



PHOTO BY JACK DICKENS

# DODGING JANUARY DOLDRUMS



COURTESY OF AMY KRISTOF-BROWN



COURTESY OF GREGG SHOULTZ



PHOTO BY NICOLE TROUT

### WINTER WONDERLAND

Deniz Ince '19 and Kara Wagenknecht '19 cross the bridge near the Iowa River Power Restaurant on Jan. 27. "Winter is my favorite season, and I love getting the chance to be outside when it's not deathly cold out," Wagenknecht said. "We both enjoy the outdoors, and having a nice winter day where we can go outside is always a blast."

### GET OUT OF TOWN

Seniors Peyton Brady, Ellie Brown and Maddy Luegering laugh in front of the Bean in Chicago during a weekend trip Jan. 12-13. "It was nice to get away from Iowa for a little bit and get out of town," Brown said, "even though we weren't able to escape the snow."

### NOT JUST FOR RUNNING

Principal Gregg Shoultz and his wife, Amy, who teaches Language Arts at West, pose for a photo at UI's Ashton cross country course, where they went cross-country skiing Jan. 22. "After an unusually dry and warm beginning (to the month), which included biking on Jan. 4, snow finally arrived," Shoultz said. "And thanks to some timely snow days, I skied nine out of 10 days during one stretch."

### WARM & COZY OPTIONS

Sipping hot chocolate, Maggie Callanan '20 relaxes with friends while watching a new TV show called *You* after they went sledding Jan. 23. "The hot chocolate is nice after sledding because it warms up your whole body and tastes really good, too—but only with milk," Callanan said.

### EMBRACE THE CHILL

To celebrate not having school Jan. 23, Catie Miller '20 sleds with friends down a hill off Cambridge Drive in Coralville. "I love hanging out with my friends and love making memories, even though I'm freezing my face," Miller said. "It's always fun hanging out with friends, playing games and watching movies."



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When the thermometer hit 50 degrees three times the first week of January, who expected the bitter cold that tested tempers and school calendars the last week? The polar vortex that descended on the Midwest grounded planes and, for the first time in a decade, cancelled UI classes for more than a day. But West students found ways to cope. "Sleeping more and watching Netflix for hours on end" was senior Baraa Suleiman's solution. And although the month seemed endless—especially on Jan. 31, when the low of minus 28 degrees set a record—some students braved the cold when the weather wasn't life-threatening.

"I like playing with my dogs during snow days, because you don't have to worry about time, you have the whole day," Emma Bach '22 said. On all but the coldest days, athletic practices provided much-needed contact with friends. "I like to go to soccer practices and hang out with my friends," Eric Shaffer '20 said. "Otherwise, I just stay inside where it's warm." To avoid the cold, Sarah Callanan '21 said she likes to "cuddle up with my dogs and watch Netflix." For Emily Niemiec '21, time with friends helped her survive the least favorite month. "And I just remember that it could be worse," Niemiec said. Good point. Ask anyone living in Minnesota, North Dakota or Wisconsin. Although technology wasn't part of the original winter survival kit, plenty of students turned to their phones or to Netflix for distraction. Aaron Fennell-Chametzky '20 said he alternated playing video games with going to the gym. And Maya Wagenknecht '21 offered a winning combination to get through January's 31 days: sleep + wear Nordic Beach + watch Netflix.