

# TRUMP TRIUMPHS



## INSIDE

### SCENES FROM THE IOWA CAUCUSES

See moments from Iowa caucus night and watch parties in Des Moines captured by *The Daily Iowan*. See at more at [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com).

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### ABOVE THE FOLD: CAUCUS EPISODE

Hear from the voices of the Iowa caucusgoers through on-the-ground interviews done *Daily Iowan* reporters on Jan. 15.

DAILYIOWAN.COM

### RURAL JOCO RESIDENTS BACK TRUMP

Caucusgoers from rural Johnson County traveled far to their precincts on Jan. 15 despite persisting cold temperatures and snow.

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# Trump looks on to 2024 win

## Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley could falter in New Hampshire.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Former President Donald Trump greets supporters at Trump's Caucus Night Watch Party at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines on Jan. 15. Republican voters assembled statewide to participate in the caucuses despite the cold and extreme winter weather across the state. At the event, Trump spoke to over 300 supporters at his watch party about his goals and putting America first.

**Liam Halawith**  
Politics Editor  
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DES MOINES — Former President Donald Trump's astounding 30-point lead in Monday's Iowa caucuses proved that Trump's legal woes have yet to affect his performance in the primary.

Trump faces 91 felony charges, in four separate indictments, for his role in attempting to overturn the 2020 election results, the resulting riots on Jan. 6, 2021, his handling of classified documents, and campaign finance violations.

In a historic victory winning the majority of Republican caucusgoers in the state, and with the widest margin in the caucus's 52-year history, Iowa voters showed they are not concerned with Trump's legal woes and neither are the majority of GOP voters.

In a December New York Times/Siena College poll 62 of likely Republican primary voters said Trump should still be the nominee, even if he is convicted of a serious crime.

The same poll also found that 64 percent of likely Republican primary voters support Donald Trump, with Nikki Haley lagging at 11 percent, and Ron DeSantis at 9 percent.

In a January edition of the Des Moines Register/NBC News/Mediacom Iowa poll, 61 percent of likely Iowa GOP caucusgoers said a conviction "does not matter" when determining their general election support for the former president.

Only 18 percent of those polled said a conviction would make them "less likely" to support Trump in a general election contest.

University of Iowa political science professor Timothy Hagle said Trump has campaigned on and gained support from his legal troubles. Hagle said this is due to Trump's unique popularity and the "rally around the chief" his legal troubles have triggered.

"Every time he got indicted, his poll numbers went up which would be normally the opposite of what we would expect," Hagle said. "A lot of Trump supporters, especially his really core, most enthusiastic base, that they essentially believed that he was being politically persecuted."

According to a December *New York Times*/Siena College Poll, 83 percent of likely Republican primary voters nationwide think the charges against Trump are politically motivated.

UI political science professor Sara Mitchell said the increase in support surrounding Trump's indictments can also be attributed to an increase in the amount of coverage Trump receives. Among Trump's 91 felony charges include charges related to his involvement in the riots that overtook the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Mitchell said the majority of Republican caucusgoers don't view Trump's charges in the case as insurrection because they believe that the 2020 election results were not accurate.

"I think the Trump campaign and right-wing media have sold the big lie for a long time," Mitchell said. "So it's been an effective messaging tool."

According to an August 2023 CNN poll, 69 percent of Republican voters still think the 2020 election was not legitimate.

Along with criminal charges, Trump also faces two civil lawsuits including a civil trial over fraudulent property valuations in New York brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James and a civil case brought by E. Jean Carroll who said Trump allegedly sexually assaulted her in a department store dressing room in the 1990s and has since defamed her.

Trump won Iowa by a landslide, setting his campaign up to capture the momentum heading into New Hampshire.

Trump continues to lead in with 39 percent of the vote among likely New Hampshire Republican primary voters in a January CNN/University of New Hampshire poll. Trump leads Haley by only seven points with Haley holding 32 of the vote in the poll. DeSantis comes in behind Chris Christie — who has since dropped out of the race — and comes in with 5 percent of the vote in the poll.

### DeSantis set to flounder in New Hampshire

DeSantis exceeded expectations in Monday's Iowa

caucuses, however, he failed to close in on Trump's massive lead and he still polls dangerously low in New Hampshire and South Carolina.

DeSantis polls at 5 percent among likely Republican primary voters in New Hampshire according to the January CNN/University of New Hampshire poll and he polls at 7 percent of likely Republican primary voters in South Carolina according to a January Emerson College poll.

While there are still "three tickets out of Iowa" the tickets are not as potent as they once were, Hagle said.

Hagle said if DeSantis can close in on the 27-point gap between him and Haley in New Hampshire, he could pitch himself more effectively to South Carolina voters.

During his remarks on caucus night, DeSantis affirmed that he will continue his campaign.

"We got our ticket punched," DeSantis said. "They were just so excited about the fact that they were predicting that we wouldn't be able to get our ticket punched here out of Iowa."

### Haley polls high in New Hampshire

Haley fell short of caucus night expectations

finishing the night with just 19 percent of the vote among Iowa Republican caucusgoers in Monday's contest.

She had recently overtaken DeSantis' coveted second place spot in the January Des Moines Register/NBC News/Mediacom, released just days before the Iowa caucuses, polling at 20 percent of likely Iowa Republican caucusgoers.

She's expected to perform well in New Hampshire with current polling averages placing her second to Trump in the Granite State. A January CNN/University of Nebraska poll found that Haley tails Trump with 32 percent of likely New Hampshire primary voters, 7-points behind Trump.

With Haley's expected performance in New Hampshire she is on track to lead a viable challenge to Trump in her home state of South Carolina.

"At one point in this campaign, there were 14 of us running. I was at two percent in the polls," Haley said. "But tonight, Iowa did what Iowa does so well. The pundits will analyze the results from every angle. But when you look at how we are doing in New Hampshire, in South Carolina, and beyond, I think we can safely say — Tonight, Iowa made this Republican primary a two-person race."

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF STORM WATER DISCHARGE

The Iowa Department of Transportation plans to submit a Notice of Intent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to be covered under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. 2 "Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity for Construction Activities."

The storm water discharge will be from construction activity located in Johnson County on Interstate 380. The project is grading, paving, culvert and bridge construction from 1.0 mi. N. of Forevergren Rd. to N. of Swan Lake Rd.

The Public Lands Survey location is Township 80N, Range 7W, Section 15 to Township 81N, Range 7W, Section 34.

Storm water will be discharged from 6 point sources and will be discharged into the following streams: road ditches to Hawkeye State Wildlife Area Coralville Lake to Iowa River.

Comments may be submitted to the Storm Water Discharge Coordinator, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, Environmental Protection Division, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034. The public may review the Notice of Intent from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the above address after it has been received by the Department.

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# IC blood drives canceled due to weather

UI DeGowin Blood Center is urging residents to donate blood this winter.

**Shreya Reddy**  
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As bitter winter weather continues to descend upon Iowa City, the University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center needs donors willing to brave the cold.

The DeGowin Blood Center, located at 200 Hawkins Drive, is inside the UI Hospital and Clinics and services the main hospital and the Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Kerry DuBay, donor center supervisor at the DeGowin Blood Center, said all blood collected at the center only services the two hospitals.

"I want people to know that donating in the winter makes a huge difference," DuBay said. "All blood donations given with DeGowin go to patients staying in our hospital."

During the winter season, the DeGowin Blood Center is always looking to keep its blood supply stable.

Mandy McClenahan, blood drive and recruitment specialist at the center, said the need for donated blood is constant.

"Given the weather and everybody's crazy schedules, blood is something that we need regularly in order to keep the supply at the hospital stable," McClenahan said.

"These blood drives are incredibly important as they are the only way to help somebody in need of blood be it for a trauma or other necessity."

**Mandy McClenahan**  
Blood drive and recruitment specialist

McClenahan said the center is often looking for group "O," the universal blood type, as it is the most helpful when an individual comes in with their blood type unknown.



Jeff Sigmund | The Daily Iowan  
A blood donor squeezes a device to help blood flow on June 25, 2021. The DeGowin Blood Center is in need of donors to have stable supply.

McClenahan said these blood donations are used for patients the hospital, including maternal health, helping to counteract hemorrhaging for the mother during birth and trauma.

Alongside whole blood donations, donations filled with red cells, white cells, and platelets, the center also looks to collect only platelets regularly. Platelets, McClenahan said, are the part of your blood that helps with clotting, which makes them extremely essential in trauma cases as well as in cancer patients.

Cancer patients at the hospital use platelet transfusion to aid them during their various treatments, such as chemotherapy and radiation, McClenahan said.

"For cancer patients in particular, it can be life-changing to get platelets," McClenahan said. "Most donors are paired with a patient in need and we have a lot of very regular platelet donors."

Platelets can be donated once a week and up to 24 times a year, but only last up to one week on the shelf. Platelet donors are often quite rare, McClenahan said.

Each platelet donor must have the same blood type as the patient for the treatment to work without rejection.

Additionally, platelet donation can only be done at UIHC.

However, whole blood donations can be done off-site, often at a blood drive, McClenahan said.

DeGowin hosts several blood drives in the Iowa City community yearly. Two scheduled blood drives on Jan. 9 and Jan. 11 were canceled. There were 42 donors scheduled, many of whom could not make it due to the poor road and weather conditions.

"These blood drives are incredibly important as they are the only way to help somebody in need of blood be it for a trauma or other necessity," McClenahan said.

DuBay said there are many ways to begin the screening process.

"Because we rely on our community of generous donors, we strive to make the process as simple and convenient as possible," DuBay said.

McClenahan said her first piece of advice

would be to come into the hospital and find out if you are eligible to donate.

Additionally, McClenahan encourages individuals to look for community blood drives if coming to the center for a scheduled appointment proves difficult.

For those who are ineligible to donate, McClenahan said offering to host a community blood drive can make all the difference.

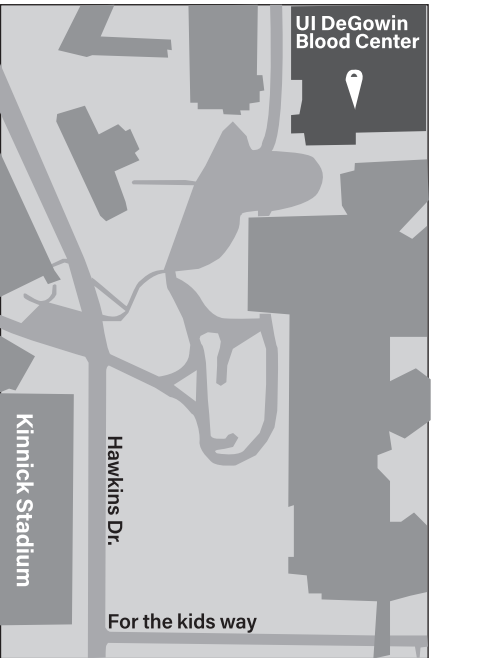
"Giving back to your local community right here in Iowa makes all the difference."

Knowing that you are able to help somebody right here is a great feeling," McClenahan said.

The DeGowin Blood Center is open from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and individuals can schedule their own appointments to go and donate.

"There is no substitute for blood, there is no replacement," McClenahan said. "The blood that you donate here stays in the hospital until it leaves in somebody who needs it."

## Location of University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center



Map by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

# City union employees receive bonus, raise

After contract renegotiations, unionized employees will receive a wage increase in the coming months.

**Isabelle Foland**  
News Reporter  
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The City of Iowa City's unionized employees received a \$1,600 bonus as well as a 3.5 percent pay raise after approval by the city council on Dec. 12.

In mid-September, several members of Local 183, a union that represents eligible employees of Coralville, Iowa City, Tiffin, and Johnson County, spoke to the city council about how their current wages are not keeping up with post-pandemic inflation.

A report by the National Bureau of Economic Research says total inflation went from 1.3 percent in 2020 to 8.2 percent in September 2022.

Members said these conditions added stress to their personal lives as well as their work lives because of employees leaving the city to work in places that paid better.

At its Dec. 12 meeting, the Iowa City City Council answered the concerns of these employees by passing a series of resolutions that modified these employees' pay for the next fiscal year.

According to the meeting's agenda, eligible unionized city employees will receive a 3.5 percent raise for fiscal 2025, beginning on July 1 of this year. Before the passage of these resolutions, employees were due to receive a 2.25 percent wage increase.

To put this increase into perspective, if an employee was making \$50,000 per year, a 2.25 percent wage increase would make their annual earnings amount to \$51,125. With a 3.5 percent increase, that employee would now earn \$51,750 yearly, which is a \$625 annual increase from a 2.25 percent raise.

Also on the Dec. 12 agenda was a one-time incentive bonus for unionized employees. The agenda states the \$1.2 million in funding for this bonus came from COVID-19 relief funds the city received through the American Rescue Plan Act. Iowa City received \$18.3 million from this act.

This bonus was meant to encourage worker retention and was paid out to employees on their Dec. 22 payroll, the agenda states. The \$1.2 million was divided evenly among employees and amounted to approximately \$1,600 per person.

During the public comment session for the incentive bonus, David Sterling, an employee of the city and member of Local 183, said they plan on using this bonus to purchase the second vehicle they have ever owned in their life.

Later on in the meeting, Sterling said the pay they have received in their current job in the city's revenue department has changed their life compared to jobs they have held in the past. However, they said they still struggle to afford even the cheapest rent in Iowa City.

Sterling said they are appreciative of the wage raise and bonus but hopes the council does not stop thinking of ways in which it can better the lives of the city's employees in the future.



Bella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan  
The Iowa City Council holds a meeting in Iowa City on Nov. 6, 2023. The union Local 183 received a raise of 3.5 percent.

"I hope that going forward, this helps start a broader discussion of what it is like to actually be an employee here, to desire to put more time into the city and really just improve the quality of life for the people that we serve," Sterling said.

Also at the meeting was Megan Vollenweider, an Iowa City employee and the vice president of Local 183. Vollenweider said the bonus and pay raise will have a big impact on city employees.

"I think it will make a huge difference for existing employees, especially as we head into — for many employees — the holiday season," Vollenweider said. "Then next year, with the across-the-board increase, it's something that builds for the future. It's very forward-thinking."

All items related to the bonus and pay raise were passed unanimously. Several councilors thanked the city's employees for bringing this issue to their attention as well as for the work they do for the city.

The union was chartered 50 years ago in 1973, and is part of approximately 3,400 other local unions in the U.S. across 46 states, according to the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees.

At the meeting, Mayor Bruce Teague said the city's employees are essential to the day-to-day operations of the community.

"I just want to say thanks again to all of the city workers," Teague said. "You all really are the boots on the ground and make living in Iowa City, on so many levels, a place where, to people that I've talked to, many are very happy with the services you provide."

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

## Executive Editor

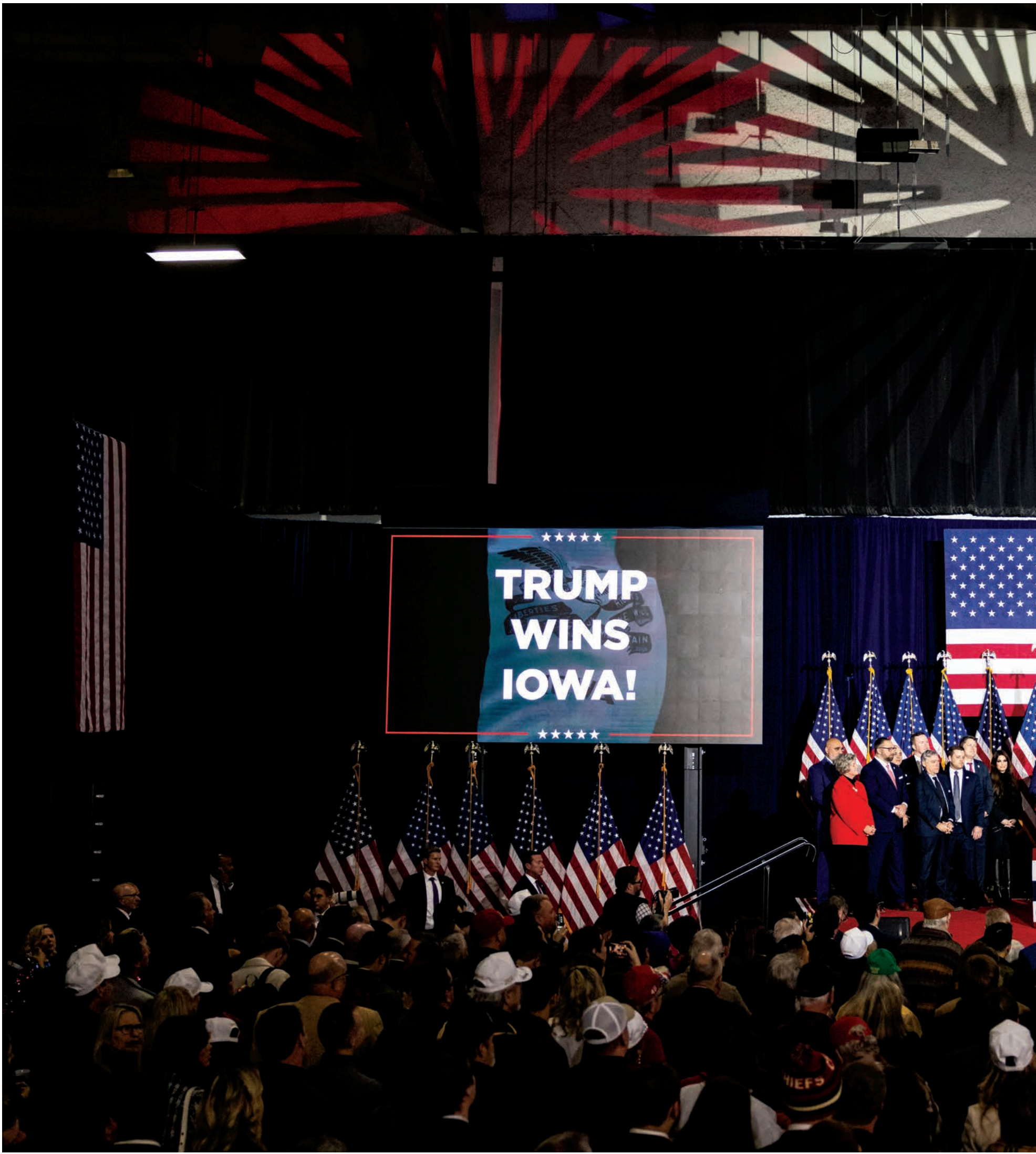
### for the 2024-25 year

The board of Student Publications, Inc., which oversees The Daily Iowan, is seeking applicants for the 2024-25 Executive Editor position.

Details and application available at:

## dailyiowan.com/editor-application

**Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2024**



# IOWA DOUBLES DOWN

Iowans braved the cold temperatures to participate in the Iowa caucuses where Former President Donald Trump came out on top, followed by Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, and Vivek Ramaswamy. While there was a wide gap between the first and second place winners, the race for second drew the nations eye.

DI Staff | The Daily Iowan

**(Top)** Former President Donald Trump speaks during his caucus night watch party at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines on Jan. 15, 2024. Republican voters assembled statewide to participate in the caucuses despite the cold and extreme winter weather across the state. Trump's early victory and dominant position before the start of caucus night proved to be true as 51 percent of Republicans voted for Trump's appearance in the 2024 presidential election as of 10:20 p.m. Trump spoke to over 300 supporters at his watch party about his goals and putting America first. **(Right)** Supporters of 2024 presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy react to his announcement that he will drop out of the race at his Caucus Night Party at The Surety Hotel in Des Moines on Jan. 15, 2024. Doors opened for Ramaswamy's watch party at 7:30 p.m. After his arrival around 10 p.m., Ramaswamy spoke to his supporters, where he suspended his campaign, pledging full support to Trump, who came out on top in the Iowa caucuses, according to the AP. **(Bottom left)** A caucusgoer listens to a speaker during the Iowa caucuses at the Marriott on Jordan Creek Pkwy in West Des Moines on Jan. 15, 2024. **(Bottom middle)** Precinct volunteers help a caucusgoer during the Iowa caucuses at Marriott in West Des Moines on Jan. 15, 2024. The Marriott hosted precincts 226 and 227. **(Bottom right)** Attendees exit the precinct after the Iowa caucuses at Clear Creek Elementary School in Oxford, Iowa, on Jan. 15, 2024. Trump led the precinct with 32 votes.

Find more online:

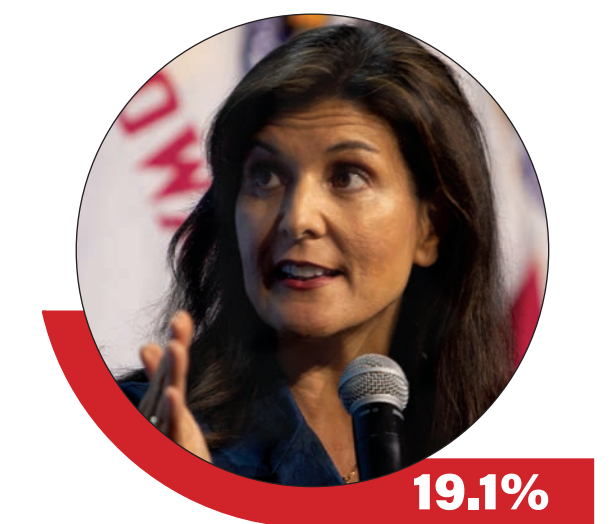
View more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage from the night of the Iowa caucuses at [dailyiowan.com](https://www.dailyiowan.com).





## WHERE THE VOTES STAND

According to the AP as of 7:31 p.m. Jan. 15, Trump won the Iowa Republican caucuses with Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley trailing behind.



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DI Staff | The Daily Iowan

(Top) Former President Donald Trump speaks during his caucus night watch party at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines on Jan. 15, 2024. Republican voters assembled statewide to participate in the caucuses despite the cold and extreme winter weather across the state. Trump's early victory and dominant position before the start of caucus night proved to be true as 51 percent of Republicans voted for Trump's appearance in the 2024 presidential election as of 10:20 p.m. Trump spoke to over 300 supporters at his watch party about his goals and putting America first. (Right) Supporters of 2024 presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy react to his announcement that he will drop out of the race at his Caucus Night Party at The Surety Hotel in Des Moines on Jan. 15, 2024. Doors opened for Ramaswamy's watch party at 7:30 p.m. After his arrival around 10 p.m., Ramaswamy spoke to his supporters, where he suspended his campaign, pledging full support to Trump, who came out on top in the Iowa caucuses, according to the AP. (Bottom left) A caucusgoer listens to a speaker during the Iowa caucuses at the Marriott on Jordan Creek Pkwy in West Des Moines on Jan. 15, 2024. (Bottom middle) Precinct volunteers help a caucusgoer during the Iowa caucuses at Marriott in West Des Moines on Jan. 15, 2024. The Marriott hosted precincts 226 and 227. (Bottom right) Attendees exit the precinct after the Iowa caucuses at Clear Creek Elementary School in Oxford, Iowa, on Jan. 15, 2024. Trump led the precinct with 32 votes.

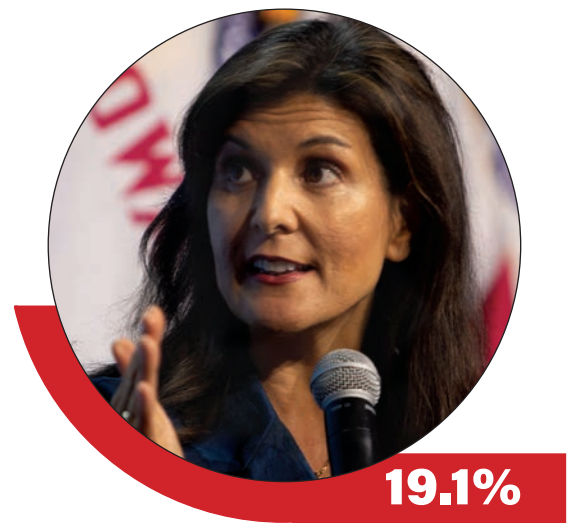
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# OPINIONS

DAILYIOWAN.COM

COLUMN

## It's time to ditch the caucus system

The history and sentiments of the Iowa caucuses could sure be missed, but elections are not the place to make sacrifices to the quality of a voter system.



**Evan Weidl**  
Opinions Editor

The only thing better than historical traditions is a functional and secure democracy.

With the presidential caucuses fast approaching and the presidential election later this year, now is a better time than ever to reevaluate the technical aspects by which the U.S. as a whole and the individual states carry out this beautiful and sacred idea of democracy.

Upon examination of Iowa's methods, we can find a major concern that is the caucus system itself. A slew of people gathering in one room and sorting themselves into specified areas carries a worrisome margin of error and risk of confusion, especially when you factor in brand new technologies that attempt to streamline the process but often end up complicating it.

While the caucuses are at least an entertaining way of conducting primaries, the fact is that they are not efficient or reliable as they should be. We should not be cutting corners when it comes to primaries and elections, and thus, Iowa should scrap the caucus system in favor of a normal primary system.

For a prime example of the risks and potential downfalls of the caucus system, look no further than the most recent presidential election cycle, just four years ago. What was supposed to be a calm, routine night turned into a brouhaha characterized by mass confusion, delayed results, and a party in crisis mode.

The risks of the caucus can't be completely patched with compromises or modernization of the caucus prospect; in fact, attempts to do just that were largely behind the chaos. The Iowa Democratic Party attempted to use an app for reporting results, and even though there were no issues with app itself, the process of downloading and using the app proved tedious and confusing, which compromised the accuracy and reliability of the Iowa caucuses.

As a result of an honest but deeply miscalculated effort to modernize the caucuses, we saw coin flips to determine precinct winners, Pete Buttigieg's eagerness to



**Jordan Barry** | The Daily Iowan

City council member Mazahir Salih collects donations from caucusgoers during the Iowa Democratic caucuses at City High School in Iowa City on Jan. 15.

declare victory in the midst of the mess, and a very frustrated nation.

The 2020 Iowa caucuses disaster also left the reputations of the state and national Democratic party in jeopardy, leading to multiple resignations and widespread distrust amongst voters. After such a mess of a caucus, how can one blame the voters for their mistrust? The 2020 Iowa caucuses were a clear a reason as there ever could be that the system should be replaced.

Maybe there is a perfect way out there to craft the caucus

system that runs with perfect efficiency and security. Until we discover that, Iowa is better off joining everyone else in the 21st century and ensuring a stable primary system.

Ultimately, the risks that are exclusive to the caucus system are totally unnecessary, and, as we saw four years ago, carry the potential for disaster. Our electoral system is absolutely not a place we should be prioritizing tradition over quality in, and the caucus system must go. Sentiment is a beautiful thing, but it has no place in democracy.

COLUMN

## Move the U.S. drinking age to 19 years old

Many countries have a drinking age of 19 years old or younger, and the U.S. should go back.



**Caden Bell**  
Opinions Columnist

The federal legal drinking age in the U.S. used to be 19 years old, but was raised due to public health concerns in 1984.

Nearly 40 years after the change, the U.S. stands out among its western peers because of its high drinking age.

We should take a measured step backward and lower the age back to 19 years old. This amendment would provide economic benefits, follow in the footsteps of many other countries around the world, and give rights back to its adult citizens.

Most European countries, such as France, the United Kingdom, and Germany, have set their legal drinking age at 18 years old. In Canada it is 19 years old, and in Mexico

it is 18 years old. Our peers in other western countries are able to drink as soon as they become legal adults.

Why 19 and not 18 years old? Canada has their drinking age set at 19 to help prevent drinking in high school. With this one-year distinction, there would be fewer high schoolers with access to alcohol than if the age was set 18, meaning we can still make an effort to keep alcohol away from children.

Lowering the federal drinking age to 19 would mean that many people under the current legal drinking age of 21 who illegally obtain alcohol will not break the law. Fake IDs are often used to purchase alcohol and to get into bars. Getting caught with a fake ID can lead to a misdemeanor, a heavy fine, and up to one year in jail. Lowering the legal drinking age means that many 19- and 20-year-olds would not be exposed to that risk.

The original justification in raising the age was to reduce drunk driving related accidents. However, lowering the drinking age did not decrease the overall amount of car accidents involving alcohol, as found in a 2009 study. If the intended purpose of the law isn't working, then all the law is doing is encouraging 19 and 20-year-olds to break it.

There are also potential economic benefits to lowering the age. If the age is lowered, it opens the market to more consumers. In a town like Iowa City, this would likely bring a huge influx in revenue for the many local bars, liquor shops, and restaurants. It would also increase tax revenue to the city which could spend the extra money on public works to the city, allowing it to potentially spend this extra money on public works.

In one study done by the National Youth Rights Association, they found that lowering the drinking age could make up to three billion dollars in revenue because of the increase from taxes and decrease in spending on enforcement of the law.

When the laws were first created, it was to reflect the voting age at the time, which was 21. In the U.S., 18-year-olds are legal adults allowed to vote and enlist in the military, yet they are still not trusted to drink responsibly.

Lowering the drinking age in the U.S. would put the U.S. on par with its international peers. Most countries in the western world agree that 18 to 19-year-olds should be able to drink.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

## Should the university have more inclement weather days?



**Shelley Mishra**  
Opinions Contributor

### NO

The university does not need to have more inclement weather days. The administration has an 'Extreme Weather Protocol' which clearly states the policies regarding absences in extreme weather conditions.

Operations that are indispensable for the community such as meals, health care and transportation continue to run even in the inclement weather days.

The hours of operation may be changed, but they go on with their services because they are related to the health and wellbeing of the students and staff. If these operations

continue, there would not be issues for students who want to go to class. If these services are suspended, only then should attendance to class be reconsidered.

It may be argued that after the COVID-19 pandemic, we feel accustomed to online classes, but they are incomparable to in-person lectures. Interpersonal interactions and experiential learning are some additional benefits of in-person lectures.

The CMBUS continues to operate in most weather conditions and is accessible to students in most parts of the campus. If CMBUS can keep going with its services safely, students can commute without missing important lectures and projects. Iowa City Transit also provides transportation for students who live off-campus, and as per policy, students may inform the staff in case of suspension of service or safety issues.

Ultimately, inclement weather days have more negatives than positives, and we do not need more of them.



**Jordan Coates**  
Opinions Contributor

### YES

Have you ever had to climb up steep hills in temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit, only to sit in poorly air-conditioned, stuffy buildings for over an hour? Or maybe you've been unlucky enough to slip on black ice while walking to your lecture in sub-zero temperatures.

For good reason, the University of Iowa has canceled classes for the first time in over a decade due to blizzards and extreme plunging temperatures.

The reality is that central Iowa gets a handful of snowstorms and extreme

weather days per year and classes have been canceled only once, years ago, and that was only for the afternoon classes on a Thursday. Students should not have to use their unexcused absences just to prioritize their safety, and university employees should not have to choose between their well-being and their paychecks.

It is the university's job to make this decision for them and to make it in a manner that prioritizes people. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, students and professors have become accustomed to Zoom and other methods of accommodating learning.

With the effects of climate change, we will unfortunately see an increase in extreme weather phenomena. Therefore, the needs to allow its students to learn or postpone learning in a manner that keeps their students and employees safe and healthy.

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# Rural JoCo residents back Trump

Donald Trump prevailed at an Oxford, Iowa, 50-person precinct despite cold weather.

**Isabelle Foland**  
News Reporter  
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Residents of rural Johnson County braved the extreme cold and snow-covered roads for the Republican caucuses to show their support for former President Donald Trump.

In Oxford, Iowa, located about 30 minutes northwest of Iowa City with a population of 700, more than half of the approximately 50 caucus attendees cast their support toward Trump. Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Ron DeSantis received votes in the single digits.

This result follows suit with the rest of the state, with Trump winning big over DeSantis and Haley, according to unofficial results.

The small venue of the Clear Creek Elementary school cafeteria was quickly filled up, with nearly eight cafeteria tables being filled with caucus attendees — some with their children in tow. Participants were bundled from head to toe in hats, boots, bulky coats, and gloves.

Many attendees in Oxford stated they had no trouble getting to their caucus location and weather was not a deterrent to their participation.

Devon Hodgeman, a volunteer at the precinct, said the turnout for Oxford was higher than he expected considering the weather conditions. In fact, he said this year's caucus may have even had a higher turnout than the last in 2020.

Despite being the minority of voters present at the caucus, several attendees voiced their dislike for Trump.

Sasha and Sean Murphy of Oxford made the trek to their caucus location to support DeSantis and Ramaswamy, respectively.

Sasha Murphy said she really wanted DeSantis to run for president and was excited when he announced his run. However, she said his campaign has been lackluster and has somewhat swayed her faith in him.

Despite this, though, Sasha Murphy said she likely will not vote for Trump even if he comes out on top in the Iowa caucuses.

"Just because Ron DeSantis doesn't win, I'm not going to be completely out," Sasha Murphy said. "But I really hate Trump."

Sasha Murphy said she was a registered Democrat in both the 2016 and 2020



Sahithi Shankaihgari | The Daily Iowan

Caucusgoers discuss during the Iowa caucuses at Clear Creek Elementary School in Oxford, Iowa, on Jan. 15. Trump led the precinct with 32 votes. Johnson County voters from rural counties braved extreme winter weather to make it to their precincts.

elections but said she switched to Republican after having children. The policies she said are most important to her are border security, strengthening the economy as well as bringing much-needed unity to a divided political environment.

Sean Murphy said his top two presidential candidates are Ramaswamy and DeSantis. He said Ramaswamy's campaigning and media appearances — including on Fox News and smaller political podcasts — are what won him over.

"His political career is pretty young, so he hasn't really been on my radar for probably more than eight months [or] a year," Sean Murphy said. "But I think he's done a lot of media. He's been really friendly."

Whoever the presidential nominee

for the Republican party ends up being, Sean Murphy said he will vote red no matter who is on the ballot.

In Oxford, Trump supporters made up the majority. Many attendees, including retired locals J.R. Brumley and Diane Kinsenzaw, said their support for Trump has not wavered a bit in light of his recent legal troubles.

Both Brumley and Kinsenzaw said they voted for Trump in 2016 and 2020. Both said Trump greatly benefitted the country's economy and kept all the promises he made during his campaign, despite a lack of support behind him in the legislative branch.

"There were more Democrats than Republicans in the Congress," Kinsenzaw said. "He didn't have that support, but

everything he promised, he attempted, and a lot of them he accomplished; that's unusual for a politician."

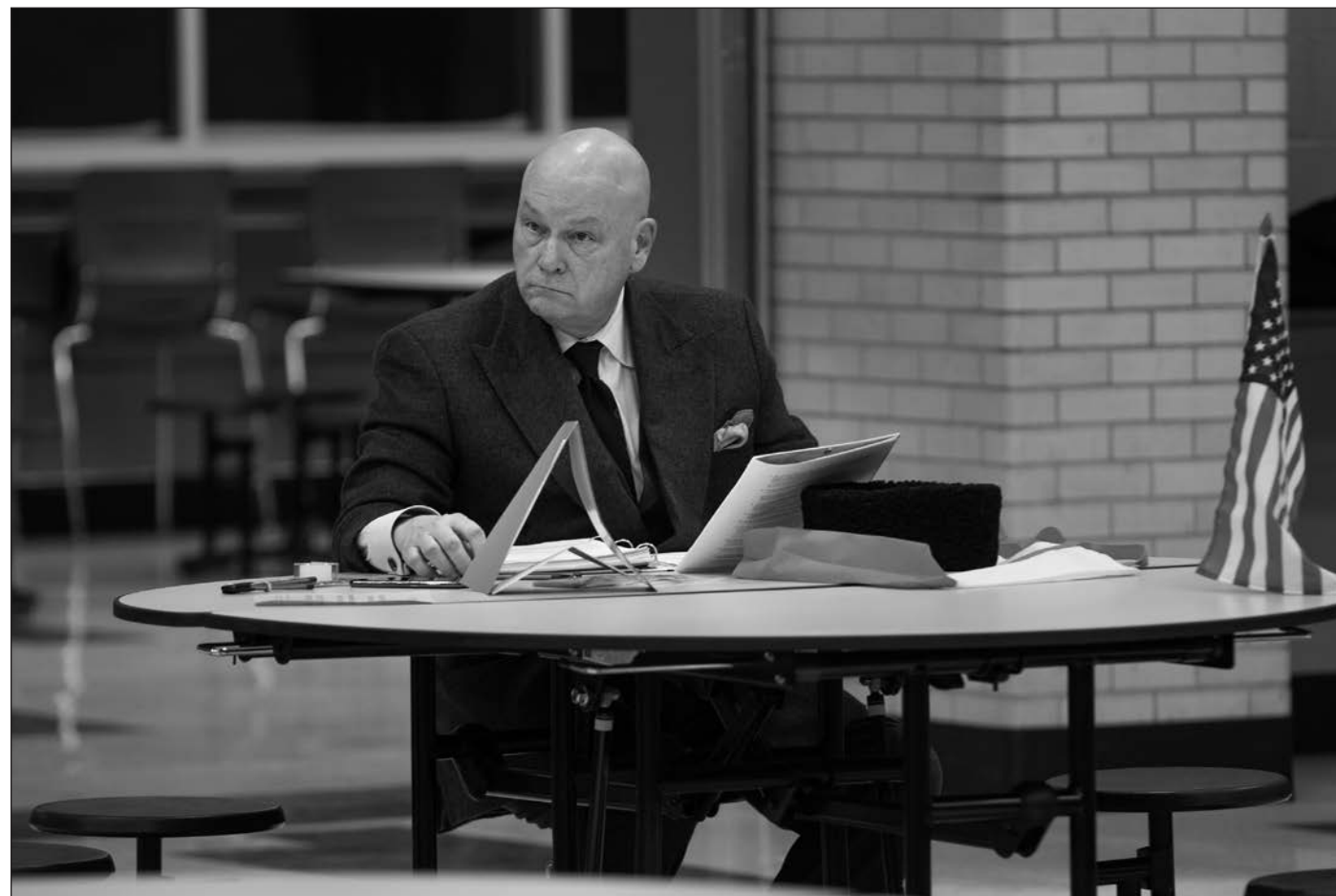
Brumley and Kinsenzaw both said the issues that are most important to them this election cycle are stronger border security and avoiding economic downturns, referencing the inflated gas prices in recent years.

After the votes were counted at the precinct and Trump was named the clear winner, Lisa Gerard, who attended the caucus in support of Trump, said she was not surprised by the results of the Oxford caucus and believes Trump will prevail.

"I'm excited to see what the state says," Gerard said. "But I think it will be Trump."

# Iowa City residents share caucus picks

At Southeast Junior High precinct six, voters voiced the issues they value most.



Shaely Odean | The Daily Iowan

Precinct official, Joseph Debrief observes caucus-goers during the Iowa caucus at Southeast Junior High School in Iowa City, on Jan. 15. The sixth precinct had 42 voters. Nikki Haley led the precinct with 17 votes.



Shaely Odean | The Daily Iowan

Caucus-goers fill out their presidential preference cards during the Iowa caucus at Southeast Junior High School in Iowa City on Jan. 15. The sixth precinct had 42 voters. Nikki Haley led the precinct with 17 votes.

**Shreya Reddy**  
News Reporter  
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While Iowa City resident Jeff Nafzger caucused for Nikki Haley at Southeast Junior High on Monday, former President Donald Trump remained at the forefront of his mind ahead of caucus results.

"Trump is by far the best president we have had in my lifetime," Nafzger, 57, said. "I am voting for Nikki Haley, but I feel like Trump will win the nomination."

Nafzger, like other voters at precinct six, braved the frigid temperatures to caucus tonight, believing that those who can vote should do so, no matter what.

With roughly 50 individuals filling the small cafeteria at Southeast Junior High, located at 2501 Bradford Drive, the room was teeming with conversation, as groups of Republicans huddled together discussing political views, the weather, and other points of interest.

Joseph Dobrien, permanent chairman and secretary at the precinct, called the

meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and shortly after a unanimous motion was passed allowing late arriving caucusgoers to register and vote.

Speaking in favor of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Shevaun Harris advocated for DeSantis and his policies, presenting a series of issues that DeSantis has resolved from Big Pharma to reducing debt in Florida.

"As a mom of two, I worry endlessly about the country that's working for my two kids and my grandkids and I know that DeSantis is the right leader to get this country back on track," Harris said.

Samuel Beatty, a self-appointed speaker for Trump at the precinct, said before the 2016 presidential elections, he had never even considered voting for the former president. After seeing his four years in office, Beatty said he is the best president the U.S. has ever had.

"He [Trump] doesn't answer to anyone nor does he bend the knee to big corporations," Beatty said.

Paul Hardin-Specht, 21, a University of Iowa student and first-time caucusgoer, caucused for Trump and expressed the importance of securing the borders and fixing the economy.

"Trump is the most transparent candidate out of all these guys. I think his legal troubles are an attempt to derail him and in a lot of ways it's bogus," Hardin-Specht said.

Diane Cruz-Truhlar, 71, a poll worker and volunteer for the Republican Party, caucused for the first time on Monday, firmly in support of Trump.

"I like his honesty and directness and his views on immigration," Cruz-Truhlar said.

Richard Lutz, 85, a long-time caucusgoer, voted for Nikki Haley and talked about the importance of her stance on pro-life, immigration, and the national debt.

"I am more of a pro-choice person which is kind of unusual for a Republican, but Haley is a lot softer on the issue. Immigration and the national debt have always bothered me," Lutz said.

Despite avid support for the former President, Haley narrowly grasped the precinct win with 17 votes, followed closely by Trump with 14 votes, and 10 votes for DeSantis.

Following the tally of the votes, a series of resolutions were put forth by three caucusgoers in attendance.

One caucusgoer, a former UI student who preferred to stay anonymous, strongly voiced his desire to have a resolution passed that completely eliminated interest on student loans.

"If we do not make this significant change, the younger people are never going to be on our side. The schools take advantage of students and that needs to end," he said.





Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Jordan Lee, 14, of Des Moines of East High School, holds a sign up at the March for Our Lives Demonstration during the first day of the 2024 Iowa legislative session at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines on Jan. 8. The demonstration was held to call out lawmakers on the topic of gun violence following the school shooting in Perry, Iowa, on Jan. 4.

# IOWA LAWMAKERS PUSH TOP PRIORITIES

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DES MOINES — Additional income tax cuts and reducing costs for Iowans are among the top priorities for state lawmakers this session, legislators announced during their opening remarks on Jan. 8.

State House Republicans may consider speeding up the move to a flat tax rate for Iowans and are looking to further cut income taxes this session, while Democrats vowed to protect reproductive freedom. Both sides of the aisle want to promote reducing costs for working-class families.

Iowa Senate President Amy Sinclair, R-Allerton, spoke on Senate Republicans' work to lower taxes, which resulted in Iowa's tax climate improving by 13 positions in national rankings.

Sinclair credited Senate Republicans for fueling

a robust economy and providing Iowans more opportunities by lowering taxes and decreasing spending.

## Advocates caution more tax cuts will limit services

In a press conference on the first floor of the Iowa Capitol Building on Monday, Anne Discher, the executive director of Common Good Iowa, a policy research and advocacy organization, said there will be big trade-offs for tax cuts.

Discher said the tax cuts enacted already benefit the wealthiest Iowans, who earn \$1.5 million a year, saving them \$60,000 a year. Median-earning Iowans who earn \$70,000 a year will see \$1,440 in tax savings, while low-earning Iowans who earn \$17,000 a year will see only \$48 in savings a year.

Discher said if Republicans eliminated the income tax in Iowa, the state budget would be cut in half and Iowans would see radical cuts to school budgets, fewer mental health services, larger college tuition bills, dirty water, and fewer services overall.

## Iowa lawmakers prioritize gun safety

Days after a fatal shooting at a Perry, Iowa, high school, state legislators made violence in schools a top priority for the 2024 legislative session on Jan. 8.

Republicans expressed plans to increase school security and Democrats prioritized changes to mental health and gun safety in the state.

Iowa Senate Democrats leader Pam Jochum, D-Dubuque, said in the wake of the shooting, legislators must act on gun safety legislation and find a solution to gun violence.

Jochum said legislators need to invest in youth mental health services and increase support for public schools in the state.

During his opening remarks on Monday, Sen. Chuck Grassley said House Republicans plan to invest in school safety infrastructure by prioritizing school resource officers, allocating dollars to school security, and protecting children's mental health.

"When we see these senseless acts of violence in our own home state, in our own schools, it shakes us to our core," he said. "In Iowa, every parent should be able to send their kids to school and trust that they will return home safe."



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa Sen. Pam Jochum, D-Dubuque, speaks at the March for Our Lives Demonstration during the first day of the 2024 Iowa legislative session at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines on Jan. 8. The demonstration was held to call out lawmakers on the topic of gun violence following the school shooting in Perry, Iowa, on Jan. 4. Jochum has served in the senate since 2009 and prior to that was in the house from 1993-2007.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad, D-Des Moines, kisses a baby named Teddy at the March for Our Lives Demonstration during the first day of the 2024 Iowa legislative session at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines on Jan. 8. The demonstration was held to call out lawmakers on the topic of gun violence following the school shooting in Perry, Iowa, on Jan. 4. Abdul-Samad asked students to take action so Teddy could grow up in a different world.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Students listen to March for Our Lives state directors Hannah Hayes and Akshara Eswar at the March for Our Lives Demonstration during the first day of the 2024 Iowa legislative session at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines on Jan. 8. The demonstration was held to call out lawmakers on the topic of gun violence following the school shooting in Perry, Iowa, on Jan. 4.



Check out [dailyiowan.com](http://dailyiowan.com) on Sunday for live coverage of Iowa women's basketball on Jan. 21 against No. 17 Ohio State.

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

**FOOTBALL**

# New year, unfinished business

Despite losing Cooper DeJean to the NFL Draft, the Hawkeyes retain six starters.



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

Iowa tight end Luke Lachey catches the ball during a Cy-Hawk football game between Iowa and Iowa State at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames on Sept. 9, 2023. The Hawkeyes defeated the Cyclones, 20-13. Following a season-ending injury, Lachey elected to return to the team for the 2024-25 season with five other starters.

**Matt McGowan**  
Sports Reporter  
[matthew-r-mcgowan@uiowa.edu](mailto:matthew-r-mcgowan@uiowa.edu)

In the modern era of college football, change is constant, specifically in roster turnover. Whether due to immediate eligibility-transfers, declaring for the NFL Draft, or choosing to give up the sport, players have a myriad of motivations for not returning to their respective schools. Last offseason, Iowa bore the brunt

of this new-age environment, losing ten scholarship players to the portal while also dealing with the departures of five defensive starters to the draft. In the leadup to the team's Citrus Bowl matchup against Tennessee, fans had plenty of reason to worry that such alterations would repeat. However, such has not been the case.

Out of seven Hawkeye routine starters in 2023-24 who could have given up an extra year of eligibility, six chose to stay in the Black and Gold. These include

starting linebackers Jay Higgins and Nick Jackson, defensive back Sebastian Castro, tight end Luke Lachey, cornerback Jer-mari Harris, and safety Quinn Schulte. The lone exception was star third-year corner Cooper DeJean, who declared for the draft on Jan. 4 and is a projected first-round pick, per CBS Sports.

As for the sextet of returning Hawkeyes, each forged their own path into assuming their respective roles and deliberated in different ways, but all shared a com-

mon goal. Following the seventh 10-win regular season in program history, the Hawkeyes' 35-0 flop to the Volunteers left more to be desired.

Heading into a new-look 2024-25 season featuring more travel, fresh opponents, and additional bye weeks, these returners look not only to add on to their own resumes as professional prospects, but also to enjoy their final college season as they strive to

**FOOTBALL | 3B**

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

## The 'enforcer': Sydney Affolter

The women's basketball third-year enforces her vital role.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Iowa guard Sydney Affolter dives for the ball during a home opener basketball game between No. 3 Iowa and Fairleigh Dickinson at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Nov. 6, 2023. Affolter played for 14 minutes and 27 seconds, shooting 4-of-6 in the paint. The Hawkeyes, defeated the Knights, 102-46.

**Cooper Worth**  
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Coming into this season, not many expected guard Sydney Affolter to make the impact she's had on the Iowa women's basketball team — even head coach Lisa Bluder. "I don't expect Syd to come off the bench and have 15 points," Bluder said at a January 2023 media availability. Even though Affolter has yet to reach 15 points this season, the third-year from Chicago has come off the bench and reached the double-digit mark six times so far this season. She has come one point shy of 15 on two different occasions during Iowa's wins over Bowling Green and Purdue. "She's one of those kids that just do their job. It's just, 'I'm in the trenches, I'm going to do what we do, [and] that's kind of rare to get kids with that type of motor,'" associate head coach Jan Jensen said. "I think she has Chicago toughness ... She's not going to back down from anybody." Affolter has proven to be a reliable scorer coming off the

bench this season, averaging 7.4 points and 6.8 rebounds, doubling her numbers in nearly every statistic from last season.

More importantly, Affolter brings an uncompromising, gritty style of play and isn't afraid to dive headfirst into the crowd for a loose ball or matchup against players sometimes four to five inches taller than her while defending in the post.

"She has that tenacity," Bluder said at a November 2023 media availability. "It sounds so easy, but it's not. She has an aggressive mindset, [and] she's not afraid to be physical and do the dirty work when she has to."

Affolter is currently third in rebounds per game and second in steals with 1.4 per game, despite only averaging 21 minutes per contest. She said one must have a winner-takes-all, ruthless mentality to be an effective rebounder.

"I don't think anyone else is going to get [the ball] but me, and I think that helps a lot in rebounding," Affolter said.

**AFFOLTER | 3B**

**TRACK AND FIELD**

## Hawkeyes welcome Annie Wirth

Iowa track and field newcomer Annie Wirth adjusts to life as a "multi."

**Mia Boulton**  
Sports Reporter  
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Iowa first-year track and field multi-event specialist Annie Wirth spent her high school career playing as many sports as she could. Even as she narrows her athletic expertise down to track and field as a Hawkeye, she isn't sticking with one event. "From doing multiple sports to doing seven events, it has paid off in a sense," Wirth said. "I can't be content in one event."

At Geneseo High School in Geneseo, Illinois, Wirth was a student-athlete in multiple sports and made her school's first honor roll. Without realizing it, Wirth was developing the foundation of balance, time management, and dedication it takes to become a multi-event athlete on the University of Iowa track and field team.

"I'm going in with the mindset of doing what I did in high school but better," Wirth said.

As a multi-event athlete, Wirth participates in the pentathlon. The pentathlon consists of five events from which a point total is calculated based on the athlete's performance. The events include the 60-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 800-meter race, and long jump. "I really enjoy all of it," Wirth said. "But it's also really exhausting."

Until December 2023, Wirth had never competed in a pentathlon. During her first attempt, Wirth won the event with a score of 3,835 points, which now ranks sixth-all time at Iowa. But Wirth still isn't content.

"I'm trying to cut down my [800-meter race] time and get better at [long jump], but that'll come over time," Wirth said.

Though Wirth is a newcomer to the Iowa track and field program, her teammates are noticing the immediate impact she is making on the team.

"There are a lot of events she hasn't done a ton before, but it doesn't make her give up on them," second-year multi-event athlete Isabelle Woody said. "She's always dialed in."

Wirth's dedication in practice and willingness to learn

**WORTH | 3B**

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

**Women's basketball**

**Sunday, Jan. 21**  
At Ohio State  
11 a.m., NBC and Hawkeye Radio Network

**Men's basketball**

**Saturday, Jan. 20**  
vs. Purdue  
1 p.m., FS1 and Hawkeye Radio Network

**Women's wrestling**

**Sunday, Jan. 21**  
Home Quad Duals  
2 p.m., Big Ten Plus

**Women's gymnastics**

**Monday, Jan. 23**  
At Minnesota  
7 p.m., Big Ten Network

**Indoor track and field**

**Jan. 19-20**  
Larry Wieczorek Invite  
All day, Big Ten Plus

**Tennis**

**Saturday, Jan. 20**  
At Notre Dame  
10 a.m.

**WHAT YOU MISSED OVER BREAK**

- Women's wrestling won the NWCA National Duals Championship.
- Women's wrestlers Nanea Estrella and Esther Han announced they suffered season-ending injuries.
- Men's wrestling opened its Big Ten schedule with a 22-10 win over Nebraska.
- Point guard Caitlin Clark launched her sugar frosted flakes cereal at Hy-Vee.
- Three-time All-American and Iowa gymnast JerQuavia Henderson announced she was stepping away from the sport to focus on her mental health.
- Iowa football parted ways with wide receivers coach Kelton Copeland.
- Samantha Cary became Iowa's first National Women's Soccer League draftee.

• Iowa men's wrestler Nelson Brands, who was suspended by the NCAA in May for sports gambling, had his suspension appeal denied, ending his collegiate career.

• Former Hawkeye Keegan Murray put up a historic 47-point performance with 12 three-pointers for the Sacramento Kings.

• Six Hawkeyes earned berths to the 2024 Olympic Trials, including Spencer Lee, Tony and Rose Cassioppi, Marlyne Deede, Austin DeSanto, and Alex Marinelli.

• Men's wrestling won the Soldier Salute title and had eight individual champions.

• Women's gymnastics won its season opener against No. 21 Washington.

• Three UI students became the youngest officiating crew in Iowa high school basketball history.

• Track and field won 14 titles and set 19 personal best times at the Hawkeye Invitational.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"We're not supposed to be outside because of the wind chill, and we had 14,000 people in here; it's absolutely amazing. It's dangerous outside, but our fans don't care, and I'm just so thankful for that."

Iowa women's basketball head coach  
**Lisa Bluder**

**STAT OF THE WEEK**

**272**  
Number of career victories for men's basketball coach Fran McCaffery, tying Tom Davis for the most wins in program history.

**BASKETBALL**

# Iowa wins in winter weather

Hawkeye fans packed Carver despite dangerous blizzard conditions.

**Isaac Elzinga**  
Sports Reporter  
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Iowa endured extreme winter weather on Jan. 12, but Iowa men's and women's basketball played on.

Due to the hazardous conditions, the Iowa Department of Transportation labeled several of Iowa's Highways and interstates as "impassable" through the holiday weekend. The Iowa State Patrol reported they were called for 72 crashes and assisted 436 motorists from 12 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday.

Iowans across the state suffered power outages, and in Iowa City there was snow as deep as 15 inches, nearly double the 7.6-inch average the city usually sees in January. The weekend brought new challenges with cold temperatures that saw highs in the single digits and lows well below zero, which caused icy conditions on top of the snow blown back into the roads by the wind.

High schools across the state were forced to cancel school and athletic activities, from basketball to bowling, to protect the student-athletes and their families.

The Iowa men's basketball team had a home game on Friday night against Big Ten rival Nebraska. Luckily, the Cornhuskers traveled to Iowa City the day before on Thursday, so the game was played as scheduled, resulting in a dominant 94-76 win for the Hawkeyes.

Because of the rough weather conditions and the National Weather Service and Iowa DOT recommendations, fan turnout was scarce for the matchup.

Still, those who braved the weather were rowdy and boosted the team's morale.

There were more doubts about whether the No. 3 Iowa women's basketball team's highly anti-



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Iowa fans wait to get into Carver-Hawkeye Arena during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Indiana at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 13. The Hawkeyes defeated the Hoosiers 84-57. Snow reached depths as far as 15 inches in Iowa City.

pated matchup against No. 14 Indiana would be played. Indiana is the reigning Big Ten regular season champion, while Iowa is the reigning Big Ten Tournament champion. The teams were tied for first in the Big Ten, boasting a 5-0 record in conference play heading into the matchup.

According to IndyStar's Chloe Peterson, the Hoosiers tried to get to Iowa City on Thursday night before the storm, but the airline didn't have a plane available. They then planned to fly out at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, which was rescheduled for 2:30 p.m. The Hoosiers finally left Indiana at 9 a.m. on Saturday and arrived safely in Cedar Rapids about an

hour later. Despite the rough conditions from Cedar Rapids to Iowa City, the game was played as scheduled, and the schools avoided rescheduling the top-15 matchup for a later date.

The Hawkeye faithful persevered through the poor weather, and Carver-Hawkeye Arena was packed with fans donning the Black and Gold for the Spirit Game. The crowd provided a boost to the team and roared after every made shot as the Hawkeyes earned a dominant 84-57 ranked win and claimed first place in the Big Ten.

The Iowa State wrestling team moved the start time of its home

dual against Utah Valley to 5 p.m. The athletic department encouraged fans to watch the dual from home and announced the cancellation of a dual against Pittsburgh scheduled for Sunday due to travel difficulties.

The No. 3 Iowa men's wrestling team had an away dual on Friday against No. 6 Nebraska in Lincoln, which faced its own weather troubles.

The Hawkeyes bussed to Lincoln the day before, so the event faced no disruptions. Considering the weather, Nebraska had a solid turnout for the top ten matchup, but the fan support didn't translate, and Iowa went on to win the dual, 22-10.

**Q&A | ISABELLE WOODY**

## Iowa track and field runner shares her inspirations



**Isabelle Woody**  
Second-year  
Track and field athlete

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

**The Daily Iowan: Do you have any goals for the new year?**

Isabelle Woody: I want to help out around the community and volunteer more.

**What is one of your hot takes?**

My hot take is that everyone should go to an Iowa track meet this year and that the track meets are so much fun.

**If you could meet anyone in this world today, who would you meet?**

That's easy. It would be Blake Lively. I love her.

**Who on the team would you want to trade lives with?**

I would want to trade lives with Precious Ugo

Irivi. He is from Nigeria and just got here this semester. America is super new to him, and he's never seen snow before. This is a really new experience for him. Seeing life from his perspective would be really interesting.

**Do you have any nicknames? What are they?**

I have a couple. The first one is "Iz," which is what my teammates call me. I did a youth track and field club this year, and they call me "Loops." It was my high jump nickname. And then last year, my teammates called me "Blondie" because I have blonde hair, and I act blonde.

**Do you prefer running indoors or outdoors?**

Definitely outdoors. As a heptathlete, we do a lot more events outdoors. My favorite event is the javelin, which is only outdoors too. I also like

the 400-meter track better than the 200-meter track. Overall, the indoor season prepares us for the outdoor season, so we have a lot of energy and excitement when we get outdoors.

**What makes you competitive?**

I've always been a big competitor in track, but I especially am at Iowa. The energy is really good here, and every day we come here wanting to get better. That just makes me excited for the competition season.

**Who inspires you?**

I would say my mom inspires me. She was a track and field athlete too. Now she is climbing the same distance as Mount Everest right now and writing a book. She is just super good at what she does, and she loves to help people. She's super inspiring because what she is doing right now is insanely difficult, but I know she's going to do good at it. She keeps me going.

**POINT | COUNTERPOINT**

## Men's basketball conference win outlook



**Jake Olson**  
Sports Reporter

**10 WINS**

The Iowa men's basketball team had a lot of questions entering the 2023-24 season. After three straight years of National Player of the Year Candidates with Luka Garza, Keegan Murray, and Kris Murray, head coach Fran McCaffery has had to lean on a lot of new faces this year.

Returning players like fourth-year Tony Perkins and third-year Payton Sandfort have shown a lot of promise in their new roles for the Hawkeyes.

The wing duo has combined for more than 28 points per game this year, with both players shooting above 35 percent from behind the arc.

Valparaiso transfer Ben Krikke has also come up big so far this season. The three-time All-Missouri Valley Conference player has been the leading scorer for the Hawkeyes.

Averaging just above 16 points

per game and shooting nearly 60 percent from the field, the Edmonton, Alberta, native has made an easy transition to the Big Ten.

Like last season, the Hawkeyes fell to a 0-3 start in Big Ten play, dropping games to Michigan, Purdue, and Wisconsin.

However, the past two victories over Rutgers and Nebraska have really shown the capabilities of this team, winning both games by a combined 27 points.

With Big Ten play starting to ramp up in the coming months, I think the Hawkeyes can win eight more games and eclipse a 10-win Big Ten season.

Iowa plays significantly better at home, averaging nearly 100 points a game when playing at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Winning home games will be essential to reach that 10-win mark.

The Hawkeyes should take care of business at home against teams like Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio State, and Penn State.

When teams like No. 1 Purdue, No. 10 Illinois, and No. 15 Wisconsin travel to Iowa City, the Hawkeyes will need to win at least one of those ranked matchups.

If the Hawkeyes can win some difficult road games and take care of business at home, I can see the team notching their fifth straight season in passing 10 conference wins.



**Chris Meglio**  
Sports Reporter

**NINE WINS**

The game of basketball is relatively simple: whichever team puts up more points will win the game. At the same time, there are many factors that determine the amount of success a team has throughout a full season.

The 2023-24 Iowa men's basketball team is an offense-heavy system ranking in the top 10 nationally in points, field goals made, field goals attempted and assists a game. The script remains the same when looking within Big Ten conference play as the Hawkeyes rank second in average points scoring 80 a game; third in field goals made and attempted, hitting 144-of-321 total shots; second in total assists with 93; first in average assists with 18.6 a game; and first in assist-to-turnover ratio at 1:79.

Despite the offensive surge, defense is an area of weakness for Iowa, allowing a conference-

worst 82.6 points a game; the second-most opponent field goals converted at 148 field goals made; the fourth-most opponent field goals attempt at 311; and the fourth-highest opponent field goal percentage at 47.6 percent shooting.

The Hawkeyes also struggle to rebound the ball, as they've allowed the third-most opponent rebounds with 200 for an average of 40 opponent rebounds a game — second worst in the Big Ten.

Iowa currently owns a 2-3 conference record, with two of those losses coming against ranked opponents Wisconsin and Purdue. With 15 Big Ten games left and only four matchups left against ranked opponents, the remaining schedule looks favorable to add some wins to their name.

However, if the Hawkeyes don't improve on the defensive end of the floor, it will be even harder to string wins together in games where their offense is struggling.

Iowa will look to take down Minnesota as a potential momentum-building victory hangs in the balance. The Golden Gophers struggle to put the ball in the basket against Big Ten opponents as they average 70 points a game while allowing 71.2 points a game.

FOOTBALL

# Early look at the 2024 Iowa football team

Iowa finished 10-4 in 2023, but the new offensive coordinator hire will be key this year.

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

Finishing with a record of 10-4 and clinching the Big Ten West title, the Iowa football team enters the offseason with a lot of questions but also optimism.



K. Ferentz

Head coach Kirk Ferentz will enter his 26th season in Iowa City and must find a new offensive coordinator for the first time since 2016 after the firing of his son, Brian Ferentz.

Several key starters return on both sides of the ball and fans are hoping for a run to the College Football Playoff, which expands to 12 teams next season.

## Schedule at a glance

The 2024 season is a historic one for the Big Ten, as UCLA, USC, Oregon, and Washington will join the conference. To accommodate the new expansion teams, the conference will have only one division, with the top two teams qualifying for the Big Ten Championship Game.

Iowa will face two of the newcomers in 2024, hosting last season's national runner-up Washington on Oct. 12 and traveling to UCLA on Nov. 9.

Besides Washington, the Hawkeyes

welcome the likes of Illinois State, Iowa State, Troy, Northwestern, Wisconsin, and Nebraska to Iowa City.

Including the trip to Los Angeles, Iowa will have five away games next season, with trips to Ohio State, Minnesota, Michigan State, and Maryland.

Also, for the first time since 2019, the season will include two bye weeks. Iowa's off weeks take place during Week 5 and Week 12.

## Offensive staff changes

Following a 12-10 loss at home to rival Minnesota, Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz terminated controversial offensive coordinator Ferentz, though he would coach the remainder of the season.

The Hawkeyes scored a disgraceful 15.4 points per game, ranking 132nd in the country and dead last among the major conferences. In its three games against ranked opponents last season, Iowa was outscored 92-0.

Adding to these failures, the Hawkeyes failed to score a single point in their final two games of the season, including a 35-0 drubbing at the hands of Tennessee in the Citrus Bowl.

Since the bowl loss, the elder Ferentz has conducted a search for his next offensive coordinator, and with the college football season ending earlier this week, Iowa will have to act quickly as the coaching carousel

is now in full swing.

On Jan. 12, the Hawkeyes announced that wide receivers coach Kelton Copeland will not return next season. Copeland had been with the program since 2017, the same season that the younger Ferentz took over the offensive coordinator position.

No matter who the new offensive coordinator is, they are going to have a lot of pressure to turn this struggling unit around.

## Key returners

Despite mounting questions surrounding the offensive side of the ball, incoming fourth-year tight end Luke Lachey announced his return to the program on Dec. 29. Though he suffered a season-ending injury against Western Michigan, Lachey will be one of the most dangerous targets in the Big Ten if he stays healthy.

Quarterback Cade McNamara will attempt to regain his starting job after tearing his ACL last year. His mobility might never be the same, but his leadership and experience are going to be key for a successful Iowa offense.

Offensive lineman Nick DeJong will also return for a sixth season, giving the Hawkeyes more depth in the trenches.

On defense, the Hawkeyes return many key starters from a unit that was regarded as one of the nation's best a season ago. Linebackers Jay Higgins and Nick Jackson are coming back for another season along with

standout defensive backs Quinn Schulte, Jeremiah Harris, and Sebastian Castro.

Coach Phil Parker will return for his 26th season with the team, including the last 12 as the defensive coordinator. His defenses have finished in the top 15 for three straight seasons, including top-five finishes the last two years.

## Key departures

Though Iowa will return the bulk of its defensive starters next season, standout cornerback Cooper DeJean declared for the 2024 NFL Draft. DeJean's explosive kick returns will be missed, but special teams coordinator LeVar Woods is known as one of the best in the country and has a knack for finding the right personnel.

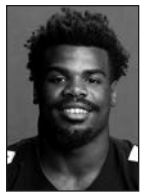
All-American punter Tory Taylor departs after a storied career where he averaged 46 yards per kick and emerged as a fan favorite during his tenure in Iowa City. The Hawkeyes have already recruited fellow Australian Rhys Dakins to replace Taylor.

## Early expectations

Iowa cracked several way-too-early Top 25 polls, with ESPN and USA Today placing the Hawkeyes at No. 25 and No. 24, respectively.

Both polls expect Iowa to improve its offense, while also maintaining its strong defense and special teams.

## FOOTBALL from 1B



Higgins

achieve unfinished business.

Higgins was the first to announce his decision, providing the Hawkeye faithful with a belated holiday gift on Dec. 26, 2023. Having started just two games before this season, the 6-foot-2, 232-pounder blossomed into a tackling machine in his first campaign as a routine first-stringer.

He more than tripled his career total tackles, registering 171 total over 14 contests this year — tying the program's single-season record.

Following the bowl loss to Tennessee, Higgins didn't take too much personal credit for his eye-popping tackling numbers, explaining how he never "cracked the code" but rather benefited from a defensive system that prioritizes relentless group effort.

"Over the last four years, I've built a great relationship with my teammates, the coaching staff," Higgins said during media availability in Orlando on Dec. 29, 2023. "The University of Iowa has this environment that puts players first. I just felt like if I came back another year, I could be a better football player."

Hawkeye defensive coordinator Phil Parker was complimentary of the 2023 Sports Illustrated first-team All-American, describing how Higgins acts as a "coach on the field," oftentimes changing play calls based on what he sees from the line of scrimmage.

Talking to reporters following a team practice on Dec. 27, 2023, Schulte said Higgins' choice would play a positive role in his upcoming decision.

"If I were to come back it would be nice to have Jay back," the safety said with a smile. "Any chance you get to play with guys like that, it's certainly special."

The next player to commit to an extra season was Lachey on Dec. 29, 2023. The tight end hadn't played since Week 3 due to an ankle injury and, despite rumors of participating in the bowl matchup, remained sidelined in Orlando.

Lachey's predecessor, current Detroit Lion Sam LaPorta, also suffered a leg injury that kept him out of the rest of the 2022 regular season. After seeing action in



Lachey

Hawkeyes' Music City Bowl game against Kentucky, LaPorta elected to depart, but his experience proved valuable to Lachey.

"He told me some of the pros and cons on either side, you know, he helped me out, as always," Lachey said of LaPorta. "So, I'm grateful for that."

Another pillar of advice Lachey leaned on was his father, Jim Lachey, who was an All-American offensive lineman his senior season at Ohio State before going No. 12 overall in the 1985 NFL Draft. After a ten-year pro career, Jim Lachey told his son that if he were to play one more game of football, it would be in a Buckeye uniform.

"It was after my decision that he told me that, but it is really cool, the bonds you make with your college buddies that can last a lifetime," Lachey said.

Lachey was the last Hawkeye to make his choice before the Citrus Bowl, but it didn't take long afterwards for Harris to announce his return to Iowa City for a sixth season on Jan. 3. After missing all last season due to injury, Harris earned the team's Comeback Player of the Year Award in 2023, collecting 42 tackles, a team-best eight pass break-ups, and an interception.

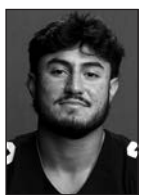
In the leadup to the bowl game, Harris didn't elaborate much on his thought process and kept his announcement simple.

"I've got more to give. See you next fall," he wrote via the team's social media post.

Even with one piece of Iowa's starting secondary locked in for next season, fans eagerly awaited Castro's choice, especially after DeJean declared. Castro, from Oak Lawn, Illinois, was yet another Hawkeye to have a breakout year in 2023, as the defensive back doubled his total tackles and pass defenses from last season.

A Pro Football Focus first-team All-American this season, Castro gave a unique take on his decision-making logic. "I've been telling everyone that regardless of if I stay or go, it's a win-win situation," Castro said. "I've always wanted to play in the NFL, and to come back to college football, play games and get better ... it's not a bad deal."

On Jan. 6, Castro, the team-leader in interceptions this past season, revealed his return to the college ranks,



Castro

announcing on a team social media post, "Let's run it back." His call would soon be answered by Jackson, who entered the season under the guise that it would be his last.

A transfer from Virginia, Jackson produced his fourth consecutive 100-tackle season, this time in the Black and Gold alongside his teammate and best friend Higgins. On Dec. 25, Jackson was granted an extra season of eligibility from the NCAA, as his final season with the Cavaliers was cut short by two games due to a shooting that killed three of his teammates.

Talking with reporters three days after the NCAA's motion, Jackson said he was surprised to hear the news but maintained he wasn't going to rush his decision, adding that his choice "isn't all about me, but it impacts a lot of other people, too."

That choice would eventually be made on Jan. 7. Now with one more season ahead of him, the linebacker needs 113 more tackles to tie the NCAA career record, according to Scott Dochterman of *The Athletic*.

Then there was Schulte, the 6-foot-1, 209-pounder from Cedar Rapids who was a 2023 All-Big Ten honorable mention from league coaches and media. Coming off a season where he set a career-high in tackles for loss, Schulte hinted at a potential return on his Instagram story on Jan. 8, posting a photo of himself and Jackson donning Big Ten West Champion hats. The caption: "We ain't goin' nowhere."

After Schulte's father later confirmed his son's decision with John Steppe of *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*, the final piece of the puzzle was laid in place. The result: a defense that would return five starters and a passing game featuring a pro talent at tight end.

With such continuity, the Hawkeyes have plenty of reason to be confident in the new year, but such newfound enthusiasm can't blind the team from the task at hand.

In the words of Higgins, "The standard is going to stay the same."

## AFFOLTER from 1B

### Chicago tough

Sydney Affolter was introduced to basketball early on when her father, Ed Affolter, became a coach for the sport after playing it up to the collegiate level at the University of Illinois Chicago.

Ed Affolter noticed his daughter's knack for basketball at an early age after seeing one-on-one battles between her and her older brother, Trey Affolter, who also played basketball collegiately at St. Ambrose University.

Having games in the driveway against her brother and his friends growing up made competing against other teams for her St. Christina Elementary School easy — so easy that Affolter led the team to an undefeated run from fourth through eighth grade.

"I always played against the guys, so I think my dad instilled that in me, and my brother definitely didn't take it easy on me," Affolter joked.

As a freshman attending Marist High School in Chicago, Affolter made an immediate impact on a powerhouse Redhawks team, finishing with 12.2 points, 6.9 rebounds, and 2.6 steals per game. By the time she ended high school, she had tallied over 1,000 points and 500 rebounds and helped Marist to two regional championship appearances and three straight East Suburban Catholic Conference Championships.

The three-time all-state player had her pick of Division I offers from Big Ten schools such as Nebraska, Minnesota, and Michigan State. However, she chose to sign with Iowa due to loving the atmosphere inside Carver during a 2020 visit when Megan Gustafson's jersey was retired.

"Since the day they offered me, I really liked it there," Affolter told *The Beverly Review*. "[That] game made me fall in love with the place."

Affolter was already familiar with Iowa after touring the state and country during her junior year of high school with the "All-Iowa Attack" AAU basketball team based out of Ames.

That team, which featured current Hawkeyes Caitlin Clark, Kylie Feuerbach, and Hannah Stuelke, finished the 2020 season with a perfect 48-0 record and a Nike Elite Youth Basketball League Championship.

## WORTH from 1B

created a smooth transition for the first year. Not only is Wirth fitting in on Iowa's track and field team, but she is already finding ways to test the program's limits.

"[Wirth] stepped up big and is adapting really well," first-year multi-year athlete Carlee Rochford said. "She pushes our fifth-years."

"She has never competed in these events before, but she is already training to beat the best people," Woody added.

Wirth attributes her immediate success to her competitive spirit, hard work, and hunger to improve. Most of all, Wirth aims to contribute to the team on the biggest stages in collegiate track and field.

## Trusting the process

Affolter saw limited action her first year as she backed up guards Clark and upperclassmen Kate Martin and Gabbie Marshall. She instead took the time to adjust to the speed of the college game and the coaching staff's schemes.

"You come in having left high school where you were the star," she said. "No one can stop you there. Then in college, you're at the bottom of the totem pole, so it's very challenging."

Affolter's work ethic in the gym saw her minutes increase in her second year as she improved her field goal percentage from 23.7 to 47.9 and had flashes of good play as one of the first players to come off the bench for an Iowa team that made it to the NCAA Championship. She notched a career-high 14 points and eight rebounds in a loss to No. 7 Maryland on Feb. 21.

For Affolter and the other Iowa guards, their biggest challenge comes before the game when they match up against Clark in practice.

"[Caitlin's] very competitive. Her energy makes you want to compete for yourself, her, and the team," Affolter said. "It gets hot, but it's pretty fun competing against her."

## 2023 season

This season has seen Affolter take her game to the next level and become a household name for many Hawkeye fans.

After a strong performance during the team's European trip, Affolter got straight to work in competing for the valuable sixth spot in Bluder's lineup. She made a strong case for herself, as she put up an 11-point performance in the season opener against Fairleigh Dickinson and a career-high 14 rebounds against No. 8 Virginia Tech the following game.

Having already showcased her ability to score previously, Affolter said she made it a priority heading into the season to be a factor in the rebounding department after the departure of last season's leading rebounders, Monika Czinano and McKenna Warnock.

"I knew [rebounding] was going to be important within my role," she said. "I want to take advantage of that whenever I'm on the court."

"I am very, very competitive," Wirth said. "And I'm in it for the team. I want to win no matter what."

Wirth believes she brought her competitiveness to the right place. Within her first year in college, she feels at home with her teammates, coaching staff, trainers, and the Hawkeye community.

"Being around a team environment that pushes you to be better and focus on yourself has really helped me," Wirth said.

In turn, the rest of the Iowa track and field program is excited to welcome Wirth's winning spirit and promising talent to the team for the next four years.

"She's already super good, and I think we all admire that," Woody said. "She's worked really hard to get to this point, and she will keep going."

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF STORM WATER DISCHARGE

The City of Iowa City plans to submit a Notice of Intent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to be covered under an NPDES General Permit No. 2 - Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity for Construction Activities.

The storm water discharge will be from construction activity related to the replacement of the Gilbert Street bridge structure, associated paving, utility work including storm sewer, water main, and other utility adjustments, located in SE ¼ section of Section 10 and the NE and SE ¼ sections of Section 15 of Township 79N and Range 06W of Johnson County, Iowa. Storm water will be discharge from 3 point sources and will be discharged to the following streams: Ralston Creek which then flows into the Iowa River and ultimately to the Mississippi River.

Comments may be submitted to the Storm Water Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E 9th St, Des Moines IA 50319. The public may review the Notice of Intent from 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, at the above address after it has been received by the department.

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# NO BUZZER-BEATER NECESSARY

Last season, Caitlin Clark scored a game-winning 3-pointer against No. 2 Indiana. On Jan. 13, there was no need for a buzzer-beater as No. 3 Iowa defeated No. 14 Indiana, 84-57.



**THE GAME BY THE NUMBERS**

**84 - 57**

**MOLLY DAVIS** SCORED A CAREER-HIGH **18** POINTS

**KATE MARTIN** HAD A CAREER-HIGH **12** REBOUNDS

**CAITLIN CLARK** LED ALL SCORERS **30** POINTS, **11** ASSISTS AND **8** REBOUNDS

(Top) Fans cheer on the Iowa women's basketball before a Big Ten match up between No. 3 Iowa and No. 14 Indiana at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City on Jan. 13. Despite several inches of snow and freezing temperatures, fans still packed the Carver-Hawkeye Arena. The Hawkeyes defeated the Hoosiers, 84-57. (Middle) Iowa guard Molly Davis dribbles down the court during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Indiana at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 13. Davis recorded a career-high in points with Iowa with 18 during her playing time of 31:43 minutes. (Bottom) Iowa forward Hannah Stuelke celebrates a basket during a women's basketball game between Iowa and Indiana at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 13. Stuelke played for 23:17 minutes and scored a total of five points.

Cody Blissett and Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan



# 80 Hours



## *Dorm rooms to diamond rings*

Before receiving their diplomas, these current and former Hawkeyes boasted engagement rings. For them, there is no time like the present.

# CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

## THURSDAY

JANUARY 18

### - FACULTY AND GUEST ARTIST RECITAL: AVITA DUO: KSENIA NOSIKOVA; AND KATYA MOELLER

Pianist and University of Iowa professor Ksenia Nosikova joins violinist Katya Moeller for a duo concert free and open to the public.

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

## FRIDAY

JANUARY 19

### - OTROS OUTROS W/ DAVE HELMER BAND, GOOD MORNING MIDNIGHT, & SOPHIE MITCHELL

Otros Outros will perform alongside local band Dave Helmer Band, Good Morning Midnight and Sophie Mitchell, each bringing a unique rock sound to Iowa City.

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

### - WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

A Crooked Path Theatre presents a performance of Heidi Schreck's "What The Constitution Means to Me" at The James Theater, an influential play that debuted on Broadway.

7:30 P.M. | THE JAMES THEATER  
213 N. GILBERT ST.

## SATURDAY

JANUARY 20

### - PAULA POUNDSTONE

Comedian and frequent guest of NPR's "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!", Paula Poundstone performs in Iowa City at the Englert Theatre.

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

### - A CASE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD BY SAMUEL D. HUNTER

Playwright Samuel D. Hunter brings his new play "A Case For The Existence of God" to Riverside Theatre.

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

## SUNDAY

JANUARY 21

### - SUNDAY FUNDAY: SNOWFLAKE BOOKMARKS

The Iowa City Public Library will host an all-ages arts and crafts event in the Storytime Room to celebrate winter, perfect for any reader.

2-4 P.M. | IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
123 S. LINN ST.

## MONDAY

JANUARY 22

### - KAVEH AKBAR IN CONVERSATION WITH MELISSA FEBOS

Award-winning poet Kaveh Akbar will discuss their upcoming debut novel, "Martyr!" with author Melissa Febos. Akbar and Febos are both professors within the University of Iowa English Department.

7 P.M. | PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKSTORE  
15 S. DUBUQUE ST.

## TUESDAY

JANUARY 23

### - PROFS AND PINTS: HOW SAPPHO SHOOK THINGS UP

University of Iowa classics professor Celsiana Warwick will discuss the work of Sappho, a Greek poet influential for her writing on sexuality, and how modern terminology can be applied to ancient culture.

5:30 P.M. | GRADUATE IOWA CITY  
210 S. DUBUQUE ST.

## ADVICE

# Winter weather warmth, but stylish

Stay warm with this list of must-have fashion items.

**Parker Jones**  
Managing Editor  
parker-jones@uiowa.edu

The secret to staying warm and looking cute is always layers. Here are 10 crucial garments to ensure you stay warm in Iowa this winter, especially during a negative 40 degree Fahrenheit windchill.

#### - Winter coat

Every warm winter outfit must be built around its centerpiece: the coat. Whether your preference is a classic puffer jacket, a sleek trench coat, or a full-on expedition parka, this vital item should keep you warm, but shouldn't draw too much attention from the rest of your winter fit. A mid-thigh or knee-length coat is best to keep those buns toasty, with a neutral color to ensure you can wear it with a variety of other garments.

#### - Fleece-lined leggings or long johns

Thick fleece-lined leggings or classic long-john underwear are a necessity when it comes to staying insulated. They don't matter much on the fashion spectrum as an under-layer, so feel free to get funky with the patterns and colors here.

#### - Snow pants or non-ripped jeans

If you are going on a particularly snowy trek, snow pants are the best to keep you dry. Otherwise, non-ripped jeans are the way to go. Although the worn, distressed look has conquered the denim landscape, quality is preferred when it comes to warmth.

#### - Wool sweater

Wool is one of the warmest fabrics on the market today. A cute pattern or unassuming striped woolen sweater is a must-have staple of any winter outfit.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Ivy Schaefer, 9, and Maddy MacKenzie, 8, climb on a snow fort at Longfellow Elementary School in Iowa City on Jan. 11. A snowstorm swept across Iowa on Jan. 9 and Iowa City reported 15 inches of snow as of 8 p.m. that day.

#### - Flannel

Here is where the layers really kick into gear. Flannels are some of the most adaptable fashion items and are a good way to get that extra layer of warmth against the cold winter wind. As a plus, they immediately make a cute fit after shedding your outer coat.

#### - Carhartt beanie or hat

Carhartts have dominated the beanie market in recent seasons, making them a critical item to have this winter. However, any warm winter hat that covers your ears is a must.

#### - Thick scarf or mask

Keep your face toasty with any decent quality scarf, or even a cloth face mask to prevent your nose and cheeks from frosting over. Matching this garment to your hat is optional, but definitely recommended.

#### - Gloves: fingerless or burst

This is the era of the smartphone, which means all gloves must be fingerless or phone accessible. Again, matching these to your hat or scarf is a sure-fire way to upgrade your fit.

#### - Thick fuzzy socks

Make sure your toes stay warm with a thick pair of soft, fuzzy socks. This is another opportunity to have fun with patterns or colors, as they likely won't be seen by any fellow passersby trudging through the winter winds.

#### - Snow-proof boots

Topping off this list is a good old pair of snow boots. I am a fan of classic Timberlands, but any durable rubber-soled boot will do.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Community members walk through downtown Iowa City on Jan. 13. The University of Iowa issued a Hawk Alert around 2 p.m. with a National Weather Service wind chill warning from Jan. 13 to Jan. 16. The Hawk Alert statement said a -40 degrees Fahrenheit wind chill would occur and frostbite within 10 minutes of being outside is possible.

## REVIEW

# 'Anybody But You' has a basic plot

The highly anticipated enemies-to-lovers movie saw both hype and controversy following its Dec. 22 release.

**Sophia Connolly**  
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An attractive young woman and a hunky guy despise each other but must fake a

relationship until it all goes wrong — and right, when they inevitably fall in love for real.

With a predictable plot, "Anyone but You" is a movie that simply does not stand out. However, it surprises viewers

with the strong chemistry between leads Sydney Sweeney and Glen Powell.

They play characters Bea and Ben, whose first date ends poorly, but later use each other to make their exes jealous at a wedding, a trope sharing similarities with the plot of the 2005 comedy "Wedding Crashers."

Their story follows many romantic comedy clichés, including a big misunderstanding, hate turned to love, almost calling off a wedding, and a grand chase to pronounce one's love for another.

Despite the hype for the movie generated by the movie's successful TikTok account, the premise is basic and all too predictable. The trope of a fake relationship between enemies-turned-lovers has been done many times before, and director Will Gluck's film does not offer any nuance to the genre.

That's not to say the movie's

goal was to be unique. Its writers knew their trope well, and in that sense, accurately captured the typical, romantic comedy vibe. For what it's worth, lovers of this genre would likely enjoy the movie.

Sweeney and Powell's believable sexual tension was the sole driving force of the banal plot with many sweet, funny moments between their characters like falling into the ocean, belting Natasha Bedingfield's "Unwritten," and cooking a grilled cheese that honestly looked delicious.

They act so naturally as a couple that the film has sparked rumors of an offscreen romance. Sweeney's character's intrapersonal struggles were the most interesting, with Bea having just dropped out of law school and feeling uncertain of her future.

Even with its flaws, this movie is still enjoyable; it's funny, sweet, and heartfelt at the right moments.



### SNOW AND STEADY

"THROW YOUR ARMS AROUND ME" | Neil Finn and Eddie Vedder

"SKINNY LOVE" | Bon Iver

"UPSIDE DOWN" | Jack Johnson

"SILVER JOY" | Damien Jurado

"SUN IT RISES" | Fleet Foxes

"TWO WEEKS IN DECEMBER" | Skullcrusher

## REVIEW

# 'Poor Things' is an avant-garde breadwinner

Director Yorgos Lanthimos' fourth feature-length film raises the bar for cinematic artistry.

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"Poor Things" is the fourth feature-length film by Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos, whose bizarre screenwriting and cinematic style has cultivated a niche audience of viewers who adore his technique.

The premiere of this film has carved a peak within Lanthimos' career, as he utilizes his peculiar film method, capturing uncanny behavior through a visceral but distant lens in a very tactical way.

Lanthimos has always been a director who pioneers new filmmaking techniques. However, "Poor Things" is undoubtedly his most technically advanced and well-written project. The strange subject matter of the plot unfolds while the audience is given never-before-seen visuals to examine thoroughly.

Language is utilized very cleverly in this film or rather its lack thereof: Emma Stone's character grows from possessing almost no vocabulary to becoming

## CARTOON



"Can hawks fly south for the winter too?"

borderline eloquent in her later years.

The writing carries the project, allowing the likes of actors Willem Dafoe, the scientist named God who created Bella, and Mark Ruffalo, a man who becomes disturbingly infatuated with the innocent woman to perfectly execute the off-putting and flagrant way

characters speak to each other in a Lanthimos project.

Each section of the plot is bookended with a title card, dividing the story into chapter-like sections and making the project feel as if the weight of each chapter is building onto the next — almost paralleling how Bella's own knowledge is being built and expanded from.

# IC improv group reinvents itself

The Tinfoil Hat Committee is one of the largest student improv groups in the city.

**Charlie Hickman**  
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Iowa City has fostered a burgeoning comedy scene for several years, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic seemed to damper community excitement in comedy.

Since comedy performances have resumed, however, the newly renamed student improv group the Tinfoil Hat Committee has been working to find its footing.

Previously performing as the Great White Narcs, the Tinfoil Hat Committee has been back at work practicing its signature improv sets with recruitment growing each year.

"It started slow," former team captain Logan Pratt said. "Iowa City improv groups used

to get hundreds of auditions, pre-pandemic."

Even though the Tinfoil Hat Committee emerged from the pandemic with a mere two participants, Logan and his co-captain Ian Zwaschka worked in tandem with the rest of the comedy scene to get the group back up and running.

"I used to do stand-up in Iowa City too," Pratt said.

He joked that he "didn't realize" it was a very competitive scene in Iowa City, even though you usually wouldn't consider the college town to be an improv comedy capital.

Pratt joined the team only a month before performances were shut down in February 2020. When the team returned later, he was made de facto captain.

"Going from one month of

experience to being the captain was a pretty wild experience," Pratt said with a chuckle.

It proved to be a formative time for the team when potential new members started auditioning and practicing became regular.

"We picked up Jasper who's still on the team now and kind of slowly grew from there," Pratt said.

Jasper Rood has been captain of the Tinfoil Hat Committee for two years, joined this year by his co-captain Kaley Grimm. Under their lead, the team has found new members and rebranded from the Great White Narcs to the Tinfoil Hat Committee.

"A lot of teams are still feeling the effects [of the pandemic] and finding their footing," Rood said. "Our team manages to find that balance every year."

Since the group's founding in

2013, it has continued to hone its unique brand of improv. Its performances are typically either long-form, drawing one improvisational idea out for a long scenario, or short-form. The team performed as the Great White Narcs in April 2023 at the Floodwater Comedy Festival, which returned to Iowa City for the first time in two years after repeated cancellations because of COVID-19.

Typically, members of the group aren't experienced in performing at venues. Pratt, Rood, and Grimm make sure everyone on the team is comfortable with not only performing but also with each other.

"A lot of our job as captains is outreach and booking, but we also lead practices too," Grimm said. Creating a friendly space

we mostly play theater games. Then we practice long-form improv," Rood described.

Being comfortable performing is more prescient now than ever as social media changes the landscape of comedy.

"Social media is so difficult. You want to go do improv, that's what you sign up for," Grimm said. "But now you need to know how every app works and how to be a content creator."

Consistent promotion has become key for comedians in the digital age, and it's something the team works on their own accounts.

"So many clips are on TikTok and Snapchat now," Rood added, and with the increase of accessibility for comedy online, comedians have faced virtual heckling. But that prospect isn't something the Tinfoil Hat



Contributed by the Tinfoil Hat Committee

"Ethical comedy is all about punching up rather than punching down. Jokes that punch down or just sort of berate marginalized groups won't resonate in a college town."

**Logan Pratt**

Former Great White Narcs team captain

where everyone feels comfortable is how the Tinfoil Hat Committee creates its distinctive comedic style.

For a lot of student comedians, the experience could come from the university-affiliated improv club, which just so happens to be run by Rood as well.

"Improv club allows people who aren't going into theater to dip their toes in improv," Grimm explained.

The club acts as a perfect steppingstone for students interested in getting into performance. Ensuring members are comfortable within the group itself is integral to the group as well; it all starts with weekly practice.

"First we just check in and see how everyone is doing, but then

Committee is worried about.

The team doesn't feel pressure to avoid any topics due to their abidance to ethical comedy, a form of humor that Pratt picked up on during his time at the University of Iowa.

"Ethical comedy is all about punching up rather than punching down," Pratt said, adding that, "Jokes that punch down or just sort of berate marginalized groups won't resonate in a college town."

Iowa City's comedy community seems to share this sentiment, as — like the Tinfoil Hat Committee — comedians are supportive of each other and just want to perform. The group has steadily grown since the difficult recovery from the pandemic, but the future of improv in Iowa City is bright.



Contributed by the Tinfoil Hat Committee

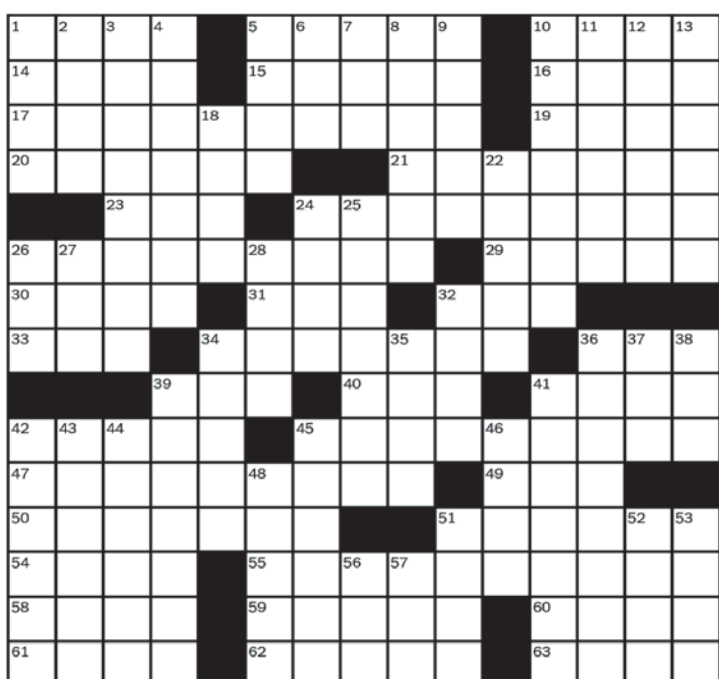
## THE BREAK

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON 2A

DAILYIOWAN.COM

### The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  
No. 1213



- 36 "Q" key neighbor
- 39 Put money (on)
- 40 Pallid
- 41 Long, drawn-out story
- 42 Slangy summons
- 45 Business-generating partner at a law firm
- 47 It might make or break a hand in Texas hold 'em
- 49 Suffix with block
- 50 Venerating
- 51 Like diner food, stereotypically
- 54 Many an ancient statue
- 55 Natural process suggested by the starts of 17-, 24-, 26-, 45- and 47-Across
- 58 Will of "The Waltons"
- 59 Project for the Army Corps of Engineers
- 60 Capital of Italy
- 61 Online marketplace since 2005
- 62 In a foxy fashion
- 63 Get-together, informally

- 10 Connector of bedrooms
- 11 Hit 2009 film with a hit 2022 sequel
- 12 Rule
- 13 Traps for the unwary
- 18 "\_\_\_ I say more?"
- 22 Demarcated places
- 24 Makes a play (for)
- 25 Like the sentiment of a "Drop Acid, Not Bombs" poster
- 26 Résumés, for short
- 27 Strung blossoms
- 28 Novgorod negative
- 32 Keystone State eponym
- 34 Big name in combines
- 35 Speakeasy fear
- 36 Act on prompting (from)
- 37 Number on a birthday card
- 38 Speakeasy, basically
- 39 Barrel maker
- 41 1979 Robert John hit that repeats "I don't wanna see you cry"
- 42 [Oooh, that's embarrassing]
- 43 Social dance in 3/4 time
- 44 Sidesteps
- 45 Tennis's Nadal
- 46 Latin singer Anthony
- 48 Monastery hoods
- 51 Earl \_\_\_ tea
- 52 Some 35mm cameras, in brief
- 53 Michelle of "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- 56 "Sesame Street" rating
- 57 Slithering swimmer

Medium

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

Hard

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

**Create and solve your Sudoku puzzles for FREE.**  
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**Across**

- 1 Wearily put one foot in front of the other
- 5 Bosses for T.A.s
- 10 "Macbeth" trio
- 14 Emotion indicated by the emoticon <3
- 15 Shiny headgear
- 16 London-based cosmetics company
- 17 Co-op responsible for more than two-thirds of cranberry production in North America
- 19 Hot stuff

**Down**

- 20 Phrased
- 21 Book of hymns
- 23 Beats by \_\_\_ (audio brand)
- 24 Tech product that's promised but never delivered
- 26 Hog heaven
- 29 Makes
- 30 Pathway for oxygenation
- 31 As of now
- 32 Handle the bill
- 33 "Make yourself comfortable!"
- 34 Wants

**Down**

- 1 Furrow former
- 2 Cray cray
- 3 Exert oneself until there's nothing left
- 4 Sprint at top speed
- 5 Vet's affliction
- 6 Feature of some jeans
- 7 Aquatic propeller
- 8 Foamy iced drink
- 9 Right of approval



# UI alums share campus meet-cutes

Though not illustrative of the current trend in college-aged engagements, these couples' stories from before graduation embody the adage "When you know, you know."

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In the fall of 1995, Daisy Hutzell-Rodman, a University of Iowa first-year at the time, opted for a quiet night in her dorm at Daum Residence Hall during her first week of classes.

However, a chance encounter with a dorm neighbor swiftly changed her plans. Her neighbor stopped her in her tracks, pointed at her, and said, "You. We're going to a party and you're coming with us."

"So, I put on decent clothes — or at least decent enough to go to a party in the 90s," Hutzell-Rodman recalled.

Amid the sea of new students, drunk on cheap liquor and the adrenaline of independence, her eyes caught on one person: A blonde guy standing alone by the keg.

"I came up to him and said, 'Hi. Who are you?'" she shared. His name was Jeremy Wade Rodman, in the class of 1996, and their keg-side conversation would become the first of many — sans the keg.

They started dating in the spring of 1996 and got engaged during Hutzell-Rodman's third year. The couple married in a small ceremony at Danforth Chapel in Iowa City, just 28 days after her graduation in 1998.

They were fortunate to receive financial support from their families and benefitted from the booming job market of the '90s, settling in Omaha, Nebraska.

However, she also shared that given the chance to go back in time and do it over again, she would likely have waited at least a year post-graduation to get married.

"It was a very different time," Hutzell-Rodman said, explaining that young women in the '90s still faced pressure from friends and family to get married after graduation. "My grandmother actually left the University of Iowa to get married in the 1940s. She didn't finish her degree and that's what was expected of her."

With nearly 40 years of experience officiating weddings in and around the Iowa City area, Rev. Mark Hall of Iowa City Minister identified a decline in college-aged clients since he became ordained, citing financial independence and the increasing availability of birth control as a potential deterrent.

"Weddings have not been in great demand," Hall said. "People are not getting married as young."

A 2018 article from *The New York Times* quantifies Hall's sentiments. Experts have observed a rise in the median age of married men and women by 6.5 years and 6.6 years respectively since the 1970s.

By today's standards, marrying young may seem dated in principle, but Hall — having officiated thousands of weddings during his career — emphasized that the long-term success of any marriage has less to do with when they're wed and everything to do with "strong economics, maturity, and [knowing] how to treat one another."

For Callahan Morton, class of 2023, and Callum Swanson, class of 2024, their mothers had known the two would end up together since they were babies.

Their efforts to form a connection between the two were largely unsuccessful, but when Morton decided to reach out to Swanson during their second year of



Kathy Le | The Daily Iowan

Callahan Morton and Callum Swanson pose for a portrait at the Voxman Music Building on Jan. 14. Morton and Swanson are engaged undergraduate students studying at the University of Iowa.

high school, their friendship quickly grew into something more.

Together, they attended the UI — Morton for her Bachelor of Arts in psychology and French and Swanson for his Bachelor of Arts in English and screenwriting — and dated throughout college.

In the summer before Morton's last semester, Swanson led her on a walk on the beach during a family vacation in Florida. The route he took was decked in

being in school — I was getting a glimpse of what the next chapter was," Morton said. "It's with my best friend, the person I've wanted to spend the rest of my life with since I was 15."

Similarly, for class of 2022 graduates Grace and Noah Weiner, the decision to get married came this past August right before the two headed into graduate school. Their motivation to get married when they did was "to just get it done,"

met his now-wife Erica Bushaw, class of 2007, after he signed up to participate in the UI's annual Dance Marathon on a whim in 2003. He happened to be placed in the same group as her during the student organization's first meeting.

"It was like out of a movie," he said. "I saw her and everything else in the room stopped for a second."

The "movie," however, was something more akin to "When Harry Met Sally" — at the time, Erica Bushaw had a boyfriend. Three years later at a birthday party, a mutual friend reintroduced them.

"Like a giant nerd, I explained that I knew who she was since 2003," he shared.

A choice opener, but a successful one at that. The two started dating that night. Within the week, he was telling his friends she would be his future wife.

"They laughed, but I was like 'No, I'm serious,'" Travis Bushaw said. "I'm going to marry her."

In February 2006, as the Dance Marathon's executive director, he surprised her with a proposal on stage surrounded by her closest friends and family, something he pulled off with the help of the many who supported them.

However, Travis Bushaw's decision to propose while still in school took a financial toll. Saving up for a ring took time, especially in the face of student loan payments and living expenses. Balancing both student teaching and Dance Marathon, he noted it was "a lot all at once."

"But obviously — worth it," he added.

For him, the timing was perfect. Though part of him wishes their story could have begun three years earlier, he also pondered whether their relationship would have unfolded the same way if they had known each other sooner.

"It worked out just like it was supposed to," he said. "You know when you know."

"We got married on a Saturday and we both started grad school the following Monday. It sort of just worked out."

Grace Weiner  
University of Iowa alum

flowers and balloons, meaning only one thing for a taken-aback Morton.

"My family was hiding in the bushes. It was so funny," Morton said, describing the moment Swanson popped the question.

Their announcement was met with shock from some, considering the newlyweds' age, but saw only support from friends and family. For the couple, it was a question of when, not why.

"It was perfect timing," she said.

This past semester went by fast for Morton who said she would suppress academic stress by browsing wedding boards on Pinterest. She shared that this had always been the plan. The two knew from the beginning they wanted to marry each other.

With Morton having since graduated and Swanson with one semester to go, the two are ready to turn their full attention toward their upcoming wedding and their future careers alongside each other.

"As one chapter closed — both of us

Grace Weiner shared.

"We got married on a Saturday and we both started grad school the following Monday," she said. "It sort of just worked out."

Like the Rodmans, their story began before the first week of classes in 2018. A run-in at Hillcrest Residence Hall while the two were both first years students carried into a relationship just days later.

Grace Weiner, now in graduate school for marriage and family therapy at Mount Mercy University, had always planned she would embark on that academic journey. Now she jokes that getting married was a prerequisite to the program.

With Noah Weiner at the UI College of Law, the two are still "typical." Their hearts were set on advancing their careers, but now they're doing it together.

"It was a dream. I wouldn't change a thing," she said. "[Life] is not hard with Noah."

For Travis Bushaw, class of 2006, he

## POINT | COUNTERPOINT

# Which show deserved the win for Outstanding Comedy Series?



Jami Martin-Trainor  
Managing Digital Editor

## THE BEAR

Over the past few months, "The Bear" has been one of my favorite conversation starters. I've brought it up with friends and begged them to watch it so we can gab about the character development and general plot. I had an hour-long conversation with my hairdresser about the show and its complexities while she was massaging shampoo out of my hair.

"The Bear" has morphed into one of my favorite pieces of media and absolutely earned this year's Outstanding Comedy Emmy.

Season two of "The Bear" takes a turn compared to its earlier counterpart, following its robust cast through the opening of a new restaurant named The Bear in hopes of earning a Michelin star. Where the first season shows a budding family falling apart, the second focuses on rebuilding.

Ayo Edebiri, who plays sous chef Sydney Adamu, comes into the limelight this season, balancing lofty ambition with a looming fear of failure.

The rippling impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on the restaurant industry was a key idea contributing to Sydney's worries, combined with her former catering business failing — striking a blow to her financials and confidence.

Generally speaking, most media I've watched that brings up the COVID-19 pandemic does so in a very disingenuous way, relying on the shared experience to do the heavy lifting of connecting with audi-

ence members. "The Bear" is one of the few shows that shows an accurate, nuanced representation of a post-pandemic world.

The highlight of this season for me, however, was Ebon Moss-Bachrach's portrayal of Richard Jerimovich. Season one Richie was my least favorite character, and it wasn't even close. At the start of the second season when he decided to turn over his new leaf, I had no faith that he would actually change and was ultimately surprised in the most pleasant way.

Throughout the course of season two, each character had their own vignette episode as the collective plot built toward the opening of The Bear. Richie's episode demonstrated how a carefully crafted character can transform from someone who is complicit and angry to a complex person who wants to get better.

This culminates in the final episode, a parallel to the penultimate episode of season one. During the "friends and family" soft opening, main character Carmen Berzatto — played by Jeremy Allen White — and chaos almost ensues. With orders piling up and two employees out of commission, The Bear could have been over before it even started.

Utilizing the skills he learned earlier in the season, Richie stepped up to the plate to run the front of the house, making calls and communicating what is needed from the rest of the staff. Season one Richie wouldn't have the skills or the respect necessary to make those calls. Season two Richie had grown in a realistic way, which is a wildly impressive feat from the writers. In an additional layer, Carmy acts as foil to Richie, regressing on his emotional growth that culminated over the course of the season.

"The Bear" is a masterpiece of writing and acting, balancing humor, tension, tragedy, and hope — an absolutely deserving winner of this year's Outstanding Comedy Emmy.



Parker Jones  
Managing Editor

## JURY DUTY

Although "The Bear" has had an incredible fan reception since its release, the true winner of this year's Outstanding Comedy Emmy should have been the reality TV sitcom "Jury Duty." I've never been summoned for jury duty, but if the real deal is anything like the Amazon Freevee series, it should be a hilarious, over-the-top, and strangely heart-felt experience.

Think "Impractical Jokers" meets "The Office" meets "Judge Judy," except that no courtroom drama or prank show has come anywhere close to the entertainment provided in "Jury Duty." The sitcom has totaled four Emmy nominations and undoubtedly deserves the win for Outstanding Comedy.

The show is presented as a type of "mockumentary," following a select group of regular people summoned and sequestered for jury duty, but with one catch: everyone is an actor, and everything is loosely scripted. That is, except for one carefully selected participant who thinks it's all real, and being filmed for a real documentary.

Most of the cast are fairly unknown stars — though absolutely masterful at keeping to their crafted personas — except for actor James Marsden, who plays a snobish, stereotypical celebrity version of himself, annoyed at being sequestered and constantly mentioning the next big acting project he's working on.

Other standout characters include Todd, an intensely awkward and geekish guy with a passion for inventing, played by David

Brown; Jeannie, a witty, flirtatious woman who gets into trouble with one of the other jurors, played by Edy Modica; and Officer Nikki, the bailiff responsible for keeping the jurors in check, albeit with constant dry remarks, played by Rashida Olayiwola.

Ronald Gladden, the true star of the show, had no idea that these people he met and befriended were actors. Up until the very last moments of the series — which honestly made me emotional — Gladden truly believed it was all happenstance, and treated everyone with legitimate kindness and respect through all the show's ups and downs. For his heartfelt participation, he was awarded a total of \$100,000 and broke into tears of disbelief and awe.

I've never seen a premise like that of "Jury Duty" executed so flawlessly. Every episode has some strange situation that tows the line of believable and left me wondering multiple times how they managed to find such a good cast of improvisers, and a non-actor so good at adapting to suspiciously bizarre or uncomfortable interactions with his fellow jurors.

Even I questioned the reality of what I was watching, especially as scenarios got more and more ridiculous by the episode. Especially when I imagine the extensive planning that it all must have required, the sheer behind-the-scenes effort that went into "Jury Duty" alone could earn it the Emmy.

I would adore a second season of the show, but with its fan reception and critical acclaim, it would be difficult to pull off the same stunt with another random unassuming individual, especially in another courtroom setting. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experiment and a deeply humorous one at that.

For its unique premise, its brilliant cast and crew, and its mundanely absurd style of humor, I believe "Jury Duty" deserves this year's Emmy for Outstanding Comedy.