

# National Signing Day 2018

BYU signs two standouts from the 2018 incoming class:  
Gunner Romney, left, and Viliama Tausinga, right.

Meet the rest of the newest generation of BYU football on Page 6.

## THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

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February 13 - 19, 2018

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Provo, Utah

# Students say transferring to BYU can be complicated, rewarding process

By SAUL MARQUEZ

Kelsey Jennings hoped to save money and get a head start when she enrolled in college courses as a high school student. But her plans became difficult when she learned that some of her credits wouldn't fulfill certain general requirements at the school of her choice — Brigham Young University.

"Any other university I got accepted to would have accepted every college credit I had up to that point," Jennings said. "This is where transferring to BYU is so frustrating."

Jennings estimated her credits would only fulfill a few of BYU's general education courses. That's when she enrolled in extra classes through Weber State University's early college program. She was determined to have an associate's degree by the time she graduated from high school. A completed associate's degree would satisfy most of BYU's general education requirements.

"I had no friends, no social life. My weekends were basically doing homework the whole time," she recalled. "Coming to BYU was the biggest hardship in high school."

Her work paid off in the end. She earned her associate's degree a month before graduating from high school and transferred her credits to BYU that fall. She's currently studying chemistry and hopes to graduate in 2019. Jennings believes the effort was worth the trouble, even though the transfer process took an emotional toll.

"I knew I needed to come to BYU," Jennings said. "I knew this was where the Lord needed me to help me be able to achieve the dreams I have."

Roughly 650 to 700 transfer students enroll at BYU each year, according to



Dani Jardine

Casey Greenwood transferred from Weber State after one year and now studies theatre arts education at BYU. Greenwood has known she wanted to study theater at BYU since High School.

University Communications. Some face the same disappointment as Jennings when they learn their credits don't satisfy certain requirements. Yet many of these same students find the process to be worth it in the end.

BYU sophomore Chandler Lohner felt prompted to transfer to BYU after spending a year at the University of Washington.

"I decided it wasn't the right fit. I wished it had more people with my faith," Lohner said. "So BYU it was. I made the decision to transfer pretty fast."

Lohner focused on general education courses during her freshman year in Washington. She said a significant

portion of those credits don't fit BYU's general education requirements.

"It has been a little frustrating taking a year of college and feeling like none of it really counted," she said.

Lohner said she doesn't understand why some of her classes don't match with BYU's courses and feels that it makes the registration process all the more difficult.

See also: "Online resources help students transfer to BYU" on Page 3

Karen Evans, director of BYU's University Advisement Center, works with students who are transferring from other colleges. She said some

courses — like American Heritage — are unique, and a single class from another university might not fully cover the material taught at BYU.

"American Heritage is not only U.S. history, but it's the LDS interpretation of the Constitution," Evans said. "When you just take a U.S. history class at another school, you don't get the full picture."

Evans said prospective students should use BYU's online transfer resources when planning to transfer to BYU.

Some students are willing to go through the transfer process because they see it as an alternative entry point into BYU. Beth Knight enrolled at Utah

Valley University when BYU didn't admit her after high school.

"As soon as I found out I didn't get into BYU, I applied for UVU," Knight said. "Registering for classes was pretty easy. I tried to match them up with classes that I was going to need here at BYU."

Knight transferred to BYU in 2015 and is working toward a degree in therapeutic recreation. She said most of her classes transferred to BYU without a problem, save a writing class that she had believed would count toward Writing 150. She was disappointed but also saw it as a blessing.

"It ended up being good because I obviously needed to learn how to write again after my mission," Knight said.

Casey Greenwood knew in high school that she wanted to attend BYU to study theater, but she started her education at Weber State University after not being accepted. She hoped to eventually transfer to BYU like Knight. Attending BYU was especially important to Greenwood because she didn't want to worry about compromising her standards.

"After attending Weber State for that year, it was even more clear to me that I wanted to go to BYU," Greenwood said. "I was always worried about what kind of scene I would be assigned, what kind of language might be in it."

She took 18 credit hours her first semester to be eligible to transfer. Finally getting the acceptance letter was an important moment, according to Greenwood.

"I was extremely relieved," she said. "I felt like my life was back on track."

But transferring to BYU came with a major setback. Greenwood had taken mostly theater classes at Weber State. Those credits didn't count toward the theater program at BYU.

See TRANSFER on Page 2

## Teen service increases self-esteem, research says

By AUBURN REMINGTON

Adolescents who help strangers experience higher self-esteem over time, according to new research from BYU family life professor Laura Padilla-Walker.

The study, published in the Journal of Adolescence, found that as adolescents exhibited prosocial behavior — helping, sharing and comforting — toward strangers, their self-esteem often increased over time.

However, no significant relationship was found between adolescents showing prosocial behavior towards friends and family and an increase in self-esteem over time.

Padilla-Walker said she is not entirely sure why adolescent service towards strangers increases self-esteem, while service towards friends and family does not. She said it may have something to do with how helping strangers is "more high cost."

"When you help a friend or family member, that could just be part of the norm of that relationship," Padilla-Walker said. "To help a stranger feels like going above and beyond and might take teens out of their comfort zone."

Padilla-Walker said when adolescents realize they are helping another person who is less fortunate than they are, it can help increase feelings of self-confidence and further develop their identity as a service-oriented person.

Researchers surveyed 681 adolescents once a year over a five-year period. Participants were asked to rank the way they felt — strongly disagree to strongly agree — about statements such as, "I certainly feel useless at times," and "on the whole, I am satisfied with myself."

BYU student Kurt Schimmelbusch has experience working with adolescents. Schimmelbusch is the program director of Brighter Horizons — a Y-Serve organization that helps



Josh Ellis

Students participate in various service projects in the Wilkinson Student Center during the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Outreach event. BYU researchers found serving strangers can result in increased confidence and self-esteem in adolescents.

provide service opportunities for and mentor at-risk teens.

"A lot of the teens we work with come from really bad homes or tough situations, where they may have been abused or mistreated," Schimmelbusch said. "There are a variety of factors that may have caused them to suffer from eating disorders, anxiety, depression or even drug addiction."

Brighter Horizons helps at-risk teens improve their lives through service activities. Schimmelbusch said he remembers one such activity where the teens went to a care center for the elderly, and one of the girls said the service was the highlight of her week.

"I think for the girls, being able to serve makes them happier," Schimmelbusch said. "I don't really know the psychology behind it, but I know it works, and I have seen it work in Brighter Horizons and in Y-Serve."

Emily Anderson, a licensed clinical social worker and the first counselor in her ward's Young Women's

organization, shares a similar view.

"Service definitely has a positive impact (on teenagers)," Anderson said. "I feel like serving others helps them to put themselves outside of themselves and distracts them from what's going on with them."

Anderson has participated in many service activities with the young women in her ward. One activity was "reverse trick-or-treating" where the young women knocked on people's doors on Halloween and gave them a treat or asked if they needed help with anything.

"I noticed the girls would get more and more excited with each door they went to," Anderson said.

Anderson works as a therapist for teenagers with depression, anxiety or other issues. She said she often talks to them about how focusing on the people around them can help them cope with their struggles.

See SERVICE on Page 2

## Water forecast bleak for Lake Powell

ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of the most important reservoirs in the southwestern U.S. will likely collect less than half its normal amount of spring runoff this year because of a warm, dry winter across much of the region, forecasters said Wednesday.

Lake Powell, which straddles Utah and Arizona, is expected to get 47 percent of its average inflow because of scant snow in the mountains that feed the Colorado River, said Greg Smith, a hydrologist with the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Smith said there is only a 10 percent chance that enough mountain snow will fall during the rest of the winter and spring to bring inflows back to average. It was the seventh-worst forecast for Lake Powell in 54 years.

"Things are looking pretty grim" along some of the tributaries that feed the Colorado River, Smith said during an online conference on the spring outlook for Lake Powell.

Powell, along with Lake Mead on the Nevada-Arizona border, helps ensure the Colorado River system has enough water to get through dry years. The river supplies water to about 40 million people and 6,300 square miles (16,000 square kilometers) of farmland in seven states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

The river also serves cities and farms in northwest Mexico.

Lackluster runoff into Lake Powell this spring is not likely to have an immediate impact on water users because most reservoirs upriver from Powell filled up after last winter's healthy snowfall, said Marlon Duke,

a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages Powell, Mead and other reservoirs.

But consecutive dry winters could mean some water users won't get their normal allotment in future years.

This winter's snowfall in the mountains that feed the Colorado has been far short of average overall but varies widely. Along the Green River, a Colorado River tributary in Wyoming, the snowpack is 110 percent of average. Along the San Juan River in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico, it's 32 percent of average.

One reason is a strong winter weather pattern steering big storms away from the Southwestern United States and sending them north, said Russ Schumacher, Colorado's state climatologist and an associate professor of atmospheric science at Colorado State University.

Another reason is exceptionally warm temperatures across much of the Southwest, he said.

About 90 percent of the Colorado River's water comes from snowmelt in the region known as the Upper Colorado River Basin, a large swath of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming and smaller sections of Arizona and New Mexico.

The river system has been stretched thin for years because of a prolonged drought interrupted by occasional snowy years. Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the country, has dropped to 41 percent of capacity. Lake Powell, the second-largest, is at 56 percent.

Some climate scientists say global warming is already shrinking the river. A study published last year by researchers from the University of Arizona and Colorado State University said climate change could cut the Colorado's flow by one-third by the end of the century.

# UNIVERSE news briefs

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Utah billionaire remembered as kind, devoted

Utah billionaire and philanthropist Jon Huntsman Sr. was remembered Saturday, Feb. 10, inside the University of Utah basketball arena bearing his name as a generous and kind man devoted to his faith, family and community.

Huntsman was the founder and longtime executive chairman of Huntsman Corp. He and his family have given more than \$1.4 billion, including donations to a Salt Lake City cancer institute named for him.

Huntsman died Feb. 2 at age 80.



## NBC apologizes to South Korea for analyst's remark

NBC has apologized to South Koreans for an on-air remark by an analyst that cited Japan as an example that has been important to the country's own transformation.

The remark was made by analyst Joshua Cooper Ramo during NBC's coverage of Friday's opening ceremony.

NBC apologized on its NBCSN cable network Saturday and formally to the Pyeongchang Olympic organizing committee. Ramo was relieved of his Olympic duties.



## States look to lower drug costs, consider imports

Lawmakers in more than two-thirds of the states are considering ways to reduce prescription drug costs as they strive to balance budgets without knowing their government's share.

A total of 87 bills in 34 states of all political stripes seek to save money on prescription drugs, according to the nonpartisan National Academy for State Health Policy. Six of those states are considering bills that would allow drugs to be imported from Canada, where they cost an average 30 percent less than in the United States.



## Trump's plan to rebuild roads relies on local dollars

President Trump on Monday, Feb. 12, launched what he calls a "big week" for his infrastructure plan, which envisions \$1.5 trillion in spending over a decade to rebuild roads and highways.

The president was meeting with eight governors and several state and local officials at the White House later in the day to drum up support.

The 55-page plan is centered on using \$200 billion in federal money to leverage local and state tax dollars to fix America's infrastructure, such as roads, highways, ports and airports.



## Israeli military court to try Palestinian teen

Palestinian protest icon Ahed Tamimi is to go on trial before an Israeli military court on Tuesday, Feb. 13, for slapping and punching two Israeli soldiers.

Israel's full-throttle prosecution of 17-year-old Tamimi, one of an estimated 300 Palestinian minors in Israeli jails, and a senior Israeli official's recent stunning revelation that he once had parliament investigate whether the blond, blue-eyed Tamimis are a "real" Palestinian family have helped stoke ongoing interest in the case.

## Police Beat

### BYU

#### EXTORTION

**Feb. 5** - An individual reported being extorted by another individual threatening to post photos on the internet.

#### DRUGS

**Feb. 7** - An officer responded to a report of the smell of marijuana in the Creamery on Ninth parking lot and detected the distinct odor of a wood-burning fireplace coming from the house across the street.

### OREM/PROVO AREA

#### THEFT

**Feb. 6** - A man was reported to have hit a car with his van after stealing a cartful of merchandise from Savers.

**Feb. 6** - A package was stolen off a porch near 600 North and 100 West in Orem.

### TRESPASSING

**Feb. 6** - A woman reported that a relative stole her Xbox, possibly to pawn it for drug money.

**Feb. 6** - A woman was cited after being caught shoplifting at the Orem Walmart.

**Feb. 10** - A woman reported her checkbook was stolen by relatives who are now forging her checks. Detectives are following up on the case.

**Feb. 10** - An Orem woman reported someone broke into her home and stole cash.

**Feb. 10** - A woman reported thousands of dollars of theft on her card at Best Buy after losing her wallet at Ross.

### DRUGS

**Feb. 10** - Police searched a suspect's house while following up on a drug case and found drugs, paraphernalia and the suspect hiding under his covers.

### DUI

**Feb. 10** - A woman was arrested for DUI after being involved in a traffic accident.

### PUBLIC DISTURBANCE

**Feb. 10** - Police responded to calls about a homeless man yelling at cars as they exited the freeway and throwing his sign at a passing car. The man was taken in after police found arrest warrants for him.

### ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

**Feb. 10** - A man reported an escort that he didn't order came to his front door. Police were unable to identify the suspect.

## SERVICE

### Kindness increases confidence

*Continued from Page 1*

"I tell them to do things like making some cookies and delivering it to someone, or writing

a thank-you card," Anderson said. "This helps them to get outside themselves."

Padilla-Walker said communities can help adolescents improve their self-esteem by providing high-quality opportunities for them to serve others.

"This means opportunities where they can see the benefit of the good work they are doing,"

she said. "This will help teens to feel better about themselves but will also help them develop a pattern of helping behavior that can impact families and communities over time."

Find more information on ways to get involved with Y-Serve, and Brighter Horizons by going to the Y-Serve website and viewing the programs available.

## Honor Week events seek to inspire

By SARAH MATTHEWS

BYUSA Honor Week is geared to inspire students to recommit to the Honor Code and remember how honor sets them apart.

Students can participate in the event-filled Honor Week, Feb. 12 to 16, through a variety

of activities across campus. Activities are designed not only for fun, but also to remind participants how the Honor Code applies to daily life.

"Honor Week is a celebration of who we are as children of God and who we want to become," said Executive Director of Student Honor Robert Borden. "(Signing the Honor Code) is more than clicking

"Yes, I agree." Honor Week activities will run daily, starting with a kick-off party in both Brigham Square and the JFSB Quad.

For more details on Honor Week events, view the BYU events calendar at calendar.byu.edu. For more details on the Honor Code, visit the Honor Code website at honorcode.byu.edu.

### Honor Week event schedule

**Monday, Feb. 12:** Honor Week Kickoff. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Brigham Square and JFSB Quad.

**Tuesday, Feb. 13:** Shoot for Honor with Student Athletes. Noon - 2 p.m., Brigham Square.

**Wednesday, Feb. 14:** A Date With Honor - Speed Dating. 7 p.m., WSC Garden Court.

**Thursday, Feb. 15:** Honor Photo Shoot. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., west side WSC Terrace

Honor Speech Contest and guest speaker Anthony Sweat. 7 p.m., Garden Court WSC.

**Friday, Feb. 16:** Spirit Friday. 12:15 p.m., WSC Terrace.

## TRANSFER

### Worth the frustration?

*Continued from Page 1*

"I lost everything," Greenwood said. "I've had to retake a lot of classes that were similar."

Greenwood believes the transfer has made the

graduation process longer by at least a year, but she's at peace with the sacrifice she had to make. She doesn't mind retaking theater classes.

"I like my Weber State background. I think it gives me a little bit of diversity and a little bit of a different perspective," Greenwood said. "There are so many things I want to do that I can only do during college, so I don't really mind the fact that college takes a long time."

Lohner agreed that transferring to BYU was the right choice for her in the end, despite the setbacks that came from her decision.

"Staying there [at the University of Washington] might have made it easier to get all my credits and graduate on time," Lohner said. "But I knew that wasn't what's best for me, so I've kind of had to just go for it. Sure, there's been a lot of difficulties, but I'm happier here."

## THE UNIVERSE

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## Prospective Missionary Fireside



Pres. David & Sis. Deanie Martino  
President - Provo MTC

Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
WSC Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

All interested students are invited to attend

# Online resources help students transfer to BYU

By SAUL MARQUEZ

BYU senior Matthew Schaeling did everything he could to make his transfer from the University of Utah to Brigham Young University as easy as possible.

"Once I decided (to transfer) at the end of my freshman year, I kind of mapped out the rest of my classes," Schaeling said. "I finished a certificate of general studies that was essentially an associate's degree. When I transferred here to BYU, that basically waived all of my general requirements."

Schaeling said he used BYU's transfer guides to make sure he was on the right path.

"Because I had focused on packaging up my schooling into finishing up all my generals and making sure they transferred well, when I got here it was like, 'OK cool, I've finished all my generals. Now I just have my major classes and some religion classes,'" he said. "It was pretty painless as far as the process and bureaucracy of transferring."

Not every transfer experience is easy, but BYU offers several online resources to help prospective transfer students prepare for BYU. BYU University Advisement Center Director Karen Evans believes using those resources can help prospective students avoid misunderstandings over which credits count toward general and program requirements.

"There should really be no reason why a student wouldn't know what's going to transfer or how it's going to transfer if they look at one of these guides," Evans said.

Articulation agreements with other schools have allowed BYU to build tools like the Transfer Guide and the Transfer Equivalency Search, which list classes from other universities that satisfy BYU's course requirements.

BYU accepts different types of credit, from classes earned at other universities to AP and concurrent enrollment courses done in high schools. Prospective students need to complete those courses with a grade of C- or higher if they wish for them to fill BYU's general education requirements.

BYU accepts 47 percent of the roughly 2,000 applications it receives, according to CollegeTransfer.net. University Communications reported that 650 to 700 new transfer students enroll each year out of the 850 to 900 who are admitted. Those students then submit their transcripts to Transfer Evaluation Services at the BYU Registrar's Office. Each transcript is examined, according to Transfer Evaluations Services Manager Joshua Richey.

"I have six student employees and three full-time staff, and one of the nine of us touches every single record that comes through our office," Richey said. "Every transcript gets reviewed course by course."

BYU accepts credits from any accredited institution, according to Richey. But that doesn't mean they'll always fulfill a general or program requirement. Credits that don't match with a BYU course generally count toward electives.

"What we're trying to do is match outcomes of classes," Richey said. "It's when you start to get out of those entry, introductory courses, that we start to have some variations. Each department may have its own (approach for teaching) a topic."

Richey said students should reach out to Transfer Evaluation Services if they feel their unmatched credits are equivalent to courses at BYU.

While there's a process in place, it's not perfect. Richey said they can match most entry-level courses, but the different colleges and departments on campus often have the final say in what is and isn't equivalent. Coordinating with those colleges can sometimes be tricky.

"Not every college on campus works as openly with us," Richey said. "That's not



Savannah Hopkinson

Students tour BYU during New Student Orientation 2017.

necessarily on them; those relationships just haven't been established and formalized throughout the years."

Richey hopes to work more closely with the different colleges and departments in the future. He said they're currently trying to engage more openly with the colleges on campus to better help students.

"If they find that the (evaluation of the) class is wrong, then we would usually say, 'Send us a syllabus,'" Richey said. "That will give us a more granular look — including textbook information and what assignments are there — and then we can compare against our syllabi."

Handling transcripts is the biggest challenge Evans runs into when working with transfer students. She said some students are still enrolled in courses at their previous schools when they first send their transcripts to BYU. Because they haven't completed

those courses, BYU can't offer them credit without them sending a second transcript at the end of the semester.

"A lot of transfer students miss that second step," Evans said. "That's the frustration on the students' part and my part. They'll say, 'UVU knew I was coming to BYU,' so they expect it to happen automatically, but the student has to request a second transcript."

Evans said she encourages students to reach out to the University Advisement Center and Transfer Evaluation Services if they have any concerns. She said mistakes do sometimes occur and credits can sometimes slip through the cracks.

"If you've got a question, always ask," she said. "We've had tons of students enroll in GE classes they didn't ever need to take because they thought it hadn't transferred when, in fact, we just didn't know they had them."

## Campus News



David Morgan and research group



Todd Russell



Michael Dorff



Romeo y Julieta

### IRA A. FULTON COLLEGE OF Engineering and Technology

The Ira A. Fulton College of Engineering and Technology will host events, exhibits and tours in honor of Engineering and Technology Week 2018. The EngTech Expo on Feb. 22 is open to the public, welcoming middle school and high school students to participate in interactive activities.

Industrial design professor **David Morgan** worked with the BYU Compliant Mechanisms Research lab to apply origami principles to engineering and design. With the help of Morgan's research group, the lab compiled a book of examples titled "Y Origami? Explorations in Folding."

IM Flash intern program manager **Todd Russell** spoke to students about breaking into the job market Feb. 2. Russell encouraged students to map out their educational and career plans to maximize preparation.

### MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF Business

The Financial Times ranked the Marriott School among the world's top

programs. The BYU Marriott MBA program ranked No. 34 in the U.S. and No. 68 among worldwide MBA programs, in addition to high rankings in other categories.

### COLLEGE OF Physical and Mathematical Sciences

BYU Math Department Chair **Michael Dorff** was recently named president of the Math Association of America. Dorff has been teaching at BYU for 29 years and has been a member of the association for 25 years. Dorff will now lead the nearly 25,000 members of the association.

### COLLEGE OF Nursing

The nursing program has introduced several new courses to help students reduce stress. The new term classes include topics of trauma, stress and test-taking.

### J. REUBEN CLARK Law School

**Melissa Dalton-Bradford** and **Sharlee Glenn**, co-founders of Mormon Women for Ethical Government, visited BYU Law School to discuss

current immigration and refugee policies at an American Constitution Society Event. Dalton-Bradford and Glenn shared the work they've done regarding immigration policy and their beliefs about the U.S. immigration system.

### COLLEGE OF Fine Arts and Communications

The BYU Young Company premiered "Romeo y Julieta," a bilingual version of William Shakespeare's classic play "Romeo and Juliet," on Feb. 7. The play — which opted for a bilingual adaptation to highlight the theme of miscommunication — features actors who are either fluent in Spanish or native Spanish speakers.

### HAROLD B. LEE Library

The Harold B. Lee Library is hosting its annual "Love Your Library Week" Feb. 12 through 16. Special events for the week include a "Blind Date with a Book," where patrons are invited to choose a book based only on its "dating profile," and a Friday night movie showing of the 1954 film "Desk Set."

## TODAY

**UNIVERSITY FORUM**  
Tuesday, February 13  
11:05 a.m., Marriott Center

This event will also be broadcast to the JSB Auditorium.



**Dhanurjay "DJ" Patil**  
Mathematician and Computer Scientist  
Former U.S. Chief Data Scientist

DJ Patil was appointed by President Obama as the very first U.S. chief data scientist. Working directly with the highest-ranking officials in government, Dr. Patil's efforts led to the establishment of nearly 40 chief data officer roles across a vast array of departments and programs.

Helping establish new health care programs and new criminal justice reforms, he led policy efforts related to national data. His experience in national security initiatives is extensive, and he was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

In the private sector, Dr. Patil led product teams at RelateIQ, was founding board member for Crisis Text Line, and was a member of Greylock Partners. He was also chief scientist, chief security officer, and head of analytics and data product teams at the LinkedIn Corporation.

He has also held a number of roles at Skype, PayPal, and eBay.

As a member of the faculty at the University of Maryland, his research focused on nonlinear dynamics and chaos theory, and he helped start a major research initiative on numerical weather prediction. As an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow for the Department of Defense, Dr. Patil directed new efforts to leverage social network analysis and the melding of computational and social sciences to anticipate emerging threats to the U.S. He has also cochaired a major review of U.S. efforts to prevent bioweapons proliferation in Central Asia and cofounded the Iraqi Virtual Science Library (IVSL). In 2014 he was selected by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader and is also a member of the Council of Foreign Relations.

### NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL



**Elder S. Gifford Nielsen**  
General Authority Seventy

February 27, 11:05 a.m.  
Marriott Center  
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.

## BYU ARTS

byuarts.com | 801-422-2981



### BYU Jazz Voice and Jazz Ensemble

L'Amour! What better way to celebrate the season of love than a warm and cozy evening of jazz standards all about love!

Tues., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall

### Romeo y Julieta

Young Company's production of the world's most famous and tragic love story recasts this conflict of miscommunication and distrust between two households in literal terms—they speak different languages.

Feb. 7-9, 14-16, 7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 10, 17, 2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.  
Nelke Theatre



### BYU Contemporary Dance in Concert

Thurs.-Sat.,  
Feb. 15-17, 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., Feb. 17, 2:00 p.m.  
Pardoe Theatre



### Bravo! Jake Shimbukuro

Thurs., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall



### American Piano Quartet

Thurs., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Madsen Recital Hall

Essentially Ellington  
Regional Jazz Festival  
Fri., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall

Opera Scenes  
Wed.-Sat.,  
Feb. 21-24, 7:30 p.m.  
Madsen Recital Hall

Living Legends: Seasons  
Fri.-Sat.,  
Feb. 23-24, 7:30 p.m.  
de Jong Concert Hall

All events are ticketed.

BYUarts



Laurie Rackham

Ashley Roth plays with her daughter, Lauren. When Lauren and her brother, Jacob, were born, the Roths had a difficult time balancing family, work and school.

# HB235: Education committee debates funding teacher visits to student homes



Lilian Whitney

Diana Alm shares a moment with her children outside the House Education Committee meeting Wednesday. New legislation could fund teacher visits to homes of students if passed.



By LILIAN WHITNEY

The House Education Committee debated a bill Jan. 31 that would fund teacher visits to students' homes.

"(HB235) is allowing teachers, and paying them, to go into the homes of the families to get acquainted with them, to know them better, to build a relationship, and then to help them academically," said Rep. Bruce Cutler, R-Murray, the bill's sponsor.

Several Utah public schools have volunteer-based partnership programs between parents and schools. HB235 would provide funding for such programs and allow for expansion to other schools.

For parents who choose to accept teacher visits, two educators would visit them at their home or other non-school property.

"It's voluntary every step of the way," Cutler said.

The state would pay for the first visit, in which the educators would try to build a relationship with the family. The school would pay for the second visit, which would address the student's academic needs.

The bill would only affect students enrolled in the public school system.

Cutler said he hopes the

program will decrease absences, increase parent involvement and improve parent-teacher and teacher-student relationships.

Utah schools with high rates of absences would be the first to receive funding for the home visit program.

Midvale Elementary School Principal Chip Watts said he sees a need for home visit funding.

In 2017, Midvale Elementary School teachers made around 400 visits to students and their

"We just saw a need, and it came from attendance. Thirty percent of our students were chronically absent," Newell said. "We were able to chip away at that through home visits, through supporting families, through building relationships."

Newell said home visits have helped cut the total number of student absences at Backman Elementary in half.

Backman's program does not currently receive funding. Teachers at Backman Elementary are compensated in time, replacing teacher-parent conferences with home visits.

"We put a lot on teachers, and this is one more thing," Newell said. "I think it will be a much more successful program if there is money behind it."

Rep. LaVar Christensen, R-Draper, shared concerns the program could pose risks to families' privacy and that programs could function locally without state funding.

"Many people feel like this almost has an invasive element to it," Christensen said. "My question here is ... can these elements be pursued voluntarily at the local level and by teachers and schools with existing resources, or does it require a formal program with additional funding?"

Rep. V. Lowry Snow, R-St. George, said centralizing a home visit program could harm its success. Snow spoke in support of keeping such programs on a local level to allow for flexibility.

The bill was held by committee until a later date.

**"We just saw a need, and it came from attendance. Thirty percent of our students were chronically absent."**

**Heather Newell**  
Backman Elementary School Principal

families. Visits have been discontinued this year since state funding was cut.

"The home visit program really opened a lot of my teachers' eyes and changed their perspective in terms of what they could do to reach students and involve parents," Watts said.

Heather Newell, principal of Backman Elementary School in Salt Lake City, started a similar volunteer home visit program four years ago.

## Study: Utah would benefit from national paid parental leave

By LAURIE BRADSHAW

Utah residents would greatly benefit from a national paid family and medical leave plan, according to a new study by the National Partnership for Women and Families.

These findings apply not only to women in the workplace, but also families as a whole. Paid family leave would allow new fathers to spend more time helping their wives shortly after the birth of their children.

A national paid leave plan would reduce the number of families that experience economic uncertainty when they need to take leave by 79 percent, according to the study.

The Utah Legislature is considering paid leave for state employees. Only 15 percent of employees nationwide have paid family leave, and fewer than 40 percent have paid medical leave, according to the study.

BYU graduates Joshua and Ashley Roth said they would have benefited greatly from a national paid leave program. The Roths struggled with balancing school and work

when their twins, Lauren and Jacob, were born.

At the time, Joshua had just begun working full time and was going to school part time as well. Joshua said his employers were not terribly understanding when he asked for time to spend with his new family.

"They acted like it was such a burden to them to even let me be at the hospital when she was being induced," Joshua said. "I didn't even get to spend the night that first night (at the hospital) with her. It was just such an ordeal."

In Utah, even unpaid leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act is inaccessible for 64 percent of working people, according to the study.

Joshua eventually dropped out of school for the semester to give himself enough time to properly care for his wife and children. Ashley said having her husband home would have helped her significantly.

BYU students Jack and Shalysse Webster recently had a baby boy, Calvin. Shalysse is working on her bachelor's degree online and Jack, a graduate student, works full time.

Jack received some time off to help his wife with their newborn son.

"I couldn't have done it without him here," Shalysse said.

Jack said he also appreciated the time to spend with his family. He noted that time off is beneficial not just for families, but for businesses as well.

"I think smart businesses try to make their employees as comfortable as possible because they know happy employees are productive employees," he said. "I think it's a really good thing personally, and I think it's a smart move for businesses too."

Jack said not being provided paid leave could have created tension between him and his employer. The understanding and accommodations he received, however, gave him a heightened sense of loyalty to his employers.

At the same time, however, Jack acknowledged the freedom employers have to make these choices, and questioned whether they should be compelled to offer these liberties.

The choice to provide paid family leave should be up to them, Jack said.

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## Trump's \$4.4 trillion budget increases deficit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.4 trillion budget for next year that heralds an era of \$1 trillion-plus federal deficits and — unlike the plan he released last year — never comes close to promising a balanced ledger even after 10 years.

The growing deficits reflect, in great part, the impact of last year's tax overhaul, which is projected to cause federal tax revenue to drop. And Monday's budget submission does not yet reflect last week's two-year bipartisan \$300 billion pact that wholly rejects Trump's plans to slash domestic agencies.

Tax revenue would plummet by \$3.7 trillion over the 2018-27 decade relative to last year's "baseline" estimates, the budget projects. Trump is requesting a record \$686 billion for the Pentagon, a 13 percent increase from the 2017 budget enacted last May.

In remarks Monday, Trump focused on the spending increases he favors rather than the deficits he and other Republicans have pledged to reduce.

"We're going to have the strongest military we've ever



Associated Press

Policy analyst James Knable helps to unpack copies of the President's FY19 Budget after it arrived at the House Budget Committee office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Feb. 12.

had, by far," Trump said. "In this budget we took care of the military like it's never been taken care of before."

Also getting a boost would be border security. Trump's budget includes money to start building 65 miles of border wall in south Texas as well as money to bring immigration jails up to a capacity of 47,000 and add 2,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement

employees and 750 Border Patrol agents.

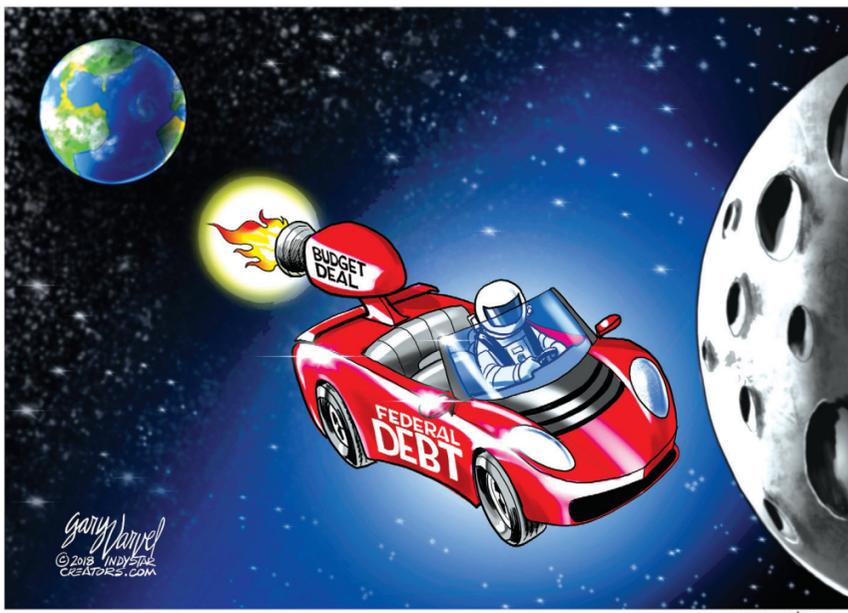
The spending spree, along with last year's tax cuts, has the deficit moving sharply higher with Republicans in control of Washington. Trump's plan sees a 2019 deficit of \$984 billion, though \$1.2 trillion is more plausible after last week's budget pact and \$90 billion worth of disaster aid is tacked on. That's more than double the 2019 deficit the administration promised last year.

All told, the new budget sees accumulating deficits of \$7.2 trillion over the coming decade; Trump's plan last year projected a 10-year shortfall of \$3.2 trillion.

"In one year of working together, we have laid the foundation for a new era of American greatness," Trump said in the budget message accompanying his spending document. "America is back to winning again. A great spirit of optimism continues to sweep across our nation."

The 2019 budget was originally designed to double down on last year's proposals to slash foreign aid, the Environmental Protection Agency, home heating assistance and other nondefense programs funded by Congress each year.

# [ ISSUES & IDEAS ]



## Tweet Beat

#BYU #BYUprobs

Want to see your tweet in print? Tweet something about life around you with #BYUprobs or #BYU and hopefully it makes the cut.

Leave comments at universe.byu.edu or @UniverseBYU

### @sometots

Wireless headphone are great and all but when Eminem comes on and I'm in the bathroom stall I'm gonna rap along. Sorry I don't make the rules.

### @itsabsaf

I've been in the same (small) media law class as a boy I went to BYU Theatre Camp with in 2011 and we've both been pretending not to know each other the entire semester and I think that's beautiful.

### @bigmikemoody

"It's by VASA Fitness, if you don't know where that is then it's by Little Caesar's. You know one or the other." @HeardAtBYU

### @aagstars

"Men shall not be alone. It's a scripture." @HeardAtBYU

### @epowell\_br

"I can't ask him on a date when my FACE is falling off. I LOOK LIKE SUPREME LEADER SNOKE." @HeardAtBYU

### @geneticwitch

"It's a nice day, unseasonably warm, and you're just like 'you know what? Global warming's not so bad!'" @HeardAtBYU

### @ruferss

Girl: "you where'd you meet your wife?"  
Guy: "you know the microwaves in the wilk?"  
😏😏 @HeardAtBYU

### @arijenmo

BYU culture is my professor saying "I wish we could sit in the spiritual hot tub of the scriptures and just soak it all in" @HeardAtBYU

### @ohleaveusalone

@HeardAtBYU "talking about genetically modifying embryos" "we can't do that, we aren't God."-student  
"Not yet"-Bio TA

### @\_rachelautumn

"yeah I never go to that class. Attendance isn't required and all the notes are online. Also my ex-boyfriend is in that class and I never want to see him again." @HeardAtBYU

### @hazel\_pratt

"They're a really active family."  
"Like in the church?"  
"Well ya...but they go hiking a lot."  
@HeardAtBYU

### @emilyriddle

"I gave him my chair and he didn't even ask me on a date" @HeardAtBYU

### @imahalestorm

"Networking is just like dating!" -Career Strategies Professor @HeardAtBYU

### @kattyrincox

"I got a 90% on the test, so I'm a little disappointed". @HeardAtBYU

### @sharonla6

"How much ATP is created again?"  
"In this class it's 38. In our other class it's 32."  
"Got it, thanks." #collegeprobs @HeardAtBYU

### @YouSweetThing

"What does second chance testing mean?"  
"It means that the final grade replaces the midterm grade and it's totally gone. It's like the Atonement really, if you think about it."  
-American Heritage TA @HeardAtBYU

### @shannieb97

"Half of BYU boys look like Johnny Bravo." @HeardAtBYU

### @haanderud

@HeardAtBYU  
Guy 1: dude have you heard Drake's new singles??  
Guy 2: nah dude not yet  
1: brooo...go listen to God's Plan....it totally reaffirmed my testimony

### @tiny\_teena

Professor "imagine you're stranded on a dinosaur island - which shouldn't be too far fetched, they keep making movies about it so clearly it's happening somewhere" @HeardAtBYU

### @gabriela\_sky7

Professor: Can you share an example of suffering you've recently seen in the media?  
Student: Seeing the Patriots lose the Super Bowl.

LOL NO BRO SORRY EVERYONE ELSE IN AMERICA IS STILL REJOICING @HeardAtBYU

### @inmypetersburg

"talking about breaking a glass with your voice" "Do it at your own risk but it's still safer than the tide pod challenge." -my physical science professors @HeardAtBYU

Tweets are unedited

## [ READERS' FORUM ]

### Deadly distraction

Born in the 1990s, I am considered a millennial. Many issues surround this age demographic, one prevalent issue being a phone addiction.

The average millennial spends five hours a day on their phone, according to Pew Research Center. Removing time for sleep, that is nearly one-third of each day millennials spend on their phone. Events like sports games, concerts and parties have turned into phone get-togethers, where millennials are engulfed in their phones instead of enjoying the experience and each other's company.

I witnessed this at an NBA game. It was a very fun and competitive game, and I was shocked when I saw how many millennials were on their phones instead of watching the game. They were more concerned with their phones than experiencing the game they paid to see.

Through the quest to be technologically connected, we are tuning out human relationships and interrupting a biological broadband connection. With phone usage on the rise, we need to be more conscious of our usage before phones consume our lives and leave lasting damage to our relationships.

— Ashton Kellems  
Robbinsville, New Jersey

### American dream

Are you attempting to motivate someone? Are you selling something? Often this is how we feel when someone references the "American Dream." In essence, it has lost the once-noble call to action.

The American Dream is what people used to aspire to. Many people came from all over the world to get a taste of this dream and what it would hold for them. Where has the fire and desire gone? We have become complacent with our dreams.

How would our ancestors look at us? They sacrificed so much to give future generations a life in a better world. America was a place to hope, dream and become better. Now, our focus has shifted to the digital world with minimal interaction with others.

The American Dream was going out into the real world to inspire and pursue your dreams. Our generation is attempting to inspire and pursue things alone, at home and without interaction with others.

The ease of online shopping, dialogue boards and social media have aided the feeling of connection without actually being connected. We have changed. Our generation and the American Dream are at odds. How will we change it?

— Paige Kellems  
Orem, Utah

### Are guns really the issue?

How would you feel if you could save somebody's life? If owning a gun could do that, wouldn't everyone want to help prevent tragedies from happening? The Second Amendment gives us the right to bear arms and defend ourselves. My husband has a gun for this reason. Understanding the risks of owning a gun, if the situation required him to save innocent lives, he would.

Medical News Today reports the top 10 reasons for death have nothing to do with a gun. In fact the top reason for death is heart disease. Shouldn't the government be more concerned with heart disease than with gun control if that is causing more deaths?

We can see from attacks in the past few years in Spain, France and England that cars were the weapons, not guns. Making guns illegal wouldn't stop mentally ill people from killing; they would only find another way to accomplish their goal. If someone wants to harm themselves or others, they are most likely going to find a way to do it with or without a gun. People kill people; guns don't. Let people have guns to defend themselves and others.

— Jennifer Johns  
Ogden, Utah

### Human rights

There is no such thing as gay, black, white or straight rights. The only rights that exist are natural, human rights possessed by every individual.

These natural rights we all inherently possess are the great equalizer. The rights to life, liberty and property allow us to pursue happiness as long as we do not prevent others the same privilege. Government exists to protect these rights.

Unfortunately, groups within our society have demanded special rights unique to them and elevate themselves above other groups. These special privileges come at the cost of the rights of fellow citizens. John Quincy Adams said, "This is a land, not of privileges, but of equal rights ... privileges granted to one denomination of people, can very seldom be discriminated from erosions of the rights of others."

From affirmative action to demanding someone to bake a cake against their conscience, special privileges within our country are violating rights and destroying justice.

We have taken the blindfold off Justice and have taken away her scales. Inequality in the name of equality and justice is deceptive. We need to remove unjust laws such as affirmative action and public accommodations laws to restore justice and equality under the law.

— Jacob Hibbard  
Lugano, Switzerland

## [ OPINION OUTPOST ]

The Opinion Outpost features opinions and commentary on the latest hot topics from national news sources.

### Congressional opacity

Stories of sexual harassment in Washington are, of course, hardly new. Through the years, evidence of such behavior has surfaced. What has changed in recent months is a collective recognition that such crimes are serious violations, and that victims deserve protection and restitution regardless of how trusted or famous their attackers may be. ... Members of Congress are public servants, sent to Washington under the sacred trust of voters who elected them. That they have been allowed to hide allegations of harassment and rely on taxpayer money to secretly pay claims is repugnant.

— Editorial Board  
Deseret News

### Domestic violence

Domestic abuse allegations can be a land mine for

everyone involved. Accusations can be false, used strategically by a spouse during bitter battles over custody, alimony or who will get the family home. Nothing about this is simple, except a lesson: Accusations of domestic violence cannot be ignored. They ought to be investigated thoroughly and with an open mind. Too many people dismiss, disbelieve, or paper them over with excuses. That shouldn't happen anywhere. It certainly shouldn't happen in the White House.

— Editorial Board  
USA Today

White House staff secretary Rob Porter, while denying allegations of physical, verbal and mental abuse by two former wives, hastily resigned this week amid the controversy. ... Rightly, there are questions to be asked in the Porter case about the actions of the White House. But missing in the wall-to-wall coverage is a discussion of these other principled questions. Focusing on the behavior alone without also connecting the dots to the underlying principles of morality, decency and fidelity

only ensures the floodwaters of abuse and misconduct will rise again. It is time for a different conversation about abuse.

— Editorial Board  
Deseret News

### Legislative bills

If a legislative bill is used to target a single industry, it's a bad bill. If a legislative bill will accomplish the opposite of its intent, it's a bad bill. If a legislative bill violates the First Amendment, it's a bad bill. Utah's HB241 is guilty of all three as it targets media noncompete contracts under the false assumption that it will help provide stability and opportunity for individuals and families who work for media companies. It will not.

— Editorial Board  
Deseret News

### Tax reform

The lower a family's income — the higher percentage of that income that household spends on the one thing it

has to have, food. Thus, even though the sales tax is slightly higher on non-food items, the family that doesn't have much money left after buying groceries winds up paying a lower percentage of its limited income on sale tax. In a nation with rising levels of inequality, in a community that has more than its share of homelessness, helping low-income families to save anything at all is worth the effort.

— Editorial Board  
The Salt Lake Tribune

### School system

For reasons ranging from transportation to time to social

networks, the majority of parents still wants their kids in their neighborhood schools. Public schools are not going to be subsumed by charters in Utah. In fact, the majority of elementary charter school students eventually make their way back to the public school system at high school. There simply isn't any widespread support for disrupting our public school system from students, parents or taxpayers.

— Editorial Board  
The Salt Lake Tribune

### Missile defense

Missile defense needs to be part of the United States'

strategy, but it alone will not save the country from a North Korean nuclear attack. ... (Mr. Trump) would make a serious error if faith in missile defense led him to take military action against North Korea on the ground that the system could save the United States from retaliation.

The president would be better off making sure that major powers keep enforcing tough sanctions on North Korea, that South Korea and Japan are prepared for any military action, that North Korea's avenues for exporting nuclear technology are blocked and that America is ready to test any opening to engage North Korea in negotiations.

— Editorial Board  
The New York Times

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Universe encourages students, faculty and BYU staff to add their voice to ours by writing letters to the editor and guest editorials, or by submitting editorial cartoons.

- All letters should be submitted by email to universe.ideas@gmail.com. The topic of the letter should be included in the subject line.
- Letters should also include the author's name, hometown (for students), campus position (for faculty and staff) and phone number. Anonymous letters will

- not be published.
  - Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity or style.
  - Guest editorials should be 500 to 700 words and are encouraged from individuals with professional or academic expertise on the topic.
  - Original cartoons are also welcome.
- Opinion editor Camille Baker can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

## Signing Day ushers in next generation of BYU football

By CALEB TURNER

National Signing Day was Wednesday, Feb. 7, bringing more new faces to a turbulent offseason full of personnel changes for BYU football.

"We're a bigger, faster and stronger team this year," said coach Kalani Sitake of this year's additions. "And we want to say that every year."

The signing period was split into two parts for the first time this year with the early signing period in December, and National Signing Day in February.

Sitake said this change allowed those who committed early to enjoy more of their Christmas break stress-free and also resulted in less drama surrounding the signees.

The 2018 BYU signing class ranked No. 83 nationally according to 247Sports, compared to last year's No. 66 ranking.

### Quarterbacks

Quarterbacks Stacy Conner, from Wylie, Texas, and Zach Wilson, from Draper, (Corner Canyon High School) signed early and are both enrolled in classes for winter semester, allowing them to participate in spring ball.

Wilson was a three-star quarterback out of high school and committed to Boise State before officially signing with BYU this year.

They join an already crowded group of quarterbacks that will be fighting for the starting spot in the fall. It's not known whether Tanner Mangum will be healed enough from his Achilles injury in time for spring ball in March.

Also included in the group of quarterbacks are returned missionaries Baylor Romney from Arizona and Jaren Hall from Maple Mountain High School in Springville, both of whom have brothers on the team.

### Offensive line

The early signing period also saw BYU expand its offensive line, with 6-foot-6 Connor Pay out of Lone Peak HS leading the way.

"One advantage of being at BYU is



BYU Photo

BYU signed 22 new players this offseason, 10 of which are pictured above. Top row: Oliver Nasilai, Isaiah Herron, Danny Jones, Malik Moore and Chinoso Opara. Middle: Alex Misrela. Bottom: Finau Amone, Gunner Romney, Viliami Tausinga and Brayden Cosper all joined the BYU family during the 2018 signing period.

that we can have size and length at every position," coach Jeff Grimes said of this year's group, "and that begins with the offensive line"

### Wide receivers

Gunner Romney, Baylor's brother, led the newcomers who committed during National Signing Day on Feb. 7. A 6-foot-3 wide receiver out of Arizona, Romney was the only four-star recruit BYU signed this year.

"He's a big, strong receiver who I think is not only a talented player, but the right kind of kid," said Grimes. "The guy is all business and is very serious about his training and has a plan to get here and compete right away."

6-foot-3 Brayden Cosper, a three-star wide receiver out of Bingham High School, was another big

signing that should help a depleted BYU offense that struggled in the passing game last season.

On Feb. 6, BYU announced AJ Steward from Rice was hired as BYU's 10th assistant who will coach the wide receivers.

Dallin Holker from Lehi, and Ben Tuipulotu out of Fort Mill, South Carolina, signed as tight ends, but will both serve missions before playing for BYU.

### Running backs

Amone Finau, a three-star recruit out of Kearns, was the only running back to sign with BYU this year, and looks to get back into playing form following his mission.

Squally Canada and Ula Tolutau remain on the roster from last year, and should earn most of the playing

time with impressive performances despite injuries.

With 10 other running backs still on the roster, there wasn't much more room to recruit in the run game.

### Defense

Standouts on the other end of the ball include defensive backs Isaiah Herron and Malik Moore, from Las Vegas and San Diego, respectively.

Both are over six feet tall, and possess the length and athletic ability to make an impact in the secondary.

The linebacker position was another strong area for recruiting this year, with three-star players Viliami Tausinga from East HS in Salt Lake, and Oliver Nasilai from Arkansas.

Tausinga and fellow linebacker Alex Miskela will both serve missions before donning a Cougar uniform.

## Baseball looking forward to 2018 season

By CAITLYN LARSEN  
ALLDREDGE

The BYU baseball team is set to open the 2018 season Feb. 16 at California State University, Northridge. And for the first time, the Cougars were voted No. 1 in the West Coast Conference Preseason Baseball Coaches Poll.

Three players were also named to the All-WCC preseason team, including second baseman Brennon Anderson, shortstop Daniel Schneemann and outfielder Keaton Kringlen.

The Cougars will look for their third consecutive regular-season conference title and a second-straight NCAA Regional Tournament berth.

Last season, the Cougars finished seventh in the country in batting average, hitting .319. They look to continue their offensive power this year with several returning players.

"We feel really good about our offensive potential," said coach Mike Littlewood. "We have a lineup full of guys who will put together professional at-bats and make it tough on the opposing pitchers."

Returning to the Cougars are senior second baseman Anderson, who batted .346, and finished third in the nation for runs scored with 71. He was also named Preseason Third Team All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers of America.

Outfielder Brock Hale will also return after ranking fifth in the nation in batting average with .395.

Defensively, the Cougars return the WCC 2017 Defensive Player of the Year Schneemann at shortstop, as well as senior Nate Favero at first and third base, sophomore David Clawson at catcher, and junior Kringlen in the outfield.

On the mound, the Cougars have six pitchers returning from last season. Senior Hayden Rogers (9-2, 3.63) be a starter this year. Ryan Brady, Kenny



Dani Jardine

Koby Kelton slides into first base during the intrasquad scrimmage Oct. 7, when the team debuted its new turf field.

Saenz, Jordan Wood and Kendall Motes will all be battling for a spot in the starting pitching rotation.

Riley Gates and Jake Suddreth return as the closers for the Cougars pitching staff.

"We have much more depth on our staff this year, which will allow us to match up more efficiently against opposing hitters," Littlewood said. "In the past, I've had to run certain guys out there for multiple innings out of necessity, but our competitive depth should alleviate that issue."

There is new excitement around BYU baseball as they play on their new state-of-the-art turf field.

The Cougars travel to Hawaii and Auburn this month before the first home stretch of the season against Nebraska-Omaha on March 8.

## Hard work, determination paying off for No. 19 BYU gymnastics

By COURTNEY TIETJEN

"Hard work, loyalty and determination." These three words can be seen on the wall as you walk into the BYU gymnastics facility. Coach Guard Young wants his team to live and breathe these words, and with record-breaking attendance and a No. 19 national ranking, it seems to be paying off.

In their meet against Southern Utah on Jan. 19, the Cougars broke their attendance record with 5,112 fans in the Smith Fieldhouse. The previous record of 4,753 attending had stood since 1999.

The team has also been consistently ranked in the Top 25 in the nation since the early part of the season, getting as high as No. 18.

"I'm convinced that we have improved so much as a team this season mainly because of hard work," said Young. "Hard work trumps everything at the end of the day."

The NCAA has strict requirements on how many practices a gymnastics team can hold, allowing just 131 official days of practice each year. This season, Young offered to keep the gymnastics facility open for any gymnasts that wanted to come and train on their own.

"This season, we trained year round, and that was something that was very new to this team," Young explained. "The training during the summer was all on them."

Though the summer training was completely voluntary, due to the NCAA limitations, most still chose to stay and train in their free time.

"This (allowed) them to be able to learn new skills to compete at a higher level," Young added. "That is one huge factor in why we are having so much success."

BYU gymnastics has gone through a bit of a youth movement over the past two years, with a roster of mainly freshmen and sophomores.

"Not only are these kids talented but they are great workers. They are competing, they are making line up



Savannah Hopkinson

Brittini Hawes finishes her bar routine against Cal on Jan. 12. The senior gymnast leads a No. 19 nationally ranked BYU team.

and they are taking some of the spots from the upper-classmen," Young said. "It's created this environment of competition amongst themselves as teammates."

The seniors on the team have also stepped up to the competition created by the ambitious under-classmen.

Brittini Hawes, a senior from Idaho, feels like her success, as well as the team's, can also be credited to working hard.

"We are working a lot harder and we are a lot closer as a team," Hawes said. "I also noticed that our overall confidence as a team is a huge help this season. We are determined and ready to win a national championship - we can do it."

The team's main focus has been on learning and practicing good technique.

"We are performance-based and then technique-based. Focus on performance and good gymnastics will trump anything," Young said. "Don't worry about the lineup, the score, or if you beat a team. You don't have control over another team, and you don't have control over the judges."

Along with the team's performance and techniques, another major

BYU also signed 6-foot-5, 270-pound lineman Chinonso Opara out of Juan Diego Catholic High School in Draper. He is originally from Nigeria and also played varsity basketball.

### Special teams

With the departure of New Zealander Jonny Linehan, BYU picked up another punter from the South Pacific in Australian Danny Jones.

"Danny Jones is raw, but one of the fastest, most athletic guys on the team," coach Ed Lamb commented.

Jones is used to rugby-style punting, but has been training with football coaches in Australia to translate his game to the American style.

Assistant coach Ed Lamb traveled to Australia to recruit Jones, and Sitake reiterated that BYU will continue to look outside of Utah and the U.S. for the best talent.

"Recruiting never stops," Sitake said. "The goal is to get the best talent on the team, but also respect their personal life, including missions."

Seven of the 22 players in this year's recruitment class will serve missions before playing, but the Cougars also welcome back 12 players who already completed their missions.

Sitake expressed excitement over those returning, as many of them were among the first class of high school players he recruited when he became coach at BYU in 2016.

All of the coaches agreed that, while some players obviously have more experience within the BYU football system, every player is "in development" and will have equal chances to compete.

Sitake said finding players who are hungry and ready to contribute immediately was one of his primary focuses during recruitment.

"The only acceptable result for us at BYU is to be nationally relevant," Lamb added toward the end of the press conference, summarizing the staff's goal when it comes to recruiting and developing players.

After a lackluster 4-9 season in 2017, all eyes will be on the Cougars as they shape the talent they recruited into a team that can win football games come fall.

contributing factor to their success has been fundamentals.

"We spent a lot of time over the summer fixing fundamentals. We were making a lot of mistakes," Young explained. "I feel like we improved a lot on our fundamentals, and our consistency and performances have been better."

The word "team" has had a big impact on BYU gymnastics. Everything they do is about the team. They train and learn to win and lose as a team.

Another senior, Kyleigh Greenlief, from Washington, agrees that having a team mentality has made all the difference.

"The biggest changes I've seen this year as a team are our attitude, capability, togetherness and that we are all on the same page," Greenlief said. "We practice with confidence, and we compete with confidence."

As for future plans and goals, BYU gymnastics is dreaming big.

"I won't be happy until we win a national championship," Young said. "I won four national championships as an assistant coach at Oklahoma and I want to win one at BYU. That's the goal."



## HB217: Bill would allow personal delivery robots in Utah



By KATIE HARRIS

A bill that would increase access for personal delivery robots is waiting for approval by the Utah House.

HB217 would allow the devices access to sidewalks and crosswalks in Utah, where they are currently prohibited. A House committee approved the bill on Jan. 31.

David Catania is a lobbyist for the leading producer of the machines: Starship Technologies — a growing European company founded by the same people who created Skype.

Catania said the robots are “like an Uber for things.”

The devices are activated by a mobile app like Lyft or Uber using GPS technologies. When an order is in transit, the company texts the customer, who can track the order via the app.

Inside the robot is a compartment about the size of a beverage cooler. With a speed of 4 mph, the machines can deliver within a 3-mile range and carry up to 20 pounds, which is equivalent to two to three bags of groceries.

Catania demonstrated in the House the machine’s use of artificial intelligence technology and proprietary software, which allow the machine to avoid obstacles and “see” its surroundings, thus maximizing safety.

“It will stop if you are in front of it; it will slow down if you are next to it,” Catania said. “We have seen great progress.”

Currently, the companies that use the devices are mostly parcel and food delivery companies. In Europe, Dominos



Katie Harris

A personal delivery device is positioned in the Utah State Capitol minutes before the House hearing of HB217, a bill that would grant these kinds of devices access to sidewalks and crosswalks.

Pizza is the biggest user of the device, according to Rep. Stuart Barlow, R-Fruit Heights, who is sponsoring the bill in the House.

However, Starship is considering ways to aid visually impaired people in the future. Catania mentioned the device could replace seeing eye dogs, which can cost up to \$7,000.

During the House committee hearing, Catania explained the robots can be used to deliver medical supplies, like diabetes test strips, to patients.

These delivery robots are hardly new, Catania said. Starship has a total of 150 machines around the world. The robots have had 11 million human interactions so far involving loading and receiving products.

“They are certainly far cheaper, more efficient (and) use less energy than the

current delivery options,” Barlow said. “They are electric powered; they emit zero carbon dioxide.”

Five states in the U.S. have passed legislation to permit these delivery bots access to crosswalks and sidewalks, including Washington D.C., where they are now operative.

Rep. Walt Brooks, R-St. George, spoke about the difficulty of the last leg of delivery, called “the last mile,” in reference to the bill. The last mile speaks of getting products to the consumer. It takes time and money for consumers to travel to the stores and find the products they need, but the robots change the process.

“I think it’s important for the community to know ... the last mile is the most difficult and the most expensive and these devices are what overcome that,” Brooks said.



Maddi Dayton

A young girl molds clay at a preschool class at BYU. HB164 would create a task force of educators and legislators to form a plan for state-funded preschools in Utah.

## HB164: Bill to create Utah preschools task force passes committee



By LILIAN WHITNEY

New legislation would create a task force to explore options for state-funded preschools in Utah if passed.

Rep. Bruce Cutler, R-Murray, presented HB164 to the House Education Standing Committee Jan. 31.

“Utah really has no comprehensive state strategy for early childhood,” Cutler said. “What I would like for this task force to do is give emphasis to how do we better prepare children for kindergarten.”

Utah is one of seven states that does not fund a preschool program. Current pre-kindergarten programs serve roughly

17 percent of eligible children in Utah, according to findings from the State Policy and Research for Education Working Group.

HB164 would create a task force with a one-year span that would review early education in Utah and recommend a comprehensive state strategy for early childhood education.

The task force would comprise a variety of legislators and public officials in the education, health and human service departments.

Cutler said the bill’s goal is to provide preschool opportunities to children whose parents cannot.

“Parents need to be the primary providers. Parents want to be the primary providers,” Cutler said. “We shouldn’t deprive them of being the primary providers if they can.”

Programs created by the bill

would not apply to homeschooled children.

Terry Shoemaker, associate executive director of Utah School Boards Association, supports the bill.

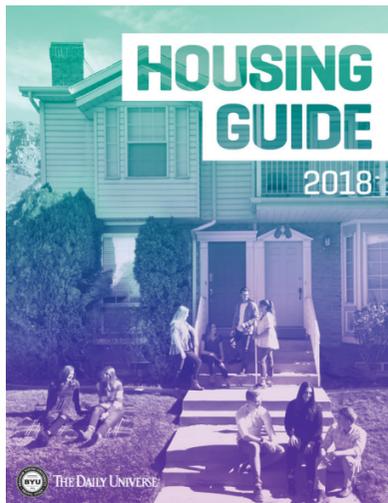
“The reason we are supporting this and urge ... support to move this task force forward is so the needs associated with those who need better solutions for early childhood can be discussed in a policy way and present options for the legislature in the future,” Shoemaker said.

Rep. Derrin Owens, R-Fountain Green, praised the bill for the funding it would provide to complete research necessary to determine how best to enhance early childhood education in Utah.

Rep. Cutler plans to present the bill to the Utah State Board of Education this week.

The bill passed committee 5-3 on Jan. 31.

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