



Leaving soon

Predictions say fall leaves may peak early this year in Utah County

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BYU vs. Troy

Three things to know going into BYU's home opener

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September 22 - 28, 2020

THE UNIVERSE

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Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah



Preston Crawley

Students walk on campus on the first day of Fall Semester. State and county health officials are now pointing at Utah County young adults for causing recent surges in COVID-19 cases.

Utah County young adults fueling COVID spike

By JOSH CARTER

State health officials are calling out young adults in Utah County for their role in the recent surge of COVID-19 cases.

"We are experiencing a clear upward trend in case counts right now," Utah Department of Health epidemiologist Dr. Angela Dunn said in a statement Monday, Sept. 14. "This trend is being driven, in large part, by an increase in cases among college-aged young adults in Utah County."

The Utah Department of Health reported a state-record 1,108 new cases on Thursday, Sept. 17, with 490 coming from Utah County. Of the new cases in the state, 43.6% were from people aged 15-24.

Additionally, BYU reported a total of 927 cases and 400 active cases among the campus community on Sept. 21, up from the 258 total cases the university reported on Sept. 11. Utah Valley University has a self-reported case count of 198 as of Sept. 14, up from the 138 the school reported on Sept. 11.

"Since Friday (Sept. 11), 39% of all new cases have come from Utah County, this despite the fact that Utah County's population represents just 20% of the state's population," Dunn said.

The recent jump in case counts caused Utah Gov. Gary Herbert to express his frustrations in a Sept. 17 press conference.

"I'm very concerned about my home county of Utah County, which is having a significant and serious spike in infections," Herbert said. "I'm alarmed by people who ignore health guidelines, and by those who are out there promoting social gatherings almost defiant of the recommendations from our best minds in science and medicine."

Aislynn Tolman-Hill, spokesperson for the Utah County Health Department, acknowledged that a portion of the recent cases can be traced back to two businesses that organize dance parties in Utah County. Although Tolman-Hill did not disclose the names of the two businesses, she acknowledged it shouldn't be hard for someone to figure out who they are, based on recent media coverage.

Tolman-Hill went on to say one of the businesses is linked to BYU students, while the other hosts country-genre parties a couple times a week.

Utah Country Dance has been hosting "Country Dance Provo" twice a week in downtown Provo. Company manager Miguel Guzman, however, said he hasn't heard from local health officials about the dance nights

potentially being tied to an increase of COVID cases.

"We haven't heard anything at all," Guzman said.

Young/Dumb, another Provo-based company, has stirred up a considerable amount of controversy on social media since hosting its first of three dance parties on Aug. 7. Shortly after the company's latest "Mask-Querade" party on Sept. 11, Young/Dumb founder and former BYU student Kwaku El posted a video on Instagram Live explaining why he planned to continue hosting such events.

"I'm not going to stop," El's video caption read. "I know exactly what I'm doing and it's purposeful. We need to push for going back to normal. If we keep social distancing, we are going to lose everything."

Tolman-Hill noted she did not know the exact number of positive cases linked to the two businesses. However, she said contact tracers have definitively linked multiple cases to their events.

"These events where there are lots of people, no social distancing, no mask-wearing, that's just a prime place for transmission of COVID," Tolman-Hill said. "We have definitely seen that happening."

The Daily Universe has filed a request for official confirmation of the

names of the two businesses implicated as part of the coronavirus spread problems.

BYU officials, aware of the off-campus gatherings, announced via Twitter on Sept. 4 that issues with those unwilling to comply with COVID safety requirements would be "addressed through local areas of campus and the Dean of Students Office."

On Sept. 14, days after Young/Dumb's "Mask-Querade" party, school officials again took to Twitter to announce "on-campus privileges will be restricted" for non-compliant students. According to the Tweet, BYU had already "imposed disciplinary measures for 15 students who refused to follow these requirements."

"These measures include suspension or restrictions from on-campus participation, such as classes, work or in-person campus services," a follow-up Tweet from BYU's official account read.

The school did not disclose the names of the 15 students who have already been disciplined, but BYU media relations manager Todd Hollingshead said two have withdrawn from the university. The Daily Universe reached out to El to see if he was one but received no response. Hollingshead, however, said El is not a current student and has not graduated from the university.

Pandemic parties raising city officials' temperatures

By MARTHA HARRIS

City officials have expressed concerns over unmasked indoor dance parties in Provo but have not cited the organizers for violating the mask mandate.

Provo's mask ordinance requires organizers of indoor public gatherings of more than 50 people to require attendees to wear face masks and post clear notices about the face mask requirement at the entrance.

The ordinance says organizers of public gatherings that violate the mask mandate could be fined up to \$500 and the maximum fine for individuals violating the ordinance is \$55. According to Public Information Officer Nicole Martin, there have been no cited violators as of Sept. 16.

Martin said the city will respond to situations in the future where attendees were not following the mask mandate "as information is presented to us and deal with each based on the facts of the specific circumstance."

A flyer for a Sept. 4 Young/Dumb party said attendees needed a mask to get into the party, but pictures show that mask-wearing was not enforced once inside.

Provo Police Chief Rich Ferguson said his department received a noise complaint about the dance party, but no reports of people violating the mask mandate. However, a video posted by Young/Dumb co-founder Kwaku El on his Instagram story the night of the party shows El and other party attendees talking to officers, all without their masks on.

After arriving at the party officers discovered there were too many people inside the venue and called the city fire marshal, who ultimately shut the party down, citing fire code violations.

Ferguson said in enforcing the mask mandate, the police department's focus is on educating individuals and only using the fine as a last resort. However, he said the department has not received a lot of calls reporting people who were not following the mask mandate.

The Daily Universe reached out to Mayor Michelle Kaufusi for her thoughts on the situation but she has not responded.

City Council member George Handley said he was disappointed in the organizers who threw the party and concerned about what unmasked indoor gatherings could mean for the number of COVID-19 cases in Provo. "Anytime you have that many people in a closed space without proper protocol, you're putting the whole community at risk. And it's really narrow to think otherwise."

Handley said he was also concerned that the event and its aftermath could give others the impression that they won't face any consequences for violating the mask mandate.

Provo Fire Marshal Lynn Schofield said while he doesn't want to stop people from having fun and it is not his department's jurisdiction to enforce the mask mandate, he was concerned as a community member that people weren't taking the mask mandate more seriously.

"The people that you run into at train stations, at grocery stores, walking down the halls, some of those people are high-risk individuals," Schofield said.

Young/Dumb had previously advertised its parties on social media as a way to support the economy that been stifled due to COVID-19.

Handley said if Provo has a major outbreak of COVID-19, things will change for the worse. "If you're trying to help the economy and believe you're going to help it by ignoring the health guidelines, you're kidding yourself."

Scan the story with the Universe Plus app to read a Spanish translation of this story.



Student Health Center maxing out daily COVID testing slots

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

The BYU Student Health Center has been offering COVID-19 tests since the spring. Both demand and positive test rates have shot up since Fall Semester started.

"We're filling up completely every day," said Keith Willmore, the center's medical director. The staff went from offering 100-120 tests a week over the summer to 1,000-1,100 per week during Fall Semester.

The health center has a little over 200 daily testing slots Monday through Friday and 90 on Saturday mornings.

If an individual calls to make an appointment after all the slots have been filled for the day, they have two options: pick an available slot for another day or go to another testing location.

However, the student health center may be the only realistic option for students without a car or bike. The next closest testing locations are Blue Rock Medical Center and Urgent Care and a TestUtah site at Provo Towne Centre Mall, which are a 35- and a 54-minute walk, respectively, from Helaman Halls.

The positive test rate has also increased as campus reopened, specifically from 10% to 20-25%. But Willmore



Preston Crawley

Students line up on foot and by car for COVID-19 testing at the BYU Student Health Center on Sept. 17. Scan the photo with the Universe Plus app to read a Spanish translation of this story.

stressed that the positive test rate only applies to those being tested — most of whom are more likely to have it due to exposure.

"It's hard to know whether it's OK or not. I mean we've not dealt with this before and that's why there's so much question," Willmore said. "Bottom line is we're watching it really closely."

Who tests positive is predictable

According to Willmore, the health center is seeing a clear pattern in who tests positive for COVID.

"By far the majority of the positives that we are seeing are people that have

a roommate that's sick and then they get sick," Willmore said. While some test positive without any known exposure, it's very uncommon, according to Willmore.

Same-day results

Starting Sept. 18, the center began offering a new test with same-day results. This is because the center will be able to do the lab testing at its location rather than its current practice of sending tests to a lab in Phoenix.

Willmore said the health center has been fighting to get the test for

months and will be one of the only places in the state to have it. "We're really excited."

A less painful test

The new test is still a nose swab test, but Willmore said students don't need to brace themselves for the horror stories they've heard about painful tests. For the past few weeks, the center has been administering a less painful test.

"It's almost more of a tickle. It doesn't hurt," Willmore said. "It's much better tolerated."

The cost of testing

Testing is free for students in virtually every situation. If BYU is requiring someone to be tested as part of asymptomatic screening, the university will pay for it. If someone is exposed or has symptoms, their insurance will pay for a test without a copay. Only students without insurance would have to pay for a test.

Students scheduling an appointment to be tested must provide proof of insurance, including a photo of their insurance card, which they can email to the health center following their testing appointment.

Individuals being tested are also provided with a paper they can present to their employer if asked for proof of their need to quarantine.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

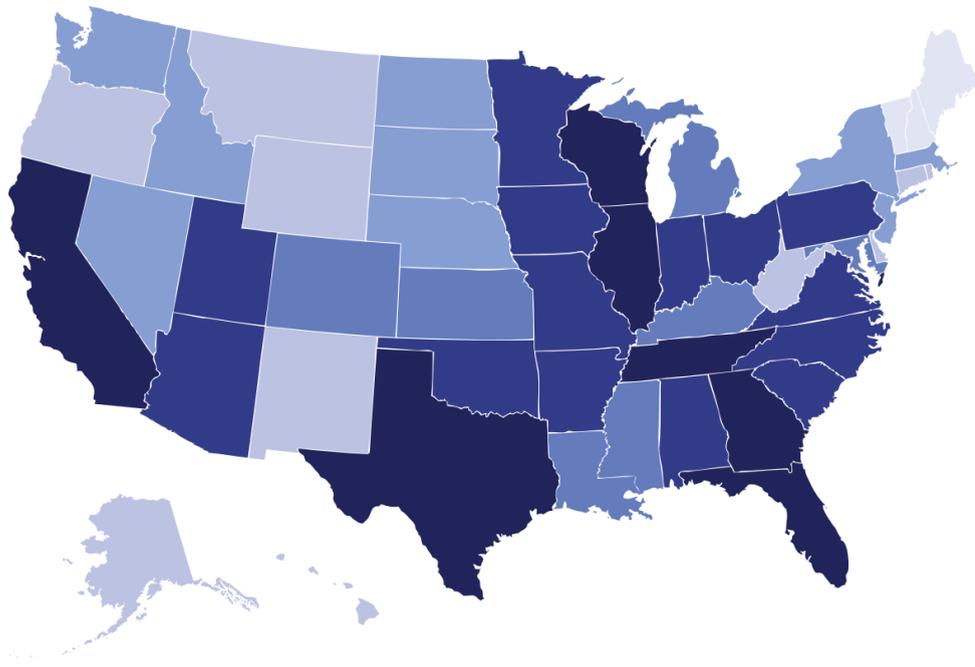
Coronavirus cases reported in the last 7 days

USA total cases
6,786,352

USA total deaths
199,024

USA cases in last 7 days
283,358

Utah deaths in last 7 days
7



0 – 363 525 – 1,464 1,579 – 3,141 3,533 – 5,029 5,504 – 10,097 11,590 – 29,100

Allie Peterson

Cases reported in the U.S. in the last seven days. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies at 87



Can Trump and McConnell seat a Supreme Court justice in just 6 weeks?

By CAREN MORRISON, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
The Conversation

United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died on Sept. 18, thrusting the acrimonious struggle for control of the Supreme Court into public view.

President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have already vowed to nominate and confirm a replacement for the 87-year-old justice and women's rights icon.

This contradicts the justification the Republican-controlled Senate used when it refused to consider the nomination of Merrick Garland, President Barack Obama's pick for the Court after the death of Antonin Scalia in February 2016.

Garland, a moderate judge on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, was nominated in March 2016, but McConnell balked on the basis that it was an election year.

Being able to replace a reliable liberal voice on the Court with a conservative justice would entrench a 6-3 tilt towards the right for years. There is bound to be vehement opposition from the Democrats.

However the politics play out, there is a process for Supreme Court nominations and confirmations. Here are the four steps:

Step 1: The presidential pick

The first thing to know is that the Constitution of the United States gives the power of nomination to the president.

Article II, section 2 provides that the president "shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint judges of the Supreme Court."

By law, so long as he is in the White House, President Trump can nominate whomever he wants to replace Justice Ginsburg.

Step 2: The Senate Judiciary Committee

Once the president has made a choice, the nomination is referred to the United States Senate.

The Judiciary Committee currently has 22 members, 12 Republicans and 10 Democrats, and has a three-step process of its own.

First, it conducts an investigation into the nominee's background. This process can take 30 to 45 days.

Second, the committee holds a public hearing, in which the nominee is questioned and may give testimony about everything from her judicial philosophy to her stand on abortion.

Finally, the committee will report its recommendation to the full Senate as either favorable, negative, or no recommendation.

The 10 Democratic members of the committee have already sent a letter to the chairman, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, calling on him to "state unequivocally and publicly that you will not consider any nominee to fill Justice Ginsburg's seat until after the next President is inaugurated."

But that seems highly unlikely, given Graham's new statements backtracking from his 2018 assertions that he would not want a confirmation vote on a Supreme Court appointment in a presidential election year.

Step 3: The full Senate

There are 100 senators in the United States Senate, two for each state. Currently, the Senate is majority Republican, with 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats and two Independents, who both caucus with the Democrats.

If the motion that the nomination be considered is made during a special "executive" session of the Senate, then the motion itself is debatable and can be blocked by filibuster.

Step 4: The vote

The vote to confirm requires a simple majority of the senators present and voting. If the nominee is confirmed, the Secretary of the Senate will transmit the confirmation vote to the president.

The president then would sign a commission appointing the person to the Supreme Court.

The timing

The real question is whether all of this can be accomplished before the election on Nov. 3, or if it will roll over into the lame-duck session of Congress after the election.

Either way it will be a first. The Senate has never filled a Supreme Court vacancy this close to a presidential election.

BYU announces more frequent COVID updates

By JOSH CARTER

BYU announced via Twitter on Sept. 15 it will update its on-line COVID-19 dashboard information more often than once a week.

"After listening to the concerns of faculty, students & staff, and due to the increase of disease prevalence, BYU will be updating the COVID-19 dashboard information more frequently than once a week," the

tweet reads.

The change came less than a week after the school announced it would move from daily to once-a-week reporting of COVID cases, which caused several members of the BYU community to voice their displeasure.

Since the announcement, BYU updated the case count five times. As of Sept. 21, BYU reported 911 total cases with 443 active cases and 468 no longer in isolation. The seven-day rolling average was 69 cases per day.

Coronavirus spike worsens in Utah as governor mulls measures

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — A spike of coronavirus cases in Utah that began after schools and colleges resumed classes reached a new peak Sept. 18 and led the state's Republican governor to say again that he's considering new measures to combat the spread of the virus.

Gov. Gary Herbert said he will meet with his command team on Sept. 21 after what he described as

an "alarming" spike that makes him question if previous warnings and public education are enough.

He said one day earlier he's considering a state mask mandate, a move he's stopped short of making despite repeated pleas for residents to use face coverings when social distancing isn't possible. He has instead allowed counties to decide if they needed bans.

"For months, we have warned people that they need to stay home if they are sick or have tested positive for COVID-19," Herbert said.

Italy's initial virus hotspot back to school after 7 months

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CODOGNO, Italy — The morning bell Sept. 20 marked the first entrance to the classroom for the children of Codogno since Feb. 21, when panicked parents were sent to pick up their children after the northern Italian town gained notoriety as the first in the West to record local transmission of the coronavirus.

While all of Italy's 8 million school students endured Italy's

strict 2 month lockdown, few suffered the trauma of the children of Codogno with sirens often passing.

So while the reopening of Italian schools marks an important step in a return to pre-lockdown routine, the step bears more symbolic weight in the 11 towns in Lombardy and Veneto that were the first to be sealed off as coronavirus red zones.

Codogno Mayor Francesco Passerini said they have spared no effort to provide maximum protection to the city's 3,500 students.

Much work needed to shield nursing homes from virus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is claiming "re-sounding vindication" from an independent commission's report on the coronavirus crisis in nursing homes, but some panel members say that's a misinterpretation of their conclusion that much remains to be done to safeguard vulnerable residents.

People in long-term care facilities represent less than 1% of the

U.S. population but more than 40% of the coronavirus deaths, according to the COVID Tracking Project, which has tallied 77,000 deaths among residents and staff. Those harsh numbers are a sensitive political issue for President Donald Trump, who is trying to hang on to support from older voters.

A commission was set up by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS.

The administration says it has already acted, or made progress, on most issues flagged.

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Big Ten will try to play fall football after all

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Big Ten is going to give fall football a shot after all.

Less than five weeks after pushing fall sports to spring in the name of player safety during the pandemic, the conference ran a reverse Sept. 16 and said it plans to open its football season the weekend of Oct. 23-24.

Amid the celebration, a word of caution: This is still not going to be easy.

"We can't emphasize enough that what we're putting forward still requires prevention, requires accountability from everyone involved from our student-athletes to coaches to staff to be doing the things to prevent getting this infection," said Dr. Jim Borchers, the team physician for Ohio State.

All 14 teams will be scheduled to play eight regular-season games in eight weeks, plus have the opportunity to play a ninth game on Dec. 19 when the conference championship game is played.

The Big Ten is banking on daily testing to mitigate the risk of outbreaks.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES

Pendulum Court Cafe gives dietetics students new opportunities

By CASSIDY WIXOM

The Pendulum Court Cafe had its opening day for the new academic year on Monday Sept. 14. This was the first day the cafe in the Eyring Science Center has been in operation since all campus restaurants were first shut down due to COVID-19 in March.

Nicknamed the PenCourt by the students and staff, the cafe is no ordinary on-campus restaurant. It is a food lab for dietetics students that gives hands-on experience in food safety certification, food preparation, restaurant management and kitchen operation.

Juniors in the dietetics program take a class where they work in the PenCourt to get experience in all aspects of dietetics. They spend about 10 hours in the lab every week working for the PenCourt, plus extra outside time on assignments and quizzes.

Despite the stress and the fast-paced learning, the students say they love having the new challenge. "We're all new to this and learning together as we go," said Sydney Hollingsworth, a student in the PenCourt lab.

Hannah Erekson, a student who was in the lab in Winter 2020, said, "It's fun to get out of the classroom and be on our feet moving and applying things we had previously learned in class. It's not easy work, but it's rewarding to serve others yummy meals that they love."

The food lab is an experience that cannot be replicated online, so the class was canceled when campus got shut down mid-winter semester. The



Hannah Miner

A BYU student orders food at the Pendulum Court Cafe. Dietetics students prepare and distribute food at the cafe in their lab class.

professors and interns over the cafe did not know what to expect this semester or whether they would be able to continue operating again.

"We had everything prepared for fall as if it would be a normal semester, but then we had to redo everything that we had done," said Professor Julie Duncan, one of two professors in charge of the PenCourt.

Elyce Gamble, an intern working for the cafe, said the cafe staff had to make many adjustments in the last few weeks leading up to school. These adjustments include adding social distance stickers on the ground, extra sanitation of tables, a limited menu, half the capacity of chairs and tables in the dining room, and food served in to-go containers.

"We are encouraging people to go outside and eat or take it to their classrooms so we can keep crowds low," she said.

Another precaution allows only 12 students in the kitchen at a time to ensure social distancing.

According to Duncan, the food lab opened a few days earlier this semester to ensure the

students get as much experience in the lab as possible before campus moves online after Thanksgiving Break.

The staff and students expressed their excitement to have the cafe open again. Gamble said the first day went great and she was pleased with the turnout of customers. The students and professors also shared their enthusiasm to continue the legacy of the food lab.

According to Duncan, the food science lab has been on campus since 1962 when it was originally called the Elizabethan Dining Room, located in the now-gone Smith Family Living Center. It was moved to the Eyring Science Center in September of 1998 and renamed the Pendulum Court Cafe.

Since then, dietetics and food science students have baked, cooked, cleaned and successfully kept the PenCourt Cafe running for their own learning and other students' enjoyment.

The cafe is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. and Tuesdays from noon-1:10 p.m.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chamber Orchestra recording honored by Broadway World



Nathalie Van Empel

The BYU Chamber Orchestra and Broadway performer Lea Salonga earned the 2020 Broadway World Album Award for Best New EP/Solo Release for an album they collaborated on in 2017. This was an unprecedented accomplishment, as it is rare for a university to earn such a prestigious award, especially one that includes such accomplished competition as Leslie Odom Jr. of "Hamilton" and Ben Platt of "Dear Evan Hansen." Titled "The Story of My Life: Lea Salonga Live from Manila," the album owes its success to not only the talented orchestra and Solonga but also the School of Music, the BYU Performing Arts Management and BYU donors.

"This isn't a college award; it's an award for professionally produced albums on Broadway," said BYU professor and performance conductor Kory Katseanes. "It's unbelievable — but not undeserved — that BYU won."

IRA A. FULTON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Students help authorities detect wildfires earlier

A team of BYU students created an early-detection tool to catch wildfires before they spread out of control. Seniors studying information technology and cybersecurity worked with UTOPIA Fiber, an internet connectivity provider, to develop the Early-Detection Wildfire Imaging Network (EDWIN). When EDWIN detects a temperature greater than 300 degrees Fahrenheit through its thermal imaging cameras, the program sends an alert to the nearest fire department. Each reduced minute of response time due to EDWIN is expected to save \$44,000 to \$215,000.

"Being able to build something we know would actually help people and then watching



Associated Press

it come to fruition was very fulfilling," project member Ben Dorton said. EDWIN is now in use in Layton, Woodland Hills, and Murray, Utah. Graduated project members Chaz Nelson and Hayden Redford have recently been hired by UTOPIA Fiber and are working to expand EDWIN across the west.

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

\$40 million gift establishes Sorensen Center to development moral, ethical leaders



Verla and David Sorensen

A new leadership center at BYU will host experiential learning opportunities for students and faculty while setting a worldwide example for morally driven leadership. The Sorensen Center for Moral and Ethical Leadership, named for Verla A. Sorensen and her late husband, David E. Sorensen, is being funded by a \$40 million gift from their family.

David Sorensen was a general authority of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1992 until his death in 2014. The Sorensens both attended BYU and have donated to and invested in the university since they have been on the President's Leadership Council for almost 20 years.

"I think this center will speak to the world and will speak to all the people who believe in the importance of high morals and unflinching ethics," Verla Sorensen said.

Recent BYU grad seeks to represent fellow Provo students in state legislature

By KAELA CLEARY

A 2018 BYU sociology graduate is seeking election this November into the Utah House of Representatives to represent Provo's District 63.

Jenna Rakuita, the face behind "Jenna for Provo," believes that since 71% of Provo residents are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old, their elected representative should be too. The goal of her campaign is for student representation to become a movement and change the face of democracy in Utah.

"The needs of students and young people aren't represented within our community," Rakuita said. "The issues that are being focused on by representatives aren't meeting the needs of

students."

Rakuita will run against incumbent Republican Adam Robertson and Austin Simcox of the United Utah Party. Robertson has represented Provo's District 63 since January 2018.

Rakuita wants to make local politics more personal for students. She said she wants to hear from students and young people through direct messages on social media about what issues they see in the community and how we can implement solutions. The campaign's main focus is to implement policies that will improve students' lives.

Campaign volunteer and BYU political science student Robby Lindsay said the majority of Provo has specific concerns like housing, mental health, transportation and education that need more

attention.

"As I've learned about the huge housing shortage that exists in Utah for lower-income people, and teacher pay being ranked lowest in the country for 20 or 30 years in a row, I think there are a lot of important issues that we can change and Jenna's campaign has opened my eyes to that," Lindsay said.

BYU has played a significant role in Rakuita's motivation to run in the election. She said the inclusive environment at BYU encourages students to be heard and take action in their local communities. For example, BYU offers voter registration drive, various political clubs on campus and the Ballard Center's social innovation projects, which provide internships focused on how to create an impact on social issues.

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TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL
Tuesday, September 22,
11:05 a.m.

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



Estela Marquez

BYU Multicultural Student Services Advisor

Estela Marquez is an advisor in BYU Multicultural Student Services. She was born in a small village in northern Guatemala in Central America. She and her husband left Guatemala more than 40 years ago. After living in Costa Rica and Mexico for a few years, they then decided to move to the United States.

Sister Marquez received an associate degree in behavioral sciences from Mt. San Jacinto College, a BS in social work from La Sierra University, and an MS in social work from Brigham Young University. She has served as a board member for NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) and has continued working with NAMI as a teacher of the

Family to Family course, a psycho-educational program that prepares families to better deal with loved ones suffering with mental illness. She is also a facilitator for the NAMI Family Support group in Spanish, a group that shares experiences and resources to help loved ones with mental illness.

Prior to coming to BYU, Sister Marquez worked as a school social worker for three years in the Provo School District. She enjoys using her experiences and her love for education to reach out to her students and help them achieve their whole potential here at BYU.

Sister Marquez and her husband, Israel, are the parents of seven children and have 16 grandchildren.

Selected speeches available at speeches.byu.edu.

NEXT: UNIVERSITY FORUM

MELODY C. BARNES
Lawyer and Political Advisor



September 29, 11:05 a.m.
Marriott Center

Fall foliage forecast shows Utah County leaves may peak early

By JOSH CARTER

Those hoping to catch the peak of the changing fall colors in Utah County this year may have to get out a little bit earlier than usual.

According to a fall foliage forecast published by the tourism website SmokyMountains.com, Utah's leaves appear to be changing colors ahead of most of the country, with some of the state's foliage already nearing their peak.

Utah County's fall leaves typically reach their peak colors at the very end of September and beginning of October, according to U.S. Forest Service public affairs specialist Kathy Jo Pollock. However, Smoky Mountain's foliage report predicts the county's leaves will reach their peak colors sometime during the week of Sept. 21 and Sept. 28.



Addie Blacker

Leaves have already started to change color in Provo Canyon and the surrounding areas. Scan this image with the *Universe Plus* app to read a Spanish translation of the story.



"The colors do seem to be changing a little bit earlier than normal, as far as I can tell," BYU plant and wildlife sciences

professor Sam St. Clair said.

As of Sept. 16, the Provo area had received just 61% of its average precipitation

levels, according to data collected by the National Resources Conservation Service. Both St. Clair and Pollock pointed to this lack of moisture as one of the biggest factors in influencing when the fall foliage starts to change and how early it reaches its peak.

St. Clair acknowledged a number of additional elements that can impact when leaves start to change color, including colder-than-usual temperatures, water sources in the area and the trees' species. St. Clair pointed out that different species are influenced in different ways by such elements, which is why it can be difficult to determine whether or not it's normal for Utah's foliage to change before the rest of the country's.

Pollock also noted extreme weather events like the high-speed winds experienced throughout the state on Sept. 9 can cause leaves to fall before changing color at all. She said a culmination of these factors can cause the leaves' peak colors to be less vibrant than usual, especially in lower elevations.

However, Pollock was quick to point out the leaves in some of the more popular Utah County fall hotspots, such as the Alpine and Nebo Loops, will almost always deliver with bright, vivid colors.

A number of locals are already flocking to such areas to ensure they don't miss the peak colors. Provo Canyon and the Alpine Loop have especially seen a considerable amount of movement from those hoping to catch a glimpse of the changing leaves.

Despite the recent less-than-favorable climate conditions, Pollock expects locals to continue to take to the mountains and be plenty happy with how the fall colors turn out.

"There are still going to be areas throughout the county that are going to be quite pretty for people to get out and enjoy, regardless of the circumstances," Pollock said.



Preston Crawley

Pastor David Nicholson preaches to members of New Community Church at SCERA Park on Sept. 13, 2020.

Utah County church services head outside, online

By KENZIE HOLBROOK

Local churches are starting to resume Sunday services. Many of them are turning to live streams and outdoor meetings to facilitate social distancing.

Rev. Susan Toone from St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Provo said she only held virtual services when coronavirus first hit. As things have begun to open up, St. Mary's has started holding outdoor services every other week, weather permitting.

Toone said St. Mary's has also started a weekly Zoom meeting called W.O.W., or Women on Wednesday. "It's more of a social gathering for those in the parish or for anybody that would just like to get together and have some time to converse and share how we're doing."

Toone said St. Mary's is still actively involved in the Food and Care Coalition. Before the pandemic, churchgoers helped serve meals to the community, but now Toone just keeps in touch and donates needed items.

Pastor David Nicholson of New Community Church in Orem is also holding his services outdoors at SCERA Park. "We make it a very informal gathering," Nicholson said. "We always do our services with food in our hands."

Nicholson said every week the church does worship and

then everyone goes to the pavilion to get food and sit down in their camping chairs, talking about the scriptures while eating.

Nicholson also streams his services through Facebook Live, something he started doing long before the pandemic. He said every week he has about 100 to 200 people who log into Facebook Live to watch the service.

One of the hardest things for Nicholson has been seeing a decrease in attendance. He said there used to be about 70 people, but the most he's seen since the pandemic has been about 25.

In the near future, Nicholson is looking to implement colored wristbands people can wear at church so other people will know how much contact they are comfortable with. For example, those who want to keep their distance would wear a red band, those who want to be cautious would wear yellow and those who are fine with physical contact would wear green.

Mario Garcia, secretary of The Way Church in Provo said his church is holding meetings over Facebook Live as well as some services in the building with safety precautions.

"We also hold nightly prayer meetings online," Garcia said. "As a functional body of Christ, we encourage one another via online meetings and phone calls. Some members have started hosting their own devotionals online."

Police Beat

Provo

THEFT

Sept. 13 - A license plate was reported stolen from a vehicle parked at a residence near 400 South on Utah Avenue.

Sept. 13 - An automobile was reported stolen from a residence near 200 North and 1600 West.

Sept. 14 - Property theft was reported in a parking lot near 800 North on Independence Avenue.

Sept. 14 - Property theft was reported near 1400 West and 820 North.

Sept. 14 - A few longboards were reported stolen after being left unattended near 900 West and 2100 North.

Sept. 15 - An automobile was reported stolen near 400 West and 1720 North.

Sept. 15 - A McDonald's employee reported his jacket was stolen after he left it outside near 200 West on Cougar Boulevard.

Sept. 16 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 1000 East and 450 North.

Sept. 17 - An automobile was reported stolen near 900 East and 620 North.

BURGLARY

Sept. 12 - A burglary was reported at a residence near 100 West and 3300 North.

Sept. 14 - A burglary was reported at a residence near 1800 North on Oak Lane.

ROBBERY

Sept. 15 - A physical confrontation over an issue of money that was owed was reported near 100 South and 300 West. One of the two women involved tried to record the incident,

and the man stole her phone. A knife was involved in the altercation.

BYU

THEFT

Sept. 13 - A bicycle that was not locked up was reported stolen from the bike rack at Wyview Terrace.

Sept. 15 - A bicycle was reported stolen after being left unlocked temporarily in the bike rack at Wyview Park.

Sept. 16 - A credit card was reported stolen from an office in the Richards Building.

Sept. 16 - A locked bike was reported stolen from the bike rack at the University Parkway Building.

ARRESTS

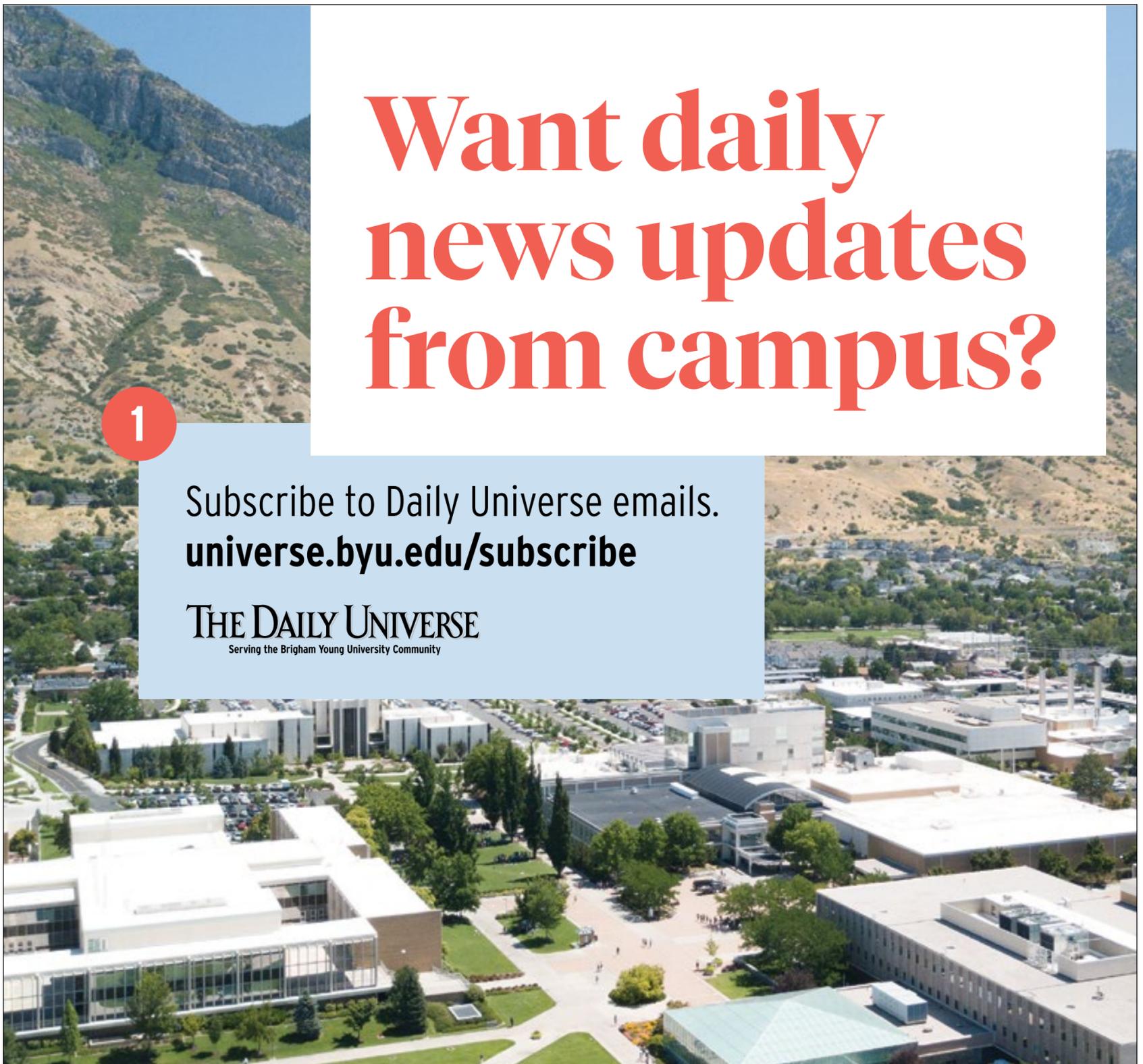
Sept. 14 - A man was arrested at the Y Mountain Trailhead after being found in possession of a vehicle stolen in Orem.

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1

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Jaren Wilkey/BYU Photo

BYU football coach Kalani Sitake speaks to players during a team scrimmage in LaVell Edwards Stadium June 19. The Cougars are scheduled to play the Troy Trojans in the first BYU home game on Sept. 26.

Three things to know about BYU Football's first matchup against Troy

By MAX CLARK

The BYU Cougars and Troy Trojans are scheduled to meet on the gridiron for the first time in program history on Saturday, Sept. 26. The No. 21-ranked Cougars, returning from an unanticipated bye week, host the Trojans in Provo at LaVell Edwards Stadium.

Here are three things to know about the Cougar-Trojan matchup.

Offensive coordinators

Troy offensive coordinator Ryan Pugh – previously BYU's offensive line coach in 2018 – led the Trojans' successful offensive front in 2019. Last season, the Trojans averaged 34 points per game including a season-high 63 points against upcoming BYU foe Texas State. Pugh helped the Trojans finish in the top 20 in the nation in total yards last season.

BYU offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes led the Cougars to a great start in 2020, scoring on nine of 12 total drives in their season opener against Navy. Grimes has a very successful history as an offensive line coach which has catalyzed the Cougars' successful run game and ability to protect the pocket. The BYU O-line was given a run-block grade of 82.2 while allowing zero QB pressures against a complex Navy defense.

Grimes and the BYU offense received national attention following the opening week win including the entire BYU offensive lined being named to the Sixth Year Sports National Team of the Week. Wide receiver Gunner Romney and running back Tyler Allgeier were also listed on the Team of the Week.

Productive defenses

Troy's defense was a big question mark coming into the 2020 season. In 2019, the Trojan defense allowed

an average of 35 points per game – one point more than what their offense was able to produce on average. However, the defense proved productive during the 2020 season opener against Middle Tennessee State.

The Trojans forced Middle Tennessee to punt three times and forced three consecutive turnovers – an interception, turnover on downs, and a safety – in the first half.

Although BYU's defense was very productive in its week-one matchup against Navy, it will need to transition from focusing on guarding a triple-option offense to guarding a Troy offense whose wide receivers are the dominant playmakers.

During the 2019 season, the Cougar defense forced eight fumbles and 15 interceptions. Payton Wilgar, who led the team with three picks in 2019, returns to the roster this year. BYU also returns Khyiris Tonga on the defensive line, Isaiah Kaufusi and Kavika

Fonua at linebacker, and Zayne Anderson and Troy Warner at defensive back in 2020. All played significant minutes in 2019 and contributed to BYU's defensive success.

Quarterbacks

Gunnar Watson was named the Troy starter ahead of the Trojans' week one matchup against Middle Tennessee State. The 6-foot-3, 208-pound sophomore beat out junior college transfer and National Junior College Athletic Association Offensive Player of the Year Parker McNeil and Vanderbilt transfer Jacob Free for the starting job. Watson had a very productive starting debut against Middle Tennessee. Midway through the third quarter, Watson had already completed 25 of 36 pass attempts for 230 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception.

BYU's Zach Wilson was named the Manning Award Quarterback of the

Week after an impressive week-one performance. The junior quarterback has much more collegiate experience than Watson does for Troy. Wilson has appeared as the starter in all three seasons of his collegiate career.

"Nothing is holding him back," junior wide receiver Dax Milne said of Wilson. "He's ready to make any throw that he needs given the play and he is going to be great this year."

Wilson completed 13 of 18 pass attempts for 232 yards, two touchdowns and one interception during the season opener against Navy.

BYU is highly favored in the first-ever matchup with the Trojans. ESPN's Football Power Index has BYU as the 89.1% favorite.

Kickoff is set for Saturday, Sept. 26 at 8:15 p.m. MDT. BYU says 6,000 fans will be allowed at LaVell Edwards Stadium, with individual game tickets sold on BYUTickets.com. The game will be broadcast on ESPN.

BYU Basketball preparations aim to give Cougars advantage when season begins

By CAMERON MUH

BYU Basketball is continuing to practice and prepare for its season, after the NCAA announced the season will start Nov. 25.

"We want to get every advantage we can on the rest of the country, so we're working as hard as we can now, because we know there's going to be a time when all of that is going to pay off," freshman Caleb Lohner said.

The Nov. 25 start date is a guideline for individual schools and conferences, and some may elect to start later. There has been no word from the West Coast Conference or BYU about scheduling yet, with several BYU games scheduled before the start date.

The start date gives a six-week window for the college basketball season to begin with most students away from campus and home for the holidays. "By Thanksgiving week, the date of Nov. 25, 76% of all Division-1 schools will have either finished their fall semester completely or released the general student body for in-person instruction," said Dan Gavitt, NCAA senior vice president of basketball, in a webinar last week.

A decision was not made on the early-season tournaments and events or the non-conference games scheduled for the month of December. For now, the Cougars are grateful for the opportunity they have to practice, including UVU grad transfer Brandon Averette. "We're all excited that we're just able to still be in the gym and continue to get better because we know there are schools in the country that can't even work out



BYU Athletics

Caleb Lohner, left, and Richard Harward workout in preparation for the upcoming basketball season. The NCAA recently announced the season will start Nov. 25.

right now or can't even practice as a team."

The Cougars are taking the necessary precautions to ensure the team is healthy when the season finally begins.

"(Coach Mark Pope) basically wanted it to be like a bubble," center Matt Haarms said. "It's just a bit of a tunnel going from wherever your apartment is to the (Marriott Center) Annex. That's kind of the way we prefer it right now. So we're just doing everything to keep safe."

Practices have evolved since initial workouts this summer. Averette said originally only two players were

allowed in the gym at once, with one player at each basket.

Lohner talked about what practices are like now. "It's different, but Coach Pope and the staff have done a great job of splitting us up into groups, working and getting us better, even with all the precautions and the different things they have to follow."

Haarms echoed the appreciation for the coaching staff and how they have handled practices during the pandemic. "It's been awesome to see how creative the coaches have been in just making sure we're all staying safe while still being able to get really good work in."



Nate Edwards/BYU Photo

A student hikes the Y in Oct. 2019. BYU Outdoors Unlimited is hosting a "Local Adventure Challenge" this semester for students.

Fall challenge encourages students to explore Provo sights

By EMILY FAIRBANKS

BYU Outdoors Unlimited is hosting a "Local Adventure Challenge" that encourages BYU students to get outside and explore local sights.

The challenge started Sept. 7 and will end Dec. 31. Students who participate have until the end of the year to visit up to 12 local landmarks in or around Provo. Some of these spots include Mount Timpanogos, Sundance Resort, Bridal Veil Falls and Y Mountain.

Participants are also required to print out a "passport" that lists the 12 adventure spots and take a photo by each one they visit. There are a variety of activities ranging from a 15-mile hike to enjoying the scenery of a ski resort.

Students can then take their "passport" and photos to BYU Outdoors Unlimited to redeem a prize. The complete instructions are on the BYU Outdoors Unlimited website.

"I lived most of my life in Houston

and don't know a lot of the fun things to do in Utah County," BYU senior Emme Tuft said. "I was excited for this challenge because I like to do outdoor activities and I want to explore Utah before I graduate."

BYU Outdoors Unlimited often hosts challenges and events to interact with students and bring awareness to their services. In years past, Outdoors Unlimited has held March Madness competitions, moonlight cross-country skiing, and even a summer backpacking clinic.

The Local Adventure Challenge has enough sights to keep students busy almost every weekend from now until the end of the year.

"I want to complete all 12 adventures," Tuft said. "However, the activity I am most excited to do is hike Mount Timpanogos. I have always wanted to do it and I feel like I can't leave Provo without doing it."

Outdoors Unlimited provides students and the community with various rentals and activities during the pandemic, all while following health guidelines and precautions.

Bennett Chattanooga Times Free Press



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.

Do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it's available?

Yes. I don't want to worry about any of this anymore.
@MORGAN_HARTMAN

Nope. COVID has a higher recovery rate than the flu. No need.
@ISLANNEDER

No, because when I get the flu vaccine, I get the flu. I also want to see how it will play out.
@ADARALEXUS

I don't know if I trust it. The flu vaccine doesn't always work anyways
@JOSHUAGARDNER393

I'll get it a month after it starts distribution, that way I have time to see if it has any issues.
@_SUPERBROCK_

Yes, but I hope the only reason it's going fast is bc of good funding, not rushing steps
@MANDY.RICKETT.ERIKSON

Yes. Anything is better than pandemic mode.
@JOHNCONNER47

Vaccines provide immunity to diseases. Getting diseases is bad. So vaccines are good. Yes.
@ALEXCURTIS393

Absolutely not, all vaccines use aborted fetal tissue & are under tested. people have died in trial
@WALKERIST

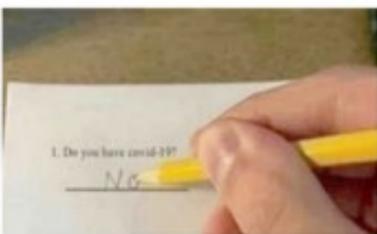
Nope, I don't know what kind of side effects will be connected to it
@SYNTHIA.WAKLEY

Yes. I'm tired of living in fear
@AMIEDASTRUP

No. I'd rather get COVID. I don't even regularly get flu shots. Only had 1 in my life.
@CHEW_BECC

BYU: we test our students daily

the test:



READERS FORUM

Wearing masks leads to freedom

I tend to be more conservative than liberal about our freedom. It's something that's very important to me, and that's why I support a mask mandate. I believe wearing masks will lead to greater freedom for the community, avoiding lots of difficult situations.

There is a lot more to a mask mandate than the death statistic. Hospital beds are in high demand, most people can't afford to take two weeks off of work, and those with other conditions suffer severely from COVID.

We all want to get back to "normal" — going to school, work, parties — but we can't until the virus is more under control. There are a lot of students traveling into Provo from around different areas. Masks protect those around us from getting sick, so if part of the community refuses to wear them, it doesn't do as much good. Protesting for our freedom hurts the rest of Provo. I believe it is important to remember that there are lots of laws in place, including wearing seatbelts, that are to protect those around us. A mask mandate follows the same idea.

All it takes is one asymptomatic person to infect an entire crowd. If we care about our neighbors and want to return to "normal," the best we can do at the moment is wear masks, social distance, and wash our hands.

—Kayla Brooks
Battle Creek, Michigan

Responsible voting

At some point in a high school history class we probably all learned that the word "idiot" was derived from an Ancient Greek word referring to someone who didn't vote.

While it is true that educated people should be concerned with voting and as Americans we have a civic duty to participate in elections, I would argue that often we focus too much on simply getting people to show up and vote. The duty to vote does not begin and end at the voting booth, it is a lifelong attempt to educate ourselves.

Nearly every American citizen has the right to vote but that does not necessarily mean that every citizen ought to vote. Because of the far-reaching consequences of voting, it is important that we become as educated as possible before we take on that responsibility.

It takes effort to determine if news stories are true and if those candidates really represent what we think they do, but effort is part of the American Contract. The American system of government promises us freedom, but in return, we must promise to use that freedom responsibly.

In order to keep our representative government we have to stay educated and become responsible voters. Remember, the only thing worse than the idiot who doesn't vote is the idiot who does.

—Berkeley Hurt
St. George, Utah

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

@joewheat27
I would just like to remind my BYU friends that the odds of meeting the love of your life at a Provo party are slightly worse than your odds of dying of COVID from said party.

@AshlynnfLoug
college is just four years of saying "yeah this week's crazy for me" and then you graduate

@tedtalks719
There are three types of single BYU grads:

TYPE 1: My life will be better once I move to Arizona

TYPE 2: My life will be better once I move to D.C.

TYPE 3: My life will be better once I move to Salt Lake

@jvthomas_93
RAISING CANE'S COMING TO PROVO?????

WITH DOUBLE DRIVE THROUGH????

2020 could be redeemed by this one act alone.

@BigDaddyBrass
My favorite thing about Provo is all the runners I get to drive past on my way back from getting chicken nuggets at 10:30 in the morning.

@kyra_marriner
Someone of great importance on Provo twitter went private so how am I supposed to keep up w/ the tea now?

@_sha_yla
So there are these vending machines around the country that dispense short stories. You can choose long, medium, or short length stories & they print out on a receipt-like slip of paper. And guess what? BYU is getting TWO of these vending machines on campus!!!!

@shut_up_joshua
Who else is old enough to remember a dance club in #Provo named after a Nephite record keeper in the Book of Mormon? #BYU #ClubOmni

Tweets are unedited.

OPINION OUTPOST

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

COVID vaccine

Vaccinations provide incredibly cheap ounces of prevention that weigh far more lightly on any nation's economy than would all the costs of not only treating diseases but also lost productivity and declines in spending.

The need to develop a vaccine for the COVID-19 pandemic, and to do so quickly, is so great that the federal government has dubbed its research and development program Operation Warp Speed. Vaccines work only if a large

percentage of the population gets them. No vaccine is 100% effective in every person, so it is necessary to create as many immune people as possible to stop COVID-19 from jumping from person to person.

Widespread vaccination is the best possible tool we will ever have to restart the economy, reopen schools, go out to dinner, or any other aspect of the world we all miss. Not to mention saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

—Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

Trump rallies

Sports are playing to empty stadiums. Theaters are dark. Restaurants are making do with take-out and outdoor

dining. And schools are tying themselves in knots over how they can have in-person instruction.

But one person thinks he can flout all of the precautions that governments, businesses and society as a whole have implemented to halt the spread of COVID-19.

President Donald Trump kicked off last week with a large indoor rally in Nevada featuring people sitting side-by-side and generally unadorned by masks.

All across America, people are wearing masks, but not Trump. He puts people's lives and health at risk because he can get away with it. And because he wants to.

—Editorial Board
USA Today

Suicide prevention

September is Suicide Prevention Month. Enforced physical distancing and stay-at-home orders have taken a toll on everyone

Alarming suicide rates among teens in Utah has

resulted in campaigns to bring awareness to the issue.

If a family has not yet had a serious conversation about suicide and mental health, let this month of awareness be a signal to approach the topic.

Everyone plays a role in suicide prevention. The burden

does not lay on the shoulders of only health care providers and mental health workers.

Find someone to talk to. There may never be a "good" time to broach the subject, but it is a crucial time.

—Editorial Board
The Deseret News

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Daily Universe encourages students, faculty and BYU staff to add their voice by writing letters to the editor 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.

Opinion editor Kenzie Holbrook can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

Behind every slice is an epic smile.

Bigger-than-your-face slices that make you smile.

Daily slice combos.

Follow, then check your DMs for free food.

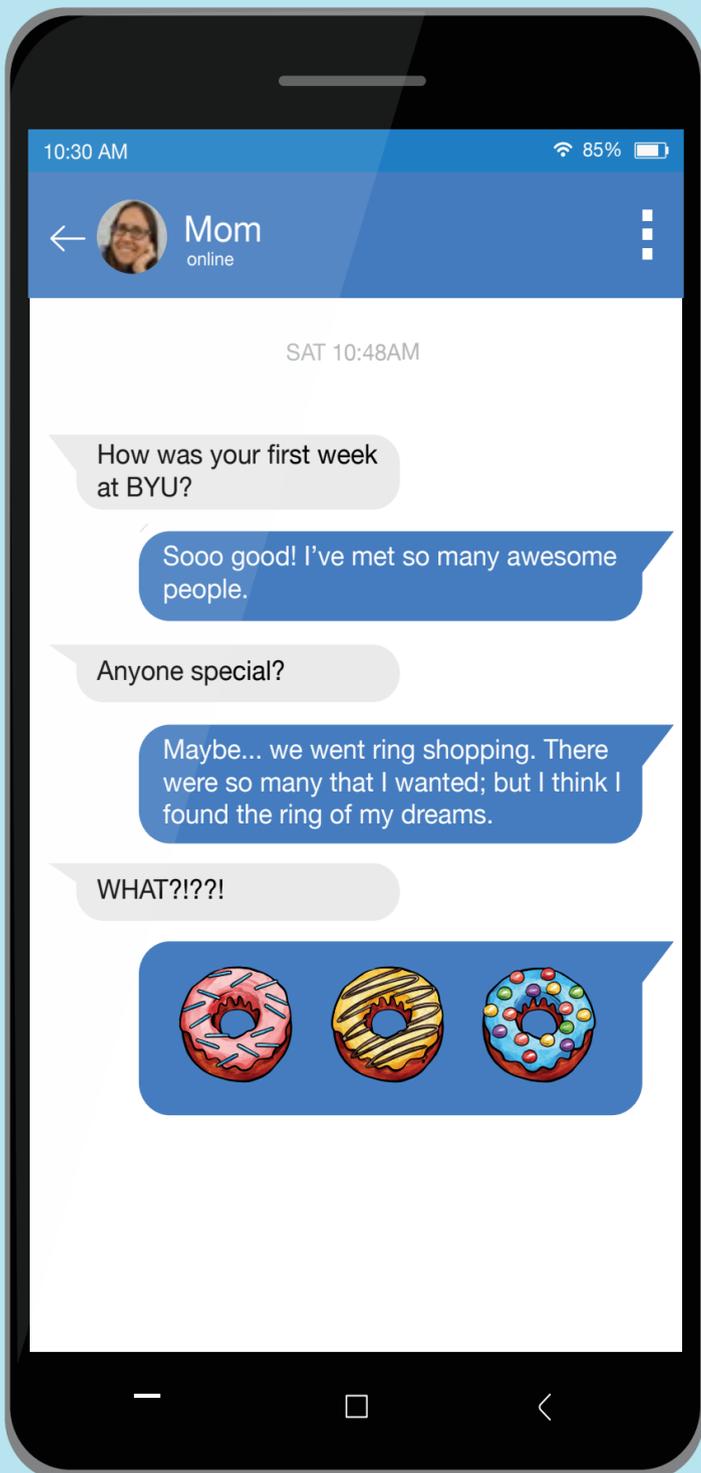
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