

INSIDE



Iowa opts out of food assistance

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds rejected a summer food program as Iowa food banks and resources are strained.

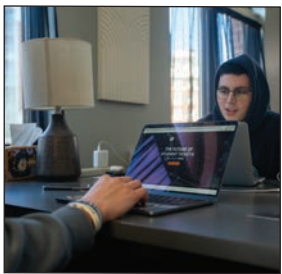
EPI | 5A



PHOTOS: Bikers give back

Fat tire bikers raised \$11,000 for the Solon Centennial Lions Club at Lake MacBride on Feb. 10.

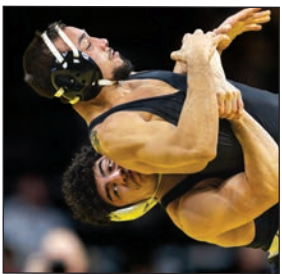
NEWS | 6A



UI students launch ticket platform

The app, SeatStock, was created to help students avoid getting scammed while buying sports tickets.

SPORTS | 1B



PHOTOS: Penn State punishment

See photos from *The Daily Iowan* of No. 1 Penn State defeating No. 3 Iowa during a wrestling dual on Feb. 9.

SPORTS | 4B



Dating app triumphs, trials, and tribulations

Apps like Hinge and Tinder benefit some UI students but fail others when it comes to making a connection.

80 HOURS | 1C

ONLINE

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

• See in-depth coverage of the Iowa vs. Michigan women's basketball game on Feb. 15 and Caitlin Clark's record-breaking performance at dailyiowan.com. Her all-time NCAA women's scoring record comes after Kelsey Plum made it with 3,397 points in 2017. Clark's average is 32.1 points per game.



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DEI scholarships under fire

The UI is reexamining criteria after the end of race-based admissions.

Kate Perez
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Since the U.S. Supreme Court ended race-based admissions by striking down affirmative action in June 2023, dozens of institutions have changed their admissions policies. Now thousands of dollars in scholarships aimed at people with diverse backgrounds are under review, including at the University of Iowa.

UI officials told *The Daily Iowan* that the school began reviewing scholarships after the overturning of affirmative action and when some civil complaints started to be filed against other universities.

In a statement to the *DI*, UI Assistant Vice President for External Relations Jeneane Beck wrote that the university consulted with the Iowa Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Iowa Board of Regents on the matter.

"Based on the principles articulated by the Supreme Court, the university is reviewing and amending scholarships and other financial aid offerings that use certain protected class characteristics (e.g. race, gender, age, or sexual orientation) as selection criteria," Beck wrote.

Since the end of affirmative action, higher education institutions in the U.S. have had to quickly figure out the new law.

Julie J. Park, an associate professor of education at the University of Maryland and researcher of racial equity in higher education, campus racial climate, and college admissions, wrote in an email to the *DI* that the restriction on race-based admissions caused by the Supreme Court decision technically should not affect scholarships.

"That said, people are drawing the conclusion that if we aren't allowed to directly know an applicant's race/ethnicity during undergrad admissions, that scholarships that cater to particular groups are also subject to be challenged," she wrote.

UI diversity scholarships under review

UI officials said less than 10 percent of all university scholarships are being reviewed and not all of those will have to change. The criteria and wording for affected scholarships will likely be changed to be inclusive of people from all backgrounds, as opposed to people from a specific ethnic or racial group.

Some UI scholarships have already been impacted, including the Advantage Iowa Award. While the award was previously reserved for incoming first-year students from historically underrepresented populations, including those with African American, Hispanic, Native American, Pacific Islander, and multiracial backgrounds, it will now be a need-based award for students of all backgrounds.

At this time, it is undetermined when the review will be completed. UI officials told the *DI* that they will have to read through each scholarship to see if it includes a protected class characteristic in its criteria, then meet with each scholarship donor to assess whether they are willing to change the wording and criteria of their fund.

In an email to the *DI*, regents' Senior Communications Director Josh Lehman wrote that each university is handling its review individually.

"The universities consulted with the Board office on this issue. As financial aid is managed at the institutional level, the universities are currently reviewing their financial aid offerings to ensure compliance and consistency among all regent institutions," he wrote.

Iowa State University and the Iowa Attorney General's Office did not respond to requests for comment on the reviewing process.

University of Northern Iowa Director of University Relations Pete Morris wrote in an email to the *DI* that all scholarships are based on merit or financial need.

"There are various criteria across the many colleges and departments, but none of them involved protected class characteristics," he wrote.

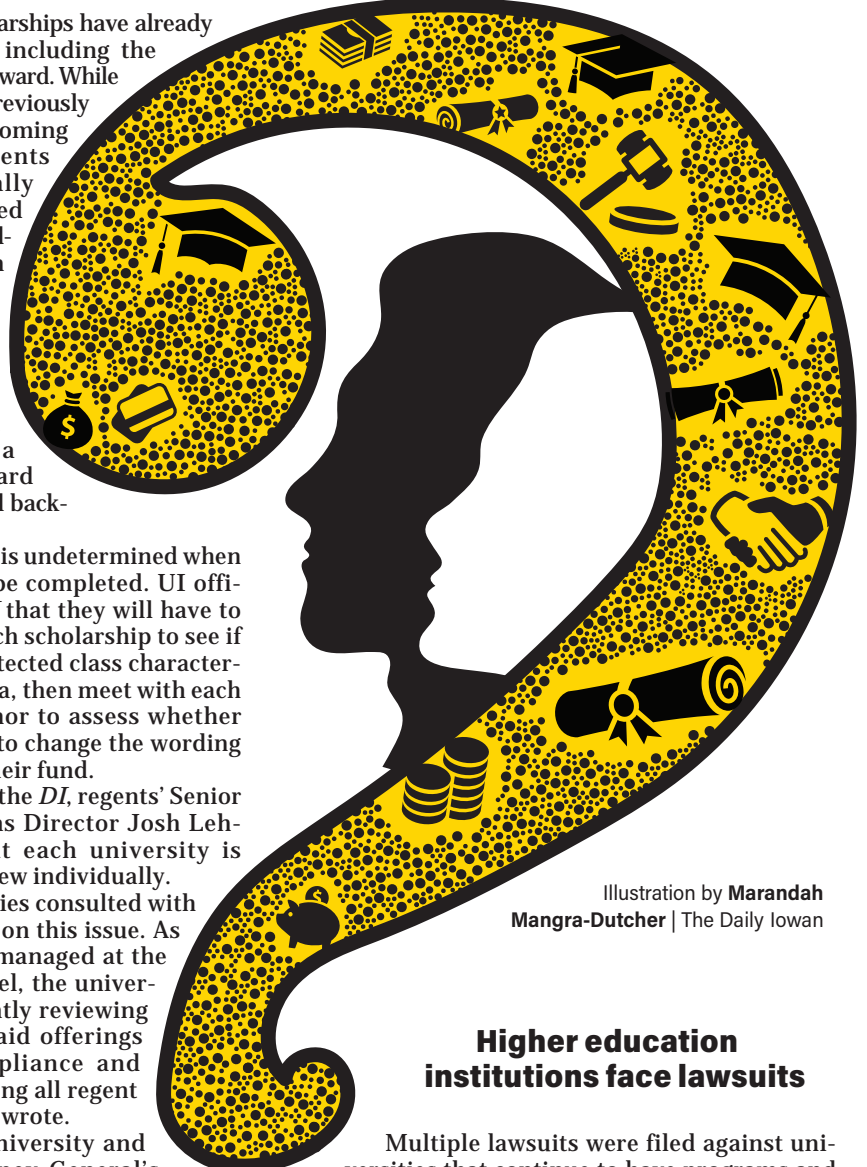


Illustration by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

Higher education institutions face lawsuits

Multiple lawsuits were filed against universities that continue to have programs and scholarships designated for students of a certain race or background. One example is a complaint against Kansas State University filed on Aug. 16, 2023, for providing a "racially discriminatory" multicultural student scholarship.

The scholarship, titled the Joey Lee Garmon Multicultural Scholarship, is "directed toward students of historically underrepresented backgrounds. The applicant must be of an ethnic group that have been historically and tradi-

DEI | 2A

THC drinks hit menus in Iowa City

Several bars and restaurants are now selling the new drink option.

Jack Moore
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THC drinks are hitting the shelves in Iowa City bars and stores, and customers are enthusiastically embracing them as a drink choice other than alcohol.

"I love it as an alternative," Steve Nash said while sitting at the bar of ReUnion Brewery. "You can walk into a bar and feel like you're still part of the experience with everyone else, but you can consume something non-alcoholic and still have a nice fun time with your friends."

THC is the psychoactive substance found in cannabis. Anywhere from five to 20 milligrams of THC can create impairment. ReUnion Brewery, Joe's Place, and Big Grove Brewery all offer drinks containing a maximum of 10 milligrams of THC per drink. These drinks contain no alcohol.

While the recreational use of cannabis is illegal both in Iowa and federally, the most recent version of the farm bill, passed by former President Donald Trump in 2018, legalized the sale of hemp-derived drink products containing less than 0.3 percent of THC by volume in all 50 states.

Both ReUnion and Joe's have a limit of four drinks per person. Big Grove, however, leaves the decision to limit drinks to servers, Big Grove Service Manager Karley Hester said.

ReUnion Brewery introduced THC-infused drinks on Jan. 26 through a partnership with Minnesota-based manufacturer WLD WTR. ReUnion offers three varieties of THC drinks each coming with 10 milligrams of THC, ReUnion Brewery Manager Elliot Lamb said.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Greg Ruth drinks a Climbing Kites cannabis-infused sparkling water at Big Grove Brewery in Iowa City on Feb. 8. THC is the psychoactive substance found in cannabis.

ReUnion's branded drink, Jungle Vibes, is paired with two other offerings which come in flavors like strawberry watermelon and blueberry lemon. While Jungle Vibes will stay, Lamb said the other two drinks may change seasonally.

"We're happy. It's something we wanted to try and give people that alternative," Lamb said. "Just a nice, functional way to step away

from alcohol."

Hester said Big Grove has seen fewer issues with individuals overusing THC drinks compared to overusing alcohol.

"What we're seeing is that there's less issues with these drinks than alcohol in general," Hester said.

DRINK | 3A

UI professor launches oral hygiene care app

The College of Dentistry developed an app for nursing home workers.

Grace Olson
News Reporter
grace-olson@uiowa.edu



Marchini

Researchers at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry developed an app that walks caregivers through providing oral hygiene care for people with dementia and older adults.

With the help of a \$100,000 grant from the Delta Dental Institute, Leonardo Marchini, a professor and department executive officer of preventive and community dentistry and his team were able to complete a clinical trial of the app in a nursing home.

"In an area that is chronically overworked and underpaid, it's important they feel that they are doing a better job."

Leonardo Marchini
University of Iowa professor

The app, named Dental.Aging.Tips, is free for anyone, and consists of tutorials and videos that teach caregivers in nursing homes or those caring for a loved one at home how to clean patients' teeth or provide other forms of hygiene care.

The sections in the app include:

- Why oral health is important, including facts and common oral health problems.
- Tips on providing daily care, such as managing dry mouth, brushing teeth and dentures.
- Overcoming barriers to good care, like good care techniques.
- Frequently asked questions section with advice on wearing dentures, brushing behaviors, etc.

For example, there are videos to help reduce the stress of patients with dementia through techniques like distraction and focusing on

APP | 3A

DEI
from **1A**

tionally oppressed in the achievement of academic and leadership endeavors to include applicants of African American, American Indian, Asian American, and Latinx American heritage.”

The complaint, which was filed with the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education by the Equal Protection Project of the Legal Insurrection Foundation, argues that the scholarship violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which “prohibits intentional discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin.”

However, while characteristics such as gender, race and ethnicity, and sexual orientation are selection criteria that are subject to change, identity factors such as experiencing a disability and being a member or citizen of a tribe will not necessarily be impacted.

“Native American tribal designation is a legal designation and not necessarily a racial/ethnic one. That said, there are many Native Americans who do not have a documented tribal affiliation due to complex

one individual and something else when applied to a person of another color. If both are not accorded the same protection, then it is not equal,” the complaint states, quoting the case.

Now, other complaints similar to the ones filed against Kansas State University are impacting other institutions, including Big Ten school the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is facing a complaint from the same company for “supporting and promoting a program that engages in invidious discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin.”

“I think many of them have already shifted, from scholarships designated for certain groups to scholarships meant to support students with a commitment to diversity and serving diverse populations,” Park wrote.

Additionally, she wrote that the changes could mean some implications for diversity in enrollment at universities in the future and fewer opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds.

“I think that many racially minoritized students struggle to finance higher education, so any restriction on scholarships will likely affect opportunity,” Park wrote.



Cody Blissett | The Daily Iowan

Executive director Mark Braun listens to a speaker during an Iowa Board of Regents meeting in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Nov. 15, 2023. In an email to *The Daily Iowan*, regents senior communications director Josh Lehman wrote that each university is handling its review of scholarships individually.

issues, so there still may be implications for Native communities,” Park wrote.

As institutions grapple with what to do with diversity scholarships moving forward, Park wrote that she thinks many will end up changing criteria to be in line with the affirmative action decision if they have not already.

“I think that many racially minoritized students struggle to finance higher education, so any restriction on scholarships will likely affect opportunity,” Park wrote.

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UI professors create AI adviser

The chatbot answers College of Engineering students' questions.



Sahithi Shankaihgari | The Daily Iowan

Er-wei Bai and Tyler Bell, professors of the College of Engineering at University of Iowa, demonstrate DINA, an artificial intelligence adviser on Feb. 7. DINA is a Departmental Intelligent Neutral Advisor created to guide electrical and computer engineering students in information related to undergraduate programs offered at the university.

Grace Olson
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Professors at the University of Iowa College of Engineering are embracing the use of artificial intelligence technology through the creation of a chatbot that can academically advise engineering students.

Assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Tyler Bell originally programmed the chatbot as a throwaway example for an assignment in one of his classes.

But UI College of Engineering professor Er-Wei Bai, who attended the lecture, ended up asking Bell to work on the programming for official use.

The program is called Departmental Intelligent Neural Advisor, or DINA, and launched for students on the department's website on Feb. 3.

Dina Blanc, a former business manager in the Electrical and Computer

Engineering department, is the inspiration for the AI chatbot's name.

UI College of Engineering professor Gary Christensen, who supported the project, said Blanc always answered students' questions about different courses or scheduling.

Bell also based the appearance of DINA's virtual avatar on Blanc.

When Bell and Bai thanked Blanc for permitting them to use her name over email, she wrote, "I love it!!! I am honored."

The bot has access to ChatGPT-4 as well as all the information on the department's website. DINA is designed to answer students' questions about information already on the department's website that may be otherwise difficult to find without a specialized search.

"This simplifies everything. You can get an answer to your question anywhere, anytime, even before bedtime working at home," Bai said. "You don't have to come [to the advising office]."

The program doesn't access any personal data, but Bell said he may work with

the UI to see if this could be a feature.

"An easy way to think about this is a smart search of the ECE website and a one-stop shop to ask a question," Bell said.

As a faculty adviser, Bell said he always answers questions in meetings that students are capable of answering themselves and that DINA makes that search significantly simpler.

If advisers can spend less time answering questions and pointing at their computer screens, they can spend more time connecting with students and providing guidance for the bigger picture.

"The idea is that we don't want to replace the adviser," Bell said. "We want to make them better at their jobs and let them handle the questions that are actually challenging."

Once the department works out any kinks they may find in the programming and see how students

and faculty react to DINA, Bai and Christensen said the advising bot could be expanded to other colleges at the UI and administrative areas, such as the admissions website.

"It's a stepping stone for what we would like it to be in the future," Christensen said. "Right now, it's a very limited database, but we hope to expand it to actual course offerings and make it more useful."

When the DINA chatbot site is opened, there is a disclaimer on the page that reads, "DINA can make mistakes." Bell said it is important to remember that AI doesn't necessarily get everything right but that the programming can only get better.

"I don't think these technologies are going anywhere," Bell said. "When targeted like this and used responsibly, they can add a lot of value. So, this is not a bad place to start to try to see what that value looks like."

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DRINK
from 1A

Big Grove has offered THC drinks for nearly six months and is now a part of the manufacturing process of the THC drinks.

Hester said Big Grove partnered with the Des Moines-based brewing company Lua Brewing.

"They have been selling very well, I think better than we even thought they would at first," Hester said.

She said she has tried the drinks and describes the experience as mellow, but it can impact people differently depending on the amount of THC consumed through the product.

"You have, like, this head high and you just feel good," Hester said. "You're kind of giggly and then after that, I just noticed that I get a good night's sleep."

While he was actively consuming a THC drink branded as "Climbing Kites" at Big Grove, Greg Ruth, 38, said he's from California, where recreational cannabis use is legal, and had used cannabis products during that time.

"It's a longer-lasting high," Ruth said. "I really just want to melt into the couch, which for me is a good thing because I'm on my feet all day, and then when I get home I just really want to relax."

Ruth said he found the drinks as a preferable alternative to alcoholic beverages at the bar.

"My relationship with alcohol has shifted a lot as I've gotten older. I find myself wanting to drink less alcohol because it doesn't make me feel great the next day," Ruth said. "For me, beverages like Climbing Kites are just a means to use less alcohol."

Stacey Gonzalez, a manager at Joe's Place, said the bar started offering THC drinks in the last month.

Gonzalez said the bar offers drinks ranging from 2.5 to 10 milligrams of THC.

She said it is taking time for people to



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

A poster for WLD WTR THC-infused drinks is seen at ReUnion Brewery in Iowa City on Feb. 8. THC-infused drinks are being legally sold across Iowa City bars and restaurants.

realize Joe's Place offers the drinks. "People are just excited that there's some extra options besides just drinking any beer or soda," Gonzalez said.

APP
from 1A

another person or TV. Other videos inform caregivers how to deal with a patient who may be acting aggressively.

Almost immediately, Marchini said the benefits of the app were noticeable as caregivers reported the success of the techniques. Marchini said anytime a nursing home starts a routine oral hygiene protocol, the first thing that happens is patients report better well-being and better quality of life.

Caregivers also began reporting more job satisfaction and better knowledge aiding their work.

"In an area that is chronically overworked and underpaid, it's important they feel that they are doing a better job," Marchini said. "It's always good to have that rewarding feeling, that glee — you are making a difference."

When patients' teeth, gums, and overall mouth are being attentively cared for the health benefits are immense, Marchini said.

Food becomes easier to taste, which can improve conditions such as diabetes and hypertension because patients need less sugar and salt to taste their food.

Expanded palatability also means patients can enjoy a more diverse diet and improved nutrition.

Another benefit is removing harmful bacteria that can form a biofilm on the surface of the mouth when not regularly cleaned.

Patients can inhale this bacterium and develop respiratory infections such as pneumonia, which Marchini said is the leading cause of death among nursing home residents.

Delta Dental Institute presented the findings in January. Joseph Dill, Delta Dental Chief Dental Officer, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan* that Marchini's research will provide caregivers with a new tool.

The app has been so successful that Marchini said there have already been requests to translate the tutorials into 17 languages for use worldwide.

"The most rewarding thing is to listen to the caregivers when they are explaining how the app has helped them understand and overcome problems," Marchini said. "Whenever we have a chance to hear a caregiver or a family member saying that it helps improve the life of mom and dad, that makes a big difference."



Ava Neumaier | The Daily Iowan

Dentistry students Andrew, Maggie, and Megan help a patient at the Geriatrics and Special Needs Clinic in the UI College of Dentistry on Feb. 8. Leonardo Marchini and his students designed an app to help older patients with oral care.

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OPINIONS

DAILYIOWAN.COM

COLUMN

Don't mandate the national anthem

Iowa lawmakers proposed a bill that would require students to sing the national anthem at K-12 schools, but it will only spur resentment and force patriotism.



Caden Bell
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House Senate Bill 587 was introduced in the Iowa Legislature in January that would require students to sing the national anthem daily at public K-12 schools.

This bill would also require social studies classes to teach the history of the national anthem.

This is nothing more than an attempt to force patriotism and violate the First Amendment rights of students.

The First Amendment gives all Americans — regardless of age — the right to freedom of speech and expression. This bill tries to address this by allowing students to take respectful silence, but it is unclear how this silence is meant to be performed. It would also mean that teachers who wish not to sing would have to be replaced by another staff member willing to.

The bill does not give further specifications or details about this procedure.

While students are given an out, they are given it in a way that potentially silences them. For teachers who wish not to participate, this bill will ostracize them as they

would have to go out of their way to find a staff member to fill in for them, taking away time from learning as well as drawing unnecessary attention.

The national anthem is meant to be a voluntary patriotic display. While it is fine to be patriotic, this requirement will only serve as a form of propaganda to force or heavily encourage kids to automatically take pride in their nation instead of being able to develop their own ideals from actively living in the country.

While the bill might seem patriotic in the U.S., it would be seen as weird and propagandistic in other nations. If videos came out of Chinese or North Korean students singing a song each morning, we might even find it authoritarian. But in the U.S., it is presented as a way for younger kids to learn to appreciate their nation. This could also build resentment, as kids will see the national anthem as a tedious chore they have to perform each morning instead of a display of patriotism.

While the national anthem is a good way to celebrate our country during sporting events, medalling at the Olympics, and national holidays, we cannot force kids to sing it during valuable time that they could use to learn instead.

Part of patriotism is learning to love or admire your country on your own by appreciating its culture, traditions, and sacrifices through your own eyes and experiences.



Grace Smith | The Daily Iowan

Individuals repeat the Pledge of Allegiance during a campaign event for Republican Presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Rapids on Jan. 6. House Senate Bill 587 would make K-12 students sing the national anthem.

Forcing patriotism would only serve to manufacture a fake blind loyalty created through pressure and ostracization. The best course would be to let kids experi-

ence what it means to be American in their own way and let them have the freedom to determine and feel how they want about our country.

COLUMN

Iowa needs to prioritize juvenile rehab

Between racial disparities and the use of punishment over rehabilitation, the practices of Iowa's juvenile justice system need to be reconsidered.



Jordan Coates
Opinions Columnist
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In the state of Iowa, youth of color consistently continue to be disproportionately suspended in juvenile detention centers compared to their white peers.

The disproportionate suspension and detention rates of youth of color in Iowa's juvenile justice system indicate deep-seated racial disparities. These issues need to be addressed through policy changes and community-level interventions to ensure equitable treatment and opportunities for all young people. This disparity has hardly budged over the past decade.

According to national data from the Sentencing Project, "Incarceration disparities between Black and white youth have remained stubbornly high. As of 2021, Black youth were 4.7 times as likely to be placed ... in juvenile facilities as their white peers."

In Iowa, Polk County Juvenile Detention Center had to temporarily open an additional wing in recent months because of an ongoing statewide problem of finding adequate space for the juvenile population.

Children are being placed further away from their families at a cost of thousands of dollars in transportation for Iowa taxpayers. In addition, Iowa's most senior judicial officer warned that the state's system for defending impoverished juvenile court clients is on the brink of collapse.

Something has to change. Building jails to house children is not the answer to ending the school-to-prison pipeline. State officials and national experts have called the approach costly, ineffective, and out of step with national best practices in dealing with at-risk children.

One way to address the disparities in the rate of arrests of young people of color is to improve the relationship between youth and the police.

Many communities have implemented training programs for law enforcement officers that aim to build their skills in facilitating more positive interactions with young people, especially those from minority communities. By reducing the number of arrests and improving the relationship between youth and law enforcement, the disparities in the justice system can be reduced.

On a state level access, we need to develop objective, structured decision-making tools, such as detention risk assessment instruments, to help intake staff make objective, unbiased decisions regarding detaining a youth or exploring other options.

According to the ACLU, the current best practice to stop racialized disparities in juvenile detentions "is to use resources to prevent kids from entering the juvenile

detention system altogether. Advocates urged the board to use the funds on prevention and rehabilitation instead."

Ann Schwickerath, the executive director of the Davenport-based development nonprofit Project Renewal, urges communities in Iowa to invest in support and rehabilitation instead of incarceration, which researchers have found increases recidivism.

According to Schwickerath, "When you lock kids up, it's not rehabilitating to them. It's not helpful to them. Invest in other ways to strengthen local communities, address family needs, and reduce juvenile crime. Start listening to the youth who are speaking. We could really make a long-term difference and it wouldn't be out of reach for all of us to work together and provide that."

In the U.S., youth of color are overrepresented at every stage of the juvenile justice system. The disproportionate suspension and detention rates of youth of color in Iowa's juvenile justice system highlight the urgent need for policy changes and community-level interventions to ensure equal treatment and opportunities for all young people.

Iowa must prioritize prevention and rehabilitation over incarceration, investing in support and rehabilitation instead of building more jails to end the school-to-prison pipeline. It is time for the state to listen to the voices of the youth and work together to provide the necessary services to reduce juvenile crime and strengthen local communities.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

What's the best place in Iowa City for a Valentine's Day date?



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DAVE'S FOXHEAD TAVERN

Sometimes when you go on a date, you just want to sit down for some drinks. Whether this is a first date or your life-long partner, it's nice to be able to have casual conversation over two or three drinks.

The problem is that the University of Iowa is one of America's top party schools. At least four days a week, you will find many of the bars on Clinton Street or in the Ped Mall packed wall to wall with students emptying their bank accounts in exchange for the weakest

vodka lemonades you can imagine.

It's hard to have a nice date when the air is tainted with the smell of Axe body spray and your conversation is interrupted by Drake's newest song blaring through the speakers and the bass rattling all glasses in the building.

On the corner of Gilbert and Market Streets sits Dave's Foxhead Tavern, an unassuming red rectangle that is the perfect spot for a casual date over drinks. Featuring several booths, a single pool table, a real jukebox with all the greatest classic love songs you could ever need, and a bountiful selection from concocted drinks to simple beers, the bar is a wonderful setting for tasty beverages and even better conversation.

Thanks to its small stature and older crowd, Foxhead is never an overwhelming space, even when it is busy. It is a perfect place to get to know someone or to fall more deeply in love with your partner.



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FREDDY'S

After a semester of awkward flirting with your lab partner in your Intro to Earth Science class, they finally asked you out for Valentine's Day. But where should you go? Nowhere. Because the best date spot in town, the Freddy's on Clinton Street, just closed last month.

After five years as an Iowa City staple, Freddy's closed its doors in January 2024, leaving a hole in the hearts and stomachs of Tinder matches everywhere.

While Freddy's does not have the glamour of Sports Column, its friendly atmosphere

makes it a great spot for a first date. Situated in the electrifying Old Capitol Mall, the 4.5-star hamburger restaurant had it all: a scenic view of the Iowa City Pedestrian Mall, indoor and outdoor seating, and the faint buzz of fluorescent overhead lights.

After ordering a flat burger and thin fries from a minimum-wage college student, you and your partner-to-be could sit down at a sticky red booth, hold hands across the table, and share a milkshake with two straws.

Closing merely a month before Valentine's Day, Iowa City residents are left wondering "What could possibly replace such a pillar of the community?" and, "Did love die with Freddy's?"

With no indication of new tenants, Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakhouses currently sits vacant. So instead of going on that long-awaited Freddy's date with the lab partner you've been crushing on, consider going next door to the Italian classic, Noodles and Company, or the authentic Mexican grill, Chipotle, this Valentine's Day.

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Iowa opts out of food assistance

Gov. Kim Reynolds rejected Iowa's summer food program as resources are strained.



Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

Mandi Remington prepares breakfast with her daughter Arya on Feb. 13. Remington used the Iowa P-EBT summer food program that gave families an extra \$40 stipend for groceries each month.

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While fresh fruit might be a household staple for many, it's out of Mandi Remington's budget. The single mom of three and current candidate for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors said she can't afford it due to rising grocery prices.

Remington, who makes \$55,000 a year working at the University of Iowa, said it can be even more difficult during the sum-

The Summer EBT program supported families who receive free or reduced-price school meals during the summer to decrease the summer food insecurity that comes with less access to school meals. The program was being tested in test sites around the country by the U.S. Department of Agriculture almost a decade before the height of the pandemic, but is being rolled out now to meet the pressing nutritional needs that have emerged as that aid expired.

The program would require an initial investment of \$2.2 million in administrative costs and a continuing investment of \$1.1 million from the state.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack expressed his disappointment in Reyn-

put money toward state programs like the state's summer meals program administered by the Iowa Department of Education.

An Iowa Department of Education official said the group will continue to administer meals at over 500 sites in low-income neighborhoods.

"The Iowa Department of Education remains committed to supporting students with healthy meals and food options," McKenzie Snow, director of the Iowa Department of Education, said in a news release on Dec. 22. "We are already leveraging family-focused, community-based solutions to support child nutrition and well-being in the summer, and we look forward to expanding these existing partnerships."

In the news release, the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services stated the department was looking to continue existing summer programs and is "exploring new opportunities to address family well-being and children's health in Iowa."

However, Sheila Hansen — a senior policy advocate at Common Good Iowa, a progressive think tank that advocates for children and families — said the state's meal programs are not enough.

The Summer EBT program would reach 245,000 Iowa children and the state's summer meals program had over 21,000 students eat meals at a food site daily on average. After the pandemic started in March 2020, Iowa saw a large uptick in visits during fiscal 2020 and 2021 to Iowa's summer meal program. They recorded 61,671 daily visits in 2020 and 63,610 visits in 2021, according to data collected by the Iowa Hunger Coalition.

However, Hansen said many legislative districts and communities are without summer meal programs, such as in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Luke Elzinga, executive director of the Iowa Hunger Coalition and a lobbyist for the Des Moines Area Religious Council, which operates 15 partner food pantry sites, said waivers allowing schools to provide grab-and-go options and other modifications with federally funded meals allowed more Iowa families to participate in the program.

Elzinga said he has not seen the state roll out new programs to supplant the gap left by not participating in the new Summer EBT program.

"We are eager to see the governor's plan around increasing the number of summer meals because we haven't seen anything yet," Elzinga said. "But there's some real gaps that exist."

Food pantries stretched thin

While the governor rebuffs the federal program, local food pantries are seeing record-setting demand, and advocates worry Reynolds' decision will increase the need.

Local food pantries like CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank in Iowa have seen a year-over-year increase in the number of households visiting the food pantry. Spanning two budget years from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023, the Iowa City-based pantry saw a 46 percent increase — from 31,000 households in fiscal 2021 to roughly 46,000 in fiscal 2023 — in households receiving assistance, according to data from Krystal Kabela the food bank manager at CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank.

Ryan Bobst, executive director of the North Liberty Community Pantry, said Reynolds' policy choice negatively adds to the "already exploding" need for food. The pantry expects a spike in need this summer when children will lose extra access to food.

From 2021-23, the pantry experienced a more than 40 percent increase — from 549

families in 2021 to 930 families in 2023 — in the average number of families served per month. Within the same time frame, the pounds of food distributed by the pantry more than doubled — hiking up to 588,386 total pounds or 49,032 pounds per month.

Hansen, with Common Good Iowa, said the struggle Iowans face regarding food insecurity is real and has worsened by increasing costs of groceries.

Food assistance payments are not adjusted for inflation, and now families can buy less on the squandering benefits, Hansen said. When families run out they will rely on food pantries, she said, putting further pressure on an already strained system.

"Some families will suffer," she said. "We will have children who will go hungry."

Since Elzinga joined the Des Moines Area Religious Council almost 10 years ago, food pantry traffic has more than doubled and the council is on pace to break its monthly record by 20 percent in January.

Elzinga said the organization and other food banks and pantries always see a spike in traffic in the summer, especially among households with children.

The USDA piloted a study in 2011 and 2012 to study the potential benefits of the Summer EBT program, which found that the small payments to families decreased food insecurity by 8.3 percent and increased the consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

Hansen said Reynolds' suggestion that the program would increase childhood obesity in the state doesn't consider studies that show the program increases access to nutritious foods.

"I just don't see how you keep food from children to solve an obesity problem," Hansen said. "Many of these children are going to not have food to eat at all. They're not obese, they're hungry, and they'll continue to probably be hungry."

Iowa counties look to sponsor programs

As food banks look to combat community food insecurity, some Democrat-led local governments explored giving them a boost and asked the USDA to allow Summer EBT funds at a local level so their constituents don't miss out.

After the Polk County Board of Supervisors sent a letter to the USDA asking to receive the federal funds, Linn and Johnson County supervisors followed suit in January and February meetings, respectively.

According to letters sent to the USDA by the three Democrat-led counties, 22,000 Polk County residents would be eligible, 7,000 Johnson County residents would be eligible, and 4,000 Linn County residents would qualify for the program.

Despite the counties' efforts, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 prohibits the USDA from working with individual counties, according to the USDA.

Johnson County Board of Supervisors Chair Rod Sullivan said the supervisors are discussing putting extra money into hunger relief, but could not match the scale of the federal money.

"Everybody will try to respond, but nobody locally has the resources, be it a government or a nonprofit or even an individual, to step up and do anything on the scale that the federal government can do," Sullivan said.

Application deadline approaches

Iowa Democrats are pushing to find a way to receive federal funding as the deadline to apply rapidly approaches. Still, without support from the Republican majority, their efforts are unlikely to advance.

Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott, D-Waukee, described the decision to opt out of the summer EBT program as "poorly informed."

Although the Iowa Departments of Education and Health and Human Services committed to "exploring new opportunities" to satisfy family and child nutritional needs when Reynolds rejected the federal funds, Trone Garriott said she hasn't seen proposals from Reynolds.

The *DI* asked Republican leadership on the Iowa House and Senate Health and Human Services committee for comment via email and called five times over the course of a week and reached out to the governor's office for comment twice via email over a week, but did not receive responses.

A bill introduced last month would require the governor to participate in the Summer EBT programs. Senate File 2039, introduced by Sen. Janice Weiner, D-Iowa City, and cosigned by several senators, is viable until Feb. 15. A similar bill introduced in the Iowa House by Rep. Chuck Isenhardt, D-Dubuque, was also cosponsored by several others.

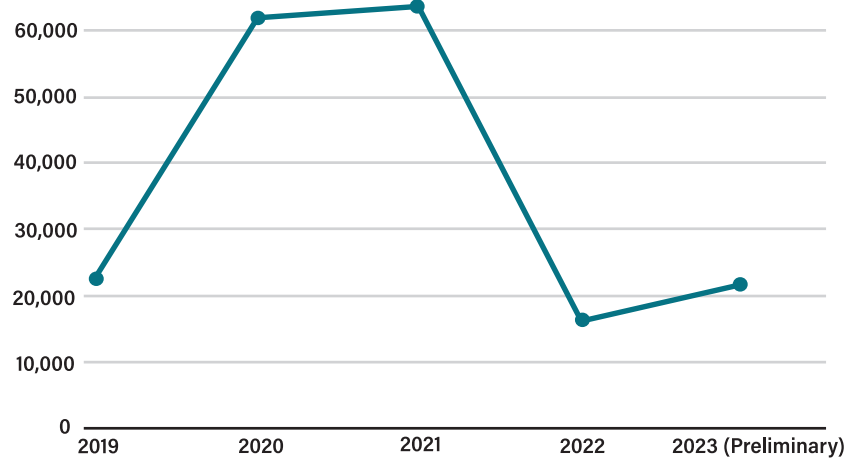
Additional legislation filed by Weiner, Senate File 2060, would require free school breakfast and lunch in the state. Weiner sponsored legislation that would provide \$5 million to the Iowa Food Bank Association.

HACAP said it will match the funds with an additional \$5 million to pursue local purchasing for food pantries.

"My personal approach to feeding kids and dealing with food insecurity is let's do all of the above," Weiner said. "Why not do all of the above and then figure out what works the best and move forward with that in the future?"

Pandemic flexibilities saw jump in summer meal attendance

With grab-and-go lunches and more resources provided by the state government, Iowa's summer meal program saw a surge of usage during the height of the pandemic.



Sourced from Iowa Hunger Coalition | Infographic by Marandah Mangra-Dutcher | The Daily Iowan

mer to keep food in the fridge when her children are at home.

"My children have never been out of food — I do everything I can to make sure that that doesn't happen — but we find ourselves looking through the cabinets, doing what we can to make a casserole out of canned goods at the end of the month," Remington said.

Remington who was one of over 200,000 Iowa families that received a Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer card, or P-EBT, a form of food assistance provided to families during the pandemic due to missed school lunches. The federal program, which ended in the summer of 2023 after starting in 2020 with the declaration of a Public Health Emergency, which provided families with \$120 a month per child during the summer months because they received free or reduced-price school meals.

Remington bought fresh fruits, vegetables, and other nutritious foods for her three children with the program's funds.

She is one of the thousands of Iowa parents who won't receive an extra \$40 a month per child in food assistance after Republican Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds in December rejected federal funds for the Summer EBT program. The new federal initiative would provide millions in collective benefits to nearly 245,000 Iowa children and invest \$29.4 million in combating childhood food insecurity in the state.

"An EBT card does nothing to promote nutrition at a time when childhood obesity has become an epidemic," Reynolds said in a Dec. 22 news release rebuffing the federal funding. "If the Biden Administration and Congress want to make a real commitment to family well-being, they should invest in already existing programs and infrastructure at the state level and give us the flexibility to tailor them to our state's needs."

olds during remarks to reporters after the renewable fuels summit in Altoona, the *Des Moines Register* reported in January.

"There's a lot of disappointment in the governor's decision," Vilsack said to reporters.

Iowa is one of 14 Republican-led states that did not apply for the Summer EBT program before the Jan. 1 deadline set by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, which funds the program. The USDA extended the deadline for Iowa to apply, but Reynolds rebuffed the deadline and has not responded to a request for comment from *The Daily Iowan*.

Her decision comes as food insecurity in Iowa slowly increases, though it remains below the national average. USDA data shows the number of food-insecure households in Iowa increased from 7 percent in 2021 to 8.9 percent in 2022.

According to Feeding America, a nonprofit focused on combating food insecurity in the U.S., one in 13 Iowa children faced hunger in 2021, which equates to 68,990.

While food insecurity is on the rise, experts say the federal program could drastically reduced the number of Iowa children facing summer food insecurity as the lapse of pandemic-era assistance leaves more families hungry. Critics of Reynolds' decision fear that existing state programs are not enough to meet children's nutritional needs post-pandemic and could further strain community food pantries.

Advocates say summer food sites are enough

In her statement announcing Iowa's rejection of the federal program, Reynolds said the Biden administration should

BIKERS GIVE BACK

Bikers raised \$11,000 for the Solon Centennial Lions Club during the 30.81 mile Lake MacBride Fat Tire Classic on Feb. 10.



Jordan Barry | The Daily Iowan

(Top) Chris Ahlers inflates a front tire during the seventh annual Lake Macbride Fat Tire Classic in Solon, Iowa, on Feb. 10. The 30.81 mile race took place on the MacBride Golf Course. Almost 170 bikers entered the race, which raised \$11,000 for the Solon Centennial Lions Club. **(Middle)** A rider navigates a narrow single track trail during the seventh annual Lake Macbride Fat Tire Classic in Solon on Feb. 10. Temperatures were around 30 degrees Fahrenheit during the race. One of the organizers of the event, Brian Fitzpatrick, said the event has a sense of community. "Just seeing smiles on people's faces, just enjoying the trails that they get to be part of, and getting together with friends and just enjoying the whole experience is the coolest part to get to be able to do that," he said. **(Bottom)** Riders race through a field during the seventh annual Lake Macbride Fat Tire Classic in Solon on Feb. 10. Iowa City resident Chris Hansen, with a time of two hours and 11 minutes, won the race.

See more online:

To view more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage of the fat tire bike race in Solon visit dailyiowan.com.





Check out dailyiowan.com on Feb. 15 for coverage of Iowa women's basketball's game against Michigan.

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

ATHLETICS TICKET

UI students launch ticket platform

The group of friends created the app SeatStock to help students avoid scammers.

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Social media has become a catalyst for ticket scammers, and college students are some of the biggest victims.

A new report from the Better Business Bureau shows that young adults between 18-24 years old are losing more money to scams than older adults. Of 18-to-19-year-olds who have been scammed, 47 percent cited social media as the main contact method between them and the seller.

That's why a group of University of Iowa students created SeatStock, an AI-driven student ticket reselling engine set to launch on Feb. 19. After being scammed out of Iowa football tickets last season, SeatStock CEO Josh Cohen and COO Brady Stein were inspired to create a safer platform for their peers to exchange tickets.

According to a customer discovery survey conducted by SeatStock founders, 40 percent of UI students have been scammed out of tickets.

Joining Cohen and Stein is UI graduate student Brandon Egger, who handles the technology side of things, and Adam Hasan, who assesses the financial position of the company and reaches out to investors. The group holds an executive meeting every Monday to talk through the project and set new goals for the week. Their advisor, Scott Samuel, joins meetings sometimes and gives "some words of wisdom," according to Stein. Hailing from Chicago, Samuel has experience as a CEO, founder, and investor.

As of now, only UI students can access the website by entering their university email, but all users are kept anonymous.

Once logged in, users can list a ticket for any price, and potential buyers will bid until there's a price match. SeatStock will then pair up the two users, giving the seller the buyer's phone number. Once the buyer marks that they've received the ticket, SeatStock will facilitate the funds to the seller. If there are issues, SeatStock will step in and moderates the transaction.

The founders hope to expand SeatStock to different schools across the country in the summer and have a mobile app by the start of the college football season.

"The end goal, obviously, is we want to disrupt the ticket industry as a whole and compete with Ticketmaster, Stub-



Sahithi Shankaihgari | The Daily Iowan

SeatStock creators work at the Bedell Entrepreneurship Learning Laboratory in Iowa City on Feb. 11. SeatStock was created as a more reliable sports ticket portal to help prevent students from getting scammed.

Hub, all the big giants. So, we're starting off with student tickets because we feel like it could be the most easily disrupted, and it's the most broken right now," Stein said.

In September 2023, the UI Police Department released a statement warning Hawkeye football fans to be aware of ticket scams. It said most of the reported scams at that point in the football season occurred through "social media websites and instant messaging platforms."

If a student doesn't buy season tickets or one of the three-game mini packs Iowa offers, they usually rely on Facebook Marketplace, Snapchat, or X, formerly known as Twitter. Jason Osowski, a UI second-year student, joined one of the many

TICKETS | 3B

UI Police Department tips to avoid ticket scammers

The department urges fans to use official ticketing platforms.

• Spot the signs of a scam:

Scammers typically tell you to pay in a specific way. They may insist you buy gift cards, wire money, use cryptocurrency, or request payment in other ways than through a bank or credit card account (such as Venmo or Zelle).

• Never share sensitive information with strangers:

Never share a photo of your student ID, driver's license, or payment cards with

a stranger, even if it's to "verify" your identity. It could be used to steal your identity or perpetuate a scam using your name and likeness.

• Meet in person and pay securely:

Arrange to meet in a public place to exchange tickets and payment. This reduces the risk of getting scammed online. Bring a friend along for added security or make the exchange near a local law enforcement agency.

TRACK AND FIELD

The 'quiet competitor'

Larsen lets her history-making times speak louder than her words.



Emily Nyberg | The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Chloe Larson competes in the first heat of the 600 meter during the 2024 Hawkeye Invitational at the Hawkeye Indoor Track Facility on Jan. 13. The Hawkeyes hosted 10 schools to compete in a variety of field and running events.

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Larsen

Three years ago, mid-distance track and field runner Chloe Larson committed to Iowa as an underdog. In the last two seasons, Larson has established herself as a "quiet competitor" on the mid-distance squad and women's 4x400 meter relay.

If it wasn't for Larson's older sister, Abby, her story as a Hawkeye might have never been written.

Larsen described her hometown of Waunakee, Wisconsin, as a small town where everyone knows each other, ultimately allowing Larson to be referred to as "Abby's little sister." Naturally, Larson was encouraged by coaches and teachers to follow in her sister's footsteps and compete in volleyball and track and field.

During Larson's first year on the track team, the coaches took notice of her 4x400-meter relay splits.

"Everyone had to try the 4x400 at least once," Larson said.

"I just happened to split pretty well."

Though Larson provided her team with a strong leg in the 4x400-meter relay, she didn't compete in the open 400-meter race until her sophomore year.

During her second year in the sport, Larson helped her team capture the track and field state title. Her performances grabbed the attention of a few college recruiters, including an invitation to Iowa's junior day.

"It was a really cool experience, but I still wasn't sure if I wanted to run in college," Larson said.

Larsen was intimidated by the expectations and commitment level of Division I track and field. Her parents encouraged her to build confidence and continue contacting coaches.

Following this advice proved to be one of the best decisions in Larson's career.

Larsen immediately connected with Jason Wakenight, Iowa's recruiting coordinator and mid-distance coach.

"I met with [Wakenight], and he was really selling me on the University of Iowa," Larson recalled.

LARSEN | 3B

GOLF

Student caddie wins big

Rual Ortega earned a life-changing scholarship.

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When you think of golf, you likely think of legendary figures such as Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, and Jack Nicklaus. All those figures are major heroes within the sport, but if there's one factor that has helped them win a combined 39 major championships, it's been their caddies.

Caddies are one, if not the most important, part of the game. They help golfers carry their clubs, give them advice, and demonstrate extraordinary leadership qualities.

Enter University of Iowa first-year student Raul Ortega, who moved from Venezuela to the U.S. at 11 years old.

Ortega initially picked up caddying as a summer job, but due to his success, he applied for and won the Charles Evans Scholarship, a unique college scholarship for golf caddies.

From the outside, Ortega seems like a normal college student. However, if you sit down and listen to his story, you'll find an inspiring story of hard work and determination.

Life on the shore

Ortega was born in the city of Cabimas, Zulia, Venezuela, a large city with a population of nearly 300,000 people. The oldest of three children, Ortega lived a normal childhood. He succeeded in school, made friends easily, and participated in baseball, soccer, and karate, all while taking care of his younger siblings.

But his favorite times as a youth were with his family.

"We would always go to my grandpa's house for special events, and during Christmas, we would always set off fireworks and party all night," Ortega said.

By 2016, Ortega was 11 years old and preparing to enter the second level of Venezuela's education system, which goes until age 15. A major change in his life was soon to come.

Coming to America

Despite his family living a comfortable and happy life in Cabimas, political and economic issues in Venezuela began to worsen, leaving citizens confused and helpless. The economy had declined by nearly 19 percent and inflation rates were reaching record highs.

Like many other families in Venezuela, Ortega's parents were frustrated and concerned with the direction of their nation and decided to escape the stress of their homeland and vacation to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

It was Ortega's first time in the U.S., and he and his siblings finally fulfilled their dream of going to Disney.

ORTEGA | 3B

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Women's basketball

Thursday, Feb. 15
vs. Michigan
7 p.m., Peacock and Hawkeye Radio Network

Men's basketball

Wednesday, Feb. 14
At Maryland
7:30 p.m., Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

Saturday, Feb. 17
vs. Wisconsin
1:15 p.m., Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

Tuesday, Feb. 20
At Michigan State
6 p.m., Peacock and Hawkeye Radio Network

Men's wrestling

Sunday, Feb. 18
vs. Wisconsin
1 p.m., Big Ten Network and Hawkeye Radio Network

Baseball

Feb. 16-18
Shipyard Tournament
Charleston, South Carolina

Softball

Feb. 16-18
The Spring Games
Leesburg, Florida

COMEBACK WIN

The Iowa men's basketball team completed its season sweep of Minnesota, this time in far greater dramatic fashion. Down 20 points in the second half, the Hawkeyes took the lead with just over two minutes remaining and never relented, earning a 90-85 victory Sunday at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Iowa, now 13-10 on the season and 6-7 in Big Ten competition, was head-



lined by forward Payton Sandfort's 21 points. Guard Tony Perkins generated 18 points, followed by Owen Freeman with 17 and a team-high 14 boards. Over the first 20 minutes of action, Iowa shot 39 percent from the floor compared to Minnesota's 55 percent clip. Outrebounded 20-19, the Hawkeyes had just six assists to the Gophers' 14. Six first-half turnovers resulted in 11 Minnesota points. The second half didn't shift any momentum for Iowa, as Minnesota nailed three shots from beyond the arc as it embarked on an 11-6 run in the opening 4:15. Gopher forward Cam Christie's one-handed jam in transition put his squad ahead, 66-47. Just when it appeared the game would be a laugher, Iowa went on a 9-0 - seven of which came from McCaffery as the Hawkeyes found themselves down, 70-62. McCaffery would continue his scoring spree with a swish from downtown, starting a 14-4 run to get the team within one. After Sandfort's lefty layup through traffic, the Hawkeyes had the lead for the first time since 1:38 into the game — a far cry from their 20-point deficit in the second half.

BACK-TO-BACK LOSSES

The Iowa men's wrestling team lost 29-6 against Penn State on Feb. 9 evening at Carver-Hawkeye Arena following a 24-11 loss to Michigan. It is the first time the Hawkeyes have lost back-to-back duals since January 2018 when they lost to Ohio State and Michigan.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We suffered some big blows early in the year, and I think we are finally finding our new identity and what we need to do to compete."

Larissa Libby
Iowa gymnastics head coach

STAT OF THE WEEK

1,000
The number of career assists dished out by Iowa women's basketball's Caitlin Clark

SOFTBALL

Iowa softball's Jena Young focuses in

The first-year shortstop emphasizes adjusting to collegiate play.

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Jena Young has already worked herself into the starting lineup for Iowa softball in her first collegiate season. Iowa softball head coach Renee Gillispie told reporters last week the Hawkeyes started recruiting Young when she was in the seventh grade. Gillispie was confident that the top prospect would choose the Hawkeyes.

"She's a Hawkeye through and through, so it was an easy sale," she said.

Growing up in Winterset, Iowa, Young was a multisport athlete competing in softball, basketball, and track and field. She excelled most on the softball field, attaining Division I attention at just 13 years old. She started playing varsity softball at 14 years old.

In her first year on varsity as an eighth grader, Young led the team with 57 hits, 32 runs, 23 RBIs, 12 doubles, four triples, a .533 batting average, and a .580 on-base percentage in 31 games played. Despite not being an official high school student, she played well enough to earn first-team All-Conference, first-team West District, and first-team All-State, proving early on that she was talented.

"She was always talented in the state of Iowa," Gillispie said about the star slugger. "[She] was always one of the top players, and we saw that her very first year. We knew that she was someone that we would need to get."

Young's first-year campaign was spectacular despite the season being cut short due to COVID-19. In 24 games, the 15-year-old logged 52 hits, 33 runs, 31 RBIs, 28 singles, 14 doubles, one triple, and nine home runs on a .571 batting average, a .602 on-base percentage, and a staggering 1.044 slugging percentage. She earned first-team All-Conference and All-State nominations once again, but this time around, her accolades were topped with her first state title.

Her second year saw a dip in production, but she was still one of the best players in the state. Young finished the season with 52 hits, 45 runs, 37 RBIs, 26 singles, 10 doubles, five triples, and 11 home runs on a .423 hitting average, .489 on-base percentage, and .854 slugging percentage in 38 games played.

The next season, Young put up arguably the best individual softball season in the history of Iowa, logging 83 hits, 70 runs, 55 RBIs, 35 singles, 22 doubles, four triples, and 22 home runs on a .624 hitting average, .685 on-base percentage, and a 1.346 slugging percentage. She earned her fourth first-team All-Conference and All-State honors.

In November 2022 after her third-year campaign, Young committed to staying home and playing softball for Iowa.

"I loved the idea of staying here, staying close to home playing for Iowa," Young said of the Hawkeyes' recruiting. "I remember seeing [Gillispie] at the state tournament when we played and talking to her after ... I always grew up watching all [Iowa] sports."

It was also around this time of year when Young tore her ACL playing basketball, putting her final year of high school softball in



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan
Iowa infielder Jena Young poses for a portrait during Iowa softball media day at Bob Pearl Field on Feb. 7. The Iowa softball team answered questions from media and held an open practice.

danger. She went on to miss the rest of the basketball season, the track and field season, and all the softball regular season.

In June 2023, the slugger was given one of the highest honors for any high school athlete when she was awarded 2022-23 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of The Year.

"The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Young as Iowa's best high school softball player," Gatorade stated in their official press release.

A little over a month after, Young made her return to the field during the postseason, logging four singles and a home run to help Winterset win the 4A state title and her second high school title.

Fast forward to February 2024, and she's looking forward to kicking off her collegiate career with the Hawkeyes, automatically becoming a key piece to the team.

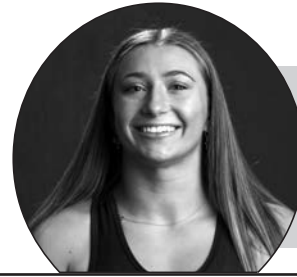
"She's actually got the starting nod at shortstop," Gillispie spoke of Young's role with the team. "She's probably going to be one or two in the lineup. She's a huge threat at the plate ... she's got home run power."

Despite the high praise from her coach, Young doesn't focus on what her expectations are but on the joy of playing the game and working to get better.

"I think just expectations, you try not to think about it a whole lot," Young said. "My goal this year is just to adapt to playing college softball and just enjoy every moment with all my teammates."

Q&A | KYLIE WELKER

Wrestler talks stigma, TV shows, faith



Kylie Welker
Second-year Women's wrestler

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

The Daily Iowan: Do you have a favorite spot to eat in Iowa City?
Kylie Welker: That's so tough. I feel like my go-to is Bread Garden.

What do you get there?
Typically, I'll get a cheeseburger or a chicken sandwich. It just changes. I don't know, sometimes I get the buffet. Sometimes I get the burrito or tacos. They have so much.

In your alone time, what do you like to do?
I listen to a lot of music. I also enjoy watching shows. Ella [Schmit] calls me an iPad kid because I like to watch shows while I eat. And then we also have a cat, and I like to play with him a lot. His name is ZB after Zach Bryan, and he is multicolored.

How would you describe your fashion style?
You can catch me wearing sweatpants almost every day, but sometimes I like to dress up a little bit. I dress up to go to church and take Instagram pictures. You know, sometimes you feel good, but most of the time I like to stay comfy.

Do you have a favorite show right now?
I'm currently watching "The Bachelor." I like "The Summer I Turned Pretty," "My Life with the Walter Boys," shows like that.

You mentioned you're in Athletes in Action. What is your role with that?
Right now, I'm a leader on the team. Last year I came to weekly meetings on Monday and then I went through this thing called Equipped. And it's basically like an eight-week training of discipleship and learning how to grow your faith. And then I was able to become a leader after that. And now I'm running a Bible study and training people through Equipped.

Do you have a favorite class that you've taken so far?
This is such an unpopular opinion, but I am enjoying my stats class a lot because of the professor. I understand what's going on, and that doesn't always happen.

Do you watch a lot of wrestling or any other sports?
I'm not one of those who likes to stay glued to watching wrestling. I like to watch people that I'm close with and know, but I don't really watch too many sports just because my life is so consumed with sports. So, I like to keep it on the TV shows.

Do you have any pet peeves around wrestling or something you wish was different?
I wish the stigma around female wrestlers was different because they all think that we're mean and scary and very masculine. And it's really the other side. Like, yeah, we're strong, but we're also girly girls.

POINT | COUNTERPOINT

Should Iowa build a new basketball arena?



Colin Votzmeyer
Assistant Sports Editor

YES

A handful of times, I've imagined myself as an Iowa wrestler, running out of a black-and-gold tunnel that leads from my locker in the brand-new Iowa wrestling facility to the mat in Carver-Hawkeye Arena. There, my name echoes among the fans and pyrotechnics fire up. "Kickstart My Heart" by Mötley Crüe plays.

Then I think of Iowa men's basketball games.

That's exactly why Carver-Hawkeye Arena should be Carver-Hawkeye Wrestling Arena — and why the University of Iowa needs to invest in a new basketball-specific stadium.

The environment for an Iowa wrestling meet is incomparable, enough to give you goosebumps even if you don't know why everyone is shouting "two."

The atmosphere is solid for women's basketball games, too, but I unfortunately yet can't imagine such intense attention will remain on the team when Ho. 22 leaves. That's not to mention how abysmal men's basketball attendance has been lately.

Something needs to change to orient Iowa basketball for the future.

I've seen the bright tiles and upper and lower levels to Kohl Center that feel like the Bulls should be playing

there. I've seen Hilton Coliseum's classic vibe and raucous atmosphere. And I've seen Pinnacle Bank Arena's top-notch in-game experience. Look at Assembly Hall — that place is gorgeous.

Those are pro basketball-esque arenas with NBA-level environments. Carver doesn't hold up like that anymore. This isn't 1988. Sorry, Dad.

To keep fans coming to Iowa women's basketball games — and to get them to men's games in the first place — Carver must adapt or die.

Player personnel is one thing, yes, but at the end of the day, the fans want to come to a basketball arena that brings not just a game but an experience — an experience Carver is no longer conducive to.

Carver's leaking roof, puke-colored seats, and removed student section are deterrents rather than draws. The Hawkeyes need a redo: a basketball arena tailored to just basketball with a tight but open environment to house thousands of fans, sweeping banners around a two-tiered jumbotron, and a bright floor that offsets the sea of black around it.

The university owns acres upon acres of land to build on around the west side of campus where such a state-of-the-art, updated arena can sit while Carver gets a minor facelift and becomes the true home for Iowa men's and women's wrestling. All programs will win.

With how much paper Iowa football and women's basketball are now raking in, not only is the funding there with the former, but it's time this university shows the latter the respect it's earned.



Brad Schultz
Sports Editor

NO

While Carver-Hawkeye Arena certainly has its flaws when it comes to fan experience, I don't think building a new arena would magically change everything.

Iowa has always had a fair-weather fan base when it comes to basketball, and the men's basketball team in particular continues to suffer from attendance problems despite making the NCAA Tournament each of the last five seasons. If fans don't attend games, then I find the problem to be far more than the actual venue itself.

In essence, the main problem isn't necessarily the arena, but the people inside of it. The fans need to step up and create an intimidating environment similar to the raucous Hilton Coliseum in Ames.

Trust me, I've been to several games inside Carver, and when the place is full and the crowd is engaged throughout the game, it can be one of the loudest arenas in the country.

Though I feel the fans are the biggest issue with Carver, there do need to be some upgrades to the 41-year-old building.

When it was constructed in 1983, Carver-Hawkeye Arena was not only built to host basketball. It was designed as a multi-purpose facility that could host volleyball, wrestling, and gymnastics. This has left large open spaces between the court and the seats for basketball games, which doesn't look appealing on TV.

Today, volleyball and gymnastics no longer compete in Carver, instead moving to the smaller Xtream Arena a few years ago. Iowa needs to figure out a way to fill in that space somehow because it would bring the fans closer to the court.

Finally, I feel like Carver's capacity is far too large in 2024 for a middle-tier program like Iowa. When the arena opened, 15,000 seats were necessary due to high demand, but that's not the case anymore.

Sure, the women's basketball team has packed Carver for the last two seasons, but it helps when a generational talent like Caitlin Clark plays for the home team.

It would be beneficial to take out a few thousand seats and have a capacity of around 10,000 fans. That way, the Hawkeyes can sell out more games and create an intimidating environment for opposing teams.

While the university has the money to build a new arena, there are several logistical problems with that, and I think a few modern renovations will give the aging building a fresh look for the future.

TICKETS from IB

Iowa Hawkeye ticket exchange groups on Facebook in hopes of finding football tickets for himself and a friend. It was his first and last time using the platform. Osowski directly messaged a user who was selling tickets a few days before a game. The seller told him to first send "almost 90 bucks" on Venmo, and then he would transfer the tickets the day of the game. Osowski didn't

think much of it, reiterating it was his first time using the platform and he assumed that process was normal. When Osowski woke up on game day and checked his phone, he was blocked by the seller and never received the student tickets. "I didn't think anyone would ever do that to someone else, so I was pretty disappointed," he said. Since then, Osowski and his friends have bought tickets off StubHub and haven't had problems. Osowski said he will use SeatStock when it launches.

"From what Brady has told me, [SeatStock] is very safe, and they take lots of pride in customer and seller safety," Osowski said. This isn't just happening in Iowa. The University of Michigan also sent out a message during football season to warn fans of ticket scams. Michigan students use a platform like SeatStock called Student Seats. The site was created by former Alabama students Jared Waller and John Ritondo in the spring of 2020 as part of a class project.

ORTEGA from IB

Over the next few days, the family continued to enjoy time in the Florida sun, and it seemed like a normal family vacation. "It was always a dream for us to come to Disney and the U.S., and we were really having fun experiencing a new world," Ortega said. Then, while dining at an Olive Garden restaurant, his parents dropped a bombshell. "What would you think if we stayed here in the United States?" his parents proposed.

It was a mixed reaction for Ortega and his siblings. They were very excited, considering the fun they had been having, but the reality of the monumental change soon set in. Ortega said it was hard not being able to say goodbye to family and friends in person. Ortega's family in Venezuela was upset with the decision and thought they were making a huge mistake. "They thought my parents were crazy," Ortega said. "We were gambling at that moment, but you either make the decision and start over, or stay and the chances of leaving get harder."

Initially, the family planned to move to Houston, Texas, but Ortega's father reached out to a childhood friend living in Chicago. After mulling it over with Raul's mother, the family decided to live in Chicago in a friend's apartment while they made a new life for themselves. The apartment was small, with only two bedrooms for the eight people living there. Ortega's family of five shared one bedroom and either slept together in a bed or on inflatable mattresses on the floor. The three host family members shared the other bedroom. "There was basically no room or pillow or blankets, but the move definitely paid off in the long run," Ortega said.

Culture shock

Like many people after moving to a new country, Ortega struggled to adjust to the

vast cultural differences between the U.S. and Venezuela. Both nations have distinct musical backgrounds, and Ortega said the music in the U.S. felt like more "radio music" compared to songs in his hometown. Making friends was also a challenge. He didn't know how to speak English, and despite being placed with a bilingual teacher at his new school, he still faced bullying from the other kids in the program, who spoke to him with false Spanish accents. "They would make fun of me for being from a different country with a different dialogue, and that resulted in downgrades academically and emotionally," Ortega said. The teasing from the other kids ultimately helped motivate him to learn English. "I read books and watched YouTube videos and movies in English with Spanish subtitles to help me learn faster," Ortega said.

The persistence paid off, and Ortega was taking English-speaking classes by his eighth-grade year. However, his shining moment was still to come. **From rackets to golf clubs** When he entered high school, Ortega became involved in soccer and particularly tennis, which he loved due to its popularity in the U.S. compared to his birth country Venezuela. "Tennis was always on TV in Venezuela, but it's not a sport that's played, so it was cool to be able to play," Ortega said. By the end of his freshman year of high school, Ortega began to look for a summer job. One of his friends suggested golf caddying. Ortega had never played the sport before, but the job paid well, so he and a friend tried it out. While he was playing soccer, Ortega had broken his arm three times in a two-year span, but that didn't stop him from attempting to caddy. "I showed up to the training session with a broken arm, and I wasn't able to do some of the exercises," Ortega said. "But I passed the rules test, and I just kept working." Ortega's peers quickly recognized his strong work ethic, especially Dan Bisazza,

decided to apply. "I realized quickly that I might be a great candidate for it and began to put a lot of time into my application and being a better caddie," Ortega said. After he completed his application, Ortega didn't think he would win the scholarship. "I didn't really know what to expect be-

cause I didn't know what type of people they were looking for," Ortega said. After waiting for a while, Ortega's parents received a letter in the mail. It was December, and Christmas was just around the corner. They kept the letter until Ortega returned home from school. Once he arrived home, the family gathered around, and with his mom recording, Ortega opened the letter. "When I was opening it, I was shaking because I thought it was between yes or no. I saw it, and they said, 'You've been given a scholarship.' It was the greatest day ever,"

A life-changing opportunity

As he entered his junior year of high school, Ortega heard of a special scholarship through the Charles "Chick" Evans Foundation, which provides full college scholarships to golf caddies. After chatting with a friend about it, he

the head golf professional at the country club where Ortega worked. Ortega embraced his new job as a caddie, which would soon lead to a life-changing opportunity that he will never forget.

cause I didn't know what type of people they were looking for," Ortega said. After waiting for a while, Ortega's parents received a letter in the mail. It was December, and Christmas was just around the corner. They kept the letter until Ortega returned home from school. Once he arrived home, the family gathered around, and with his mom recording, Ortega opened the letter. "When I was opening it, I was shaking because I thought it was between yes or no. I saw it, and they said, 'You've been given a scholarship.' It was the greatest day ever,"

After chatting with a friend about it, he

"Raul is a hard-working young man. He's always respectful and had a firm handshake when we met. I knew he was going to be a great caddie and inspire our new caddies here at Prestwick with his work ethic."

Dan Bisazza Head golf professional

Ortega said. The scholarship was valued at over \$125,000 for four years, allowing Ortega to become a first-generation college student. Along with money toward his tuition, some has gone to Ortega's family in Venezuela. "Sometimes it's hard for them to get three meals a day or buy clothes," Ortega said. "Getting the scholarship helped me

LARSEN from IB



Despite their bond and Larsen's love for Iowa, she didn't make the final decision about running in college until December of her senior year of high school. "She wasn't highly recruited, but that wasn't because we didn't think she was a good athlete," Iowa Director of Track and Field Joey Woody said. "She came in under the radar."

Nevertheless, Larsen found her home in the Black and Gold. "I really can't imagine what our [mid-distance] group would be like without [Larsen,] second-year mid-distance runner Audrey Biermann said. Biermann and Woody highlighted the gap Larsen fills as a leader on the mid-distance squad. "When we have hard workouts and stuff, she's always trying to push us through," Biermann said of Larsen's leadership. "She's just become a natural leader in that group because of her work ethic," Woody added. Larsen leads the Hawkeyes on the stat sheets as well. She is known for her ability to run multiple races in one meet and deliver consistent performances.

"She's resilient, so she can handle a lot of races," Woody said. "She's PRing in everything."

During the Hawkeyes' first road test of the season on Feb. 2-3, Larsen wrote herself into the school history books in every event she competed in.

Over the weekend, Larsen became the third-fastest Hawkeye woman to run the 600-meter race with a time of 1:28.31. In the 400-meter race, Larsen earned a new personal best of 54.20 and climbed to 10th in school history. In the 4x400, Larsen and her teammates ran a 3:34.24 and are now ranked sixth all-time.

Despite her apparent success, the Hawkeyes love Larsen even more for who she is off the track. "She's just a sincere person who cares about other athletes," Woody said. "She is going to ask how her teammates are doing. She's not boastful. That's the type of person you want in your program."

Larsen is described as quiet by her coaches and teammates — a quality she has turned into a threat. Larsen isn't known as a big name coming into races and often sneaks up on her competition. No matter who she runs against, she is unafraid of the challenge. Larsen's shy dominance is an unlikely quality in a fierce competitor, but it is effective. "She's become somebody that's like a quiet competitor," Woody said. "She's fearless."

Word search puzzle grid with words like MICS, RAGU, OHSAY, IMAC, URAL, NOTD, TAMING, OF THE CREW, TYPO, AFROS, ILL, NOGREAT, CAKES, SICKO, SOME, TUNE, BONE, OPTED, WIT, GIFT, COP, HAI, OTHER, THOR, CARP, ALAI, CULTS, GETS, INTO, CAPE, ETC, NOONE, SAMOA, SHARING, IS, CARING, TASTE, ACAI, ELLE, SINEER, SERA, DAYS

Medium and Hard crossword puzzle grids with numbers 1-14

41ST ANNUAL Presidential Lecture Pathways to Discovery: Clinical and Legal Trials, Academic Rigor, and Public Perceptions Monday, February 19, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Concert Hall, Voxman Music Building Public reception to follow Christopher Coffey Professor of Biostatistics; Director, Clinical Trials Statistical and Data Management Center, College of Public Health Cristina Tilley Professor of Law; Claire Ferguson-Carlson Faculty Fellow in Law, College of Law IOWA PRESIDENT.UIOWA.EDU/PRES-LECTURE

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The Daily Iowan Students consider caucuses Iowa City Airport evicts unhoused individuals Taylor, Thomas see last meeting as IC city councilors

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

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PENN STATE PUNISHMENT

No. 1 Penn State defeated No. 3 Iowa, 29-6, during a wrestling dual at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 9. This marks Iowa's second regular season loss, the most in one regular season since 2017-18.

IOWA'S FALL TO PENN STATE BY THE NUMBERS

Penn State's largest margin of victory ever against Iowa

BONUS POINT WINS:

0

TAKEDOWNS:

5



TAKEDOWNS:

21

BONUS POINT WINS:

5



Ayrton Breckenridge | The Daily Iowan

(Top) Penn State's No. 1 141-pound Beau Bartlett wrestles Iowa's No. 2 Real Woods during a wrestling dual between No. 3 Iowa and No. 1 Penn State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 9. The Nittany Lions defeated the Hawkeyes, 29-6. Bartlett defeated Woods by decision, 7-2. (Middle) Iowa assistant coach Ryan Morningstar reacts to a match during a wrestling dual between No. 3 Iowa and No. 1 Penn State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 9. Morningstar has been on staff with the Iowa men's wrestling program since 2012. (Bottom) Iowa's No. 7 125-pound Drake Ayala sits on the bench during a wrestling dual between No. 3 Iowa and No. 1 Penn State at Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 9. Ayala defeated Penn State's No. 2 Braeden Davis by decision, 4-2.

See more online:

To view more of *The Daily Iowan's* coverage of the men's wrestling match against Penn State, visit dailyiowan.com.

Hours



TYING THE KNOT WITH TECH

University of Iowa students give accounts of their experiences with dating apps and how they affect campus climate.

Tinder trials and tribulations

College students share their thoughts on the benefits and detriments of dating apps.

Caden Gantenbein
Arts Reporter
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When Iowa City resident Magnus Wilson imagined meeting the love of his life, he never expected it to happen through an app. To his surprise, it was through the likes of Tinder that he was connected to his now-fiancée.

Wilson, who said he is naturally introverted, met his soon-to-be wife almost three years ago on Tinder.

"I'm not known for going out all too often, so my social circles aren't expanding very often," Wilson said. "I mean, of course you can run into the right person at some point, but it's a lot easier when you can just showcase the things you like [online] and have people with similar interests naturally come your way."

With the two preparing for their upcoming wedding in June, Wilson is an outspoken advocate for dating apps, which he perceives to be a solution to social anxiety.

After initially matching on Tinder, their first in-app conversation was about their shared love for video games, an interest that they both boasted on their profiles.

Wilson said this conversation starter would be impossible in the real world without first knowing a bit about the person via their profile.

"I would say [dating apps] help bring people together. I never would have met my fiancée without being on a dating app, I would be amazed if we would've ever met otherwise," he said. "That saved me from what could've been many awkward dates. We weren't trying to make up any sort of character for the other person to like."

A 2019 study by Pew Research Center reported that nearly half of U.S. adults 18-29 years old reported using popular dating apps like Tinder, Bumble, Hinge, and Grindr at some point in their lives. Of that population, 17 percent have pursued long-term relationships or even marriages with someone they met through a dating app.

These platforms are even more common among the LGBTQ+ population, with the same study finding more than half of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities have used a dating app, of which 20 percent have pursued marriage or another form of long-term commitment.

On the contrary, the same study cites dating apps have left users "feeling more frustrated" at 45 percent, rather than the "hopeful" 28 percent.

While Wilson's success story is one of many, it is also one that is heavily contrasted by the number of negative experiences users reported such as harassment and unwarranted advancement.

Other users, like University of Iowa fourth-year student Myles Evangelista, don't share Wilson's positive sentiments about dating apps.

"I was dating my long-distance sweetheart who was at school in Wisconsin," Evangelista said. "They were trying to cover up the fact that they were cheating on me, but when I confronted them about having Tinder, they said it was just like a game on their phone, swiping through people for fun."

Evangelista's partner claimed the usage of the app was harmless — that they were using it to look for friends and, if Evangelista were to try it, they would feel the same way.

Finally giving in, Evangelista allowed their partner to create a Tinder account



Sahithi Shankaiahgari | The Daily Iowan

Amanda Armstrong smiles at Magnus Wilson at The Green House in Iowa City on Feb. 12. Armstrong and Wilson met on Tinder in 2021 and plan to get married this summer.

for them, a period they claimed was short-lived.

"I mean I guess you can play with your friend's matches like it's Solitaire [in which] you, the player, are not facing any consequences from whatever matches you end up making for them, but I don't think it's ever really thought about from the person's perspective who gets matched with," they said. "I didn't end up making any friends from it and it was just kind of a mess overall."

Because of this negative experience, Evangelista's attitude toward dating apps entirely contrasts Wilson's fondness.

"I think the hard part with [dating apps] is that everyone wants to put their best foot forward, so what's put out there might not be reflected in person," Evangelista shared.

Wilson, however, suggested that dating apps could do more to encourage platonic connections.

"[Dating apps] could be applied for people to meet friends if there was an equivalent system as there is now to dating. If there was a way for you to look specifically for a group of people to play Minecraft with, for example, or a knitting club or something. It could really be applied to anything," Wilson said.

One dating app, Bumble, has pioneered the friend-finding format with its creation of Bumble For Friends, or Bumble BFF. However, some users of this service have suggested the app's approach to a platonic match-making service fails to promote genuine friendships, instead prioritizing a user desire for quantity of matches over their quality.

For UI student RaNeisa Herbert, she used Tinder both conventionally and unconventionally. Not only did she meet her current partner using Tinder, but she also met two of her closest friends.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Her-

bert and her roommate struggled to find people to hang out with under the conditions of the lockdown. On a whim, they decided to download Tinder in hopes they could meet new people.

"My friend was just texting this dude she met on Tinder and he said that he had two friends with him and we should all hang out," she explained. "We didn't really think anything much of it, but we hung out with these three guys and became best friends with them — we've been friends ever since."

Because of this outcome, Herbert is a firm believer that dating apps can have many social benefits. A way of fast-tracking connections, Tinder also helped Heart find her boyfriend.

"We didn't talk on there for very long," she said. "It was just a few hours of texting on Tinder, and we met up that weekend."

UI student Kenzie Donovan is another individual who offers a unique dating app experience, as well as an interesting perspective on the effect it has on campus.

Donovan currently uses Hinge and has found some success with dates. Before she switched to Hinge, however, she initially chose to download Tinder with an alternative intention: selling pictures of her feet.

While no available studies have quantified the number of dating app users who have used the app for monetary gain, Donovan is certainly not alone.

Dozens of posts on Reddit, X, formerly known as Twitter, and online blogs host spaces for individuals to discuss the best platform on which they can sell pictures of their feet, a lucrative market propped up by online foot fetishists.

One blog in particular cited Tinder as a preferred method for selling content like foot pictures, as other platforms made specifically for this purpose are often

oversaturated. The blog claims that many content producers have found success in less designated markets, like Tinder and Hinge.

However, Tinder's community guidelines strictly prohibit use of the app for financial gain, stating that its platform is not "the place for any sort of sex work, escort services, or compensated relationships."

For Donovan, her approach to using the app did not warrant the results she wanted.

"I got banned in, like, 24 hours," she said. "So now I'm just on Hinge because they won't let me back."

Despite the nature of her initial approach, Donovan claimed that apps like Tinder and Hinge have not helped her to make long-lasting connections.

She also claims to have encountered "quite a few weirdos on there," as well as people who would match her solely to harass her with profanity or unwanted images.

Although these platforms promote connection in a progressively digital world, Donovan argues there are still more healthy ways to interact with others.

"The best way to meet people is still just organically," Donovan said. "I feel like social media is so intertwined in our lives now to the point where we feel like we have to do everything through the internet, but I just don't think that's necessarily true."

Sahithi Shankaiahgari | The Daily Iowan

1C PHOTO: Magnus Wilson and Amanda Armstrong spend time together at The Green House in Iowa City on Feb. 12. Wilson and Amanda met on Tinder in 2021 and plan to get married this summer.

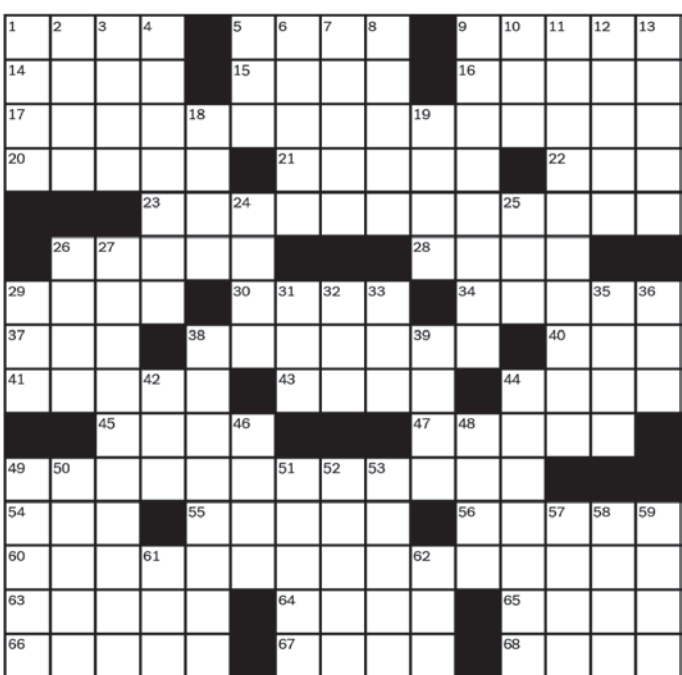
THE BREAK

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON 3B

DAILYIOWAN.COM

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0110



- Across**
- 1 Podcasters' needs
 - 5 Meaty pasta sauce
 - 9 "Hey, by the way ..."
 - 14 Apple with multiple cores
 - 15 Eurasian river
 - 16 Abstain from
 - 17 "Job for a coxswain with rowdy rowers?"
 - 20 What's tolerated by every body?
 - 21 Natural hairstyles
 - 22 Poorly
 - 23 "Review for a so-so bakery?"
 - 26 2007 Michael Moore
 - documentary about health care
 - 28 "You've got ___ nerve!"
 - 29 Melody
 - 30 It's often in stock
 - 34 Chose a course
 - 37 Dorothy Parker quality
 - 38 "Person who assigns the order of opening presents?"
 - 40 "Yes," in Japanese
 - 41 Check box of last resort
 - 43 Norse protector of humankind
 - 44 Complain querulously
 - 45 Kyrgyzstan mountain range

- 47 Extremist sects
- 49 "Completes a superhero transformation?"
- 54 And others too numerous to mention
- 55 Nary a soul
- 56 Island nation whose currency is the tala
- 60 Preschool teacher's mantra ... or a hint to the answers to the starred clues
- 63 Have a nibble of
- 64 Brazilian berry
- 65 She, on the Seine
- 66 Expression that might accompany a mustache twirl
- 67 Word repeated in a 1956 Doris Day single
- 68 Brighter times
- 19 Romantic attraction, slangily, with "the"
- 24 Its name means "waterless place" in Mongolian
- 25 Hype (up)
- 26 Something to follow, in cards
- 27 "If so, then ..."
- 29 Number of graduates in the first class at West Point (1802)
- 31 Poetic frequency
- 32 Utmost
- 33 Writer Umberto
- 35 Buds go in them
- 36 Dance floor flourish
- 38 Less sharp, as footage
- 39 Animal whose brain has the most gray matter of any mammal
- 42 They're raised in Chi-Town
- 44 Found innocent
- 46 Part of, as a plot
- 48 "___-daisy!"
- 49 Tales of daring
- 50 Frome of fiction
- 51 Classical cover-ups
- 52 Chilling
- 53 Labor activist Chavez
- 57 "___ 18" (novel by Leon Uris)
- 58 Exclusively
- 59 Wrinkles in time?
- 61 Its ways are numbered: Abbr.
- 62 O.S.S. successor

- Down**
- 1 It's catching
 - 2 "Not sure yet"
 - 3 Something to make or break
 - 4 "Magic that works," per Vonnegut
 - 5 Runner on the ground?
 - 6 Like an excited crowd
 - 7 Social blunder
 - 8 Marine leader?
 - 9 Small ice cream order
 - 10 Ad ___
 - 11 "Never mind what I just said!"
 - 12 One of the Astaires
 - 13 Caterwauls
 - 18 Cozy corner

Medium

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

Create and solve your Sudoku puzzles for FREE.
Play Sudoku and win prizes at: PRIZESUDOKU.COM
The Sudoku Source of "The Daily Iowan".

Hard

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

CALENDAR WEEKLY EVENTS

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 15

- MOCK BOOK FAIR

Books for their very first book fair to celebrate reading for all ages.

4:30 P.M. | SIDEKICK COFFEE & BOOKS
1310 MELROSE AVE.

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 16

- THE SECOND CITY COMEDY SHOW

Acclaimed Chicago comedy club Second City showcases classic sketches and sets from a wide range of comedians and eras all at the Englert Theatre.

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

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 17

- QUEER COFFEE SOCIAL

Enjoy complimentary coffee and pastries during a free and open Valentine's Day-themed social event.

11 A.M. | ENGLERT THEATRE
221 E. WASHINGTON ST.

- RED CEDAR CHAMBER MUSIC PRESENTS: VOYAGERS

Miera Kim and Carey Bostian present globally inspired folk music that is sure to transport and soothe.

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

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 18

- DRAWING SALON WITH ROBERTO CAPUTO

Roberto Caputo teaches drawing by using the unique art found in Stanley. With only a pencil and paper, students can learn the fundamentals of drawing.

8 A.M. | STANLEY MUSEUM OF ART
160 W. BURLINGTON ST.

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 19

- MARGOT LIVESEY IN CONVERSATION WITH SAM CHANG

New York Times bestselling author Margot Livesey will discuss her new novel 'The Road from Belhaven' with UI Writers Workshop Director Lan Samantha Chang.

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

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 20

- WORLD CLUB: CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL

Explore global cultures with the ICPL through games, crafts, food, and stories.

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

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 21

- ALL-AGES OPEN MIC NIGHT

Presented by West Music Coralville, this musical open-mic night is suitable for all ages who want to take the stage or sit back and enjoy an evening of community tunes.

6 P.M. | SIDEKICK COFFEE & BOOKS
1310 MELROSE AVE.

REVIEW

Iowa City chefs curate V-Day menus with love



Chefs from downtown eateries speak on their processes creating this year's Valentine's Day menu specials.



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Customers order Valentine's Day-themed desserts at DeLuxe Cakes and Pastries in Iowa City on Feb. 11. DeLuxe, along with other Iowa City restaurants, implemented an exclusive Valentine's Day menu in early February.

Madison Christenson
Arts Reporter
maddison-christenson@uiowa.edu

The mirrors on the walls of DeLuxe Cakes and Pastries are now adorned with pink satin bows, its ceiling decorated with hanging hearts as the smell of desserts wafts through the air — it's undeniably sweetheart season in Iowa City.

While couples fight for reservations at restaurants across town during the week of Valentine's Day, their chefs have been preparing for the season of love by carefully planning the perfect dishes for their Valentine-themed menus.

For DeLuxe, owner Jamie Powers said they have crafted an array of pastries and treats to fit any morning Valentine's plans. The menu features a plethora of heart-decorated treats to choose from, including their four-inch layered "Sweetheart Cakes" for two and the popular "Conversation Heart Cookies."

The cookies are decorated differently each year, but the bakery made the designs a community collaboration this year. Customers have the opportunity to request custom PG, R-rated, or X-rated messages piped onto their treats.

"We get help from the whole community on X-rated cookies;

straight community, LGBTQ+ community, you name it. The whole community weighs in on the triple X," Powers said. "I cater to anyone who walks in."

Last year, the bakery sold 4,500 pastries during the Valentine's season. This year, Powers said they are on track to match that amount.

Dinner-time Iowa City restaurants like St. Burch Tavern and Basta Pizzeria are no strangers to this busy season, however. To stand out, Justin Parrish, the chef de cuisine at St. Burch, said they have to think outside of the box.

"We always like to have specials — exciting ones. It's an opportunity to flex our muscles and get creative," Parrish said. "With Valentine's Day, I'm thinking about what couples want to eat — usually it's things like chocolate."

Parrish has chosen specials made for two, including the "Strawberry Mascarpone Crostata," a dessert that includes strawberries, passionfruit, and a brown sugar banana ice cream.

"We like to get creative with things like desserts that are shareable," Parrish said.

Known for its oyster selection, Parrish said the wide variety and quality of the oysters the restaurant offers isn't available elsewhere in Iowa City. Further, the oysters are shucked and served tableside, creating a fun and unique experience for the special night out.



Isabella Tisdale | The Daily Iowan

Valentine's Day-themed desserts are seen at DeLuxe Cakes and Pastries in Iowa City on Feb. 11. DeLuxe will offer a "Getting Lucky" collection, which includes cakes, cookies, and take-and-bake cinnamon rolls.

"I relish the opportunity to create a memory for someone," Parrish said. "Being a chef, you get to create something and get instant gratification because that person gets to enjoy it, and then talk to you about it."

At Basta Pizzeria Ristorante, managing partner Ryan Harbaugh said its focus on Italian food, a largely traditional cuisine on Valentine's Day, makes the holiday a "spirit at Basta Pizzeria."

Cameron Jones, the chef de cuisine at Basta, said when creating his Valentine's specials, his goal is to give guests an elevated experience. This year, Jones executed this by compiling dishes he deems special — ones that patrons would only find on occasion.

Seafood has been one of the main focuses on this year's special menu. One featured item, the lobster Fra diavolo, is an Italian pasta dish that consists of a house-made fettuccine with spicy tomato sauce, veggies, and a lobster claw and tail.

The restaurant makes dough, bread, pasta, and cheese by hand every day, Harbaugh said, with anything not crafted in-house flown in from Italy.

"We focus on fresh, local, and made with love," Harbaugh said.

Whether staying in or going out for a romantic evening, the Iowa City food scene will surely not disappoint a festive foodie.

COLUMN

Three last-minute Valentine's Day gifts

Waited until the last minute? These easy, cheap, and quick romantic gift ideas are sure to save the date.

Avi Lapchick
Arts Editor
olivia-lapchick@uiowa.edu

Here you are: It's the big day, and you're searching for a last-minute Valentine's Day gift at the bottom of a Pringles can — metaphorically, I hope.

Whether you and your significant other are a pair of fresh-faced newly-exclusives, or you're just a notoriously bad gift-giver, time is ticking.

But fear not, here are three creative gifts you can whip

up in time for your romantic rendezvous on Feb. 14:

Pro tip: Ditch the coupon book. Nothing says "lazy" like a handmade collage of empty promises.

Esthetician for a night

In my opinion, a massage is the physical embodiment of an "I love you." Now's the time to take it a step further.

Head to your nearest drugstore to pick up the essentials: an exfoliating face wash or scrub, a moisturizing face mask, a facial roller or gua sha, a moisturizing facial serum, and if the budget permits, a facial steamer. If it doesn't, a bowl of hot water will work just fine.

Light some candles, get some good music queued up, and surprise them with a spa-like setup.

Now it's time to get to work. Start the treatment by exfoliating. Then, steam their face — or have them hold their face over a bowl of hot water and drape a towel over their head — for just a minute or so before applying the face mask.

While the mask does its thing, feel free to give them a massage, paint their nails, and let them know how much they mean to you — whatever your vibe is. Then, wash off the mask and finish the treatment by massaging the facial serum into their skin using a skin roller. Ta-da!

Bad portrait-painting

As the name suggests, this idea does not require a duo of da Vinci. In fact, the worse you are at painting, the more fun you will have. Plus, what better opportunity to stare at your partner's beautiful

face for an otherwise uncomfortable amount of time?

All you'll need is two canvases, a set of cheap acrylic paints, and a set of paintbrushes. An optional addition: a bottle of their favorite wine.

Position yourselves to face one another as you have at it on the canvas, saving the final reveal until you both finish painting. The gift is twofold; not only will you have two new wall decorations, but you'll also have a stomachache from how hard you will laugh. In need of a competitive edge? Set a 10-minute timer!

A cheesy — but cute — scrapbook

What good is that camera roll folder full of thousands of photos of your partner if it's just collecting dust? Let's get creative.

For this project, you'll need a blank book — the bigger, the better — printed photos of your boo, colorful markers, and some stickers.

Now, the design is up to you, although I would suggest an eclectic approach, meaning just slather the thing in cute stickers and sappy love notes until it looks like it took you weeks, which it didn't, but they don't have to know that.



Cartoon by Avi Lapchick | The Daily Iowan


THREE ELECTRIC PERFORMANCES

FEATURING UI STUDENTS AND FACULTY. ONE VIBRANT CAMPUS WITH CREATIVITY AT ITS HEART.

This semester, join us for brilliant, diverse, eclectic artistry celebrating students, faculty, and staff across the performing arts.

Dance students working with Professor Stephanie Miracle and Professor Eloy Barragan will take to the Hancher stage with the iconic Martha Graham Dance Company. Theatre Arts students will bring a beautiful play to life under the direction of Professor Caroline Clay. And School of Music students will perform a new opera at Hancher with music composed by Professor William Menefield, who will also direct.

Each performance is emblematic of what's possible on a campus committed to collaborative, transformational arts experiences for artists and audiences alike.



MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY GRAHAM100

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AUDITORIUM WITH SUPPORT FROM UI DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Friday, March 29 / 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium

An indispensable dance company celebrates 100 years, bringing its founder's classic works to the stage alongside new work by contemporary choreographers. Martha Graham—an icon among 20th century artistic icons—radically expanded the dance vocabulary, and her work has captivated audiences worldwide while influencing generations of artists.

TICKETS
Adults \$65 / \$45
Students & Youth \$10



IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER

By Tarell Alvin McCraney
Directed by Caroline Clay

PRESENTED BY UI DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

Friday–Sunday, April 12–14
& Wednesday–Saturday, April 17–20
Theatre Building

San Pere, Louisiana: Oya runs fast, but her collegiate future is placed on hold to care for her mother. Inspired by Federico García Lorca's *Yerma* and Yoruban cosmology, Tarell Alvin McCraney's *In the Red and Brown Water* is a lyrical offering at the intersection of ancestral myth and ritual about a young woman's coming-of-age navigating lovers, community, and her chosen path.

TICKETS
Adults \$20
Students & Youth \$15
Youth & Non-UI Students \$10
UI Students \$5



FIERCE

Music by William Menefield
Libretto by Sheila Williams
Directed by William Menefield

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AUDITORIUM, PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION UNIT,
AND UI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27 / 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium

An opera for the 21st Century, *Fierce* follows four teenage girls finding identity and purpose in the world as they write their college essays in a high school writers' workshop. The young women face striking internal challenges—the difficulties of high school popularity and social media, the weight of parental expectations, personal loss, and unstable lives at home—but come together to find community, self-empowerment, and the confidence to embrace new chapters.

TICKETS
Adults \$20
Youth & Non-UI Students \$10
UI Students \$5

PERFORMING
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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE
HANCHER AUDITORIUM
PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION UNIT

→ MORE INFO AND TICKETS AT
[PERFORMINGARTS.UIOWA.EDU](https://performingarts.uiowa.edu)

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