder from Charles City, Iowa, is known for her success on the mat.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's 130-pound Lilly Luft shows off the tigerhawk on her uniform during the Trailblazer Duals between No. 3 Iowa, No. 6 Sacred Heart, No. 13 Presbyterian, and No. 11 Lindenwood at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 12. Iowa women's wrestling made history on Nov. 12, hosting the first women's wrestling dual in Carver-Hawkeye Arena. The Hawkeyes defeated Presbyterian, 44-1, Lindenwood, 43-0, and Sacred Heart, 40-4.

Brad Schultz
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The Iowa women's wrestling program took the mat on Nov. 4 for the first time in program history. Iowa is the first Power Five university to implement a women's wrestling team,

and others are sure to follow. For each of the 28 wrestlers on the squad, it's more than just winning a match or leading your team to victory. It's about inspiring young women across the country to pursue their dreams while drawing inspiration from their own role models. For Iowa first-year Lilly Luft, the sport of wrestling stretches far bigger than the mat.

While most family members watch from the stands, Luft's biggest fan was her late brother.

Tragedy strikes

Lilly grew up in Charles City, Iowa, a small town of just over 7,000 people tucked into the northeast corner of the state. She is the youngest of three siblings —

Logan, Landon, and Lilly. All three siblings were referred to as the "Three L's" because of their close bond with each other.

In the summer of 2017, Logan Luft was 15 years old and gearing up for his first year at Charles City High School.

Among his passions were hunting, fish-

LUFT | 3B

SOCCER

Iowa breaking records

Iowa women's soccer team sets new attendance record.



Henry Tran | The Daily Iowan

The University of Iowa's soccer team celebrates a goal in the first round game of the NCAA women's soccer tournament against Bucknell University on Nov. 10. The game was hosted at the University of Iowa Soccer Complex.

Isaac Elzinga
Sports Reporter
isaac-elzinga@uiowa.edu



Cary

The Iowa women's soccer team hosted its first NCAA Tournament match in program history on Nov. 10 and defeated the Bucknell Bison, 2-0.

The Hawkeyes were not expecting to have a home matchup in the NCAA Tournament this season. There were questions on whether the team would even qualify for the NCAA Tournament, but after a historic run in the Big Ten Championships where the Hawkeyes became the first eight-seed to take home the title, Iowa earned an automatic spot in the NCAA Tournament.

"I'm a bit embarrassed because when we played Maryland at home in what we thought was our last home game, I was the first one crying like a baby," fifth-year defender Samantha Cary said ahead of the match with

Bucknell. "That place and that field just means so much to all of us. It's our home, it's our foundation, and to be able to play one more game on that field and to be able to cherish every moment and bring the NCAA Tournament through Iowa City is an honor."

Senior goalkeeper Macy Enneking said hosting an NCAA Tournament game is a big step for the program and a great opportunity to showcase what the team can do for fans who may not pay much attention to Iowa soccer.

"I think it's just incredible to have the ability to extend into the postseason in general," veteran midfielder Josie Durr said. "To get into a place where we can have a home game on top of that is pretty awesome. I think the crowd showing out also just took it up to the next level. It really puts into perspective how much these games mean to our program."

The Hawkeye faithful showed up for the historic night in Iowa City with 2,639 people in attendance. That shattered the previous attendance record of 1,847 set in 2015 against Ohio State.

"I've never played in front of that many people. It was a

SOCCER | 3B

FOOTBALL

'It was just a matter of time'

Transfer wide receiver Kaleb Brown bounces back after slow start at Iowa.

Cooper Worth
Pregame Reporter
cooper-worth@uiowa.edu



Brown

Heading into Iowa football's Week 10 matchup against Northwestern, wide receiver Kaleb Brown was almost non-existent on offense.

Much was said on whether the transfer from Ohio State would significantly impact an Iowa team in desperate need of a receiving threat after losing tight ends Luke Lachey and Erick All for the season to injury.

In Iowa's last two games — beating Northwestern and Rutgers to take control of the Big Ten West — Hawkeyes fans have seen a glimpse of the potential from the second-year wideout.

Hailing from Chicago, Brown has had an increased role in Iowa's offense over the last two weeks because starting wide receiver Diante Vines is out with an injury.

The second-year has recorded over 70 all-purpose yards on six touches the last two contests and scored his first collegiate touchdown against Rutgers.

"It was just a matter of time for the whole thing to get rolling," Brown said following Iowa's 22-0 win over the Scarlet Knights.

Sixth-year wide receiver Nico Ragaini said Brown making the most of his opportunity is a classic example of backups stepping up when needed.

"I'm proud of Kaleb — he works hard every single day, all the time," Ragaini said at the post-game press conference.

For those who have watched Brown throughout his career, seeing him not make big-time plays out on the field might have been odd. Brown was a four-star recruit and second-ranked player in Illinois coming out of St. Brieta High School, finishing with over 3,700 all-purpose yards and 47 total touchdowns.

Despite receiving offers from schools such as Alabama, Michigan, and Notre Dame, Brown committed to Ohio State, which is known for churning out NFL wide receivers such as Michael Thomas, Terry McLaurin, and Garrett Wilson.



Ragaini

BROWN | 3B

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- Men's basketball**
Friday, Nov. 17
vs. Arkansas State
7 p.m., Big Ten Plus and Hawkeye Radio Network
- Women's basketball**
Thursday, Nov. 16
vs. Kansas State
7:30 p.m., FS1 and Hawkeye Radio Network
- Men's wrestling**
Sunday, Nov. 19
vs. Drake
6 p.m., FS1 and Hawkeye Radio Network
- Women's Wrestling**
Nov. 17-18
at Missouri Valley College Open
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History for Clark

Clark
On Nov. 12 against Northern Iowa, Caitlin Clark became the all-time leading scorer in Iowa women's basketball history, breaking former Hawkeye great Megan Gustafson's record of 2,804 career points. Late in the third quarter against the Panthers, the star guard hit a turnaround jumper in the post while drawing a foul. After her free throw, Clark reached 2,807 points in her storied career. Clark has played 103 games over four seasons, leading the Hawkeyes to a national championship appearance last season. That year, Clark averaged 27.8 points per game while converting 47.3 percent of her shots from the field, earning All-American status from the Associated Press.

Clinching the west

Higgins
The Iowa football team clinched a share of the Big Ten West title with its first shutout of the season against Rutgers last weekend. The Hawkeyes have dealt with gambling issues, injuries, and the announcement of offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz's release at the end of the season. The Hawkeyes can clinch the title outright with a win over Illinois on Saturday in the final regular season game at Kinnick Stadium. Iowa last made the Big Ten Championship in Indianapolis in 2021 and fell to Michigan, 42-3. "We've done a great job of just staying together, and that's what you're going to get out of an Iowa team," starting linebacker Jay Higgins said. "I mean, as players, it's our job to follow our leader, and with coach Ferentz being the leader that he is, I don't think there's any surprise when it comes to us being as close as we are."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You walk into one of the hotel rooms and it's just the entire offensive line sitting on the beds and on the ground playing iPhone games together."
Iowa quarterback Deacon Hill

STAT OF THE WEEK

402
The number of yards the Iowa offense gained against Rutgers.

CROSS COUNTRY

Post-season runners reflect

Top finishers recall Iowa's improvements during the 2023 season.



Kathy Le | The Daily Iowan

The University of Iowa women's cross country team warms up at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility in Iowa City on Sept. 21. The Iowa women earned a combined total of 23 personal-best times this season.

Mia Boulton
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The Iowa women's cross country season came to a close on Nov. 10. After failing to qualify for the NCAA Championships with a 19th-place team finish at the NCAA Midwest Regional meet, the Hawkeyes reflected on their growth this season, on and off the course. "This season, we have grown in just about every way," fourth-year distance runner Amber Aesoph said. "It's just hard to see it on the stats sheet. We've made so many improvements that will help us down the road, but it is just going to take time." The season began with a 4,000-meter race at Iowa's home meet, the Hawkeye Invitational. During the debut meet, the

Iowa women finished second as a team with 37 points total. This is the best team result the Hawkeye women would receive all season.

The rest of the regular season consisted of lower finishes and higher team point total, but what no one can see on a scoresheet is the improvement the Hawkeye women were experiencing during training. "I would say our biggest improvements came at practice," fourth-year distance runner Kelli Totic said. "It also helped as we learned how to prepare for meets." Fourth-year Abby Ryon believes the tough practices and preparation gave the team the confidence they needed for the biggest meets

of the year — the Big Ten Championships and NCAA Midwest Regionals.

"We have that confidence of knowing what we need to do and just tweaking little things along the way," Ryon said. "That way we can be our best selves when it comes to races like regionals." Not only did the team come together at practice, they also bonded outside of running more than ever. Totic attributes this factor to Iowa first-year assistant distance coach Shayla Houlihan. "[Houlihan] has done a great job unifying us outside of practice," Totic said. "There was even one time in the fall when she encouraged us all to go to an apple

orchard together and bond. It was really fun."

The team's friendship outside of the sport only improved their results. As the season progressed, the Iowa women earned a combined total of 23 personal-best times.

"We have learned a lot about each other as the other season has progressed," Houlihan told Hawkeye Sports following Iowa's Big Ten Championship race.

Another highlight of the season were the newcomers the team was able to utilize. First-year distance runners Cameron Kalaway and Clare Kelly was able to gain valuable experience on the course for the Hawkeyes. This proved helpful for the women's squad as the middle of the pack became riddled with inconsistencies throughout the season.

"We all have a role," Aesoph said. "If someone isn't having a good day, that's when you need to step in and have their back. Not everyone is always going to be at the top of their game."

As for what Hawkeye cross country fans can expect to see in the future, the women's team hopes to see better team finishes and more consistency across the board.

"When we keep having to push each other and fight for the spot we're in and know it's never guaranteed," Aesoph said. "If we continue to do that and push each other in practice, we will get better results from it."

"We have that confidence of knowing what we need to do and just tweaking little things along the way."

Abby Ryon
Fourth-year distance runner

POINT | COUNTERPOINT

When should interim be removed for Goetz?

Kenna Roering
Sports Editor

NOW
There is no point in waiting to hire Beth Goetz as the University of Iowa's full-time athletic director. Since she stepped into the role on Aug. 1, she's not only shown her passion for the university but also her confidence in making difficult decisions — like letting go of offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz, son of head football coach Kirk Ferentz, at the end of this season. What might be even more impressive is that she isn't afraid to show her face after making these decisions. A day after announcing she informed Brian Ferentz his time on the Hawkeye coaching staff would be over after the bowl game, she showed up at Kirk Ferentz's weekly press conference and spoke to the media. She didn't go into detail

about the decision, but it was clear she didn't care about the interim tag in front of her name.

"I told her when she took this position, ignore the interim and do the job, and she has," University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson told *The Daily Iowan*. Goetz has also adjusted to the new era of college athletics involving NIL — something that former AD Gary Barta refused to do. She is actively involved with the SWARM, a NIL Collective that supports all 22 of Iowa's athletic teams, frequently showing up at events and voicing her support for the collective on social media. Goetz continues to garner support from nearly every head coach at Iowa, such as women's basketball's Lisa Bluder, men's wrestling's Tom Brands, and volleyball's Jim Barnes. At Big Ten Media Days in October, Bluder said not hiring Goetz full-time "would be a really, really not smart thing to do." Wilson also told the *DI* the university has not opened its search for an AD, and she "hopes" Goetz applies for the full-time position, so what are we waiting for?

Colin Votzmeyer
Assistant Sports Editor

LATER
There is no possible counterpoint surrounding whether Iowa Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz should be hired full-time — the answer is yes. The question is when, and I think right now is not the time. I have seen Gary Barta once in my life. Goetz is the opposite. She is not some obsolete, unknown figure. Every football and women's basketball game I cover, she interacts with fans and is present in every press conference. She has championed women's athletics, boosted Iowa's NIL, and informed Hawkeye football offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz he will no longer be a Hawkeye at the end of the season. Brian Ferentz's firing is a big reason why the interim tag should be removed, but not right now.

Q&A | GABBY DEERY

Iowa volleyball first-year talks favorites, activities



Gabby Deery
First-year
6-foot-2
Burlington, Iowa
Pre-dentistry major

Chris Meglio
Sports Reporter
chris-meglio@uiowa.edu

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

Gabby Deery: Obviously, I'm very busy, but when I'm not playing volleyball, I love to spend time with my family. I'm super close with my cousins. One of my cousins goes here, so it's super nice to have her up here. I love to jet ski on the Mississippi River. We live right on the Mississippi [River], so that's always so much fun. I love going to football games or basketball games. I've been to field hockey for the first time this year, and that's all been so much fun.

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

I would say pasta. I love all types of pasta. That's been my go-to since I was a kid.

What's one thing you can't live without?

I don't think I could live without my cousin's dog, Vinny.

What's your favorite sport to watch?

Other than volleyball? Basketball.

What's better: the beach or the mountains?

Beach all the way.

What's your favorite song at the moment?

Literally anything by Taylor Swift right now.

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

It probably takes me 30

minutes. And I literally wash my face, brush my teeth, put on my clothes, and brush my hair, and I'm out the door.

What's your favorite beverage?

I would say a chai tea from Starbucks.

Do you dress to impress or dress for comfort?

I dress to impress, but it's still for comfort. My style is athletic. I guess it's a "yellow flag." I try to go for a pair of Jordans with something like that — a little bit more comfy but so cute.

What would be the first thing you'd do if you won the lottery?

Oh, I would go to Paris. I've always wanted to go to Paris and to the Eiffel Tower.

How do you enjoy spending alone time?

I usually turn on a movie and just relax. I put my phone down, and I just focus on the movie.

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

The one thing I learned was in high school: It's playing for more than wins. It was my high school motto — playing for someone else, playing for your teammates in the end, [whether it's] wins or losses. There's so much more to the game than just a win.

What's your favorite social media app and why?

I would say Snapchat because it lets me connect with not only my friends from here but my friends from home and my family that lives far away. It's definitely more interesting than texting them.

SPECTACLE AT SPECTRUM CENTER

No. 3 Iowa defeated No. 8 Virginia Tech, 80-76, at Spectrum Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 9. Over 15,000 fans attended the contest.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Virginia Tech center Elizabeth Kitley goes up for a shot during the Ally Tipoff, a basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and No. 8 Virginia Tech at Spectrum Arena in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 9. Kitley shot 7-of-16 in the paint and scored 16 points for Virginia Tech. The Hawkeyes defeated the Hokies, 80-76.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Gabbie Marshall gets introduced during the Ally Tipoff, a basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and No. 8 Virginia Tech at Spectrum Arena in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 9. Marshall played for 37 minutes and 45 seconds.

IOWA'S OVERALL SCORING LEADERS



CAITLIN CLARK

44 POINTS



KATE MARTIN

12 POINTS



HANNAH STUELKE

10 POINTS



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark shoots a 3-pointer during the Ally Tipoff, a basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and No. 8 Virginia Tech at Spectrum Arena in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 9. Clark shot 5-of-16 in 3-pointers and led Iowa in points with 44.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

The Hawkeyes and the Hokies face off during the Ally Tipoff, a basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and No. 8 Virginia Tech at Spectrum Arena in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 9.

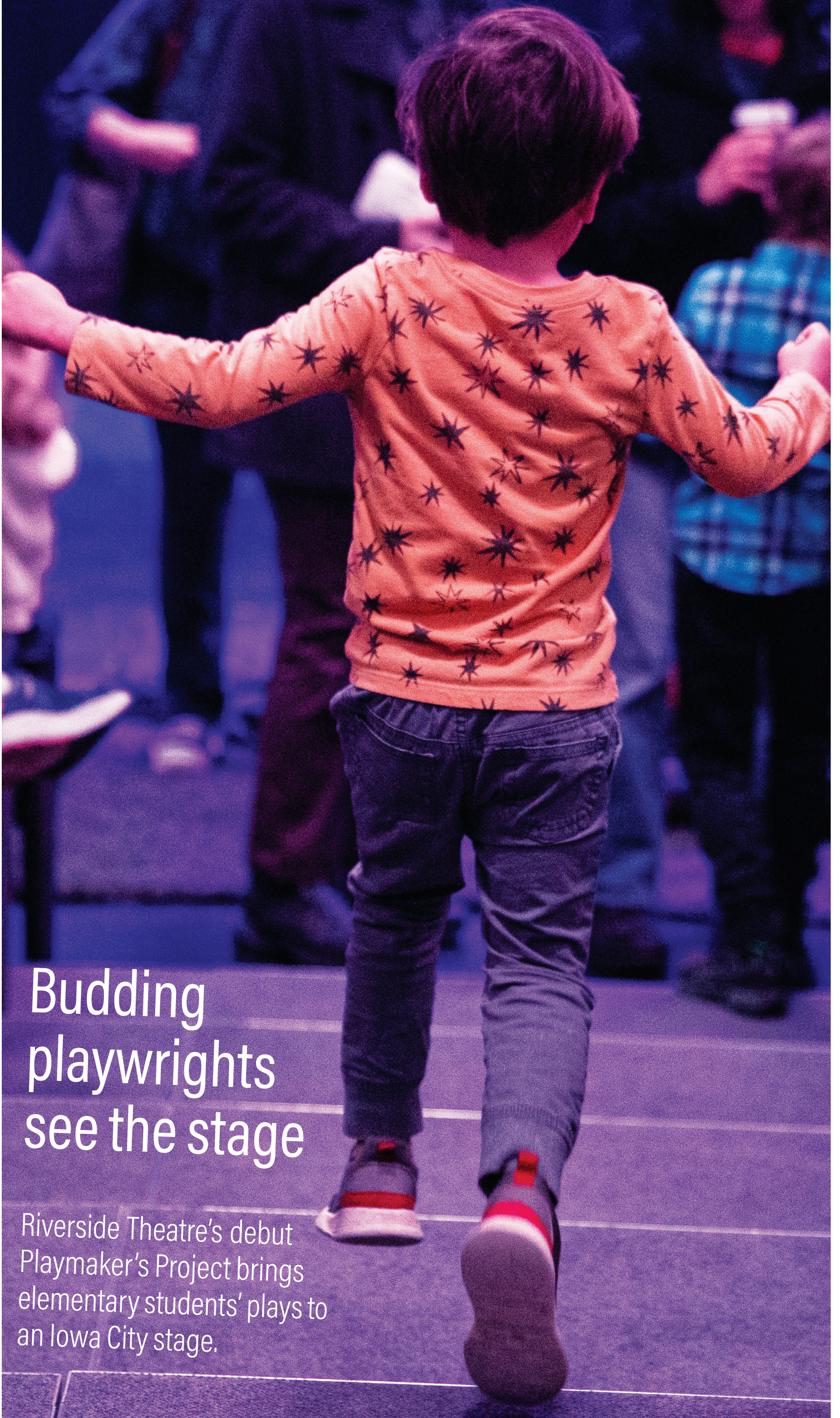


Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa fans react to winning the Ally Tipoff, a basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and No. 8 Virginia Tech at Spectrum Arena in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 9.

80 HOURS

ARTS & CULTURE | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023



Budding playwrights see the stage

Riverside Theatre's debut Playmaker's Project brings elementary students' plays to an Iowa City stage.

CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16

- COVER STORY ART EXHIBIT

This display will feature originals and prints from Iowa City illustrator Candice Broersma's personal projects and book cover commissions.

4:30 P.M. | PAPAJOHN BIOMEDICAL DISCOVERY BUILDING
169 NEWTON ROAD

- NNENNA OKORE

Artist Nnenna Okore will be in conversation with environmental historian Robert Roupail as a part of the Levitt Lecture series about the interconnectivity of lives and the natural world.

6:30 P.M. | STANLEY MUSEUM OF ART
160 W. BURLINGTON ST.

- BRETT WESTGROVE

Nashville musician Brett Westgrove is bringing his band to Iowa City for a three-night stand beginning this Thursday.

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

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17

- SCHOOL'S OUT AT THE STANLEY: FOUND OBJECT SCULPTURE

For this week's activity of Stanley's kid-centered series, participants will assemble a 3D sculpture from recycled and found materials on cardboard bases with low-temperature glue guns.

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

- UI DANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCE

This interactive program of dance and conversation will present an excerpt of their newest work, "Winning," by Stephanie Miracle.

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

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18

- NOLTE ACADEMY'S ANASTASIA JR.

The Nolte Academy will be presenting "Anastasia Jr." in the Iowa Conservatory's Workshop Theater from Nov. 17-19.

2 P.M. & 7:30 P.M. | ICON
123 N. LINN ST.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19

- SUNDAY FUN DAY: DINOSAUR EGGS!

Make colorful baby dinosaurs hatching from their eggs in the Storytime Room of the ICPL on this Sunday Fun Day.

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

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22

- SCHOOL'S OUT AT THE STANLEY: CHIHULY INSPIRED HOLIDAY ORNAMENT

Participants of the Stanley's School's Out series this week will create masterpieces of pre-melted plastic goblets and glass paint reminiscent of Dale Chihuly's glass sculptures.

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

- BEN LEVIN BAND FEAT. SAUL LUBAROFF & AARON LEVIN

24-year-old pianist, vocalist, and songwriter Ben Levin will be performing with local music producer and jazz musician Saul Lubaroff and Aron Levin at Gabe's.

7:30 P.M. | GABE'S IOWA CITY
330 E. WASHINGTON ST.

'School's Out' at the Stanley

Kids can engage in artistic activities on days when IC schools are out of session.

Caden Gantenbein
Arts Reporter
caden-gantenbein@uiowa.edu

While the typical day off from school might warrant all-day relaxation, the University of Iowa's Stanley Museum of Art offers an alternative activity to video games and snacking.

Instead of hiring a babysitter, the Stanley's new "School's Out" series offers an artistic outlet for K-12 students when school is out.

With the assistance of instructor Debra Marqusee, kids have the opportunity to make themed crafts and participate in an art-based scavenger hunt in the museum's collections.

Mahvish Farid, the Stanley's communications and marketing coordinator, said the series aims to "give kids an opportunity to explore the museum, find their favorite artwork, and have an opportunity to be in a workshop" while their parents are at work.

With a day off from school due to local elections, the Nov. 7 lesson focused on Grant Wood, the "American Gothic" painter whose history is embedded in Iowa.

In an activity about Wood's renowned landscape portraits, the children who participated created landscape portraits of their own, utilizing different textures and patterns to create in-depth and



Shuntaro Kawasaki | The Daily Iowan

Landon Gundlack, 7, creates landscape art at the Stanley Museum of Art in Iowa City on Nov. 7. The museum hosted "School's Out at the Stanley" when the Iowa City district schools had no school on Election Day.

fall-colored pieces of art.

The next series session on Nov. 17 will focus on sculpting. Students will construct a 3D sculpture of their choosing on a cardboard base with low-temperature glue guns to hold the work together.

The Nov. 22 activity will center on hol-

iday ornaments inspired by the work of Dale Chihuly, a vibrant glass sculptor. Children will be guided through using pre-melted plastic and glass paint to craft colorful ornaments to take home for decorating. The Stanley's December events are yet to be announced.

REVIEW

'Golden' dives into mind of Jungkook

K-Pop star Jungkook released an all-English pop album on Nov. 3.

Isabelle Lubguban
Arts Reporter
isabelle-lubguban@uiowa.edu

Even though all members of the South Korean boy group BTS have taken a break to fulfill mandatory military service, they refused to put their careers on the back burner, releasing individual musical albums.

One of the members, Jeon Jung Kook — who goes by the stage name Jungkook — had teased an album with the release of his summer single, "Seven," featuring musical artist Latto on July 14. The music video consisted of him stating his intentions with South Korean actress Han So Hee through a series of terrible disasters.

Because of the song's vibe, I was both stunned and pleasantly surprised by the catchy melodies and the electric guitar. It was evident that Jungkook spent time refining his English. The song wowed me and the community of K-Pop fans.

For context, throughout his early years as one of the main vocalists of BTS, he was almost always modest and never seemed like the type of artist to release a song like this one.

Featuring rapper Jack Harlow, Jungkook amped up the heat with another single, "3D," on Sept. 23. The pair channeled an early 2000s vibe and declared feelings for someone from the first, second, and third dimensions.

I admired the simple music productions in the more sad and melancholic songs on the album, like the piano in "Hate You" and "Shot Glass of Tears." The lack of instruments served to underscore Jungkook's voice in an even more pleasing way.

I found it interesting that both "Seven" and "3D" mainly had the drums and featured the electric

and bass guitars, while the most recent song, "Standing Next to You," released Nov. 2, featured a woodwind instrument alongside the bass guitar and drums that worked surprisingly well with the overall vibe.

While the song provided an experience that sounded orchestral, there were only a few more instruments added to the mix compared to other songs on the album.

The vibes, beats and melodies in "Closer," "Please Don't Change" and "Yes or No" gave off that familiar and classic pop music groove. Jungkook passionately sings about the one topic that most pop singers address that ranges from initial attraction to an almost unhealthy obsession with a stranger.

I understand the path that he took with this album, probably because love is one of the more difficult emotions that anyone can navigate. No one really has a grip on it; the heart wants what it wants, and when it doesn't have it or cannot get it in some way, the mind can spiral and fantasize.

It was enjoyable to watch an artist I've followed for years improve and grow to become a more refined version of himself. I look forward to his next albums, however many there may be.

When the album, "Golden," finally came out, I immediately took a liking to the title. It is very fitting for Jungkook as an idol, since he has been dubbed the "golden youngest" of his group many times because he does well in every song, dance and activity that he puts his mind to.

You can't ever know what love does to a person unless you experience it yourself, and I feel that is one of the main messages throughout "Golden." In almost every song, Jungkook takes a bold approach to expressing his feelings.

CARTOON



Cartoon by Avi Lapchick | The Daily Iowan



NOSTALGIA NOVEMBER

- HAPPILY | One Direction
- FIREWORK | Katy Perry
- EITHER WAY | Wilco
- BEST OF BOTH WORLDS | Hannah Montana
- SOMETHING IN THE WAY SHE MOVES | James Taylor
- WANT U BACK | Cher Lloyd

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Keep art human

One graphic design student's exhibit "Byte The Dust" displayed robots going to art school.



Sara Stumpf | The Daily Iowan

Leila Arnaut poses for a portrait next to one of her pieces of art during her BFA Exhibition "Byte the Dust" in the Visual Arts Building on the University of Iowa campus in Iowa City on Nov. 9.

Zhenya Loughney
Arts Reporter
zhenya-loughney@uiowa.edu

University of Iowa graphic design student Leila Arnaut wants to keep her art real amid the growing use of artificial intelligence.

AI Image generators, such as DALL-E and Lensa, use machine learning to produce fake pieces of art. However, those fake art pieces usually mix several pieces of real art with no credit to the original artists. Arnaut's recent exhibit, "Byte The Dust," humorously displays this machine-learning process.

Opened in the visual arts building from Nov. 6-11, "Byte The Dust" was a collection of posters designed in the software Clip Studio Paint and Adobe Illustrator. With a cute and chunky art style, the posters told the story of robots going to art school.

"Art is something by humans, for humans, and should be enjoyed by humans," Arnaut said. "It's not that I'm not open to change, because that's not the case. It's a workers' rights issue."

Arnaut's parents immigrated from Bosnia to Waterloo, Iowa, in 1997 as refugees. She is the only person in her extended family to pursue art as a career but learned the basics from watching her mother paint.

Arnaut graduates this winter, and even though she isn't entirely sure what her future holds, she will con-

tinue pursuing her dream of becoming a video game illustrator by fighting AI.

In her exhibit, the first poster displayed adorable robots wiping an artist's signature off a window, referencing the ethics behind AI using pre-existing works. Each poster had the same color scheme of muted pastel blues, pinks, and purples.

The next poster depicted an eight-bit style self-portrait of Arnaut doodling in an unfinished bedroom. The art style was reminiscent of Sanrio, a brand of well-known cartoon characters like Hello Kitty. The room was isolated in the frame with a deep blue filling up the rest of the background to display the unfinished nature of AI-generated art.

"I don't mind if people are using AI to help them decipher colors or something small like that, but if you're just typing prompts and then just getting and going with something, it's not really fair," Arnaut said.

The next few posters showed the robot characters drawing, painting, and going to art school lectures, referencing classic pieces of art, similar to what AI generators do.

"I thought it would be funny if I made them visibly upset about the fact that they can't get it right," Arnaut said. "I'm referencing other artworks like the Creation of Adam in my art because it's important to include humans in the conversation."

IC theater debuts plays written by kids

Riverside Theatre brings the writing of fourth to sixth-grade students to the stage.

Lily Czechowicz
Arts Reporter

Avi Lapchick
Arts Editor

Fourth-grade student Caroline Hodges wanted to create a story from her mind. She said she got pretty far and might put it to paper one day — if only she had the time and the space to do so.

She and 10 other students across the Iowa City Community School District participated in Riverside Theatre's Playmaker Project, which is a month-long, after-school program that brought together 11 fourth- to sixth-grade students to write nine short plays.

Unlike other elementary school writing workshops, these plays would be directed and performed by professional actors on Riverside's stage on Nov. 10-11.

Inspired by the New York-based 52nd Street Project, which has brought students and theater professionals together since 1981, Riverside's debut program sought to develop young, artistic voices, and connect them to the larger artistic community in Iowa City.

"Not every child wants to be the one on stage, and so [this program] is a way for adults in the community to validate a kid's creativity," said Kathleen Johnson, the director of outreach and education at Riverside.

Student playwrights were given just a few guidelines for their plays. They had to be between eight and ten minutes, consist of two characters who would face a conflict, and must fall under an autumnal theme. Otherwise, students had complete freedom over their plays.

"[Riverside's] feeling is that kids have this innate sense of creativity," Johnson said. "We can help lay the foundation of what a play is and [the tools] we need to write it, then hand it over to them and let them explore it on the page."

Caroline and fifth-grader Zaps Foster-Falk wrote a play together called "The Doll and the Cat" centered around friendship and revenge with doll and cat characters.

Before the project, Hodges said she often likes making her own mini books, and Foster-Falk shared they found their passion for writing after making comics in kindergarten.

However, for many of the students, this project was their first time writing a structured story, let alone an entire play that would be professionally produced.



Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

Attendees leave Riverside Theatre after "Oh My Gourd!" a Playmaker Project performance hosted by Riverside Theatre in Iowa City on Nov. 11. The project brought together 11 fourth-sixth-grade students to write nine short plays.

For the opening night performance on Friday evening, around 50 community members, friends, and family members of the playwrights occupied Riverside's intimate theater space.

Front and center sat the playwrights whose work was about to be animated by some of the theater company's returning performers, including Luke Brooks, Robert Kemp, Carrie Pozdol, Johnson, Orlando Lopez, Jessica Murillo Kemp, and even Riverside's producing artistic director, Adam Knight.

Knight shared that while other theater companies do a great job of teaching kids to be on the stage, Riverside's project has a slightly different aim.

"We want to show kids in the area that the stage is a place that can hold their stories," Knight said.

Two decades ago, Knight had the chance to witness another project inspired by the 52nd Street Project come to fruition called the Greyluck Theatre Project in Williamstown, Massachusetts. He recalled these plays being some of the most amazing pieces he had ever seen.

"Something magical happens when we validate someone's words and stories," Knight said.

In preparing for the production of their rendition of the 52nd Street Project, Knight, Johnson and Enzastiga decided to approach each kid's play with respect — as if they were "Arthur Miller or Suzan-Lori Parks," Knight said.

The actors shared a similar approach: Though some plot points or character arcs at times didn't make complete sense, the playwrights' out-of-the-box thinking was enough to make Murillo Kemp, a playwright herself, ask, "Why couldn't I think of that?"

"Especially with their imaginations, wondering how they get their ideas from point A to point B throughout the play — I kind of let go of justifying the 'why,'" Kemp said.

The plays, though all fall-inspired and limited to two characters, were vastly different from one another. From dragon enemies becoming co-rulers of the world to a love-letter triangle between the playwright and her two real-life best friends, the stories were unlike anything previously produced by Riverside.

"There's this trained adult way of thinking linearly, and then there's the wonderful minds of children who don't yet have all those structures in their minds," Kemp said. "So, it can be a wild, crazy reason for how they get from one thought to the next. As an actor, that's the challenge."

One commonality between these plays and the ones Riverside typically produces, however, was the visuals. The props, costumes, and lighting for the Playmaker Project plays were all recycled from previous productions.

For some plays, these elements were even upcycled. Small props were painted to resemble bricks for "The Fight" by

elementary playwright Emmett Enyart, and colorful lights were used to mimic the transformation after a dark magic spell goes wrong in Rowan Hall's "Changing Memories."

Fourth grader Willow Krebs' play, "The No Good Loving Bad Day," about a love triangle between three female characters, Jinx, Misty, and Serena, was a twist on real-life events.

"It was actually about friends, but I changed it into a love," Willow said about her writing process. "I don't know why I did it. I just had this secret feeling inside me that wanted to break out and turn into a play."

During the workshop, Willow was faced with the challenge of narrowing down her originally three-character play to one that could be performed by only two actors on stage. This was her first introduction to constructive criticism in a professional setting.

"[The instructors] put me back on track by tweaking a few things. They helped me in a way that kind of felt bad at first but then I thought, 'Oh, wait, this would be a great change,'" the fourth grader said.

Willow added that, if the program were to be offered next year, she would certainly re-enroll.

With soda cans in hand for the special occasion, each playwright, seated amongst each other and some younger siblings on a bed of turf in front of the stage, cheered on their fellow creatives as their plays were performed one after another.

After every play was staged, the playwrights joined each other centerstage and embraced for one collective final bow.

Full of unique dialogue and impressive comedic timing, the elementary playwrights' work had both children and adult audience members laughing with their full chests.

"Something magical happens when we validate someone's words and stories."

Adam Knight

Producing artistic director at Riverside

"I was blown away after the first rehearsal," Enzastiga said. "Yes, they were written by kids, but when performed by like professional actors and directed by professional directors, they felt like regular, adult-written productions."

While there are currently no official plans for next year's Playmaker Project, Knight expressed that the success of the debut program meant it would hopefully be the first of many.

"[Riverside] has done over 40 world premieres," Knight said at the project's opening night. "Tonight, we have 11 more."

"We can help lay the foundation of what a play is and [the tools] we need to write it, then hand it over to them and let them explore it on the page."

Kathleen Johnson

Director of outreach and education at Riverside Theatre

"In third grade, me and another group of kids kept, like lously writing plays at recess," Foster-Falk said. "We always thought we would perform them but, of course, we never performed them."

For the first four classes, the elementary students were taught about the concept of plays and playmaking with an emphasis on why plays are made in the first place. The latter half of the workshop was spent assisting the students in the creation of their plays.

Ultimately, Riverside wanted the plays to be as authentic to the playwright's original vision as possible.

"I think it takes young writers a long time to realize that their writing can become something," said Adrian Enzastiga, the co-instructor and director of the Playmaker Project. "I really wish something like this was available when I was growing up."

When it came time for the students to begin writing their plays, Enzastiga shared that he and Johnson were reluctant to give direct feedback or advice to the playwrights. Instead, they would ask the writers neutral questions about their plays that would inspire them to further develop their plots and characters.

"How did Susan die?" was a question I asked, and the playwright got to explore that in their play," Enzastiga said regarding one playwright's work, "Between Life and Death," about an unlikely friendship between a woman named Susan and a grim reaper named Grimbo.

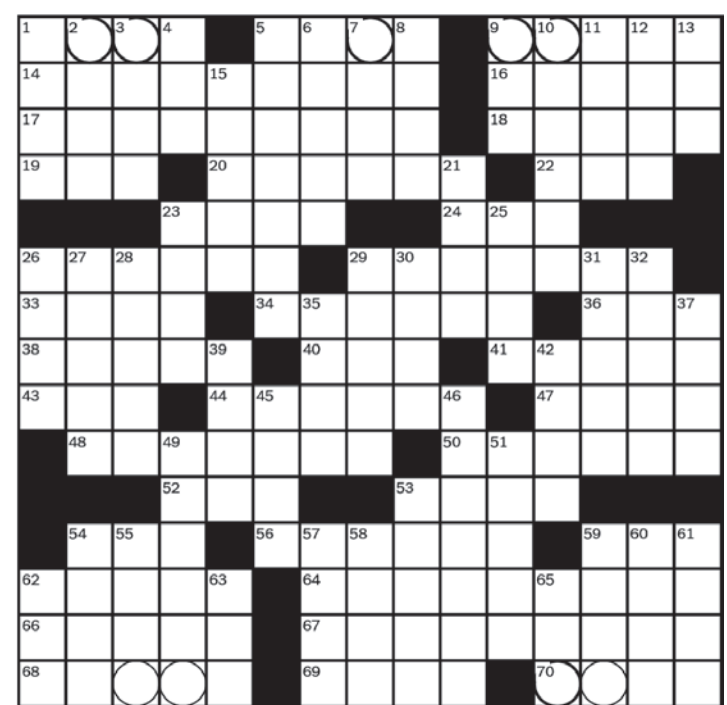
THEBREAK

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON 3B

DAILYIOWAN.COM

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1011



- Across**
- 1 Propped open, say
 - 5 People of northern Scandinavia
 - 9 Ballerina's support
 - 14 Output of the Rolling Stones, appropriately
 - 16 Real tear-jerker?
 - 17 Bit of pork, but not in a congressional bill
 - 18 Confident gait
 - 19 Pen name
 - 20 Gets old, say
 - 22 Socialize
 - 23 Forever and a day
 - 24 Airline once acquired by Carl Icahn
 - 26 Stuff it!
 - 29 Something that's red-hot in the kitchen?
 - 33 Upon
 - 34 Shut up
 - 36 Saloon sip
 - 38 Great divide
 - 40 Garlic, in Guadalajara
 - 41 Slyly derisive
 - 43 Personal quirk
 - 44 Emanates (from)

- 47 Hot spot for a chef
- 48 Scaredy-cat
- 50 Stick in a salad?
- 52 Mai ____
- 53 Nut once used as an ingredient in Coke
- 54 "Whatevs"
- 56 "Oh, settle down ..."
- 59 N.Y.C.'s ____ Cortlandt Park
- 62 "Stranger Things" kid
- 64 What pales in comparison to other carbs?
- 66 Fitting way to invest in Campbell's
- 67 Paramedic, perhaps
- 68 Test of patience
- 69 Risked a ticket, say
- 70 Three feet

- Down**
- 1 Many an Omani or Iraqi
 - 2 Musical Mitchell
 - 3 Current choice
 - 4 One of the Big Five film studios of Hollywood's golden age
 - 5 Romantic hopefuls
 - 6 Narnia lion
 - 7 George Eliot's "The ____ on the Floss"
 - 8 Beverage that can cause brain freeze
 - 9 Logan Airport code
 - 10 Marvel role for Paul Rudd
 - 11 Nickname for Rihanna
 - 12 Fat/flour mixture
 - 13 Suffix with differ
 - 15 Le Louvre, e.g.
 - 21 Eye affliction
 - 23 Yummly, SideChef and Food Monster
 - 25 Does rite by one's partner?
 - 26 Treaty
 - 27 Guiding principle
 - 28 Cook in simmering liquid
 - 29 Cuisine with [circled letters], whose ingredients are the answers to the italicized clues
 - 30 Ancient Egyptians referred to it as the "plant of immortality" because of its ability to survive without soil
 - 31 Green
 - 32 Respected figure
 - 35 Adroitness
 - 37 Itsy
 - 39 Sheet mineral
 - 42 City where 29-Down food is popular, informally
 - 45 Largest human organ
 - 46 Moved (over)
 - 49 New York home of Cornell University
 - 51 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
 - 53 Part of a place setting
 - 54 Smartphone button
 - 55 Environmental sci.
 - 57 "Wise" ones
 - 58 Beat into a froth, as cream
 - 59 "____ Las Vegas"
 - 60 Laptop brand
 - 61 Wonk
 - 62 Alternative to mushrooms
 - 63 Place for pie, idiomatically
 - 65 Word after alpha, beta or gamma

Medium

4					6		
1	2					5	
3	5	9	4	6	7		
				5			1
			3	7	8		
8		1					
		8	2	5	9	3	7
		9					2 8
		4					5

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Hard

	1			5			
2	6		3	7		9	5
	5				6		1
5			7				
3			5	4	2		7
					8		3
9	2					1	
6	8		2	7		5	9
			8				2

IC writers take on national writing challenge

National Novel Writing Month challenges aspiring authors to write 50,000 words of a novel in 30 days each year.

Riley Dunn
Arts Reporter
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Writing a novel is hard work. The act of creating a full-fledged and developed story requires time, effort, and dedication. It can be easy for many writers to become discouraged, especially if they take on the challenge of creating a world all alone.

The annual National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) that takes place every November challenges writers to break their writer's block. The kick? 50,000 words in 30 days.

Though a lofty goal, when someone enters the NaNoWriMo challenge, they are not entering alone.

In 2022, 413,295 people participated worldwide through the organization's website. Tens of thousands of these participants identified as young writers. The participation of so many people empowers writers — nicknamed "Wrimos" by the site — to feel a sense of community while climbing the word count.

University of Iowa first-year student Ella Crosby decided to take on NaNoWriMo for the first time this year. So far, she said she is enjoying the extra motivation.

Crosby is approaching the 50,000-word goal differently than the typical one-storyline approach most participants take. Instead of focusing on one specific story, she is trying to write about all the ideas in her head.

As an English and creative writing and theater arts double major, Crosby believes that NaNoWriMo will be helpful to the work she creates for school because it forces her to practice with at least a few hundred words each day.



Anthony Vazquez | The Daily Iowan

Writers from around Iowa City work on the short stories and novels at the Iowa City Public Library in Iowa City on Nov. 2, 2016. The Iowa City Public Library has hosted meetings to for writers to celebrate National Novel Writing Month most years. This is an ongoing tradition in the literary community in Iowa City.

"I felt that this year, [the challenge] was actually manageable," Crosby said. "I'm out of high school now, and the writing environment at [the UI] is really cool. It made me feel like I could actually get it done."

The UI has been instrumental in helping Crosby turn her ideas into stories, she said. A ten-page story she workshopped in a fiction writing course is now the focal point of her NaNoWriMo goals.

Though nearing the end of the fall semester — the busiest time of the year for most students — communities within the UI are still working to promote the popular challenge.

UI English Society Co-President Amritha Selvarajaguru hosted the English Society Write-in on Nov. 1, an annual event hosted during the first week of November that provides a space for undergraduates to dedicate a few hours to working on their NaNoWriMo goals.

This is Selvarajaguru's fourth time attempting NaNoWriMo. Her first attempt was a middle school passion project, on

which she claimed she "failed spectacularly."

"My advice would be to not worry about quality, just focus on quantity. It's better to have something that you can cut out, rather than to have nothing on the page at all."

Amritha Selvarajaguru
UI English Society Co-President

However, in Nov. 2021-22, she successfully reached the 50,000-word mark. Now, she aims for a third straight success in 2023.

"My advice would be to not worry about quality, just focus on quantity," Selvarajaguru said. "It's better to have something that

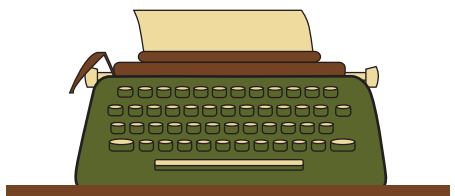
you can cut out, rather than to have nothing on the page at all."

While the English Society will likely not have any more NaNoWriMo-focused events for this year, it will continue to provide resources for aspiring writers. Events are held on Wednesdays throughout the year, and new writing prompts and challenge events will be hosted at some point in December.

Though Iowa Writers' Workshop resident Ben Mason has never attempted the annual writing challenge, his experiences writing novels for years on end have lent him knowledge in the trade.

His biggest piece of advice for aspiring novelists is to find a group of like-minded people who encourage comfort when sharing work, something he has found helpful while in the workshop.

"Writing a novel is hard and is a process, and I think [NaNoWriMo] is great for getting a first draft done," Mason said. "The biggest thing that blocks a lot of people is the fear of not writing well."



National Novel Writing Month
Each year, authors set goals to write their novels during November. In 2022, 413,295 people participated worldwide.

- Authors aim to write about 50,000 words of their novel in 30 days from Nov. 1-30.

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