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How food will be served this semester with COVID-19 guidelines

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Wastewater testing

Samples to be collected from wastewater in order to locate virus hot spots

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September 8-14, 2020

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

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Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

BYU Football begins season in spotlight amid COVID cancellations



Jaren Wilkey/BYU Photo

The BYU football team travels to its season opener against Navy. BYU is one of the few teams playing this fall after schools canceled their seasons amid the pandemic.

By CALEB TURNER

The 2020 BYU football season is underway, despite a once-depleted schedule due to programs around the country canceling their seasons due to COVID-19.

BYU Athletic Director Tom Holmoe reversed the national trend and rebuilt the team's schedule from just two games in July to eight to start the season, including five home games.

With the Pac-12 and Mountain West conferences foregoing their seasons, the Cougars are the only school west of Texas playing football this fall. While other programs continued to cut games through the month of August, the Cougars actively pursued and added more.

The new schedule began on Sept. 7 in a primetime Labor Day matchup against Navy and features other marquee matchups against Army and Houston on the road.

All eyes are on BYU and how it manages to maintain a low-risk

environment among players and coaches, while also looking for on-field success with an experienced team on both sides of the ball.

On the COVID side of things, the Cougars are tested for the virus three times a week, wear masks and undergo symptom checks at practices. The objective is to create a "bubble" of sorts and limit the possibility of a breakout on the team. To this point, the Cougars have had no major breakouts, and head coach Kalani Sitake continually expresses confidence in his players' commitment to

keeping it that way.

Despite an injury to star tight end Matt Bushman, the Cougars still have weapons to win games and veterans to lead the team. Junior Zach Wilson is gaining national media attention as a potential future NFL quarterback, while senior defensive tackle Khyiris Tonga is solidifying his draft stock as a force at the line of scrimmage.

The spotlight is on BYU, and the Cougars have the talent and resources to not only survive but thrive in a season like no other.

Referendum filed in hopes of repealing mask mandate

By MARTHA HARRIS

A local group called Utahns for Medical Freedom filed an application for a referendum on Monday, Aug. 31 to challenge Provo City Council's recent face mask ordinance.

The ordinance requiring face masks in Provo's public spaces was passed Aug. 27, overriding Mayor Michelle Kaufusi's veto of the original citywide mask mandate passed by the council on Aug. 25. Utahns for Medical Freedom claim the council's face mask mandate is violating residents' constitutional rights.

"The city has overstepped their bounds," said Utahns for Medical Freedom organizer Mary Ann Nielsen. "They should've left this up to the individual citizen to decide. Especially since it involves an individual's personal health decisions."

The earliest the ordinance could appear on a ballot is November 2021, according to Provo City Recorder Amanda Ercanbrack. "Any legislative action that takes place after April 15 goes on the following year's ballot," she said.

Utahns for Medical Freedom needs 3,200 valid signatures, or 7.5% of active voters, from four of the five City Council districts in order to have the ordinance placed on the November 2021 ballot. Before the group can start collecting signatures, it must go through a series of steps that could go until as late as Sept. 25 to be completed, Ercanbrack said. The group has 45 days after that to collect the required signatures.

If Utahns for Medical Freedom makes the 45-day deadline, the mask mandate will be put on hold until the November 2021 election. While the ordinance is already set to expire on Nov. 15 of this year, Nielsen is worried about future mandates.

"This (referendum) will help us to strengthen one another and be prepared to stop future mandates of this sort," she said.

If the City Council renews the ordinance before Oct. 20, Utahns for Medical Freedom will not need to file another referendum. But if the current ordinance self-expires and the council passes a new one, Utahns for Medical Freedom would have to start over again with a new referendum.

Nielsen claims in the group's press release that according to Article VI Section 1 of the Utah Constitution, as soon as a referendum has been filed, the law is put on hold until the referendum process is completed.

However, Ercanbrack said that according to Utah Code Section 20A-7-601(5)(b), it is not until the referendum has been "declared sufficient" that the law is no longer in effect. Ercanbrack said the referendum isn't sufficient until all required signatures have been collected.

Council member Shannon Ellsworth said she was not at all surprised by the referendum being filed after they passed the mask mandate.

"In my time as a council member, there have been few things that people have been so abjectly opposed to," she said.

But Council member George Handley has some concerns surrounding the mask mandate debate.

"When there's confusion in the community about whether or not the pandemic is a big deal and whether we should worry about its mortality rates, that's concerning to me," he said. "I think we need more and better information for the public so that people understand just how serious this is."

Descendants of BYU building namesakes, early Utah slaves respond to un-name campus buildings movement

By KARINA ANDREW

A petition to un-name BYU buildings has gained state media attention as a subset of a nationwide movement to remove monuments of proponents of slavery and racial discrimination. For many descendants of these buildings' namesakes, the movement is personal.

These descendants, and descendants of enslaved people who lived in Utah, are sharing their stance on recent calls for change.

Some of the people for whom campus buildings were named — though usually prominent figures at the university, in the state of Utah or within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — held various pro-segregationist views.

Among them are J. Reuben Clark, who argued for the segregation of blood from Black and white people at blood banks, though he later advocated for working toward the ordination of Black men to the priesthood; Ezra Taft Benson, who in 1967 said the Civil Rights movement was a Communist plot; and Abraham Smoot, who owned at least one slave, according to Salt Lake Tribune reporting.

The petition to un-name buildings on campus asks BYU "to retroactively apply their current policy to not name any new buildings after individuals to all existing campus buildings" so that all Black students will feel safe and welcome on campus.

Alan Smoot, a third-great grandson of Abraham Smoot and vice president of the Abraham O. Smoot Family Organization, said it is unfair to throw a blanket label on everyone who ever owned a slave and "erase them from the memories of history," as not all slave owners were identical in their character or their treatment of slaves.

Renaming buildings or removing monuments should be considered on a case-by-case basis, Alan said, adding that there is a difference between a Confederate general who fought to protect the institution of slavery and a person who lived in the South and owned slaves but treated them kindly.



Preston Crawley

A student walks past the Abraham Smoot Building and the Brigham Young statue on the first day of school. Over the summer, people called for the names of certain campus buildings to be changed over issues with racist histories.

Alan said he counts Abraham among the latter group.

"In my heart, I think (Tom) was probably treated more as a family member and as a fellow brother in the gospel," Alan said. Tom was one of three slaves owned by Abraham Smoot. Tom joined the Church and was baptized into the Sugar House Ward, where Abraham was bishop.

Amy Tanner Thriot studies slavery in the Utah territory and said Tom died of "inflammation of the chest," which is possibly pleurisy or tuberculosis, after at least seven years of service to the Smoot family. Alan hypothesized Tom may have been very ill toward the end of his life and Abraham took him in and cared for him as "an act of compassion."

Thriot, however, said this was not an accurate portrayal of Tom's conditions of service, and Tom "had provided lots of hard, manual labor" for the Smoot family.

The Abraham O. Smoot Family Organization recently published a statement denouncing slavery and enumerating Abraham's contributions to the early Latter-day Saint community in Utah, including his many years

of political and Church service.

"Continually reaching out and serving the poor, the stranded and oppressed was his legacy," the statement says.

The statement also details the immense financial sacrifice he made to save Brigham Young Academy, now BYU, which earned him the honor of having a campus building named for him, and Abraham's dealings with his slaves. Not all of the information in the statement relating to Abraham's slaves was true, the Salt Lake Tribune reported.

The statement reminds readers that a committee has been assembled to address racism on BYU campus and expresses confidence in the committee's ability to find meaningful solutions besides renaming buildings.

"An attempt to smear and cancel A. O. Smoot and Brigham Young and what they did 160 years ago accomplishes nothing," the statement reads.

Vivian Despain, a relation of J. Reuben Clark, expressed a similar sentiment of respect for her relative.

"He was honorable, and if the Lord chose him for being an apostle and he was true to his calling, I will stand by

him," she said.

Descendants of Ezra Taft Benson declined to comment on the petition, though the Benson family did refer the Universe to a 1985 Ensign article on President Benson's appointment to the position of Church president.

In the article, President Benson was quoted as having said, "My heart has been filled with an overwhelming love and compassion for all members of the Church and our Heavenly Father's children everywhere. I love all our Father's children of every color, creed, and political persuasion. My only desire is to serve as the Lord would have me do."

Another petition has surfaced to rename the university itself. One of the reasons included in the petition is the former Church president's instigation of the priesthood ban for Black members of African descent. Brigham Young has also faced criticism for his pro-slavery rhetoric.

Lesa Young, a third-great-granddaughter of Brigham Young, said she feels no familial connection to her ancestor and would not feel sad to see his name removed from the university, as there were many other people in Church history who "were much more consistent in fighting for justice" than he was.

For Lesa, being a "product of (one's) time" is not a sufficient excuse for racist words or actions, "because there are always people in those times who oppose injustice. There were abolitionists at that time, and there were people in the Church who were advocating for the equal rights of Black people."

Though Lesa said she would not feel bad to have Brigham's name removed from the university, she also acknowledged that rebranding BYU would be a massive undertaking. She felt other types of reform would be a better use of the university's time and effort.

"I would love to see more efforts to protect Black students on campus," she said. "I would love to see BYU address its racism head-on — not just its history, but also the fact that so many current students have such an issue with that."

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

5 coronavirus precautions that aren't necessary

1 There's no need to quarantine any letters or packages days before opening them. Rachel Graham, an epidemiologist at the University of North Carolina, said that the virus will not live long enough on the letter or package surfaces.



2 Wearing gloves to run errands doesn't do much to protect from the virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the virus doesn't spread easily through contaminated surfaces.



3 Disinfecting food packaging, on frozen products or otherwise, is unnecessary. The World Health Organization explains that it is difficult for the virus to survive outside of the human body.

4 Likewise, a study in the medical journal The Lancet Microbe found the virus can only survive on tissue and printing paper for up to three hours which means library books are safe.



5 Although it's recommended to limit interactions with strangers according to social distancing guidelines, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said it's all right to occasionally have repairmen and cleaners inside the house.

Allie Peterson

While certain precautions can prevent the spread of the coronavirus, studies from various organizations, including the WHO and CDC, show other precautions are less helpful.

Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



US further restricts Chinese diplomats' travel

The Trump administration on Sept. 2 stepped up its battle with China by further restricting the ability of Chinese diplomats to travel, hold meetings with academics and host cultural events in the United States.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that senior U.S.-based Chinese diplomats will now be required to get permission to visit American universities or meet with local government officials.



Utah passes bill requiring in-person voting options

Utah legislators unanimously voted during a special session Thursday, Aug. 20 in favor of a plan for the November election that includes outdoor voting and additional ballot drop boxes in rural parts of the state.

The bill would require counties to provide an in-person voting option this fall, which could include drive-through or walk-up voting, in addition to the state's vote-by-mail system.



US gives first-ever OK for small nuclear reactor

U.S. officials have for the first time approved a design for a small commercial nuclear reactor, and a Utah energy cooperative wants to build 12 of them in Idaho.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Aug. 28 approved Portland-based NuScale Power's application for the small modular reactor that Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems plans to build at a U.S. Department of Energy site in eastern Idaho. The first would be built in 2029, with the rest in 2030.



Real Salt Lake owner to sell teams amid reports of racism

Real Salt Lake owner Dell Loy Hansen will sell his soccer teams in the wake of reports that he made racist comments, Major League Soccer said Aug. 30.

Hansen's Utah Soccer Holdings includes his MLS club, the Utah Royals of the National Women's Soccer League and the United Soccer League's Real Monarchs.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber announced Hansen's decision.

CDC tells states: Be ready to distribute vaccines on Nov. 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RHODE ISLAND — The federal government has told states to prepare for a coronavirus vaccine to be ready to distribute by Nov. 1.

The timeline raised concern among public health experts about an "October surprise," a vaccine approval driven by political considerations ahead of a presidential election, rather than science.

In a letter to governors dated Aug. 27, Robert Redfield, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said states "in the near future" will receive permit applications from McKesson Corp., which has contracted with CDC to distribute vaccines.

He wrote that any waivers will not compromise the safety or effectiveness of the vaccine.

The request documents also encourage health officials to work out now which groups to prioritize for a vaccine.

Two Utah schools move to remote learning after virus outbreak

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — Two Utah schools have halted in-person classes and shifted to online learning because of coronavirus outbreaks.

The American Preparatory Academy charter school closed its elementary campus in Draper on Sept. 1 after 15 students and staffers tested positive for COVID-19, executive director Carolyn Sharette told The Salt

Lake Tribune.

That followed Alpine School District's announcement Aug. 31 that it was closing Pleasant Grove High School near Orem for two days. The school will shift to a mix of online and in-person classes after reporting a cluster of coronavirus cases.

District spokeswoman Kimberly Bird said that across the district, the largest in the state, 67 cases had been detected throughout its 91 schools, including 41 students and 26 faculty members.

Utah aims to be prepared for COVID-19 vaccine distribution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah will aim to be prepared to distribute a coronavirus vaccine once it becomes available, Gov. Gary Herbert said at a weekly briefing Sept. 3, a week after the federal government told states to be ready for distribution by Nov. 1.

Herbert did not clarify whether Utah will expedite the licensing and permitting processes as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention had requested. The ramped up distribution timeline has raised concerns among public health experts that the vaccine's approval may be driven by political considerations ahead of a presidential election, rather than science.

The state is experiencing a modest increase in new cases, and the rolling seven-day positivity rate has increased from 8.7% to 9.4% over the past week.

Herbert, a Republican, has continually urged people to wear face coverings to slow the spread.

Navajo Nation to run weekend lockdown into September

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation officials are extending partial weekend lockdowns and daily curfews through September to help control the spread of the coronavirus on the tribe's reservation.

The lockdowns on the vast reservation in the Four Corners region start at 9 p.m. on Saturdays and run until 5 a.m. on Mondays. On Sept. 2, the tribe reported 17

new positive cases and one more death. The death toll so far has been 504 people.

Residents still have time on Saturdays to prepare for the winter season by gathering firewood, food, water and other supplies, tribal President Jonathan Nez said in a statement.

However, Nez said the public should avoid traveling to nearby towns and cities on weekends.

All businesses, including stores, gas stations, and restaurants, are required to shut down during the lockdowns and curfew hours.

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

September 8-14, 2020 • Volume 74, Issue 2 • universe.byu.edu
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The Universe is published weekly except during vacation periods.

The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the student body, faculty, university administration, Board of Trustees or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Copyright 2020 Brigham Young University.

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NFL requiring coaches, staff near bench to wear masks

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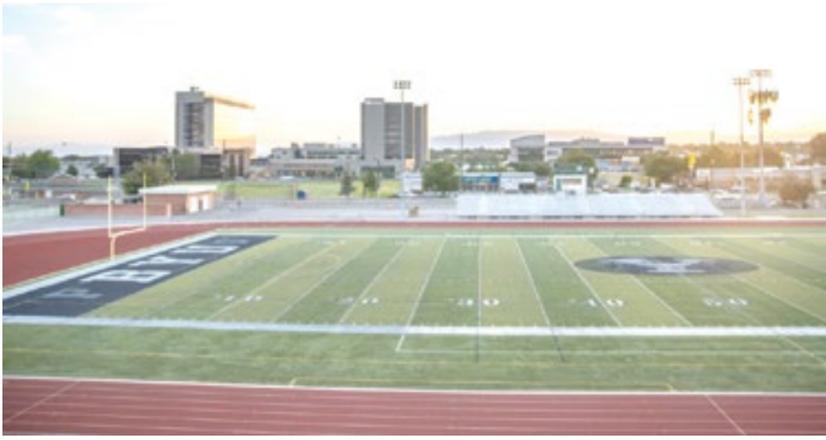
The NFL has updated its gameday protocols by requiring every coach and staff member in the bench area to wear a mask and reducing the size of each team's travel party.

Owners also will have to follow COVID-19 testing requirements to gain access to the locker room, field or team charter.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league, the NFL Players Association and medical experts have "developed a comprehensive set of protocols that put us in the best possible position to complete the season, culminating with the Super Bowl in Tampa Bay."

There were four new confirmed positive tests among players and six new confirmed positives among other personnel from 58,621 tests administered to a total of 8,739 players and team personnel between August 21-29.

The league is working with public health officials to determine whether fans will be allowed into stadiums.



Hannah Miner

The former Provo High School campus, which BYU purchased in 2016, features a number of outdoor exercise opportunities open to the public.

Students look for outdoor exercise options

By JOSH CARTER

An increased number of BYU students are going outside to exercise as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect indoor gyms and workout facilities.

According to a social media poll conducted by The Daily Universe, 74% of the nearly 200 responders said they were more likely to seek outdoor exercise alternatives to the gym amid the pandemic.

As students return to the BYU campus for Fall Semester, several remain committed to continuing the outdoor exercise habits they developed during quarantine.

"When the pandemic first started, it was easy to maintain an exercise routine because as a senior in high school my classes were canceled," said Mackenzie Schmutz, an incoming freshman from Las Vegas. "I would lift weights in my home and go on five-to-six mile runs daily. I haven't had the opportunity to experience running on or near campus yet; however, I have mapped out a route that will take me about five miles around the outside of BYU campus."

Schmutz admits her outdoor runs were eventually interrupted by the brutal Las Vegas summer heat. While Schmutz had to substitute her runs with

high-intensity interval training at home, as her local gyms remained closed, she looks forward to taking advantage of the cooler temperatures in Provo soon.

"That's one of the reasons why I'm so excited to get on campus," Schmutz said. "The cool morning weather will allow me to start running again."

Alea Beeston, a senior from Orem, took up road cycling soon after the pandemic hit. Beeston felt it was the perfect way to exercise while remaining socially distant.

"Biking is an excellent way to get out and get away from people, be it people you live with or just people in general," Beeston said. "Even though I'm relatively new to road biking, I've really enjoyed it."

Beeston often rides on the Murdock Canal Trail, a popular running and biking trail that stretches from Orem to Lehi. She also plans on trying out the Provo River Trail, a paved trail frequented by students due to its close proximity to the BYU campus.

Another outdoor exercise spot that has seemingly grown in popularity among BYU students since the start of the pandemic is the former Provo High School campus. The property, which BYU purchased in 2016, features a number of outdoor exercise opportunities open

to the public. The campus includes a full-length track, two fields and six tennis courts.

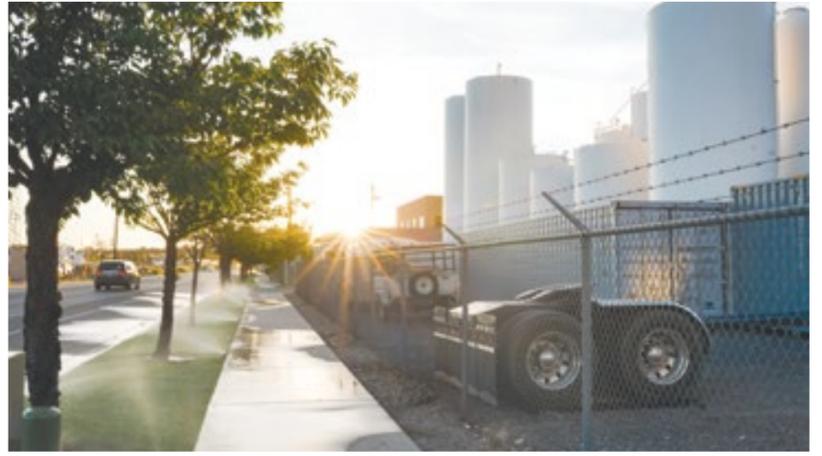
As select gyms throughout Utah Valley have reopened over the last several weeks, however, some students plan on returning to such facilities for their primary workout and exercise spot. Gyms such as VASA, Planet Fitness and Provo Crossfit have all implemented a number of precautions that allowed them to open again after Utah County moved to a yellow, low-risk phase earlier this summer.

The Smith Fieldhouse indoor track and workout facilities are open to students, faculty and staff this fall with extra health precautions being taken according to the BYU Student Wellness website. The website lists a wide variety of precautions that are enforced.

Although gyms continue to reopen on and near the BYU campus, not all students feel comfortable utilizing such facilities under the current circumstances. Many prefer to continue looking for outdoor exercise alternatives.

"I've never been one to go to the gym, but especially not now," Beeston said. "Gyms and other places are striving to keep their spaces clean, I'm sure, but it's difficult to believe that every patron of the facility will follow the guidelines set out. Besides, I'd rather be outdoors."

Provo neighborhood clashes with oil company over expansion



Whitney Bigelow

Christensen Oil Company stores gasoline and oil in large tanks at 595 S. 200 East. Scan the photo with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of this story.



By TAYLOR NELSON

Residents of Provo's Maeser neighborhood are protesting an oil company's expansion plans and hoping to reverse the city's decision to allow an additional 110,000 gallons of oil and gasoline storage tanks next to their homes.

Provo City approved a zoning code amendment on June 16 that will allow Christensen Oil Company to add 14 more oil tanks and two new gasoline tanks, along with over 500,000 gallons of storage in plastic barrels in warehouses on the property.

"They're storing gasoline next to people's houses," said Ted Buehler, one of the organizers of the Maeser Neighbors for Safety coalition. "Every single house was built before the oil company existed."

Concerned residents started a blog called "Keep Provo Safe" to list their grievances with Christensen Oil. Beyond the decision to expand, which has been hotly disputed, other complaints include alleged fire code violations and improper storage of hazardous materials.

In a recent press release,

the Maeser Neighbors for Safety group called on Mayor Michelle Kaufusi to stop the expansion and "ensure that the existing facility meets current code and industry best practices." The group's petition has over 120 signatures from neighborhood residents.

Carolina Allen is a member of Maeser Neighbors for Safety who previously rented the house directly behind the 200 East Christensen Oil location.

"It's kind of like they do what they want and they ask permission later," Carolina said. For example, Christensen Oil signed an agreement with Provo City in 1990 that rezoned Christensen's residential land into "Light Manufacturing," on the condition that they would never store flammable liquids on the premises — a promise that has not been kept.

"In the summer, the smell would come through the windows," Carolina said. "I had little kids. I would look out from my backyard and see oil silos, and during the time that I was there, more went up. It lowers our property value."

While Allen thinks Provo City has tried its best to accommodate both sides, she said she still feels that the neighborhood has been sidelined.

Before pressure from the Maeser neighborhood, she explained, there weren't any sprinkler systems in the Christensen warehouse in case of a fire. Allen said the gate that should secure the property has been left open on many occasions leaving the property open to intruders.

The Maeser Neighbors for Safety coalition believes without the pressure it puts on the city, nothing would have changed at all. The group members are grateful for the city's past efforts to resolve the issues, such as limiting the amount of neighborhood traffic from Christensen Oil trucks, but they are demanding that these efforts be continued.

"We understand (Todd Christensen) has a business, but residential lives trump the business," Allen said. "We know you're here, we know you've been here a long time, but you can't just disregard us. We're here to stay, we care about our neighborhood and we're going to hold you to the highest standard because you're right smack-dab in the middle of it."

Christensen Oil declined to comment.



Preston Crawley

Provo party company Young/Dumb hosted an indoor dance party on Sept. 4 that was quickly shut down by the fire marshall. Earlier in the day, BYU said reports of large gatherings are "deeply concerning" and urged students to "be wise and follow all safety requirements." Scan the photo with the **Universe Plus** app to read the full story.



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TODAY UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL Tuesday, September 8, 11:05 a.m.

This event will be streamed live and available for viewing on BYUtv.



President Kevin J. Worthen
Sister Peggy Worthen

Brigham Young University has framed much of Kevin J. Worthen's life. From a childhood fascination with Cougar sports to his years as a student, professor, and administrator, the 13th president of BYU has been inspired by the mission and ideals of the university.

Born and raised in Carbon County, Utah, President Worthen received an associate degree at the College of Eastern Utah, where he was a co-captain of the basketball team. At BYU he received a bachelor's degree in political science and a juris doctor degree before leaving in 1982 to clerk for Judge Malcolm R. Wilkey of the D.C. Circuit Court and then for Justice Byron R. White of the U.S. Supreme Court. After a brief career at a law firm, Worthen returned to BYU in 1987 as a law professor. He

was dean of the Law School for four years before being named BYU's advancement vice president in 2008. In May 2014 he became president of the university.

President Worthen has been a bishop and stake president and currently serves as an Area Seventy. He dated and married Peggy Sealey after his mission to Monterrey, Mexico. When the last of their children started school, Sister Worthen began pursuing a degree in English at BYU, graduating in 2003. She is known for her sense of humor, abundant energy, and a variety of interests, from sewing to hiking to reading. She has filled numerous Church assignments, including many years as a Young Women camp leader. The Worthens have three children and six grandchildren.

Selected speeches available at speeches.byu.edu

NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

Elder James B. Martino
General Authority Seventy



September 15, 11:05 a.m.



Hannah Miner

Several campus dining options are open Fall Semester. Each dining operation is taking health precautions to make sure people stay healthy and safe. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of this story.

What are the on-campus dining options?

By LAUREN LAYNE & KENZIE HOLBROOK

COVID-19 has changed the way BYU students will dine during Fall Semester. Guidelines are changing day by day and Dining Services is staying up to date with all of them.

"We are working directly with the Utah County Environmental Health Department and BYU Risk Management to prioritize student safety," said BYU Dining Services director Dean Wright. "We want to make sure that we are continually following the guidelines and are able to re-open safely."

Cougareat

Usually, over 600 people can sit comfortably in the Cougareat. But because of COVID-19, seating has effectively been cut in half. While seating will still be available, the Cougareat will enforce social distancing by giving six feet of space between the back

of one chair and the chair directly behind it.

Another unique feature coming to the Cougareat is a new option under the BYU app called Dining Mobile Ordering that will allow guests to order their food and pay online. This feature should decrease interaction between cashiers and guests, eliminate long lines and help decongest general traffic in the Cougareat. In front of each restaurant, there will be a screen that will show when a guest's order is ready to be picked up.

"There will also be 14 kiosks spread out through the Wilkinson Center to order and pay for food remotely. However, with the app, you can order your food whenever and when you arrive at the Wilkinson Center, the store will start preparing your food," Wright said.

The MOA Cafe and Jamba Juice will also use kiosks, and a kiosk at the Blue Line Deli in the Tanner Building is in the works. Other areas in the Wilkinson Student Center, like Cosmo's Corner and Cougar Express,

will no longer be self-service. All foods will be prepackaged for safety.

Cannon Commons

According to its website, the Cannon Commons will require reservations to dine in and only students with meal plans can make a reservation. "Take-away meals will be available to other campus guests," the website reads. "Dine in will become available as soon as the Cannon is able to verify the safety of all guests."

Wright encourages students to consume their food outside of the dining facility. "We have been reworking the Cannon Commons to provide upscale foods that are packaged and ready to go. All the food is pre-plated, so guests will just have to pick up the plate and find somewhere to sit," Wright said.

Hand sanitization stations will be located throughout the facility and dining services employees will be wiping down surfaces, tables, chairs, soft drink machines and other high touch point areas.

The Pendulum Court

The Pendulum Court Cafe in the Eyring Science Center will open again for the campus community on Sept. 14. According to Elyce Gamble, a financial intern at Pendulum Court, dine-in and takeout options will be available.

Gamble also said some changes taking place for Fall

Semester include cash no longer being accepted, only take-out containers will be used (although people are still welcome to take their food and sit in the limited seating at the Pen Court), and an overall emphasis on cleanliness and sanitization.

Because of the limited seating, the Pen Court has also reserved some tables on the third floor of the Eyring Science Center if people want to dine in.

The Wall

The Wall restaurant in the Wilkinson Student Center announced via an Instagram post that it will be open noon to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Check @thewallbyu on Instagram for more updates.

Other changes

Guests will be required to wear masks inside all dining facilities but may remove them to eat and drink.

The Creamery locations (with the exception of Helaman Halls Creamery) and the vending machines are the only locations accepting cash. Cougar Cash or cards are preferred at the vending machines to reduce the number of times the machine has to be touched. Everywhere else has transitioned to card only.

Vending machines are usually filled every two to three days, but Dining Services officials are working with building custodians to clean and sanitize heavy touchpoints more often.

Can BYU students grow a beard under their masks?

By CALEB TURNER

BYU's dress-and-grooming standards prohibit beards, but students question whether the school will enforce the policy amid a pandemic since most facial hair would be hidden beneath a mask.

Twitter user @LyleSchow asked if the BYU Testing Center will force students to take off their masks to prove they have shaved.

The Daily Universe asked students to weigh in on the issue in an informal survey on its Instagram account, and the majority of students called the beard rule outdated and said BYU should not enforce it.

Some students in particular, including sophomore Hallie Neff, said it should not be enforced because it would require students to take off their masks, defeating the purpose of face coverings.

Several male students said they would grow a beard under their masks, though a few stood by their commitment to the Honor Code and said they would not.

"I said I wouldn't, and my integrity is stronger than my laziness," said BYU student John Hunt.

Though he has no plans to grow a beard himself, Hunt believes BYU should not enforce the beard policy at the Testing Center since "masks are more important to focus on."

As is the case in all BYU buildings this fall, masks must be worn in the Testing Center. However, the Testing Center does plan on requiring students to remove their masks for a brief moment in order to receive their tests.

"Although this is subject to change if necessary, students taking their exams at the Testing Center will still need to verify their identification against their picture ID before checking out their exams," said BYU Center



Canva Illustrations

BYU prohibits students from growing a beard, but what if it's hidden under a mask?

for Teaching and Learning Associate Director Bryan Bradley. "Under the current COVID-19 conditions, they will be asked to show their faces very briefly through a clear partition at our check-out counter so our staff will be able to confirm their identity."

Bradley said the purpose of removing the mask is to confirm the identity of the student, but went on to explain they expect students to continue to follow the dress-and-grooming standards, which includes no beards.

At the moment, it appears BYU students will not be able to keep a beard under their masks, at least in the Testing Center. Bradley did leave room for changes to the identification process in the future, depending on the state of the virus at BYU.

"As the semester begins and rolls forward, we will continue to monitor all aspects of testing in the Testing Center and make any changes to our practices as directed by the BYU administration," Bradley said.

He added that the testing center's first priority is to "help keep individuals safe," and the second is to "provide continued exam security and proctoring services."

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Season cancellations bring mental health concerns for student-athletes



The COVID-19 pandemic will keep the majority of BYU's sports teams, including women's volleyball, from holding a season this fall. For some athletes, these cancellations could take a toll on their mental health. Scan the photo with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of this story.



By JOSH CARTER

BYU's student-athletes have experienced a little bit of everything over the past several months.

In March, the remainder of all winter and spring seasons for BYU's extramural, club and NCAA-sanctioned sports were canceled as universities across the country began to accept the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cougar student-athletes were then encouraged to return home for the summer, where they continued to grapple with an increasing sense of uncertainty.

Then, on Aug. 12, the West Coast Conference announced it was postponing all conference fall competition indefinitely, impacting all of BYU's fall NCAA-sanctioned sports apart from football.

As the athletes continue to navigate through unexpected change and uncertainty, the mental health of BYU's student-athletes is becoming

more of a concern for those who work with them.

"A lot of the predictable and controllable factors that we used to enjoy are no longer there," said Natalie Kirtley, a psychologist who works with the BYU Athletic Department. "When we have to deal with the unknown, it's not very comfortable for people. These student-athletes currently have a lot of unknowns related to their respective sports, which increases anxiety."

"Anxiety and depression are sort of best friends," Kirtley added. "So, athletes can start to feel depressed as well. When something happens that's so far outside of our comfort zone, people experience varying degrees of trauma response."

According to an NCAA survey published earlier this summer, over half of the more than 37,000 athletes who responded reported experiencing high rates of mental distress since the start of the pandemic. Over a third reported having difficulty sleeping, more than a quarter

reported feeling sadness and a sense of loss while one in 12 were having difficulty functioning because of depression.

Overall, the rate of mental health concerns experienced by the NCAA student-athletes was 150% to 250% higher than has been historically reported, according to the survey. College seniors were especially impacted, having reported a "constant" or "nearly daily" sense of loss at 1.5 times the rate of underclassmen.

Student-athletes' sense of identity is another mental health concern that has been influenced since the onset of the pandemic, according to Kirtley. Seniors, many of whom have had to decide whether to return after being granted an additional year of eligibility by the NCAA, have been especially impacted by the recent onslaught of changes. The recent season cancellations have caused many athletes to reassess their lives and figure out what type of goals they want to work towards next.

"When you take away seasons and

sport participation, the athletes' sense of identity changes dramatically," Kirtley said. "A huge part of their identity comes from being an athlete. So, that can put them in a place where they're thinking about what exactly they want to accomplish next, what their next step in life is going to be."

According to Kirtley, who works frequently with retiring athletes, the current circumstances can give BYU student-athletes an opportunity to adapt while still maintaining a strong sense of identity.

"At retirement, their identity is something they have to navigate anyway," Kirtley said. "Like I tell the athletes, 'Once an athlete, always an athlete.' It's not that that part of your identity ever stops existing. But, sometimes you might have to transition within that identity. A lot of the time it's about asking yourself, 'How does this identity manifest itself in my current environment?'"

When it comes to coping with the recent changes and uncertainty,

resiliency is key, according to Kirtley. Many athletes have learned the importance of resiliency through countless experiences of overcoming adversity from a young age. Injuries, subpar performances and losses are all situations college athletes have dealt with throughout their lives.

Kirtley also pointed out that athletes frequently find themselves in high-pressure situations with only two possible outcomes: winning or losing. Athletes are also constantly being evaluated on times and numbers, requiring them to become resilient and goal-oriented, according to Kirtley.

"I think the student-athletes do feel like they have some resiliency," Kirtley said. "Even when they might not, sometimes the most resilient thing you can do is say, 'I think I need some help with this.' Thankfully, our athletic department and the university have provided some great resources for people to get that help and learn how to increase their resiliency."

New BYU class explores data science in sports

By CALEB TURNER

Zach Knowlton grew up reading box scores in the newspaper and predicted the NBA Most Valuable Player for a statistics project in middle school. Now he is teaching a pilot class at BYU that helps students understand the intersection of sports and data science.

Knowlton credits sports as the catalyst that helped him gain interest in studying and working in statistics and hopes the same can happen for others in the course.

The class is titled "Special Topics in Statistics: Data Science in Sports" and is part of the BYU statistics department. The course description says the class will "prepare students for the workforce by completing an end-to-end data science project using sports data. (Students) will learn about data collection, data cleaning, exploratory data analysis, modeling and reporting."

Knowlton did both his undergraduate and graduate studies at BYU and wrote his master's thesis on BYU Football, using statistics to create player importance metrics and rankings. The coaches gave Knowlton grades for each player after games, and he combined those with other



Preston Crawley

BYU professor Zach Knowlton teaches the new Data Science in Sports course for the Fall 2020 semester. Knowlton studied statistics at BYU and worked with BYU Football for his master's thesis.

box score statistics to determine which players and which positions were most integral to the success, or failure, of the team.

Former BYU Football player Bronson Kaufusi, a statistics major, assisted Knowlton in getting connected with the football team and

gaining access to the data needed to create his thesis.

Knowlton said the project with BYU Football "jumpstarted" his career in statistics and gave him the application in the sports world he needed. Following his time at BYU, Knowlton moved to Colorado, where

he worked in data science for the Players' Tribune, developing an "athlete brand score."

The data science department at the Players' Tribune was eventually cut, showing Knowlton just how unstable the sports industry can be.

BYU reached out to Knowlton

about possibly teaching a statistics course after he finished at the Players' Tribune and returned to Utah to work in data science for Progressive Leasing. He came up with the idea for the sports data analytics class and pitched it to BYU. This semester is the "brainchild" of that pitch, according to Knowlton.

The Data Science in Sports course is designed to be a capstone-type course, or as Knowlton calls it, "version zero of an internship," and gives students a chance to do something similar to what he did with BYU Football. Knowlton is already talking to an NBA team about potential projects with the class and hopes it can be an opportunity to get some students into sports analytics jobs.

Despite the instability and competition that he has seen firsthand in the sports industry, Knowlton still believes there is value in sports data science. If nothing else, it acts as a way to get students and young people interested and involved in statistics and go on to work in other areas of the field.

There are ongoing talks for a possible collaboration between students in the Sports Media emphasis of the BYU School of Communications and the Data Science in Sports class to create and publish stories and other media using data from Knowlton's class.



WEEKLY QUESTION

Daily Universe editors post a question on Instagram each week asking readers their view on a specific topic. Here's what they had to say. Responses are unedited.

How should BYU react if more than a few people test positive as the semester progresses?

- | | |
|---|--|
| Quarantine those tested positive, but keep in person classes as they are
@BENJMENJ | Just try to hold out until Thanksgiving!
@ALEXA_MERR |
| Do everything in their power to keep campus open. PLEASE
@COURT_SINGS01 | I think the safe option would be to go fully online.
@MARISSA_FULLER |
| The goal was never to eradicate COVID but slow spread, so it's ok if people are positive
@NEUROTICNEMATODE | Make it optional for students with in person classes to start meeting via zoom if they are concerned
@JMHEYDURF |
| Continue the semester because people have to get it eventually it won't just disappear
@EMILYHOLLIDAY | Swiftly mandate testing for all potential contacts, partly close some high traffic campus areas
@CAROLINNN.AAA |
| Move to online learning so we don't put at-risk people at even higher risk
@ANNIKAQUICK | The semester should go on as normal. Treat it no differently than a normal flu season
@EAN.PRICE |
| Go fully online like we did in March
@KATE_M_BARNEY | Shut it doooooowwwnnnnn
@DALLIN |

STAFF OPINION

An optimistic look at the pandemic

I cannot discount the immense upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but I can say this: Not everything is good ...but good can come from everything. The pandemic has been a chance for many to slow down and reconsider what matters most. People have reconnected with nature, exercised creativity and bonded with loved ones. We have had a unique opportunity to assess what works in our lives and what does not. I have noticed a greater general appreciation for the social connections we once took for granted. FaceTiming friends, connecting with roommates and taking part in socially distanced classes remind us how much joy comes from human interaction. In addition our sense of community spirit has grown. From picking up groceries for our elderly neighbors to reaching out with loving gestures to those who are lonely, we have truly taken up the task to comfort those that stand in need of comfort. I have also witnessed a greater reverence for the service industry, medical professionals and other essential workers we depend on. Every day, I hear complaints about how much different our lives are because of this pandemic. I know, I know, this is not how I pictured my 2020 either. I had a family vacation booked, a job I was thrilled about,

and classes I could not wait to take. As disappointed as I was to have these plans fall through, other miracles took their places. I connected better with my family, explored the outdoors more and served in ways I couldn't have done otherwise. I have seen miracles everywhere I've looked. Crises can bring out the worst in people, but they also can bring out the best of humanity. I see people who wear face masks not because they are comfortable in them but because they want to express love to others. I see people going out of their way to serve those in need, small businesses being supported, and technology bringing people together. Instead of constantly focusing on things we cannot control and being disheartened by everything that has gone wrong, what would happen if we shifted our focus to everything we've learned? To all the goodness we've seen in humanity? For all the ways we have grown? Sure, I would love to be back in normal classrooms without a pandemic and without a mask. But on my first day back at BYU I sat not in a hardback classroom chair but in sunshine-soaked grass as I listened to a professor's Zoom lecture, and I wanted to weep with joy. There is so much light that is still ours to hold.
—Gabrielle Shiozawa
Editorial Assistant



That first 10 minutes of the zoom meeting where everyone is asking if you can hear or see them and you're just like..



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

- @acherrington23**
Day 1 of Zoom class: half the students were locked out
Lol this is gonna be a wack semester
#gocougs #byu
- @ccjones13**
Just walked by Jeff Flake, who was wearing a pretty great BYU facemask while walking across campus.
Just another day in Provo.
- @johncoonsports**
Fun Fact: This will be BYU's first football season where the Cougars do not play either Utah or Utah State during the course of the season. #BYU #BYUFootball
- @Hookemcougs**
Give me your blue goggle prediction for byu football this season. I'll start. They go undefeated. Bring it

- @halesyehbaby**
did y'all see that they are opening a Dutch in Provo
- @isabellaolson**
provo getting a dtuch bros finally putting us in the 21st century
- @kamrynflash**
Alright BYU students listen up the fact that you got married over the summer is not a fun fact... because half of the class probably also got married and that doesn't sound very fun...
@HeardAtBYU
- @spooky_fig**
I'm pretty sure I saw like five of you guys around Provo today so if you saw a gremlin in leggings trying to skateboard that was me
- @kylecoug**
took my puppy on a post game walk to let out anger and somehow I ended up joining a provo puppy play group and that made things better
- @BrookeH785**
Man I really took for granted how empty the roads in provo/orem and also byu campus were these last 6 months...
- @Cameronstageman**
Not me walking the streets of Provo at dusk listening to Reputation.

Tweets are unedited.

OPINION OUTPOST

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

Vaccine

No matter how many billions of dollars the U.S. spends on creating and distributing a COVID-19 vaccine, the drug's effectiveness boils down to a single factor: personal responsibility. If people are still wary of accepting the drug once it reaches pharmacies and hospitals, the fight against the virus will protract. A vaccine won't make the virus disappear, especially if it falls in the 60-75% efficacy range that health officials are hoping

for. But it will be instrumental in reversing economic decline, saving lives and getting the country back on its feet. —Editorial Board
The Deseret News

Virus progress report

The so-called second virus wave is receding and has been far less deadly than the first in the spring thanks to better therapies and government preparation. Nobody is suggesting we should now let it rip, but the progress should give Americans more confidence that schools and businesses can reopen safely. The U.S. seven-day rolling average of new cases has fallen

by about 40% from its peak on July 25. The policy goal should be to mitigate the virus's damage while allowing Americans to return to some semblance of normalcy. —Editorial Board
The Wall Street Journal

College football

At universities across the country, another class of worker will be asked to strap on protective gear to do their job — without the face coverings: college football players. Saturday afternoon college football is a way of life for millions of Americans. But the players are not essential in the middle of a pandemic that has already taken nearly 200,000 lives in the United

States. The health and future of college players deserve far more consideration than they've gotten thus far from their coaches, their fans and the presidents of their universities. —Editorial Board
The New York Times

Great Salt Lake

Unless people start caring and start acting, the Great Salt Lake will only be in increasing danger of, quite literally, drying up and blowing away. Water is like land. They aren't making any more of it. With

ongoing climate change, the chances of there being a lot less water to flow into the lake are great. People, businesses and government agencies need to do all they can to keep as much water as possible flowing into the lake. —Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Daily 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 Kenzie Holbrook can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

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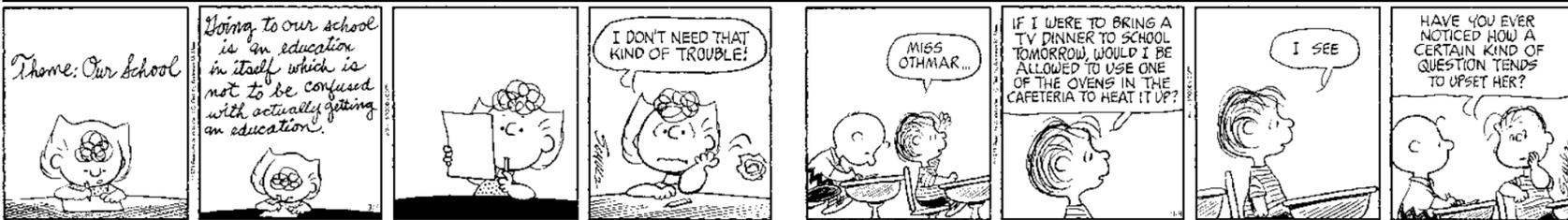
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Non Sequitur®



Peanuts®



Pickles®



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Sudoku

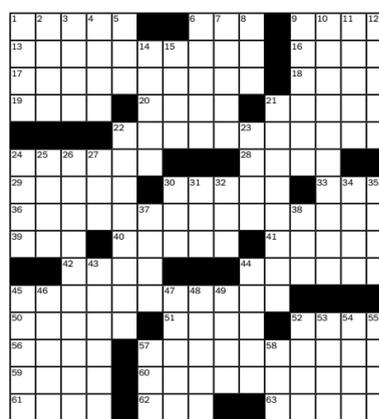
Use the numbers 1-9 once in each row, column and marked grid of 9. Puzzles increase in difficulty from left to right. Solutions are at universe.byu.edu/sudoku.

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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0803

- ACROSS**
- 1 Home of Pogo
 - 6 Muscles that get "crunched" in crunches
 - 9 [Oh, well]
 - 13 Things that go off when there's danger
 - 16 Other: Sp.
 - 17 Where to go for a fill-up
 - 18 Mets' venue before Citi Field
 - 19 Regarding
 - 20 San Lucas (Mexican resort city)
 - 21 Member of a tough crowd, say
 - 22 Firm place to plant your feet
 - 24 "That sounds fun to me!"
 - 28 "Auld ___ Syne"
 - 29 Tuesday, in Toulouse
 - 30 Ancient carver of stone heads in Mesoamerica
 - 33 Move on a pogo stick
 - 36 Viewing options popularized in the 1990s
 - 39 ___ card (smartphone insert)
 - 40 Beefcakes
 - 41 Doesn't win
 - 42 H₂O, south of the border
 - 44 "So's your mamal," for one
 - 45 Cash or stock, e.g.
 - 50 Child's counterpart
 - 51 Witty remark fun to me!"
 - 52 "I'll get right ___"
 - 56 Christmas carol
- DOWN**
- 1 Long story
 - 2 "What a shame!"
 - 3 What a sail is tied to
 - 4 Approximately
 - 5 Quantity: Abbr.
 - 6 "I was with my girlfriend all evening," e.g.
 - 7 Donation to the Red Cross
 - 8 Info in a data breach: Abbr.
 - 9 "Leaving already?"
 - 10 "That seemed right to me, too"
 - 11 Like most vegetation
 - 12 Keep everything for oneself
 - 14 Breakfast sizzler
 - 15 And others: Abbr.
 - 21 "Charming" jewelry?"
 - 22 What a skinny-dipper lacks
 - 23 Kind of club for singers
 - 24 Little rascalions
 - 25 Home of Timbuktu
 - 26 Theatrical sort
 - 27 Takes too much, in brief
 - 30 Buckeyes' sch.
 - 31 12, for 1/3, 1/4 and 1/6: Abbr.
 - 32 "The Marvelous ___ Maise!"
 - 34 On top of
 - 35 Surreptitious sound during an exam
 - 37 Slightly
 - 38 Word repeated in "Waste ___ want ___"
 - 43 Throat
 - 44 Give back to
 - 45 Hawaiian porch
 - 46 "Golden" things in the Bible
 - 47 Light blue shades
 - 48 Actress Essman of "Curb Your Enthusiasm"
 - 49 Takes a chair
 - 52 "Huh, funny running into you!"
 - 53 Indian flatbread
 - 54 "That true?"
 - 55 Bills with Alexander Hamilton on them
 - 57 Attys.' degrees as angel dust



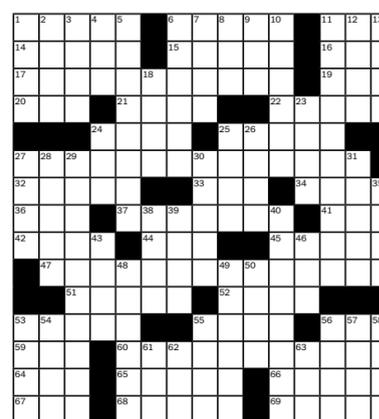
PUZZLE BY ERIC BORNSTEIN

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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0804

- ACROSS**
- 1 Supporting timber in home construction
 - 6 Jazz genre
 - 11 Popular sandwich, for short
 - 14 Breathing problem for a sleeper
 - 15 Solo
 - 16 Gardening tool
 - 17 2016 live-action Disney film with an animated title character
 - 19 Yellow ball in pool
 - 20 Ambient musician Brian
 - 21 1982 film named after a computer program
 - 22 Handle the food for, as a party
 - 24 Noggin
 - 25 So-called "City of a Thousand Minarets"
 - 27 Where John Milton and John Oliver studied at Cambridge
 - 32 Bumpkin
 - 33 Corrida cry
 - 34 Where clothing may come apart
 - 36 Prefix with -mester
 - 37 Abandon ___ or two words often seen next to the starts of 17-, 27-, 47- and 60-Across
 - 41 Greenpeace, e.g., for short
 - 42 Dame of fame
 - 44 Goffer Michelle
 - 45 Was meddlesome
 - 47 1933 Erskine Caldwell novel about a wealth-obsessed farm family
 - 51 "The gymnasium of the mind," per Pascal
 - 52 Troubles
 - 53 Actress Bara of 1917's "Cleopatra"
 - 55 Actress Polo of TV's "The Fosters"
 - 56 Ticked off
 - 59 Word after electric or elevator
 - 60 Notorious cinematic flop of 1980
 - 64 "My man"
 - 65 Desi of old TV
 - 66 Claw
 - 67 "Amen!"
 - 68 A, B or C, or first, second or third
 - 69 Was out
- DOWN**
- 1 Mocking remark
 - 2 U.S. ___
 - 3 Take ___ account
 - 4 "Now do you believe me?"
 - 5 Suggests, flavorwise
 - 6 Certain nobles
 - 7 Gusto
 - 8 Get stuck, with "down"
 - 9 Vocalist heard on the Beatles' "The Continuing Story of Bungalow Bill"
 - 10 Miniature golf course freebie
 - 11 Suitable for framing?
 - 12 Uneaten part of an entree, maybe
 - 13 Catcall
 - 18 "Confound it!"
 - 23 Bellucose deity
 - 24 Paragraph in a playbill, maybe
 - 25 What a fountain may provide
 - 26 Supermodel Wek who wrote "How the Cell"
 - 27 Suffix meaning "cell"
 - 28 Big finish?
 - 29 Heavyweight at a zoo
 - 30 Subdivision in group theory
 - 31 Zealous
 - 35 A la ___
 - 38 Symbols of wisdom
 - 39 Reformer Jacob who wrote "How the Other Half Lives"
 - 40 Certain Olympic athletes since 1900
 - 43 Condition that Adderall may be prescribed for, in brief
 - 46 Dorm leaders, in brief
 - 48 Enemy of Popeye
 - 49 Pluck, as eyebrow hairs
 - 50 Bereft, old-style
 - 53 Frozen dessert chain
 - 54 Cocky character in a fable
 - 55 Infomercial, e.g.
 - 56 Like every secretary of state until 1997
 - 57 On
 - 58 Job for a body shop
 - 61 Zig when one should zag, say
 - 62 Get ___ on (ace)
 - 63 Lass



PUZZLE BY JACOB STULBERG

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).
 Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	A	R	A		S	L	I	P	S		J	O	C	K			
A	R	A	L		H	E	N	R	I		A	V	I	A			
Y	O	D	A		H	I	K	I	N	G	G	E	A	R			
A	M	I	S	S		J	A	K	E		R	O	T				
H	A	I	K		P	O	E	M		M	S	N					
					A	D	O	P	T		W	I	N	D			
C	P	A			D	R	E	S	S		T	I	G	E	R		
H	I	G	H	E	N	D		H	E	I	G	H	H	O			
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D	E	E	P		S	E	E	Y	A		T	Y	R	E			

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P	A	C	T		L	O	A	F		L	O	K	I					
F	L	Y	A	B	L	E		E	N	C	I	N	O	M	A	N		
F	A	B	L	E		S	E	A	C	O	A	S	T					
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M	R	T		N	E	W		I	N	S	P	O	T					
F	A	L	S	E		H	O	O	D		R	I	O					
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Provo City Council debates \$80 million school bond

By MARTHA HARRIS

Provo City Council members expressed mixed opinions about publicly supporting the Provo School District General Obligation Bond during a City Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

The bond, proposed by the Provo City School District and on the ballot this November, is for \$80 million and would be used for a partial rebuild of Timpview High School. The proposed bond would increase property taxes by an average of \$70 per year, or \$5.83 per month.

A similar bond was presented last November and hotly contested by community members. At \$245 million, the proposed bond would have increased property taxes by an average of \$265.77 per year, or \$22.07 per month. Over 63% of Provo voters voted against the bond and it failed to pass the 2019 general city elections.

While the previous bond was to rebuild and renovate 14 schools within the Provo School District, the 2020 bond is solely focused on rebuilding Timpview High School.

According to a statement by the Provo City School District, Timpview is continually deteriorating and “the proposed bond is to ensure that existing deterioration does not proceed to a point where it is condemned.”

All council members agreed that steps need to be taken to ensure the safety of the students and staff in the building, but some were unsure whether it was the place of the council to publicly endorse the bond.

“I personally support this bond,” council member Shannon Ellsworth said. “But I don’t know why we need to be involved.”

Council member Bill Fillmore said joint support as a council was appropriate, especially considering the severity of the situation. “I believe that the two primary responsibilities of any governing board are to take care of public safety and proper education of our children.”

The council moved to continue its discussion of the resolution at the next City Council meeting on Sept. 15. Directions for how to view the council meeting are available on the council’s website.

BYU implementing COVID wastewater testing

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

BYU’s plan to tackle the spread of COVID-19 on campus is taking a foul-smelling turn: wastewater testing.

BYU is currently in the process of implementing sampling in on-campus housing buildings, but spokeswoman Carri Jenkins did not specify a timeline for when testing will start.

“This testing allows us to identify hot spots. This would allow us to take certain actions, which may include focused, risk-based testing,” Jenkins said.

Is BYU’s plan unique?

Wastewater testing is a cost-effective, proactive approach to tracking the spread of the coronavirus, and universities across the country are quickly adopting it as campuses reopen.

Success stories include the University of Arizona, which says it prevented a large outbreak after two asymptomatic individuals were identified during targeted testing of 311 people after a wastewater sample of a dorm came back positive. Utah State University also quarantined 287 students in their dorms last week after



Associated Press

Workers test Utah State University students for COVID-19 who had the virus detected in their wastewater.

elevated COVID-19 levels were found in wastewater.

Wastewater testing for the virus has been around since the early days of the pandemic, but it wasn’t until recently that it started gaining traction in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have partnered together to start the National Wastewater Surveillance System, which will produce data to help local, tribal and state officials track infections in their

communities.

However, this system does not include decentralized sewer systems, such as those of universities and prisons; thus, BYU’s plan to implement its own wastewater testing.

Other countries have also established wastewater testing systems. Finland and the Netherlands have systems in place to monitor 60% and 25% of their respective populations. Italy, Spain, Australia and Pakistan are among other nations to adopt the practice.

How does wastewater testing work?

According to the CDC website, wastewater testing does not replace existing COVID-19 surveillance systems but instead complements them, especially in communities where timely COVID-19 testing is not a reality.

“Depending on the frequency of testing, sewage surveillance can be a leading indicator of changes in COVID-19 burden in a community,” the CDC states.

While human feces from both symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals can contain the virus, the CDC says there is no information to date that anyone has become sick with COVID-19 because

of direct exposure to treated or untreated wastewater.

During wastewater testing, sewer samples are collected and tested for RNA from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. These samples are then used to identify populations that should be tested for COVID-19 based on SARS-CoV-2 levels found in the wastewater. This lightens the burden to test asymptomatic individuals since health officials can be more targeted in which individuals they test for COVID-19.

Environmental engineer Kyle Bibby told the Conversation that currently wastewater testing cannot yet measure how many people in the community have the virus. Instead that must be done through traditional testing.

This method also allows communities to be proactive rather than reactive. According health news website Stat News, wastewater testing allows officials to see infection levels one week to two weeks in advance of clinical diagnoses, and show increasing and decreasing levels of coronavirus infection and transmission.

All of these issues may make a valuable tool in BYU’s coronavirus tool belt.

BUILDINGS

Descendants respond to un-naming movement

Continued from Page 1

Lesa also said she wished to see the Church take accountability for its role in perpetuating racist attitudes and ideas.

Nichol Bourdeaux also said she was in favor of improved accountability about the Church’s racial history. Bourdeaux is a descendant of Green Flake, an enslaved man who was at one point hired by Brigham Young. Bourdeaux is also a relative of other Black families and slaves who lived in early Utah, such as Samuel and Amanda Chambers, emancipated slaves who became successful farmers in Utah after the Civil War.

Bourdeaux said that as a Black woman and a descendant of Green Flake, education about her ancestors’ roles in settling Utah is more important to her than buildings’ names.

“Is it really about monuments and names? Not necessarily. To me, it’s about, what are we doing to recognize systematic racism at BYU?” she said. “What are we doing to change the history and actually write it in the way that we do talk about Smoot, and how he did own slaves, and what that meant to the

continuation of systematic racism in BYU, in the LDS Church?”

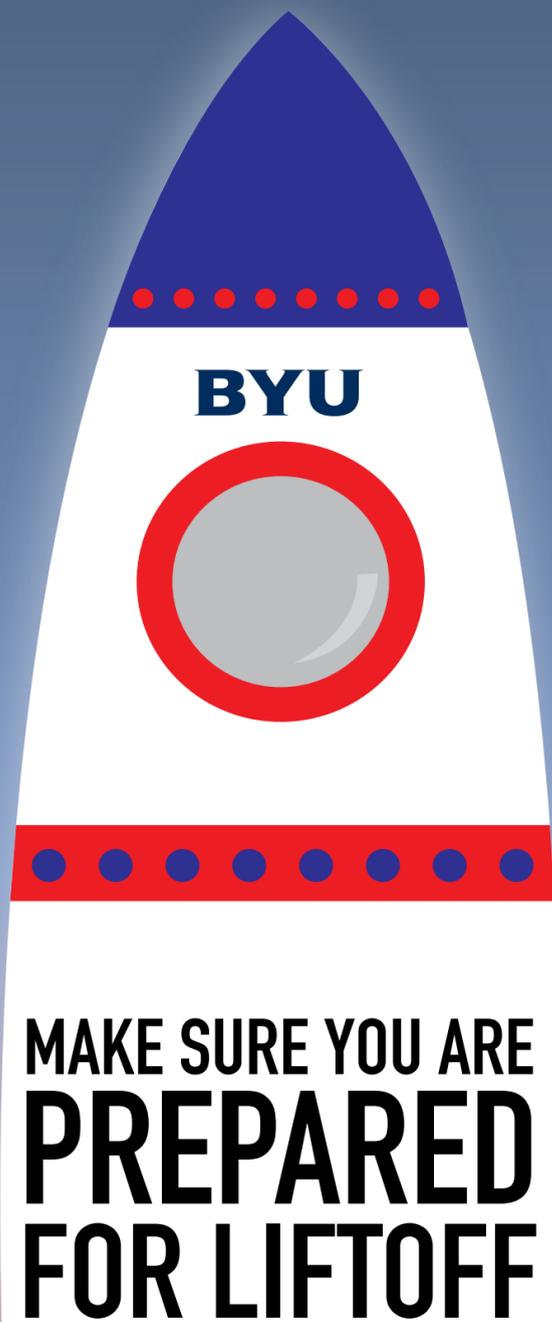
One major change Bourdeaux said she would like to see at BYU and across the state of Utah is a greater emphasis on Black history in education. She recalled arguing with her classmates in elementary school and trying to convince them that she, too, was a descendant of Utah pioneers.

“Where is that Black history in that school? I guarantee you they’re not learning about it. I guarantee you they don’t know the sacrifices of my family,” she said.

Though renaming buildings was not her highest priority, Bourdeaux said she understood why people want to end the practice of placing people who upheld slavery and systemic racism on a pedestal. Changing names of buildings and monuments alone, however, will not lead to the kind of lasting change necessary to eliminate racism in Utah, she said.

“Right now, my fear is that it’s trendy,” she said. “But how do we make sure that it continues in the classroom, it continues in the history books and it continues in whatever the Church chooses to reform — their beliefs and their history and how they teach?”

Bourdeaux said monuments and buildings are a product of culture; if BYU, the Church, and the state of Utah increase and improve Black history education, the cultural symbols such as statues and building names will follow.



Update your residential address at och.byu.edu by Sept 8th.

Failure to update your address could result in fees and holds.

A gravity-defying reminder from the BYU Off-Campus Housing Office, C-141 ASB, och@byu.edu

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