



THE

COSMOS

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Coe's Newest Chess Champion: Joseph Pregon

by Jeana Quinlan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Joseph Pregon ('24) won the March Madness Open Iowa Qualifier for chess last Saturday 3/18, marking his first ever Iowa Qualifier win. This qualifies Pregon to compete in the state championship.

"Like in basketball's March Madness, anyone can beat anyone in any given couple hours of a specific chess game; nobody is safe," said Pregon.

"Winning something like this for the first time made me feel like I had conquered something I had never conquered before, something for

new inspiration to go higher in chess."

Pregon played chess for the first time at his cousin's house. He didn't do much with chess after that, until joining his elementary school's chess team in the third grade, where he would begin to compete in tournaments.

"The top 6 players at the end of the year-long tournament would get a trophy, and places 7-10 would get a ribbon. I did not make the cut but got 13th place. The next year I made an ambitious goal for myself, I was gonna get the top 3," said Pregon.

"In the last couple weeks, I overtook the number 3 spot and



Photo of Joseph Pregon ('24) [left] and other chess players at the tournament. Photo courtesy of Joseph Pregon

maintained it, so I had met my goal. The next year, I wanted to win it all, and I did. I checkmated my 1st opponent on the last day."

Pregon continued to compete throughout elementary and middle school, winning his first speed chess tournament in

2014 during middle school. His career with US Chess, the national governing body for chess competition, began in 2015, when he was introduced to this new world of playing by a tournament director at his local library.

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Cedar Rapids Weekly Forecast

Fri	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THRS
Partly Cloudy	Snow Showers	Partly Cloudy	Snow Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Rain Showers
52*/31*	48*/27*	44*/30*	45*/28*	44*/28*	49*/36*	49*/35*

Courtesy of the National Weather Service

What's Happening 2

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His classical rating after his win is up to 1,930, making him eligible to compete in Majors tournaments across the US for large cash prizes.

Pregon's key to success comes from studying chess and learning from other players.

"I consult a couple National Master level players for advice and study chess in my free time as regularly as I can, and I also try to play official US Chess

at least once a week on average."








Pregon believes anyone can learn and have fun with chess as a hobby, but taking the time to practice is the key to success on a competitive level.

"For new players, even something as small as watching a chess opening video for like 10 minutes a day is going to eventually add up, so start small and see what happens."

People interested in entering chess

tournaments can purchase memberships from the US Chess website. From there, there are many websites with information about tournaments. For example, iowa-chess.org has information about chess in Iowa, onlineregistration.cc has information about Majors and out of state events, kingregistration.com has tournaments for intermediate players who want to improve their skills, and dmvchess.com has information about US Chess Online tournaments.

UPCOMING SPORTS

3/24, 3:30 PM BASEBALL		3/25, 1:00 PM BASEBALL	
3/25, 9:30 AM MEN'S TENNIS		3/25, 2:00 PM MEN'S TENNIS	
3/25, 1:00 PM SOFTBALL		3/26, 9:00 AM WOMEN'S TENNIS	
		3/26, 1:00 PM WOMEN'S TENNIS	

New Club: Philosophy Club

by Julia Lemke
Guest Writer

Every Friday at 3:00 pm in Hickok Hall, room 204, you will find a group of students and their advisor, Tom Javoroski, starting a deep academic discussion.

The topic: anything.

The reason why: to understand other people's worldviews.

This group is the Coe College Philosophy Club.

No topic is too taboo. No perspective is off the table.

"I think that some people think that philosophy is done by people in colleges who wear a brown jacket with elbow patches who spend their time frowning and puzzling." Said Javoroski.

"But the questions that philosophers ask are the kind that everybody asks." said Javoroski. "The only difference between asking them and philosophy is that in philosophy we try to answer them with arguments."

The club's purpose is

to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas about the day's topic. The hope is that people will come and learn from one another and become educated about how others think about the world.

All people on Coe's campus are able to attend these meetings and share their worldviews regardless of major or grade.

The president of the club, Benjamin Mei ('23), and the treasurer, Joe Bass ('23), are the ones who decide the topics of discussion for all of the meetings and founded the club.

When asked about their goal/ purpose for the club Bass said, "[The goal is to] Have a nice place for people who like philosophy to just have fun and have an interesting discussion about things."

Mei chimed in and said, "It started as a really informal group just talking about philosophy and we decided to make it a club."

Mei says he hopes to cover topics of ethics

Photo taken by Julia Lemke ('25)

Photo description: Advisor Tom Javoroski and club participants strike "philosophical poses" for the camera



and morality at some point as that is a discussion that he is very passionate about. Mei also said that ethics tend to draw a lot of differing viewpoints which would make for a lively conversation.

The philosophy club started at the end of the Fall 2022 semester and the intention is that it will continue for many semesters to come.

Some future events that Coe students can look forward to are trips to see philosophy conferences.

The club was able to travel to an event in Iowa City last semester to listen to a visiting professor.

Javoroski, Mei, and Bass would like to go to a conference again this semester over a different topic.

One of their main goals for the club is to even bring a presenter to Coe's campus one day and be the hosts of a conference!

The future is looking bright for the philosophy club and Coe's students will be waiting to see what they accomplish in the semesters to come.

Javoroski stated, "There is a whole world of philosophy out there the more that people can be exposed to other arguments and positions that are out there the more helpful it can be."

Learning Commons Spotlight: Bridgette Abernathy

by: Anna Bamlet
Guest Writer

Success Story

In her small Nebraska town, elementary school grades were given letters like E for exceeding expectations and M for meets standards, so Bridgette never thought much of grades until she got to middle school and earned almost straight A's.

That led her to entertaining thoughts like, "I'm pretty smart, maybe I should hold myself to a higher standard."

This standard helped Bridgette keep a 4.0 throughout high school and every semester at Coe, while being active in the college community as a CAP leader, a tutor, the secretary of the Political Science Club, and as a member of Pre-Law Society, an Honor Society, and Phi Alpha Delta.

This evidence of her hard work has attracted the attention of many, including her TRIO coach, Laura Hayes, who nominated her for this award.

Making Her Own Path
From a young age,

Bridgette's parents encouraged her to pursue a career in law. For most of her life, she hated the idea, simply because her parents always reminded her of their opinions.

In her junior year of high school, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, she grew fonder of the idea of law school.

Bridgette came to the realization that she wanted to pursue law, specifically criminal defense, but this time for herself, rather than for her parents.

This self-developed interest complemented with a specific sociology course allowed for her path to change slightly once she arrived at Coe.

Originally, Bridgette did not want to take Introductory Sociology due to how many Social and Criminal Justice courses she was already enrolled in. However, Alissa Boguslaw's section of the course quickly became her favorite and led her to declare a sociology minor.

Bridgette explained, "[It was] nice to focus on the human perspective and the people that make up the political



Photo of Bridgette Abernathy ('25) courtesy of Bridgette Abernathy

system. [It] made me realize I want to work with people directly."

Bridgette credits Coe for allowing her to figure out what works for her, specifically "not taking a 9am ever again."

When choosing a college, she wanted to be further from home, ensuring she would not know her peers on the first day.

Bridgette explained her experience, "I became more outgoing than I already was, I knew I would have to come out of my shell and be independent. Being

away has taught me to find my own people, make friends my age, and do things on my own."

This May Term, Bridgette will backpack through the beautiful country of Ireland. The class will spend two weeks exploring both Northern Ireland and the Republic, specifically examining the conflicts between the two.

For Bridgette, this is an opportunity "to see what [she is] passionate about on a bigger scale and talk to the people actually living in it."

During Break...

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Spring Break Photos

Thank you to everyone that submitted photos! Be on the lookout for more opportunities to share what you're doing with *The Cosmos*.



1st Row (L-R): Jack Boldt at Stonehenge ('24), Ashley Conde ('24) with student leaders & the Office of DEI, Hunter Linder ('25) & friends

2nd Row (L-R): Professor Margaret LeMay & son at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Miracle Deavers ('23) & friends in St Louis with I-Club, John Patton ('24) at Myrtle Beach

3rd Row Center: Maria Cargille ('23) beach at Lake Michigan

During Break...



1st Row (L-R): Miracle Deavers ('23) & I-Club in St Louis, Maggie Nansamba ('25) photo of elephants at the St Louis Zoo, Avery Welna ('24) in Oregon
2nd Row (L-R): Maggie Nansamba ('25) at the St Louis Art Museum, Braden Lyons ('24) snowboarding, Ariel Montes-Delgado ('23) mural down south with the Office of DEI
3rd Row (L-R): Avery Welna ('24) photo of dog; Ariel Montes-Delgado ('23), Cassie Villarreal ('24) & Enrique Soto Rabago ('24); Mary Yoder ('23) photo of scenery

World Map

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United States: A former NASA employee, Jerry Jouret, was stranded in the California mountains for a week before being rescued by helicopters. His grandson, who he raised, began to worry when he didn't show up at home after what was supposed to be a four-hour trip. Jouret survived on snow, leftover biscotti, and croissants he had in his car. Upon being rescued, he did not show any signs of hypothermia.

Japan: Three people have been arrested in a series of "sushi terrorism" pranks in Japan. Recently, videos of people tampering with food at sushi conveyor belt restaurants have gone viral, including pranks like licking soy sauce bottles, spitting on sushi, and touching people's dishes as they go past. Conveyor belt sushi chains are cracking down on these pranks, with some removing their belts altogether, and others requiring customers to get condiments and silverware from servers.



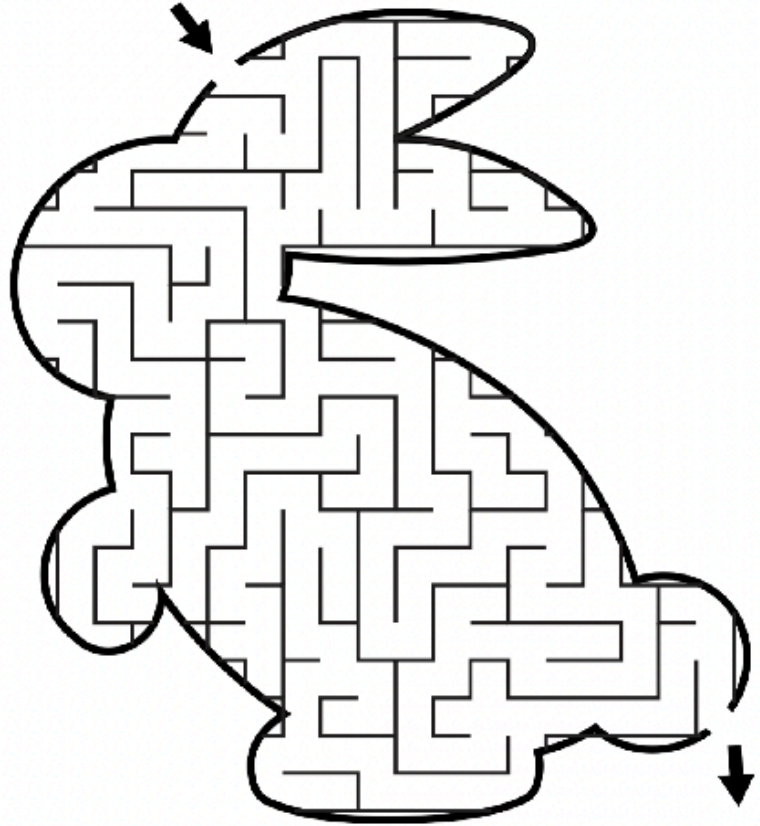
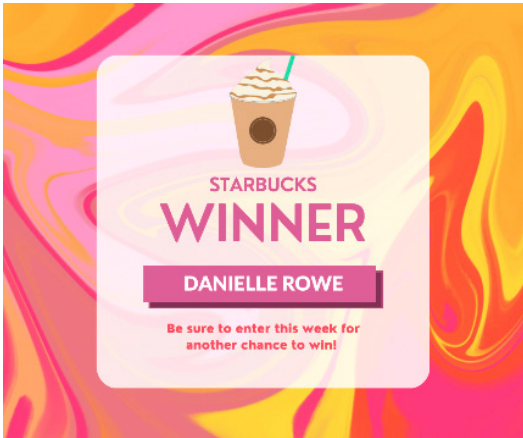
South Korea: A zebra broke free from a zoo in Seoul, roaming city streets and wandering around residential areas. The zebra escaped after breaking the wood fence around his pen. Zoo officials eventually caught up to the animal and tranquilized it, returning him to the zoo safely.

New Zealand: New Zealand is spending millions on a campaign that aims to help teenagers recover from breakups and seek healthy relationships. The program, called Love Better, comes after the New Zealand government identified experiences of love and hurt as one of the top issues facing teens in the country. Love Better includes a dedicated phone, text, and email line providing support to young people going through a breakup. The program is part of a broader strategy to eliminate sexual and intimate partner violence.

Diversions

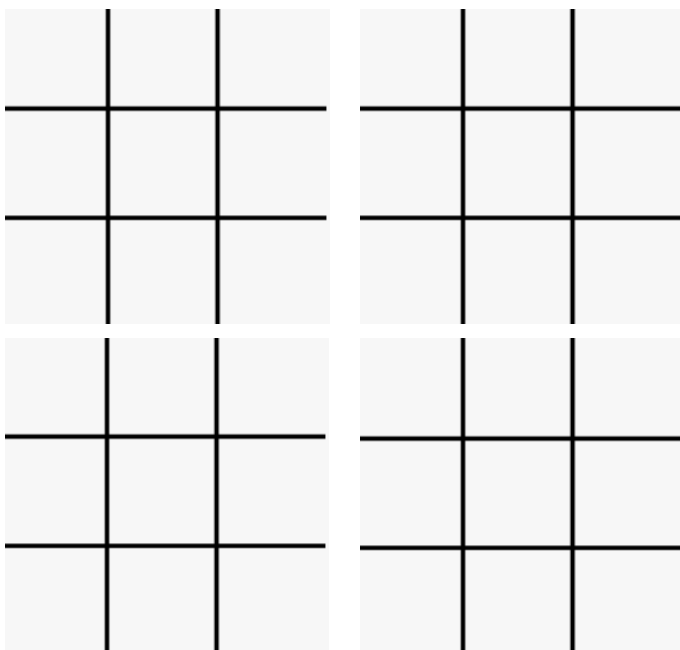
Friday, Mar 24, 2023

COE 'MAZING!



Crossword courtesy of www.letsdopuzzles.com

Play Tic Tak Coe with a roommate or neighbor



WEEKLY SUDOKU

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

Sudoku courtesy of www.websudoku.com, Puzzle # 511,260,077