

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

Utah's Olympic venues
need \$40 million in repairs

By JOSH ELLIS

Venues from the 2002 Winter Olympic Games need \$39.3 million in repairs and other expenses to bring them up-to-date with current sports' specifications and safety standards, according to a performance audit of the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation.

The audit also showed that the current legacy fund, which was established after the 2002 games with a budget of \$76 million, is insufficient to cover both annual operating losses and improvements needed to host the 2030 games.

Rep. Eric Hutchings, R-Kearns, has filed a bill to have the State of Utah fund the \$40 million needed for the venues; the audit recommended the Legislature cover the cost, as it did in 2002 with an initial payment of \$59 million.

Utah Olympic Exploratory Committee co-chair Fraser Bullock said the 2002 legacy fund was designed to cover those annual losses.

"(When) we established the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation, we left behind an endowment of \$76 million, so the earnings off of that endowment could be utilized to subsidize the operations of these venues, which has been very important," he said.

Bullock added this legacy fund model was different from past Olympics. It allowed the venues to remain active as opposed to becoming economic burdens that went unused after the games ended.

The audit estimates the Olympic Oval, located in Kearns, would need just over \$10 million in repairs, while the Olympic Park in Park City, would need almost \$21 million in repairs.

The oval's biggest individual expense would be replacing the roof, which is estimated to cost \$1.75 million.

Almost a quarter of the park's repairs estimate is for repairing the bobsled retaining walls.

Additionally, Soldier Hollow Nordic Center, which falls under the Utah



Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation

The Olympic Oval in Kearns, Utah, hosted the 2002 Winter Olympic skating events as well as the ISU Short Track Speed Skating World Cup in Dec. 2017. The Olympic Oval is one of the Utah Olympic venues in need of repair.

Olympic Legacy Foundation's responsibility, needs over \$7 million in repairs.

Together, the three venues run by the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation hosted nine events in 2002, ranging from bobsled and luge to speed skating and cross-country skiing.

"Although it's a big number, I think we've done a great job over the last 16 years of minimizing costs and being smart with our funds and our endowment to keep maintaining our facilities at a world-class level," said Olympic Oval Sport Program Director and Olympic gold medalist Derek Parra.

The Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation

said in response to the audit that it can cover the estimated 10-year, \$170 million operating and maintaining budget but would need the state to cover \$40 million needed for repairs.

The Salt Lake Organizing Committee paid the State back and the audit suggests the same could be expected if a new round of taxpayer money was appointed to the UOLF.

Bullock said the planned repairs also helped the Utah Olympic Exploratory Committee keep its budget for 2030 low.

The committee's report supporting a bid for the 2030 Winter Games said potential hosts' budgets would

be between \$2.5 and \$4 billion due to infrastructure costs while Salt Lake would be able to have a budget of \$1.35 billion.

The UOLF added in response to the audit that \$35 million would be needed in improvements to prepare its venues for a new round of Olympic games and that money would be privately funded.

If the State approves the funds, the UOLF would receive around \$4 million annually until 2028.

The money would be divided among the three sites, with the Olympic Oval's roof being one of the first major projects undertaken in 2019.

Olympic Exploratory Committee gives 2030 bid green light

By JOSH ELLIS

Salt Lake City could become the fourth location to host a second Olympic Winter Games after the Utah Olympic Exploratory Committee released a report recommending a bid for the 2030 games.

"Utah is in a better position to host in 2030 than at any time in its history," the committee's report said.

The committee, led by co-chairs Fraser Bullock, Wayne Niederhauser and Jeff Robins, finished the report on Feb. 1 and presented it to the state later that week.

Utah's advantages

Bullock, a BYU alum who co-founded Sorenson Capital, said one of the committee's goals was to try to balance the budget — if not create a surplus.

"Part of the report includes an economic impact analysis done by the Cam Gardner Policy Institute at the (University of Utah), and it indicates that the economic impact for 2002 was \$6 billion and forecasts that it would at least be that amount again," Bullock said. "We're not asking for any taxpayer dollars as part of this, which is very hard to do economically because most host cities lose billions of dollars — including Pyeongchang."

The 2002 games generated a \$100 million surplus after an initial budget of \$1.3 billion. Bullock added with the current infrastructure, reaching that goal is a real possibility.

"One of our key advantages this time is we have all the venues in place," he said. "They are all very active, which is unique in the Olympic world. (In) almost every case, many of the venues fall into disuse. A new bid, given

those active venues, makes it possible for us to have a good budget, a reasonable budget, to at least break even, if not generate a surplus."

In addition to infrastructure savings, Bullock cited experience from 2002 as another way a planning committee could create additional savings.

Altogether, he said the budget for a 2030 bid would be less expensive than the one in 2002, even after adjusting for inflation.

"Existing infrastructure is just a big deal," Bullock said. "It really helps."

The venues that were used in 2002 were listed in the Olympic Exploratory Committee's report and multiple submitted letters of support for a new bid.

Weber County Parks and Recreation Division Director Todd Ferrario said Ogden's venue, the Ice Sheet, has added 73,000 square feet since hosting curling in the 2002 Olympics and is used year-round.

"They created a new lobby, created two community rooms for things like birthday parties, work parties, meetings — whatever they need to be used for," he said.

The additions, along with a 70-yard indoor turf field that Weber State University often uses, allows the venue to be used more often.

Jake Drzayich, general arena manager at Provo's Peaks Ice Arena, said similar improvements have been made at the Provo venue.

The arena, which held ice hockey events in 2002, had its chiller system replaced three years ago and has installed two indoor turf soccer fields.

"During the winter, those fields are booked solid," Drzayich said. "That's allowed us to bring new customers to the building, allowed more people to be exposed to our building and what we offer."

Both Ferrario and Drzayich noted if the Olympics were to return in 2030, beyond physical structure and game-specific needs, the technological capabilities of the venues would have to be updated.

"The wiring, the infrastructure, fiber optics, things that would need to be run through the building as it was for the last Olympics, would need to be updated just because (of) the bandwidth required," Ferrario said.

Another advantage listed by the committee's report is the accessibility of public transportation.

According to the report, UTA's rail network is almost seven times greater than it was in 2002, covering 135 miles now compared to 20.

Light rail additions now connect the Salt Lake City International Airport and Maverik Center, which hosted ice hockey events in 2002, to downtown.

Lines already exist that connect the downtown area with the University of Utah's Rice-Eccles Stadium, which would host the opening and closing ceremonies, and student dorms, which were used as the 2002 Olympic Village.

Beyond the Salt Lake Valley, the Frontrunner commuter rail line extends to Provo and Ogden; both cities hosted an Olympic venue in 2002.

UTA Spokesman Carly Arky also noted the 10-mile Orem-Provo rapid bus transit system is scheduled to open this August.

Potential problems

Climate change has been pointed to as a limit for potential host cities.

An article from the New York Times shows nine previous hosts are either not reliable or at a high risk of not being cold enough or generating enough snow to support the games beginning in 2041.

However, Salt Lake is listed as a

reliable source in the article, meaning it has a 90 percent or higher chance of producing days with freezing temperatures and enough snow during an Olympic-hosting period.

But that percentage is no guarantee, as has been seen across the state this winter.

Just 163.5 inches of snow fell at Alta Ski Resort between October and Feb. 12. A database from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget shows that between 1960 and 2002, Alta averaged 510 inches from November through April, with 470 inches falling between November 2001 and April 2002.

"In any given winter, you're never quite sure exactly what the conditions are going to be like," Bullock said. "That's why February is so optimal, because even if you have a slow start to the year, like we had here, right now we still have plenty of snow to be able to do the Olympics."

Additionally, with a potential World Cup in 2026 and the Summer Games in Los Angeles in 2028, it could be a busy period in the United States.

What happens next?

After the committee submitted its report, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert signed a concurrent resolution on Feb. 6 supporting another Utah Olympic bid and will send copies of the resolution to the International Olympic Committee, the United States Olympic Committee and the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation, among others.

The International Olympic Committee has said the United States Olympic Committee should put forward one interested city by March 31, 2018 in order to be considered in the next round of bidding.

See BID on Page 3

'Women in Math' poster: What happened?

By KALEENA MCKELL
& SAM BIGELOW

BYU's mathematics department and female math students are responding to ridicule of a club poster that went viral.

The poster features four photos of male math department faculty followed by "Women in Math" in bold letters.

BYU graphic design student Stephanie Driggs was the first to tweet about the poster, questioning whether it was satire. Her initial tweet has since gone viral.

"I was in the Talmage building when I saw the poster," Driggs said. "It seemed almost comical the fact that it was a 'Women in Math' poster but there were four white men on it."

Social media commenters called the poster "ironic," and pointed out the absence of women in the photos. Multiple news outlets — including HuffPost, CNET and Fox 13 — picked up the story.

The math department responded to social media criticism by acknowledging the poster's flaws in a Facebook post and on its website.

In a comment on the Department of Math's Facebook post, math student Bryn Balls-Barker — the poster's creator — said she feels "very supported by my male and female professors" and apologized for any offense she caused.

Driggs said when she first saw the poster, she thought it was for an event put on by BYU for women in math to attend. She later found out that a small women's club — Women in Math — was responsible for organizing the event.

Driggs said she decided to go to the event because she felt responsible to see what it was all about after tweeting about it. She talked to Balls-Barker while there.

"When I tweeted the tweet, I didn't intend for any specific person to be hurt by it," Driggs said. "I meant for it to be mostly a comment about the institution and a lot of problems that go on at BYU specifically."

Two female faculty members advise the club, and three undergraduate students help with planning, including Balls-Barker. She said the goal of the event was to expose younger mathematicians to the research within the department.

"Seeing as members of the club are already aware of research being done by the two female faculty involved, we chose other faculty members that have both been supportive of the group and are doing interesting research," Balls-Barker said.

Balls-Barker recommended the speakers chosen due to prior experience working with each of them individually. She said all four of these professors are strong advocates for women in math.

The design for the poster was simple: the name of the club — Women in Math, pictures of the speakers and a description of the event.

"Unfortunately I did not notice the irony or possible misunderstanding that the poster had the potential to cause," Balls-Barker said.

She said it seems the dispute came from people mistaking the name of the club for the title of the event.

"It is unfortunate that an organization doing so much good, especially for women in STEM, is being put so undeservedly in a bad light for a mistake that I made."

In an email to the Daily Universe, BYU math student Jane M. Cox said the Women in Math club invited the four male professors, and members of the club who "were involved enough to know that 'Women in Math' is the name of our club, not the topic we'd be discussing that night."

In another response to the math department's Facebook post, Rebecca Paulsen, who teaches math at BYU, said the club meets monthly and is addressed by men less than once a year.

See POSTER on Page 2

UNIVERSE news briefs

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Another company cuts ties with NRA

Hearing aid maker Starkey Hearing Technologies is joining other companies that have cut ties with the National Rifle Association after the latest school massacre.

The Eden Prairie, Minnesota, company announced Saturday, Feb. 24 that it would not renew its discount program offered to NRA members. Nearly 20 companies, including MetLife, Hertz, Avis, Enterprise, Best Western, Wyndham, United Airlines and Delta have ended NRA partnerships since the Parkland, Florida shooting.



Supreme Court declines to take up DACA case for now

The Supreme Court on Monday, Feb. 26 rejected the Trump administration's highly unusual bid to bypass a federal appeals court and get the justices to intervene in the fate of a program that protects hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation.

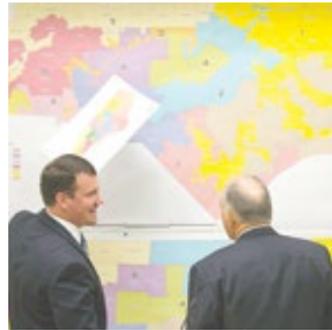
The decision affecting "Dreamers" means the case will have to work its way through the lower courts before a Supreme Court ruling is possible. The ruling on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, wasn't unexpected.



Student wounded in school shooting thanks doctors

An LDS student who was wounded in the shooting at a Florida high school thanked the doctors and first responders who helped her and said Monday, Feb. 26 that she is making a full recovery.

Speaking at a hospital news conference, Maddy Wilford, 17, has undergone three surgeries since the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people. She appeared at the news conference with her parents and with doctors and first responders who helped her.



Proposed state reforms address gerrymandering

Several states this year – including Utah – are considering addressing gerrymandering complaints by changing criteria used to draw congressional and state legislative districts or shifting the task from elected officials to citizen commissions.

The proposals are part of a larger battle between the political parties to best position themselves for the aftermath of the 2020 Census, when over 400 U.S. House districts and nearly 7,400 state legislative districts will be redrawn.



Slovak investigative reporter found shot dead

A Slovak investigative reporter and his girlfriend were shot dead in their home in an attack likely linked to his reporting on tax evasion, Slovakia's top police official said Monday, Feb. 26.

The bodies of 27-year-old Jan Kuciak and his partner were found on Sunday, Feb. 25 in their house in Velka Maca, east of the capital, national police force president Tibor Gaspar said.

Gaspar said the slayings "likely have something to do with his investigative activities." He declined to elaborate.

Police Beat

BYU THEFT

Feb. 12 - Two male students were arrested for stealing a golf cart near the Kennedy Center. The golf cart was found near the physical education areas on campus.

Feb. 20 - An individual reported a missing bicycle near the JFSB that was later found where it had been left.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Feb. 16 - An individual reported graffiti on a bathroom stall in the Spencer W. Kimball Tower. The damages were estimated to be \$100

Feb. 19 - An individual reported graffiti on a bathroom stall in the Spencer W. Kimball Tower. Damages were estimated to be about \$100. The Custodial and Paint Shop was contacted for clean-up. This crime may be the same as reported on Feb. 16, but the reports have not yet been linked.

HARASSMENT

Feb. 12 - A student reported being harassed via emails and texts. Police have no information on the suspect.

Feb. 16 - A male reported receiving threats while chatting

on a social media website with a female at the MTC.

OREM/PROVO AREA SHOOTING SCARE

Feb. 23 - Students from Timpanogos High School contacted parents, Alpine School District and Orem police after seeing a Snapchat from a 17-year-old student making firearm threats. The school district and police found the student's threats not credible after interviewing her and her parents. The student was suspended. Police said a misdemeanor charge is being considered.

POSTER

Students explain backstory

Continued from Page 1

"If I had known when I tweeted some of those things that it was a small group of women, and not just that but a small group of women that are trying to do good in the STEM programs and representation of women, I would have been a little more careful with what I said," Driggs said.

However, Driggs said she does not regret her initial tweet about the poster because she feels it comments on a greater issue at hand.

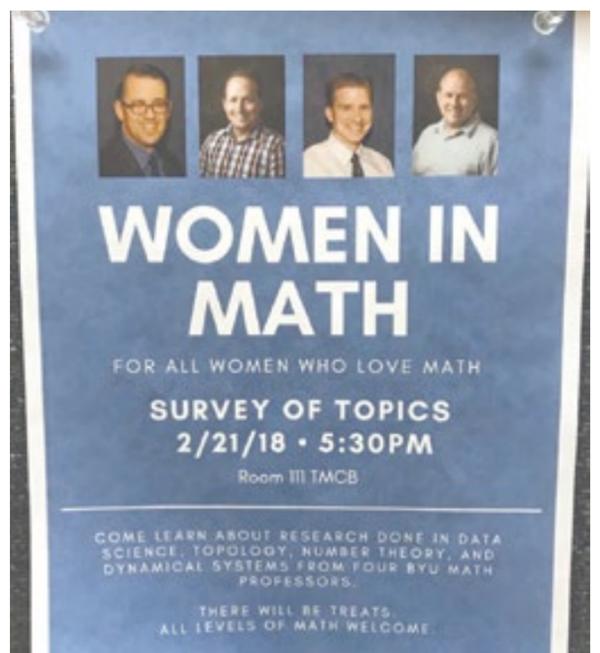
"A lot of people have been asking me about why I didn't delete my original tweet," she said. "I think the tweets that I posted underneath it after going to the event will really open up people's eyes about this issue and bring a better light to the Women in Math at BYU."

Cox said she felt the media and others misrepresented the issue. She said the purpose of the Women in Math club is to provide female mathematicians with opportunities to connect with other women, have fun and find opportunities to succeed in math careers.

"This means we hear from women who have worked in industry as well as academia. Our faculty advisers, Rachael Emily Evans and Martha Kilpack, have been great resources for us to know how to make it in math despite the odds," Cox said.

Cox said research experience is an area of interest for club members. The club invited four faculty members, all male, who have been published in top journals in their fields.

"The purpose of last night's meeting was for us to explore the research areas of those four male professors, and to see what background in mathematics



This poster for a Women in Math club event went viral last week, receiving national criticism. The poster advertised an event for Women in Math, not about women in math.

we need to get involved," Cox said. "Given that gender biases do exist, organizing successful research experiences are especially vital for us women who wish to pursue higher degrees in mathematics."

She stressed that the poster itself was not misunderstood by members of the Women in Math organization.

"Our meetings are small, usually spread by word of mouth or announcements in class, as well as the occasional poster," Cox said. "Many of us know each other, meaning that we knew what (was) meant by the poster and (we) weren't worried by it. It was clear to us that our meeting on the 21st was going to be on the research those four male professors do: data science, topology, number theory and dynamic systems."

Cox said it is up to women in STEM to speak out for themselves and expressed frustration

that tweets and media coverage haven't properly addressed the issue.

"There are legitimate issues surrounding representation in STEM," Cox said. "We should talk about how female to male ratios in STEM professorships can improve, female under-representation in awards, the pay gap, the societal factors that discourage women to pursue STEM, and so on."

But what Cox described as "an ill-thought out poster" — which was designed by a female student — isn't the problem, according to Cox.

"Attacking an organization and an institution that is trying to help us succeed as we as women pursue STEM is wrong," Cox said. "Women in Math has been a great resource for me, and despite this storm I hope it will continue to be one for many other female math students here at BYU."

CAMPUS EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, February 27

- Web Engineering Group Meeting. 4014 LSB, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, February 28

- Black History Month Concert. HBLL Auditorium, noon
- Lecture: Migration and Politics in Africa. 238 HRCB, noon

Thursday, March 1

- BRAVO! Wu Man & The Huayin Shadow Puppet Band. HFAC Madsen Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

- Young Ambassadors. HFAC de Jong Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 2

- A Capella Riff-Off. WSC Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.
- Faculty Recital: Matt Coleman, percussion. HFAC Madsen Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Young Ambassadors. HFAC de Jong Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 3

- Stretch Out The Stress: Free

- Yoga Practice. 3326 WSC, 9:30 a.m.

- Show Me The Money: Free Financial Planning Seminar. Hinckley Center, 10 a.m.

- Young Ambassadors. HFAC de Jong Concert Hall, 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- Tombraders Date Night. Bean Life Science Museum, 6 p.m.

Monday, March 5

- FHE: Emotions in the Scriptures. JFSB Education in Zion Gallery, 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m.

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Applications

- Due Date: March 19th at 5:00 p.m.
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Information Meeting

- March 8th, 11:00 a.m.
- B037 JFSB

TEDxBYU 2018 aimed to empower students with transformative ideas



Meagan Larsen

James Perry, Studio C cast member, speaks to students at TEDxBYU on March 23, 2017. The Ballard Center will host this year's TEDxBYU on March 22.

By AUBURN REMINGTON

This year's TEDxBYU will be held on March 22, featuring talks on topics including cryptocurren- cy, storytelling and education reform.

TEDxBYU is an independent TED event organized through the Ballard Center for Economic Self-Reliance, an academic center through the Marriott School that focuses on promoting social innova- tions. This event is extremely popular among students, with tickets last year selling out within five minutes of being released, according to Ballard Center External Communica- tions Director Alicia Gettys.

Tickets for this year's event go on sale at 8 a.m. on March 1.

Gettys said she believes the event is so popular among stu- dents because it is empowering and helps those who attend to see the world in a new light.

"Just like the Olympics cele- brate human achievement, we get to see accomplishment at TEDx- BYU in a different capacity," Get- tys said. "Some speakers will inspire you by the perseverance it took to invent new innovations. Others will empower you with

new life transforming ideas."

A committee at the Ballard Center selects the topics its mem- bers feel are important for the BYU community and then finds the best experts to present on those topics.

"After these thought lead- ers accept this unpaid speak- ing opportunity, they spend months receiving coaching and cramming their expertise into a 12-minute talk — not an easy task," Gettys said.

Marissa Getts spoke at last year's TEDxBYU. She was selected to speak after partici- pating in an internship through the Ballard Center with Ashoka Youth Venture. Getts and another intern spoke about how one can help children become change-makers.

"We wanted to share our find- ings that empathy was the first step to helping children make positive social change and that adults also needed to let their children try to make change by creating clubs or volunteering or reaching out in ways that parents might not be used to," Getts said.

Getts said she wanted to share her research in a way that would inspire parents to help their children develop empathy, take chances to learn and make

a positive social impact in the world.

"Giving a TEDtalk was one of the seemingly out-of-reach items on my bucket list, and my involv- ement with the Ballard Center was the only way that I was able to have an experience that was wor- thy to speak about in a TED talk," Getts said.

This year's lineup of speak- ers includes Alex Bernadotte, founder and CEO of Beyond 12; Aundrea Frahm, a multi-disci- plinary artist; Erica Orange, executive vice president and COO at the Future Hunters — a firm that evaluates emerging trends; and Don Rheem, CEO of E3 Solutions.

Andrew Cook, a BYU student who attended last year's event, said he loved it.

"It motivated me to want to find my professional purpose and to throw all of my energy into pursuing that," Cook said. "I think all of us would love to give our own TED talk someday, right? So for me, the event helped me see people who are successful, humble, driven and compassionate, and I loved all the takeaways I got from each speaker."

To learn more about TEDx- BYU and purchase tickets for this year's event, visit tedxbyu.com.

Campus News



Kif Augustine-Adams



Tyler Hardy, Jess Landro, Duff and Phelps CEO Noah Gottdiener and Kyle Nordhagen



Erik Carter



Claudine Bigelow

IRA A. FULTON COLLEGE OF Engineering and Technology

Raytheon Missile Systems Vice President **Laura J. McGill** spoke to engineering students and faculty on Feb. 15. She spoke about career challenges and life lessons students will face in the future.

J. REUBEN CLARK Law School

Law professor **Kif Augustine- Adams** participated in a panel discus- sion on Feb. 14 about providing legal assistance to women and children fleeing their home countries. The panel was about the work done at the South Texas Family Residential Center.

MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF Business

Marriott School students **Tyler Har- dy, Jess Landro** and **Kyle Nordhagen**

won first place in the Duff and Phelps case competition. The group was one of three finalist teams selected to go to New York City to compete.

Ten MBA candidates were named 2018 Hawes Scholars, winning \$10,000 each. This recognition is the highest distinction given to MBA students at the school.

DAVID O. MCKAY SCHOOL OF Education

Vanderbilt University professor **Erik Carter** presented at the 14th Annual Marjorie Pay Hinckley Lecture on Feb. 9. Carter spoke about sense of belonging and including those with intellectual disabilities.

COLLEGE OF Fine Arts and Communications

BYU Living Legends has launched a new video series about the history behind Latin American, Polynesian

and Native American dance. The dance company focuses on sharing the legends behind dances to inspire view- ers to understand their own culture.

Music professor **Claudine Bigelow** will speak about spiritual creativity and collaboration at the Faith and Works Lecture on Mar. 1. Bigelow is the head of viola studies at BYU and will discuss her recent perfor- mance in the Deseret Quartet.

BYU's Department of Design Diversity Committee recently created a lecture series suited specifically to female design students. The series began with a lecture from professional photographer **Aline Smithson**.

COLLEGE OF Nursing

Fifty-seven students attended the Speed "Nurseworking" Luncheon on Feb. 1. Students ate lunch with work- ing professionals and alumni while asking questions and taking notes.

BID

Salt Lake looks to host 2030 Olympics

Continued from Page 1

Denver and the Reno/Tahoe area have also expressed interest in representing the United States for the 2026 or 2030 games.

The United States

Olympic Committee has yet to announce a process for select- ing a city.

If Salt Lake City is selected, city officials would engage in dialogue with the Interna- tional Olympic Committee and would be invited after October 2018 to join the formal candi- dature stage.

Normally the interna- tional committee would only be considering bids for 2026. However, after breaking that precedent and awarding the

2024 and 2028 Summer Games simultaneously last Septem- ber, it is possible the commit- tee will award both the 2026 and 2030 Winter Games in Sep- tember 2019.

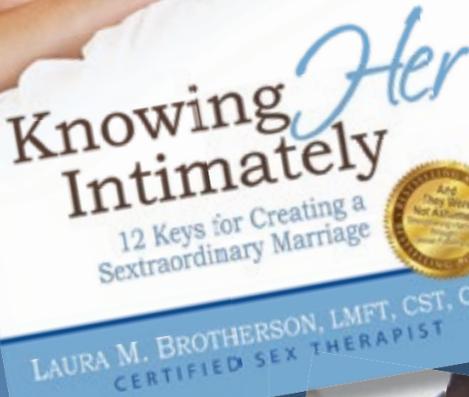
Internationally, Sion, Swit- zerland received backing from the Swiss government to pursue a 2026 bid and the Olympic Exploratory Com- mittee's report lists Calgary, Canada; Stockholm, Sweden; and Saporro, Japan as poten- tial bidders for 2026.

Knowing Her Intimately



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Laura M. Brotherson,
LMFT, CST, CFLE

StrengtheningMarriage.com

TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL
Tuesday, February 27,
11:05 a.m., Marriott Center

This event will also be broadcast to the JSB Auditorium.



Elder S. Gifford Nielsen
General Authority Seventy

Elder S. Gifford Nielsen was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in April 2013. At the time of his call he had been serving as a member of the Sixth Quorum of the Seventy in the North America Southwest Area. Elder Nielsen has served as a member of the Pacific Area presi- dency and is currently serving at Church headquarters as an assistant executive director of the Missionary Department and as an area assistant in the North America Northeast Area.

Elder Nielsen received a bach- elor's degree in 1977 from Brigham Young University and was named one of the top five scholar-athletes by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. After becoming an

All-American quarterback at BYU, the Houston Oilers selected him in the third round of the 1978 NFL draft. Following a six-year career as quarterback for the Oilers, he worked as the sports director and anchor for KHOU-TV in Houston for 25 years. In 1994 Elder Nielsen was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and in 2003 was given the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award for 25 years of distinguished service after his college athletic career.

Elder Nielsen has served in numerous Church callings, includ- ing seminary teacher, elders quorum president, Young Men president, Sunday School president, counselor in a mission presidency, bishop, stake president, and Area Seventy. He and his wife, Wendy Olson, are the parents of six children.

Selected speeches available at speeches.byu.edu.

NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL



Julie Crockett
*Associate Professor,
Mechanical Engineering*

March 6, 11:05 a.m.
Marriott Center

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.

Students donate hair through Y-Serve's Share Your Hair event

By SARAH MATTHEWS

Students gathered in the Wilkinson Center to donate their hair to cancer patients through Y-Serve's Share Your Hair program on Feb. 21 and 22.

Stylists from Studio 1030 lined the north side of the WSC Terrace on both days, ready for student participants.

The stylists provided a free cut and style in exchange for the hair donation. Hair could be colored but not bleached, and had to be a minimum of 8 inches long.

"The cause is all about giving hope and strength to women who have lost that due to cancer," said Program Director Shawn Christensen. "You don't think about how much having hair makes you feel confident or successful, but it is a really big part of that."

Event Director Elise Jubeck said the event gave priority to pre-scheduled appointments; however, walk-in donation appointments were welcome. Students scheduled their appointments online through the program's website. Appointments were set to last around 30 minutes.

In each appointment, participants' hair was measured to ensure 8 inches of cuttable locks, according to Christensen.

The hair was then sectioned into small ponytails to be kept together. The stylists cut off the ponytails and place them in a Ziploc bag. Participants'



Dani Jardine

BYU Studio 1030 stylist Mishia Starrs cuts biology major Betsy Carr's hair cut at the BYUSA's Share Your Hair donation event that took place Feb. 21 and 22. Donated hair was sent to Pantene Beautiful Lengths to be used for wigs for cancer patients.

remaining hair was then professionally cut and styled.

The bags of ponytails were sent off to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, which works with the American Cancer Society to provide wigs to women who have medical-induced hair loss.

Some students donate their hair because they know someone who has suffered from medical-related hair loss and

they want to give back, according to Program Director Allyse Jorgensen.

"I love it when you see girls come in with short hair to begin with and they leave with super short pixie cuts," Jubeck said.

Jubeck said she is always impressed by the sacrifice women make purely because they want to give.

At any time throughout the event, four to six stylists were available for appointments, with 12 overall stylist volunteers. The program sees 60 to 70 volunteers donate hair each time the event runs, according to Jubeck.

Students can continue to be involved with this cause throughout their BYU experience.

Share Your Hair runs twice a year, once during the fall and once during the winter. Students are encouraged to continue to grow their hair and donate in the next Share Your Hair event if they missed the winter event.

Students can also get an 8-inch ponytail trim anywhere and bring the saved hair to the Y-Serve office at any time throughout the year, Jorgensen added.

The hair will be saved and donated to Pantene when the program sends its next shipment, usually after the next Share Your Hair event.

Last semester, Studio 1030 collected and saved donations leading up to the event, and Share Your Hair donated almost 900 pony tails, according to Christensen.

This program also represents BYU's fourth aim of leading students to lifelong service, according to Christensen, because donating hair to help others is something students can continue to be involved with for the rest of their lives.

Students who want to get involved but don't have 8 inches of hair to donate are welcome to get involved with the administrative side of the event.

More information on applying for this program can be found on the Y-Serve Share Your Hair program page. Students can also donate directly to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths on its website.

"If you're looking for a change, and you want a great free haircut, and you want to do some good, this is the perfect opportunity," Jubeck said.



Associated Press

Rep. Steve Eliason, R-Sandy, holds a gun lock during a news conference at the Utah State Capitol on Feb. 20. A state task force created to slow the number of teen suicides is recommending public messaging to implore gun-owning parents to keep firearms locked up.

Utah youth suicide task force demands immediate action

By SAHALIE DONALDSON

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah's youth suicide task force is demanding immediate action against Utah's staggeringly high suicide rate.

According to Utah's Public Health Data Source, Utah's suicide rate is consistently higher than the national rate. Suicide is the leading cause of death for Utahns ages 10-24, and it's estimated to one person will take their life in the state every 14 hours.

The task force — made up of activists, mental health workers and political and religious leaders — gathered at the Utah Capitol Feb. 20 for a news conference on the issue.

At the conference, Sen. Orin Hatch, R-Utah, said youth suicide is one of the most critical issues facing the state.

"There is no perfect solution, but there are a lot of things that we can do to save lives, and one of the most important things is to remind these young people, these kids, how much they matter, how much we love them, how much they mean to all of us," Hatch said.

Over the past couple of weeks, the task force looked at evidence-based practices and programs focused on immediate solutions. The task force also looked for ways to get more funding to these programs so they can be scaled to impact a greater number of lives across the state.

According to Lt. Gov. Spencer

Cox, the task force's major objectives are improving crisis response, reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors.

"No one wants to end their life," Cox said. "They want to end the pain, and we can't end the pain if we don't talk about the pain. So we are going to talk about the pain more and we are going to have these conversations that we think are going to be hard."

Cox said these conversations aren't as hard as people think and that having them will save lives.

Rep. Steve Eliason, R-Sandy, said the public needs to understand mental illness is just as real of a health issue as a broken bone or asthma.

"We don't blame people for those diseases and we shouldn't blame people for mental illness," Eliason said. "We need to ask, 'How can we help?'"

The task force's report encourages more to be done to improve Utah's crisis response. It plans on doing this by expanding the reach of mobile crisis lines, providing every higher education institution with the SafeUT app, using public messaging to start the conversation about mental health and encouraging health care systems to train workers to adopt a zero-suicide framework.

The report also recommends using peer-to-peer intervention programs in which students are trained to refer their peers who may be struggling with suicidal thoughts to school counselors.

Eliason said parents could

also reduce their child's chance of suicide by about 50 percent if they use a trigger cable lock or a gun safe to keep their firearms locked away. "Every child we've lost this year in the state of Utah died by a firearm. If it had been secured, we may have had a different outcome," Eliason said.

Gov. Gary Herbert said over 40,000 gun locks have been distributed, which is a step in the right direction.

"All these things working together will help. It is a good start, but it is just a start," Herbert said.

Herbert also said LGBT individuals are at a higher risk of committing suicide, and it is imperative to reach out to them.

"One of the successes of Utah is our ability to come together despite some differences of opinion of maybe politics and policies out there," Herbert said. "Let's come together shoulder to shoulder — no credit, no blame."

Taryn Aiken-Hiatt, Utah's area director for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said she knows the emotional pain that comes with feeling like everyone would be better off without her, but she made it through.

"I beg of you right now, if you are thinking of suicide, please find someone you can tell, and tell as many people as you have to until someone takes you serious and connects you to the support you need, because we need you," Hiatt said.

Call 1-800-273-TALK at any time to speak with someone with the Utah State crisis line.

BYU ARTS

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Bravo! Wu Man & the Huayin Shadow Puppet Band

Chinese pipa virtuoso Wu Man joins with the brilliant Huayin Shadow Puppet Band for an evening of old-time traditional music and shadow puppetry.



Thurs., Mar. 1, 7:30 p.m. Madsen Recital Hall



Young Ambassadors: Welcome Home

With songs and dances from many eras, Welcome Home! features music by international recording artists Billy Joel, Judy Garland, the Beach Boys, Nat King Cole, Brad Paisley and Frank Sinatra.

Thurs.-Sat., Mar. 1-2, 7:30 p.m. Mar. 3, 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. de Jong Concert Hall



BYU Symphony Orchestra Concerto Concert

Tues., Mar. 6, 7:30 p.m. de Jong Concert Hall



Bravo! A Whole New World of Alan Menken

Wed.-Thurs., Mar. 7-8, 7:30 p.m. de Jong Concert Hall



Folk Music Ensemble

Wed., Mar. 7, 7:30 p.m. Madsen Recital Hall

Schiller's Mary Stuart Mar. 9-10, 14-17, 20-23, 7:30 p.m. Mar. 10, 17, 24, 2:30 p.m. Margetts Theatre

dancEnsemble Fri.-Sat., Mar. 9-10, 7:30 p.m. Mar. 10, 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Dance Studio Theatre (RB)

BYU Philharmonic Evening of Concertos Tues., Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m. de Jong Concert Hall

All events are ticketed.



2018 Olympic Closing Ceremony



Associated Press

North and South Koreans wave flags during the closing ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018.

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[ISSUES & IDEAS]



Tweet Beat

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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

@geneticwitch

In a prayer at the beginning of ochem: "please help us learn about aldehydes and... ketones and... things like that..." @HeardAtBYU

@LauraEliz09

"I just liked that boy because his mom made really good jam." @HeardAtBYU

@TheMormonLikes

"Guys, Cosmo came to a wedding reception. I want Cosmo to come to my wedding reception. Maybe I'll marry Cosmo" @HeardAtBYU

@KateJoyceW

@HeardAtBYU
Guy 1: How'd you propose?
Guy 2: I recreated our first date.
Guy 1: Was it like exactly the same?
Guy 2: We'll we were less awkward this time.

@cadence_perry

Professor, "It took me three times to get the correct answer for the answer key 'cause I kept making mistakes. It's kind of a metaphor of my life." @HeardAtBYU

@calbinw

"If could have done anything different on my mission, I would've emailed him before I left." @HeardAtBYU

@k_toone

I matched with one of the intramural referees on mutual so you could say it's gonna be a good season

@Nick_Sanchezzz

"There are two things Utahns go completely crazy over. Name their kids and driving in the snow" @HeardAtBYU 🤔🤔🤔

@kimdianasmith

Sometimes I see people walking around campus and I know for a fact they were in marching band.

@justmesarahg3

In mission Prep talking about the Creation: "the earth is one big testing center" @HeardAtBYU @byutesting

@BlakeScullin

"Utah winters are like the Utah Jazz, they do just enough to make you think sunshine and happiness is coming, and then crush your spirits" @HeardAtBYU

@QuartersFor

If I had a nickel for every time my dishwasher actually cleaned our dishes, I'd have about a quarter - and I'd inevitable have that quarter stolen from me by the broken apartment washing machines 🤔 #byuprobs

@k_toone

You know what would be cool is if i could see how many minutes of my life I've spent filling out qualtrics surveys

@bakercam1

"Does it burn calories to scream really loud?" @HeardAtBYU at the Gonzaga game

@kattyrincox

Random guy outside the SWKT in regards to the 3" of snow: "Why don't they have snow days here? What the heck!" @HeardAtBYU

@Mitchelnelson4

O chem professor
"Come on its your basic answer. In Sunday school you say 'Jesus!' In o chem you say 'resonance!'" @HeardAtBYU

@kylecoug

Girl #1: "who are we even playing today?"
Girl #2: "Gonzaga"
Girl #1: "oh, like the cheese!"
Girl #2: "no... that's gorgonzola."

@shannieb97

"I had to break up with him—he wanted to live in Provo forever." @HeardAtBYU

@hazel_pratt

"They're not even Facebook friends and they're talking about marriage!" @HeardAtBYU

@k_toone

"I invite you to become more disconnected from technology" as I sit here and live tweet stake conference

@poetickate

sorry, but the term "gross income" is extremely offensive
all income is beautiful

@sammy_smiless

I get home from work. I sit in my car and scroll social media. I check email. i make up excuses so i don't have to get out of my car. I order jimmy johns and drop a pin to my car. type in the coordinates for my amazon delivery. i've sat here too long. I live here now.

Tweets are unedited

[READERS' FORUM]

Women in Math

A news flurry occurred over misunderstanding a poster. "Women in Math" is the name of our club, not the meeting's discussion topic. The club's purpose is to encourage female mathematicians to succeed in their chosen careers. Our faculty advisers, Emily Evans and Martha Kilpack, know how to make it in math despite the odds. The key to career success is research experience.

We invited male professors to our club who are published in top journals in diverse areas of math and, most importantly, have research positions open to undergraduates. Our club meeting focused on research opportunities in data science, topology, number theory and dynamic systems research.

The original tweet's author, Stephanie Driggs, is not a math major and has not attended any of our meetings, at least until Feb. 22 when she was interviewed on television. She retweeted 14,000-plus people asking them to "send (the BYU Women in Math) emails! They need to know that this activity is doing more harm than good. #WeNeedFemaleRepresentation."

We do need female representation, but from those who are actually math majors. We should talk about how female-to-male ratios in math professorships can improve, pay gap between men and women and societal factors that discourage women to pursue math.

Attacking an organization and institution that is trying to help us succeed as female mathematicians is wrong. Women in Math and the math department have been great resources for me; despite this storm, I hope they continue to be one for many other female math students here at BYU.

—Jane Cox
Provo, Utah

Allowance

Living in a world run on money, it is essential to have a firm understanding of how to manage it. The earlier you begin to master the techniques of money management, the better off you will be. But is receiving an allowance from our parents the right place to begin this journey of becoming our own money masters?

To raise financially literate children, parents should not give them an allowance, and there is a host of reasons why. The first comes from Lewis Mandell, Ph.D., who believes giving an allowance can do more harm than good. He stated, "Studies have shown that instead of encouraging good financial habits, giving an allowance is statistically associated with diminished financial

literacy, lower levels of motivation and an aversion to work."

While an allowance can have negative qualities, it isn't to say this should be done away with completely. There are some pros to giving children an allowance, such as having the ability to manage their own money and learning through trial and error.

However, I believe children could still benefit from learning on their own, in this manner, but receiving the money from different sources. Children could help work for neighbors or do other out-of-the-ordinary chores for their parents for which they could be monetarily compensated.

In the end, the role allowance will play in your family is ultimately up to you. However, when deciding, keep in mind your choices will affect them and will either aid them to become financially successful or put them at a disadvantage.

—Jason Sherrill
Apple Valley, California

Minimum wage

Minimum wage has long been a divisive issue, with genius economists on both sides citing studies, shouting facts and slandering their opponents. Recently, the liberal side of the political fence has argued that the federally mandated minimum wage should be raised to \$15 per hour, while their conservative counterparts cry loudly for minimum wage to stay put at \$7.25, which was instituted in 2009.

This divisiveness leads to a lack of progress and cripples our nation; therefore, the two opposing sides must compromise. The current echo chambers filled with primal partisan screaming bring no profit to the American people, and frankly, scare the children.

No matter what your dad told you to think, the facts remain. There are over 700,000 workers employed full time at minimum wage, 70 percent of which are high school graduates, and something has to give. Studies from areas such as Seattle, which recently adopted a \$15-per-hour minimum wage, show that a raise past \$13 could have a net negative effect on the economy and would create a burden on society.

However, an initial raise to \$12 will have no negative consequences but has the potential to improve the lives of many hardworking Americans. We have to find a way to work together to improve the society we live in for everyone — not just those that have their parents paying for school.

—Jordan Bothwell
Roswell, Georgia

[OPINION OUTPOST]

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

Guns in schools

As long as Utah, like some other states, has laws that allow concealed carry and don't ban guns from schools, there will be guns in our schools. Most of them will never be fired, brandished or even seen. That doesn't mean it is a good idea. It certainly doesn't mean that we ought to go out of our way to allow, encourage or pay more teachers to start packing. Their lives are already stressful enough, thank you.

—Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

Whether President Trump's push for new rules to ban "bump stocks" represents a turning point in the battle against gun violence or is merely an irrelevant bone thrown to gun control advocates is far from clear. ... At least part of the answer could come as early as next week when Congress returns from recess. The Senate could and should quickly pass a measure to

improve the background check system that has failed so many times to flag and stop firearm purchases by people already prohibited from buying guns.

—Editorial Board
USA Today

The best way to prevent the threat of a bad guy with a gun is to keep him from getting the sort of battlefield weapon the Parkland killer used, by banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and by tightening background checks. In his remarks, the mendacious Mr. LaPierre said gun restriction advocates seek to "eradicate all individual freedoms." In fact, sensible gun laws would give people, especially children, a better chance to enjoy the first of the inalienable rights mentioned in the Declaration of Independence: life.

—Editorial Board
The New York Times

Security

The Personnel Security Office should become an independent entity with a robust

staff to process FBI cases and make decisions efficiently. Additionally, the FBI should have the capacity to recommend to congressional intelligence committees concerning findings from its investigations in closed hearings in the event it feels a staffer represents a threat to national security.

—Editorial Board
Deseret News

Russian olympians

... (T)he positive test at this year's Games of a Russian curler raises a broader question: Should any Russian athletes have been allowed to compete in Pyeongchang? Gauging from the response of Russian athletes, the answer is probably not. Had a relatively small number of Russians been caught, it would have been appropriate to allow others go on. But the World Anti-Doping Agency found that 1,000 athletes had been involved in a doping scheme from 2011 on. At some point, it has to be asked whether it's more important to allow the innocent to compete or to devise a punishment that forces Russian authorities to change their ways.

—Editorial Board
USA Today

Tax code

There was a legitimate argument for reforming the tax code in a way that reduced the corporate tax rate, closed loopholes and made the economy fairer and more productive. But Republicans chose a plan that rewards the rich at the expense of workers. They had to lie to make this scheme seem legitimate. Now the true effects are coming to fruition.

—Editorial Board
The New York Times

Sex education

Rep. Justin Fawson altered his online sex education bill so that kids aren't going online for sex education. Fawson's bill now expands Utah's sex education curriculum to include teaching students about harmful effects of pornography and the nature of consent. ... We know that Utah's sex education centers on abstinence. A discussion of consent does not change that. ... And students need to be taught, explicitly, that when someone says no, you need to stop. Whether it's

no to sex or even just a hug or kiss. The House Education Committee rejected Ruzicka's (Gayle Ruzicka of Utah Eagle Forum) prudish position and approved Fawson's bill unanimously. That's big for Utah.

—Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

Social media use

We think the most effective approach to curbing any ill

effects from excessive online exposure begins in the home, where parents have responsibility for overseeing their children's online experience. Social media can be a valuable tool for education and socialization and to keep up on current events. There may be a fine line between appropriate use and troublesome overuse, but it falls to parents to identify that line and do what they can to keep their kids from crossing it.

—Editorial Board
Deseret News

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.

Basketball teams head to WCC tourney

By CALEB TURNER

BYU men's and women's basketball teams head to this year's West Coast Conference tournament in similar positions. Both finished third in the conference with 11-7 records, and ended their regular seasons with losses to Gonzaga on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Both teams will take on San Diego in the first round of the tournament; the women Thursday, Mar. 1 at 7 p.m. MST, and the men Saturday, Mar. 3 at 2 p.m. MST.

All games will be played at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

Men's basketball

The men's team exceeded expectations following the departure of star players Eric Mika and Nick Emery. They improved their record by one game, finishing 22-9 overall, compared to 21-10 last year.

Junior Elijah Bryant and sophomore Yoeli Childs led the charge this year, both averaging over 17 points per game. The team's dependence on the two breakout stars has been more than apparent this season, and both will need to be at the top of their game if BYU wants to make some noise.

The Cougars split the season series with San Diego, beating The Toreros by double digits in Provo, and then losing by double digits to them in California.

TJ Haws, the Cougars' third-leading scorer with 12 points per game, will also need to show up on offense. BYU is 17-4 when he scores in double digits, and 4-0 when he hits at least four 3-pointers.

However, the Cougars are just 6-5 when he scores in single digits.

If his shot is falling consistently, BYU has a good chance to beat San Diego and put up a fight against Saint Mary's, who they would likely face in the second round.

Even when he is not scoring big numbers, Haws has found other ways to contribute, leading the team in both assists and steals this season.

"TJ is a better all-around basketball player than he was last year," said associate head coach Heath Schroyer. "His assists are up, his plus/minus is up, and he defends better."

His teammates were also quick to praise Haws, with Childs pointing out his decision-making ability as an important skill.

To win the tournament the Cougars have to win three consecutive games, with short turnaround times and elite opponents such as Gonzaga and Saint Mary's — both in the AP Top 25.

Women's basketball

The women's team finished with a 16-13 overall record, struggling to gain momentum in the latter half of the season. They were unable to win consecutive games since early January, when the Cougars put together a five-game



Josh Ellis

Elijah Bryant shoots against Gonzaga on Feb. 24. He leads the men's team in scoring with 17.6 points per game.



Dani Jardine

Cassie Devashrayee drives against Portland on Feb. 22. She leads the women's team in scoring this year with 19 points per game.

Men's tournament schedule

Fri., March 2	Sat., March 3	Mon., March 5	Tues., March 6	
#8 Loyola Marymnt 1 7 p.m. MST, BYUtv	#1 Gonzaga 5 8 p.m. MST, ESPN2 Winner Game 1	Winner Game 5		
#9 Portland	#4 San Francisco 4 4 p.m. MST, BYUtv	7 7/9:30 p.m. MST, ESPN/ESPN2 Winner Game 4	Winner Game 7	
	#5 Pacific			
	#2 Saint Mary's 6 10 p.m. MST, ESPN2 Winner Game 2	Winner Game 6		
#7 Santa Clara 2 9 p.m. MST, BYUtv			Game 9 Championship Game 7 p.m. MST, ESPN	Conference Champion
#10 Pepperdine	#3 BYU 3 2 p.m. MST, BYUtv	8 7/9:30 p.m. MST, ESPN/ESPN2 Winner Game 3	Winner Game 8	
	#6 San Diego			

Women's tournament schedule

Thurs., March 1	Fri., March 2	Mon., March 5	Tues., March 6	
#8 Pepperdine 1 1 p.m. MST, BYUtv	#1 Gonzaga 5 1 p.m. MST, BYUtv Winner Game 1	Winner Game 5		
#9 Santa Clara			Winner Game 7	
#4 Loyola Marymnt 4 9 p.m. MST, BYUtv		7 1 p.m. MST, BYUtv Winner Game 4		
#5 San Francisco				
#7 Pacific 2 3 p.m. MST, BYUtv	#2 Saint Mary's 6 3 p.m. MST, BYUtv Winner Game 2	Winner Game 6		
#10 Portland			Game 9 Championship Game 2 p.m. MST, ESPN	Conference Champion
#3 BYU 3 7 p.m. MST, BYUtv		8 3 p.m. MST, BYUtv Winner Game 3	Winner Game 8	
#6 San Diego				

win streak.

They lost both games to San Diego during the regular season, though both were within single digits.

The team had perhaps its best win of the season last week over

Portland, running over the Pilots 73-35. In that game, starting guards Cassie Devashrayee, Brenna Chase and Malia Nawahine all scored in double-digits. On the offensive end, the team will have to recreate this balanced scoring to have

a chance in the tournament.

On the defensive end, 6-foot-7 center Sara Hamson leads the team, averaging over four blocks per game. BYU will need her presence in the paint to make a good run in Vegas.

If the Cougars are able to defeat San Diego in the first round, they will likely face Saint Mary's in the semifinals, a team they split with during the regular season.

No. 5 men's volleyball to host top-10 teams



Josh Ellis

Felipe de Brito Ferreira prepares for a kill against Stanford on Feb. 24. The No. 5 Cougars host No. 8 Pepperdine on Thursday, March 1 in the Smith Fieldhouse, and No. 3 UCLA on Saturday, March 3. Both matches begin at 7 p.m. MST and will be streamed live by TheW.tv.

College football attendance drops; BYU no exception

By CALEB TURNER

On Feb. 13 the NCAA released the official attendance records for the 2017 football season, and the findings weren't good. Average attendance dropped by more than 1,000 across all Division I teams, and BYU was no exception.

For the fourth-straight season, BYU football failed to reach the 60,000-in-attendance threshold, averaging just 56,267 fans in the stands per game.

This represents just 88 percent capacity for LaVell Edwards Stadium, which can hold up to 63,725 people.

The last time BYU filled the stadium every game was in 2009, and the program has averaged below 60,000 fans since its biggest drop in 2014 (a drop of nearly 4,000 fans), despite posting the same record in 2013 and winning records every year except for 2017.

This change may be due to a more widespread drop in football attendance and interest in the sport in general, and not directly tied to the BYU program's success.

This past season, BYU attendance dropped by over 2,000 fans on average,

likely due to a 4-9 record — the worst at BYU since 1955 — and missing a bowl game for the first time since 2004.

The lowest, single-game attendance of the season was on Oct. 28 against San Jose State, when just 46,451 people showed up to cheer on the Cougars.

It was the smallest BYU crowd since Oct. 31, 1981, when just 36,343 fans cheered on the Cougars featuring Jim McMahon and Kyle Whittingham.

Since the expansion of BYU's stadium in 1982, six of the ten-lowest attended games happened in the last four years.

"Despite a down year in 2017, BYU's average home attendance was better than the average attendance in the ACC and Pac-12," said associate athletic director Duff Tittle. "BYU also improved to No. 3 in the West in average attendance behind only USC and Washington, our highest ranking in the past five years."

This is mainly due to the size and capacity of LaVell Edwards Stadium, which is by far the largest football stadium in Utah.

BYU has always had more fans in attendance than many schools simply due to its capacity, and this ranking is maintained because other schools either can't hold as many fans or are losing more fans than BYU.

Whatever the reason for the drop in attendance, BYU athletics has made moves to spark more interest and increase trust in the program.

On Nov. 18 against UMass, a Wi-Fi network was beta-tested in LaVell Edwards Stadium, bringing positive fan reactions. Tittle confirmed this will be a permanent fixture starting with the 2018 season.

Tittle also mentioned a cellular distributed antenna system will help boost cell phone coverage in the stadium starting this year.

On the personnel side, BYU hired Jeff Grimes from LSU as its offensive coordinator, coming in with much more experience than Ty Detmer who ran the Cougar offense for two seasons before being relieved of his duties in December.

Grimes received a raise last year at LSU, bringing his total salary up to \$525,000. It is doubtful he took a pay cut in coming to BYU, especially after athletic director Tom Holmoe said, in his semi-annual Q&A, the hiring was the most BYU football has ever agreed to pay an offensive coordinator.

Even with a revamped offensive staff, BYU may have more work to do to increase fan interest and bring attendance back up over 60,000.

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Panel 2: BASED ON YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS, ALICE IS ANGRY, WALLY IS LAZY, AND DILBERT IS BORING.

Panel 3: HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO USE THIS NEW INFORMATION? WAKE ME UP WHEN HE'S DONE TALKING.

Panel 4: WE ALL TOOK THE DOGBERT PERSONALITY TEST, BUT IT'S NOT CLEAR HOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO USE THE INFORMATION.

Panel 5: I MEAN, HOW DOES IT HELP ME TO KNOW YOU'RE A FORGETFUL MORON WHO CAN'T KEEP A SECRET?

Panel 6: WHO SHOWED YOU MY PRIVATE TEST RESULTS? YOU DID.

Pickles®

Panel 1: NELSON, LET'S GO TO THE PLAYGROUND. I'LL PUSH YOU ON THE SWINGS.

Panel 2: CAN'T THEY TAKE THEM OUT? THEY SAID THEY WERE TOO DANGEROUS.

Panel 3: TOO DANGEROUS? HECK, I GUESS WE CAN JUST PLAY ON THE TEETER-TOTTER THEN.

Panel 4: YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE PLAYGROUND IN A WHILE, HAVE YOU, GRAMPA?

Panel 5: YOU'RE TELLING ME YOUR PLAYGROUND DOESN'T HAVE ANY SWINGS OR TEETER-TOTTERS?

Panel 6: DANGEROUS?! GEEZ... THEY MIGHT AS WELL JUST PACK ALL YOU KIDS IN STYROFOAM TO MAKE SURE NO ONE GETS HURT.

Panel 7: WHEN I WAS A KID WE DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING HURT. WE JUST HAD FUN!

Panel 8: AND I'VE GOT THE SCARS TO PROVE IT, TOO!

Garfield®

Panel 1: SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T SLEEP.

Panel 2: THIS ISN'T ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

Panel 3: ALL RIGHT, GARFIELD!

Panel 4: YOU CATCH THOSE MICE!

Panel 5: SURE...

Panel 6: RIGHT AFTER MY MANICURE.

Zits®

Panel 1: JEREMY! I KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO THIS WEEKEND!

Panel 2: WHAT?

Panel 3: LET'S DRESS UP AND GO DANCING!

Panel 4: THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

Panel 5: REALLY??

Panel 6: ...EXCEPT FOR THE DRESSING UP AND DANCING PARTS.

Panel 7: MOM, SARA WANTS ME TO TAKE HER DANCING! WHAT DO I DO?

Panel 8: LET'S PRACTICE.

Panel 9: I'LL BE SARA...

Panel 10: Oh, Jeremy! I love this song!

Panel 11: PROBABLY NOT THE RESPONSE SHE'S LOOKING FOR.

Panel 12: MAYBE SARA CAN JUST PUSH HIM AROUND THE FLOOR.

Non Sequitur®

Panel 1: NAN... I LOST INTEREST IN THE OLYMPICS NOW THAT NO ONE GETS KNEECAPPED ANYMORE.

Panel 2: BERT'S MEMO AUTHORIZING AN END TO WINTER FELL SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS.

Peanuts®

Panel 1: The Ocean... a report.

Panel 2: The ocean is full of water. "Ha!" You may say. "What else?" That's a good question.

Panel 3: SOMETIMES IT'S EASY TO GET BOGGED DOWN ON THESE REPORTS.

Panel 4: THIS IS MY REPORT ON THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD.

Panel 5: "THERE ARE NO OCEANS IN KANSAS... THERE ARE NO OCEANS IN NEBRASKA... THERE ARE NO OCEANS IN NEVADA... THERE ARE NO OCEANS IN MINNESOTA..."

Panel 6: "THERE ARE NO OCEANS IN IOWA... THERE ARE..."

Panel 7: I THOUGHT YOU WANTED US TO GO IN TO DETAIL...

Sudoku

Use the numbers 1-9 once in each row, column and marked grid of 9. Puzzles increase in difficulty from left to right. Solutions are at universe.byu.edu/sudoku.

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

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0122

ACROSS

- Ponzi schemes, e.g.
- Agatha Christie or Maggie Smith
- Times past noon, informally
- "Sounds exciting ..."
- Iranian currency
- Applaud
- Cutting-edge brand?
- 2016 Best Actress Oscar winner for "La La Land"
- Unwelcome looks
- Something
- Encouragement for a matador
- Half of a half step in music
- Relieved (of)
- Biden and Pence, informally
- Abbr. in an office address
- Pacific source of unusual weather
- Stoic politician of ancient Rome
- Places to get quick cash
- Chess endings
- Weight unit equal to about 2,205 pounds
- Group of eight
- Gym locker emanation
- On the briny
- "Legally ___" (Reese Witherspoon film)
- Fix, as an election
- Be nosy
- "Leaving ___ Vegas"
- "Puh-LEEZE!"
- Like the name "Robin Banks" for a criminal
- Make, as money

DOWN

- "Red" or "White" baseball team
- Deep-fried Mexican dish
- Div. for the N.F.L.'s Jets
- Look for
- Ariana Grande's fan base, mostly
- Enthusiastic audience response, informally
- Bit of clowning around
- Title of a list of errands
- Wallace, co-founder of Reader's Digest
- Fish typically split before cooking
- Sudden problem in a plan
- Look for
- Ariana Grande's fan base, mostly
- Less talkative
- Laughs through the nose
- "Forgot About ___" (2000 rap hit)
- Put in the cross hairs
- Caribbean ballroom dance
- "Seinfeld" character who wrote for the J. Peterman catalog
- Go from 0 to 60, say
- What sunning in a swimsuit leaves

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

STP CITGO OGOR
IHOP ONION LENO
NEWRELEASE INTO
ODES PRO AVIAS
ELK TAXEEMPT
MERLIN LEO
ICK MEMORY IRKS
THE COASTISCLEAR
TOGO RUBBER ALA
SEE EAGLES
BEGPARDON VID
EXALT ARI AREA
GILA FREEATLAST
ALLY RICCI SLAB
NES INKED SPA

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0122

ACROSS

- Value of snake eyes in craps
- Rules as a monarch
- Difficult endeavor
- Put on TV
- 87, 89 or 93, on a gas pump
- With 25-Down, office request
- Pro at tax time
- In any place
- Counterparts of compressions, in physics
- Wear away
- ___X
- "Get serious!"
- Member of a Marvel Comics group
- Divinity school subj.
- T-X connection
- Neighbor of the asteroid belt
- Strip discussed in the Oslo Accords
- Word with circle or ear
- Nobel laureate Wiesel
- Opinion pieces
- Nashville venue, informally
- Mork's TV pal
- Wait for a green light, say
- Fire and fury
- Peculiar
- It doesn't get returned
- Less sincere, as a promise
- Make black, in a way
- El Al hub city
- "Already?"
- City straddling Europe and Asia

DOWN

- Diplomat's skill
- Film editor's gradual transition
- Leftover in a juicer
- Olympic sport with strokes
- Repeat
- Calif.-to-Fla. route
- Elongated, heavily armored fish
- U-turn from SSW
- Opening word?
- Rear admiral's rear
- ___ flow
- Green-lit
- Richard of "Unfaithful"
- Coins of ancient Athens
- Picked up on
- Place to sing "Rock-a-Bye Baby"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ADIOS BADPR ZIN
ROCHE ALIEN ERIN
KTOWN SASSAFRAS
SENESCENCE IOTA
LEO STENGEL
LOLLIPOP AHI
EMO SAID OTTOI
FOURLETTERWORDS
TOTES HOME ODE
HAT NONSENSE
SWEATER ALA
OHMS TATTLETALE
RECHERCHE ASCOTE
TEE PIKES ZUMBA
ALE ASSET EPEES

The New York Times Crossword

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ACROSS

- Foreboding in the O.J. trial
- Book after Chronicles
- Surface
- Grazing area
- Drakes : ducks :: ___ : swans
- Apt word to follow each row of circled letters
- Subtext of Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit"
- Divinity school subj.
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Former BYU coach sues window blind makers over daughter's death



Ari Davis

Former BYU running backs coach Reno Mahe receives a lei after the Utah State game on Nov. 26, 2016. After their daughter Elsie's death, Mahe and his wife are suing the makers of the window blinds Elsie got tangled in.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former BYU football player and coach has sued several window blind makers over what he alleges is a faulty product that caused the death of his daughter.

The Salt Lake Tribune reports Reno Mahe and his wife, Sunny, filed the lawsuit on behalf of their daughter Elsie in district court.

The 3-year-old died in

November 2016, a week after she was found tangled in a cord attached to blinds at the Mahe's home in Utah County.

Attorney Alan Mortensen represents the Mahes. He says some manufacturers place a safety mechanism that ensures the blinds' cords can't get in a position to strangle a child.

Mahe played five seasons in the NFL for the Philadelphia Eagles from 2003 to 2007. He coached at BYU from 2016-2017.

VIDEOGRAPHER NEEDED

Must have own professional-grade camera or smart phone capable of shooting in low-light. Will negotiate fee for images.

SKETCH ARTIST also needed.

Please email fsallison@live.com

BYU students lobby to pass discounted marriage license bill

By JENNA ALTON

BYU senior Megan Griffes watched her professor testify at the Utah Capitol last year about a bill that would discount marriage licenses for couples that receive premarital education. Little did she know, just a year later she would be campaigning for the passage of an updated version of the bill.

Griffes and several other BYU students have become actively involved in the Utah Legislature by lobbying for the passage of SB54. The bill differs from the original bill logistically but shares the same goal: providing a \$20 discount on marriage licenses for couples that invest in premarital education.

"The government makes a huge difference on how we do family because there's a lot of laws around the family," Griffes, a family life student, said. "If we can do things that encourage family life education, I need to be part of that because that's what I want to do for a career."

Griffes' involvement with SB54 started a few weeks ago, when her family life professor, Alan Hawkins, asked her to lead a social media campaign to raise public support for the bill.

"You can provide expert testimony on a bill and explain the rationale for all these kind of things, but I think it's also very important for legislation like this that the legislators see that there is public support," Hawkins said.

Griffes said the major focus of her campaign is a change.org petition.

To promote the petition, Griffes shares the link on various social media groups, presents information about the bill before classes start, coordinates with political clubs on campus and even approaches students between classes.

"When I work especially hard



Megan Griffes

BYU family life major students Jyllian Sanchez, Megan Griffes and Jarna Knuteson stand in front of the Utah Capitol building on Feb. 1 after attending the committee hearing on SB54.

on it one day, the numbers really increase because we're getting it out through professors and students," Griffes said. "It's really exciting to be so involved. I've never been this involved in a bill."

After two weeks, the petition earned 749 signatures. Many signatures came from BYU students who also support the bill.

"Simple steps taken early can have major positive repercussions down the road," said Matthew Jensen, a BYU senior studying human development. "Anything we can do to encourage that, we should do."

Jensen signed the petition. He is the oldest of eight children and said his involvement in his own family motivated him to study family life.

"It feels good to have a chance to stand up and speak out, even in a small way, for something I believe in and feel strongly about," Jensen said.

Legislation is just one of many ways to support and strengthen the family, according to Jensen.

"A society of happy and productive citizens from happy and productive families is definitely the kind of society I'd want to live in," Jensen said. "It may be a far-off dream, but it's something worth working towards through whatever avenues are available to us."

Family life students are not the only ones signing and sharing the petition. BYU math education student Brooke Parker took premarital classes before getting married in December and now supports SB54.

"This is just a small way that can make a big difference in strengthening relationships," Parker said. "For me personally, I think it was worth giving up a total of six hours to learn about things that matter and will hopefully make a big difference in our marriage."

Griffes, who is pursuing a minor in civic engagement, said the best way to become more involved in public policy and state government is through small things, like signing

petitions, attending hearings at the Capitol and volunteering.

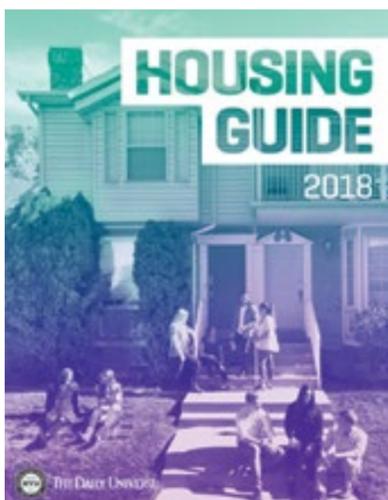
"Civic engagement is really important, and it's really important to know what's going on around you, but don't feel intimidated or overwhelmed by what you don't know," Griffes said. "Just use what you do know and it will build."

In the coming weeks, Griffes said she will continue to campaign in hopes of reaching at least 1,000 signatures on the petition. The petition will be referenced in a testimony to the House to show public support of SB54.

Griffes said her experience with campaigning and the feeling of support has motivated her to be more involved in the future. The campaign will also count as the capstone project for her civic engagement minor.

"It makes me really proud that I know I'm doing something that's going to make a positive change in hopefully lots of other people's lives, especially future couples," Griffes said.

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