



## Devotional

Elder Bednar promises the day of miracles has not ceased

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High ceiling for basketball team stretches higher as season progresses

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January 26 - February 1, 2021

# THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

## President Nelson vaccinated, some members pushing back

By CASSIDY WIXOM

President Russell M. Nelson and his wife Wendy received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine along with seven other General Authorities and their wives.

A statement released by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Jan. 19 says "the Church urges its members, employees and missionaries to be good global citizens and help quell the pandemic by safeguarding themselves and others through immunization."

President Nelson said in a Facebook post he was grateful for the opportunity to receive the vaccine. He also said producing a safe vaccine in less than a year is "nothing short of miraculous."

"As a former surgeon and medical researcher, I know something of the effort needed to accomplish such a remarkable feat," he said.

President Dallin H. Oaks expressed his gratitude for getting the vaccine. "We're very hopeful that the general vaccination of the population will help us get ahead of this awful pandemic."

The statement says although the Church has supported vaccination for generations, "individuals are responsible to make their own decisions about vaccination."

On Jan. 18, vaccinations became available for citizens aged 70 or older in Utah's vaccination rollout plan. The First Presidency said "because of their age, Senior Church leaders over 70 now welcome the opportunity to be vaccinated."

According to the Church News, all of the senior church leaders who were eligible for the vaccine received the first dose Jan. 19.

The senior leaders who received the vaccine are President Russell M. Nelson and his wife, Sister Wendy Nelson; President Dallin H. Oaks and his wife, Sister Kristen Oaks; President Henry B. Eyring; President M. Russell Ballard; Elder Jeffrey R. Holland and his wife, Sister Patricia Holland; Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf and his wife, Sister Harriet Uchtdorf; Elder Quentin L. Cook and his wife, Sister Mary Cook; and Elder D. Todd Christofferson and



President Russell M. Nelson receives his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on Jan. 19.

his wife, Sister Kathy Christofferson.

"We have prayed for this literal god-send," President Nelson tweeted.

Many members of the Church responded to his Tweet and Facebook post with relief, gratitude and praise.

On President Nelson's Facebook post, the Church left a comment asking responders to remember the community guidelines. "Comments that are profane, crude, insensitive, off-topic or contain personal attacks will not be approved. While we encourage conversation it is against our guidelines to support long threads of argument."

"I was hesitant and having so much anxiety if taking a vaccine. What a relief to see President taking it," said @malanda40.

"I'm grateful to be led by a prophet, seer, and revelator who aligns his life with truth and invites all people to do the same," Scott Livingston tweeted.

Tommy Johnson referenced "pro-science" President Joe Biden in his response to Nelson's tweet. "God is the author of science," he said.

Others are saying they will not get vaccinated despite the prophet's encouragement.

"Thanks President Nelson, for your

leadership, but me and my family will not be vaccinated," Marcos Furtado tweeted.

"I won't be getting it either and this has absolutely NOTHING to do with my faithfulness in following a Prophet of God," @LMBooksWorm said.

"Taking a vaccine is an individual's decision and anyone who takes it just because the Prophet does is not following their own belief system. I live and follow the prophet in most things but have disagree here!" Priscilla Briggs said.

The controversy on Twitter also highlighted President Nelson's background as a doctor and surgeon, some claiming it gives his vaccination decision more credibility.

@Arotordog questioned the vaccine's safety and Nelson's authority in his tweet. "What if a vaccine has shown to be ineffective and harmful to our bodies? Are we required to willfully allow harm to be done to us and our families? Serious question asked with respect, President Nelson."

Eric Walker responded to this tweet saying with Nelson's background as a doctor "it's very telling that he still recommends them."



Associated Press  
A healthcare worker prepares a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at the Posta Central Hospital in Santiago, Chile on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

## BYU students could get COVID-19 vaccine as early as March

By MADISON SELCHO

Experts project BYU students could begin getting the COVID-19 vaccine sometime in the next few months.

"Students at BYU should expect to start receiving their vaccinations in the second group of the timeline (March-July)," said Utah County Health Department quality improvement manager Kylaas Flanagan.

The phased vaccination plan can be found on the Utah County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine page. The county is currently in the first phase of vaccinating those ages 70+ and healthcare workers.

Nearly a year after the coronavirus began sweeping across the world, experts say BYU students should now begin preparing and researching to choose whether or not to get the vaccine against the virus in the months to come.

"To find what makes up these vaccines may require some digging but going to the company websites that created the vaccines like Moderna and Pfizer is a good place to start," said Brian Poole, a BYU microbiology and molecular biology professor.

Each of these companies have fact sheets about the vaccine that list information about its components and how it is administered. For example, the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine FDA fact sheet states, "The Moderna

COVID-19 Vaccine is administered as a 2-dose series, 1 month apart, into the muscle."

According to Poole, the only health concern he potentially sees in the vaccine is a lipid called Polyethylene Glycol that could cause an allergic reaction for some patients.

"Most places will have an EpiPen," he said. "I don't think any place would administer the test if they didn't have EpiPen on hand, but asking before receiving the vaccine is a good safety precaution to take."

The question of whether students should get the vaccine before more high-risk individuals can take it has a more complicated answer.

"In general we recommend that individuals who fit into any existing vaccination group get the vaccine as soon as they can. The populations that are opening up now have a greater impact on the mortality rates than those later on the schedule," Flanagan said.

Though this virus caught the world by surprise, the Utah County Health Department has been preparing for a situation like this for a long time.

"While difficult, our emergency response and nursing teams have planned diligently for situations exactly like this for over a decade," Flanagan said.

For more information on the vaccine and its distribution, visit the department's webpage and follow the Utah County Health Department on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## The changing, expanding role of women in religions

By CASSIDY WIXOM

Pope Francis recently announced that women can now read during Mass and instituted the change to recognize the "precious contribution" women bring to the Catholic Church.

The change formally altered canon law to allow an already common practice where women participate as lectors who read at Mass and acolytes who help serve at the altar.

The Jan. 11 announcement reaffirmed women cannot be ordained to the priesthood and sparked further controversy for those who advocate for expanding the diaconate to include women, and for those who oppose.

According to an Associated Press story, opponents of the change feel that it will be a "slippery slope toward ordaining women to the priesthood."

Those who support the change think it will lead to including women in the priesthood, thus giving women greater authority in the church and helping fix priest shortages in several areas, according to The Associated Press.

Women's roles in a variety of faith traditions have expanded over the last few decades to include higher leadership and greater authority, but some believe there is still progress to be made for women's role in religions. Here is a brief look at the changing role of women in a few religions.

### Catholicism

Pope John Paul II released an



A woman reads during a February 2020 Mass in the Casa Santa Marta at the Vatican. The pope officially altered Catholic canon law to allow the common practice of women reading at Mass.

apostolic letter in 1994 saying priestly ordination is reserved for men alone. In this letter, he said the presence and roles of women in the church are "absolutely necessary and irreplaceable," even when not linked to the ministerial priesthood.

Since then, many Catholic women have fought for the ability to receive the priesthood. Most notable is Women's Ordination Worldwide, an organization dedicated to "working for women's equality and ordination in the Catholic Church."

Women's Ordination Worldwide Executive Director Kate McElwee said throughout Pope Francis' papacy, he has encouraged more dialogue on the

Reporter announced a "new day is dawning" as more than 200 women claimed they were official Roman Catholic priests.

Pope Francis released a "letter to young people" in March 2019 where he acknowledged the hardships many female members have faced such as "a fair share of male authoritarianism, domination, various forms of enslavement, abuse and sexist violence."

"A living church can react by being attentive to the legitimate claims of those women who seek greater justice and equality," the pope said. The church "can support the call to respect women's rights, while not agreeing with everything some feminist groups propose."

Pope Francis formally altering the law to allow women to be lectors and acolytes "feels like a small thing and inconsequential," McElwee said, but it is one more thing to "cross off the list" in women gaining full equality in the church.

"There are so many areas for growth," she said. Keeping women subordinated in the church is "very damaging" for individual women's faith, and mental and emotional health she said.

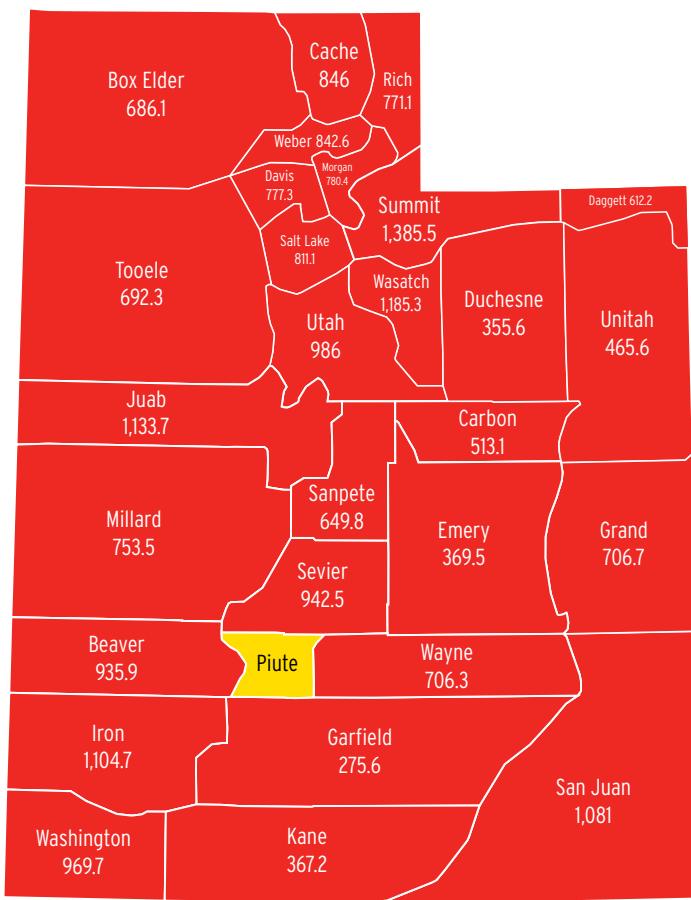
For the role of women in all religions, "this conversation is only getting louder," McElwee said.

A press release from Women's Ordination Worldwide said the pope's "announcement contributes to a slow chipping away at the wall of anti-women exclusion that still lingers and corrupts the official church."

See RELIGION on Page 5

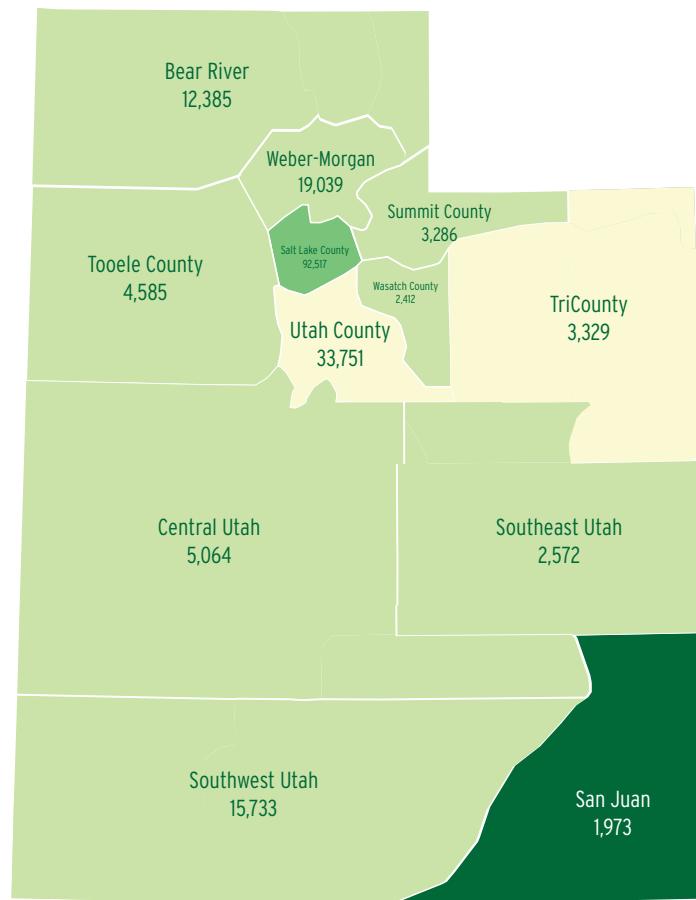
# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Infection rates and vaccine totals in Utah counties



Infection rates per 100,000 in counties

Data collected from the Utah Department of Health, Jan. 25.



Total vaccines administered (darker colors indicate higher vaccination rates per 100,000 people)

Kate Slobodian

## Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



### Utah governor gives his 1st State of the State address

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox outlined his priorities, including expanding funding for public education and infrastructure, during his first State of the State address Jan. 21.

The Republican governor delivered his virtual address in the House chamber of the state's Capitol. The new governor said he significantly shortened his speech to about 15 minutes to limit potential exposure to the coronavirus for the few lawmakers and reporters who attended in person.



### States are allowing concealed carry of guns without a permit

Republican lawmakers in several more states want to loosen gun restrictions by allowing people to carry concealed firearms without having to get a permit, continuing a trend that gun control advocates call dangerous.

Fifteen states already allow concealed carry without a permit, and lawmakers in nine others have proposed allowing or expanding the practice. GOP governors are backing the changes in Utah and Tennessee.

Most states require people to do things like get weapons training and undergo a background check to get a permit to carry a gun hidden by a jacket or inside a purse.



### Utah legislature opens 2021 session amid pandemic

Utah's legislative body convened for the start of the 2021 Legislative Session on Jan. 19.

The meeting was one that reflected the newfound changes that many are still navigating in the COVID-19 pandemic. Each legislator was masked and tested before the meeting, ensuring everyone's safety.

The meeting was different from others in a pre-pandemic world, but still remained familiar to many. Many legislators took their oath of office to begin serving new terms, as well as introducing their own bills onto the floor.



### Biden revokes Trump report promoting 'patriotic education'

President Joe Biden revoked a recent Trump administration report that aimed to promote "patriotic education" in schools.

In an executive order signed on Jan. 20 in his first day in office, Biden disbanded Donald Trump's presidential 1776 Commission. Trump established the group in September to rally support from white voters and as a response to The New York Times' "1619 Project," which highlights the lasting consequences of slavery in America.

In its report the commission glorifies the country's founders, plays down America's role in slavery, condemns the rise of progressive politics and argues that the civil rights movement ran afoul of the "lofty ideals" espoused by the Founding Fathers.

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## Navajo Nation keeps stay-home order, lifts weekend lockdowns

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINDOW ROCK, Arizona — The Navajo Nation has announced it is extending its stay-at-home order with a revised nightly curfew to limit the spread of COVID-19 and will lifting weekend lockdowns to allow more vaccination events.

The actions in the Navajo Nation's latest public health emergency order took effect Jan. 25 and run through at least Feb. 15, tribal officials announced Jan. 21.

The daily curfew will run daily from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., officials said.

The tribe on Jan. 22 reported 14 additional deaths and 143 new virus infections. That brings the total to 26,955 cases and 954 reported deaths on the reservation. There are 75 communities identified to have uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 from Jan. 1-14.

The number of infections is thought to be higher than reported because many people haven't been tested. Studies suggest people can be infected with the virus without feeling sick.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

## Elder Bednar affirms miracles continue through temple covenants



Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles delivers the Jan. 19 devotional focusing on miracles in temple work.

By ALLIE RICHAEI

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles told BYU students “the day of miracles has not ceased,” even during a global pandemic.

The Jan. 19 devotional compared members of the early Church to those today, showing how all received miracles as they worked diligently to make temple covenants. He emphasized that miracles continue today, especially at times that seem inconvenient.

Elder Bednar discussed the “fire of temple covenants and ordinances” that motivated early Saints to work day and night in the Nauvoo temple to receive their endowment. He also shared the experiences of many temple patrons and volunteers in 2020 who worked to

perform ordinances despite pandemic restrictions.

He quoted the prophet Brigham Young, who led thousands of pioneers across the frozen Mississippi River nearly 175 years ago. President Young spent days in the temple and hardly slept as he ensured members received their endowment before heading west.

He compared the sacrifice of the early Church members to those of today’s members. He said that from Nov. 10, 2020 to Nov. 13, 2020, temples in North America briefly opened for ordinance work before closing again to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Volunteers worked day and night to move as many people through the temple as possible.

Elder Bednar quoted stories from eight individuals who saw miracles in their temple

work during that four-day period. One temple worker was able to find a spot that perfectly fit with a patron’s schedule when everything else was full. Another patron encountered a temple worker she had prayed would be at her endowment.

“The faith-filled events in Nauvoo in February of 1846 and in North America in November of 2020 are stunningly similar,” Elder Bednar said. “The identical spirit that drew Latter-day Saints to the temple in Nauvoo clearly was at work in November of last year.”

“I promise that as you honor your covenants and strive to discern ‘with an eye of faith,’ your spiritual vision will be magnified and refined to help you learn that the seemingly small miracles in your life will be mightiest and most impactful of all,” he said.

### COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES

Student’s research helps run COVID-19 tests



Andrew Sheffield

A BYU student is using his research experience to help run COVID-19 tests. College of Life Sciences student Andrew Sheffield works on genetics and wildlife conservation as part of assistant professor Paul Frandsen’s mentored research group. This group focuses on monitoring how wildlife has repopulated mountains after the 2018 Pole Creek megafires. Sheffield amplifies DNA samples using a polymerase chain reaction machine until the samples are large enough to examine. Sheffield recently started working at a hospital and learned that his work collecting insects and extracting DNA qualified him for the similarly principled task of assisting with COVID-19 testing.

Sheffield said mentored research and hands-on experiences have enhanced his education, and he expressed gratitude for new learning opportunities and his ability to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Learning is the process of understanding, and when we can understand more about the world around us, it equips us to be a more proactive member of the community,” Sheffield said.

### MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Students win competition with investment thesis



Clockwise from top left, Stephanie Maynes Aldous, Kailey Battaglia, Michelle Dangerfield and Angela Smith.

A team of MBA students in the BYU Marriott

School of Business won the Utah Venture Capital Case Competition. Stephanie Maynes Aldous, Kailey Battaglia, Michelle Dangerfield and Angela Smith developed and defended an investment thesis for Tequity for their contest entry. Founded by Sydney Davis, Tequity makes mobile app design more accessible for entrepreneurs. The BYU team built on past experiences with the Marriott Center’s BYU Cougar Capital, a student organization that lets students practice establishing source deals and private equity firms. Aldous said the women involved now feel more prepared to excel in their careers.

“Every time I source and perform diligence on a deal, I learn something new,” Aldous said. “Sometimes it’s related to how an investor might evaluate a deal. Other times, I learn things about the inner workings of the company from the management’s perspective. The more deals I evaluate, the more patterns of success I’m able to see.”

### COLLEGE OF FAMILY, HOME AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BYU research group wins award for findings on improving autism diagnoses



BYU research group Autism Connect has published research studies and won awards for its findings on improving autism diagnoses and related autism-based studies. BYU professor Terisa Gabrielsen and other colleagues received a top-ten rating for 2020 for their article in the Pediatrics journal outlining ways to speed up the diagnostic process for children with autism who would otherwise miss important opportunities for intervention. BYU Ph.D. student Emily Anderberg and professor Mikle South published a study in the Journal of Autism Developmental Disorders about how parents are affected by their child’s autism diagnosis. BYU professors Jonathan Beck and Rebecca Lundwall had research published in the journal Autism on the mental health consequences of women who try to hide their autistic traits to fit in better.

“We want to emphasize autism as a different way of being, not a broken way of being,” South said. “Providers should discuss strategies to promote the child’s success, but let’s also talk about the positive characteristics associated with autism, such as reliability, persistence, focus, attention to detail and out-of-the-box thinking.”

## TODAY

### UNIVERSITY FORUM

Tuesday, January 26

11:05 a.m.

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



**David Epstein**

High Performance Expert and Best-Selling Author

“The Path of Most Resistance: How to Learn for a Changing World”

David Epstein, investigative reporter, science writer, and best-selling author, will be speaking on the forum theme for this academic year, “What It Means to Be Educated,” focusing especially on how we can achieve high performance in any domain and on the power of being generalists in a world full of specialists.

Epstein himself has taken a generalist approach to life—after originally setting out to be a scientist, he eventually attained master’s degrees in both environmental science and journalism from Columbia University. His interest in sports began with his own athletic experience: he was a two-time NCAA All-East as an 800-meter runner. Eventually his varied interests resulted in him becoming a senior writer for *Sports Illustrated* and then writing books on the science of success. His first book, *The*

*Sports Gene*, took readers inside the surprising science of extraordinary athletic performance and has been translated in 21 languages.

David’s latest book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*, examines the world’s top performers from professional athletes to artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and Nobel laureates. Epstein shows that at every stage of life, generalists triumph as the world around them becomes increasingly specialized.

He is married to Elizabeth Green, Chalkbeat CEO and cofounder. Passionate about how to improve teaching for all children, David and Elizabeth have presented together on the development of teaching skills. He still loves to run, and his favorite quote is, “Jack of all trades, master of none, oftentimes better than a master of one.”

## THE DAILY UNIVERSE AIRPODS GIVEAWAY

Sign up for The Daily Universe email newsletter Jan. 25 through Jan. 29 and be entered to win AirPods Pro. Refer friends and increase your chances of winning. The winner will be announced on Monday, Feb. 1 in the newsletter.



**SIGN UP FOR THE DAILY UNIVERSE NEWSLETTER TODAY!**

Scan the code or go to [unvr.se/connect](http://unvr.se/connect) to sign up.

Daily Universe employees and immediate family members are not eligible to win prizes. Use of AirPods Pro as a prize is not an endorsement by Apple Computer.

### NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

L. Todd Budge  
Second Counselor;  
Presiding Bishopric



FEBRUARY 2  
11:05 a.m., BYUtv

# Teaching students about the US Capitol insurrection

By HOLLY CLUFF

BYU history professors offered their insights on how to discuss the Capitol breach with students and compared it to other historical events.

The Jan. 6 insurrection shocked people across the country, including BYU history education professors Alisa Kesler-Lund and Jeff Nokes and political history professor Grant Madsen. Each expressed their personal reaction to the events and how they think the event can be taught in the classroom.

They suggested comparing the insurrection to other historical events, using the opportunity to stress the importance of media literacy and discussing it in a factual manner.

"I 100% believe it will be in the history books," Kesler-Lund said. "This is a moment you're living through when you think, 'this is a moment.'" She said she hopes the abundance of video and digital footage helps the insurrection remain contextualized and unsanitized for when future students learn about it.

She said the best way to help students now is to seize the insurrection as a teaching moment and help them view it through a social justice lens.

Kesler-Lund also suggested comparing the insurrection to other events in history. She used the Newburgh conspiracy of 1783 as her example. This was when an army of sorts formed to take action against Congress.

Nokes said he found the events troubling. "I was sad when I saw it happening," he said. "I was really sad."

He compared the mindset that instigated the riots to the "lost cause mentality" the South adopted following the Civil War when the Confederacy initially refused to accept its defeat and blasted the Union with accusations of foul play similar to those President Donald Trump has



Associated Press

The Dome of the Capitol building is visible as flowers lie on the steps to the House Chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 13, a week after protesters breached the building. BYU professors are now looking at how to teach their students about the event and how it fits in history.

cast at Congress. Nokes called such behavior a way to save face when you've invested a lot in a lost cause.

Madsen, who called the events "terrible" and "shocking," found connections between the riots and the old South as well. He compared the 2020 election to the election of 1876, where Samuel J. Tilden agreed to concede to Rutherford B. Hayes on the condition that the federal government agreed to stop overseeing reconstruction efforts, a deal that enabled the South to strip African Americans of their rights with impunity.

Madsen said the mishaps of

the Tilden-Hayes election led to a reformed election process — the process Congress had been following when rioters interrupted their meeting — as well as one of the darker points for African Americans in history.

Nokes commented on the importance of using the insurrection and similar tragic events as teaching moments. He counseled teachers to help students talk about what happened in a factual manner, explain government policies and procedures, and help students with different opinions feel comfortable expressing themselves.

"Some kids have a misconception about the Constitution — some adults, too," he said. He said the Constitution gives certain rights but not unlimited rights, which teachers can help students understand. He said he also believes it's OK for teachers to call out leaders when they aren't doing what the Constitution says.

Madsen said he would rather discuss topics other than the insurrection with his students. He specifically said he likes to bring up controversial subjects (which, he lamented, may dwindle with the end of the Trump administration) in his classes, and he

hopes the riots become insignificant with time.

"You can never tell what is historically significant until you see how it unfolds," he said. "But my hope is that this is a historical curiosity, not a turning point — not the moment when our electoral system started to fall apart."

Madsen summarized the insurrection into a three-word lesson: "don't do that."

"Have some faith in the institutions that have been designed by our inspired forefathers, that we can resolve conflicts without resorting to extralegal means," he said.

Nokes and Kesler-Lund

both suggested teachers use the opportunity to show the importance of media literacy. They said they believe helping students understand how to contextualize and critically read information could help them see through the disinformation that persuasive speakers spread.

Nokes also said helping students become media literate would have greater benefits for society than censoring harmful information.

"If the government cuts off speech," he said, "it interferes with people's ability to obtain ideas — good and bad — and make educated decisions."



Hannah Miner

BYU Counseling and Psychological Services offers workshops for students struggling with COVID-19 stressors.

## CAPS offers workshops to help students cope with COVID-19

By ELENA CASTRO

BYU Counseling and Psychological Services is putting on a series of workshops for students who need ways to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The workshops are set to cover four main topics: stress management in the age of COVID, how to maintain social connection amid social distance, being resilient, and how to handle COVID related conflict.

The series will be held via Zoom with each topic being about 45 minutes. The four topics will be held three different times during the semester. For the full schedule of the coping series, students can visit the CAPS website.

BYU saw a need to find answers to COVID-19 related stress and asked the CAPS department to come up with something to help guide students struggling through this

time. Clint Hobbs, CAPS assistant director over outreach, believes the need for such a workshop comes from the fact that many members of faculty, administration and staff continue to see the difficulty students face when trying to deal with COVID-19 on their own.

The coping series came to fruition under the direction of Hobbs. "We've noticed students having difficulty managing the stress of COVID on top of every other stressor they have. We've also specifically seen students struggle with appropriate social connection, and social isolation has been difficult for them," he said.

Hobbs said it was student consultations and therapy that gave insight to struggles with social connections, isolation, disappointment, frustration and depression.

BYU psychologist Jon Cox will give the stress management section of the seminar. "Life can be stressful no matter how long a pandemic

has been going. Sometimes life-changing events are even more stressful when they last a long time, so this is a good time for a stress management workshop," he said.

Cox said he hopes students come out of this instruction with the skills and confidence to take on the various stressors in their lives.

Law student Holly Hafford commented on why this type of workshop was needed by students today. "I think the hardest thing students are dealing with right now is the fatigue from COVID. I think that we all were able to handle it when we were under the assumption that it would be a temporary inconvenience or alteration in our normal routines."

Hafford said she hopes she and others can exit the training with ideas on how students can feel in control of a situation they can't change, as well as a sense of normalcy in their lives while still adhering to safety guidelines.

BYU's peer mentoring program has changed and adapted to COVID-19 guidelines in the 2020-2021 school year, but students and mentors are still finding ways to connect.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, peer mentors mainly used the Hub in the Harold B. Lee Library as a meeting place with students, but changes were made before Fall Semester. Currently, students and peer mentors can

meet over Zoom or in person on campus if they wear masks and are six feet apart during the meeting.

From a mentor's perspective, the pandemic has fostered more ways to connect with their students. Zoom and social media interaction between mentors and students has become a part of the new normal, while previously mentors were limited to texts and emails to set up meetings.

Mechanical engineering major Ian Briggs has been a mentor for three semesters and said he really enjoys Zoom's screen sharing option while demonstrating how to

navigate BYU's websites and online programs.

"BYU employs over 100

students for 15 hours per

week to do absolutely nothing

besides help first-year

students. I think it's really

significant that BYU invests

so much in first-year mentor-

ing," he said. "We're not only

here to be where (freshmen)

can go for campus resources

or directions. Rather, I hope

that I can be an experienced

friend who's really invested

in their success."

Pre-business freshman

Brittney Conger believes

connection is a blessing that's

come from her frequent inter-

action with her peer mentor.

Conger, now in the second

semester of her freshman

year, explained how com-

forting it was to know she

had a friend before ever start-

ing classes, especially with

classes being virtual.

"As a freshman, I feel like

you're making so many new

decisions. I still don't fully

know what I'm going to do,

and it's been really, really

helpful once a month to talk

to someone who knows re-

sources and has been in my

shoes or can give advice on

how to balance everything,"

she said.

Briggs said each peer

## Peer mentors and freshmen take on COVID-19



During the pandemic, freshmen and peer mentors can meet in person six feet apart with masks or they can meet over Zoom. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of the story.

Jaren Wilkey/BYU Photo  
**UNIV  
ERSE  
PLUS**

By INGRID SAGERS

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masks and are six feet apart during the meeting.

From a mentor's perspective, the pandemic has fostered more ways to connect with their students. Zoom and social media interaction between mentors and students has become a part of the new normal, while previously mentors were limited to texts and emails to set up meetings.

Mechanical engineering major Ian Briggs has been a mentor for three semesters and said he really enjoys Zoom's screen sharing option while demonstrating how to

mentor has somewhere between 60 to 70 students they oversee. Meeting monthly with students is the general expectation, while mentors work with individuals based on their needs.

Not every freshman is incredibly interactive with their peer mentors. James Hein, a pre-exercise science major, found himself searching for guidance and resources from people who weren't his assigned peer mentor.

With classes being online and often from home, Hein's upperclassman brothers and peers became his BYU connection. Advisers within the Department of Exercise Sciences had many personalized answers for him when he asked about details in the exercise science career field.

"I don't doubt that if you work with your peer mentor a lot, it would be extremely helpful," he said. "The good thing about peer mentors is that there's always someone to ask a question to. I didn't, but it is nice to know that I could have."

Students can find more information on the mentoring program on their website and connect with other students and mentors on Instagram.

# RELIGION

## Expansion of women's roles

Continued from Page 1

BYU world religions professor Taunaylyn Rutherford said this announcement is more impactful in the global South rather than North America or Europe.

"Any area where within the culture women tend to have more rights, they will already be doing these positions," Rutherford said. She said this announcement will force the clergy to include women in those areas where the rights and freedoms of women are not as prevalent.

As Catholicism rapidly grows in Latin America, Africa and other areas that have female Catholic majorities, Rutherford said the church needs these female members to help fulfill the lay ministry roles and this announcement allows that to happen.

Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City communication director Jean Hill said for Salt Lake, this announcement wasn't a huge deal. "We have had altar girls and female acolytes for decades now," she said.

Making the change official, Hill said, will be impactful globally. But for most of the U.S., "It's nothing new to us."

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has long been under scrutiny for not allowing women to be ordained to the priesthood. The Church has always believed women and men are equal in God's eyes, but their roles are dependent on gender.

Women in the faith are given leadership callings just as men are. They are called as teachers, ministers and leaders and have their own women's organization. The Relief Society, founded in 1842, is actually the oldest and largest women's organization in the world and has been a core part of the



Associated Press

Pope Francis holds his pastoral staff as he arrives to celebrate Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in November 2020. Pope Francis changed church law on Jan. 11, to explicitly allow women to participate more fully during Mass, while reaffirming they cannot become priests.

Church's structure.

In 1979, President Spencer W. Kimball emphasized the Church's love and respect for women in a General Conference talk. "Much of the major growth that is coming to the Church in the last days will come because many of the good women of the world will be drawn to the Church," he said.

In 2012, the Church lowered the age requirement for missionaries allowing women to serve at age 19. Since the change, Church leaders have placed a greater emphasis on the contributions women make even though they are not ordained to the priesthood.

Kate Kelly started the Ordain Women organization in March 2013, calling for equality and ordination for LDS women.

According to Holly Welker from Religion Dispatches, the Ordain Women website started with 19 profiles of individuals expressing why they want women to be ordained. Today, there are over 650 profiles of women and men from all around the world sharing their experiences and reasons for wanting to be ordained.

Kelly was excommunicated by the Church in 2014. She continues to speak on gender equality and criticize the Church's treatment of women.

A letter-writing campaign asking Church leaders to

let women pray at General Conference was growing at the same time Ordain Women was founded. Just a month later, history was made when the first woman prayed at the Church's semi-annual general conference in April 2013.

The number of women speaking in general conference stays consistent around four speakers. Some people are elated to have more female voices, while others believe more needs to be done about the gender discrepancy.

In 2017, the Church adjusted its General Conference schedule to hold the women's session annually during conference weekend, instead of the prior tradition of holding the meeting a week before conference.

The general women's session still endures pushback for "missing" something, according to Exponent II, a webpage created for "sharing Mormon women's voices." The dedicated women's meeting now commonly has greater speaking time for men due to all three First Presidency members speaking compared to previous years where only one spoke.

One of the most recent gender equality changes occurred in 2019 when President Russell M. Nelson announced women, as well as men, are allowed to serve as witnesses for sacred

ordinances in the faith's temples and at baptisms.

Even with the recent changes, some women are reticent to speak publicly about gender roles within the church. The Daily Universe approached several female BYU professors and Church historians for comment, but many declined requests for interviews or did not respond in time to be included in the print edition.

### Jehovah's Witnesses

"All of Jehovah's Witnesses are preachers, or ministers — including several million women," the official Jehovah's Witnesses' website says.

The webpage continues to say that women don't participate in the leadership of the church, but have a "full share" in public ministry and "work hard to be an influence for good."

Resistance against the status of women has begun to occur in different groups of Jehovah's Witnesses.

An ex-member of the religion spoke out to Independent in 2018 telling them women in the church are viewed as "a complement for a man." He also said the church believes women should be submissive to their husbands, letting the husband make all important decisions.

A JW support group created

a website in 2019 for youth members to have a place they can turn to. The mission of this group is to help youths "cope until they are able to leave home."

The group posts articles sharing different member's experiences in the church to help those wishing to learn more about the religion and to discuss the issues people are facing.

JW support said the Jehovah Witnesses are a patriarchal society where women cannot hold positions of authority and are to view men as their head. It also says that Witness women cannot teach unless no men are available, and when they do they must wear head coverings to show "submission to the headship arrangement."

### Evangelicals

The Southern Baptist Convention believes women are complementary to men and cannot hold any authority over men.

Similar to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Southern Baptists have women's organizations and female missionaries. The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptists Convention provides monthly women conferences to help women "thrive" in their relationship with God.

In a resolution published in 1980, the Southern Baptists reaffirmed "the biblical role which stresses the equal worth but not always the sameness of function of women."

Since then, various groups have sought higher leadership or ordination for women in this denomination, but not much change has occurred.

A major scandal arose in 2019 when hundreds of sexual abuse victims spoke out against church leaders. Many within the faith were vocal about the scandal, with some people claiming the sexist culture of the church was to blame. Others took the media chaos and used it to bring "new life" to the female ordination controversy.

During this call for gender equality, prominent Southern Baptist women spoke out about

the expanding role of women.

Peggy Haymes wrote an opinion article detailing her struggle to become an associate minister and the progress that has been made. "As women, we're still not at a place of full freedom to follow our calling, but it's a different world than when I graduated from seminary," she said.

Popular Bible teacher Beth Moore has gained praise and criticism as she grows in influence. She never claims to try to change Baptist beliefs, but the power she has in the Church is seen as a threat to those with authority. Evangelical women follow her lead as the number of female influencers in the church grows.

### Other Protestants

Protestant religions generally have a "priesthood of all believers," according to Rutherford.

In some of these religions, leadership and pastor roles are not ordained to an official priesthood because for them, every baptized Christian is considered a priest already. This means many of these religions have led the way with including women in pastor and leadership roles.

Females can be Lutheran bishops, Methodist elders, Baptist pastors, Presbyterian deacons and more. Rutherford said the prevalence of women in leadership roles depends greatly on the culture of that area.

"If the culture reflects a lower position of women, then the religion most likely will as well. They tend to work in harmony," she said.

Rutherford said all religions differ greatly in their traditions and practices with regards to women and are so diverse that it's hard to know what each church will do. While some Lutheran or Methodist denominations ordain women, others don't.

Despite the fact that progress for women's status in religions can be "very slow-moving," especially in conservative traditions, "I think you would have to say in all religions there is a movement forward," Rutherford said.

## Visiting speakers deplore divisiveness, encourage respectful political dialogue

By HOLLY CLUFF

People can engage in respectful dialogue in spite of differing ideological views, Respect and Rebellion's Berny Jacques and Geston Pierre told students during the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution's webinar on Jan. 21.

Jacques and Pierre deplored the divisiveness taking over the country and encouraged students to engage in respectful conversations with others who have differing viewpoints. They first held a debate on hot-topic issues between themselves to demonstrate how it can be done, and then gave students advice in an open question and answer session.

Jacques, a lawyer and politician, identifies as a conservative while Pierre, a pastor, identifies as a liberal. They share a hometown in Florida and a heritage as children of Haitian immigrants.

"It's great to see two friends engaging productively about politics," said Benjamin Cook, director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Some of the advice the guest speakers gave was to seek out others with differing viewpoints, listen to their experiences with an open mind and build friendships even if you disagree with them.

Pierre stressed the importance of engaging with others who have differing viewpoints and encouraged every listener to seek out somebody with a different ideology than their own and try to build a relationship with them.

"It's important to know their stories, to hear their perspectives and to dialogue because at the end of the day, we believe that friendship can heal the public," he said.

Jacques said when students encounter somebody with different ideas, they should take them at their word and see where they're coming from, and then they should duke it out, remembering that the best ideas emerge in the marketplace of



Holly Cluff

Berny Jacques, left, and Geston Pierre demonstrate civil debate in a Zoom webinar Jan. 21.

ideas. "Never dismiss somebody's experience."

He said that although Pierre had helped give him new perspectives, he had never changed his mind on an issue. "The goal of this is not to change people's minds."

Both speakers saw issues with the division happening in America. Pierre expressed concern that polarization will eventually lead to another war and Jacques called inclusion of diversity of thought the "fabric of our republic."

Pierre clarified what he meant by polarization with an example. If he liked oranges and Jacques liked apples, polarization would sound like "oranges need to thrive, and apples need to die." He said disagreement is fine, but it is important to listen to the other side.

While debating, Jacques and Pierre attributed the rising division in America to different causes.

"The woke left causes more division by making everything about race," Jacques said. "I think when we put everything in the context of race, it makes everything worse." He objects to the practice of preferential treatment based on race and said he believes it implies inferiority and sows bitterness with those who are not people of color.

"We need to have the intellectual humility to know we are human beings and respect each other as that," he said.

He also said many conservative voices feel like they're being silenced and attacked, and those feelings lead to divisiveness. He cited Big Tech closing former president Donald Trump's social media accounts as an example.

Pierre, on the other hand, credited much of the country's division to Trump and said the former president based his campaign on hate and white supremacy. "He did not help America become a better place; he made it a more dangerous place." Although he admitted Trump had done some good, he said, "people don't care how much you do until they know how much you care."

He also saw division taking the form of anti-immigration policies, which he said came from people who don't want to see the country become browner or more diverse.

Whenever Jacques and Pierre reached a standstill, they suggested they move onto another topic. They failed to interrupt or attack one another and frequently said things to the effect of, "I disagree, but that's OK."

"Civility," Pierre said, "does not mean you're weak."

"We need to have the intellectual humility to know we are human beings and respect each other as that," he said.



Students and faculty participated in the Global Women's Studies Colloquium on Jan. 21. Over 100 students attended to hear BYU professors Jessica Preece and Olga Stoddard.

## Global Women's Studies Colloquium focuses on gender disparities in the workplace

By VERONICA MACIEL

BYU professors Jessica Preece and Olga Stoddard discussed how gender plays a role in the workplace and group dynamics at the Global Women's Studies Colloquium on Thursday, Jan. 21.

The research they conducted showed women are ranked as significantly less influential than men and are chosen less often as a spokesperson when put into groups in the workplace. This is especially true for women in groups with just one woman and more men.

However, there are solutions to these problems. The causes for gender disparities are complex, but according to Stoddard, there is one simple way to even the gender playing field: make decisions in unity, rather than by majority.

"When a group makes decisions through unanimity and consensus, that tends to rebalance the power dynamic," Preece said. "So if there aren't very many

women in your group, then it's probably a really good idea to start thinking about making decisions through consensus because that ends up leveling things out, rather than just saying, well, 'majority rules.'

Their research used teams of accounting students from an undisclosed university to show that the proportion of women and men in a room matter. Most research conducted on this topic, like the research done by BYU professor Chris Karpowitz, was collected in a lab.

But Preece and Stoddard wanted to conduct their research in a real-life situation and see if the previously collected results held true. Their research suggests that the proportion of men to women does matter and that their interactions improve overtime. Both Preece and Stoddard hope to continue this research and adapt it to online interactions in the workplace such as Zoom and Teams meetings.

Two students minoring in global women's studies, Samantha Johnston and Amelia Van Komen, were asked to give a response at the end of Preece and Stoddard's presentation.

"While their research may not be able to tell us exactly why gender discrimination is happening at the table as it differs from person to person, it can tell us what is happening and the numbers show a vicious cycle that proves to discourage or even silence women in many settings," Johnston said.

In the context of recent events, Van Komen said these findings can have a significant impact on how society functions as a whole. She mentioned how the inauguration and swearing-in of Vice President Kamala Harris is a step in the right direction for equality between genders, but the work is not done.

"It is simply not enough to have a seat at the table. Women need to be welcome to the table, take up room at the table, invite other women to the table and use their voice for themselves and all those they represent," she said.

# Vice President Harris: A new chapter opens in US politics

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vice President Kamala Harris broke the barrier that has kept men at the top ranks of American power for more than two centuries when she took the oath Jan. 20 to hold the nation's second-highest office.

Hours after she was sworn in as the first female U.S. vice president — and the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent in the role — she cast the moment as one that embodied "American aspiration."

"Even in dark times we not only dream, we do. We not only see what has been, we see what can be," she said in brief remarks outside the Lincoln Memorial. "We are bold, fearless and ambitious. We are undaunted in our belief that we shall overcome, that we will rise up."

For Harris, the day was steeped in history and significance in more ways than one. She was escorted to the podium by Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, the officer who single-handedly took on a mob of Trump supporters as they tried to breach the Senate floor during the Capitol insurrection, and she was sworn in by Supreme



Associated Press

Kamala Harris is sworn in as vice president by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor as her husband, Doug Emhoff, holds the Bible during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.

Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first woman of color on the court, on a Bible that once belonged to former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. She wore a deep purple dress and coat created by two emerging Black designers.

Her rise is historic in any context, another moment when a

stubborn boundary falls away, expanding the idea of what's possible in American politics. But it's particularly meaningful because Harris takes office at a moment when Americans are grappling over institutional racism and confronting a pandemic that has disproportionately devastated Black and

brown communities. Those close to Harris say she'll bring an important — and often missing — perspective to the debates on how to overcome the many hurdles facing the new administration.

"In many folks' lifetimes, we experienced a segregated United States," said Lateefah

Simon, a civil rights advocate and longtime Harris friend and mentee. "You will now have a Black woman who will walk into the White House not as a guest but as a second in command of the free world."

Harris — the child of immigrants, a stepmother of two and the wife of a Jewish man — "carries an intersectional story of so many Americans who are never seen and heard."

Later during the procession to the vice presidential office building, she was led by her alma mater Howard University's marching band and walked while holding the hand of her granddaughter and alongside her husband, stepchildren, sister, brother-in-law and nieces.

She then quickly got to work, presiding as Senate president for the first time to swear in three new Democratic senators: Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff of Georgia and Alex Padilla of California, Harris' replacement.

Harris, 56, moves into the vice presidency just four years after she first came to Washington as a senator from California, where she'd served as attorney general and as San Francisco's district attorney. She had expected to work with a White House run by Hillary Clinton, but President Donald Trump's victory quickly scrambled the nation's capital and set the stage for the rise of a new class of Democratic stars. Her own presidential bid fizzled, but her rise continued when President Joe Biden chose her as his running mate.

After the inauguration ceremony, she urged Americans to join Biden's call for "the courage to see beyond crisis, to do what is hard, to do what is good."

With Trump absent from the inauguration, Harris and her husband, Douglas Emhoff, took on the symbolic duty of escorting former Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen Pence, out of the Capitol. It's a gesture that would normally be performed by incoming and outgoing presidents.

To celebrate the historic day, the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the nation's oldest sorority for Black women, which Harris joined at Howard University,

declared Wednesday as Soror Kamala D. Harris Day. Members of the sorority watching the celebrations across the country were clad in pearls, as was Harris, and the sorority's pink and green colors.

"There is a pride I can't put into words," said Elizabeth Shelby, a member of the sorority's Alpha Psi chapter, who watched from her home in Nashville, Tennessee. "It is such a joy to see her rise to this place in our country. It is such a joy to know that she is one of us, that she represents us."

Biden, in his inaugural address, reflected on the 1913 march for women's suffrage the day before President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration, during which some marchers were heckled and attacked.

"Today, we mark the swearing in of the first woman in American history elected to national office, Vice President Kamala Harris. Don't tell me things can't change," Biden said.

As vice president, Harris will expand the definition of who gets to hold power in American politics, said Martha S. Jones, a professor of history at Johns Hopkins University and the author of "Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All."

People who want to understand Harris and connect with her will have to learn what it means to graduate from a historically Black college and university rather than an Ivy League school. They will have to understand Harris' traditions, like the Hindu celebration of Diwali, Jones said.

"Folks are going to have to adapt to her rather than her adapting to them," Jones said.

Her election to the vice presidency should be just the beginning of putting Black women in leadership positions, Jones said, particularly after the role Black women played in organizing and turning out voters in the November election.

"We will all learn what happens to the kind of capacities and insights of Black women in politics when those capacities and insights are permitted to lead," Jones said.

## Provo City Council discusses parking permits, Google Fiber, regional sports park

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City Council wants to beef up restrictions in the Carterville neighborhood and is reconfiguring the city's relationship with Google Fiber.

One of the agenda items was a resolution to create a parking permit area on portions of 1625 North, 300 West and 380 West, all in the area of the Carterville neighborhood. The proposal is primarily meant to prevent students from parking in residential areas where non-students live.

"The applicant's proposal was to create a parking permit program for their neighborhood," city planner Javin Weaver said. "The program would function similarly to existing parking permit programs within the city. On-street parking would be restricted to permit holders between the hours of 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., Monday to Saturday. Other hours would be unrestricted. The cost of the permit would be between \$50 to \$100. Each dwelling would be eligible for two permits."

Council members also approved an agreement with Utah County regarding funding for a regional sports park in Provo to accommodate the growing need for sports fields and playgrounds in the area.

The Provo Parks and Recreation department noted that "especially after this COVID experience, people have recognized what they've lost," and many have turned to the great outdoors as consolation.

"We're noticing expansive growth in our soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, Ultimate Frisbee, (and other) emerging sports," said Parks and Recreation assistant director Doug Robins.

"In order to cope with that, we've noticed that a lot of our neighborhood parks had to convert some of the open space over to athletic fields. That's really not a sustainable approach to sports field use," Weaver said.

With new funding underway, Utah County and Provo City will work together to build a regional park with 22 athletic fields that should be completed and operational by 2024.

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Addie Blacker

The men's basketball team huddles during a timeout against Pepperdine on Jan. 23. New forward Matt Haarms (3) is coming into his own as an anchor on both ends of the floor for BYU.

## 'Sky is the limit' for surging BYU men's basketball team

By CALEB TURNER

BYU men's basketball forward Matt Haarms is looking every bit the 7-foot-3 paint presence BYU signed up for after a slow start to the season due to an ankle injury. Haarms put up an all-time best performance against Portland on Jan. 2, stretching the Cougars' ceiling beyond initial expectations.

Head coach Mark Pope electrified the program with a Top 25-ranked team last year in his debut season, and after losing a trio of all-conference seniors he went out and got the top transfer player available in Haarms.

"He's protecting the rim like the stud we thought he was going to be when we recruited him here (from Purdue)," assistant coach Chris Burgess said following a win over Pepperdine on Jan. 23.

The Cougars are 13-3 on the season

and 4-1 in West Coast Conference play, including a 28-point win over Portland in which Haarms put up a BYU career-high 23 points on perfect 9-for-9 shooting, the first Cougar to do so since Trent Plaisted in 2008.

He achieved the highest score this season in the Daily Universe's Player of the Game ratings with a 46.67 against Portland (courtesy of BYU's Data Science in Sports course) and looked comfortable and confident controlling the area around the rim all night.

He followed up his career scoring night with a four-block performance against Pepperdine just two nights later, showing his impact on both offense and defense for BYU. As Haarms and others discover and excel at their roles, the Cougars are starting to get a vision for what the team can become this season.

"We have a high ceiling but we know we have a lot to learn," team captain Alex Barcello said. "We need

to continue to get better every day like coach preaches. I think the sky is the limit for us."

Barcello has been the one sure thing for the Cougars all season, as their leading scorer, point guard and vocal leader, but one player can only take a team so far. Early on in the season, the Cougars went as Barcello went: if he was on fire the team was on fire, but if his shot was struggling, the team struggled as well.

Now with Haarms looking more and more healthy and integrated into Pope's system, the Cougars are clicking. Barcello is still lighting it up from deep, with a 51.6% 3-point shooting clip, and making plays when it counts, but the threat of Haarms in the paint on both ends of the floor elevates BYU's floor and ceiling on a nightly basis.

"One of our tag lines is that we 'turn frustration into fight,'" Haarms said, both of his own struggles early in the season and difficult stretches in

games for BYU. "It means there are so many opportunities for us to do better."

The Cougars had two losses in the opening two weeks of the season, but have since won eight of their last nine games, going back to Dec. 12. The three teams that BYU lost to are a combined 40-4 so far this season, giving the Cougars no bad losses on their resume.

"We credit the USC loss as defining our season," Haarms said of the Cougars' first loss early in the season. "We're a good team but don't go ranking us AP No. 1 just yet."

BYU has not been featured in the AP Top 25 yet this season, but it will be hard to keep ignoring the Cougars if the current win streak and solid defensive play continue. After holding Pepperdine to just 54 points on Jan. 23, several players and coaches spoke to the team-first, defensive-minded identity this year's squad has taken on.

"These guys are buying into the

tough, grind-it-out type of games, and they're resulting in wins," Burgess said. "That's what makes (the) team special, is they have zero agenda. And that comes from Coach Pope."

The phrase, "best locker room in America," was then quoted by Burgess, reiterating the team slogan that Pope has instilled since his arrival in Provo. The phrase is one of many Pope-isms that reinforce the hardworking, selfless brand of basketball he wants BYU to play.

"What we're trying to do with this team is really complicated, but if it works, this could be a really fun team," Pope said. "I'm a believer."

The Cougars will certainly have many more believers joining the fold in the coming weeks and months, as renowned college basketball statistician Ken Pomeroy currently ranks BYU in the Top 50 in the nation and TeamRankings.com gives the Cougars a 97% chance to make the NCAA Tournament.

## Fall sports move to winter as women's soccer and volleyball prepare for postponed seasons

By CHASIA WEBB

The BYU women's soccer and volleyball teams are in the final weeks of their preseason preparation. Typically this preparation happens in August, but because of COVID-19, their seasons were pushed back to Winter Semester.

"It's really cold and we practice indoors now," women's soccer team captain Mikayla Colohan said. The team is used to holding preseason practices during the hot summer months at South Field.

The cold and snow are now presenting issues that the team does not typically worry about until tournament time. Playing in these harsh conditions is uncharted territory for many of the California schools in the West Coast Conference that BYU plays in.

"We were hoping for a season in the fall," soccer junior Ashton Johnson said. "It was eye opening that not everything is going to go as planned. We are just taking things step by step."

Women's soccer will open its season with an exhibition match against Weber State on Jan. 30 at the Real Salt Lake indoor practice facility to combat the harsh winter weather.

"I'm excited to see who we can surprise this season," Colohan said. "I know what the girls on this team are



Team captain Mikayla Colohan passes away from a defender at South Field during a Sept. 13, 2019 game. Colohan was drafted into the NWSL but plans to finish the year out with the women's soccer team.

capable of doing."

Last season the Cougars finished No. 5 in the nation. This year's team is looking to win the Cougars' third consecutive WCC Championship and

eighth overall since they joined the WCC in 2011.

One of the biggest changes for the women's volleyball team is competing during the same season as men's

volleyball. The No. 16-ranked women's volleyball team now has to share the Smith Fieldhouse courts and equipment with the No. 1-ranked men's volleyball team.

"It's worked out pretty great," sophomore setter Whitney Bower said. "We practice back to back and don't really interfere with one another. Watching them compete gets me fired up."

The women's volleyball team has released its updated winter schedule and will begin conference play at Portland on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

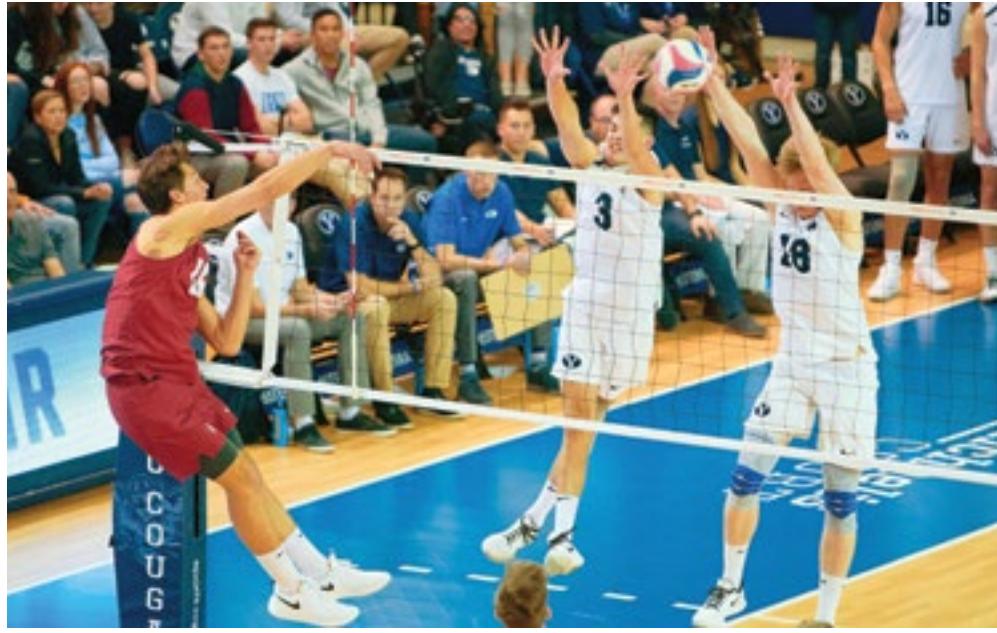
"I'm so excited (for the season), we've been cooped up for months. I'm excited to just play and be on the court with the girls," Bower said.

Both teams will also have to compete against schools from other conferences that competed in the fall when the NCAA tournaments come around in the spring. Some conferences have been competing since the fall and have the advantage of playing competitively together for months.

"We haven't given it much thought. We are so focused on ourselves," Bower said of schools who played in the fall. "We don't let the other teams get to us. We're just grateful to play now."

Both the women's soccer and volleyball teams are among the top-ranked programs in the nation every year. With multiple conference championships under their belts, these programs are consistently competitive in their respective sports and are expected to continue to rise to the occasion this season in the WCC.

# BYU Men's Volleyball prepares to build off of 2020 success



Preston Crawley

Wil Stanley and Miki Jauhainen block a shot against Stanford during the 2020 season as coach Shawn Olmstead looks on. Olmstead believes the returning talent from last season combined with new faces will set the Cougars up for success in 2021.

By JEFF SALCEDO

The BYU men's volleyball team felt it was heading in the right direction as the Cougars swept then-No. 1 Hawaii, subsequently earning the No. 1 spot in the next AVCA poll in March 2020. But then a week later their season came to an end.

"It was a whirlwind of emotions," head coach Shawn Olmstead said. "(We) were the number one team in the nation and there was nothing they would be able to prove beyond that."

While the cancellation of the season ended BYU's hopes for a national championship, the team feels it can continue the success it had during the shortened 2020 season.

The Cougars are currently ranked No. 1 in the preseason AVCA poll and were voted to finish first in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation in the preseason coaches' poll.

BYU returns every starter from the top-ranked team

last year, including four AVCA All-Americans.

Opposite hitter Gabi Garcia Fernandez, outside hitter Davide Gardini and setter Will Stanley earned first-team honors. Outside hitter Zach Eschenberg was an honorable mention.

"They deserve the recognition and rewards based on the season last year," Olmstead said. "It's a great place for them to start, our team to start and it speaks to our team collectively and experience-wise."

The team is mixed with experience and youth, which leads to tough competition in practice, according to Olmstead. "We are fortunate that in our program we've got a mix of young and old that can compete and push each other. We talk to the guys all the time about the fact that a rising tide lifts up all the boats, so the better they are, the better the team is."

Some of the younger players Olmstead highlighted as standing out in practice are freshman setter Zeo Meyer and freshman outside hitter

Miks Ramanis.

The Cougars' recently released schedule is filled with stiff competition in MPSF play as five of the six teams BYU will face are currently ranked in the AVCA poll. Pepperdine is ranked the highest tied for seventh followed by UCLA at nine, Grand Canyon at 10, Concordia Irvine at 12 and Stanford at 15.

Olmstead, the 2020 MPSF Coach of the Year, believes playing a tough conference schedule during the season will benefit the Cougars in the long run.

"If we want to reach and make the most of our team and the most of our potential, we have to want those tough matchups," Olmstead said.

As part of the schedule release, BYU announced that only players' family members are allowed to attend home games at the Smith Fieldhouse for the time being.

The team will kick off its national championship aspirations on Feb. 4 at home against UCLA. The game will air on BYUTV at a time to be announced.



BYU Photo  
From left, Andrew Stuart, Easton Bianchi and Dallin Draper run in the 60-meter sprint at the BYU Invite on Jan. 16. Bianchi took first place in the 60 at the Air Force Invitational on Jan. 23.

## Cougar track teams impress at Air Force Invitational finals

By JEFF SALCEDO

BYU's men's and women's track teams finished up the Air Force Invitational finals Jan. 23 with 14 top-three finishes, nine of which were first place.

Two Cougars earned top three finishes in the men's 400-meter as senior sprinter Michael Bluth and junior sprinter Cortez Ruiz placed first and third respectively. Bluth posted a 47.24 time, while Cortez ran a 48.35.

Junior sprinter Jaslyn Gardner placed first in the women's 60-meter, clocking in at 7.35. Gardner broke her own BYU record of 7.39 in the 60-meter with a time of 7.31 at the BYU Invite on Jan. 16 and continues to out-race her opponents, earning her second first-place finish of the season.

In the men's 600-meter, junior sprinter Easton Bianchi earned first place by running a 6.81, narrowly beating Cal's Christian Catlin by .03 second.

Senior BYU sprinter Andrew Stewart came in fourth place, running a 6.97.

Bianchi also competed in the men's 200-meter, clocking in at 21.54 and earning second place. Senior sprinter Colten Yardley ran a 21.65, taking third place.

Freshman distance runner Lucas Bons placed second in the men's 800-meter with a personal record of 1:53.76. This is Bons' first appearance in this race this season.

In the mile relay, both the men and women took first place for BYU. Colten Yardley, Michael Bluth, Eli Hazlett and Cortez Ruiz contributed to a 3:12.87 time for the men's team. The women's team, consisting of Annalise Hart, Kayla Perry, Chloe Taylor and Brinn Jensen, posted a 3:50.77 time.

Senior thrower Sierra Freeland won in women's shot put, posting a 14.25-meter mark. Freeland continues her strong start to the season in women's shot put as she has placed first in both of the team's meets.

Sophomore Zach McWhorter placed first in men's pole vault by clearing 5.56 meters. The All-American's clearance of 5.56 is currently ranked third in the nation this season.

Junior Isabel Neal posted a personal record of 4.01 meters in the women's pole vault, earning first in the process. Freshman Hannah Richardson came in fourth, clearing 3.65 meters.

Junior jumper/sprinter Conner Kennedy claimed first in the men's long jump, marking at 7.34 meters.

In men's high jump, sophomore Ty Wright placed third by clearing 2 meters. Wright cleared all of his successful jumps on the first attempt.

The men's track team finished second overall in the meet with 101 points. The women's track team finished third overall with 75 points, two points shy of second place.

The Cougars' next meet is the UW Preview, taking place on Jan. 29 and 30 at the University of Washington.



**There's something new in the neighborhood...**

## Podcast captures last testimony of BYU alum's 9-year breast cancer battle



Alex Colberg

Rebecca Hirschi and her family are seen together in front of their home in Boise, Idaho. Hirschi, a BYU alumna, recently died from metastatic breast cancer.

By KRISTINE KIM

"All In: An LDS Living Podcast" featured BYU alumna Rebecca Hirschi on an episode released Jan. 6, three days after she died from metastatic breast cancer.

Hirschi was well-known for being resilient and stalwart in her faith in God, especially through the trials she faced with breast cancer.

"The thoughts that you have when you're full of faith, they just make you stronger, and they make you live better," she said in the podcast. "I think they really have the power to change us, as we put the course of our lives in God's hands."

This was her last recorded interview before she passed away from her 9-year battle with cancer in her home surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Hirschi was the founder of Hirschi Strong and A Million for Metastatic. These causes were dedicated to gathering donations for the Huntsman Cancer Institute to find a cure for metastatic breast cancer.

David Hirschi, Rebecca's husband, helped start A Million for Metastatic with his wife. "One hundred percent of people with cases of metastatic breast cancer die, so there's nobody that recovers from that. Yet, none of the research was going towards metastatic breast cancer. We wanted

to switch the focus of all the breast cancer research to what we don't know — which is how to cure it," he said.

Hirschi was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011 after moving to Bangkok, Thailand. Hirschi and her family flew to see a breast cancer professional in Alabama. After receiving treatment, the doctors told her that the chance of her cancer returning was extremely low.

However, the cancer returned in the fall of 2017. This time it had metastasized, spreading throughout her body.

Sarah Hirschi, a BYU student and Rebecca's oldest daughter, was serving mission in Arcadia, California when she found out that the cancer had reappeared. "I remember that my mom told me it was cancer and that there wasn't a cure this time and it was terminal. I remember just sobbing and not knowing what to do right at that point because I only had six weeks left in my mission," she said.

Despite having a relapse of terminal breast cancer, Hirschi was still able to fight through, dedicating the time she had left with her family. "She always had extra strength and energy to focus on her family relationships and every other relationship with everyone who she knew and loved," Sarah said.

In the All In podcast episode, Hirschi expressed her love for her family. "I feel incredibly grateful that I've had this time

and this perspective because so many times there's accidents where people are taken quickly. I just think that today, eternal today is what really becomes the focus," she said. "That each and every day, and the moments within each day, can be lived to its fullest. And that to me has been a great gift."

"All In" host Morgan Jones shared the sacredness of interviewing Hirschi right before she passed and the chance she had to have Hirschi's final testimony recorded in the podcast.

Rebecca was and is a rock-star, and somebody that probably didn't get enough credit for all of the ways in which she helped people's lives," Jones said. "That's what the goal for the podcast has been, to not only tell the stories of people that everyone knows about but rather to interview people that they should know about and that they can learn a lot from."

David expressed his gratitude for the knowledge that Hirschi's legacy will continue to live on through their five children. "If you look at our kids, you can tell that they're grounded in the Savior and grounded in a knowledge of the Plan of Salvation," he said. "Her death didn't cause the dissolution of our family, it's actually strengthened our testimonies and it's given our children more motivation to keep the commandments and to keep sacred covenants in sacred places, and enable them to move forward."



Preston Crawley

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be studying the Doctrine and Covenants this year both at home and at church.

## How to get the most out of Come Follow Me and the Doctrine and Covenants this year

By MADISON SELCHO

With the start of a new year comes a renewed focus on a new book of scripture for Latter-day Saints, but finding ways to get the most out of scripture study can be difficult.

Experts in church history and doctrine from BYU and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have suggestions for resources students can use to enhance their study of the Doctrine and Covenants this year.

"The Church History Department has published several incredibly useful resources for studying the Doctrine and Covenants over the last several years. Most of these are collected in a new section in the Gospel Library App called 'Doctrine and Covenants Study,'" said global history specialist and Church historian Ryan Saltzgiver.

"We have never been in a better position to study the Doctrine and Covenants. Much of this is due to the Joseph Smith Papers Project and the scholarship that has resulted

from that project," said Jordan Watkins, BYU church history and doctrine professor.

Saltzgiver worked as a research assistant on the Joseph Smith Papers and described what a profound experience that job was for him.

"On the first day of training for that job, my supervisor looked me in the eye and said, 'You will learn that Joseph Smith was a human being. He made mistakes and sometimes he got angry. You have to be OK with that.' That lesson has stayed with me," he said.

During his undergraduate degree, Saltzgiver said through studying Church history he was able to learn how to forgive himself and others from seeing a prophet of God's humanity.

"I have learned firsthand that God's love is truly universal. That has changed how I interact with others. He really does love us all. He really 'denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female' (2 Nephi 26:33)."

Watkins also shared some themes that stood out to him through his study of the Doctrine and Covenants that

students can look for when they need a new perspective to engage their study.

"In my mind, God's mercy is among the most important and consistent messages of the Doctrine and Covenants," Watkins said. "After essentially telling Joseph that He doesn't need him, the Lord then tells Joseph that God is merciful and that if he repents he will again be called to the work."

The other two themes that stood out to Watkins are consecration and that human initiative is a key component to spiritual revelation.

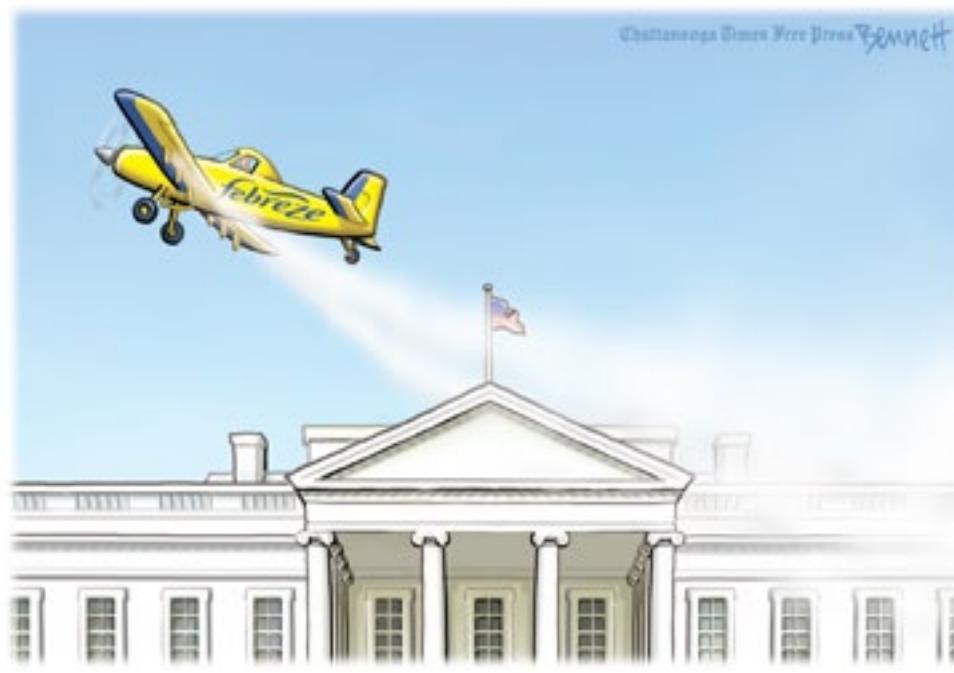
"Patience, faith and study. These will help us understand the revelations and, in the process, we will come to learn the ways in which the Lord speaks to us 'in our weakness after the manner of our language,'" Watkins said.

Resources to enhance the study of the Doctrine and Covenants this year include the Joseph Smith Papers Project, the First Vision Podcast, the Priesthood Restoration Podcast, the first volume of *Saints*, Church History Topics and Church History/Women's History.



# 2021 HOUSING GUIDE

Now on  
racks across  
campus



## 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.

### What do you think Biden should prioritize in his first 100 days?

Vaccine production and distribution

@MGKDRYER

Health and safety during the pandemic

@PRISKRILL3X

Distributing the vaccine to priority demographics and promoting unity across divides!

@HAZEYES.SARAH

Lol enough sleep, healthy diet, exercise. Then he can make his own informed decision.

@MARCICANDLAND

freedom of speech

@THEFOSTERR

Immigration. It's a mess right now

@ROSEAMYDONNA

unity unity unity

@KYLIECLAUSONN

Stimulus checks- finishing the full amount

@ETDELAHUNTY

Stop "calling for unity" and actually take action against the radicals polarizing the country.

@MARYHANKE

Doing something good for the first time in his 50 years as a politician.

@HIGLEYHERO

Stepping down. His victory was fraud.

@GSELCHO

Getting Covid under control and repairing international relations

@MA\_TAY\_

Covid response and reversing Trump's xenophobic policies

@MARYNROLFSON

Covid-19/vaccines, stimulus checks, and police violence

@FAKEKLES

Immigration, healthcare, and student loan reform!!!

@EMILYDWALTER

### when the BYU Store starts ANOTHER renovation project



### masks when BYU students go into the HBLL



Me: "Why haven't I made any friends in college?"

\*me when the lecture ends\*



"NEVER MET SO MANY GIRLS WHO ARE SO DESPERATE BUT YET SO PICKY"

"JOSH MY BOY, WELCOME TO PROVO"

## READERS' FORUM

### Love one another

### Give me a break

A weather-worn flyer was taped on a lamp-post near the JSB. Now torn down, it asked this question: "What does queer mean to you?" A response was scribbled underneath: "Someone too selfish to accept God's plan in their life. Someone that must repent and humble themselves before Heavenly Father."

I remember learning about this flyer and just kind of laughing it off. Being queer myself, it hurt to hear, but it also wasn't all that surprising. I wonder if the author is aware that so many queer students on campus had likely already tried repenting for something out of their control. That they may have, at times, wished so badly to have it taken away. To just be "normal." To just be accepted. I have.

Being gay at BYU is taboo. Change can't happen if we continue to turn a blind eye to it, pretending the problem isn't there. It is.

Our university is one that is founded upon the teachings of the Savior — BYU of all schools should be the one to not merely tolerate but love the individuals around us who may be different than we are. Be willing to listen to and support queer students. Be the safe space for them that they may not get elsewhere.

I'm so grateful to those who have made BYU feel a bit more like a loving home. Every queer individual here deserves to feel the same.

—Emma Taylor  
Stallings, North Carolina

What are the most common problems college students face? Money, or a lack of it, stress and depression, and homesickness affect nearly every college student whether from BYU or elsewhere. These perplexing problems often prove to be detrimental to students' success and prevent them from focusing all of their energy on their actual education. Not to mention the countless number of students who leave friends, family, and everything else important to them for the spiritual influence of a BYU education.

My sister found these statistics all too real as she left BYU after only two years because of the overwhelming stress and anxiety that, to her, felt relentless. One crucial opportunity that BYU doesn't offer is Spring Break. A week without the mental stress and anxiety that bombards college students would benefit the students, professors, and their grades alike. In a previous article, BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said that BYU forgoes having a spring break "because of our tight schedule." Although this is true, studies have shown that when provided a spring break, students have done better academically and emotionally than without.

BYU should consider the blessings that would undoubtedly come from a week off of school. We need a break! And we are the ones who will have to fight for it. Join me in emailing our BYU leaders to change this policy and bless our lives.

—Jared Melby  
St. Louis, Missouri

## 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](http://universe.byu.edu) or @UniverseBYU

@al\_avenue  
why can't i listen to music, a podcast, watch tiktok, and watch netflix all at the same time

@haleylizalara  
I'm free feb 14 if u wanna hang out feb 14 I'm not doing anything feb 14 just lmk about feb 14

@karenahoching  
one of my best friends from hs: \*gets engaged\*  
me: \*hasn't been on a date since last march\*

@hannahsadijee  
the weirdest part abt college roommates is that for a semester you're basically family and then you maybe talk twice

@benfrandsen  
I poked my head into an indoor trampoline place in Provo and now I know why utah's covid rates are so high.

### @bpilk10

I'm sorry but Utah In-N-Out's have got to figure out how to get their food out quicker

### @Abby\_Tenn

"Do you even know what's in the vaccine???"

No but I also don't know what's in an Oreo and that never stopped me

### @zachary\_ibarra

there's no sadness a massive burrito from Rancherito's can't fix !!

### @eggshellfriend

What do u mean i have work today? I just had it yesterday?

### @MikeJonesSez

Who knew there were so many places to sit in the world, as long as you had a folding chair and some warm clothes.

### @naurfinde1

Photoshop courses should be taught to every student just so we get better memes in the future

### @totscheetos

Gotta love those "out in public without a mask" nightmares

### @1DOPEKEV

What's joe bidens plan to stop these fake calls about my cars extended warranty?

### @HipsterMrMoon

I don't think kanye won guys.

Tweets are unedited.

## OPINION OUTPOST

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

... Unity and reconciliation of a divided people does not come because a leader declares it from a pulpit, even if that pulpit is that of the newly minted president of the United States.

That's why, to fulfill his inaugural promise, Biden will have to do more than just appeal ... to the better angels of our nature.

—Editorial Board  
*The Boston Globe*

### The opposition of Trump

Democrats have spent five years defining themselves in opposition to Mr. Trump. It's the one idea that unites them. As he recedes into history, they will have to deal with the symptoms of political withdrawal.

the true power of his inauguration lies. His administration has the chance not only to speak the unadulterated truth from the White House, but also to bring people around to acknowledge the truths that are holding the nation back — its sins of the past, and the basic facts that must shape the future.

—Editorial Board  
*The Wall Street Journal*

### Cox's roadmap

Spencer Cox calls his plan for the first 500 days of his new administration the One Utah Roadmap. Most of it is admirably aspirational, devoted to improved education, health care access, equality

—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 by writing letters to the editor or by submitting editorial cartoons.

- All letters should be submitted by email to [universe.ideas@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:universe.ideas@gmail.com).

and sustainability. But, where a roadmap is supposed to show the path forward, part of the ... document is fixated on the rear-view mirror. And looking backward ... is a good way to wind up in the ditch.

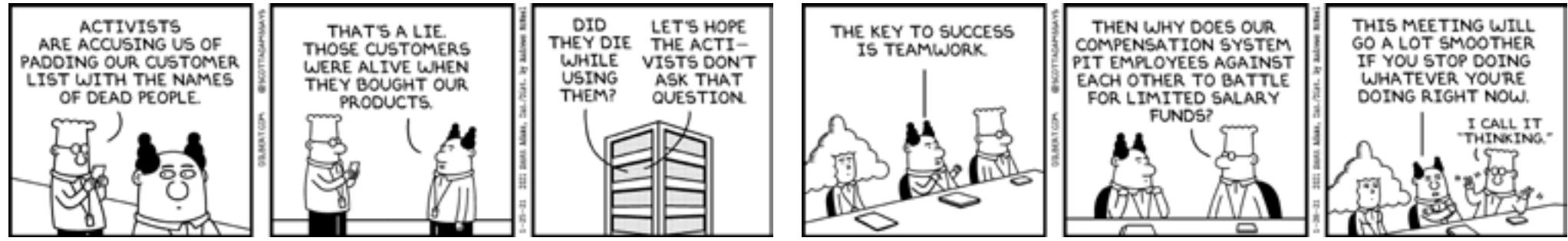
—Editorial Board  
*The Salt Lake Tribune*

**Vaccine rollout**  
In the midst of so much gloom and anger, it should still be possible to praise the achievement of all those who have worked on the vaccine rollout.

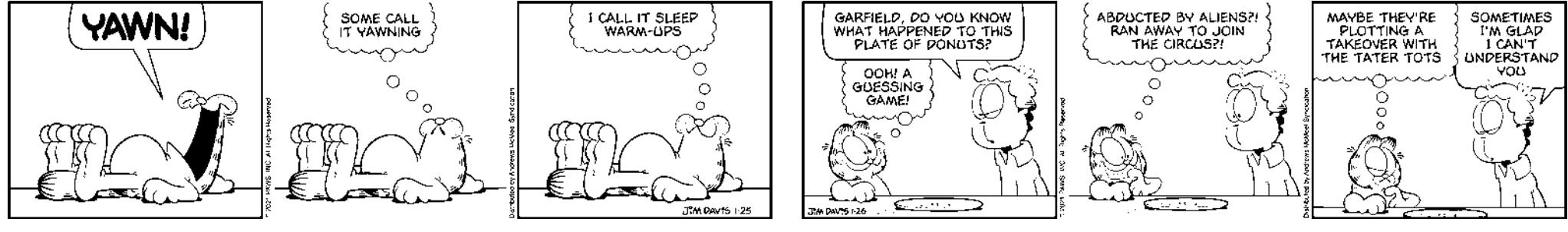
There is an end to this disease-ridden tunnel, and the more we support each other as we go through it, both in our private networks and publicly, as a society, the easier it will be to find the light on the other side.

—Editorial Board  
*The Guardian*

## Dilbert®



## Garfield®



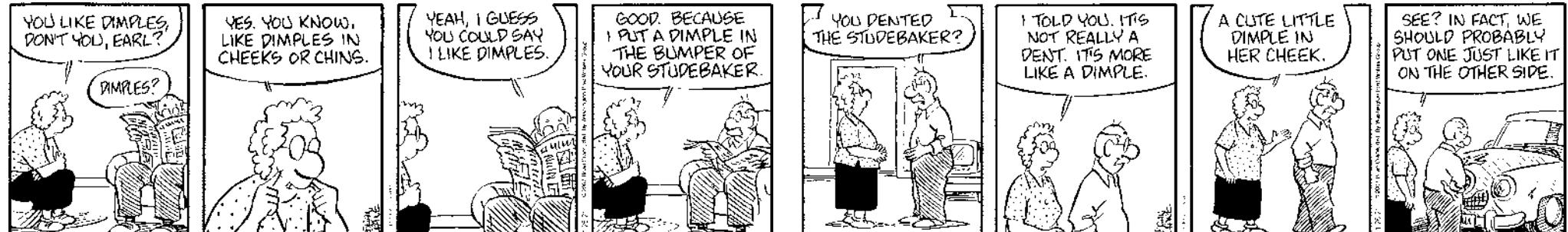
## Non Sequitur®



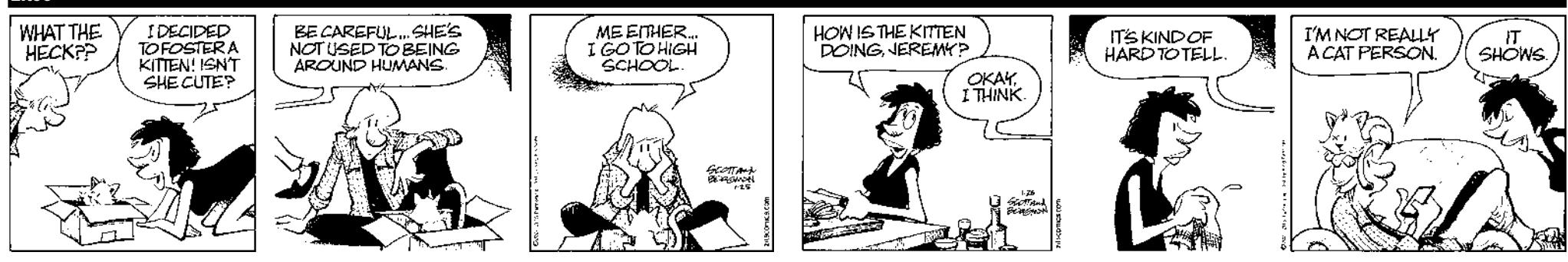
## Peanuts®



## Pickles®

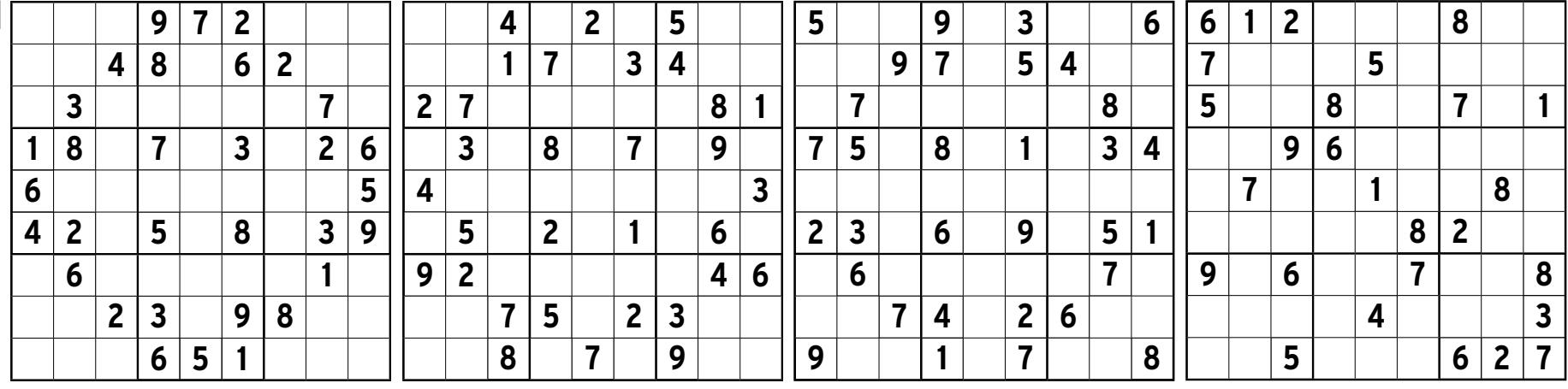


## Zits®



## 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](http://universe.byu.edu/sudoku).



## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1221

## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1222

**ACROSS**  
 1 Prattle  
 8 Public square  
 13 Like records stored for research  
 15 Popeye's profession  
 16 Browner's start-up point  
 17 Buses, as tables  
 18 Freshly  
 19 Nonsense  
 21 Second letter after epsilon  
 23 Tic-tac-toe win  
 24 Prohibit  
 25 Worthless talk  
 31 Fury  
 32 Financial claim  
 33 Hanker (for)  
 37 Neighs : horses :: : sheep  
 39 Landscaper's tool  
 42 Raft for a polar bear  
 43 =  
 45 It's not odd  
 47 R.N.'s touch  
 48 Unintelligible jargon  
 52 "So that's it!"  
 55 Itinerary preposition  
 56 Inexperienced reporter  
 57 Twaddle  
 61 Line down the length of a skirt  
 65 Signing-on info  
 66 Sudden thought that makes you go "Wow!"  
 7 Alternative to Prego  
 68 Poisons  
 69 Goes through hurriedly, as during a robbery  
 8 1957 title role for Frank Sinatra  
 9 In \_\_\_ of (replacing)  
 10 March goes out like this, as the expression goes  
 11 \_\_\_ the Greek  
 12 Pyromaniac's crime  
 14 Old NASA moon-landing vehicle  
 15 Great Dane of cartoons, informally  
 20 Short hairstyle  
 22 \_\_\_ Aviv, Israel  
 25 Match up (with)  
 26 Baghdad's land  
 27 Boyfriend  
 28 Bartlett of "The West Wing" or Clampett of "The Beverly Hillbillies"

1 \_\_\_ Men, group with the 2000 hit "Who Let the Dogs Out?"  
 2 Scientology founder Hubbard  
 3 Highest point  
 4 Where spiders get their information?  
 5 Way cool  
 6 Actress Saint of "North by Northwest"  
 7 Alternative to Prego  
 8 1957 title role for Frank Sinatra  
 9 In \_\_\_ of (replacing)  
 10 March goes out like this, as the expression goes  
 11 \_\_\_ the Greek  
 12 Pyromaniac's crime  
 14 Old NASA moon-landing vehicle  
 15 Great Dane of cartoons, informally  
 20 Short hairstyle  
 22 \_\_\_ Aviv, Israel  
 25 Match up (with)  
 26 Baghdad's land  
 27 Boyfriend  
 28 Bartlett of "The West Wing" or Clampett of "The Beverly Hillbillies"

1 \_\_\_ Figure made by lying in the snow and waving one's arms  
 30 Sports official, informally  
 34 Voice below soprano  
 35 Chocolate/caramel candy  
 36 Narrow part of a bottle  
 38 Droop  
 39 Christmas (December 24)  
 41 Mao Zedong was its leader  
 44 1960s hippie gatherings  
 46 Big Apple sch.  
 49 Hawks and doves  
 50 Rebuke to a dog  
 51 "Pygmalion" playwright, for short  
 53 Wears, as clothes  
 54 Amazon's virtual assistant  
 58 Icicles and burning candles both do this  
 59 \_\_\_ Lingus  
 60 Mineral springs  
 62 Individually  
 63 Singer/lyricist Paul  
 64 Classic computer game set on an island  
 67 "Gangnam Style" singer

Puzzle by SARAH KELLER and DEREK BOWMAN  
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# Biden to review Trump's changes to national monuments

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden said Jan. 20 he plans to review the Trump administration's downsizing of two sprawling national monuments in the American Southwest, including one on lands considered sacred to Native Americans who joined environmental groups in suing when the boundaries were redrawn in 2017.

The new Democratic president also plans to ask the Department of the Interior to reassess a rule change that allowed commercial fishing at a marine conservation area off the New England coast. The move was heralded by fishing groups and decried by environmentalists.

The moves are part of Biden's expansive plan to tackle climate change and reverse the Trump administration's "harmful policies," according to a fact sheet issued by the administration on Biden's inauguration day.

Biden vowed to also use executive orders to put a temporary moratorium on new oil and gas leasing in what had been virgin Arctic wilderness,



Associated Press

President Joe Biden said Wednesday, Jan. 20, he plans to review the Trump administration's downsizing of the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments in southern Utah. Bears Ears National Monument is on lands considered sacred to Native Americans who joined environmental groups in suing when the boundaries were redrawn in 2017.

direct federal agencies to start looking at tougher mileage standards and other emission limits again, and revoke Trump's approval for the Keystone XL oil and gas pipeline.

The plans drew praise from conservation groups.

The land monuments Biden will reassess are the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments in southern Utah.

President Bill Clinton created Grand Staircase in 1996, and President Barack Obama created Bears Ears in 2016. The cuts made by Trump paved the way for potential coal mining and oil and gas drilling on

lands that used to be off limits, though activity was limited because of market dynamics.

The marine monument is called the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, the first national marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean and one of just five marine monuments nationwide. President Obama issued the order establishing the conservation area in 2016.

Trump acted in December 2017 to shrink the Utah monuments on the recommendations of then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who was tasked with reviewing 27 national monuments around the country.

The monument review was based on arguments from Trump and others that a law signed by President Theodore Roosevelt allowing presidents to declare monuments had been improperly used to protect wide expanses of lands instead of places with particular historical or archaeological value.

Trump's decision to downsize Bears Ears by 85% and shrink Grand Staircase-Escalante by nearly half earned him applause from Utah's Republican leaders, who considered the monuments an example of federal government overreach.

The state's current Republican leaders, including U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney and new Gov. Spencer Cox, expressed concern with Biden's plan in a joint statement Jan. 20 in which they demanded Utah leaders be involved in the review.

"A review in name only with predetermined results, which ultimately leads to a unilateral executive order enlarging the monuments' boundaries, will not solve the root of the problem and will only deepen divisions in this country," they said.

Environmental, tribal, paleontological and outdoor recreation organizations have pending lawsuits to restore the full sizes of the monuments, arguing presidents don't have the legal authority to undo or

change monuments created by predecessors.

Pat Gonzales-Rogers, executive director of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, said the group has told the Biden transition team the monument should first be restored to the size Obama created and later to a larger size tribes originally requested.

The lands are sacred to tribes in the coalition: Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribe, he said. The area includes thousands of archaeological sites on red rock lands including cliff dwellings. The Bears Ears buttes that overlook a grassy valley are particularly sacred.

"The Bears Ears is a church and the place of worship for many of our tribes," Gonzales-Rogers said. "It should be viewed with the same type of gravitas and platform that you would view the Cathedral of Notre Dame."

Bruce Adams, who stood next to Trump cheering at the Utah Capitol in 2017 when he signed the declaration shrinking the monument, said Jan. 20 he thinks it's a foregone conclusion Biden will restore Bears Ears to the size Obama created, if not make it larger. Adams is county commissioner in the area where the monument is located and said the impact on the county of having to clean up trash and rescue unprepared visitors outweighs any benefit from people spending money at local hotels and restaurants.

"I don't think it's fair for the federal government to come in and do a huge land grab," Adams said. "I just wish they would attach some dollars so the county can deal with the impact."

An estimated 425,000 people visited Bears Ears in 2020, down slightly from the year before because of pandemic closures in the spring, according to the Friends of Cedar Mesa organization that runs a Bears Ears Education Center near the monument.

The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts conservation area comprises about 5,000 square miles east of New England. It contains vulnerable species of marine life such as right whales and fragile deep sea corals. The monument was the first national marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean.

Trump issued an executive order in June 2020 that reopened the monument to commercial fishing. He said at the time that Obama's move to ban fishing in the area was "deeply unfair to Maine lobstermen," although lobster fishermen from the state don't fish in the area.

Kristan Porter, president of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, said Jan. 20 that fishermen opposed Obama's creation of the monument because of the lack of feedback from the industry.

"It was closed without fishery input, and then it was open, and I suppose it's going to be closed again without fishery input," Porter said.

## Police Beat

### BYU

#### THEFT

**Jan. 19** - A bicycle was reported stolen from a Heritage Halls bike rack.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Jan. 17** - A domestic incident was reported between a husband and wife at Wyview Park.

#### PROVO

#### THEFT

**Jan. 16** - Property theft was reported near 300 West and 500 North.

#### THEFT

**Jan. 16** - Property theft was reported near 2200 North and 600 East.

#### THEFT

**Jan. 17** - Service theft was reported near 100 West and 500 South.

#### THEFT

**Jan. 19** - Property theft was reported at a residence near 100 South and 200 East.

#### THEFT

**Jan. 20** - Property theft involving deception was reported near 100 South and 300 West.

#### THEFT

**Jan. 21** - Property theft was reported near 100 East on Cougar Boulevard.

**Jan. 21** - Property theft was reported at a hotel near 1600 West on Center Street.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

**Jan. 17** - A vehicle was reported stolen near 500 East and 300 North.

**Jan. 19** - An automobile was reported stolen near 100 South and 300 West.

#### BURGLARY

**Jan. 19** - A non-residential burglary was reported near 1600 North on Riverside Avenue.

**Jan. 21** - A non-residential burglary was reported near 700 North on Independence Avenue.

**Jan. 21** - A residential burglary was reported near 100 North on University Avenue.

**Jan. 21** - A non-residential burglary was reported near 3500 North and 180 East.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Jan. 19** - An aggravated sexual assault was reported near 600 West and 1400 South.

**Jan. 20** - A rape was reported near 1000 North and 500 West.

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