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Celebrity News

Notes and events.
Paris Hilton walks out on ABC News interview

Ask Paris Hilton if her celebrity moment is over in the interview, she just might walk out on you.

ABC News’ Dan Harris did just that when speaking with Hilton at her Los Angeles home this week. He inquired whether Hilton was concerned about other famous-for-being-famous celebs like Kim Kardashian eclipsing her own stardom — that would be a “no,” she said — or if she was concerned about reports that the ratings for her reality show, “The World According to Paris,” were low (she’s not).

But when Harris asked Hilton if she worries that her celebrity “moment [has] passed,” Hilton paused, then gave a little laugh and a stiff smirk before walking away to speak with her publicist, Harris says in a clip from the interview.

Paris Hilton walks out on ABC News interview

MUSIC: Telling old stories and sharing the music of the past

Folk singer and storyteller Mike Anderson performs Tuesday at the Ames Public Library. Photo: Jordan Maurice/Iowa State Daily

Police Blotter:

June 22
Michael Matthews, 22, of Centerville, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance (reported at 10:00 p.m.).

A camp attendee reported receiving a threatening message from an unknown person at Larch Hall. The individual later admitted the incident did not occur. The case remains under investigation and charges are pending (reported at 11:45 p.m.).

Antonio Thigpen, 30, of Cedar Rapids, was arrested and was found to have three outstanding warrants for his arrest (reported at 4:00 p.m.).

Jacob Ball, 19, of Maxwell, was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of prescription drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia (reported at 11:49 p.m.).

June 23
Heather Curry, 18, of 4127 Buchanan Hall, was arrested and charged with fifth-degree criminal mischief at Buchanan Hall. She was transported to the Story County Justice Center (reported at 2:35 a.m.).

A fire sprinkler head was accidentally struck, causing water to spray onto the floor at University Community Childcare Facility (reported at 11:15 a.m.).

A found set of keys was placed into secure storage at Transportation Services (reported at 5:42 p.m.).

An individual reported damage to a vehicle in Lot 1 (reported at 6:54 p.m.).

June 24
Yasufumi Yamamoto, 38, of 36C Schillitter Village, was arrested and charged with public intoxication on the 200 block of Welch Avenue. He was transported to the Story County Justice Center (reported at 12:01 a.m.).

Michael Vaughn, 23, of 246 N. Hyland #108, was arrested and charged with public intoxication (reported at 12:08 a.m.).

Shaun Mabe, 27, of 112 S. Hyland Ave. #4, was arrested and charged with public intoxication (second) on the 2500 block of Hunt Street. He was transported to the Story County Justice Center (reported at 12:19 a.m.).
Closing the book on Ames Borders

Company to close all stores after liquidating assets

By Julia Ferrell
@iowastatedaily.com

The story of Borders, the No. 2 bookstore chain in the United States, has reached its final chapter and will soon end for good.

On Monday, Borders Group announced it will close the remaining 399 Borders bookstores. The company’s liquidation will leave its 10,700 workers without jobs.

The company filed for bankruptcy earlier this year.

“We were all working hard towards a different outcome,” said Mike Edwards, President of Borders Group, “but the headwinds we have been facing for quite some time, including the rapidly changing book industry, eReader revolution, and turbulent economy, have brought us to where we are now.”

Susan Bedell, owner of the local bookstore Little Bookroom, said she was “not surprised” by Borders’ decision.

“Borders didn’t embrace the eReader trend the way Barnes & Noble and Amazon did,” Bedell said.

After the liquidation, however, Bedell said she predicts there will still be a market for local bookstores, as well as local bookstores.

“There are certainly more venues for books now than there were 20 years ago, not even just online,” Bedell said. “Just walk into Target and look at their book selection.”

Ed Goedeken, collections coordinator at Parks Library, said he predicts libraries will also “continue to be an important agency.”

“We’re the ones that can subscribe to the journals you need to use. We’re going to buy the books,” Goedeken said. “We’re always going to play an important role in providing the information students need.”

Goedeken said Parks buys 50,000 books a year, and “several hundred” ebooks.

“What’s happened is the publishers have begun to shift from the print versions to electronic,” Goedeken said. “Electronic books had a profound impact. People are not buying print books. They’re not using book stores to buy books.

“If they do want one, they’ll go online and buy one on the Internet ... it’s puzzling to me. A bookstore is a place to go, you get your chair and get your coffee, but it’s apparently not enough.”

While he said fewer people are using bookstores like Borders, Goedeken predicts there will always be some form of a bookstore open to the public.

“There will still be some kind of bookstore, although maybe fewer of them.

“Because a bookstore is a place for people to go to and have a different experience than at their home or work,” Goedeken said. “They’re still going to fill that role in our culture for years to come. But it’ll be different.”

The Ames Borders will be closing its doors early this fall. The widespread closures of spring 2011 were due to the company declaring bankruptcy. Photo: Jordan Maurice/Iowa State Daily
Editorial

Bullet tax would penalize lawful without stopping any crime

Do politicians even think about the consequences their “promises” to voters might have?

The latest ill-informed move comes from Baltimore mayoral candidate Otis Rolley. He proposes a $1-per-bullet tax on all bullets purchased in the city. Rolley said the goal is to reduce the “random firings that too often happen around holidays” and to increase the cost of committing a crime.

Imagine for a moment that this is in your own city. No matter how nice it sounds to try to reduce gun violence, bullets aren’t what are causing the crime.

Nor are guns.

A high tax on bullets would increase the theft of bullets from stores or homes, while penalizing hunters and those who enjoy marksmanship as a hobby.

And the big problem with this idiotic notion is that bullets are relatively easy to make at home. Yes, folks, making bullets can be done in anyone’s basement or garage at a cost lower than that of purchasing bullets in stores.

If a tax on bullets were implemented, it would most likely cause a small underground movement of bullet-crafting. And that’s just what America might need: yet another activity deemed illegal without proof that it being legal – “cough* drug use “cough* – wouldn’t be just as, if not more, helpful to preventing violence.

To stop crime you have to stop criminals, not impel them to be more inventive.

Politicians — and even potential voters — need to stop back and look at the results their cockamamie proposals will have before they rattle their sabers in a show of bravado.

Rhetoric

Speaking the way you text debases language

W
data happened to the use of language? English is a thousand-year-old tradition with finely tuned rules. Why have we completely obliterated it? What once gave us beauty, finesse and agreement in speech has now been reduced to abbreviations such as “lol,” “2mi,” and “L8R.”

Where we once exercised creativity and expression, we’re now limited to meaningless social phrases. Why do we use “lol” when we can be far more expressive in our choice of words? Instead of “laughing out loud,” “I chuckle and giggle; I might titter over a joke, or audibly guffaw at the crass remark of a friend. I won’t limit myself to a single abbreviation when I can chain together adverbs that truly expressing my ecstatic state, not just my laughter.

We use these abbreviations in texting, and I understand that, but must we use them in conversations?

The evidence is all around us. Walk around Iowa State campus for 15 minutes and you’ll hear it in nearly every conversation among students. Do we really need to take the conventions of texting and apply them to language as a whole?

The consequence of using these conveniences has been the loss of our ability to converse. We begin and end each thought with, “you know” or “you know what I mean.” We’ve lost the beauty of expression. But far more har-
When your glasses fog up as you step out of an air conditioned building, you know that it’s disgustingly hot and humid out.

The summer of 2011 has been breaking records left and right when it comes to temperature highs. (Global warming, anyone?) With people striving to remain in air conditioning or in the coolest place they can find, this may limit outdoor activities.

Anyone who wants to brave the heat and go outside must slather on the sunscreen and load up on water bottles. And even then, the humidity will be liable to drive even the brave indoors.

So in lieu of going on a summer bike ride, playing soccer or tossing a frisbee, what is a homebound person to do? While it may be fun to spend the day watching your favorite TV episode or playing your new video game, even that will get tiresome after a time.

To some, it may not sound like a fun activity, but it can still be a refreshing one: tidying and rearranging your living space. Yes, it involves cleaning, but when your desk or bedroom is all spruced up and everything put away properly, it may be that satisfying addition to your day that makes you feel productive and organized.

Rearranging your space simply serves to change up your routine, and maybe find a new way to utilize your area. A change in scenery can be a nice way to clear your head, or give yourself a different perspective. This can apply to interior scenery as well.

If moving around furniture isn’t your cup of tea, you can always turn to the age-old lifesaver: a book. Dust off your favorite book that you haven’t read in a while. Take a look at the part of your booklist that you haven’t worked your way through yet. Maybe pick up that book your friend recommended to you and see if it’s any good.

Apartment-dwellers out there that have a kitchen, get a few ingredients and try out a new recipe. If you don’t cook or bake that often, pick one favorite recipe to perfect as your signature dish. If you live with roommates, I doubt they will mind being guinea pigs for all your endeavors, especially if you discover a formula for the perfect smoothie for an unbearably hot day.

If the heat is keeping you from your daily exercise routine, head down to the gym, or find a yoga or Pilates workout online. If you still want to exercise outside, grab some friends and head to the nearest pool.

Eventually this heat wave will end and it will be safe to venture outside without fear of melting. Until then, remaining homebound for your own comfort and even safety shouldn’t be a confining action.

Take the time to catch up on activities you’ve been putting off for a while or to teach yourself something new.
Shakespeare not just about ruffles, tights

By Aaron Hofmeyer
@iowastatedaily.com

“We’re much more with Shakespeare than most people realize.” Repertory Theater of Iowa will attempt to live up to actor Matt Foss’ claim by returning to the Salisbury House and Gardens in Des Moines for “As You Like It.” The annual “Shakespeare on the Lawn” event there will run Thursday through Sunday. I got a chance to sit down with Iowa State-affiliated cast members Brad Dell, Matt Foss, Madison Welterlen and Colin Morgan. We talked about Shakespeare, history and theater.

Aaron Hofmeyer: So why do people do Shakespeare? Madison Welterlen: Oh my gosh! We just talked about this last night! Brad Dell: Because the language is so incredibly gorgeous. It’s gorgeous. AH: But it’s 400 years old. BD: But it’s poetry. It’s not like it’s another language, it is our language. It’s beautifully — MW: It’s heightened.

BD: It’s why people read poetry. It’s why people read interesting novels. It’s stimulating. AH: So does that make it harder to act, as opposed to modern theater? Matt Foss: The nice thing about it is … we’re much more familiar with Shakespeare than most people realize.

AH: That makes it applicable to audiences? MW: [The plays are] still very human. The plays were built to participate with the audience’s imagination when they’re performed. … it still has a lot of room for us to put contemporary thought into it. It’s amazing. [Shakespeare] was writing under such censored times, yet there’s a subtlety and thoughtfulness that allows those plays to speak in almost any time meaningfully.

AH: As far as relating to your characters, go not as the audience, but as the actors, how do you relate to your characters?

BD: Well I think, in terms of Corin [Dell’s character], he’s the kind-souled shepherd that actually shepherds people through the play. As a teacher, I definitely do that and if you ask people, I’m definitely a rather passionate person.

Colin Morgan: My character? [He’s] just a guy who’s a simple person who is trying to find love. And even though he’s getting scorned, and even though he gets yelled at and pushed around and beat up essentially the entire show, he still is in deep, deep love with the idea of love … he’s so simple, he doesn’t know the outside craziness that goes with love. He just wants to be in love and know what that feels like.

MW: I’m playing four different characters in the play, and in general, it’s called Shakespeare’s “pastoral play,” so it’s really simple and sweet in this really beautiful way. I just really like that it’s about these people who got thrown into some serious shit. Their lives completely are upside down, and are just searching for love and happiness, and they’re able to find it.

BD: I think what really strikes me as really cool about this play [is] what happens to these people get banished to the Forest of Arden. Well, at least in our production and the way we’re doing it, the Forest of Arden is awesome. It’s a really fun and happy place. The duke who’s banished there is having the freaking time of his life. And it’s very Eden-like, and it has a Robin Hood feel to it. One of my first lines is “And there they live like the old Robin Hood of England … feasting [sic] the time carelessly as they did in the golden world.” It’s just this sense of merriment in the forest. I want to go there, and we get to every night!

AH: So how’s performing on the lawn different than performing in a climate-controlled stage?

CM: There’s such an awareness you have to have with your body … basically, we are playing to the audience, but the audience is going to be on all sorts of different levels, with blankets and lawn chairs, or whatever they decide to bring with them. So they’re going to be on hills, or there’s a set of bleachers that we’ll have on one side of it. But you get so enveloped when you’re up there and you’re just doing your thing. I don’t think we’ve gotten tons of notes like, “Hey, you need to turn around here” just because of the naturalness of how it all works out.

AH: So is it easier, do you think?

BD: I think it’s just different … every moment is a little different, just because the elements require it to be.

MF: There’s no buffer. There’s no anonymity from a dark room. Turning off the lights in a small, dark box is a pretty modern invention, in regards to theater. And so we get a really great relationship, and so it makes you have to be incredibly specific. You can’t hide, you can’t fake a thing, and it’s really lovely. In doing Shakespeare’s plays, usually the audience is the last scene partner to add, and it changes the whole experience when they come there.

AH: I know there’s a lot of background to performing Shakespeare, like scan-sion [scanning a line of verse to detect its rhythm]. Does it take a lot to perform Shakespeare?

MF: So when you’re learning music, the people who write music put little clues in there that aren’t necessarily directions, but are little catalysts for your imagination to help you know what they were experiencing, or what you yourself could experience when you’re singing. Shakespeare was writing in a poetry style that was the only way people wrote plays at the time, but he wrote it very differently. Most plays were very clean, and they just tripped along with the standard rhythm: da DAH, da DAH, da DAH. Now, Shakespeare would do that, but he breaks the rhythm, he breaks the rules. He was consistently breaking or subverting that system in a really meaningful way.

BD: I teach musical theater, and I think the bridge between Shakespeare, musical theater and opera is very small. I mean, it’s a very similar thing: it’s telling the story and communicating through elevated text, whether that is text that is going along in iambic pentameter, or whether it’s text going along in 6/8 time in different pitches.

MW: I love doing the text work. I think the reason I
Starting on Monday, TeenNick launched “The ‘90s Are All That,” a four-hour block of programming beginning at midnight that features all viewers’ favorite shows from that decade, including “Doug,” “Rugrats,” and “Clarissa Explains It All.” Today’s college students grew up with these classic shows and have great memories of them, so watching this ‘90s block is sure to make them reminisce about the good old days. We asked our Facebook friends which show they liked best.

what’s your favorite ‘90s Nickelodeon cartoon?

“Hey Arnold” hands down. I wanted his room soooooo bad!
Zack Hackbarth

“There is no bad option. I just went with ‘Rugrats,’ though. I watched that entirely too much.”
Katrina Henderson

“All of these shows are better than the crap they play now.”
James Abell

fee hikes annoy some

By Vincent.Geerts
@iowastatedaily.com

After Netflix announced changes to subscription plans and prices last Tuesday, upset customers expressed themselves en masse online. An announcement on Facebook triggered a barrage of comments — 75,000 in all. Most were negative.

In response to these changes, many customers have pledged to cancel their subscriptions and seek alternatives.

Netflix now costs $7.99 for either the streaming service alone, or the DVD delivery alone. The price for customers who want both is now $15.98.

Nate Winters, junior in interdisciplinary studies, recently cancelled his Netflix subscription because of the price increase. He thinks Netflix prices may continue to rise further.

“They’ve raised it twice now since I’ve been a customer,” he said. “I’m curious to see what they’re going to charge for it next month, or next year.”

Winters said he understands a price increase may be necessary in the current economic environment, but feels that Netflix could feature more streaming online content to compensate for it.

Not all customers think the change is unreasonable; the Facebook announcement also has about 1,300 “likes.”

Josh Goodson, senior in pre-business, has been a Netflix customer since before streaming services were offered. He doesn’t believe the price increases are excessive, and is not upset by them at all.

“I mostly use online now anyway, and that’s only going up one dollar,” he said. “It’s not going away, and if the quality of the movies goes up when I pay more, then I’ll be happy.”

Goodson said he will continue to be a Netflix customer, and hopes its online library will expand.

Local video rental stores may take advantage of the change. Family Video store manager Gary Slocum said he thinks the price increase is going to help the chain’s Ames location.

“I think we’ve got the value. We get a lot of movies 28 days ahead of Redbox and Netflix,” he said. “We’re just trying to do what we do and win the customers.”

Slocum said Netflix’s impending higher charges for DVD delivery make Family Video a better deal.

Netflix users now paying for both unlimited streaming and the one-at-a-time DVD service must choose a new plan by Sept. 1.

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AH: So as relative newcomers and seasoned veterans, how does the process of being in Shakespeare evolve? Do you look at it differently now than you did when you started?
CM: I find it so much easier to hear the text now than I did when we first started. When we did the readthrough, I had no idea what the show was even about. After hearing it multiple times, and even now, I’m reading Matt’s cut of “Love’s Labors Lost” [for this fall’s ISU Theatre production], I was able to read it, and take time and delve into it a little more.

MW: Being able to understand and grasp that comes more and more when you do it. It allows you to really appreciate and love language, not only in Shakespeare, but in any other play that you do.

>>SHAKESPEARE.p6

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Summit to focus on improvement

Branstad summons Iowa educators for conference

By Stephen.Koenigsfeld
@iowastatedaily.com

Forty-four Iowans will attend the Iowa Education Summit Monday and Tuesday. Summoned by Gov. Terry Branstad, educators from all over central Iowa will be attending the summit at the Iowa Events Center. The theme of “how to give all students a world-class education” has been proposed, according to the Iowa Education Summit website.

Gov. Branstad has pulled together educators from Iowa to discuss how Iowa can start to create a world-class education for students. The attendees are looking for ways to improve student performance, but mainly to plan to focus on grades K through 12.

The way certain educators were got this opportunity was simple. It was mainly based on a first-come, first-served basis. Committee boards and other related committees all over Iowa registered to attend the summit. The educators are all interested in how they can improve education in Iowa.

Some educators that are attending, like Karen Zunkel, believe the summit is coming together at just the right time. Zunkel is the program manager for ISU’s Women in Science and Engineering program.

“The latest rankings show that Iowa has been slipping in education,” Zunkel said. “The governor has always valued education. It’s something he’s latched on to, and [he] would like to bring us back to where we were when he was governor before.”

Another attendee will be Kim Glenn, who will be representing ISU’s College of Engineering. Glenn is a program assistant in the College of Engineering and Academic/Student Affairs.

At the summit, Gov. Branstad will divide his time among different breakout session meetings with educators. When applying, the hopefuls signed up for three or four breakout session options. Zunkel and Glenn were both interested in a session about the value of globally prepared work force.

“We’re trying to prepare students here for a globally prepared work force here at Iowa State,” Glenn said. “Hearing what they have to say, so we can pass that information on to students now would be my goal.”

Other sessions will include topics dealing with technology, teaching style and designing schools to fit students. All will focus on one goal: providing a world-class education. If Congress fails to come to an agreement on how to raise the debt ceiling, it could result in a disastrous situation not only for the U.S. economy, but the world economy as well. “Imagine us as the single most important banker in the world, and the single most important bank went bankrupt,” Mansbach said.

The Bush administration was in favor of reducing the debt, especially when it started getting out of hand. However, the administration reduced taxes and increased expenditures. The debt became worse, both at the end of the Bush administration and the beginning of the Obama administration, with the onset of global economic disaster.

“The problem now seems to be that although both political parties have come to a conclusion that debt has to be reduced, how [can government] do this?” Mansbach said.

Democrats feel strongly about tax increases as a way to get out of debt. Strongly conservative Republicans do not want to pass a bill that increases taxes. If the debt ceiling isn’t raised, and the United States falls into default, anyone from our soldiers in Afghanistan to the elderly on Social Security would not receive money. Along with that, the value of the dollar would decrease dramatically and interest rates would rise.

In order to get out of this predicament, Congress has to raise the debt ceiling. The problem is that President Obama believes that a portion of the deficit should be reduced using tax revenue. But every Republican opponent disagrees with this method.

The economic downturn has brought small advantages to some. At Iowa State, program enrollment is at all-time high, as it is at other colleges nationwide. “During recessions, there [are] always a lot of people going back to [college] because they’re not finding suitable employment opportunities,” said Daniel Otto, professor of economics at Iowa State.

If the debt ceiling isn’t raised, Iowa State would be negatively affected. There would be a so-called domino effect. Money would stop going to universities, which means federal student loans would stop. Federal research done at labs by faculty would stop. As a publicly funded institution, Iowa State would suffer.

In fact, funding to each state would be decreased, meaning less money would go to all universities and public schools. “It’s a game. And it’s a game that’s leading towards 2012 — the presidential election. And it’s a very dangerous game,” Mansbach said. “The failure [to come to an agreement] would result in financial catastrophe.”
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Secret Shoppers Needed! A local customer service training company is looking for secret shoppers for Ames businesses. Must be over 21, have a good memory, and be able to follow directions well. If interested, send an email to secretshops@iastate.edu.

EFFICIENCIES
Efficiency basement apt. next to campus. $340/mo 292-1842.

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APART-2 BDRM

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Crossword

Across
1 Aplyt, Chinese, e.g. 5 amatoria
14 Conadict 15 Pop-ups, perhaps 34 Contradict
17 Some Neruda works 38 "Apt" geographical 37 "Apt" geographical
18 Conadiction category 40 Diadom stat 37 "Apt" geographical
19 What else ___? 42 Assault 40 Diadom stat
20 Tour de force 44 Spot in a poker game 42 Assault
21 Wall makeup, maybe 46 Isn’t far from reaching 44 Spot in a poker game
23 Intl. commerce group 48 Like some blog 46 Isn’t far from reaching
24 Anger 48 Some blog comments: Abbr. 48 Like some blog
26 Main vessel 49 Peruvian pronoun 49 Peruvian pronoun
28 30s chic 50 "So soon?" 50 "So soon?"
29 Virgil contemporary 52 Place in the 53 Kind of acid
32 Earth, to 29-Across 53 Kind of acid 54 Spot in a poker game
33 29-Across’s ___ 54 Spot in a poker game 58 Prefix with logical
34 Contradict 55 Width measure 58 Prefix with logical
35 Pop-ups, perhaps 56 58 Prefix with logical
37 "Apt" geographical 57 Objector 58 Prefix with logical
38 Diadom stat 58 Prefix with logical 59 60 prefix with logical
40 Diadom stat 61 60 prefix with logical
42 Assault 62 60 prefix with logical
44 Spot in a poker game 63 "... of Bread ..."
46 Isn’t far from reaching 64 "... take arms against a
48 Some blog 65 Prado display 66 Morels, e.g.
49 Peruvian pronoun 67 Aplyt, Israeli-occupied 67 Aplyt, Israeli-occupied
50 "So soon?" 68 Aplyt, Oval Office site 68 Aplyt, Oval Office site
52 Place in the 69 Aplyt, Hollywood locale 69 Aplyt, Hollywood locale

Down
1 Aplyt, about 5 percent of 2 Latin agreement
2 Latin agreement 3 Machine makeup, 4 Latin agreement
3 Machine makeup, informally 4 Latin agreement
4 Latin agreement 5 Word of impatience 4 Latin agreement
5 Word of impatience 6 Lax 4 Latin agreement
6 Lax 7 Prefix with logical 4 Latin agreement
7 Prefix with logical

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Games

Weekly Horoscope: by Nancy Black and Stephanie Clements

Capricorn: Take it easy!

Week of July 21 - July 28, 2011

Aries, Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Don’t let your confidence make you cocky. It’s not a good time to gamble or take expensive risks. Pay thorough attention to details, as you get the job done.

Leo, July 23-Aug. 22
Expect some surprises today. Don’t gamble unless willing to lose. It’s a good day to keep a low profile and handle domestic or routine work chores. Keep your money in the bank.

Virgo, Aug. 23-Sept. 22
A new twist could cause you to stumble. Watch where you’re going, and don’t compromise your core values. Read the fine print. Keep it private.

Libra, Sept. 23-Oct. 21
Your loved ones are there to support you when you need them. You don’t have to go it alone. Don’t worry. Together you can solve the puzzle, one piece at a time.

Sagittarius, Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Are you afraid that you’re building a house of cards? Give up the seriousness and enjoy the game while it lasts. Then start a new one. Nothing lasts forever.

Taurus, Apr. 20-May 20
Huddle with your team to choose tactics, and celebrate a recent victory. Focus on the most difficult tasks, spend frugally and widen your view. Experience pays off.

Scorpio, Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Work can feel so productive that it can take you away from reality. Don’t stress about the money. It works out.

Gemini, May 21-June 21
An urge for freedom may start bubbling, and a new opportunity could offer the perfect avenue. Watch out for jealousies and hidden roadblocks. Spend lightly, and rest at home.

Cancer, June 22-July 22
Things may seem extreme today, and you may feel called to impulsive action when a surprise development opens new doors. Get an expert opinion. Persistence brings rewards.

Pisces, Feb. 19-March 20
Your shyness charms now. Don’t take yourself too seriously, as everything will lighten up tomorrow. Focus on the projects that call to you, and let worry wait.

Word of the Day:

terpsichorean - \terp-sih-kuh-REE-un\
adjective
1: of or relating to dancing

Example:
One film critic speculated that this feel-good, terpsichorean movie would have tweens across the nation begging their parents to send them to dance school.

SOKUDOK

The Samurai of Puzzles By The Mepham Group

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY’S PUZZLE

Level:

1 2

3 4

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Concerns persist about appointees

Board of Regents

Regents switch could affect Leopold Center

By Katherine Klingseis
@iowastatedaily.com

With the appointments of Craig Lang as the Iowa Board of Regents president and Bruce Rastetter as the board’s president pro tem, sustainability advocates have begun to worry about the board’s influence on agriculture at Iowa State.

“We are already going in a direction that the university should not be going,” said Erwin Klaas, professor of animal ecology. “If the Board of Regents and its new leaders take over and influence the university, it will negatively affect sustainable agriculture.”

Regents Lang and Rastetter were elected to their current positions in a telephonic meeting, July 12.

They were appointed after the previous board President David Miles and the previous president pro tem Jack Evans resigned their positions July 12.

In addition to holding his position on the board, Lang serves as the president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. Rastetter is the chief executive at Hawkeye Energy Holdings.

“My gut feeling is that the farm bureau is a large organization that’s already putting too much pressure on the university for hiring and firing people,” Klaas said. “To appoint the president of the farm bureau as the Board of Regents president is inappropriate.”

In his resignation letter to the board, Miles wrote that Gov. Terry Branstad had approached both him and Miles, and asked them to resign from their positions.

Many critics questioned whether Branstad overstepped the bounds of his authority as governor when he asked the two regents to resign.

Questions of authority were raised again after Lang and Rastetter were elected to replace Miles and Evans.

According to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, Lang donated $500 to Branstad’s 2010 campaign. The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, of which Lang is president, contributed $535,000 to Branstad’s campaign, making it the third-largest donation from an organization.

Furthermore, the Iowa State Daily reported Feb. 27 that Rastetter was the largest individual contributor to Branstad’s campaign. He donated $162,000 to Branstad.

Klaas said he believes Branstad’s influence in the resignation and later appointment of leaders on the Board of Regents is “inappropriate.”

“I believe that the less political influence we have on the direction of the university, the better,” he said.

Sustainable agriculture advocates are especially worried about the future of the Leopold Center of Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State. The center is research and education center that focuses on statewide programs to develop sustainable agricultural practices.

The center was established under the Groundwater Protection Act of 1987. According to its website, the center’s mission is: conduct research about the negative impacts of agricultural practices, to assist in developing alternative practices and to work with ISU Extension to inform the public of Leopold Center findings.

“The Leopold Center funds sustainable agriculture projects,” Interim Leopold Center Director Mark Honeyman said.

Klaas is concerned that the Board of Regents, which he worries may be influenced by Branstad, will exert undue political influence on the Leopold Center.

“The board could exert influence on what center focuses on,” he said. “The direction the Leopold Center goes in should be science-based, not be influenced by politics.”

Some critics also worry that the board will choose an ISU president who will not support sustainable agriculture and the Leopold Center. Because the Leopold Center was created by state law, the center cannot be closed. However, Klaas is concerned that the board members will make decisions based on the pursuit of corporate interests.

“As a land-grant institution, the mission is to serve the people,” he said. “Whenever large corporations can influence the university’s direction, that’s not in the best interest of the people. You’ve got to think about the whole community.”

John Olthoff, professor at Dordt College and member of the Leopold Center advisory board, said that he is not worried about the next ISU president hindering the work of the Leopold Center.

“I have high hopes that the next president will be supportive of agriculture and the Leopold Center,” he said.

Honeyman also believes that the Leopold Center will continue to thrive regardless of who the ISU president is.

“I suspect that the Leopold Center will continue to have administrative support,” he said.

Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Wendy Wintersteen was not available for comment.