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Universe Plus

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universe.byu.edu
February 2 - 8, 2021

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

COVID-19 cases down compared to Fall Semester

By MADISON SELCHO

BYU and Utah County's COVID-19 case counts are down compared to the start of Fall Semester.

According to the Utah County Health Department case dashboard, the number of people testing positive in January 2021 is far less than where the county was in September or November of 2020.

Eighteen days into Fall Semester the total number of cases in Utah County was 507; however, 18 days into Winter Semester the number of cases in Utah County was just 280.

BYU-specific cases are also down after three weeks of Winter Semester. As of Jan. 30 there have been 616 total COVID-19 cases, compared to three weeks into Fall Semester when there were 762.

"Everything we put in place for the Fall Semester has carried forward to the Winter Semester. We continue to encourage students to wear masks, physical distance, wash hands and follow all public health guidance," said Rosemary Thackeray, BYU assistant to the president for assessment and planning.

While most requirements and guidelines have stayed the same, there have been a few changes put in place between Fall and Winter Semesters in order to slow the spread of the virus.

"New Winter Semester, we offered COVID testing for students returning to the campus. We will continue to do random and focused COVID testing," Thackeray said.

Students who have an in-person



Sydnee Gonzalez

Students wear masks and display green passports on the Healthy Together app to gain entrance into the Harold B. Lee Library.

class, blended class or live in on-campus housing were asked to test for COVID-19 within the first 10 days of the semester and can expect randomized testing throughout the semester.

"The randomized testing and process of rigorous testing is the only thing that really has changed between semesters. Maybe it could be a new perception that goes along with it, that if I know I'm going to be tested regularly maybe I'm more vigilant in my own prevention behaviors," said Carl Hanson, BYU professor and public health department chair.

While new testing procedures are in place, some of the requirements from

last semester have also been revamped. Students are encouraged to continually update their Healthy Together app and must use the green passport to gain entry into high-traffic places on campus like the Harold B. Lee Library.

"Students are very responsive to what the university has asked them to do in order to keep campus safe," Thackeray said.

In spite of negative attention BYU students got during Fall Semester due to high COVID-19 rates in Utah County, faculty has praised students for keeping in line with the guidelines while on campus.

"I commend our students. I really

think they are doing a good job. I'm in the classroom. I see what they are doing in terms of mask wearing; I see what they are doing in terms of social distancing in the classroom, and they are doing a good job on campus," Hanson said.

BYU President Kevin J. Worthen also mentioned the good work students have been doing on campus in his recent devotional address.

"Because of your good work last semester, we are ahead, and if we stay ahead — if we finish strong — we can, like the home baseball team, end the game one-half inning early," Worthen said.

Utah Senate proposes task force to redesign state flag

By CASSIDY WIXOM

State Sen. Daniel McCay, R-Riverton, wants to create a State Flag Task Force to undertake a redesign of the state flag.

McCay said the task force will "see if we can modernize our existing flag" to be more distinctive and comply with flag design standards from the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA).

"I feel optimistic that people recognize there is an opportunity for a rebranding or a recapturing of the essence of Utah," McCay said.

Ted Kaye, compiler of the "Good Flag, Bad Flag" guidebook found on NAVA's website, said from a design standpoint, Utah's state flag fails on all five design principles: keep it simple, have meaningful symbolism, use 2-3 basic colors, no lettering or seals, and be distinctive or related.

According to Kaye, who helped design Salt Lake City's new flag in 2020, the Utah flag is too complicated, has too many symbols leading to a "diluted" meaning and has too many colors. The flag also is composed of mainly the Utah seal making it indistinguishable against other flags because almost half of the U.S. states have seals on blue backgrounds for their flags.

Kaye said the Utah flag scored an average of 3.47 out of 10 in a survey in 2001 where NAVA members and the public ranked U.S. state, territory and Canadian province flags. Utah ranked 15th from the bottom along with many state flags that consist of seals on blue backgrounds.

McCay said choosing a new flag that is distinctive like neighboring states' flags such as New Mexico, Arizona or Colorado, will "elevate our presence and give us a way to tie our Utah values to our banner and have that banner be representative to the state of Utah."

Rep. Steve Handy said in 2018 constituents started reaching out to him about redesigning the flag. He originally drafted a bill that passed through the House but never made it through the Senate.

After a few more attempts on getting a flag redesign bill passed, Handy and McCay decided this year they would start it in the Senate. A new bill, SB48,



Jonathan Martin

A proposed replacement for the current Utah state flag was designed by the New Utah Flag Organization. The design is not tied to a current legislative proposal to replace the current state flag.

passed a Senate committee vote of 3-2 on Jan. 22.

The bill passed through a Senate floor vote on Feb. 1 with 24 senators supporting and only five voting against. It is now on the Senate third reading calendar.

Handy said Utah needs a flag that better represents the growing diversity of the state. "It ought to be a flag for all the people."

To ensure the public feels like they have a voice in the matter, McCay said the task force will work with the public throughout the flag design process.

Handy said he hopes people of all ages in the state will participate in submitting designs, including school children.

"My idea was the legislature shouldn't decide," Handy said. Instead, the task force will eventually have the public decide on a new design, most likely through a vote on the ballot.

Talk of redesigning the Utah state flag is not new. In 2002, the Salt Lake Tribune worked with NAVA to hold a Utah Flag Design Contest. A report from NAVA said the Tribune received over 1,000 entries, with two-thirds coming from schoolchildren. The contest resulted in 10 final entries of potential flag redesigns. No official change came about from this contest.

Besides Handy's bills, The Organization for a New Utah Flag has also warranted media attention with

its design for a new Utah flag.

Jonathan Martin, spokesman for the New Utah Flag Organization, said the flag "is something that matters because we are talking about the identity of Utah."

He said in Utah there is hardly any pride in the state flag and by redesigning it, Utah has a chance to "rebrand."

The New Utah Flag Organization has already sold over 100 flags with its new design, according to Martin.

As designer of the flag, Martin said his design covers the entire history of the state through symbolism. He said his flag design acknowledges the pioneers and the industrious people of today while also paying tribute to the Native nations and the transcontinental railroad.

The most prominent symbol on his flag is the beehive. "We are the beehive state. We have one of the greatest symbols in the entire country that is instantly recognizable," Martin said.

In 2019, Rep. Keven Stratton drafted a bill to replace the current state flag with Martin's design. This bill was facing off against Handy and McCay's bill the same year to create a State Flag Review Commission. While neither was passed, the flag controversy and both bills got covered in multiple news outlets.

The New Utah Flag Organization has recently started an initiative for its design to be a commemorative flag

for Utah's 125th anniversary of statehood. A press release stated its flag will "be sponsored and supported for legislation by Senators Dan McCay, R-Riverton, and Curt Bramble, R-Provo, during the 2021 Legislative Session."

Its commemorative flag, however, is currently not included or involved with Handy and McCay's bill for a state flag taskforce.

John Hartvigsen is the former president of NAVA and worked with Kaye on redesigning Salt Lake City's flag in 2020. He believes the Utah state flag should not be changed.

"The Utah state flag not only tells the history of Utah and our heritage," he said, "it is a central part of our Utah state history."

Even though the Utah flag is complicated, it is still a "bold, recognizable design," Hartvigsen said. "It's beautifully done. It's a loved flag."

He said many flags break the rules of design and are still dearly loved. Examples of these are the California state flag with a detailed bear, the Mexico flag with a complex coat of arms in the middle and the South African flag with six colors. All these flags don't follow design principles but are still recognizable and "cherished" flags.

Hartvigsen asks, "Do you want a flag that looks good on a coffee mug or one that looks like an emblem that represents the state in a bold way?"



Samantha Angelovich

Hannah Larson started the Humans of BYU page on Instagram.

Instagram page shows BYU students they're not alone

By KRISTINE KIM

Humans of BYU, a locally-run Instagram page based off the Humans of New York series, has taken Utah by storm.

Humans of BYU was created in 2019 by BYU alumna Hannah Larson. The page, which has over 8,500 followers, showcases BYU students who have a unique perspective and individual story to tell about their lives. It has helped fellow BYU students realize they are not alone and everyone is going through something.

Larson said she tried to create a space "where people can be authentic, open and vulnerable." The posts on the page can lead to connection, understanding and love, according to Larson.

Larson started Humans of BYU to encourage Christ-like interactions between strangers, by loving more and judging less.

The process of starting the page was difficult. She spent over 20 hours each week interviewing, transcribing and creating posts with captions to upload to Instagram. She said no matter how hard it was, she could do it because she felt this was her life calling.

"When I was 16 years old, God told me that my life's purpose was to increase love in the world," Larson said. "I knew that whatever I was going to do with my life, I would be using my gifts and talents to basically do whatever I can to help people love more like Jesus Christ."

Humans of BYU has also helped BYU students discuss controversial topics and stigmas within the church community.

One topic that Humans of BYU has been able to openly discuss is eating disorders and the road to recovery.

"I was ready to share a story that I thought would help people. I wanted to let people know they're not alone in feeling certain anxieties and fears that they feel," said BYU student athlete Mary Elizabeth Lake.

Lake said sharing her story about disordered eating helped her realize "there is more to a person than the little snippet that they share on the post."

"There's so many emotions and experiences surrounding it. People are so complex, and everyone's going through something. Especially at BYU," Lake said.

Madeline Wilcox, a BYU-Idaho student, shared her past experiences with addiction to pornography on Humans of BYU.

"I think sometimes we don't think about the impact our own story can have," Wilcox said. "Your story isn't just important for you, it could also be important for somebody else."

For some, this page has helped them to share their testimony of the Savior and edify others on campus.

"There are so many people who want to put labels on themselves or others, whether they're good or bad, but none of these labels are really important," Wilcox said. "The only thing that's important is the message that you are a child of God."

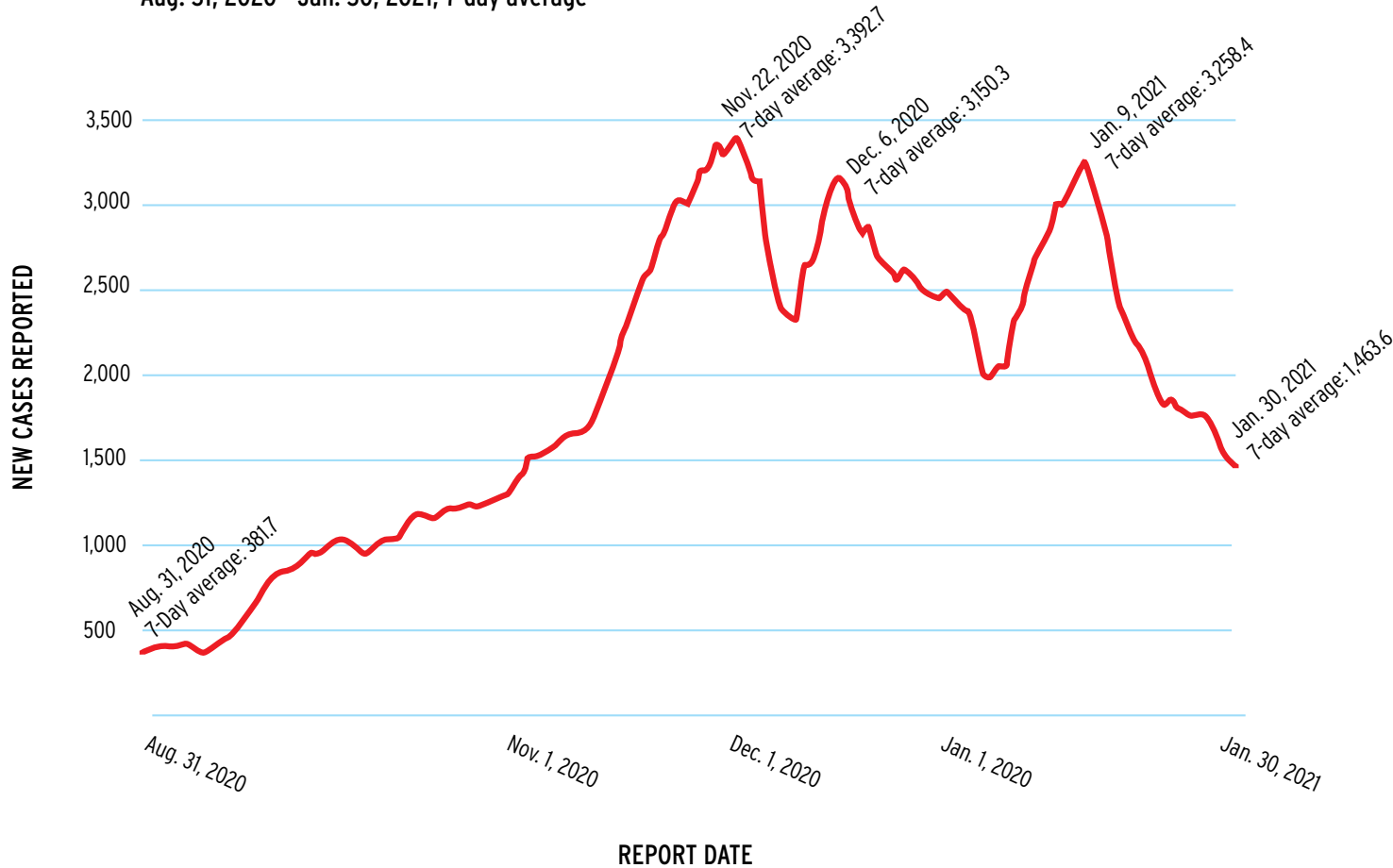
Batchlor Johnson, a graduate student and football player at BYU, said he was thankful to be able to share his testimony through Humans of BYU.

"I'm super big on people thinking without limits, in terms of their potential. I wanted people to understand that we're all divine beings. We can do anything we put our minds to," he said.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

New COVID-19 cases in Utah

Aug. 31, 2020 - Jan. 30, 2021, 7-day average



Kate Slobodian

Data collected from the Utah Department of Health Jan. 30.

Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



ACLU, for first time, elects Black person as its president

Deborah Archer, a professor at New York University School of Law with expertise in civil rights and racial justice, has become the first Black person in the 101-year history of the American Civil Liberties Union to be elected its president. The ACLU announced Feb. 1 that Archer was elected over the weekend in a virtual meeting of the organization's 69-member board of directors. As the ACLU's eighth president since 1920, Archer will act as chair of its board of the directors, overseeing organizational matters and the setting of civil liberties policies. The fight against racial injustice is expected to be a top priority.



Uncertainty, hope for some Muslims after travel ban lifted

Mohammed Al Zabidi celebrated in 2017 when he learned he had been selected in the U.S. green card lottery, which picks people at random from a large pool of applicants. But after he had been initially approved, his luck ran out: "CANCELLED WITHOUT PREJUDICE," read the stamp on the unused visa in his passport with a Trump administration travel ban on several Muslim-majority nations, including his, in place. President Joe Biden's repeal of the ban on Inauguration Day brought a sigh of relief from citizens in the countries covered by the measure.



Pennsylvania teacher fights suspension over DC protest

One day after the deadly insurrection in Washington, a Pennsylvania school district announced it was suspending a teacher who, the district asserted, "was involved in the electoral college protest that took place at the United States Capitol Building." Three weeks later, Jason Moorehead is fighting to restore his reputation and resume teaching after he says the Allentown School District falsely accused him of being at the Capitol during the siege. Moorehead said he was never any closer than a mile and a quarter to the Capitol that day and did nothing wrong.



Walmart to build more robot-filled warehouses at stores

Walmart is enlisting the help of robots to keep up with a surge in online orders. The company said Jan. 27 that it plans to build warehouses at its stores where self-driving robots will fetch groceries and have them ready for shoppers to pick up in an hour or less. Walmart declined to say how many of the warehouses it will build, but construction has started at stores in Lewisville, Texas; Plano, Texas; American Fork, Utah; and Bentonville, Arkansas, where Walmart's corporate offices are based.

For emerging adults, pandemic serves up unique challenges

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, N.H. — Demographic shifts during the last century have given rise to a distinct developmental stage called "emerging adulthood." Spanning the late teens and early 20s, it's a volitional, transitional period marked by exploration of life and love, work and world views. But with the now nearly yearlong pandemic causing major disruptions in education,

employment, housing and more, young people who are no longer adolescents but not quite adults are struggling to find their footing. "This generation is losing out on this key transition period," says Kathryn Sabella, director of research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research. Emerging adulthood is a key time to explore career options, but the pandemic is putting that on hold.

Lawmakers push mental health days for kids amid pandemic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — The coronavirus pandemic has multiplied the pressures on kids — many have spent almost a year doing remote learning, isolated from their friends and classmates. The portion of children's emergency-room visits related to mental health was 44% higher in 2020, compared with the year before. State lawmakers are increasingly seeking more support

for kids. This year, legislation proposed in Utah and Arizona would add mental or behavioral health to the list of reasons students can be absent from class, similar to staying out with a physical illness. Similar laws have passed in Oregon, Maine, Colorado and Virginia in the past two years. Offering mental health days can help children and parents communicate and prevent struggling students from falling behind in school, or ending up in crisis.

BYU rejecting additional federal COVID relief funds

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

BYU will not accept over \$50 million made available to it as part of the federal government's latest COVID-relief package. Legislation requires at least half the money be given to students, but schools have the option to give 100% of it directly to students. BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said the university's reasons for rejecting the

funds are the same reasons it didn't accept CARES Act funding last May: it did not request federal aid and can provide for its students using its own funds. Unlike last year, however, BYU has not established a funding program to help students cover costs related to COVID-19. Instead, Jenkins said "traditional means of financial aid are available, including some loan options for students who need immediate assistance."

As virus cuts class time, teachers have to leave out lessons

ASSOCIATED PRESS

With instruction time reduced as much as half by the coronavirus pandemic, many of the nation's middle school and high school teachers have given up on covering all the material normally included in their classes and instead are cutting lessons. Certain topics must be taught because they will appear on exit exams or Advanced Placement tests. But teachers

are largely on their own to make difficult choices — what to prioritize and what to sacrifice to the pandemic. School day schedules have been compressed to deal with the challenges of social distancing and remote learning. The pace of instruction has also been slowed by the need to cover subjects that were skipped following the school shutdowns last spring and by students' virus-related distractions and the difficulty in addressing both online and in-person audiences.

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152 BRMB, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602

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METRO EDITOR
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f **t** **@** **U** **BYU**
letters@byu.edu
News 801-422-2957
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Push to reopen schools could leave out millions of students

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden says he wants most schools serving kindergarten through eighth grade to reopen by late April, but even if that happens, it is likely to leave out millions of students, many of them minorities in urban areas. "We're going to see kids fall further and further behind, particularly low-income students of color," said Shavar Jeffries, president of Democrats for Education Reform. "There's potentially a generational level of harm that students have suffered from being out of school for so long." Like some other officials and education advocates, Jeffries said powerful teachers unions are standing in the way of bringing back students. The unions insist they are acting to protect teachers and students and their families. In a Jan. 28 call with teachers unions, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal government's top infectious disease expert, said the reopening of K-8 classrooms nationally might not be possible on Biden's time frame.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

BYU bars out-of-state work for student and non-student employees

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

BYU recently announced a new policy barring employees, including those who work remotely, from working outside of Utah.

The decision, which applies to both student and non-student employees, comes despite an increase in remote work and online class offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Although we do not have specific numbers, we do know that the occurrence of BYU employees working from locations out of state increased during the COVID-19 pandemic when many employees were asked to work remotely,” BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said.

Jenkins said the impetus for the policy was the fact that employees who work outside Utah may prompt various requirements and penalties under laws — such as those related to taxes or insurance — in other states and countries that the university may not be able or prepared to comply with.

The policy states that “living in Utah is a condition of employment, and university work must be primarily performed in Utah. Remote work outside of Utah is permitted only during isolated, short-term travel.” BYU’s Human Resources website suggests that trips longer than one month would be inconsistent with the definition of “isolated, short-term travel.”

The only exceptions to the policy are:

- University-approved assignment or program (such as a study abroad or academic conference).



Sydnee Gonzalez

Out-of-state work among BYU student and non-student employees has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, but a new university policy is barring the practice.

- Professional development leave as defined by BYU’s Faculty Leaves Policy.
- Work by an employee filling a non-benefited position and employed by a BYU-owned subsidiary formally registered in the state to do business.
- Temporary remote work by a student employee during a break between consecutive semesters (such as over the summer break).

In order for students to qualify for that last exception, they must have supervisor approval and meet credit hour requirements for student employment.

Examples of situations that would and wouldn’t be exceptions to the policy are posted on BYU’s Human Resources website. One example says a professor who unexpectedly moves outside of Utah during the semester wouldn’t be

allowed to finish the semester remotely. Another example states that a student living outside of Utah at a parent’s home while attending online classes would not qualify as an exception.

Jenkins said these examples are meant to outline the policy going forward and don’t account for the temporary flexibility BYU is allowing student employees during Winter Semester. Jenkins said some decisions will be left up to individual supervisors, who have “some flexibility to authorize or allow out-of-state work based on need or circumstance.”

“However, full compliance with the policy is expected as soon as possible,” she said. “There are no specific exceptions for students living in countries with travel restrictions. Questions about individual situations can be directed to the manager of student employment.”

DAVID M. KENNEDY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES BYU International Study Program rises in US ranking



The Kennedy Center’s International Study Program is the 14th largest study abroad program in the United States, according to the Institute of International Education’s new report. The institute’s most recent Open Doors report for the 2018-2019 academic year shows the Kennedy Center stepping up from its previous 19th place ranking. During that academic year, 2,560 BYU students participated in study abroad programs: 2,215 were directed by the Kennedy Center and the other 345 attended the Jerusalem Center or toured internationally with BYU performing groups.

International Study Program Director Lynn Elliott said this report shows proof of BYU’s support of international education, giving faculty a greater chance to learn and providing students with enriching academic experiences.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES BYU students dominate first place awards in writing contest



BYU students beat top schools including Harvard and Carnegie Mellon in the Short Edition writing contest. The nonprofit Short Edition invited BYU and 13 other universities to place short story dispensers on their campuses

and to participate in the writing contest. BYU swept the contest, taking first place in every juried category. Several BYU students were also named runners-up in both the juried and the public portions of the competition. The eight BYU winners will receive a monetary prize, and some of their winning pieces will be published internationally in story dispensers. BYU additionally won a third dispenser by submitting more entries than any other school: a total of 272 stories and poems.

“BYU students have compelling stories to tell, and they tell them beautifully,” said Leslee Thorne-Murphy, College of Humanities associate dean, who helped facilitate BYU’s participation in the Short Edition contest. “They represented our university admirably.”

DAVID M. KENNEDY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES Academic Adviser of the Year awarded to Anna Ortiz



Anna Ortiz

An academic adviser at the Kennedy Center was recently named the BYU Academic Adviser of the Year. Anna Ortiz has worked in the advisement center for nine years. Ortiz helps students map out coursework and connects them with resources. She also works with nonprofit organizations and has worked on community development projects across five continents. Nominees for the Academic Adviser of the Year are recommended by other advisers on campus and evaluated based on a portfolio, letters of recommendation, comments from students and a reflection of how the nominee contributes to the campus advisement community.

“There are some great advisers on campus, and it means a lot to me that my fellow advisers felt like I was someone worth recognizing,” Ortiz said. “My favorite part of being an academic adviser is helping students figure out how to prepare for uncertainties, in school and life, no matter what fortune has in store for them.”

Valentine’s Day is just days away...

Pick up a copy of TWO and start prepping now.

Available on racks across campus.

TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, February 2
11:05 a.m.

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

Bishop L. Todd Budge
Second Counselor, Presiding Bishopric

Bishop L. Todd Budge was sustained as a General Authority Seventy in April 2019. Prior to his call in the Presiding Bishopric in October 2020, he was serving as first counselor in the Asia North Area presidency.

Bishop Budge received a BA in economics from BYU in 1984. He worked for Bain and Company Japan, Citibank N.A., and GE Capital in both Atlanta and Japan. In 2003 he became president and chief executive officer of Tokyo Star Bank Limited. From 2008 to 2011 he served as chairman of the board. He retired from the bank in 2011. During this time he also served as a member of the board of directors for Hawaiian Airlines.

Bishop Budge has served in several Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Japan Fukuoka Mission, stake Young Men president, elders quorum president, stake executive secretary, counselor in a bishopric, bishop, stake president, president of the Japan Tokyo Mission, Area Seventy, and member of the Fifth Quorum of the Seventy in the Utah Salt Lake City Area.

Bishop Budge was born in Pittsburg, California. He and his wife, Lori Capener, are the parents of six children.

Selected speeches available at speeches.byu.edu

NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

José A. Teixeira
General Authority Seventy

February 9
11:05 a.m.



Sydnee Gonzalez photo illustration

BYU psychology experts give students practical advice to combat seasonal affective disorder during the pandemic. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of the story.



Sunlight, good sleep habits are the best medicine for seasonal depression

By MADISON SELCHO

BYU experts say there are ways to combat seasonal depression from home despite the isolation caused by COVID-19.

BYU psychology professor Chad Jensen and Klint Hobbs, Counseling and Psychological Services psychologist and outreach coordinator, gave specific measures students can take to battle seasonal affective disorder.

“The top three things I’d recommend would be to increase their light exposure early in the morning (which can also be called phototherapy), have an exercise routine of at least five days a week for 30 minutes or more, and include an Omega 3 supplement in their diet,” Jensen said.

Both experts also empha-

sized the importance of improving sleeping habits.

“Sleep disruption is heavily implicated in typical depression, and so maintaining a healthy sleep schedule primes students to cope more effectively with depression,” Hobbs said.

Improving sleep habits is a key to good overall health, but what many may not know is sunlight exposure directly helps individuals sleep.

“When you expose yourself to early morning light at the start of your day, not only does your mood improve but your body knows through that light exposure it is time to wake up which in turn improves your sleep cycles,” Jensen said.

By accessing that early morning light, people can notify their bodies of when it is time to get going for the day and when it is time to go to bed. Once someone improves their

sleeping patterns their mood will improve despite the colder temperatures, Jensen said.

Along with their sleeping habits, Jensen said it is important to remember to exercise and eat nutritious foods to keep an individual’s mind and body functioning at an optimal level.

Jensen said a good dosage of the Omega 3 supplement includes “two 500mg Omega 3 capsules twice daily for a total daily dose of 2,000mg of Omega 3.”

To find more information on seasonal depression and ways to combat it during the pandemic, contact the BYU CAPS Office.

“CAPS treats depression very effectively, and CAPS therapists can help tailor treatment to the specific symptoms of the student experiencing seasonal affective disorder,” Hobbs said.

New Adobe discount available to BYU students



Preston Crawley

BYU students can now access the Adobe Creative Cloud for a lower subscription rate of \$69. The new pricing began Jan. 8.

By EMILY ATWOOD

Adobe and BYU recently introduced a more affordable one-year subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud for students at \$69 per year.

Students can purchase a yearly subscription to Creative Cloud to use photo and video software such as Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere and more. The new BYU student price of \$69 started Jan. 8. It is down from the previous price of \$99 per year.

Adobe and BYU reviewed their licensing agreement throughout 2020 after the expiration of their previous negotiation, according to BYU Office of Information Technology assistant product manager Nathan Christiansen.

BYU OIT product manager Joshua Williams said the

negotiations took longer than usual because of an issue with low numbers in student subscriptions.

A subscription to Adobe can now be accessed online, instead of only in person like before. “It’s online through adobe.byu.edu, which is something that we had already heard requests for, especially because there are so many people working remotely and doing school remotely that it’s become even more of a need,” Williams said.

Some students needed to use BYU CloudApps, an online service that enables students and faculty to access software through an internet connection, in order to access Adobe software while waiting for a subscription to Creative Cloud last semester. Williams and Christiansen said they have no plans to remove these applications. Students can access limited

Adobe software for free through BYU CloudApps at any time.

“There are also physical labs on campus that are available for use for students. To access Adobe Creative Cloud, they can just sign in with their Net ID and password, and they’ll have rights to that on campus,” Williams said.

BYU professor Quint Randle teaches graphic design classes to students in the communications program and said he believes the reduced price will help more students benefit from creative software.

“Adobe Suite is the industry standard. The tools that we use in class are professional tools that are an important part of education,” Randle said.

Students who would like to sign up for the yearly subscription of Adobe Creative Cloud can visit adobe.byu.edu.

COVID-19 inspires creative Zoom backgrounds for BYU professors



Many BYU professors started using Zoom backgrounds during lectures after the pandemic moved classes online. Clockwise from top left: Xinru Page, Steve Nelson, Sarah Agate and Craig Harline.

By INGRID SAGERS

BYU professors have taken a liking to virtual Zoom backgrounds as a new way to engage students and as an opportunity to innovate teaching styles.

The backgrounds range in themes from “Harry Potter” to nature scenes — even toilet paper rolls have been featured.

BYU electrical engineering professor Daniel Smalley said he uses virtual Zoom backgrounds to foster creativity. As a professor who encourages students to use their engineering skills in “Star Trek” simulations in his electromagnetics class, Smalley loves having fun in academics.

He has used themes like kung fu, “Harry Potter,” “Star Wars” and many more for his

virtual backgrounds.

“I like virtual backgrounds; anytime there’s an opportunity to switch things up and use creativity, it’s really helpful in many ways,” he said.

Smalley has also used virtual backgrounds in more professional settings, like conferences. He uses a virtual background that has a timer pop up to non-verbally signal when time is running out during presentations.

BYU environmental geology professor Steve Nelson said he enjoys using geographical-themed virtual backgrounds while teaching his students about different types of soils, bodies of water and other parts of the planet.

Students seem to have different opinions on the Zoom backgrounds, considering factors like the style of background

and whether it’s professors or students using them.

Chandler Rogers, a junior studying product management, said he thinks virtual backgrounds can detract from the professionalism of a professor’s lesson or a student’s presentation.

“If professors use a virtual background, I would definitely just suggest using a more professional one or one that’s not too distracting. When students use virtual backgrounds, the signal it sends to me is that people aren’t super engaged,” Rogers said.

Rogers, who goes to school primarily online and has been working virtually long before the pandemic hit, said he understands professors have made a big transition from teaching face-to-face to Zoom.

Matt Jensen, a junior

studying information systems, has personally used virtual backgrounds in Zoom meetings with peers and said he thinks there’s a time and place where they can be used in an entertaining or purposeful way.

“I think virtual backgrounds can serve as an anti-distraction mechanism,” he said.

Jensen said he enjoys virtual backgrounds because they help him focus on the speaker because of how entertaining or interesting they can be. Without virtual backgrounds, he’s seen clutter in people’s rooms and offices or people walk behind students while they’re speaking.

Jensen said it’s generally clear when it’s appropriate to use a virtual background and that the backgrounds allow others to see the personality of those using them.



Josh LeMonte

Three environmental geography students, Britney Talbot, left, Katelynn Smith, and Claire Ashcraft sit at the edge of Lake Hallstatt in Austria.

BYU adds environmental geology major

By INGRID SAGERS

BYU’s College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences introduced an environmental geology major this semester that is now available for all students.

Professors Steve Nelson, Josh LeMonte and Greg Carling were crucial in the new major’s creation. They hope to show students that the major is the perfect combination of scientific research, lab work and fieldwork for those looking to make a big impact on taking care of the planet.

Getting a new program approved by the university and the Board of Trustees is not simple. Nelson was at the head of the process to get the major up and running. He said administrators have to make a convincing case that new programs are valuable for students and the university.

Once Nelson put together the required documentation, the major had to first be approved by the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, then the university and finally the board.

“I worked with other BYU colleges to make sure we aren’t duplicating courses or conflicting with their courses,” he said.

Nelson needed to interface with the Ira A. Fulton College of Engineering, the College of Life Sciences, and the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences to get letters of support from each.

He also did extensive research on career trends that

demonstrate a clear career path for students with an environmental geology major.

“Environmental jobs are continuing to grow at higher than average rates and will over the next decade. The university said, ‘let’s make sure that our students are getting those jobs,’” LeMonte said.

LeMonte is an environmental geochemist who specializes in soil chemistry. He has been teaching at BYU since August 2019 and said the university specifically hired him while they were developing this new major, wanting to add his expertise to the faculty.

Both Carling and Lemonte said there are lots of job opportunities for students when they graduate with a bachelor’s degree in the environmental geology major.

Administrators within the major would love to see students who are dedicated to understanding the earth’s natural resources and bettering the planet, Carling said.

“If a student enjoys being outdoors and enjoys finding ways to help our planet, this could be a great fit for them. We all rely on clean water and clean soil so it’s nice to be a part of something where we can make a real difference,” he said.

All three professors individually said this new program is particularly rigorous in training students and will give them employable skill sets and a chance to help the earth.

Students can go to the Department of Geological Sciences website for more information about the major.

'Epic' regional sports park coming to Provo in 2024

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City Council approved plans on Jan. 19 for a 22-field regional sports park to be built near the Provo Airport, with expectations for completion in 2024.

The park will be located near the Provo Airport on Lakeview Parkway, providing easy access for the community and athletic teams traveling to Provo.

"We've had some early success (with the park)," said Provo Parks and Recreation assistant director Doug Robins. "We have \$3.5 million of land that we've acquired. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the seller of that land and felt that this was a good use for the community."

Scott Henderson, director of Parks and Recreation, shared his gratitude for all of the support for this project, especially for Councilman Bill Fillmore who "has had laser focus in moving this project along."

"Our administration has also expressed great levels of excitement about not only this project for the citizens, but the benefits that they will see out of it," Henderson said.

"This is an extraordinary project. Nothing small about this," Fillmore said. "This project will do much for the south end of the city in terms of stimulating other development and commercial opportunities (and) in terms of generating and expanding our city's tax base."

The decision to build a regional sport park in Provo



Whitney Bigelow

Provo City Council approved plans for a large regional sport park coming in 2024 in their meeting on Jan. 19. The park's approved location is on Lakeview Parkway near the Provo Airport.

was based on many factors, but restrictions stemming from COVID-19 were a significant motivator for rolling out the plans for this park as soon as possible.

COVID-19 made it clear early on that being outdoors is a very important element of community life.

"We've noticed that in order to cope with increased park usage, a lot of our neighborhood parks had to convert some of the open space over to athletic fields," Robins

said. "That's really not a sustainable approach to sports field use."

Individuals and families were not the only ones affected by COVID-19. Local businesses have also struggled to stay afloat during lockdown restrictions.

"If you think about the coronavirus this last year and the impacts that it had, hotels, restaurants and retail entertainment were some of the hardest hit industries. An opportunity like this park

is a way to really broaden accessibility to revenue options that normally don't reside in our community," said Keith Morey, Provo's economic health director.

Morey and the City Council are confident that a regional sports park will exponentially increase the cash flow in Provo for many years to come.

"One of the things that all communities strive to do is to try to figure out ways to increase the tax incomes that

are coming into their community that can be spent at retail locations, like hotels, restaurants and retail stores. Provo historically has suffered just a little bit because our student population has a lower disposable income. One of the ways to offset that is to try to bring in dollars from outside your community," Morey said.

One of the main draws to a regional sports park is to be able to invite traveling clubs and tournaments to compete

in Provo, creating a new stream of revenue for Provo from what Morey claims is an "untapped market."

"The youth travel sports industry represents a \$90 billion industry nationwide, and it's growing at about 20% annually," Morey said.

The Parks and Recreation department hopes to follow the example of facilities in St. George, Utah, where sports facilities "generate about \$38 million a year in total economic impact," according to Morey.

"Just from the sheer rumor of us looking at a complex at this size, (the Parks and Recreation department) has had correspondence with a tournament organizer interested in bringing 226 teams to our community just in one event alone, translating to 10,000 (hotel) room nights," Henderson said.

The park is estimated to total \$20 million in construction costs for the city, but city officials are confident that the benefits far outweigh the costs. There seems to be no question that a regional sports park will bring more people to Provo, while also helping Provo natives stay closer to home.

"I'm sure there are a few parents in Provo (with kids who) have gone through competitive soccer programs, and they have never hosted one tournament in their career because we lack the facility to be able to do that," Henderson said. "I'm sure a lot of them will look at the opportunity to go to these types of tournaments right in their community as a valuable asset."

BYU life science study examines college COVID-19 compliance

By ELENA CASTRO

A recent BYU College of Life Sciences study looked at what motivates Utah Valley college students to abide by COVID-19 guidelines.

BYU biology professor Jamie Jensen and a team of six students conducted the study by surveying both UVU and BYU students and comparing them to students nationwide. The team found that a large determining factor in whether students comply with COVID-19 guidelines is convenience.

"We noticed there was hardly any literature about college students' behavior during the pandemic, even though there was a lot of data that was showing that they were contributing to the spread," said Ethan Tolman, a genetics senior who worked on the study.

The team didn't know what was preventing students from taking precautions, which led them to focus on what their interventions should be. "This study sheds light on the motivating factors behind college



Sydnee Gonzalez

Students get cleared for library entrance by wearing masks and showing their Healthy Together app passport. A BYU College of Life Sciences study gives insight into what motivates students to follow COVID-19 guidelines.

student behaviors," Jensen said. "Overall, Utah Valley students were more likely to comply with mask-wearing directives from the government, but when they weren't required, they were less likely to wear masks," said Jonas Hopper, a biology senior who also worked on the study.

In addition, students within Utah Valley were less likely to

social distance and avoid gatherings, Tolman said.

"There is just so much noise out there, it is difficult for anyone not familiar with the science to find accurate and reliable information," Jensen said, acknowledging that some people tend to disregard the science behind preventative measures because of their lack of information and dependable

resources.

Results from the study also revealed that political affiliation or bias did not contribute to people choosing whether or not to abide by protective protocol.

"We have now run three nationwide and regional survey rounds and have found no relationship between political ideology and attitudes toward COVID in any of them," Jensen said.



Veronica Maciel

BYU graduate student Benjamin Ogilvie holds containers of African green monkey cells. Similar cells to these, called Vero cells, were used in the BYU study done to test alcohol-free hand sanitizer effectiveness.

Hand sanitizer study could change FDA, CDC standards

By VERONICA MACIEL

A recent BYU study on the effectiveness of alcohol-free hand sanitizer against SARS-CoV-2 could impact the current FDA and CDC standards on hand sanitizer alcohol content.

"I figured out that the FDA and the CDC had both totally overlooked alcohol-free hand sanitizer as a COVID control tool," Benjamin Ogilvie said. Ogilvie, a BYU microbiology master's student, thought of the idea for the study.

BYU professors Brad Berges and Richard Robison are co-mentors to Ogilvie and authors with him on this study. The researchers agree that alcohol-free hand sanitizer is a viable alternative to its alcohol-based counterparts.

"It doesn't burn your hands if you have dry hands. You can't light it on fire. It's non-toxic. It doesn't make you drunk. You can safely use it in prisons and other sorts of facilities like that. People just need to know that it works," Ogilvie said.

Now that the proper research has been done, Ogilvie said there is hope that the CDC and FDA will change their standard of only using hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol content.

Using alcohol-free hand sanitizer would also solve many of the problems that come with alcohol-based hand sanitizer, he said. He referenced the FDA recalling over 100 products this summer due to methanol contamination.

"It's been a huge problem because the FDA loosened their regulations so much for hand sanitizer with alcohol that all of these toxic, sloppily made hand sanitizers were produced," he said. In July, the FDA sent out a warning announcing a sharp increase in hand sanitizers containing methanol but were labeled to contain ethanol. According to the FDA website, "methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested."

Berges explained that alcohol-based hand sanitizer was said to be the best option at the beginning of the pandemic.

"Government bodies, and also some researchers, claimed that quaternary ammonium compounds either wouldn't work to kill the pandemic coronavirus or that they wouldn't recommend them," he said. Quaternary ammonium compounds are used in alcohol-free hand sanitizer as a disinfectant in place of alcohol.

Robison and Berges said their research will need to be replicated before the CDC makes any changes. "As soon as there are other studies published that confirm (the research) then I think that they'll have to take a hard look at it," Robison said.

Ogilvie has taken measures to make sure the CDC and FDA learn about the study and can change their policies by using a Change.org petition to create a formal citizens petition with the FDA.

Algae bloom in Utah Lake could take years to clean up

By KRISTINE KIM

The Provo City Council is looking for ways to remove toxic algae from Utah Lake.

In a Provo City Council joint meeting with state legislators on Jan. 12, the council talked about funding and measures they are taking to get rid of the harmful algae in the water.

Rep. Keven Stratton from District 48, chair of the Water and Natural Resources Committees, is proposing a bill that will significantly reduce the population of algae in Utah Lake. "One of the things we're going to do is propose appropriations in the \$750,000 to \$1 million that we have so that we can decrease the algae bloom significantly by 90% per year," he said.

Utah Lake is famous for hosting thousands of visitors during the year, especially in the summertime. There are many different recreational activities that can be enjoyed on the lake including boating, fishing and swimming.

The algal bloom in Utah Lake appears mostly at the end of summer, making it hard for Utahns to enjoy recreational



Preston Crawley

The algae bloom occurs sporadically in the Utah Lake, making it difficult for Utahns to enjoy the lake, especially in the summer time. Scan this image with the **Universe ERSE PLUS** app to read a Spanish translation of the story.

activities at the lake. "The lake's visitation has been negatively affected by the past several years in which algae blooms have occurred," said Sam Braegger, outreach coordinator for the Utah Lake Commission.

The specific type of algae that is found in Utah Lake during the algal blooms aren't just regular, green algae, but toxic algae that

contain cyanotoxins.

"There are cyanobacteria that produce cyanotoxins, and these are harmful to people, fish and animals. If you were to drink the water that contains cyanotoxins, it could cause serious problems — it could make you sick, or even kill you in very extreme cases," said BYU geochemistry professor



Meet BYU's pair of 'dunking queens'

By ISABELLE ZYHAILO

The BYU dunk team was an all-male unit until two women, Camdyn Roberts and Emily Meeks, joined and broke the gender barrier.

While they never thought this would be a part of their BYU experience, both women love that they can use their athletic skills in a new way and inspire others.

"Shortly after joining the team, we got an email from a mom at one of the Cougar Strong performances," said Meeks, a BYU sophomore. "And she said, 'My daughter absolutely loved seeing the girls in the performance. She was just so excited and pumped that there was a girl there. Girls can do it too.'"

Meeks grew up in Washington as a gymnast and track athlete. She tried out for the dunk team and said the combination worked out really well.

"It feels like a lot of big brothers because they will tease you and include you in everything, and it's just a lot of fun," Meeks said. "It's a fun dynamic."

Roberts, a former pole-vaulter for BYU and a graduating senior, was the first woman to join the team a couple of years ago.

BYU dunk team coach Dave Eberhard reached out to her and said he was looking for a female addition



BYU Dunk Team

BYU dunk team member Camdyn Roberts shows off her skills. Roberts was the first woman to join the dunk team that was previously all male. Now there are two women on the team.

to the team because they never had one before and he wanted the young girls at the elementary schools they perform at to relate to someone. Roberts said Eberhard is always looking to inspire people.

"I remember watching the dunk team at basketball games and being so amazed at them," Roberts said.

"When the opportunity arose, I was like 'Is this still real? Is this real life?'"

The teams' synergy changed when Meeks and Roberts joined, but it has been positive for everyone involved.

"We've loved having them," teammate and former gymnast Justin Wall said. "They are a crucial part of the team and completely alter the team's dynamic in a good way."

Meeks said the team loves having women on the team because they add a different mix. She also said five women on the team would be the ideal number for Eberhard.

"We are still looking for new girls

to join all the time," Roberts said. "I really hope there will be a bigger presence of girls on the team from now on."

The team aims to inspire with its performances and loved performing live at elementary schools before the pandemic hit.

"I don't want them to look at anything and say 'It is impossible for me,'" Roberts said. "For the girls we perform for at the elementary schools, if they want to do something, I want them to try for it and go get it, even if it seems impossible."

Roberts' favorite part of being on the team is dunking and Meeks said she loves to learn new tricks.

"I think part of the dunk team's goal is to make the crowd almost feel like they're in the performance with us and get them super engaged," Roberts said. "For us, it's a party."

She said performing is a little nerve-racking, but everyone on the team is encouraging.

"When you make something, even if it's just yourself, everyone cheers like it was them that made the dunk, which makes it so much fun to perform with everyone," Roberts said.

Meeks has been on the team for about a year, and Roberts has been on the team for two-and-a-half years. The next dunk team tryouts will take place at the end of Winter Semester in April. The team encourages everyone to come and try out.

BYU hosts Sports Business Summit for second year in a row



Students participate in the first BYU Sports Business Summit in February 2020. The event enters its second year this month with activities featuring the Utah Jazz and Nike.

By CALEB TURNER

The BYU Sports Business Club is bringing the largest sports networking conference in Utah back for its second year after a successful inaugural event in 2020.

The BYU Sports Business Summit is an opportunity for students who are interested in connecting with various sports teams, like the Utah Jazz, or other industry organizations, like Nike. The event has a new virtual format with representatives from more than 50 organizations from around the world, including many BYU alumni.

When is the Sports Business Summit?

The summit will be held on Feb. 4 from 1-8 p.m. MST and Feb. 5 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MST. Students can create their own flexible times that fit their class and work schedules with the virtual format.

What is the summit?

The summit is an opportunity for BYU students to learn from top professionals in the sports industry. Representatives from companies will be speaking to students who are interested in beginning a sports career. Organizations like Nike, the Utah Jazz, Skullcandy, Real Salt Lake, the Atlanta Falcons, the Vegas Golden Knights and StockX will be among those represented at the event.

Students will also have the unique opportunity to network with various executives through video calls which will give them

the chance to be one-on-one with some of the most prominent names in sports business.

How to attend the summit

The Sports Business Summit will be entirely virtual in an effort to adhere to state and university health guidelines. Students who wish to reserve their spot for the summit need to pay the \$15 annual club dues on the club's student organization webpage. Once they have paid dues, students need to email byusbc@gmail.com with their phone number. Students will then get more details on how to set up their profile and other tips to get the most out of the event.

For attendees who are not current BYU students, registration is \$25 and can be made on the BYU Sports Business Club webpage under the "All Other Tickets" button.

Why attend the summit?

"Our objective for this summit is to create an experience for students to have personal connections and opportunities with individuals they would not have elsewhere," BYU Sports Business Club co-President Carson Whitlock said. "The summit is the perfect opportunity to virtually meet face-to-face with professionals who have allotted time to do so. I tell students that if they want to work in any part of the sports industry, then this is the best opportunity of the year to create crucial relationships that will get them there."

Previous members of the BYU Sports Business Club have worked for organizations such as the PGA, Orlando Magic,

Philadelphia 76ers and Sports Illustrated.

Organizations attending

While many local organizations will be attending for the second time, some organizations will be coming to BYU for the first time. Some of these organizations include the Vegas Golden Knights (recent NHL expansion franchise), La Liga (top Spanish soccer league), OKC Thunder (NBA team), San Diego Padres (MLB team) and FC Bayern (one of the top teams in Germany's premier soccer league).

For a complete list of organizations attending, follow @byusbc on Instagram or the club's LinkedIn page. Both will have weekly updates and announcements about all the people that are attending.

NBA Expansion Franchise case competition

Along with listening to keynote speakers and networking with professionals, students also have the opportunity to participate in the club's NBA Expansion Franchise case competition. This case revolves around students forming a new basketball team that would compete in the NBA. Teams will focus on creating strategies around their new team's marketing, revenue, venue and other important business topics.

Finalists will present their findings and be recognized in front of a live audience at the summit. This is a way for students to show off their work in front of some of the industry's top executives.



Abby Boden-Stainton celebrates with teammates after her floor routine on Jan. 9 at the Best of Utah meet in Salt Lake City. Stainton helped the Cougar floor team take first against Utah State on Jan. 29 with a score of 49.250, the second-highest of the season.

Olympic overview: Gymnastics beats in-state rival, track and swim have first-place finishes

By JEFF SALCEDO

Several of the Olympic sports were in action over the weekend for BYU and multiple teams and individuals took first place in their competitions.

The No. 12 BYU gymnastics team edged out a win over No. 21 Utah State, 196.425-195.175 on Jan. 29. The 196.425 score is the highest score of the season for the Cougars.

On bars, seniors Haley Pitou and Abby Boden-Stainton tied for the best score overall with a 9.85.

Seniors Abbey Miner-Alder and Avery Bennett led the Cougars in the vault, both posting a score of 9.85. Bennett's score is her best this season.

Alder and Stainton added to their team leading-scores in floor routines, tying with teammate Brittney Vitkauskas. The trio finished with an overall score of 9.875.

The team finished with a 49.150 score on the beam, its highest of the season. Stainton and sophomore Eleese Rollins finished with a meet-high 9.9.

"They came to compete and we had a lot thrown at us this week with injuries and COVID-19," assistant coach Natalie Broekman said. "We had a lot who stepped up into lineups and exhibitions and they rose to the occasion."

The team will travel to Southern Utah University for its next meet on Friday, Feb. 5.

The BYU distance runners had record performances at the UW Preview, while the throwers and vertical jumpers impressed at the Weber State

Invitational.

Senior Courtney Wayment moved to fourth all-time in BYU history in the women's mile, running a 4:35.80. Senior Olivia Hoj Simister also moved up in the women's mile rankings to fifth all-time with a 4:37.77 time.

The women's distance medley relay team, consisting of Hoj Simister, Alena Ellsworth, Lauren Ellsworth-Barnes and Wayment, came in first, clocking in at 11:03.62.

In men's pole vault, sophomore Zach McWorther took home first place, clearing 5.50 meters. The All-American broke the Stromberg facility record at Weber State in his first-place effort.

The Cougars also took the top two spots in the women's pole vault. Freshman Hannah Richardson placed first (3.95 meters), while junior Isabel Neal placed second (3.85 meters).

In men's shot put, freshman Danny Bryant and junior Austin Carter placed in the top two. Danny threw 15.32 meters for first place and Carter threw 15.19 meters for second.

Both track teams were ranked in the Top 25 in the nation in the first U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association poll of the season, with the men's team at No. 4 and the women's team at No. 24.

The Cougars are looking to use the rankings as a source of motivation going forward this season.

"That's a goal we have, we always say we want to be a top-20 team," men's and women's throws coach Nik Arrhenius

said. "It's great. It's motivating."

Next up, the track team will host the BYU Cougar Indoor Invitational II, taking place from Feb. 4-6.

BYU men's and women's swimming both lost their matchups against in-state rival Utah 179-121 and 176-124, respectively.

Sophomore individual medley and butterfly swimmer Brad Prolo and junior breaststroke swimmer Josue Dominguez impressed at the meet for the men's team, taking home two first-place finishes.

Prolo placed first in the 200-yard butterfly (1:49.18) and 200-yard individual medley (1:46.18). Sophomores Tyler Edlefsen and Tama Tuitama finished in second and third, respectively, in the 200 individual medley, completing the podium sweep in the event for the Cougars.

Dominguez took first place in the 100-yard breaststroke (0:53.33) and 200-yard breaststroke (1:59.18).

Junior Javier Nichols also claimed a first-place finish, clocking a 1:39.82 in the 200-yard freestyle.

The Cougars placed first in five events on the women's team.

Sophomore Katie McBratney finished first in two events: the 100-yard breaststroke (1:02.46) and the 200-yard individual medley (2:01.90). Junior Brynn Sproul in the 200-yard freestyle (1:51.56) and freshman Chloe Freeman in the 200-yard butterfly (2:04.01) also took first place in their events.

The women's 200-yard relay team also placed first, clocking in at 1:32.97.

Cougars hold on to West Coast Conference No. 2 spot



Preston Crawley

Brandon Averette walks toward the baseline during a game against Pacific on Jan. 30 that BYU won 95-87. The BYU men's basketball team is 14-4 overall and 5-2 in conference play to maintain the No. 2 spot in the West Coast Conference standings behind undefeated Gonzaga.

Freestyle skier takes time to reflect each May 8 after crash



Associated Press

In this Feb. 15, 2020 photo, United States' Colby Stevenson competes in the men's slopestyle at a World Cup freestyle skiing event in Calgary, Alberta. Nearly four years after Stevenson suffered a fractured skull he was on top of the freestyle world at the Winter X Games, winning slopestyle and the Knuckle Huck event last winter.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Every May 8 for the last four years — and, he vows, every one going forward — freestyle skier Colby Stevenson could be found in a similar setting: hanging out with friends, usually on top of a mountain somewhere.

It's his "celebrate life" day, a reminder of how everything can change in the blink of an eye.

On a late-night drive back to Utah from Mount Hood on May 8, 2016, Stevenson fell asleep for a split second. He overcorrected and his truck rolled again and again.

From the moment he woke up in the hospital — with what was classified as a traumatic brain injury because of a fractured skull — he pondered the same question: When can I ski again?

Five months later, he returned.

Last winter, he was on top of the freestyle skiing world at the Winter X Games, winning slopestyle and the inaugural ski Knuckle Huck event.

"It's a miracle that I'm well enough to be able to ski at my highest level," said the 23-year-old Stevenson, who finished seventh in the slopestyle event Jan. 31 at Winter X. "It's just been gratitude ever since — the realization that I'm just lucky to be able to shred and send it."

From an early age, he proved to be a natural on skis — zipping his way down the snowy driveway at 14 months. When his family later moved to Park City, Utah, he constantly watched elite freestyle skiers perform high-flying tricks on the slopes — and then put his own spin on it.

"One of the most crazy talented kids I've ever met," said 2012 Winter X ski slopestyle

champion Tom Wallisch, who's now an X Games commentator. "Just one of the kids that works the hardest."

Fast-forward to 2016: An 18-year-old Stevenson was invited to a West Coast Session camp at Mount Hood in Oregon, where he was so dynamic he earned the MVP award and won best trick. One of his friends, John Michael Fabrizi, suffered a broken leg and needed help getting his truck to Utah.

Stevenson offered to drive the roughly 750-mile trek.

His last recollection before the crash along an Idaho highway was stopping to buy a can of Starbucks Doubleshot Espresso.

"The next memory I have was waking up in the hospital a few days later surrounded by my loved ones," Stevenson said.

He'd fallen asleep for just an instant and when he awoke tried to steer the Ford truck back onto the road. It flipped several times, with the roof caving in.

Fabrizi was able to hobble to the road on his broken leg and flag down a car to call for help.

"Saved my life," Stevenson said of his friend, who escaped serious injuries.

Stevenson's broken bones included ribs, an eye socket, his jaw and his neck. He also fractured his skull, which required two major surgeries, including one to put in a titanium plate.

His mom and stepdad were in Hawaii at the time, but quickly made their way to the hospital. They were there when he woke up a few days later.

"Apparently I looked at my mom and I was like, 'Sorry you guys had to come back from Hawaii,'" Stevenson said of an accident that happened on Mother's Day. "So that's when they knew I was going to be all right. That's when they knew I

was going to be myself.

"I'm in the one percent of people with that skull fracture and there's no brain damage. That never happens."

After a few weeks in the hospital, he went home to recuperate.

Five months later, he was taking his first ski runs in New Zealand. Although told to take it easy, he had to try his favorite trick — a Double-10 blunt — just to see if he could.

The execution was perfect.

Three months after that, he captured a World Cup slopestyle competition in Italy.

He was back.

"The biggest fear for me after the accident was when I thought I was done skiing ... and having those months of just uncertainty," explained Stevenson, who was knocked out of qualifying for the 2018 Pyeongchang Games by a torn rotator cuff, and is setting his sights on the Beijing Olympics next winter. "Full of gratitude more than anything — to not only be living but still having the physical ability to do what I love."

Fast-forward to last winter: At his first Winter X Games competition, Stevenson won the slopestyle and Knuckle Huck competitions, which he described as a "dream."

"I just skied the best I ever have that day — with my family and my friends there," said Stevenson, who still experiences neck issues from an accident that caused him to lose an inch of height (from 6-foot-2 to 6-1). "It was perfect."

So is this: Celebrating with friends every May 8.

"It's a special day for me to just reflect on the year and keep my sights set on what's next," Stevenson said. "I celebrate life. Just live it up. ... Go to the top of the mountain, with my friends and say, 'Let's do this boys. We're living.'"



Associated Press

Indiana's Ben Veatch, left, competes in the Nuttycombe Invitational on Oct. 16, 2019, in Madison, Wisconsin. The impact of moving traditional fall sports to later in the calendar due to COVID-19 includes some consequences unrelated to the pandemic itself.

A crowded sprint to get seasons in for college runners

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moving traditional fall sports to later in the calendar due to COVID-19 includes some consequences unrelated to the pandemic itself.

That has been evident this week as Big Ten runners have prepared for Jan. 30's cross country championships at Shelbyville, Indiana, with snow blanketing much of the Midwest.

"In terms of training for it, obviously we can't get on grass," Wisconsin coach Mick Byrne said. "The Zimmer cross country course (on campus) is covered in snow as are most of our regular training sites. Obviously we've had some snow around here. Most of what we do is outside on the roads or bike paths."

The Division I board of directors announced in late September that NCAA championships for cross country, field hockey, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and men's water polo would take place in the spring of 2021 rather than the fall of 2020.

Some leagues such as the Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and Big 12 went ahead and played traditional fall sports in the fall anyway. The Big Ten was among the conferences that chose to wait until 2021.

The Big Ten cross country championship typically would take place in late

October or early November rather than at the end of January. Jan. 30's forecast in Shelbyville called for temperatures in the 30s with an 80% chance of precipitation.

"We pride ourselves in running through pretty much everything," Indiana senior Ben Veatch said. "It's going to hurt, regardless."

Even after pushing the cross country season back to 2021, the Big Ten still must deal with the ramifications of the pandemic.

Michigan put its entire athletic department on pause this week after several positive tests for a new COVID-19 variant that transmits at a higher rate, which means the Wolverines didn't compete. Michigan finished third in the men's and women's divisions in 2019 but won three straight women's conference titles from 2016-18.

"In my opinion, the Big Ten championships without the Michigan men and women is a diluted championships," said Byrne, whose Badgers won the men's division and finished second to Michigan State in the women's division in 2019.

Veatch said the biggest complication in having a cross country season at this time of year isn't the weather. He's more concerned about the cross country season coinciding with the indoor track season.

Many cross country runners also compete in indoor track, but the length of their races varies. For instance, men's cross country runners

generally compete in the mile, the 3-kilometer run or the 5K in indoor track. The Big Ten men's cross country championships are an 8-kilometer event for men and 6 kilometers for women. The NCAA championships go 10 kilometers for the men and 6 for the women.

That has created a training dilemma for runners. Veatch notes that "while some people think it's the same thing — we're just running — it's quite different disciplines (in) cross country versus track."

"We're just trying to walk that very thin line of what can make us the best at both currently," said Veatch, who noted the team aspect of competition: "We don't feel it's right or fair to our sprinters, throwers, jumpers or vaulters in indoor track just to say, 'Hey, we're going to go focus solely on cross country.'"

The calendar is crowded for the track and field athletes across college sports: The Pac-12, Big East and several other leagues are holding their conference championships March 5, which is 10 days before the NCAA championships in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

But the Big Ten indoor track championships are Feb. 26-27 and the NCAA indoor championships are March 12-13.

"It was just so much intensity in a sequence," Michigan State coach Lisa Breznau said. "(We thought) really having it earlier might be the better idea for us."

FrontRunner could get another track, City Council says



Sydnee Gonzalez

Passengers exit FrontRunner at Provo Central Station. Discussions about double tracking the train have begun in the Provo City Council.

By MARGARET DARBY

The Provo City Council discussed plans to add another track to UTA's FrontRunner during a meeting on Jan. 21. Double tracking would involve adding a second pair of tracks parallel to the current ones. The goal would be to double track the full length of FrontRunner from Ogden to Provo. Train service would become more frequent with two tracks. Right now, a train comes about every 30 minutes during peak hours and every hour during non-peak times. Double tracking would allow the train to run as often as every 15 minutes during peak hours.

FrontRunner would also become more reliable and allow for higher volumes of riders if it were double tracked, council members said. "I personally know a dozen people who commute to Salt Lake in normal time every single day for work," Councilwoman Shannon Ellsworth said. "Anything we can do to improve speeds and efficiency of that would have tremendous externalities for our community." The FrontRunner service also helps reduce traffic on I-15. Double tracking would help to decongest the freeway as Utah's population density increases. "I think the growth that's anticipated for Utah Valley is unthinkable without that being a

component of life here in the valley," Councilman George Handley said. Adding another track would cost between \$300 million and \$400 million. Luckily, the council said the state has funds to spend right now on infrastructure projects like these. The long-term goal for FrontRunner is to extend the tracks south to Spanish Fork. Legislative leaders in the Jan. 21 meeting were also keen on the idea of double tracking and viewed it as a necessary improvement in Utah transportation. "I believe the council has a consensus on the need and value viability of double tracking. We're very much in favor for several reasons," Councilman Bill Fillmore said.



Addie Blacker
UNIVERSE PLUS

OutdoorPals connects outdoor enthusiasts with others to enjoy activities like snowboarding together. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of the story.

BYU alumni launch OutdoorPals app, new outdoor social media community

By EMILY ATWOOD

A group of recent BYU graduates are launching an event-based app designed to help people find outdoor activities, make new connections and get outside. The idea for OutdoorPals came to BYU alumnus Kevin Wallace soon after he graduated from BYU with an undergraduate degree in history. "I had been living down in Provo for years, and then I moved up to Ogden where I didn't know hardly anyone at all. It was a whole new group and so I was looking for new friends," Wallace said. While on a ski trip with his old friends from BYU, Wallace shared his difficulty finding new people around him to go skiing and rock climbing with. "Then one of us said, 'there needs to be an app for that.' And with that idea, we actually stopped at the dollar

store, bought a notebook and started writing down ideas. From that, we came up with OutdoorPals." Wallace said the purpose of the app is to help people connect over similar interests. In the app interface, the user lists the types of outdoor activities (such as winter sports, hiking, rock climbing, walking and more) and creates "events" to invite other users to join. Co-founder and fellow BYU alumnus Josh Tunick said users have to be "accepted" into others' events in order to participate. This is to ensure safety and security when planning outdoor activities with strangers online. "If you're going to do an activity, you just say, 'I'm going to do this activity. Who's interested?'" and it easily breaks the ice and opens the door to new connections," Tunick said. "It's a way to get people together, to be healthy and to express a shared interest in what they like to do."

Another purpose of the app is to help get people outside and enjoy the outdoors — even those who have no experience. BYU Outdoors Unlimited employee and BYU junior Jacob Burgoyne said he could see himself and other students benefitting from a service like OutdoorPals by just going outside, moving and being active. "Being active outdoors can be empowering for many people, whether it's developing their self-confidence or learning to take risks. There's a lot of benefits to being outside for emotional health," Wallace said. "I think this can be a great way for college students especially to relieve some stress and meet new people." The beta version of the app will launch Feb. 18, and users can sign up now to join the online community of OutdoorPals, through its website or Instagram at @getoutdoorpals.

At Sundance, pandemic dramas unfold on screen and off

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peter Nicks had for months been documenting the students of Oakland High School, in California, when the pandemic hit. "It's in the Bay," says one student of the virus as he and others mill together in a classroom, excitedly contemplating the cancellation of school. Soon, the principal is heard over the loudspeaker — an announcement that would signal not just the scuttling of prom and graduation ceremonies, but, potentially, Nicks' film. After chronicling other Oakland institutions, Nicks had set out to document a year in the life of the multi-cultural teenagers of Oakland. "Something like 'The Breakfast Club' with kids of color," he says. But how do you make an intimate, observation documentary about school life when the hallways are suddenly emptied, the school musical canceled and your third act turns virtual?



Associated Press

This image released by the Sundance Institute shows a scene from "Homeroom," an official selection of the U.S. Documentary Competition at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. The pandemic has impacted both how the festival runs and the content of the films being shown.

"The first order of business was just capturing that moment," Nicks says, speaking by Zoom from Oakland. "Then shortly after that it was: What are we going to do? How are we possibly going to finish this movie?" "Homeroom," Nicks' fittingly titled — and ultimately completed — documentary, is one of the 74 feature films debuting at this year's reimagined Sundance Film Festival, which opened Thursday. The pandemic has transformed the annual Park City, Utah, festival into a largely virtual event, but it has also reshaped many of the films that will unspool there. No festival more represents an annual cinematic rebirth — a fresh crop, a new wave — than Sundance. But given the constraints on gatherings since last March, how could filmmakers get their movies made, edited and delivered to Sundance? The majority of films showing this year were shot before the arrival of COVID-19 — many of them edited during quarantine. But there are

numerous filmmakers at the festival who managed the seemingly impossible feat of making a movie in 2020. A handful of high-profile films made during the pandemic have recently hit streaming platforms, including the heist comedy "Locked Down" and the romance "Malcolm & Marie." But Sundance will supply the fullest look yet of moviemaking under the pandemic. Even in an independent film world predicated on a can-do spirit, the results — including "Homeroom," "How It Ends" and "In the Same Breath" — are often striking for their resourcefulness. "We didn't know if it was going to be feast or famine. It turned out, much to our amazement, that our submissions were only slightly down," said Tabitha Jackson, director of the Sundance Film Festival, on Thursday. "It's been interesting for us to be able to be one of the first showcases, if not the first showcase, for the creativity that came through a pandemic."

With school closed, Nicks sifted through his footage and realized he had a rich thread. The students, responding to a history of police brutality, had been pushing to eradicate officers from the high-school campus. Nicks decided to continue production, relying on a mix of the students' own cell phone footage and more selective shooting opportunities. "Homeroom" morphed into a coming-of-age tale, riven with activism and George Floyd protests, that reflected a larger awakening. "We started to recognize that we had a powerful narrative that began in the beginning, we just didn't realize it," says Nicks. "That's part of why I love documentaries — how and why things are revealed. You just have to be open to make those adjustments and see it." The writer-directors Zoe Lister-Jones and Daryl Wein, who are married, were also trying to adapt to the pandemic normal in Los Angeles. "That adjustment was

bringing up so many intense emotions," says Lister-Jones, the actress-filmmaker of "The Craft: Legacy" and "Band Aid." "A lot of fear and vulnerability and a lot of uncertainty not just about the world but what our future as filmmakers was going to look like." Drawing from their own anxieties and therapy sessions, they began outlining a film about a woman (Lister-Jones) walking around a desolate Los Angeles with her newly visible younger self (Cailee Spaeny), on the eve of an impending asteroid apocalypse. The movie isn't about the pandemic, but it's clearly a product of the kind of self-reflection it brought on. "It was sort of experimental in nature because the world was in an experimental place," says Lister-Jones. They called up actor friends — Olivia Wilde, Fred Armisen, Helen Hunt, Nick Kroll — for cameos, and shot scenes mostly on patios, backyards and doorsteps. "Some people weren't ready,"

says Wein. "Some people were super eager, like: 'Yes, I'm dying to do something.' And some people were kind of in the middle, a little bit scared, 'This is going to my first thing. I haven't even left the house.'" Given the always fluctuating emotional rollercoaster of daily life in the pandemic, making a comedy was frequently difficult — not just logistically but emotionally. "It takes a huge amount of energy to produce a film. To do so when we were in such a raw emotional state did really terrify me," says Lister-Jones. "Many days when we went out to shoot before I would say quietly or aloud, 'I can't do it.' By the end of that day, it was so incredible to see the ways in which it nourished me." Sundance's slate is down from the usual 120 features, but it's not for lack of submissions. More than 3,500 feature films were sent in. Some were made in a pandemic sprint. British filmmaker Ben Wheatley made "In the Earth,"

a horror film set in the pandemic, over the summer. Carlson Young shot her fantasy-horror thriller "The Blazing World" with a skeletal crew last August in Texas, with the cast quarantining together at a wedding resort. Most films made in 2020 are time capsules but that's explicitly the purpose of Kevin Macdonald's "Life in a Day 2020." It's composed of 15,000 hours of YouTube footage shot worldwide in a single day. Nanfu Wang, the China-born documentarian based in New Jersey whose Sundance prize-winning 2019 documentary "One Child Nation" analyzed the personal and widespread toll of China's one-child policy, didn't realize she was starting a film when she did. At first, she just kept taking screen shots and recording social-media posts she saw coming out of China in January. "I was seeing the information about the virus, about the outbreak being censored in real time," says Wang. "I would see something and then ten minutes later it would be deleted. That compelled me to archive them." Wang was in the midst of several other projects. At first, she tried handing off what she had gathered to news outlets. Then she started planning a short film. Then the scope of the outbreak necessitated a feature film. HBO came on board. And Wang started working with 10 cinematographers in China to capture the yawning gap between party propaganda and reality. But more twists, of course, followed. The outbreak spread beyond China, and in the U.S. response, Wang saw a different but comparable virus response from another regime. Soon, she was organizing film crews in America, too. The scope of "In the Same Breath" grew. "The outbreak in the U.S. shocked me even more than it originally starting in China. I had this notion that America is a more advanced society and things like that shouldn't be happening in the same way or worse. It changed the film," says Wang. "In March, April, I started thinking: OK, now what is the film about?"



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.

Are the ACT and SAT outdated? Why or why not?

They are outdated. These subjects do not properly help student to show their abilities.

@WYATTJJOHNSON

Not outdated, but not necessary.

@P_GROVE_

Nah universities measure with tests and students would be prepared for that.

@ALYSSA.PI

Yes, it just tests how well you can take a test under stress and a time limit.

@NATALEECLUFF

I'd say they are a great measure of intelligence because I scored very high

@ANAY220

They require dedication to studying and stretching academically, which is GOOD.

@LAURENCBUSHNELL

These tests do not represent how you will perform as a student or in life!!

@JULAML88

the ACT provides a standard level of requirement across the board!! it's fair and equal

@KATE_WELTON

Yes I was always a very good student, but such a bad tester. I think it's an unfair assumption

@MADISEKNIGHTART

Many colleges were finding a lot of kids great at test taking but lack social skills needed

@CARSEN.POOL

Absolutely outdated. Your score on a standardized test does not equate to college success.

@ERINCHRIS

I understand the purpose, but they are highly skewed toward a higher income demographic

@PICKETTAMILY6

I did really well on the ACT but feel like it is an unfair measurement

@HAILEYSUE32

READERS' FORUM

Technology during lunch 'Upstream' public health

Choices was one of the best restaurants in the BYU Cougareat. It offered nutritious food at an affordable price, and thanks to the friendly staff, the purchasing process was a pleasant prelude to a delicious meal. Sadly, something has gone terribly awry.

The new forced mechanization of the purchasing process is an unmitigated disaster. Until recently, I could greet friendly employees, and indicate exactly which items I wanted in my bowl. Now, human interaction has been eliminated and replaced by cold and sterile technology that unnecessarily complicates the purchasing process.

Technology is a blessing when it is used properly as a supplement to real life. When it replaces reality and human interaction it becomes a tyrant. Customers should be able to speak directly with employees and select the desired items from the menu. It is understandable that restaurants in the Cougareat are trying to find ways to improve delivery and deal with long lines of customers. However, the zeal to apply technology as a replacement for human interaction is ruining mealtime in the Cougareat.

Technology is wonderful when it is used properly. Let's think more carefully about how and why we use technology, even during a lunch break. Technology should be used as a supplement, and not as a replacement for reality so that we can enjoy a good meal and good company again.

—John Hancock
Class of '03

While the word "upstream" is commonly used by fly fishermen while they explain to others where to cast their fly as they fish the beautiful Provo River in search of elusive trout, this word is not commonly found in the world of medicine. Just like the tricky trout, upstream medicine looks against the flow in order to identify and understand the "why" behind the "why" and the "where" beyond the "where" when it comes to patient care and prevention of sickness and disease.

In the midst of a pandemic, it is imperative to change the way that primary care doctors and public health professionals approach the overall health of their communities. Without the proper training and a lack of confidence to investigate further, primary care doctors, public health officials and government authorities fail to research the overall cause of a health crisis and instead focus on merely treating the effects.

Doctors, medical professionals= and public health practitioners will continue to find great success in implementing the upstream approach to health by helping those affected and the community as a whole in a more cost-effective and efficient way. When we seek to understand the root causes of problems in communities, health will truly become contagious.

—Jake Johnson
Hickory, North Carolina

Tweet Beat

#BYU #BYUprobs

Want to see your tweet in print? Tweet something about life around you with #BYUprobs or #BYU and hopefully it makes the cut.

Leave comments at
universe.byu.edu or @UniverseBYU

@ballerguy
"when covid is over" is starting to sound a lot like "we should hang out sometime!"

@brynfer
like the byu testing center livestream except it's for the line outside the orem trader joe's

@syd_bee
gamestop this gamestop that, how about you stop playing games and take me out already

@katmhuang
sometimes i think my career is over and done for and then i remember i am twenty years old

@ameliacakes
2021 is off to a bad start. Just found out J dawgs hotdogs went up a \$1. :/ not a good day. don't text.

@rodeoman
wanna feel old? the capitol riots were only 3 weeks ago

@sarb_warbs
It is 2021 why do we not have drive thru pasta places?

@_334baby
Being in your 20s is a weird place. Some of my friends married, some started a family and I'm just here. Trynna figure out this syllabus.

@dotsmitth
Not only did I lose my taste because of covid I also lost my place as a Provo girl because I no longer drink diet coke therefore it can't be a prominent part of my identity anymore :)

@whitterbugg
the bachelor is a show that you're supposed to talk during and i stand by that opinion.

@urmomstwitter
That person you thought was into you be like: Heyyyy booI'm reaching out to you about your car's extended warranty that's about to expire.

@the_cassadilla
doc marten heelys

@kopi_wan
Am I sick of the pandemic? Yes. Do I ever want to work in an office again? No.

Tweets are unedited.

Me on November 13 2021 at LaVell Edwards Stadium watching BYU lose to Idaho State



Young single adult ward members turning 31:



YOU AND YOUR TEACHER WHEN YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE ON THE ZOOM CALL



OPINION OUTPOST

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

No impeachment surprise

Forty-five Senate Republicans voted Tuesday to support a motion saying an impeachment trial of a former President is unconstitutional, and the media are professing shock. ... GOP opposition to trying a former President who is now a private citizen has been building since Inauguration Day, and based on current impeachment evidence the vote suggests the trial will end in Senate acquittal.

There are good arguments on both sides of the constitutional question, and Mr. Trump's behavior was impeachable. But if Democrats go ahead with the trial, the likeliest result is acquittal, and Mr. Trump will claim vindication and say his second impeachment was as political as the first. ... Democrats may become enablers of Mr. Trump's political revival.

— Editorial Board
The Wall Street Journal

Executive actions

Undoing some of Mr. Trump's excesses is necessary, but Mr. Biden's legacy will depend on his ability to hammer out agreements with Congress. On the campaign trail, he

often touted his skill at finding compromise, and his decades as a legislator, as reasons to elect him over Mr. Trump. The country faces significant challenges to recovering from the pandemic, from a global recession, from years of safety nets and institutions and trust being eroded. Now it is time for the new president to show the American people what permanent change for a better nation can look like.

— Editorial Board
The New York Times

Utah vaccines

We live in a moment when there is nothing of more public interest than the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. So it is difficult to understand

why the state of Utah cannot or will not account for just how many doses of these precious medicines have been delivered to our state, exactly who received them, how many they have used and whether anyone is watching to make sure none goes to waste.

We should insist that the state ... make all this information publicly available just as rapidly as they acquire it themselves. And Cox, as the public face of the operation, must make himself available to answer questions for more than the 30-minute weekly sessions

he has offered to date. It is not secret or proprietary information. It is data that everyone who is expected to help in slowing the spread of the pandemic — which is all of us — has a right, and a need, to know.

— Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

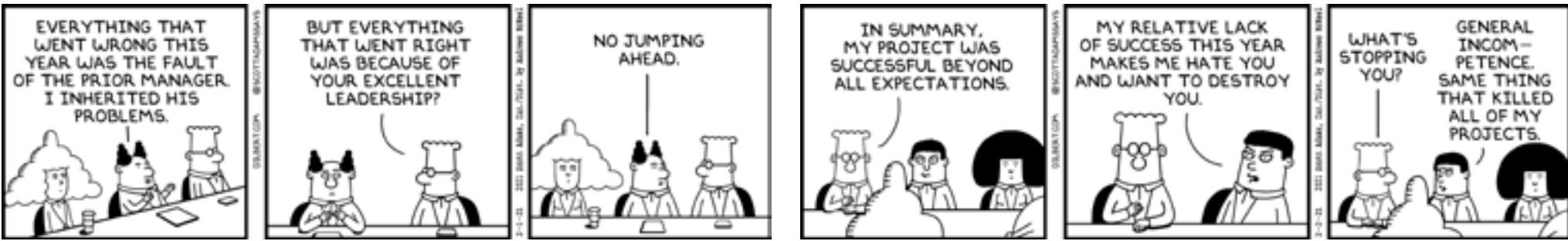
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

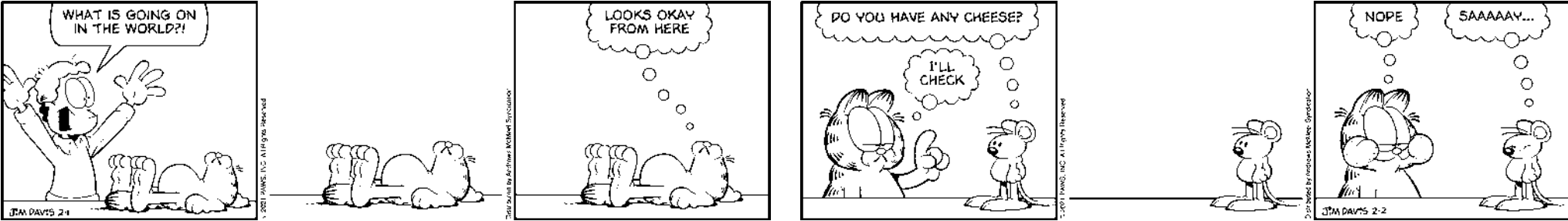
- All letters should be submitted by email to universe.ideas@gmail.com. The topic of the letter should be included in the subject line.
- Letters should also include the author's name, hometown (for students), campus position (for faculty and staff) and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published.
- 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.

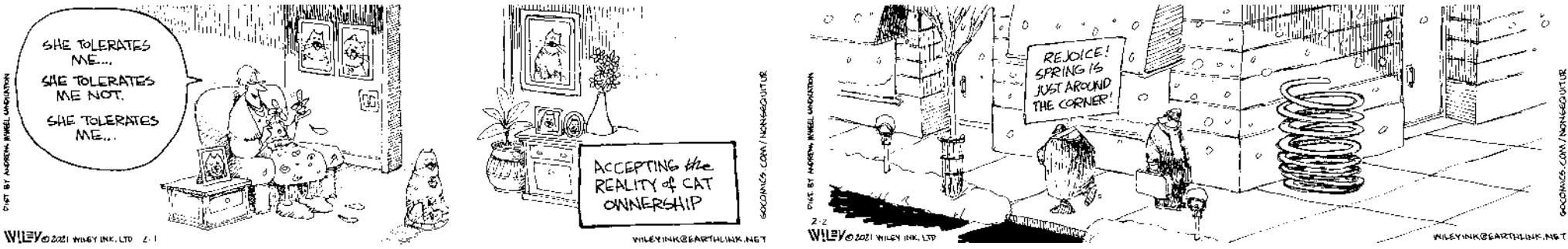
Dilbert®



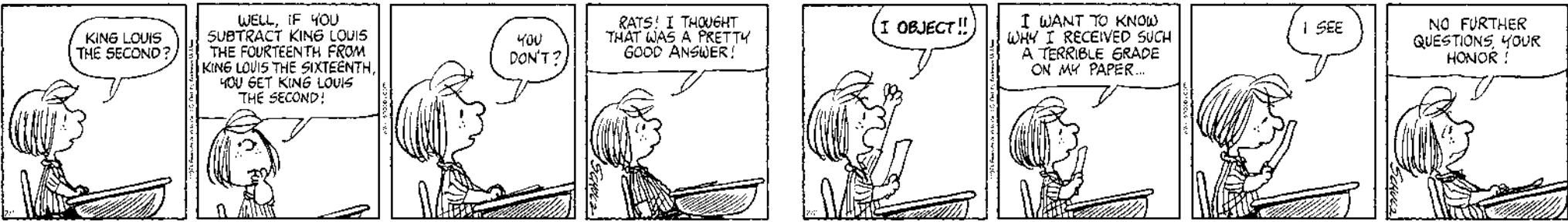
Garfield®



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.

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

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

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

3	6		1	2				
9		4			5			
	5							
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2				7		9		1
	9				3	8		4
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1228

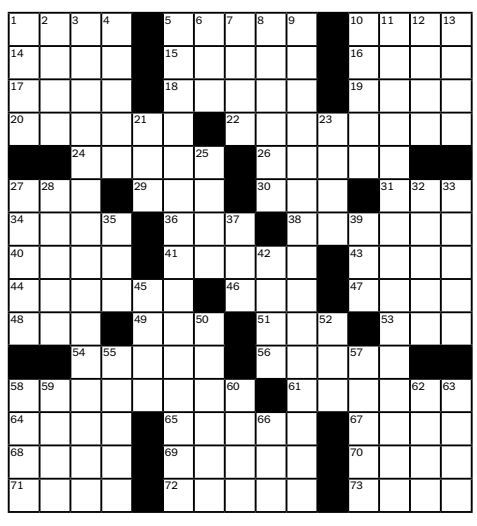
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1229

- ACROSS**
- 1 Health resorts
 - 5 Georgia fruit
 - 10 Tuxedo shirt fastener
 - 14 ___ and every
 - 15 Person with a microphone
 - 16 Finest-quality, informally
 - 17 Word after pen or pet
 - 18 Company behind Battlezone and Asteroids
 - 19 "Wheel of Fortune" play
 - 20 Late "Jeopardy!" host Alex
 - 22 V.I.P.s
 - 24 Quibbles
 - 26 Stack of papers
 - 27 Stand-up comic Margaret
 - 29 "___ whiz!"
 - 30 Approx. when to get to the airport for a pickup
 - 31 Unknown, on a sched.
 - 34 German "mister"
 - 36 "Gnarly, dude!"
 - 38 Bold response to a threat
 - 40 Ready for picking
 - 41 Written material of no consequence
 - 43 Flying: Prefix
 - 44 Enthusiastic response to "Who wants candy?"
 - 46 Internet image file, familiarly
 - 47 Cyclops and Wolverine, for two
 - 48 Title for Paul McCartney or Elton John
 - 49 "The Lord of the Rings" baddie
 - 51 ___ Castellana, voice of Homer Simpson
 - 53 "To a Skylark," e.g.
 - 54 Lure of a coffee shop
 - 56 Grouchy Muppet
 - 58 Be sociable
 - 61 Like Satan and some owls
 - 64 BBQ spoiler
 - 65 Supermodel Campbell
 - 67 DVR system
 - 68 Shoestring woe
 - 69 Trio or quartet
 - 70 Rare blood type, for short
 - 71 "The Brady Bunch" threesome
 - 72 German industrial hub
 - 73 Shrek, for one
- DOWN**
- 1 Email outbox folder
 - 2 Jack who once hosted "The Tonight Show"
 - 3 Wile E. Coyote's supplier
 - 4 Biblical land with a queen
 - 5 Athlete's goal in competition
 - 6 911 call respondent, for short
 - 7 Hail ___ (cry "Taxi!")
 - 8 Cherry-colored
 - 9 Absolute chicness
 - 10 Malia Obama's sister
 - 11 Quaint greeting
 - 12 Quart, liter or gallon
 - 13 Cozy retreats
 - 21 Tiny bit of work
 - 23 Brown, as a roast
 - 25 One clapping at a circus?
 - 27 Cuomo of CNN
 - 28 Model and TV host Klum
 - 32 Revealed, as one's soul
 - 33 The devout do it on Yom Kippur
 - 35 Big sporting goods retailer
 - 37 Found groovy
 - 39 Honeycomb stuff
 - 42 Relative of Rex or Rover
 - 45 Choice on "Let's Make a Deal"
 - 50 Chocolate beans
 - 52 Sgt., for one
 - 55 Amounts on Monopoly cards
 - 57 "Star Wars" droid, informally
 - 58 Really bugs
 - 59 Prefix meaning "super-tiny"
 - 60 Male turkeys
 - 62 Anytime at all
 - 63 Onetime Venetian V.I.P.
 - 66 U.K. medal accepted and then returned by John Lennon, in brief

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BLATHER PLAZA
ARCHIVAL SAILOR
HOMEPAGE CLEAR
ANEW MUMBO JUMBO
ETA OOO BAN
JIBBERJABBER
IRE LIEN YEARN
BAAS EDGER FLOE
EQUAL EVEN TLOK
GOBBLEDYGOOK
AHA VIA CUB
BALDERDASH SEAM
USERID EPIPHANY
TOXINS RANSACKS
SNAPS SAYWHAT



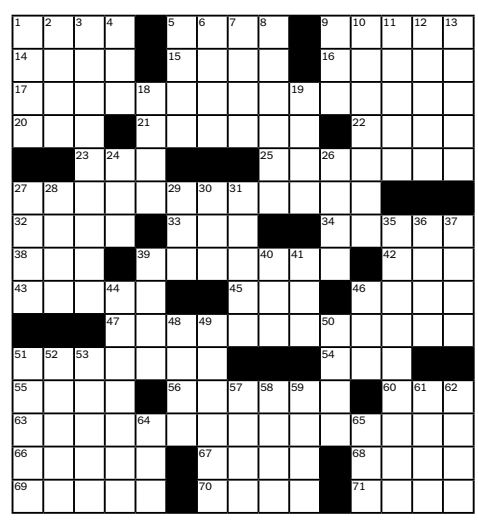
PUZZLE BY ALAN MASSENGILL AND ANDREA CARLA MICHAELS

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Salacious
 - 5 Opposite of loose
 - 9 Galileo, by birth
 - 14 ___ vera
 - 15 Frosty coating
 - 16 Loosen, as a knot
 - 17 Xena, notably
 - 20 Show known for its cold opens, for short
 - 21 Cantankerous
 - 22 Guard's command
 - 23 Half of a Monopoly pair
 - 25 "Smart as a whip" and "sharp as a tack"
 - 27 Largest lizard on earth (up to 10 feet long)
 - 32 Mideast sultanate
 - 33 Sweet-talk and send chocolates, say
 - 34 Looks lasciviously
 - 38 Sass
 - 39 Toronto landmark that's the tallest free-standing structure in the Western Hemisphere
 - 42 Cereal bit
 - 43 Totally lost
 - 45 Funnymen Brooks
 - 46 In years past
 - 47 Who sang the 1973 #1 hit "Midnight Train to Georgia"
 - 51 Request for payment
 - 54 It might be brown or pale
 - 55 Moscow turnaround
 - 56 Skulls
 - 60 By way of
 - 63 "Happily ever after" ... or what 17-, 27-, 39- or 47-Across has?
 - 66 "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" actress Kemper
 - 67 Tablet released in 2010
 - 68 Tribe that lent its name to a Nebraska county
 - 69 Speaks with a gravelly voice
 - 70 Cuts with shears, maybe
 - 71 "Auld Lang ___"
- DOWN**
- 1 Ten Commandments, e.g.
 - 2 Pizzazz
 - 3 Some classroom wall hangings
 - 4 ___ Spiegel (German newsmagazine)
 - 5 Garment that may be "dropped"
 - 6 Broadcasts
 - 7 Ones usually found at home
 - 8 Mother ___
 - 9 Many a groan inducer
 - 10 Moving at a snail's pace
 - 11 Super bargain
 - 12 Political division, metaphorically
 - 13 Locales of wasps and spies
 - 18 ___ coffee
 - 19 Hipster's "gotcha"
 - 24 Particle in a particle accelerator
 - 26 Secure at shore
 - 27 Kind of nut
 - 28 Leave out
 - 29 Cable channel named for a talk show host
 - 30 One of three in a Morse "S"
 - 31 Spacious
 - 35 What the biblical Methuselah is famous for
 - 36 A pop
 - 37 "Keep as is"
 - 39 The Golden State, familiarly
 - 40 Director Anderson
 - 41 Rocky Mountain National Park
 - 44 It's all about me, me, me
 - 46 Big Alaska export
 - 48 Bank statement
 - 49 Waylay, as a conversation
 - 50 Tandoori bread
 - 51 Deduce
 - 52 Spiral-horned African antelope
 - 53 Some bridal accessories
 - 57 Big name in dog food
 - 58 Kind of tide
 - 59 Modern war hazards, for short
 - 61 Sit ___ (audit)
 - 62 Pulitzer-winning James
 - 64 "You rang?"
 - 65 Salon creations

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HOSS ANTIC WADE
ARCH PAOLO AXEL
LARA SHEERBLISS
FLANGE FALSIE
PGA CLOUD
THERM OIL SWINE
ROSIE WED CONEY
ADULTS INANE
PAPAHAYDN EDGES
EMOJI NEO
ASTRO USB CROSS
CHEERS HELD TO
HAPPYPLACE AWOL
OREO RENEW NAWA
ODES YOYOS DYER



PUZZLE BY MATTHEW TROUT

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Qualtrics goes public 2 years after being bought by SAP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business software provider Qualtrics went public Jan. 28 two years after German giant SAP bought the company for \$8 billion, marking the latest achievement for the company that has become one of the crown jewels of a technology corridor near Salt Lake City that Utah likes to call “Silicon Slopes.”

The move brings more recognition to Qualtrics just months after founder and executive chairman Ryan Smith purchased the NBA’s Utah Jazz and further positioned himself as a powerful figure in the state.

Qualtrics shares rocketed up 50% in the first day of trading, closing at \$45.50. The company raised \$1.55 billion in the move, with shares trading on the Nasdaq index under the symbol XM.

Smith started the company with his father and brother in his basement in 2002. Today it has 3,500 employees and 13,000 customers including Disney, Uber and the U.S. Census, who use the company’s software to get feedback from employees and customers about areas to improve.

“We’ve had an epic run,” Smith told The Associated Press. “I’m just grateful. I’m not someone who does very well at celebrating or having moments. I’m more like, ‘keep focused, on to the next one, let’s go,’ but today is a special one, especially with my dad and my brother being able to watch.”

SAP, which will retain majority ownership of Qualtrics, announced last summer it would spin off Qualtrics and take it public to help the Utah company expand its customer base.

The decision reflects a smart business decision for both sides after the business cultures at SAP and Qualtrics didn’t seem to mesh well, said Paul Greenberg, a market analyst and managing principal at The 56 Group.

“SAP made the right decision in saying, ‘Let’s say goodbye



Associated Press

Qualtrics CEO Ryan Smith poses in the Hub at the company’s headquarters in Orem, Utah. Survey-software provider Qualtrics went public Thursday, Jan. 28, two years after German software giant SAP bought the company for \$8 billion, marking the latest achievement for a company that has become one of the crown jewels of a technology corridor near Salt Lake City that Utah likes to call “Silicon Slopes.”

to each other but let’s keep in touch,’ “ Greenberg said. “Instead of brother and sister, we’ll be cousins.”

Qualtrics was just days from going public when SAP announced in November 2018 that it had agreed to pay \$8 billion cash for the Provo, Utah, company. The acquisition of Qualtrics amounted to one of the biggest deals for SAP, based in Walldorf, Germany.

Smith said SAP and Qualtrics considered how to take advantage of growth opportunities, which would have been difficult without going public. Qualtrics is now positioned to grow faster while still maintaining the partnership with SAP, said Smith and CEO Zig Serafin, who joined the company in 2016 from Microsoft.

“We made the choice explicitly two years ago to go public by becoming a part of SAP instead of going public on our own. We did that because we felt we could accelerate the kinds of things

that we could do,” Serafin said. “For example, internationally we’ve got presence all over the world today. We’ve been able to innovate on additional solutions

off of our platform because of assets SAP has.”

Qualtrics made out well considering it was planning to go public anyway, got bought for a

huge sum and then still got to go public, Greenberg said. One notable downside is that Qualtrics put fewer shares on the stock market than it would have had

Police Beat

BYU

CITIZEN CONTACT

Jan. 23 - University police responded to a report of a truck pulling a couch with wheels attached to it in a campus parking lot. The owners were contacted and advised to discontinue pulling the couch behind the truck on campus.

PUBLIC PEACE

Jan. 25 - An officer responded to a report that a group of students was playing instruments in a Helaman Halls common area at midnight. At the request of the officer the midnight per-

formance ended and all musicians returned to their rooms without incident.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Jan. 26 - An individual drove over the curb and sidewalk onto the Wymount Terrace field to spin doughnuts, causing damage to the field and sprinkler system. The driver was identified, arrested and given a citation for criminal mischief.

Provo

BURGLARY

Jan. 24 - An attempted non-residential burglary was reported near 3100 West and 1670 North.

Jan. 25 - A non-residential burglary was reported near 1900 North and 1120 West.

THEFT

Jan. 23 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 300 East and 500 North.

Jan. 24 - Property theft was reported at a residence near 300 West and 300 North.

Jan. 26 - Property theft was reported near 1700 North on State Street.

Jan. 27 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 100 West and 300 South.

Jan. 27 - Property theft was reported near 300 East and 900 South.

Jan. 27 - A bicycle was reported stolen from a parking garage near 300 West and 400 North.

Jan. 27 - Property theft was reported near 100 East and 400 South.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Jan. 25 - An automobile was reported stolen near 200 North and 2420 West.

Jan. 25 - An automobile was reported stolen near 4000 North on Scenic Drive.

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News from BYU's Daily Universe directly to your inbox

Good morning,

In today's newsletter, learn about Spring Term study abroad cancellations, get a recap of BYU's close loss to Coastal Carolina and see this week's Police Beat.

Top Stories

Spring Term study abroad programs canceled, still open for summer and fall

By Mehdia Mehr

BYU study abroad programs through the Kennedy Center have been canceled for spring term but are still currently open for summer and fall.

BYU news, sports, features and more in your inbox each day.