



Hannah Miner

Rose Stott, bottom middle, and other students volunteer time in the Wilkinson Student Center at Y-Serve's Project Protect to help provide masks for frontline caregivers.

## Y-Serve hosts mask-sewing station on campus

By HANNAH MINER

Y-Serve is hosting an on-campus service opportunity for volunteers who want to help sew masks for frontline caregivers.

BYU has joined with Utah's other secondary education institutions in support of ProjectProtect's "Sew Your True Colors" campaign. The campaign invites universities across the state to

join efforts to provide masks for health care workers by sewing masks using thread that match the school's colors.

ProjectProtect is a collaboration between Intermountain Healthcare, University of Utah Health, Latter-day Saint Charities and non-profits throughout the state. Its goal is to sew 5 million masks for frontline caregivers. As of May 20, ProjectProtect has received 3,930,000 masks from 39,300 volunteers.

Y-Serve began hosting its ProjectProtect station on May 18 and made a goal

to sew 500 masks during its two weeks hosting the volunteer station. Y-Serve director Chris Crippen said that volunteers at their station have managed to sew about 200 masks already. The project is currently the only Y-Serve opportunity available and allows for precautions such as social distancing and wearing face masks.

Organization of the event was encouraged by BYU's dean of students and included collaboration with other organizations, such as Stitching Hearts

Worldwide, whose director helped obtain kits for Y-Serve's event. Sewing machines were provided by BYU's on-campus housing and as repairs on the machines were made, there was room for more volunteers.

Y-Serve's ProjectProtect station is located in the Wilkinson Student Center, and volunteers are welcomed from 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. every weekday until May 29. Interested volunteers can sign up for one-hour blocks during those time frames.

## Hiring processes becoming more convenient, casual



By LAUREN LETHBRIDGE

First in series

Companies looking for new employees have been forced to conduct much of the hiring process virtually, requiring hiring managers and potential candidates to adapt.

Companies that are conducting interviews online are using platforms like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Some even use systems like Spark Hire to allow potential candidates to record their answers to various interview questions.

"Virtual career fairs and virtual job interviews are now standard operating procedure," said BYU Career Studio Director Justin Jones.

Jones said the Career Studio has provided resources for students to practice online interviews. These resources allow students to practice answering recorded questions or schedule a mock interview with a career mentor using Zoom.

Virtual interviews are a good alternative, Jones said. "They are safe, simple and efficient."

Conducting interviews online allows the interviews to take place anywhere, removing physical barriers. Jones said less time is spent trying to coordinate schedules.

Hiring decisions may be made more quickly because each member of a hiring committee can view recorded answers from candidates at their own convenience, Jones said.

"Now that communicating online is



Photo illustration by Preston Crawley

Many job seekers are going to virtual interviews while wearing comfortable, informal clothing that cannot be seen by the interviewer.

common practice for everyone, the barriers to adaptation have been overcome and this (process) will be the new normal," he said.

Virtual interviews can also make the initial screening portion of the hiring process easier and more convenient, said Brad Morris, the human resources director at doTERRA.

Morris said the company has received positive feedback from its hiring managers about virtual interviews. The HR team is finding ways to continue to implement technology in their hiring process.

The company has seen more applications throughout the pandemic. "We are fortunate to be in a stable position and have seen an increase in demand for our products, which in turn enables

us to keep everyone employed and hiring to go uninterrupted," he said.

About 80% of doTERRA's workforce is currently working from home. Morris said doTERRA has communicated with employees frequently through video and email.

"Overall communication throughout the company has improved since people have to be more deliberate in their communication instead of the informal conversations that happened in passing previously," he said.

Recent BYU graduate Haley Butterfield said she feels that virtual hiring processes might result in a feeling of disconnection.

"I don't feel quite as invested as I would be if I actually went to the office and was interviewed in person," she

said.

Butterfield said she dislikes the ambiguity of a virtual interview and that it's hard to know the acceptable etiquette and rules to follow.

"Some of the interviewers are more laid back when they're working from home and it's hard to know exactly what to expect," she said. "Do I acknowledge the cute baby in the interviewer's arms?"

Butterfield said it is hard to know what level of professionalism is expected from both ends of the interview, though virtual interviews are often more relaxed.

"(They) lower my inhibitions, but I don't act as professional as I would in an in-person interview," she said.

BYU student JC Macedone said he also felt more comfortable in the online interview process — maybe even too comfortable.

"I didn't feel as much pressure or incentive to give my all to the interview," he said. "I was in my bedroom, I didn't have to go anywhere and I didn't need to have as much conversation as I usually would."

Macedone participated in a Zoom group interview that lasted about an hour. Each interviewee gave a short presentation and then had an individual breakout session with an interviewer.

"I liked the options available to provide a more interactive experience," Macedone said. "There was more asking for individual people to participate and we could share our screen to help others be more involved in what we were saying."

Virtual hiring could continue to be standard for many companies, something that may prove a positive experience for some and a negative for others.

"(Job hunting) seems like an uphill battle all the time and the virtual aspect adds more weight and makes the battle harder," Butterfield said. "But I am learning as I go and still putting out applications."

## New climate change course to be offered

By LISI MERKLEY

BYU will offer a new course about climate change this fall. While many departments have taught classes related to climate change, this course is said to be the first that will focus on both the science and solutions.

The class, PWS 180, is open to students of all majors and has a limit of 90 students. The draft syllabus for the course shows it will cover what controlled climate in the past, how humans affect climate, the consequences of climate change and what can be done to stop or improve climate change.

In addition to teaching students about the science of climate change, the course will also touch on faith-based subjects like stewardship and what it means to take care of God's children and creations.

BYU Plant and Wildlife Sciences professor Ben Abbott said the class's code, PWS 180, refers to the course's goal to change people's perspectives on climate change, or cause those perspectives to do a 180 degree turn. "The most common attitudes that I encounter are either that there is no hope that we can make a difference or that we're not causing the problem anyway," Abbott said. "Both of those perspectives undermine coordinated action to solve climate change, and I hope this course can reverse, or at least challenge those views."

Abbott will teach the course and helped spearhead the creation of the class. Last year Abbott noticed many of his students were asking questions about climate change in his environmental biology class, and he wondered if the students weren't learning about the issue in their other classes.

Abbott and other professors got together to look through the courses BYU offered to see if there were any courses being taught on climate change specifically. They found that many classes taught certain elements of climate change — like a previously-taught geology class that focused on what caused climate change in the past — but no classes focused on current human-caused climate change.

"We just realized this was a huge gap compared to other universities of BYU's size, which often will have more than a dozen courses on climate change because this is such an important and overarching issue that connects to so many different fields," Abbott said.

According to Abbott, the university was supportive of the development of the course and helped them form their proposal and then get it reviewed quickly. Abbot said he was encouraged by the support the course received because it showed him that the university cared about the subject. "I really felt like BYU stayed true to its mission where we want to equip students to learn deeply about the subjects that they are studying, but also prepare them to go forth and make a difference in the world."

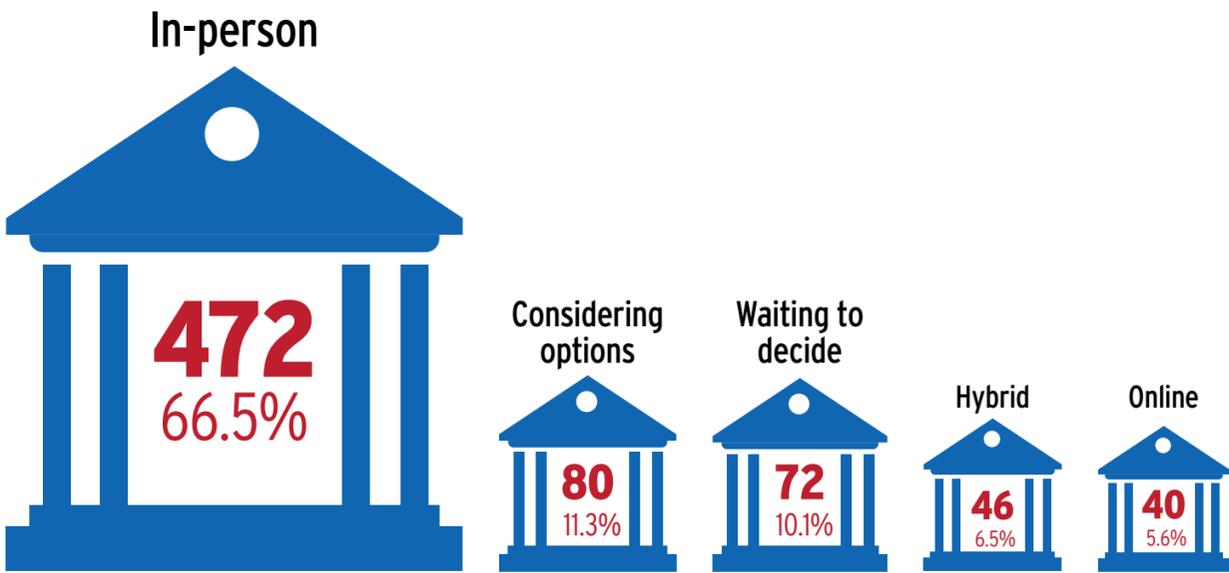
BYU Biology Department Chair Richard Gill has included climate change in his conservation biology courses and hopes this new climate change class will be a launching point for students in all majors to continue studying the issue. According to Gill, climate change will affect students studying everything from environmental science to political science and humanities. "You could almost point to every college on campus where a major there would be a better major in that college after taking an interdisciplinary course like this one."

Jani Radebaugh, a planetary scientist and BYU geology professor, wasn't involved in the creation of the course, but said the timing of the course is perfect because it aligns well with the interests of current BYU students. "They're motivated to try to make a difference in the world and understand where their responsibilities lie."

# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Outbreak updates

### Colleges' plans for fall semester



Ben Daniel

May 21 data from The Chronicle of Higher Education drawn from colleges and universities that have made statements regarding reopening in the fall.

### Outside the outbreak



#### Man who filmed Arbery shooting charged with murder

William "Roddie" Bryan, a 50-year-old Georgia man who filmed cellphone video of Ahmaud Arbery's fatal shooting, was arrested and charged with murder. Arbery was killed on Feb. 23 after Gregory McMichael and his son, Travis McMichael, spotted him jogging in their neighborhood. Authorities took more than two months to arrest the McMichales on charges of felony murder and aggravated assault. The video Bryan took from the cab of his vehicle helped stir a national outcry.



#### New probe ordered for explicit claims in student death

Utah will open a new investigation into allegations that a University of Utah police officer Miguel Deras showed explicit photos of student athlete Lauren McCluskey before she was fatally shot in 2018. McCluskey had contacted university police more than 20 times before her death to report harassment by a man she had dated, Melvin Shawn Rowland. Deras denies the allegations which quoted unnamed officers saying he had "bragged" about having the explicit images.



#### \$1.3 billion contract for border wall awarded

A \$1.3 billion contract for a section of President Donald Trump's border wall was awarded to a North Dakota company favored by the president. The contract is the largest to date for the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Republican U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer of North Dakota confirmed the contract with Fisher Sand and Gravel Co. will oversee the building through a 42-mile section of "really tough terrain in the mountains" in Arizona. Trump has promised to build 450 miles of wall along the border with Mexico by the end of the year.



#### Former Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan dies at 78

Former Utah Jazz head coach Jerry Sloan died Friday at 78. Sloan was diagnosed four years ago with Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia. He spent 23 years as Utah Jazz coach and took the team to the NBA Finals in 1997 and 1998. Sloan is fourth on the NBA's victory list. Sloan presided over the glory days of the John Stockton and Karl Malone pick-and-roll-to-perfection era. He was a two-time Chicago Bulls All-Star player and an assistant coach on the 1996 gold medal U.S. Olympic team.

### Americans harbor strong fear of new infections

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES — Strong concern about a second wave of coronavirus infections is reinforcing widespread opposition among Americans to reopening public places, a new poll finds, even as many state leaders step up efforts to return to life before the pandemic. Yet support for public health restrictions imposed to control the virus's spread is no

longer overwhelming. It has been eroded over the past month by a widening partisan divide, with Democrats more cautious and Republicans less anxious as President Donald Trump urges states to "open up our country," according to the new survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The poll finds that 83% of Americans are at least somewhat concerned that lifting restrictions in their area will lead to additional infections.

### Apple, Google release technology for pandemic apps

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple and Google on Wednesday released long-awaited smartphone technology to automatically notify people if they might have been exposed to the coronavirus. The companies said 22 countries and several U.S. states are already planning to build voluntary phone apps using their software. It relies on Bluetooth wireless technology to detect when someone who downloaded

the app has spent time near another app user who later tests positive for the virus. Many governments have already tried, mostly unsuccessfully, to roll out their own phone apps to fight the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those apps have encountered technical problems on Apple and Android phones and haven't been widely adopted. They often use GPS to track people's location, which Apple and Google are banning from their new tool because of privacy and accuracy concerns.

### Employee sues Utah company after contracting COVID-19

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — A woman who contracted the coronavirus in Utah has sued her employer arguing the American Fork-based company did not take proper precautions to protect its employees against COVID-19. Juana Victoria Flores filed the lawsuit Wednesday, May 13 against Built Bar, which manufactures and distributes nutritional supplements, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

The company denies the claims, saying it has met and exceeded government guidelines on sanitizing and social distancing while working to keep employees safe. Flores said she emailed human resources April 8 concerned about the number of people on the production line who were sick and recommended a professional company be brought in to clean up or fumigate the building. Flores developed a cough the next day and was diagnosed with the coronavirus less than a week later, she said.

### US extends heightened border enforcement during coronavirus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A Trump administration policy of quickly expelling most migrants stopped along the border because of the COVID-19 pandemic was indefinitely extended Tuesday, with a top U.S. health official arguing that what had been a short-term order was still needed to protect the country from the virus. The order issued by Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, authorizes Customs and Border Protection to immediately remove migrants, including people seeking asylum, as a way to prevent the potential spread of the virus while in custody. President Donald Trump's administration issued the initial 30-day order in March, and it was extended for another month in April. The new version notably has no fixed end date, though it says the CDC will review public health data every 30 days to ensure it is still necessary. Administration officials have defended the policy amid criticism.

## THE UNIVERSE

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### Utah's Conley, NBA waiting for news

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mike Conley is waiting for further instructions. So is the rest of the NBA. The league is continuing to work through multiple return-to-play scenarios, with two people with knowledge of the situation saying Wednesday that Orlando — which has been talked about for several weeks — along with Las Vegas and Houston remain under consideration. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the league has made no final decisions. More than half of the league's teams have now opened facilities for voluntary player workouts, with Minnesota expected to be the next to do so on Thursday. Utah is among the teams that has opened, but Conley is still at his home in Ohio and has yet to return to Salt Lake City for those sessions at the Jazz facility. "I've been working as if we're coming back," Conley said Wednesday. "If anything, I'd like to know a direction, just to know whether to keep putting the foot on the pedal or, you know, back off a little bit and rest easier."

# Utah wedding industry hit hard during pandemic

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

Wedding-centric businesses have lost large amounts of business as couples across Utah cancel or postpone weddings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chad Grose, owner of Sweetheart Bridal in Provo, said the company has lost a huge chunk of sales since the pandemic started.

"Probably 60-70% of our whole business has dropped off," Grose said, specifying that about 80% of the company's formal wear sales and 40% of bridal gown sales have dropped.

Before the pandemic, Grose said eight of the shop's 10 bridal dressing rooms were almost always full and that this time of year the store usually has 10-15 tuxedo appointments a day. Now, the store only has about four people in total come in each day.

Grose said the hardest part about all this has been juggling the trickle down effects of lost revenue, including how many staff members he can pay.

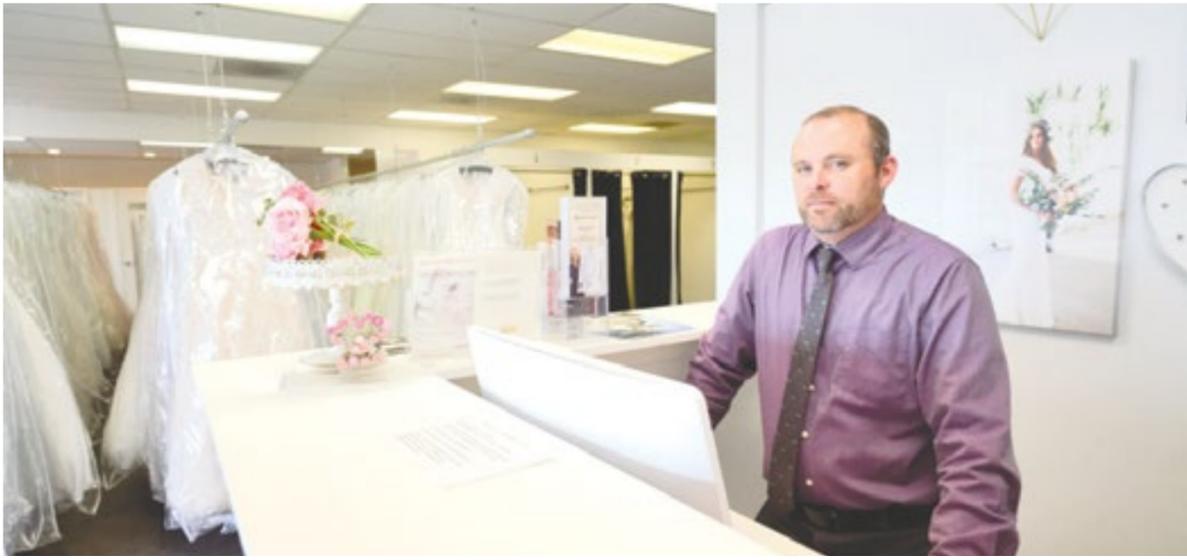
"We've cut our staff way down. Normally we have about eight employees working. We're down to basically three because we just don't have the business. There's no need to have people here," he said.

Fewer staff members doesn't mean the shop has reduced hours, though. Grose said it was necessary to maintain the store usual hours to receive shipments and accommodate clients' schedules. This means Grose has to pick up the slack. "I'm here all the time," he said.

He said his current day to day reminds him of when he first started the business when it was a one-person operation.

"It's really hard to see everything grow and then all of a sudden everything come to a screeching halt and go backwards," he said. "It doesn't feel like I'm progressing."

For now, he's trying to keep in



Sweetheart Bridal Owner Chade Grose stands at the store's front desk. Grose said the company has seen about a 60-70% decrease in business since the pandemic hit. Scan this photo with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of this story.

Preston Crawley



line with CDC guidelines and to limit the number of people in the store at any given time.

Though COVID-19 has changed much about daily life for most Americans, young couples still want to celebrate their wedding day. "This is still one of the greatest days of their life," Grose said. "That's really what it comes down to is how they feel that day. So if they look and feel their best and the way they wanted to, it's OK if you don't have the big party."

Jessica Bird, a bridal consultant at the Utah Bride Room in Draper, also said there has been a decrease in business, especially since spring and summer are usually the busiest times for weddings.

"This was kind of the worst time for a pandemic to hit," she said.

Dress boutiques aren't the only businesses that depend on weddings for a large portion of their revenue.

Penguin Brothers co-owner Brandon Barkdull said his business has also suffered since

about 70% of the income is based on catering, specifically from March to September.

"Basically our business has been put on pause," he said. "A lot of our weddings are canceled or postponed indefinitely and we're trying to do our best to be accommodating because we know how hard it is as a bride right now to plan your wedding with so much uncertainty."

Barkdull said Penguin Brothers has made some changes to accommodate brides, such as getting rid of deposits and reducing the minimum number of people needed for catering services.

Even so, the company has had more traffic to its storefronts than expected, partially due to a "Save the Penguins" campaign (started to give out-of-state customers a way to help the business). Barkdull said this year is going to be a "skip year" in terms of the business's progress. The company opened a catering facility to help handle the load of food orders just before the pandemic hit.

"That was probably the most stressful thing. We were planning for that growth, and we're making purchases and investing in the growth of the company, and we won't really see the benefits of that 'til another year," he said. "Our plans for growth and our goals, we're probably not going to reach that anymore."

Despite these challenges, Barkdull said the company is in a position where it won't go under and that he's grateful for some of the positives that will ultimately come out of the experience.

"It forces us to think outside of the box and kind of re-strategize and come up with new ways to work around this obstacle and so in a way it's been like a positive thing," he said. "There's a couple of opportunities that came out of it that we probably wouldn't have known about or tried without this COVID-19 era."

BYU graduate and florist Marianne Hunt also said nearly all of her March, April and May

weddings have been postponed.

"A lot of them haven't postponed to a specific date yet so it's all very ambiguous," Hunt said. "That is my livelihood, so it's been very difficult because that is what I've chosen to specialize in, and there haven't been any (weddings)."

She said she's not alone and is grateful for that. Since everyone is going through the pandemic together, it's been easier for her to work with her bank about options for her loans and mortgage, she said. "For the most part, people have been very kind and very understanding and helpful that way," she said. "If it was just me and I just lost my job, I don't think they would have been necessarily quite as accommodating."

One of the biggest challenges she's faced is supply. Most of her suppliers are out of state and don't have the means to get her flowers since airlines aren't running their normal schedules.

"The flower industry has been hit so hard," she said,

adding that one of her suppliers, a grower who had been in business for 100 years, recently emailed her saying they were going out of business.

The suppliers who are still operating have to ship flowers through FedEx, something she says will drive up prices. Hunt said it'll take time before flower selection isn't so limited and prices return to normal.

"I'm very hopeful and super optimistic that we'll get back to where we need to be," she said. "I also would plead with every bride to incorporate flowers in their celebrations, no matter how small, and still make it a beautiful and memorable day."

She also encouraged brides to look on the positive side of guidelines limiting large gatherings.

"In some ways, a wedding of 20 people of your just your family and your parents and your grandparents is great," Hunt said. "There's nothing wrong with events with 400 people, I love those too, but you have to stretch the budget so that it's hard to do great things."

Bird agreed with this positive sentiment. "There's so many companies and so many talented people who are available right now for exactly what they want," she said. "And it's not just that we're trying to make money. I get such a high, such a happiness, from helping other people find their 'happily ever after.'"

Bird isn't sure what the long-term effects of the pandemic will be for the wedding industry, but she hopes the one change that comes out of it is a focus on celebrating the love between the bride and groom rather than throwing a party.

The wedding industry in Utah may be in a better position than those same businesses in the rest of the country, though. Bird said most bridal shops outside the state usually close during the winter.

"In Utah every season is wedding season," Bird said. "We get brides all through the year, all the time."

## QUARANTINE GOT YOU FEELING CRABBY?



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# Is telemedicine the future of healthcare?

By ALICIA MATSUURA

“Going to the doctor” has taken on a whole new meaning with the rise of telemedicine — the practice of providing care for patients remotely through technology.

Some patients have turned to telemedicine to communicate with their health care providers without leaving their homes as concerns surrounding COVID-19 increase.

Kerry Palakanis has been a family nurse practitioner for over 30 years and joined the Intermountain Healthcare team almost two years ago. Originally from a small town on the East Coast, Palakanis spent the last decade spearheading the advancement of telemedicine in rural, underserved areas. Her expertise has brought additional value to Intermountain’s telemedicine systems, especially in light of COVID-19.

“This pandemic has catapulted telemedicine decades beyond where we anticipated it would be,” Palakanis said. “It created a requirement to have alternate means of providing care so we don’t increase exposure risk.”

Telemedicine has been around for over 30 years, but has made enormous strides in the last decade and especially the last few months. Prior to COVID-19, health care providers at Intermountain were doing 200–300 video visits with their patients per month. In April 2020 alone, video visits skyrocketed to 52,000, according to Palakanis.

“People have become more comfortable with video visits, so we’ve seen enrollment numbers go up,” Palakanis said.

In an age where technology is an integral part of daily life, the transition from in-person visits to telecommunication has been

relatively easy and is even preferred by some people.

## Will remote healthcare become the norm?

Kayleena Hendrickson is a fifth-grade elementary school teacher from Herriman, Utah. She said she enjoys the convenience of scheduling an appointment through a call and not having to leave her home to meet with her therapist.

“It’s been awesome. I don’t have to drive anywhere,” Hendrickson said. “I even asked one of my therapists if after quarantine is over, we could continue meeting over Zoom.”

Hendrickson has also shifted to online appointments with her obstetrician and said meeting through a computer screen didn’t feel much different than meeting in person.

“He just asked me a list of questions, told me what prescriptions I needed to pick up and gave me an order to get my blood drawn, do a urine test and other necessary lab work,” Hendrickson said. “It felt like a normal doctor’s appointment. In fact, he scheduled all my appointments out until November as virtual meetings.”

Katia Borden, from Holladay, Utah, has been receiving care through telemedicine since March. The concept was new to her, but she said the transition has been a great experience.

“It was helpful because the thought of going into the office is intimidating, especially with all the people in the waiting room and the risk of being exposed to germs,” Borden said. “It’s also nice because you don’t have to wait. You can just call and check in.”

Borden communicates with her health care providers on a weekly basis through FaceTime. In some ways, she said it has been “less intimidating” to speak through a screen.

“It’s nice to just have a



Associated Press

Telemedicine has allowed patients to use technology to communicate with their health care providers remotely and is expanding rapidly.

conversation over the phone,” Borden said. “It’s been a little easier to talk and be more open. I think it’s a great concept that’s going to be something we use more in the future.”

Borden has also met with her children’s doctors remotely. Recently, her daughter completed a physical exam through a video conferencing app called Vido.

According to Palakanis, most of a physical exam is done by reviewing the patient’s health history and going through a set of questions and answers. When it comes to examining

the patient’s body, technology allows doctors to look at the skin and into the ears and mouths of patients.

“Even with a simple cell phone you can look at lesions and rashes. You can have a patient hold the phone up to their mouth and see the back of their throat,” Palakanis said.

## Overcoming hurdles with telemedicine

The cost of building the infrastructure for telemedicine can be expensive, as can training health care providers and patients in effectively using it.

For example, proper use includes abiding by HIPAA guidelines in protecting the personal health information of patients.

“Frequently in the past, we had patients say, ‘Why can’t I just Skype or FaceTime you?’ The answer to that is, it doesn’t provide that protection of personal health information,” Palakanis said.

There is now a national waiver in place that allows the use of non-HIPAA compliant platforms for communication. Intermountain Healthcare, however, continues to use traditional HIPAA compliant platforms

that are currently built into the infrastructure.

While many people find comfort and ease in using telemedicine, Palakanis said there is generally a learning process and sometimes a hesitancy in using telemedicine for first-time patients.

“It’s a matter of finding comfort and being accustomed to a different means of communication,” Palakanis said. “But we find that once a patient or health care provider uses telemedicine, they embrace it wholeheartedly and frequently want to use it more.”

## Utah newsrooms protect freedom of the press during pandemic



Hannah Miner

The Daily Universe newsroom has been empty for weeks with its entire staff working remotely because of the pandemic shutdown.

By JENNY GOLDSBERRY

Utah news organizations are fighting to maintain the freedom of the press during COVID-19, and they’re doing it from remote newsrooms.

The Salt Lake Tribune began working remotely on March 13. Other newsrooms, including the Deseret News, KUER and the Daily Universe followed. Tribune Editor Jennifer Napier-Pearce said her reporters are learning that they can successfully work remotely. “I suspect more of the team will (work remotely in the future),” Napier-Pearce said. “I don’t think the all-remote newsroom will be the new normal.”

Savannah Hopkinson is an opinion editor for the Deseret News. Her team now meets with sources and each other via virtual meetings. “It’s a different dynamic,” Hopkinson said.

In trying to keep social distancing mandates, reporters are also changing how they speak with their sources. Chuck Wing, director of photography for KSL-TV and the

Deseret News, said speaking to people virtually could take a toll on reporters’ storytelling ability. “The interpersonal connection is just not the same.”

The sentiment is the same within the Salt Lake Tribune. “My reporters and photographers say they miss in-person interaction,” Napier-Pearce said.

A far more pressing issue, according to Napier-Pearce and Wing, has been a decrease in transparency from sources. “We’ve had to call out officials,” Napier-Pearce said.

The Deseret News recently had to deal with a lack of transparency from the University of Utah when drive-up COVID-19 testing became available. The university tried to stop the publication of a photo of a patient being tested from their car. Instead, the university offered a staged photo for publication.

In the end, the Deseret News chose to publish photos of real patients. “We’re not going to publish fake photos,” Wing said.

In April, HB 3009 was presented to the Utah House of Representatives. It outlined a

situation dealing with “additional extraordinary circumstances that allow a local governmental entity to delay responding to a records request.” This would mean that governments could delay reporters’ access to public information.

Jeffery Hunt is a lawyer who specializes in First Amendment media law. He represented the Utah Media Coalition to object to the provision. According to Hunt, government employees should find a way to provide this service remotely. “Just because there is a public health emergency doesn’t mean that transparency goes out the window,” Hunt said. “I would argue that just the opposite should be occurring.”

The bill ultimately did not pass. “It’s absolutely critical that we have advocates for the press,” he said.

When it comes to attacks on the press, Wing said he’s grateful coalitions of news organizations have banded together. “There’s strength in numbers,” he said. “There are an awful lot of people out there who crave the information.”



Preston Crawley

A truck pulls up to a COVID-19 testing site near Intermountain Utah Valley Clinic on May 7.

## Forbes, BYU econ professor predict rapid economic COVID-19 recovery in Provo

By SPENCER MCWILLIAMS

Provo was named one of the top 10 U.S. cities that will recover quickest from the pandemic, according to Forbes Magazine and Moody’s Analytics.

Moody’s looked at the top 100 metro areas in the country to find this information, making a comparison of the population density of a city and jobs that require a higher education degree.

“Among the 10 best cities are small college towns, which are particularly well-poised for a recovery,” a Forbes article reads.

So, what makes Provo unique out of the many other college towns in the U.S.?

BYU economics professor Brennan Platt weighed in on the report and how Provo and Utah County may stand out.

He said having a very educated workforce has helped Utah County the most.

“I was just looking at a statistic that said 40% of adults in Utah County have a bachelor’s degree,” he said. “That also speaks to the type of jobs that are here.”

Platt mentioned Silicon

Slopes and how its expansion has placed a lot of people in tech jobs who have had less disruption in their work when the pandemic hit. “If you look at the type of people who are able to continue working through teleconferencing, it’s often people in the tech sector or other jobs requiring higher education.”

Moody’s Analytics also identified this unique factor, referencing how fast-growing tech hubs like Silicon Valley in California will become the leaders of the post-pandemic world.

Platt said another unique thing about Utah County in particular is the young population.

“The median age here in Utah County is 24 and a half years old,” he said. “If you take the full United States, the median age is 38 years old. We’re over a decade younger.”

Moody’s Analytics provides data in collaboration with John Hopkins University showing that 8% of the population in Utah County is over the age of 65 in comparison to the national rate of 16.7%.

According to Platt, the young population is an ideal factor in helping the economy.

“A very young population tends to be gravitating more

towards the tech sector,” he said. “They also tend to be better poised to adjust their careers, which is often necessary as you’re coming out of a recession.”

The spread of COVID-19 has not been as widespread in Provo as it has in other cities. According to Moody’s, the total COVID-19 case rate in Provo-Orem is 0.1% in comparison to the U.S.’s 16.7%.

“The fact that we haven’t had as widespread outbreaks here in Utah, it does a lot for people’s comfort levels of participating in the economy,” said Platt. “Hopefully still within caution and within guidelines of social distancing.”

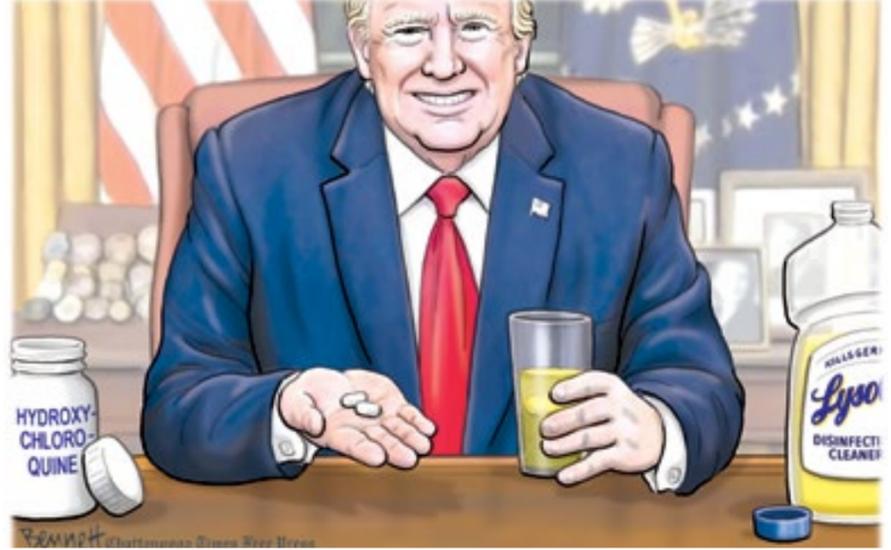
Platt acknowledged the diversity of opinions on guidelines with wearing masks and opening businesses, but he thinks there is compliance with the suggested guidelines overall. He recognized The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ large influence in helping people comply.

“When the Church decided to shut down all gatherings in the temple and all of our meetings, it became a big deal,” he said. “I think it helped our communities to realize that this is something we ought to be serious about.”

## The Joker



## THE TRUMP HEALTH REGIMEN



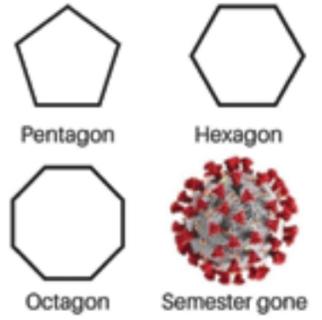
The Government: Please stay inside!  
People who never jogged before in their lives:



Week 1 working from home vs. Week 6 working from home



Me listening to my teacher during an online class



## 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

**@MikeJonesSez**

I got a text from a friend that said "We've decided on Aug 15th" so I excitedly put "\_\_\_\_\_ Masters Thesis Defense" in my calendar and then 5 min later I realized it was her WEDDING

**@CrumbCookies**

face mask warm cookies

self care

**@AaronJustvig**

Professor on zoom just said "I'm like a mullet, business on top, party on the bottom" and then showed off the MC Hammer pants he was wearing @HeardAtBYU

**@JediJames13**

I just watched a dramatic Provo breakup outside my apartment it was really entertaining but also so sad.

**@nay\_oh\_mie**

You either die making fun of provo tools or live long enough to see yourself become one

**@LaurenCanty15**

Just found out a guy I dated before quarantine just got engaged... and that's on living in Provo.

**@rodeoman**

i respect how the Taco Bell drive thru cashier doesn't read ur order back - u trust them and they trust u

**@CamilleHawaii**

I can't believe it but I'm missing Utah?! I miss driving by the snow capped mountains and the never ending cookie and soda shops

**@DarneApelu**

Researching Moana for HW, brings back this funny memory. Towards the end of my mission the elders would play "How Far I'll go." And I thought the song was from like an EFY album and was about baptism. Imagine my surprise coming home and watching Moana for the first time.

**@zachary\_ibarra**

I think today's workout will be learning JLo's Super Bowl choreography

**@hankrsmith**

I realized today my favorite flavor of ice cream is more.

**@ChannyMill**

Added some \*vegetables into the diet today, eating healthy feels great  
\*the tomatoes in my Taco Bell Chalupa

**@akerr12**

Can we just talk about the fact that I emailed this cute missionary I didn't personally know for a YEAR & A HALF only to have him come home a couple months ago, hang out once, have a global pandemic hit, & find out that he now has a girlfriend?? I love my life

**@notrachelharvey**

when you see someone on your zoom meeting wearing airpods like ok i didn't realize the bourgeoisie were here

**@CollegeStudent**

April is "save your GPA month" and May is "save your mental health" month.

**@camillewhis**

Missionaries come home and don't know how to pose for a picture without two thumbs up. I haven't been on a mission but I'm missionaries

**@poetickate**

in 2015 they asked "where do you see yourself in 5 years" and all of us were wrong

**@jans\_pants**

I'm taller than Harry Styles, so I've got that going for me, which is nice.

**@jettashmetta**

I hate when online ads start showing me things I already bought online. YOU ALREADY WON. STOP DOING A VICTORY LAP

**@JamiexIsabelle**

Turns out the 16 year old who loved David Archuleta is now just a 28 year old who loves David Archuleta

**@stinkyposeykt**

Why am I still intimidated by cool teens ??? I'm about to be a sophomore in college and I saw some juniors and seniors from HS on my walk tonight and i tensed up

**@joewheat27**

In these times of social distancing you have to find creative ways to serve, like sending retweets rather than just likes. It's the little things.

**@kindahungrym**

telling my dad that him wanting to throw me a graduation party is his dream not mine is my version of troy bolton telling his dad that playing basketball was his dream not troy's

**Tweets are unedited.**

## Universe staff thriving, not just surviving

I and most of the Universe staff members had plans to continue to work on campus when things began shutting down on campus unless directed to do otherwise. That quickly changed as the virus and government restrictions increased. By the third week in March, I was weighing whether to fly home to Mexico.

The decision ultimately ended up being an easy one given how well our staff had handled covering the virus initially. Our first coronavirus story was published on March 9, after a COVID-19 case was confirmed in someone who attended the BYU-Gonzaga men's basketball game. Then from the time BYU suspended classes on March 12 to when it officially moved Winter Semester online on March 18, we published 35 articles. I had full faith in my team that we'd be able to continue producing stories remotely — and they have gone above and beyond over the past two months despite the fact that we have staff working everywhere from Utah and Arizona to Virginia and California — and Mexico.

We've continued to produce both a weekly print edition as well as daily updates to universe.byu.edu. Working remotely has also forced us to adapt and innovate. We provided daily COVID-19 updates during most of March and April to keep the campus community aware of all the new changes to the BYU campus. We also introduced initiatives like "Outside the outbreak," a weekly compilation of non-coronavirus news, and "Good news Thursdays," highlights of positive stories.

I'm proud of our staff and what we've been able to accomplish over the past few months, and we will continue to provide in-depth coverage of the stories that are important to the campus community. Thanks for sticking with us.

—Sydnee Gonzalez  
Universe Editor in Chief



Preston Crawley

The Universe editorial staff smiles for a photo during a staff Zoom meeting on May 12. From top left: Director Steve Fidel, photographer Preston Crawley, sports reporter Jackson Payne, editor in chief Sydnee Gonzalez, web editor Lisi Merkley, copy editor Erin Goulding, opinion editor Spencer McWilliams, photographer Hannah Miner, newsroom manager Carrie Moore, campus editor Karina Andrew, senior reporter Lauren Lethbridge, reporter Emily Andersen, photographer Addie Blacker, sports editor Josh Carter and reporter Kenzie Holbrook.

## OPINION OUTPOST

### Future of telework

Facebook on Thursday became the latest company to join the likes of Twitter and Nationwide Insurance in giving large portions of their employees the option to work from home, possibly forever. We expect most of Utah's businesses won't make such a drastic leap, but they should still glean insight from these national giants: Prepare now for a future of telework.

Remote work could be a major boon for working parents, especially mothers, as they maintain careers following childbirth. Even the flexibility of hybrid scheduling — some days in the office, some from home — could make a significant difference in reducing air pollution and road congestion.

—Editorial Board  
Deseret News

### Citizenship issues

Often at naturalization ceremonies, the new citizens are told that voting is their greatest privilege and responsibility. But with the ceremonies frozen and USCIS sitting on its hands, more than 140,000 would-be citizens have already been kept from registering to vote, a total that grows by 2,100 daily.

The various logistical hurdles to remote or virtual naturalization — ensuring that applicants turn in their green cards before receiving their certificates of naturalization, for instance — could be resolved if officials were determined to find solutions. But USCIS is the same agency that has thrown countless impediments in the paths of other immigrants.

—Editorial Board  
The Washington Post

### Safety over speed

As health experts keep reminding us, life will not return to anything resembling pre-pandemic normal until there is an effective and widely available coronavirus vaccine. And, as they also keep reminding us, it will take at least a year to do the testing and clinical trials necessary to ensure that

a vaccine candidate is safe for mass production.

So it's more than a little unsettling that President Trump's effort to expedite a vaccine for COVID-19 has a significantly shortened timeline, one that seems suspiciously connected to the political calendar rather than sound science.

Typically it takes years, not months, to complete the three

phases of clinical trials that take place before a vaccine can be marketed

Even if the sped-up process produces a perfectly effective COVID-19 vaccine, it is going to require an extensive and aggressive public education campaign to counter the growing distrust of vaccinations in general.

—Editorial Board  
Los Angeles Times

### Social distancing without the police

Aggressive police enforcement of social-distancing measures is nearly certain to harm the health and dignity of the city's black and Hispanic residents.

New York is facing a public health crisis, not a spike in crime. Black and Hispanic New Yorkers are already suffering disproportionately from the coronavirus. They don't need more policing. They need more help.

—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 Spencer McWilliams can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

## Shaylee Gonzales rebounds from torn ACL

By JACKSON PAYNE

BYU women's basketball point guard Shaylee Gonzales is back to full speed following a torn ACL in July 2019 and subsequent surgery.

While Gonzales described her nine-month recovery process as "the smoothest physical recovery," the road back to the court presented unexpected mental and emotional challenges for the redshirt sophomore.

"Throughout the season it's just really hard to watch and not be able to help your teammates," Gonzales said. "I had to look at it with a positive attitude and trust that this experience was going to make me better, that sitting and watching my team was going to open up my game more."

Gonzales starred as a freshman during the 2018-19 campaign, averaging 17 points and over four assists per game. She also racked up awards as the All-Conference First Team point guard, West Coast Conference Newcomer of the Year and the undisputed floor general for the conference champion Cougars.

However, following a charge gone awry during practice on July 15, 2019, Gonzales found herself watching from the sidelines as a spectator.

"Just as an athlete, your worst nightmare is to get injured and sit out, so having basketball taken away from me for a season was incredibly hard," Gonzales said. "I had thought that basketball was all that I was, but I was able to learn that I am much more than a basketball player. I never had anything wrong with my mental health before my injury, and it really took a toll on me."

Mental health among athletes, a subject deserving of much more attention, was well understood by Gonzales' coaches who were able to comprehend her perspective.

"Imagine something you've done your whole life that you love and are good at and then it's taken away from you," said assistant coach Melanie Day. "When you are not able to practice or play in games, it's just so demoralizing to sit there on the



Claire Gentry

Shaylee Gonzales shoots a 3-pointer over a Bulldogs defender during a win over Gonzaga in 2018. After missing the 2019-2020 season due to an ACL tear, Gonzales plans on playing next season.

sidelines and watch. (Shaylee) sat next to us coaches during the games and you could tell just how frustrated she was because she couldn't help."

Day and Gonzales talked often about Gonzales' mental health and remaining motivated despite the adversity.

"This was no easy surgery ... mentally it was very hard for her," Day said. "She could have easily stopped trying, but this kid is so motivated,

she did above and beyond what was asked of her."

Unsatisfied by idleness, Gonzales found ways to keep herself engaged in practice while "taking it easy" with her knee, including one-on-one dummy defense drills and individuals workouts.

Day credits Gonzales for "doing whatever she could to get back to playing" and for her ability to stay motivated despite the uncertainty of a long

term injury.

"I just commend her for that hard work because when you're working out without a game or anything coming up in the near future, it's so hard to stay motivated day in and day out, to keep consistent workouts going," Day said. "I am so impressed with her work ethic and being able to do that."

Gonzales, who received a medical redshirt for the 2019-20 season, sees the rehabilitation process as an

opportunity to "open up" her game and better understand her role as a piece in the team's puzzle.

"I've gotten to learn more from the coaches, hear their input and now I know what they want from me as a player," Gonzales said. "I've been able to learn more about what my teammates can do on the court by evaluating their play and now I know what I can do when I'm back on the court to help them get better."

The injury comeback has also allowed Gonzales to further reach out to her YouTube audience of over 100,000 subscribers and display some of the challenges facing athletes that go generally unseen in the public eye.

"People really only see us as athletes on a court or a screen playing our game, so they don't get to see us behind the scenes or see what we're really like as people," Gonzales said. "I really love showing everyone the college athlete life. Going through my injury, I feel like I've been able to motivate and inspire tons of people and show them how you can come back from an injury and still kill it."

With her health back in prime condition, expectations are high for Gonzales and the program as a whole, a group that includes All-WCC First Team guard Paisley Johnson and WCC Defensive Player of the Year Sara Hamson back for the 2020-21 campaign.

"My top goal is to have a better season than my freshman year, and we definitely want to win the WCC Tournament again," Gonzales said. "I just have a really deep drive and high expectations for myself, I know I can do it but that needs to come with hard work."

Day looks forward to watching her young point guard and the rest of the team reach their potential as they prepare for the 2020-21 season.

"Quite simply, we expect big things of Shaylee. We have a great team, we have a lot of pieces to our puzzle to make a great run into the NCAA Tournament," Day said. "Shaylee will be one of our leaders on the court, she'll be pushing the tempo and we'll hopefully be scoring a lot of points along with good, steady defense."

## Romney, Cougars stun No. 14 Boise State



First in series

By JOSH CARTER

Backup quarterbacks thrive off the thought that they could be thrown in the middle of the action at any time during any game.

Whether that happens against a bottom-feeder FCS team or against a nationally ranked rival, backups are constantly preparing for their chance to prove themselves.

For BYU redshirt freshman and third-string quarterback Baylor Romney, that chance came against No. 14 and undefeated Boise State on Oct. 19, 2019.

"This is what I've been preparing for since I graduated high school," Romney told reporters after the 28-25 Cougar win. "I've been preparing for my opportunity to come play at a collegiate level and it showed tonight."

Romney, a former University of Nevada commit, made his first career collegiate start against the Broncos on a cold, rainy Homecoming night at LaVell Edwards Stadium. Romney was thrown in the end of the game prior against USF, nearly leading the Cougars on a last-second comeback after second-string quarterback Jaren Hall suffered a concussion. However, the Boise game was Romney's first chance to have a full game to work with.

Despite going 2-1 to start the season with overtime wins at Tennessee and at home against No. 24 USC, BYU had lost the following three games heading into Homecoming weekend. Expectations were low as the Cougars prepped to face a Boise team that seemed poised to make a New Year's Six Bowl appearance.

The Broncos, however, were also forced to start a backup quarterback against BYU in Chase Cord after their



Hannah Miner

BYU backup quarterback Baylor Romney looks to throw during a game against Boise State on Oct. 19, 2019. Romney made his first career start in the game and led the Cougars to a 28-25 win.

first-stringer Hank Bachmeier injured his hip in the game prior. Cord still had plenty of weapons to work with, though, including future NFL draftee wide receiver John Hightower.

After Boise State opened the game with a 70-yard touchdown drive, Romney and the Cougar offense answered with a 78-yard touchdown drive of their own. Romney looked confident during that first series, completing multiple passes on third down to keep the drive alive before Lopini Katoa finished it off with a four-yard touchdown run.

The Broncos turned the ball back over to BYU on their ensuing

possession and gave Romney and the Cougar offense promising field position to work with. After firing a 10-yard completion to his brother Gunner to set up first-and-goal, Romney was feeling it as he evaded multiple defenders on a would-be eight-yard touchdown run. The score, however, was negated by an offensive holding penalty, and BYU would later miss a field goal attempt to keep the game tied at 7.

The third quarter was when things really started to click for Romney and the offense. With the Cougars up 14-10 and on their second offensive possession of the quarter, Romney lobbed

a 39-yard pass to an in-stride Talon Shumway to put BYU at the Bronco's 36-yard line.

"How about the arm on Baylor Romney?" ESPN2 play-by-play analyst Clay Matvick said after the play.

The Cougars then turned to a little trickery, as Romney found a wide-open Bushman on a play-action pass on fourth-and-one for a 27-yard touchdown.

After BYU's defense came away with another turnover on the following possession, Romney and the Cougars pulled yet another trick play out of their pocket. Romney once again found a wide-open Bushman

on a reverse-flea-flicker for a 39-yard touchdown, putting BYU up 28-10 with three minutes left in the third.

Boise State proceeded to tighten things up in the fourth, scoring twice to cut the Cougars' lead to three, 28-25. BYU, however, held on for the win and defeated its second ranked opponent of the season at home for the first time in school history.

Romney ended up going 15 for 26 on the night for 221 yards, two touchdowns and no turnovers. He also joined some elite company in the win, becoming the only freshman quarterback not named Ty Detmer, Taysom Hill, Tanner Mangum, Joe Critchlow or Zach Wilson to win their first start at BYU.

"I thought (Romney) was great," BYU head coach Kalani Sitake told reporters after the game. "You saw the composure he had in the pocket and making guys miss while having his eyes down field. You have to give him a lot of credit."

"He's come to work every day with the same mentality," Sitake added. "He watched a lot of film and prepared well. (Us) coaches trusted him to make some plays and execute."

The win gave Romney and the Cougars plenty of confidence from that point on, as the victory over Boise kicked off a five-game winning streak. After Hall, who was cleared to start the team's following game against Utah State, sustained yet another concussion against the Aggies, Romney was once again ready to seize his opportunity. Romney helped BYU cruise to a 42-14 win over Utah State then started the following game against Liberty, a 31-24 Cougar victory.

First-stringer Zach Wilson returned from his hand injury sustained early in the season to start the team's final four games of the year. Romney stood by, supporting his quarterback counterpart but staying ready to get thrown in the action on a moment's notice. Although Romney will likely stay behind Wilson and Hall on the upcoming season's depth chart, his experience in games such as the win over No. 14 Boise State has given him plenty of confidence to stay ready and step in when needed.





# Called to serve in a pandemic

Thousands of missionaries across the world are facing upended plans during the pandemic. Some are returning home before completing their missions, others are serving in quarantine, and many are receiving new calls. The Daily Universe is looking at how these missionaries are grappling with challenges in a series of stories.

## ‘I was told to pack up all my stuff as fast as possible’

By KENZIE HOLBROOK



Sister Anna Alder

Sister Anna Alder, left, and her new companion, Sister Aim Hernandez, wear masks while quarantined in their apartment.

them that the MTC was shutting down and their mission would suddenly be receiving some new missionaries. They would each be training a new missionary.

“I was told to pack up all my stuff as fast as possible and await further instructions,” Sister Alder said.

That night Sister Alder and Sister Myers drove two hours to Columbia, Maryland, where Sister Alder picked up her new companion, Sister Aim Hernandez.

“I was put into a brand new area I have never been in before to train a brand new missionary from a foreign country who could be leaving at a moment’s notice in the middle of a quarantine. Let me tell ya, it hasn’t been easy,” Sister Alder said.

Once everything started to settle in, Sister Alder realized

that she would have to learn to live with being inside all day every day. This is complicated even more by the fact that Sister Hernandez is still taking Japanese through the MTC on Zoom for four hours a day.

“As far as missionary work goes, there’s not a whole lot I can do on my own,” Sister Alder said. After Sister Hernandez is done with her MTC over Zoom, it’s basically dinner and then there are around three hours left in the day to contact, find and set up virtual lessons. “Given the circumstances, I’d say we’re doing pretty well,” Sister Alder said.

Since Sister Alder and Sister Hernandez are both new to their area, their efforts of finding people to teach consist of calling and texting as many random people in their areabook that

they can find. “It’s basically the equivalent of door knocking, but through a phone screen,” Sister Alder said.

She said one of the challenging things about having virtual lessons is that it’s harder to have people’s undivided attention. “I understand that you can clean your bathroom and talk on the phone at the same time, but maybe don’t do that while we’re trying to teach you about the restoration of the gospel,” Sister Alder says.

Amidst the challenging times, Sister Alder does her best to stay positive and make the best out of the situation she’s in. “Lots of singing, lots of playing the ukulele, lots of cooking,” Sister Alder said. She also takes what she calls “quarantine vlogs,” brief videos of fun things that happen during the day. “Hopefully these all help me to only remember all the happy, positive things I’ve experienced throughout this whole thing,” she said.

Sister Alder has asked herself the question everyday of whether she would rather be out on the mission or be at home. Ultimately she has come to the same conclusion every time: there’s nowhere she’d rather be than on her mission.

“Here, I am stressed, but I am safe. Here, I am lonely, but I am loved. Here, I am panicked, but I am at peace,” she said. “I am blessed enough to not have to worry about many things that others are worrying about right now. My focus is solely on helping others come closer to our Heavenly Father.”

## Quarantining as a missionary

By KENZIE HOLBROOK



Elder Kawika Akina

Elder Kawika Akina couldn’t have imagined the turn his mission to Raleigh North Carolina would take after serving for only nine months.

Elder Akina went from being outside knocking on doors and talking to several people every day to being stuck inside.

Elder Akina and his companion now spend a large portion of their time on their zones’ Facebook pages and teaching people who are still available to be taught.

“It’s frustrating right now because we’re still not seeing the most success from it, but this is something that should benefit the missionaries in these areas for years. So that kind of keeps us going,” Elder Akina said.

Even though it’s been a rough adjustment, he said he is still seeing some miracles.

“We were working on Facebook posts and out of the blue, I had the impression to call these two people who haven’t answered in a while. They both happened to be free and very willing to listen to our message and read the Book of Mormon,” he said.

Elder Akina said when quarantine first started, the mission president forwarded a new schedule sent from the First Presidency. The new schedule for Elder Akina’s mission consists of waking up at 6:30 a.m. and from 7–8 a.m. they work out, from 8–9 a.m. they eat breakfast and get ready for the day, from 9–10 a.m. they do language study to continue learning and practicing Spanish, from 10–11 a.m. they have companionship study and then they eat lunch.

After lunch, Elder Akina said they usually have a virtual lesson

Elder Kawika Akina, left, and his zone leader, Elder Grant Williams, serve in the Raleigh North Carolina Mission.

planned, and then for the rest of the day they post on Facebook and call people. “We try to have the members post stuff and share their posts to their friends,” Elder Akina said.

There haven’t been many specifications on whether the missionaries in Elder Akina’s mission should be required to wear their missionary clothes in the apartment, so he and his companion will throw on white shirts and ties with basketball shorts when they have lessons.

Although they are fortunate to have some virtual lessons, Elder Akina said a lot of people aren’t willing to have virtual lessons. “It kinda sucks because before if people didn’t answer, we would kind of just show up and they would have to let us in.”

Elder Akina said he and his companion just keep working, and it often seems like right when they’re about to give up, something good happens.

“But the best part is figuring out how to do a new way of missionary work that hasn’t really been tapped out before,” he said.

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1

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