the upside of
‘Unhappiness’

Photo: Jordan Maurice/Iowa State Daily

U.S. Postal Service may close two branches on campus

Vriezen: Congress must compromise to end debt debacle

The Anytime is heading south—and not coming back

THURSDAY

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Bradley Teplicky, the Story County Justice Center (reported at 12:42 a.m.).

Raphael Ave. #6, was arrested, 18, of 1314 Avenue and Lincoln Way. She at the intersection of Franklin with operating while intoxicated (simple), driving under suspension of a schedule V substance, was arrested and charged with willful injury, driving while license is denied, careless driving, possession of a controlled substance and fraudulent use of registration plates (reported at 3:12 a.m.).

Officers assisted a man who was experiencing emotional difficulties at Union Drive and Welch Road. The individual was transported to Mary Greeley Medical Center for treatment (reported at 3:13 a.m.).

Emily Hayes, 22, of 1110 Roosevelt Ave., was arrested and charged with forgery (reported at 8:28 p.m.).

Tamara Holder, 44, of Nevada, was arrested and charged with public intoxication (second) [reported at 7:30 p.m.].

Timothy Vandelaume, 24, of Urbandale, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated at the intersection of Hayward Avenue and Mortensen Parkway. He was transported to the Story County Justice Center (reported at 1:34 a.m.).

Nicole Finley, 22, of Story City, was arrested and charged with public intoxication at Cap Timm Field. She was transported to the Story County Justice Center (reported at 1:34 a.m.).

Emma Geltjensbruns, 21, of 1588 University Village, was arrested and charged with public intoxication on the 2500 block of Chamberlain Street. She was transported to the Story County Justice Center (reported at 2:45 a.m.).

Officers released a dog that had been locked in an office to its owner at Lagomarcino Hall (reported at 6:15 p.m.).

A woman reported that a man approached her and was asking questions about a restaurant in Ames at Haber Road and University Boulevard. She stated that the entire situation made her uncomfortable (reported at 9:31 p.m.).

Nathan Goodpastor, 26, of Lehigh, was arrested and charged with public consumption and disorderly conduct (reported at 1:57 a.m.).

Rachel Parrish, 19, of Eden Prairie, Minn., was cited for underage possession of alcohol at the 300 block of Welch Avenue (reported at 1:19 a.m.).

Robert Starace, 43, of 1100 Pinon Dr. #5, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated (reported at 2:11 a.m.).

Implied consent was invoked and charged to field sobriety testing at the intersection of Mortensen Parkway and State Avenue (reported at 2:18 a.m.).

Xi Wu, 22, of 6136 Frederiksen Court, was arrested and charged with driving while barred and driving under suspension at 6th Street and University Boulevard. He was transported to the Story County Justice Center (reported at 6:15 p.m.).

June 27

An individual reported the loss of a passport at the Armory Building (reported at 9:07 p.m.).

June 28

A staff member reported the theft of three Mac Mini computers and a monitor at Gilman Hall (reported at 8:13 a.m.).

Scott Harrison, 50, of 2815 Heathrow Dr. #77, was arrested and charged with domestic abuse (simple) (reported at 10:50 a.m.).
Fiction

‘Unhappiness’ gets attention

Professor’s new novel is warmly received

By Julia Ferrell
@iowastatedaily.com

This June, while the rest of campus was bustling to class, Dean Bakopoulos was being featured in Oprah Winfrey’s magazine.

Dean Bakopoulos, assistant professor of creative and environmental writing, recently completed his second novel, “My American Unhappiness,” which has received reviews nationwide. One such notice appeared in “O, The Oprah Magazine.”

The book focuses on a young man named Zeke Pappas as he spends his time working obsessively on a project called “The Inventory of American Unhappiness,” for which he asks everyone he meets why he or she is unhappy.

While working on his project, Zeke is also pressured into getting married by his dying mother.

If he isn’t married before she dies, he loses custody of his twin nieces that he and his mother have raised.

[Zeke] finds himself sort of caught up in the economic and political upheaval of the last three years. It’s set in 2008, the election year, and he runs a nonprofit that becomes a political and economic nightmare for him,” Bakopoulos said. “There’s this sort of personal and political message in the book.”

In 2007, while Bakopoulos was busy teaching fiction and nonfiction classes, he started writing “Unhappiness.” Bakopoulos said he tried to take time to write every day, and usually takes two hours in the morning to focus on his writing before he gets ready for class.

The book’s final revision was finished last summer, and was published through by the same house as Bakopoulos’ first novel, “Please Don’t Come Back from the Moon,” which was released in 2005. Because Bakopoulos already had an agent as he completed his latest book, the process of publishing was less stressful for him.

“Finding an agent is usually the most difficult thing for a writer,” Bakopoulos said. “Once you have a good agent, they usually can find a good home for your book.”

Bakopoulos found his agent soon after graduating from college.

“I was working at a bookstore after college,” he said. “I was kind of discovered by an agent there. I published a short story… a number of agents called me at the bookstore.”

But his second novel still required plenty of hard work. “My American Unhappiness” went through 11 revisions before Bakopoulos was finished. Bakopoulos, however, said that amount is normal for most novels that are published.

“You do a lot of revision. I tell my students, ‘What you do in this class is not going to be publishable work, even if you revise it two or three times,’” Bakopoulos said.

Once the revisions are done, Bakopoulos is able to “breathe a sigh of relief” and enjoy his favorite part of the writing process: finishing.

“When you see the book come out… you’re almost liberated to go work on something else,” Bakopoulos said.

But even when the book is finished, Bakopoulos said the process is “sort of horrifying.”

[The finished book is] arduous, and you don’t know if it’s going to be any good. It never matches what you imagined it to be like,” Bakopoulos said. “You can be proud of the book, but it never lives up to your expectations of what was in your head.”

When “Unhappiness” was finished, Bakopoulos was pleased to find out it had been featured in this June’s issue of “O, The Oprah Magazine” as the No. 1 “Title to Pick Up Now.” The magazine’s website also mentioned the novel in a book club, complete with reading discussion questions.

“That’s always a great endorsement to get,” Bakopoulos said. “And [‘O’] gave a great review to the first book too. It’s great support.”

Bakopoulos said reviews, like the one in “O,” are more difficult for authors to receive after they write their first novels.

“The first book is really intense. It gets reviewed everywhere,” Bakopoulos said. “The second book gets a lot of scrutiny... you’re assessed critically at a harder level for your second book.”

Bakopoulos said that so far, “Unhappiness” has received good reviews. There has also been some interest in making a film, he said, but “nothing too serious.” Rights to his first book are currently owned by Lionsgate Television. It still has the potential to be adapted into a TV series, but Bakopoulos said nothing is certain as of now.

“It’s a very fickle business. One day, you feel everything is all set and you’re about to get a film deal, and then it can collapse very quickly,” he said. “It’s sort of like playing the lottery for a writer. ‘If it happens, it’s really amazing.’”

With “Unhappiness” complete, Bakopoulos is not planning on taking a breather any time soon. He is already at work on his third novel, as well as a young-adult novel—something he said he has “always wanted to try.”

“My American Unhappiness” is available for purchase online, as well as in the Iowa State University Bookstore.
Postal service

New charges cause an outcry

SIOUX CITY — Heads were reeling Tuesday at City Hall after officials found out how much the U.S. Postal Service wants the city to pay for documents that led to the closure of the mail processing and distribution center.

The cost? $831,143.16. And by the way, send half the money up front.

“When I first saw it, I thought it was a Nigerian email scam,” City Manager Paul Eckert quipped Tuesday.

Postal officials announced June 17 that they planned to shut the doors at the Sioux City plant and transfer the operation to Sioux Falls.

Richard Watkins, corporate communications executive for the postal service in Kansas City, Mo., said the postal service plans to have everything operational in Sioux Falls by October.

When asked Tuesday to explain the $831,143 bill, Watkins said he would check. During his return telephone call, Watkins said he had talked to Steven E. Martin, manager, area mail processing and facility consolidation, in Washington, D.C., and that Martin’s letter to the city was self-explanatory.

On June 24, Eckert submitted a second Freedom of Information Act request to the postal service asking for copies of documents, emails and studies that resulted in the decision to close the Sioux City plant.

His first FOIA request was denied.

In his reply to the second request, Martin wrote that the information would be provided but outlined the cost to the city to get it.

“It seems they’re putting up a financial roadblock to our gaining the information we’re entitled to,” Mayor Mike Hobart said.

Councilman Tom Padgett added, “This is a ridiculous figure ... it appears to me they have made it so onerous by the $830,000 fee that nobody in their right mind would pay it. I can’t believe it would take that much to reproduce the materials they should have in the first place.”

Martin explained in his letter, “The FOIA permits agencies to charge fair and equitable fees to recover the costs of furnishing records to the public.”

He cited Office of Management and Budget guidelines and postal service fee regulations. The first two hours of search time and first 100 pages would be provided at no charge, he said.

The charges are for the manual search fee and computer search time.

The city could incur additional charges, depending on services provided in processing the request, he warned.

“We must caution you that you are liable for the fee even if certain portions of the requested records are withheld in accordance with the exemptions [in federal law] and our regulations,” Martin wrote.

Although the FOIA allows agencies 20 working days to process the requests, Martin said it could take up to a year to provide all the documentation requested by the city.

“We consider your request to involve unusual circumstances due to the extensive manual and electronic search required in multiple departments, facilities and offices.”

Martin suggested the city consider narrowing the scope of its request.

Padgett and Eckert said they had forwarded Martin’s letter to Iowa’s U.S. senators, Charles Grassley and Tom Harkin, as well as to Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa.

All three have lobbied the postmaster general to reconsider the closure decision and to provide more information on the studies that led to that decision.

Grassley also met with the postmaster general.

Eckert contended that the postal service has misled the public, business community and government officials by claiming only 22 jobs would be eliminated by shutting down the mail processing plant at 2901 Murphy Drive.

“It’s a loss of over 100 jobs in our community that would go away forever,” he said, including clerks, mail handlers and maintenance employees.

“We believe there will be at least a day’s delay in receiving mail in every postal service category.”

Postal officials have said only some mail would have two-day delivery.

Eckert characterized postal officials’ attitudes as arrogant, adding that they “from the very beginning treated the mayor, council members and even our senators and congressman dismissively.”

The Associated Press
Innovations proposed

By Stephen.Koenigsfeld
@iowastatedaily.com

Superintendents and school board leaders must now determine how to put what they discussed at this week's Iowa Education Summit into a plan of action for the state.

Monday and Tuesday were busy days for educators and staff at the Capitol building. Teachers, head learners and Gov. Terry Branstad all convened for the Iowa Education Summit.

The main point of discussion among teachers, educators, business leaders and the governor was the reforms they could make to increase education standards throughout the state.

One breakout session was called “Evaluation and Compensation.” Discussed in it were the criteria for evaluating teachers in the classroom and the ways that evaluations could be related to the way teachers are compensated.

“The area of the session dealing with evaluation, I think they just talked about the different strategies for approaching and evaluating youngsters at our schools and the importance of moving beyond just standardized measures,” said Carl Smith, chairman of Curriculum and Instruction at Iowa State.

Standardized testing was a hot topic at the summit. Educators tried to think of means of evaluating students that didn’t involve standardized tests like the ACT and ITEDS.

Mack Shelley, university professor of statistics and political science, was one of the summit’s attendees.

“Having standardized scores is really essential if you want to make comparison,” said Shelley.

Along with other states, Iowa has its own standardized tests, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Shelley said that it’s hard to compare student achievement throughout the country. That is because each state has its own “homegrown” kind of tests.

Recent studies have shown that Iowa is sliding down the rankings in educational terms. Once a national leader, Iowa has become mediocre. However, this is not because scores are dropping, Shelley said. It is because other states have improved at much more at much faster paces.

“A major theme at the conference was that Iowa needs to do something seriously — and pretty fast — to be able to get back toward the top, where we have been,” Shelley said. “And of course, the only way we know this is by standardized scores.”

Attendees offered the governor a wide array of ideas to not only improve standardized testing, but also improve education as a whole. Educators believe they can improve Iowa’s education system using ideas brainstormed at the summit.

“I think that this summit provided a lot of information regarding the types challenges and types of areas we need to be thinking on how we can provide leadership as far as education overall,” said Carl Smith, ISU professor of Curriculum and Instruction. “I found it to be a very stimulating two days as far as potential directions for the state.”

ISU history professor Charles Dobbs attended the “Better Quality Teachers” breakout session.

“We talked about how states can put meaningful reforms in place,” Dobbs said. “I believe that reforms should come. It’s only a matter of time.”

Ideas discussed concerned ways educators could improve the curriculum, use technology in a more up-to-date way and administer different tests and unit review assessments.

“Overall, I thought [the summit] was pretty good,” Dobbs said. “But, I admit, one cannot tell from that summit, what it will produce or how [educators] will react, because it’s still up in the air.”

Branstad creates new panel

DES MOINES — Gov. Terry Branstad side-stepped questions seeking specifics Tuesday about his plans for education reform now that the Iowa Education Summit has ended.

Instead, the governor said he intends to seek consensus from “all of the 1,650 people” who attended the conference and possibly more to draft legislation this fall before the General Assembly reconvenes in January. The 1,650 refers to the estimated number of attendees at the two-day summit that ended just before noon Tuesday.

“We’re going to reach out to each of them for their ideas and suggestions and then put together those preliminary recommendations, and then have a whole series of town hall meetings all across the state,” he said.

The governor spoke during a Statehouse news conference where he signed an executive order aimed at getting more students involved in mathematics, science, engineering and technical fields. But Branstad was careful not to give too much away about his plans for the state’s publicly educated students.

The governor specifically avoided answering questions about whether he supports changing the state’s tuition-free preschool program. He pushed such a proposal during the past legislative session but was unable to maneuver it through the Democratic-controlled Senate.

“I think the preschool discussion should be dead,” said Sen. Herman Quirmbach, D-Ames, who attended both days of the summit and chairs the Senate education committee.

Quirmbach was referring to the vast support for early childhood education among the panelists and attend - ees of the conference. The topic turned into a running gag at the conference — whenever a speaker came out in favor of expanding preschool, having taught preschool or even attending preschool, he or she would get a round of applause.

Asked if he planned to propose changes to the system as part of his reforms, Branstad would only say that he’s committed to a quality preschool program and the state has to live within its means.

Rep. Sharon Steckman, D-Mason City, a retired teacher who attended both days of the summit, said she thought the administration painted a “whole gloom and doom scenario” to push a specific perspective, but consensus and buy-in is what is needed to make sure reform is effective.

“Iowa’s one of the top in graduation rates in the country, you know, none of that was mentioned, all the negative statistics were put out there,” she said.

“Most of the teachers I talk to are not feeling good about being in the classroom,” Steckman said. She supports efforts to improve the system, but she was disappointed in the approach.

Rep. Linda Miller, R-Bettendorf, said people can interpret data to come to different conclusions.

“But when the national Secretary of Education tells you you’re not doing as well as the other states, I kind of believe him,” she said.

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Editorial

Some of us are already missing the NFL lockout

NFL football is back on. Hooray for sports fans and armchair quarterbacks everywhere! Right?

It may be a nice thing for most Sunday football fans, but for some, the NFL deal isn’t all that appealing. For some folks out there, the idea of no football fans, but for some, the NFL deal isn’t all that appealing.

If the NFL lockout had continued, maybe everyone would have focused on all the college games that sports fans find themselves enjoying anyway.

Such attention could’ve given a much-needed bump to college funding, or changed where support for play style sits. With focus on only those rough-around-the-edges players working the college beat, not receiving millions of dollars to get their heads beaten in, maybe fans could’ve regained an appreciation for the game that has fallen to the wayside over the years.

Maybe the bigger stars would’ve started to pay attention to the beauty of the game, rather than the big checks they cash.

But it was all just a dream, a little hope that crashed at the end. And so, NFL football will reign supreme come fall. But maybe, just maybe, folks out there will recall the college-level game and the beauty of hitting the field without players backed by boooky bucks.

Legislation

Come together to save economy

Once again, Washington is entangled in a mess of budget negotiations, arguments and stonewalling. We are yet again approaching a deadline — come Aug. 2, the United States of America will default on its $14.3 trillion debt, unless some course of action is agreed upon in Congress in the coming days.

The fight is not particularly new. Republican representatives want to cut spending and programs while the Democrats hope for legislation that includes tax hikes. Yet once again, the problem seems to be the lack of compromise as to what is an appropriate solution to this situation. Can we get by with simply cutting government programs and reducing spending? Will tax increases for the wealthy do us any good?

Clearly, neither will solve the problem. Cutting spending will limit government programs or eliminate them. Many American families rely on government programs for a variety of services. Raising taxes for the top income bracket in the US will raise revenue, but will not solve the bigger issue. There will still need to be a hard look at US spending and an effort must be made to streamline costs.

According to a CNN/ORC International Poll, 64 percent of those that responded in mid-July favored a compromise that included spending cuts as well as tax increases. Less than 35 percent voted for a budget plan based only on limiting government spending.

Of course, no one is particularly fond of tax increases. But the tax increases that President Obama favors apply to those that earn an excess of $250,000 a year. This income bracket of Americans constitutes about 2 percent of the population. I find it hard to object to raising taxes for a very small portion of the population: the richest. At the very least, when the other option is to cut even more money from government programs, likely at the expense of those that need them, raising taxes doesn’t seem horribly unreasonable.

Yet, unsurprisingly, members of the Republican party staunchly oppose any sort of plan that includes raising taxes. Though while Obama would probably still like to see a deal with some tax increases, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, proposes a solution that is free of tax hikes.

Reid’s plan will cut $2.7 trillion in spending over the next 10 years, and raise the debt ceiling by $2.4 trillion. This will give the government until after the 2012 elections. The debt ceiling will then become an issue once more. Additionally, a committee would be formed of House and Senate members to explore other ways of reducing national debt.

The competing Republican proposal from House Speaker John Boehner would cut $1.2 trillion in spending over the next 10 years, and raise the debt ceiling enough to last the government through 2011. A later vote in Congress would raise the debt ceiling further, as long as Congress approved tax reforms and changes to entitlement programs set out by a committee of House and Senate legislators.

The immediately visible problem here is that Boehner’s proposal pushes the debt ceiling back only slightly, and it looks like Congress will simply face more haggling and stalemates in a few months.

With the recent government shutdown in Minnesota and now the national budget problems America faces, I have increasingly lost faith in the possibility of civil political debate.

It seems that every time there is an argument over how to proceed with governmental reforms or changes, party lines are drawn and battle axes are sharpened.

I am a fan of compromise. It’s a useful tool for living realistically. Sometimes compromise is essential for any progress to be made or for anything worthwhile to come of an argument.

It’s up to the politicians in Washington to work beyond party differences and perhaps attempt to solve the issue at hand before the United States defaults.
Music

After ‘Friday,’ Black joins tween-pop tradition

By Edward Leonard@iowastatedaily.com

The teenyboppers have returned, and with them their unique brand of bubblegum pop. Somehow The Disney Channel, with help from Canada, has managed to revive this thoroughly dead tradition of screaming, popular-image obsessed fangirls.

Just now, though, we’ve begun to see the harsh reality of just how deep this cruelly upbeat rabbit hole goes. They have unleashed Rebecca Black upon the world.

Stunning the world’s eardrums into painful submission with her virulently infectious single “Friday,” Rebecca Black was credited with having made the “worst song ever.”

That’s right, YouTube viewers. Rebecca’s very first ever attempt at a publicly released song has surpassed just about every music video ever made.

Worse than “What What (in the Butt).” Worse than “Pants on the Ground,” or even the loosely related “My Jeans” (although some scholars have now begun theorizing that “My Jeans” and “Friday” are actually the same song).

While this cacophony of unmitigated disaster did inspire some pretty amusing parodies, these attempts at finding creative outlets for society’s apparent limitless hatred for this teenage girl weren’t enough to keep the video from getting pulled from YouTube entirely.

With this whale of a flop as the starting note for her career, Rebecca has, at the very least, nowhere to go but up.

Armed with a hopelessly optimistic outlook, she has set about trying to make another big hit, this time to a bit less public outcry and a bit more acclaim.

With this end in mind, she turned to a medium that has, historically, not been her strong suit: the YouTube video. Not just that, but a YouTube music video.

And she managed it with an unexpected grace. Rebecca recently guest-starred in an adorably funny music video by the neo-bubblegum movement’s grown-up alterego, Katy Perry.

While Rebecca’s signature nasal whine was notably absent, she herself was one of the crucial actresses, transforming Katy’s nerdy, awkward, bookworm character into the beautiful, spandex-clad ’80s party queen we all knew she could be.

After recharging her batteries by riding someone else’s coattails, Rebecca put out a new video of her own, titled “My Moment.” The world held its breath in fear.

This video was her way of telling off “haters,” as she put it in a recent interview. While it lacks the Bubonic Plague-esque catchiness of “Friday,” it still holds the ear, albeit in a less brutal vice grip.

The much-dreaded “haters” will likely say that “My Moment” is pretty much an amalgam of every clichéd child-band sound and pop-starlet video move in the book, from Britney’s famed backup dancers to the almost nauseatingly upbeat synth-melodies of Bieber.

They wouldn’t be wrong.

These things, however, are clichéd for a reason: they are tried, they are true and they sell music. They’re catchy. They’re effective. Admit it — the first time you heard “Baby,” it got caught in your head. Justin’s “whoa-s” were stuck with you for days, and, though you’ll likely go to your grave denying it, his song had a certain toe-tapping appeal.

So it is with “My Moment” — maybe not to the same degree, but it will get there. She’ll continue making more music to appeal to adolescent girls. She’ll recover from her first video, and will even be considered successful.

Will it be Mozart or Zeppelin? No. Will it be, from a technical standpoint, innovative, or even good? No. Will every song sound just like the last? Probably. But that should be nothing new.

Every genre of music has those bands (like Dragonforce and Cascada) that have become successful by basically repackaging the same song over and over again, and people love it.

So Rebecca Black, like it or not, will become famous and rich. She will develop a following, and will perhaps even earn recognition as a pioneer of a re-emerging genre. And she will have earned it.

Letter

Act before it’s too late on debt

At this point in our nation’s history, students really need to pay attention to the political temperature. In the recent deficit debates, it has been noted that if an agreement is not made by Aug. 2, then the government will run out of the financial means to pay the bills. This includes student loans. This means that if you are one of the many students who are receiving federal loans at Iowa State, then you may face an interruption in your education.

This is the time to get involved. Contact your representative. You can find out who your representative is by checking www.house.gov. Don’t procrastinate. Do this now! What you say does matter. Remind your representative that WE hired them to work for United States. They need to put partisanship aside and work to make things better for all Americans.

Tara Parrott is a junior in child, adult, and family services

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Thur sday, July 28, 2011 | Iowa State Daily | OPINION | 7
Ames band The Anytime will be heading to Florida for good this weekend. File photo: Yue Wu/Iowa State Daily

The Anytime goes south

By Vincent Geerts
Ames247 Writer

A little over two years ago, local band The Anytime gave its first performance at The Maintenance Shop. This Friday at Headliners, the band will play its last show in Ames. In only a couple of weeks, it will be relocating to Orlando, Fla.

“I know there’s a lot of bands trying to make it in Ames. I’ve been doing it for the last few years,” said keyboardist Tyler Higdon. “We’re all just ready for something a little bigger.”

After a tour that took the band through Florida, members were introduced to their current manager, and “got a taste of the scene in Florida,” guitarist Caleb Wiggins said.

“Already having a manager is a big plus, we have our foot in the door before we even get there,” Higdon said.

Wiggins said Orlando is not that different from Ames. Band members will be located near a large university with a similar scene, but expect their new home to provide a bigger fan base that will be more receptive to a new style of music.

“We’ve grown accustomed to the college scene,” Wiggins said. “But Orlando is a lot more than just a college town. It’s also a huge city.”

The band members said they are somewhat sad to leave their fans behind, but expect them to move on as well.

“In some ways, it’s bittersweet,” Higdon said. “But a lot of our fans are moving, graduating, getting grown-up jobs and leaving Ames anyway.”

Fans of The Anytime have one more chance to see the band live in Ames and talk to members after the show. When the band leaves the stage, a DJ will take over while band members spend the rest of the evening with friends from Ames. The lease on the band’s shared residence will expire at noon the following day.

After spending a couple weeks crashing with friends, working and saving money, band members will load up their vehicles and hit the road for Florida, aiming to make themselves a new home.

Tickets to their final show in Ames may be purchased from Headliners.

History


Final show in Ames

When: Friday, July 29, 2011. Doors open at 9p.m.
What: The Anytime will be having their final Ames show. You must be above 21 years of age to enter. Admission is $5 in advance, $8 at the door.
Where: Headliner’s Bar.

Solo artists

Williams living out his dream

By Basil Rain
Ames247 Writer

Keller Williams was first inspired to be a musician at the age of three. Forty years later, he’s a man ready to take on the music world.

Williams will perform at Nitefall On The River on July 28.

Williams became interested in guitar when he watched the TV show “Hee Haw” as a child. After his friend showed him how to play a few chords, Williams wanted to expand his knowledge of the acoustic guitar.

As a teenager, Williams discovered Michael Hedges, a fellow solo artist.

“Hedge showed me how to play a few chords, Williams said. “I didn’t want to make an album where the parents had to skip through certain parts.”

Williams said his latest album, Kids, is family-oriented.

Williams described his current music as “acid jazz.”

“It’s like, you take jazz and electronic, and you fuse them,” Williams said.

As a solo artist, Williams also has side projects. In the past, he’s collaborated on albums with bands like The String Cheese Incident and The Keels.

Williams will perform with bands such as the Grateful Dead and the String Cheese Incident. Photo courtesy of Madison House Inc.

Keller in DSM

When: Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 7 p.m.
What: Williams will be in Des Moines. Cost is $20 in advance and $25 at the door.
Where: Simon Estes Amphitheater
New public artwork will be making an appearance on campus this fall. Pieces will be installed at various locations across campus. The Small Animal Hospital and Clinic, State Gym and the Horticulture Building will feature the new art. Art will also be featured in the Anderson Sculpture Garden.

At the Small Animal Hospital and Clinic, three new sculptures are being added. Bronze sculptures “Circle Cat,” “Running Saluki” and “Midnight and Varna” will be placed on the entrance-area lawn.

Sculptor Gwynn Murrill said the style of her bronze animal sculptures is all about motion.

“I like the idea of the animation of doing something in motion,” Murrill said. “It’s like stop-motion in a movie.”

Sarah Grant and Sticks, Inc. will install a piece called “Title” at the Small Animal Hospital and Clinic. The piece is a large mural depicting several different animals. The piece, consisting of two totem sculptures and nine wall panels, focuses mainly on companion animals such as dogs, cats, birds and reptiles, as well as exotic animals.

The State Gym is also getting a wide variety of pieces. Along with Christian Petersen’s historic bas relief sculpture, “Three Athletes,” the gym will be getting new pieces from artists Terry Allen and Eric Sealine.

Allen’s piece, “Public Perception,” will be the first public art project to include a neon sculpture on campus. According to a press release put out by University Museums, Allen said he “began thinking about color, about words, about colored words and this naturally led to thinking about neon-colored words.”

The second piece going up in the State Gym is called “Learning to Fly.” Constructed by Eric Sealine, the 70-foot-long mosaic is being installed by the new pool. The mural depicts a diver diving into the water.

“Inspiration for this piece came from one second — seeing this little kid diving into a pool,” Sealine said.

The sculpture “Gentle Doctor” by Christian Petersen is also being moved from the second floor of the Scheman Building to the interior entrance of the Small Animal Hospital and Clinic.

Local musician Ryan Sheeler will be promoting his new album on Saturday. You can pick up “Polk County Line” at Rieman Music in Ames, Mars Cafe near the Drake campus in Des Moines and online at iTunes, CD Baby and Amazon.com.

“Polk County Line” is the new album by local musician Ryan Sheeler. The album features a mix of folk-based, acoustic guitar-driven work with vocals similar to Bruce Springsteen’s 1982 album “Nebraska.” Lyrically, Sheeler said that the songs explore “the other side of the American dream … the back woods and back roads.”

To celebrate the album’s release, Sheeler will be performing at Cafe Milo on Saturday. You can pick up “Polk County Line” at Rieman Music in Ames, Mars Cafe near the Drake campus in Des Moines and online at iTunes, CD Baby and Amazon.com.

Release Show

When: Saturday, July 30, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
What: Ryan Sheeler’s release show for “Polk County Line.”
Cost of attendance is free.
Where: Cafe Milo, 4800 Mortensen Road #101, Ames
2 DAY SALE!

Prices Effective July 29th & 30th, 2011

6.00
All You Care To Eat Chinese Buffet
dine in only 11am-7pm

3.90
Fresh Chicken Leg Quarters
only 39¢/lb
10 lb pkg, limit 2

1.99
Hormel Always Tender Whole Boneless Pork Loin
lb

2.49
Hy-Vee Thin Sliced Deli Ham
lb

6 for $5
Michelina's Entrees
4.5 - 9oz
select varieties

99¢
Fairacres Frozen Dairy Dessert
1.75 quart square
creamy vanilla, cookies & cream, or neapolitan
Prices Effective July 29th & 30th, 2011

- 3.90 Fresh Chicken Leg Quarters only 39¢/lb, 10 lb pkg, limit 2
- 1.99 Hormel Always Tender Whole Boneless Pork Loin $/lb
- 6 for $5 Michelina’s Entrees 4.5 - 9oz select varieties
- 99¢ Hy-Vee Cottage Cheese small curd, or one curd limit 2
- 1.99 Del Monte Gold Pineapple each
- 49¢ Bright & Early Flavored Drinks orange, apple or grape 64 fl oz, limit 3
- 4 for $11 Pepsi Products 6 pk bottles select varieties
- 10 for $10 Little Debbie Snacks 13oz Swiss Rolls, 12 oz Nutty Bars, 16.2 oz Oatmeal Créme Pies, 13.1 oz Cosmic Brownies
- 6.00 All You Care To Eat Chinese Buffet dine in only 11am-7pm
- 99¢ Fairacres Frozen Dairy Dessert 1.75 quart square creamy vanilla, cookies & cream, or neapolitan
- 9.99 Malibu Rum 750 mL
- 6.99 Woodchuck Hard Cider 6 pk bottles
- 4.99 Beringer California Collection 750 mL select varieties

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EMPLOYEE OWNED
Sustain long-distance love by meeting, messaging

Stay in touch to keep your romance alive

By Jolie Monroe
public_relations@iowastatedaily.com

School-year relationships often bring summertime separation. Couples are then faced with the prospect of surviving a long-distance relationship until the next school year begins.

Katie Lovan, senior in art and design and advertising, has been dating Mike Rayford, junior in pre-business, for a year and a half. During the school year, they spend plenty of time together, but once summer hits, she goes off to her hometown, Des Moines, and he heads back to Minneapolis.

Their separation was prolonged further when Lovan spent last spring studying abroad in Rome.

“It’s great to travel to a completely new place together,” Lovan said.

Exploring new places together can be a great way for couples to connect.

Couples should make the most of these short visits to see each other by planning a special date.

“We can go out for a really nice dinner, because we aren’t doing that very often. We can kind of splurge,” Lovan said.

Planning special dates doesn’t just afford opportunities for splurging. It also gives you something to look forward to while you’re away.

Texting, talking and tweeting

Texting and Skype are the couple’s main modes of communication. They use texting for easy, on-the-go communication, while reserving Skype for special occasions.

Lovan and Rayford used Skype frequently while she was abroad.

Now that she’s home, it’s harder to make time “because we only have time in the evening, and sometimes he’ll go out, or I’ll go out, or we’ll both be tired,” Lovan said.

When all else fails, Twitter and Facebook posts are quick and easy ways to keep in touch.

Road trips

What better way to survive a long distance relationship than to visit each other? Lovan and Rayford make trips to each other’s hometowns for visits. Recently, Rayford came to Iowa to attend the 80/35 Music Festival with Lovan. The couple later played tennis in the 2011 Iowa Games together.

“It’s fun to find something that we both enjoy so we can make an excuse to see each other and do fun things,” Lovan said.

They also had the opportunity to visit Arizona, a place they’d never been to, as a couple.

Sending letters is an old-fashioned way to keep things interesting and make your communication much more meaningful.

Sending letters is an old-fashioned way to keep things interesting and make your communication much more meaningful. Photo: Jordan Maurice/Iowa State Daily

Music

Summer provides the perfect opportunity for couples to make their own playlist of love songs. Choose songs that are meaningful to you both.

By Laura Bucklin
public_relations@iowastatedaily.com

These songs are perfect for listening to in the car, or making a mix CD for that significant other.

- “You and I” by Ingrid Michaelson
- “One and Only” by Adele
- “Longing to Belong” by Eddie Vedder
- “Baby Blue Eyes” by A Rocket to the Moon
- “Every Morning” by Basshunter
- “Annie’s Song” (acoustic) by John Denver
- “Lean Into the Light” by Iron and Wine
- “I Got You” by Thompson Square
- “I Think You Know” by Julia Nunes
- “She is Love” by 3 Doors Down
- “The Art of Succinct Compliments” by Summertime’s End
- “Love Song” by Miranda Lambert
- “Two of Us” by the Beatles
- “Warm Me Up” by the Audition
- “A Little More of You” by Ashley Chambliss

Love song playlist

In this section:
Sustain long-distance love by meeting, messaging
With enough effort, couples can turn summer flings into long-term love
Make the most of your dating options in Ames
for all your big
Wedding Plans

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Romance

With enough effort, couples can turn summer flings into long-term love

By Hanna Johansen
public_relations
@iowastatedaily.com

As the hot summer days free of lectures and studying draw to a close, hot summer romances may also begin to fizzle. There seems to be an unwritten rule that says summer flings have to end once August rolls around. Why not challenge that rule this year? Go on a real date

If you want your summer fling to turn into something more serious, the first step is to go on a real date. Pick a location where you can easily make conversation. It is important to find out if the two of you share common interests besides boating, barbeques and pool parties. Connecting on more than a physical level is key to carrying the summer lovin’ on into the rest of the year.

Muriel Templeton started her summer romance while interning at Cedar Point in Ohio last summer. “At first we just thought it was going to be a summer fling, but once we started actually getting to know each other, we both knew it was going to be so much more,” Templeton said.

Try a new activity

As the saying goes, “Couples that play together, stay together.” Find some fun activities you haven’t tried before. This will allow the two of you to share new experiences and grow as a couple.

“My boyfriend and I would plan day trips to places neither of us had been. Sharing these new experiences really allowed us to bond on a deeper level,” Templeton said.

Make concrete plans

If you think your relationship has post-summer potential, make plans to attend an event in the fall such as a concert or football game. By buying tickets in advance, it will allow you to bond on a deeper level.

“While getting to know each other, my summer romance and I found we both had a love for a country singer who was going to be playing a few months after the internship got over. His enthusiasm about going to the concert with me showed he wasn’t just looking to ditch me once the summer was over,” Templeton said.

Share your feelings

If you don’t let your crush know how you are feeling now, you may never get the chance to tell him or her again. Don’t just assume that the relationship has an early expiration date.

Let your summer fling know you hope to stay in touch and see him or her. Though it is a daring move that invites the possibility of rejection, the risk may be worth it.

“A few weeks before I left for home, my boyfriend really opened up to me and told me he was hoping we could try to make things work. It took a lot of courage for him to be so straightforward with me, but it definitely paid off,” Templeton said.

Dating

Make the most of your date night options in Ames

By Lindsey Schwarck
public_relations
@iowastatedaily.com

Sick of your typical dinner-and-a-movie Friday-night routine? Enjoy the warm weather and keep your summer romance sizzling with fun ideas for dates around the Ames area.

1. Have a picnic: Pack a picnic basket and blanket for a relaxing afternoon at Ada Hayden Park. After lunch, soak up the sunshine by flying a kite, playing Frisbee or taking a stroll around the lake.

2. Take a road trip: Whether you’re taking a day trip or making a weekend getaway, compile a CD of summer tunes and hit the open road. Try visiting some of Iowa’s attractions along the way, like the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, the Villisca Ax Murder House or the world’s largest truck stop!

3. Play games: Grab another couple and head to Perfect Games! With bowling, laser tag and more than 60 arcade games, there is plenty for couples to do there. After you’re done, The losing team can buy supper at Kingpin Pizza!

4. Go to the Iowa State Fair: During the day, wander the streets and try your hand at classic boardwalk games (brownie points for winning a stuffed bear!). At night, enjoy your favorite food on a stick and take in a view of the city from the top of the Ferris wheel.

5. Restaurant crawl: Can’t decide where to eat? Why not hit all your favorite restaurants around Ames? Kick off the night with cocktails or appetizers and then head across town for the main course. If you still have room, grab an ice cream treat for a late-night snack.

6. Ice skate: Beat the summer heat and head to the ISU Ice Arena. The rink is often less crowded in the summer, and it offers weekend deals to make skating with your date fun and affordable.

7. Wine and dine: For a day of taste-testing and relaxation, start by attending the Ames Farmers’ Market full of fresh produce and baked goods. Then visit Prairie Moon Winery, which is northwest of Ames. Explore the vineyard and sample some of the locally produced wines and snacks.

8. Throw a party in the park: Visit www.cityofames.org and mark your calendar for upcoming outdoor concerts and live performances in Bandshell Park near Main Street.
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ISU students have a variety of living options available to them:

21% live in residence halls
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12% live in fraternities or sororities
61% live in off-campus housing

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Decent looking, good morals, steady job guy. Let’s meet up.

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Sorry about giving you herpes.

What’s more satisfying an orgasm or a reeeeally big fart?

He was cute but then he took his hat off. Put it back on.

Grow a pair and ask her out and stop with the stupid juvenile text messaging You are pathetic.

Submit your just sayin’ to iowastatedaily.net/games
**Weekly Horoscope**: by Nancy Black and Stephanie Clements

**Taurus**: Trust love!

*Week of June 21 – June 28, 2011*

**Aries, Mar. 21-Apr. 19**
Give time to clearing out space at home. Weed out closets, clutter and the garden. It may seem boring, but the results feel so good. And they look that way, too.

**Taurus, Apr. 20-May 20**
If you discover an unexpected roadblock, try a new route. Trust love. There's more than enough to go around. Explore every lead and share opportunities. Be flexible.

**Gemini, May 21-June 21**

**Cancer, June 22-July 22**
Communications could be deceptive or incomplete today. Look for extra meaning beneath the words, and research the back-story. Keep a low profile to complete a job.

**Leo, July 23-Aug. 22**
Tell your worries you'll get back to them later. They keep trying to delude you into emotional outbursts. Instead, focus on the reality of the situation. It all works out.

**Virgo, Aug. 23-Sept. 22**
Rather than tripping again on the same rock, learn from it. Map it out for others. Describe how it feels. You'll save a lot of feet.

**Libra, Sept. 23-Oct. 22**
Have you considered a more creative career? You can break the cliche of the starving artist and find success... add artistry to the career you have now.

**Scorpio, Oct. 23-Nov. 21**
Unarticulated dreams and visions could confuse what folks think you're up to. You feel a bit shy, but if you tell them what you're thinking, they can ease the way.

**Sagittarius, Nov. 22-Dec. 21**
Watch what comes out of your mouth, as interactions are likely to get murky today. Think it over before you speak. Or just quietly check those tasks off the list.

**Capricorn, Dec. 22-Jan. 19**
You may have some explaining to do, but getting your point across could prove difficult in the abstract. Try to keep it concrete. Just the facts, Ma'am.

**Aquarius, Jan. 20-Feb. 18**
Glitchy speech could create misunderstandings now. Keep the channels clear, and invent a new way. Repeat the message until they get it. Patience.

**Pisces, Feb. 19-March 20**
You may encounter some bumps in your romantic life. Don't sweat the small stuff. Remember what you're committed to. Focus on your new ideas, as crazy as they may seem.

**Word of the Day**: pigeon-livered - (Pij-un-liv-erd)

Adjective
1: Gentle, mild

*Example:*
Then there are the officials who often display a pigeon-livered attitude in return for some form of bribery

---

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POST OFFICE

The Memorial Union post office has been put up for review by the state, as well as the Welch Avenue branch. There are many other branches around the state of Iowa that will be going through the same review. Photo: Jordan Maurice/Iowa State Daily

>>POST OFFICE.p4

to change the length of the postal service’s delivery week from Monday through Saturday to Monday through Friday.

“For those customers who need Saturday delivery, they can still get their mail with a PO. box,” Watkins said. “Then, the mail will be delivered, because that mail doesn’t require a carrier to deliver it.” Some students expect that the possible closure of the MU post office would inconvenience them during the school year.

“Most students are very busy during the week with going to class, and many times working on campus,” said Sarah McClanahan, International Student and Scholars member. “Even for staff, those working full-time during normal post office hours aren’t able to mail things, unless it’s on their lunch hour or on a Saturday morning.”

Ali Soltanshahi, an adviser for International Students and Scholars, thinks that the post offices should keep the people they work for in mind.

“Although it is important for the post office to look at spending cuts in order to meet the economical challenges of today’s world, it is also imperative and equally important to keep in perspective the population they serve,” Soltanshahi said.

Soltanshahi said that the post offices should advertise their on-campus services more aggressively.

“I am not sure how well they have advertised to … the campus community.”

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — When the Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant will be able to restart is still not clear, because the utility that operates it won’t be able to inspect it for damage until floodwaters from the overflowing Missouri River recede, officials said Wednesday.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission met with Omaha Public Power District officials to discuss what steps will be needed before the plant can reopen. Utility officials and regulators emphasized safety throughout the public meeting.

Regardless of the river level, we will not restart the plant until it is safe to do so,” said OPPD’s Chief Nuclear Officer Dave Bannister.

Much of the nuclear plant about 20 miles north of Omaha has been surrounded by Missouri River floodwaters since at least June, but the plant itself remains dry inside. Fort Calhoun has been shut down since April because it was being refueled before the flooding began.

Utility officials say they have no set timeline for restarting it because they won’t know what work is needed until after the water level drops. The plant may reopen this fall, but it could even be delayed until next spring depending upon repairs, inspections and the weather.

In addition to making repairs and inspecting parts, OPPD will also have to complete the normal refueling maintenance that has been on hold since April. Those tasks alone might take about two weeks to complete.

The NRC must approve the plan for inspections and repairs at Fort Calhoun, which remains under a low-level emergency status called a “notification of unusual event” because of the flooding. NRC officials promised to closely monitor the efforts to ensure the plant is safe and doesn’t represent a threat to the public.

“We’ll do what we need to do to verify the station is ready to return to power,” said Elmo Collins, the NRC’s regional administrator.

Within the next two weeks, OPPD will submit a detailed recovery plan for Fort Calhoun to the NRC. But that framework will likely be updated and revised once officials get a chance to fully inspect the facility.

Fort Calhoun employees have been using an elevated catwalk more than a quarter-mile long each day to cross the flooded parking lot. But the utility has been able to keep the inside of its buildings and key equipment mostly dry with a network of flood barriers and a number of pumps.

The main building at Fort Calhoun is at 1,004 feet above sea level, nearly three feet above the highest point reached by the Missouri River’s floodwaters.

The Missouri River may not return to within its banks until sometime in September, because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to release massive amounts of water from the upstream reservoirs.

The corps says the flooding was caused by heavy spring rains in the upper Plains and substantial Rocky Mountain snowpack melting into the river basin.

OMAHA plant still inundated

OPPD's Cooper plant in southeast Nebraska is more elevated than Fort Calhoun, so the floodwaters didn’t ever get as close to the facility. Cooper was able to continue operating throughout the flooding. OPPD officially lifted the “notification of unusual event” status at Cooper on June 13 after the floodwaters began to recede.

The base of the Cooper plant, which is about 70 miles south of Omaha, sits at 903.5 feet above sea level, nearly three feet above the highest point reached by the Missouri River’s floodwaters.

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