



## Parking permits

Provo City Council rejects extending residential parking permits

Page 6



## Basketball

Sara Hamson continues to showcase her talents on the court

Page 7



## Universe Plus

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Pages 1 and 3

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# THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

## BYU rejects additional federal COVID-19 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-19 relief package.

Congress allocated over \$22.7 billion to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund when it passed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act late last year.

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. Jenkins directed the Daily Universe to a May 2020 press release, which states BYU did not request federal aid and can provide for its students using its own funds.

Unlike last year, though, Jenkins said the university has not established a funding program to help students cover costs related to COVID-19.

"Traditional means of financial aid are available, including some loan options for students who need immediate assistance," she said.

For students who lost jobs or are experiencing other financial setbacks during the pandemic, taking on more debt through a loan may not be the best solution. BYU offers short-term loans, which must be paid back within two months into a semester and are accompanied by a temporary financial hold on a student's account. A COVID-19 FAQ on BYU's Student Financial Services website says these loans "in essence allow you to extend the tuition deadline."

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires colleges to provide at least the "same amount" in financial aid grants to students that it was required to provide under the CARES Act, which



Sydney Gonzalez

BYU has opted to not accept federal funding allocated to colleges and universities under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

stipulated that at least 50% of the allocated funds went directly to students. For BYU, this amount would be \$16,136,493. Divided equally between BYU's 34,830 students, that would be \$463 per student.

Direct grants for all students under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act would be unlikely since the law requires institutions to prioritize students with exceptional need, such as but not limited to students who receive Pell Grants. Even limiting student grants to Pell Grant recipients would impact a large number of students, however.

Given BYU's high percentage of married students, it tends to have a disproportionately large number of students who receive Pell Grants. According to the Salt Lake Tribune, 12,126 BYU

students received grants during the 2018-2019 school year — that's over a third of students.

When asked whether BYU had considered accepting the funding and giving 100% of it to students, Jenkins simply reiterated that BYU is not considering accepting the funds.

Some universities, including Harvard, originally announced they would allocate 100% of its CARES Act money last year before ultimately deciding against accepting the money due to political pressure.

Harvard, along with BYU and other institutions with large endowments, including Yale and Duke, were pressured not to accept CARES funding by individuals and politicians, including former President Donald Trump, who argued that well-off universities didn't need taxpayer money.

A Department of Education spokesperson said unlike last year — when former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos actively advised wealthy eligible institutions to reject funding — the department is not discouraging any eligible institution from applying for funding.

Except for Harvard, which announced it will not apply for funds, many wealthy institutions have yet to announce their acceptance or rejection of CRRSAA funds.

One hang-up for these universities could be a provision under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, which places restrictions on institutions that are subject to the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act — popularly referred to as the endowment tax.

The provision would cut these

institutions' funding by half. The remaining funds must be used for financial aid grants to students or for sanitation, personal protective equipment, or other expenses associated with general campus health and safety related to COVID-19.

"The Department will require those institutions that paid or will be required to pay the tax to complete and submit a form disclosing this tax status," a Department of Education spokesperson said in an email to the Daily Universe. "Institutions paying this tax may also seek a waiver of these limitations."

At over \$1.97 billion, BYU has the 51st largest endowment among U.S. universities, according to 2018 data from National Center for Education Statistics. The university's financial information isn't public, but if its endowment is a still similar size, it would not be subject to the endowment tax, which only applies to schools whose endowments total at least \$500,000 per tuition-paying student.

If BYU doesn't claim the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funding, what happens to it? The law directs the Department of Education to begin reallocating the majority of the funds to other eligible institutions after April 15, but the department spokesperson said that for the portion of funds not covered under that direction, "the department's allocation plans are still under development."

Likewise, not all of the CARES Act funding universities rejected last year has been reallocated. The Department of Education spokesperson said that while certain amounts of unclaimed funding were repurposed and given to other colleges, "the remaining amounts of unobligated CARES Act funds have not been reallocated at this time."

## Database of 1918 pandemic deaths inspires answers for the future

By VERONICA MACIEL

BYU researchers are using a database of 1918 influenza deaths to draw lessons from the past and make informed decisions going forward.

The university's Family History Technology Lab teamed up with FamilySearch to create this online interactive database. Researchers used machine learning (the same technology used in self-driving cars) to read death certificates.

From the death certificates, they learn a person's cause of death and demographic information. The information from these certificates is used to create profiles of the deceased individuals, which are linked to FamilySearch.

Lab co-manager and economics professor Joe Price said the 1918 database includes people who died during that year from influenza in 10 states, with seven states more in progress. The database is available on the lab's website.

Fellow lab manager and computer science professor Mark Clement said he believes this research can help answer questions about current and future pandemics. Clement helped develop the handwriting recognition software to read the cause of death from the death certificates.

### Preventive measures

The lab hopes to provide additional data from past pandemics to use with COVID-19 data as more research continues. Clement and Price said they believe this data will help to prepare for future pandemics and show what the consequences are for not taking preventive measures.

Though the database is not yet complete, Price and his fellow researchers are already finding ways to use the data to understand how shutdowns affect future deaths.

Price is working on publishing a paper with BYU student Carver Coleman and University of Notre Dame professor Kasey Buckles, comparing and contrasting the influenza deaths of cities in two states during the 1918 pandemic. The research is focused on what happened in cities that had shutdowns and those that didn't.



Nate Edwards/BYU Photo

BYU researchers are using a database of 1918 pandemic deaths to draw lessons from the past and make informed decisions going forward.

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

members die during a pandemic."

### Looking forward

Price and Coleman said they want to continue expanding the database for years to come. While right now the database only includes people who died in the year 1918, Coleman said he hopes the database will one day reach 100 years of deaths. This will lead to more research opportunities in other causes of death, such as pollution or natural disasters, he said.

The research the team has done and hopes to do in the future relies heavily on the digital records provided by FamilySearch, Coleman said. "It wouldn't have been possible without all the work that FamilySearch put into digitizing all the death certificates."

The lab's research dreams do not stop there, as Price hopes to soon expand the database into other countries such as South Africa and Brazil.

Price said he knows there will be obstacles since there are places in the world that don't have high-quality death certificates. However, most deaths were recorded in some way, either on gravestones, newspapers or in personal handwritten records.

"Right now the world is so full of so many records that we can't search because they're handwritten. The moment we can unlock handwritten documents, we can make everything in the world searchable," Price said.



Hannah Miner

A sign posted outside the Richards Building in March 2020 announces the closing of BYU facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A BYU student who sued the university for its handling of the pandemic has decided to drop his case.

## BYU student plans to drop pandemic lawsuit

By GABRIELLE SHIOZAWA

A student suing BYU in response to its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic plans to drop his case.

Chase Hiatt, 20, filed a lawsuit against BYU on Aug. 5, 2020, citing breach of contract and unjust enrichment. The class action suit accused BYU of providing insufficient alternatives for the expected college experience Hiatt paid for.

BYU is scheduled to respond to Hiatt's complaint on Feb. 19 unless Hiatt backs out of the case before then.

Hiatt, from Bountiful, told The Daily Universe on Feb. 2 that he regretted suing BYU.

"The university has done a great job handling everything, they've been really professional and conscientious and they don't deserve to get hit with a lawsuit," Hiatt said. "The whole thing isn't BYU's fault and they're doing their best, so what more can I ask for?"

Hiatt also called his lawsuit "a waste of resources," "a disaster," and "really unnecessary."

"BYU strongly believes the lawsuit's claims lack merit," university spokeswoman Carri Jenkins told The Daily Universe. "In spite of the

limitations necessarily imposed by the global pandemic, BYU has been working tirelessly to continue to provide our students with a superb education."

Jenkins said other universities have not decreased their fixed costs either and that BYU has dealt with unexpected additional costs including COVID-19 testing, cleaning supplies and high-quality cameras for remote instruction. A similar case to Hiatt's regarding COVID-19 concerns was previously brought against BYU-Idaho and dismissed, Jenkins said.

Hiatt said he felt "scammed" when his tuition money didn't grant him the experience he hoped for, but he later realized the low cost of BYU made the argument negligible.

BYU's low tuition rates for its size, quality and reputation have consistently earned the university a top ranking among the best-valued schools in America, Jenkins said.

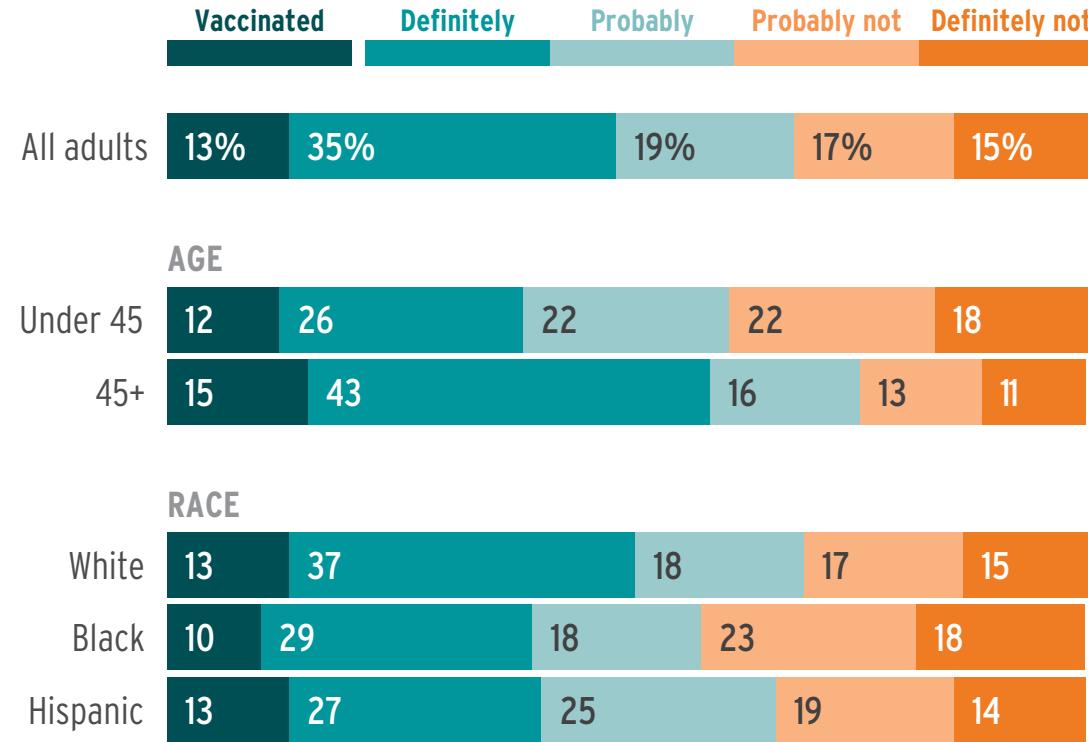
"BYU's pandemic response has required substantial effort and financial resources to continue to provide an excellent, low-cost education, but BYU remains committed to fulfilling its mission and supporting its students," Jenkins said.

Hiatt said he values his online education and plans to graduate from BYU this spring.

# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## About two-thirds of Americans have gotten or plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine

Have you already gotten or do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine?



A new AP-NORC poll finds Black Americans and those under 45 appear less likely than white and older Americans to say they will get the vaccine, or that they have already done so.

Results based on interviews with 1,055 U.S. adults conducted Jan. 28-Feb. 1. The margin of error is about 3.8 percentage points for the full sample. Data from AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

### CDC: Strong evidence in-person schooling can be done safely

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The nation's top public health agency said Feb. 12 that in-person schooling can resume safely with masks, social distancing and other strategies, and vaccination of teachers, while important, is not a prerequisite for reopening.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released its long-awaited road map for getting students back to classrooms

in the middle of a pandemic that has killed more than 479,000 people in the U.S. But the agency's guidance is just that — it cannot force schools to reopen, and CDC officials were careful to say they are not calling for a mandate that all U.S. schools be reopened.

The new guidance includes many of the same measures previously backed by the CDC, but it suggests them more forcefully. It emphasizes that all of the recommendations must be implemented strictly and consistently to keep school safe.

### AstraZeneca expects updated COVID-19 vaccine by autumn

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — AstraZeneca said Feb. 11 it expects to have a new version of its COVID-19 vaccine ready for use by this autumn as drugmakers respond to concerns about emerging variants of the disease that may be more transmissible or resistant to existing vaccines.

The Anglo-Swedish company, which makes a vaccine developed by the University of Oxford, said

it is working with the university's scientists to adapt the shot to combat new variants. Researchers began this work months ago when the variants were first detected, said Mene Pangalos, head of pharmaceuticals research for AstraZeneca.

"We're moving fast and we've got a number of variant versions in the works that we will be picking from as we move into the clinic," Pangalos said on a conference call with reporters.

AstraZeneca will produce 100 million doses this month.

### 22 Utah legislative staffers given early vaccine access

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah House has said about two dozen Utah legislative staffers were placed on the priority list to receive COVID-19 vaccinations ahead of other residents.

House Speaker Brad Wilson's chief of staff Abby Osborne said in a statement on Feb. 8 that legislative leaders worked with Republican Gov. Spencer Cox to reprioritize employees and the

Utah Department of Health for distribution.

"A few days prior to the session, we had a conversation with the Governor about having a certain number of key employees whose roles are integral to the fundamental operation of the legislative process vaccinated," Osborne said.

Osborne said 22 "essential legislative staffers" were inoculated because their duties were "deemed critical."

It is unclear when the staffers were given the vaccine.

### Germany to reopen schools, hairdressers as virus cases drop

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — German officials agreed Feb. 10 to reopen schools and hairdressers in the coming weeks, while extending much of the country's coronavirus lockdown until March 7 amid concern that new virus variants could reverse the decline in confirmed cases.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and the country's 16 governors decided to leave in place many facets

of the current lockdown that were due to expire on Feb. 14, and set a new target of 35 weekly cases per 100,000 inhabitants before letting small stores, museums and other businesses reopen.

The government's previous goal had been to push the number of new cases per 100,000 inhabitants each week below 50, to enable reliable contact-tracing. It peaked at nearly 200 just before Christmas but is now down to 68 nationwide, a trend Merkel credited to people respecting the existing measures.

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### White House says it will defer to CDC on reopening schools

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facing criticism that President Joe Biden has not acted aggressively enough on reopening schools, the White House on Feb. 11 said it's aiming for a full reopening but will defer to science experts on how to achieve it in the middle of a pandemic.

The White House drew criticism this week when it said schools would be considered opened if they teach in-person at least one day a week. Asked about it Feb. 11, press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden hopes to get students in the classroom five days a week as soon as it's safe.

Psaki did not detail a timeline for that milestone, however, saying the administration will act on new school guidance released Feb. 12 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I can assure any parent listening that his objective, his commitment, is to ensuring schools are open five days a week," Psaki said at a press briefing.

Biden has made schools a priority as he works to bolster a battered economy.

## Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



### Pepper spray incident reflects policing of Black kids

What started with a report of "family trouble" in Rochester, New York, and ended with police using pepper spray on a fourth-grader like a crime suspect, has spurred outrage as the latest example of law enforcement mistreatment of Black people.

As the U.S. undergoes a new reckoning on police brutality and racial injustice in the wake of George Floyd's death last May, the girl's treatment illustrates how even young children are not exempt.

Research shows Black children are often viewed as being older than they are, and are more likely to be seen as threatening or dangerous. Advocates have long said that leads to police treating them in ways they wouldn't dream of treating white children. In some cases it has led to fatalities like the killing of Tamir Rice, a Black 12-year-old shot by a white police officer in Cleveland in 2014.



### Judge: Trump's lifting of mining ban in US West was wrong

A federal judge on Feb. 11 overturned a Trump administration action that allowed mining and other development on 10 million acres (4 million hectares) in parts of six western states that are considered important for the survival of a struggling bird species.

U.S. District Judge Lynn Winmill said the decision under Trump to cancel a prior effort to ban mining failed to fully consider how the move would affect greater sage grouse, a wide-ranging, chicken-sized bird that has seen a dramatic population drop in recent decades.

Winmill said the 2017 cancellation was arbitrary. He ordered the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management to reconsider whether mining should be allowed.



### Greece: Protest gets heated ahead of campus policing vote

Student protesters hurled bottles, rocks and gasoline bombs at police in central Athens Feb. 10 during nationwide demonstrations against an education bill that would allow police to patrol university campuses.

In the capital, riot police used tear gas and detained two protesters after clashes broke out outside parliament. Protests also turned violent in Greece's second-largest city, Thessaloniki.

The center-right government says it wants to establish a campus police force to stop university grounds from being used for illegal activities such as selling counterfeit goods or organizing violent protests.



### Businesses start to rethink Myanmar protests ignite

Businesses are just beginning to reassess their investments in Myanmar after the military seized power, detaining civilian leaders and sparking mass protests.

Singaporean tycoon Lim Kaling, a board member of technology firm Razer Inc., announced Tuesday that he was pulling out of a cigarette joint venture with military-linked Virginia Tobacco Co., the country's biggest cigarette maker and owner of the Red Ruby and Premium Gold brands.

So far, most companies with major dealings or investments in Myanmar appear to be taking a wait-and-see approach.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

## BYU lab works to improve artificial intelligence communication



From left, Berkeley Andrus, Nathaniel Robinson, Jay Cui, Ben Cullen, Nathaniel Carlson, Professor Nancy Fulda, Hazar Handal and Nathan Tibbets are all members of the DRAGN Labs research team. The research team specializes in language communication within artificial intelligence.

By INGRID SAGERS

BYU research group DRAGN Labs is making big progress in its efforts to better artificial intelligence.

DRAGN is an acronym for Deep Representations and Architectures for Generative systems and Natural language understanding. The team's projects focus on artificial intelligence applications, research and language processing.

BYU professor Nancy Fulda started DRAGN Labs in August 2019 with only a handful of students. Since then the team has seen progress during its research of conversational artificial intelligence.

Computer science graduate student Berkeley Andrus and undergraduate applied and computational mathematics student Nate Robinson have worked under Fulda since the beginning of DRAGN Labs.

"We're trying to make

computers better at understanding what people say and write, then also be able to speak and write back to us," Andrus said.

DRAGN Lab students meet either in their teams or as an entire group once a week. Andrus said he sees many different backgrounds in the lab, with students majoring in math, computer science and even genetics, and values being able to know who has what specialty and collaborate with them.

A notable project during his time at DRAGN labs was working on natural language understanding. He focused on how video games figured out user speech (what people were saying as they played) and how the computer could respond.

The biggest project from Robinson's team has been creating a new algorithm to control biased language generated by artificial intelligence programs. These programs can generate huge amounts of text and have human-level fluency.

"A lot of the time, these

programs' text is biased or just talks about whatever it wants to, so we created a new algorithm to control what it can or cannot say," he said.

Robinson is currently working on a machine translation project that explores different methods and combinations of un-studied languages.

"Sometimes when you finish a project, the end product is really cool to sit back and look at. I think to myself, 'I made this and nobody understands it better than I do.' Some projects take over a year, so it's really satisfying to see the final reward," Robinson said.

Andrus said he wishes he could tell students who might be interested in the data or computer science field that BYU is a great environment for trying lots of things.

When starting his major, he said it was difficult to see how research success manifested differently than it might for other career fields. "It takes a lot of time, but it's really fulfilling."

## Library exhibit creates 'literary snapshot' of pandemic



Authors' short stories involving the pandemic hang on display on the Harold B. Lee Library third floor. The exhibit is meant to bring a sense of hope and connection to readers using all genres and perspectives. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of the story.

By ALLIE RICHAEEL

Authors, curators and designers collaborated to create a display of pandemic-related short stories on the main level of the BYU Harold B. Lee Library.

The exhibit is called "A Desolating Sickness: Stories of Pandemic." Short stories written by Church members hang from the ceiling on panels. Exhibit curator Trevor Alvord described the display as a "literary snapshot" of the COVID-19 pandemic and its role in history. The curators hoped readers would feel connected to history and others despite times of isolation.

The stories in the exhibit span all genres from historical fiction to fantasy. Exhibit curator Dainan Sheem said having all kinds of stories added to the fun of the display.

"It was fun to write about a story in the genre that you already write in, with a pandemic spin on it," he said.

Aside from diverse genres, Sheem said the exhibit

represents both male and female authors. The authors also vary in political perspectives, but the pandemic was the one factor that tied all the stories together.

Exhibit creators hoped people would read the stories and feel connected to history. Library communications manager Roger Layton said the exhibit was inspired partly by "The Decameron," a collection of stories about people hiding from the Black Plague.

"People are all in a panic right now about the pandemic, and rightly so, but this is something that people have gone through for generations," Layton said. "We're kind of having a shared experience with people from centuries ago."

Exhibit curator and author Christopher McAfee said he felt connected not just to history, but also to others going through the current pandemic. He said many of the exhibit's stories were unifying.

"A lot of the stories made me feel like I was not alone in my feelings," he said. "I found myself in tears several times as I was reading the stories."

BYU alumnus David Butler wrote one of the short stories. He said he hopes as students and faculty read the stories between classes they feel a sense of connection despite social distancing restrictions.

"I think the real casualty of 2020 is community," Butler said, adding that it was wonderful to see authors dialoguing about their feelings to make connections with each other.

Even the display's design was meant to convey a message of hope. Exhibit designer Eric Howard said his biggest challenge was creating an attractive display made up entirely of words. He applied a warm color scheme to the exhibit with subtle images behind the text on each panel.

Howard said he hoped to draw people in and help them learn something positive from the pandemic. "I wanted to of course convey pandemic, but I didn't want grey and dismal."

The exhibit's short stories are also available on the library website. Soon the website will have interviews with the authors and audiobook versions of the stories.

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### BYU students recognized for multicultural award



Lillian Maero

The American Advertising Federation recognized seven BYU students as being among the most promising multicultural students of 2021. The BYU student winners are Kofi Aidoo, Rebekah Baker, Evelyn Harper, Hali'amai

Kealoha, Lillian Maero, Joseph Nugent and Donna Wilson, all seniors graduating this year. This is the largest group being awarded from any single university. The students competed by submitting essays and letters of recommendation and will now have the chance to present their work and share their perspectives at a national networking event.

"We are so grateful to have these extraordinary students recognized by the AAF as the most promising multicultural students," professor Jeff Sheets said. Sheets is the founder and faculty advisor of the BYU Advanced Advertising laboratory. "They are being recognized not just for their multicultural background but because they are so talented in their area of study and expertise."

## DAVID O. MCKAY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

### Workshop helps families and teachers working with autistic children



Tom Higbee

A free workshop organized by the David O. McKay School of Education helped families and teachers learn new strategies for working with autistic children. Guest speaker Tom Higbee presented the workshop on building independence

in autistic individuals using photographic activity schedules. Higbee heads the department of special education and rehabilitation counseling at Utah State University.

Higbee's photographic activity schedules can help promote greater independence in autistic people by providing images that illustrate the order in which tasks must be completed. This can decrease dependency in children, allowing them to complete chores and school assignments without extra prompting.

"We like to present transitional research that takes scientific findings and gets them into practice right away," event organizer Terisa Gabrielsen said. Gabrielsen is a professor in the McKay School's counseling psychology and special education departments. "In the universities we're doing and monitoring research, and we're trying to get that out to you each year in terms of what we are learning about autism."

## COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

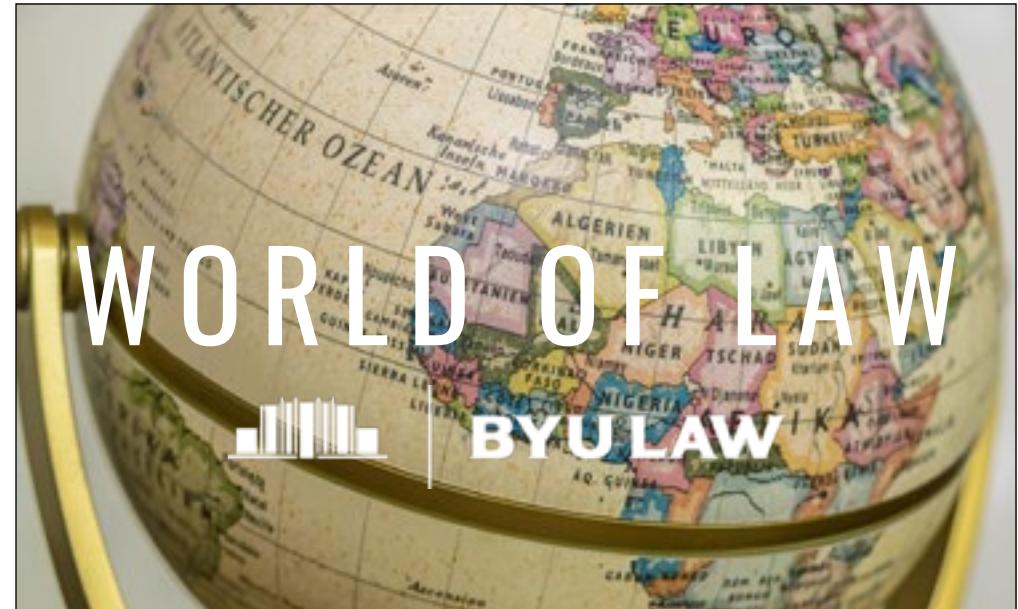
### BYU honor society rewards students for research



The winner and runner-up of BYU's 2020 Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship were both students from the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Tyler Mansfield won \$800 for his research as an undergraduate working with Benjamin Webb and David Erickson. The first study with Webb analyzed the biological phenomenon of Taylor's Law, while the study with Erickson used mathematics to support client-therapist relationships. Mansfield is studying mathematics with a minor in biostatistics.

Josh Robinson won \$400 for his computer science research while an undergraduate at BYU. Robinson graduated with a degree in statistics and minors in computer science, mathematics and Chinese. Robinson is pursuing a master's degree in computer science at BYU.

Phi Kappa Phi is a national honor society that recognizes outstanding academic work and service.



February 24, 2021

*World of Law is a BYU Admissions Event that allows undergraduates to hear BYU Law professors present monthly on a variety of law-related topics and to meet the Dean and Director of BYU Law Admissions.*



Our Speaker Will Be

**Professor Dane Thorley**

4:00 - 5:00 PM via Zoom



RSVP

Professor Thorley is an Associate Professor of Law. His research explores how the rules, procedures, and practices currently utilized in the U.S. courtroom impact the behavior of judges, attorneys, and parties and how that behavior then influences the implementation and efficacy of those rules. In exploring these issues, he employs his training as a field experimentalist to conduct empirical evaluations that are both informed by the realities of the legal system and methodologically rigorous.

# Student's Title IX records subpoenaed in former professor's sexual abuse case

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

The attorney for a former BYU professor charged with sexually assaulting one of his students wants access to the student's records in the BYU Title IX office.

However, the information being requested by subpoena may go against Utah's rape shield law, which limits the kinds of evidence a criminal defense attorney can obtain in a case involving sexual misconduct.

Michael James Clay, 46, was charged last June with two second-degree felony counts of forcible sexual abuse in Provo's 4th District Court. Clay's attorney has filed motions to waive his initial appearance, originally scheduled for Oct. 5, 2020, four times.

The law prohibits defense attorneys from introducing any "evidence offered to prove that a victim engaged in other sexual behavior" and "evidence offered to prove a victim's sexual predisposition."

"The goal of the rule is to encourage the victims of sexual assault to report the crime without concern that they will be humiliated at trial with questions about their prior relationships," said University of Utah law professor Louisa Heiny. "We also want to ensure that the jury is making a decision based only on the facts of this case."

Heiny added that there are some exceptions to the rule. For example, the defense may be allowed to use evidence of prior false allegations of sexual assault to impeach — or question the integrity or credibility — of the alleged victim.

"However, a defendant who wishes to impeach the alleged credibility with his or her prior allegation of sexual assault must first

demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the allegation was false," Heiny said. "In essence, that means the defendant's first test is to show that it is more likely than not that the earlier allegation was false. That's not necessarily easy to do. The defense will need to work around lots of other evidentiary rules in order to meet that burden."

Clay's attorney argues the subpoena "is not a speculative request or fishing expedition, and it is not a general request for impeachment purpose" but states that the student's Title IX records are "highly relevant to (her) credibility."

Heiny said the subpoena strikes her as problematic. "If I were the prosecutor in this case, I would argue the subpoena itself should have been under seal" and not filed as a public court document, she said. "I don't know if the defense will be given the information from the alleged victim's records, but the public request itself undermines the goals of the Utah rape shield rules."

Jerry Salcido, a Utah-based trial lawyer, disagrees. He said the subpoena would be an exception to the rape shield law.

"It wouldn't violate the rape shield law because it is information that if not admitted would violate the defendant's constitutional right to cross-examine the alleged victim as to her credibility and character for honesty," he said.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which protects the privacy of students' educational records, may also come into play with the subpoena.

A bulletin from the National Crime Victim Law Institute says that although the law is unclear whether Title IX records fall within FERPA's definition of "education records," and are therefore entitled



BYU Photo  
Former BYU geography professor Michael Clay was charged last June with sexually assaulting one of his students during his time at the university.

to FERPA's privacy protections, "victims have a number of explicit rights that may be implicated by a subpoena for the victims' records related to a Title IX proceeding."

Schools must ensure the subpoena is valid and make a valid attempt to notify students in advance of their compliance with such a subpoena.

"Although a school is not under an obligation to move to quash the subpoena on behalf of the victim, if the victim would prefer for the school to move on his or her behalf, it is best practice," the bulletin says.

Charging documents detail a power difference between the student and Clay — who is accused of using his influence within

his department and the victim's field of study, the student's emotional vulnerability and religious priesthood authority to exploit the student.

According to charging documents, Clay gave the victim a priesthood blessing and on another occasion, he "told her that he had prayed about her and felt inspired from God to engage in physical contact with the victim," and he "told the victim that he knew that they were supposed to meet and help each other."

Following Clay's charge, another student spoke out about his behavior, alleging that he created an atmosphere where "students felt he was holding their futures hostage."

stay safe in this world that is increasingly dependent on online activity."

Parents often need to turn to experts for advice on how to block pornography on devices. The bill will not ensure children are safe at all times, but the legislation would be a step in the right direction, Pulsipher said.

Some opponents said the bill could create supply chain problems if manufacturers decline to sell electronics in the state because of the requirement.

Others said the proposal allows parents to abdicate responsibility.

"Utah will be sending out a message to parents saying not to worry how these devices work because the protections are on," said Carl Szabo, vice president and general counsel of NetChoice, an organization advocating for free expression online.

"That creates a false sense of security where parents will just hand the devices to children and not take the necessary steps to teach them how to use the device and oversee its use," Szabo said.



Rodnae via Pexels  
A Utah House bill passed committee on Feb. 11 that would require new devices to have protections against accessing adult content.

## Utah House panel passes bill on device content protections

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Utah House committee has narrowly approved a bill that would require new online devices sold in the state to automatically activate protections against accessing adult content.

The measure that passed by a single vote Feb. 11 would require every new mobile phone and tablet sold in Utah after Jan. 1, 2022, to have adult content filters turned on at the time of purchase, The Salt Lake Tribune reports.

The restriction would not go into effect until five other states passed similar measures.

Two Republicans joined three Democrats voting against the proposal, which passed 6-5 and is now headed to the full Utah House.

"As I put this bill together, I had the opportunity to speak with many good parents," said Republican state Rep. Susan Pulsipher, the bill's sponsor. "They shared with me their desires to help their children

## BYU students take on challenging Putnam exam

By INGRID SAGERS

BYU students are taking the challenging William Lowell Putnam exam virtually this year on Feb. 20.

BYU professor Michael Griffin, head coach of the university's math competition teams, said the Putnam exam is not about giving a correct answer — it's about proving why it's correct.

"This Putnam competition requires a certain level of ability and speed. It's not always the same thing as being able to do well in difficult math classes; it's about being clever and combining ideas in new ways," Griffin said.

The exam is a competition at universities and colleges in the United States and Canada. BYU is currently one of the highest-ranking schools for test performance. Participants solve problems individually, but institutions are ranked by the combination of their three highest student scores, according to the Mathematical Association of America.

The Putnam exam is six hours long and broken up into two three-hour sessions with 12 questions in total. The highest score a student can receive is a total possible score of 120 points. Each year, the average score ranges from zero to three points.

The exam is typically held annually on the first Saturday of December, in-person and proctored by administrators. Students will take the exam this year using an un-proctored, online platform. Scores will be unofficial and no prizes will be offered, the Mathematical Association of America website reads.



Allison McArthur  
BYU students prepare all year round for the Putnam, a challenging national math exam. This year, they'll be taking the exam virtually.

Tyler Mansfield is a recent BYU mathematics graduate with an emphasis in applied mathematics. He has taken the Putnam exam three times, scoring a 1 in his first year, a 2 in his second and a 19 in his third year.

Skills used during math competitions are different from skills used to be good at math, he said. While math generally has a lot of rules and logical structure, math competitions involve a lot more creativity than people realize.

"There's excitement in seeing a problem that a year ago, I wouldn't have known how to solve. But it's given me a lot of confidence to know I can be challenged and rise to the occasion, even if it takes a ton of practice," he said.

BYU hosts many collegiate and high school mathlete competitions on campus during fall semesters. The university also offers a Putnam class during the fall where students practice previous Putnam exam questions and work to help one another see different ways to solve the problems.

James Camacho is a concurrent enrollment student at BYU and junior at Timpview High School. Since his freshman year, he and his twin brother, Joseph, have participated in many high school mathlete competitions and have attended the BYU Putnam class.

Both Griffin and Mansfield said the Camacho brothers are two of the brightest students they've seen.

"The end goal of the Putnam is to prove whether my answer is true or false, kind of like writing an essay. It's fun to work on problems and come up with creative solutions," Camacho said.

Practicing for the Putnam exam and other mathlete competitions with his brother is more fun and helpful than doing it by himself, he added.

Students have four years of eligibility to take the Putnam exam. Camacho said because of the pandemic, the 2021 test will not count towards his or his brother's eligible years.

Students can sign up for the Putnam exam until Feb. 20.



Associated Press  
The Utah House on Feb. 10, voted in support of Dixie State University dropping "Dixie" from its name — an example of the nation's reexamination of the remnants of the Confederacy and slavery.

## Utah House votes to drop 'Dixie' from university name

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Utah House on Feb. 10 voted in support of Dixie State University dropping "Dixie" from its name — an example of the nation's reexamination of the remnants of the Confederacy and slavery.

Dixie State University, which is located about 300 miles south of Salt Lake City in St. George, recommended the name change after reviewing the results of a study that showed some employers in other states expressed concern about the Dixie name on graduates' resumes. It also said nearly two-thirds of people in the college's recruiting region associate the name Dixie with the Confederacy.

The university's board of trustees voted for a name change in December, which

was then supported by the higher education board.

Dixie State had faced scrutiny in the past over its name but had resisted changing it. The area was nicknamed Dixie, a reference to Southern states, when settlers with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, many of them from the South, tried to make it a cotton-growing mecca in the 1800s.

Supporters say the name is important to the area's heritage and is separate from the history of slavery. But efforts across the U.S. to remove monuments, names and other Confederate symbols have intensified during the nation's reckoning over racial injustice.

In the wake of the nation's racial reckoning this summer, institutions throughout St. George have started to reconsider the Dixie name. In July, hospital officials announced

that Intermountain Dixie Regional Medical Center, located in southern Utah, would change its name to Intermountain St. George Regional Hospital, effective in January.

Dixie State has taken other steps in recent years to remove Confederate imagery. In 2009, the school's nickname was changed from the Rebels to Red Storm. A statue depicting a soldier on a horseback waving a Confederate flag with one hand and reaching out to a wounded soldier with the other was removed in 2012.

In 2013, a group of students, faculty and activists unsuccessfully pushed for a name change. The board unanimously voted to retain the name after a survey found broad local support.

The bill will now move to the Senate. The university has not chosen a new name yet.

## Proposed bill escalates debate over expanding and reducing national monuments



Timpanogos Cave is a national monument that is protected under federal law. The debate over expanding or reducing national monuments continues in the U.S. Senate.

By KRISTINE KIM

Sens. Mike Lee and Mitt Romney, both R-Utah, are working to pass the Protecting Utah's Rural Economy Act, a bill that aims to stop presidents from reducing or expanding any more national monuments in Utah.

The bill comes after some back-and-forth over two Utah national monuments. In 2017, former President Donald Trump released an order that the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments be reduced by 2 million acres.

Despite opposition and people wanting Trump to reverse the order, he decided to go ahead with the plans to decrease the area of both national monuments.

Lee's current bill came about after President Joe Biden wanted to expand Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments back to their original sizes, undoing Trump's reduction.

"National monuments in particular have become a political football that gets tossed back and forth as presidential administrations change," Romney said.

This issue has become a polarizing topic with Utahns expressing strong views from both sides of the matter.

"Utahns and Utah officials are especially sensitive to these issues since around two-thirds of Utah is federal land, so these decisions have a broad impact on the state whether one is pro-more monuments or pro-developing these lands," said BYU American politics professor Adam Dynes.

Some Utahns want the land on national monuments to be opened for drilling, mining and several recreational activities such as dirt-biking and off-roading.

"Nationally-owned land has so many restrictions

that are unnecessary," said BYU student and Utah native Abigail Dean.

However, "there are also plenty of Utahns who want to see these lands protected for low-impact recreation, tourism, scenic value, scientific study and tribal use," said BYU political science professor Adam Brown.

There are Utahns who prefer monuments being federally owned due to the negative impacts opening up the national monuments would have on the environment.

"Anytime we take off restrictions on land, then it's going to open it up to all sorts of things that will damage the landscape," said BYU geochemistry professor Gregory Carling.

There could also be negative impacts on the landscape of these monuments if off-roading or motorcycles were to be allowed on the terrain of the national monuments.

"Off-road vehicles tend to damage the landscape, and the ecology of the places. Damaging the landscape and the ecology would make these places not as valuable for scenic beauty and other forms of recreation," Carling said.

Opening up the land for drilling and mining could potentially bring in large amounts of money for the state of Utah.

However, Carling said while drilling and mining could help Utah make money, that would be a more short-term solution. A long-term solution would be to keep these national monuments to their original size so that more tourists will pay to experience the national monuments.

"It's tourism that is going to help our economy. If you live in rural parts of Utah with national parks and national monuments, tourism is an incredible source of income for these parts," he said.

## GameStop stock mania sparks interest in investing

By EMILY ATWOOD

The last week of January finished with an unexpected stock market mania many are calling the viral "GameStop Saga."

The short squeeze that raised eyebrows caused Redditors and bandwagon investors to walk away with a new fortune, while hedge funds didn't end up not as lucky. Those who were not as familiar with the stock market stood as bystanders, not knowing how or why to get involved.

A short squeeze occurs when a stock or other asset jumps sharply higher, forcing traders who had bet that its price would fall to buy it in order to forestall even greater losses, according to Investopedia. The frenzy and need to buy only increases the stock's price, which is exactly what happened to GameStop.

During the craze, there were many new, inexperienced investors who jumped on, hoping to make money off of the rapidly increasing stock prices. The GameStop incident shed light on how certain groups are less likely to invest their money in the stock market because of the risks and lack of resources and education.

These groups include women, younger people and those of lower socioeconomic status.

BYU Marriott's School of Accountancy Director Bill Tayler recreates and studies these stock market trends, like the recent GameStop mania, in his research. He has discovered several findings on these stock market bubbles and the risks of short selling, which is



Associated Press

GameStop stock rocketed from below \$20 to around \$350 in January as a volunteer army of investors on social media challenged big institutions who placed market bets that the stock would fall.

the borrowing of shares and immediately selling them to make quick cash.

Tayler said short selling can be risky because it is hard to determine how long stock market bubbles will last. "The problem with short selling is you can also lose a ton of money fast, so this is why usually only wealthy investors get involved in short selling."

BYU accounting professor Jake Thornock said although people should proceed with caution while entering the stock market, learning the basic principles of investing can help break past stock market entrance barriers. This

can include researching which companies to invest in, how to open an account, how to budget money to save for investing and more.

"It was much harder a decade ago for someone in the bottom bracket of socioeconomic status to invest," Thornock said. "Now, pretty much anyone with a cell phone and a bank account can invest as long as you have one of the apps to do so, such as Robinhood."

Apps like Robinhood, Acorns and Stash can help beginners with investing and entering the stock market with confidence. There are also

several classes at BYU which offer instruction on how to finance and invest.

Starting to invest while young and having a long-term perspective on finances can be beneficial, said BYU family finance professor Jeffrey Hill. Even if it is just a little amount to set aside, one can benefit greatly from the stock market early on. Hill said students just have to be careful.

"I believe that every student at BYU should be investing something every month until they retire. It's not just the amount that you're doing it but you're getting in the habit of doing it," Hill said.

## Utah bill banning trans athletes in girls sports advances

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Transgender athletes would be barred from playing on girls' sports teams under a bill that advanced Feb. 11 in Utah, one of more than a dozen states considering similar measures that opponents say would harm trans teenagers.

The lawmaker sponsoring the measure, Republican Rep. Kera Birkeland, said it would ensure fairness in women's sports by making sure female athletes aren't competing against those identified as male at birth.

Opponents, though, say it would discriminate against students who are told they can't play with their peers.

"I don't believe that the representative's intent is to harm transgender students, but the impact most definitely will," said Troy Williams with Equality Utah, the Deseret News reported.

Birkeland, a girls' basketball coach, responded that her bill isn't aimed at excluding teenagers from sports.

"But we have to weigh that against what is fair for our female athletes," she said, according to the Salt Lake Tribune. She did not cite any cases of transgender girls



Associated Press/Kristin Murphy  
Rep. Kera Birkeland, R-Morgan, talks about her bill HB302 at a House Education Committee meeting at the State Office Building in Salt Lake City on Feb. 11. The bill would bar transgender athletes at public schools from participating in girls sports.

trying to play sports in Utah, saying a small number of students have considered playing but chose not to.

The bill was approved by a panel of lawmakers Feb. 11 and now advances to the House floor. Similar bills have also advanced in states like Tennessee and Montana.

Utah is one of more than a

dozen states considering similar bills this year. Idaho was the only state to pass a similar law last year, but it has been blocked in federal court as a lawsuit plays out.

A legislative attorney gave neutral testimony explaining the bill may be declared unconstitutional if passed into law. The bill would not block

male transgender teens from playing boys' sports. It would not apply to college sports.

The measure also runs counter to an executive order signed by Democratic President Joe Biden during his first day in office prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity in school sports and elsewhere.

## Halloween party organizers face charges, fines for violating public safety laws

By LINDSEY REESE

The Utah County Attorney General's Office announced Feb. 8 that nine individuals have been charged with public safety violations following a Halloween party near Utah Lake last fall.

The event was estimated to have been attended by around 10,000 people. The party was advertised at the time as "The Protest on Halloween" before the event was formally canceled by organizers. However, a large party still took place that evening.

Police were called to the event after reports of an attendee being injured crowd-surfing. There were also reports of several car accidents in the area that evening, though no one was seriously injured. The event was shut down when police arrived around 10 p.m.

In a press-only Zoom



People dance at a Young/Dumb party on Sept. 4, 2020. Young/Dumb is one of the organizations facing up to \$10,000 in fines for violation of public safety, according to the Utah County Attorney's Office.

call on Feb. 8, Utah County Attorney David O. Leavitt announced that nine individuals were being charged with a Class B misdemeanor as

punishment for the event.

Beyond the nine individuals who were charged for the incident, formal organizers are also being held

responsible for the violations. Both The Tribe, LLC; and Young and Dumb, LLC may have to pay a \$10,000 fine for helping organize the event.

Several members of these organizing companies were on the press-only Zoom call.

Leavitt said he struggled finding a balance between his

role in enforcing health orders and allowing for freedom of speech and expression. "While we have seen many businesses reinvent themselves so they can survive the pandemic, others have used the pandemic to profit on people by having them gather and put them at risk of COVID-19."

Utah County is considered an area of high transmission for COVID-19. Utah health guidance currently recommends that gatherings are limited to 10 people or fewer, with social distancing enforced.

Though the investigation is ongoing, Leavitt expressed a desire to make the charges public because the parties are still happening. Young and Dumb, LLC plans to have another party on Feb. 13. Masks are to be required but gathering recommendations will be violated.

Utahns are still expected to limit social gatherings for the time being.



Allison McArthur  
Companies like Trader Joe's, Dollar General, Aldi and more are incentivizing their employees to get vaccinated through extra pay.

## Some stores pay employees to receive COVID-19 vaccine

By MADISON SELCHO

Trader Joe's, Dollar General and other companies are incentivizing their employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine with a cash bonus.

Trader Joe's announced its commitment on Jan. 14 to give employees two hours of pay for each vaccine. Dollar General released plans for an incentive program just one day before Trader Joe's statement was released.

"We do not want our employees to have to choose between receiving a vaccine or coming to work, so we are working to remove barriers by providing frontline hourly team members with a one-time payment equivalent of four hours of regular pay after receiving a completed COVID-19 vaccination," Dollar General said in its statement.

Other companies, including the grocery delivery service Instacart and supermarket chain Aldi, have joined in encouraging their employees to receive the vaccine through pay and time off with no penalty.

"The company will cover costs associated with vaccine administration and will provide employees with two hours of pay for each dose they receive, up to four hours total, as well as scheduling flexibility for salaried employees," Aldi said in its statement.

While these companies are

encouraging their employees to get vaccinated, many of them specify it is not a requirement.

"We understand the decision to receive the COVID-19 vaccination is a personal choice, and although we are encouraging employees to take it, we are not requiring them to do so," Dollar General said.

Utah County Health Department spokesperson Kylaas Flanagan said the department is always updating its websites for more information on how and why to get the vaccine.

"Our main resource is our website that is updated with new information all the time. You can go to health.utahcounty.gov for information about our COVID-19 efforts," Flanagan said. "We have resources specific to the vaccine, general coronavirus concerns, geographic distribution of cases, official declarations that are in effect, signage and much more."

Flanagan said he was pleased with employers exercising their legal right to encourage employees to be vaccinated, but the health department can't go that far.

"The constantly evolving nature of this pandemic response is a direct result of increased research, information and data. We promote only official recommendations and mandates; if others feel comfortable going above and beyond these official recommendations, there should be relatively no risk doing so," Flanagan said.

While these companies are

## City Council denies parking permit extension

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City Council voted against a proposal to extend the current parking permit program in the University Gardens/North Foothills area.

The purpose of expanding the permit program to portions of 820 North from 1025 East to 900 East would be "to preserve on-street parking for those who live within the neighborhood and to prevent abandoned vehicles from remaining stationary on the street," said city planner Javin Weaver.

Current parking permits in the area are meant to make sure residents of those streets have sufficient parking, rather than having their parking spots taken by students. Residents of the area pay \$15 per parking permit.

"It's a fairly large permit area that's already in place there. We're talking about a very small, incremental growth, and I'm not sure why it was not included when the program was originally set up. This would extend it just a very small amount," Councilman David Harding said in favor of the extension.

The proposed expansion would have provided 40 new



Hannah Miner  
The Provo City Council voted against an extension of the parking permit program in the University Gardens/Foothill neighborhood.

parking spaces for residents with permits on 820 North, but the city planner's office noted that vehicles are only occupying the street on a 72% average, leaving enough spaces open for the residents of the area.

The city planner's office also estimated that this extension of the permit area could add 116 permits to the affected area and possibly bring more cars into the area instead of less.

The city planner's office expressed their concerns for the expansion, stating "the \$15 cost of the proposed permit does not cover the cost to administer and enforce. If the council wants to add additional parking permit areas

and expansions, additional staff will be needed to manage and enforce efficiently."

Members of the City Council addressed this concern from the city planner's office following the proposal presentation.

"I'm wondering if that's not the right fee," said Councilman George Handley. "Maybe not for this particular project because I don't think (we've) found a compelling reason to have (the permit expansion) here, but if there were a desirable location for a permit program and the \$15 isn't covering it, and staff is at capacity, maybe it's time we think about a higher fee."

"I fully understand that our

enforcement is kind of at the limit, but you know, this is just finishing driving down the street. I am very supportive (in general) as we move forward of charging fees that cover the cost of administering the program," Harding said.

The council voted unanimously on Feb. 2 to deny this parking permit program extension.

The city planner's office recommends continuing to enforce the 72-hour parking restriction in the area and monitoring the parking situation because "there is still plenty of on street parking available within the corridor," Weaver said.

## Police Beat

### Provo

#### THEFT

**Feb. 7** - Property theft was reported near 1900 North and 550 West.

**Feb. 7** - A bicycle was reported stolen from a residence near 3600 North and 230 East.

**Feb. 8** - Property theft was reported near 1000 South and 1000 East.

**Feb. 9** - Property theft was reported near 300 West on Cougar Boulevard.

**Feb. 9** - Property theft was

reported at the Provo Towne Centre shopping mall at 1200 Towne Centre Blvd.

**Feb. 11** - Property theft was reported near 500 West and 940 North.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Feb. 6** - An aggravated sexual assault was reported in an alleyway near 2200 North on University Avenue.

**Feb. 8** - Forcible sexual abuse was reported near 1500 North on Canyon Road.

**Feb. 10** - A sexual assault was reported near 100 South and

300 West.

### BYU

#### DISTURBANCE

**Feb. 6** - University Police responded to a report of people throwing water balloons at the Y Mountain trailhead. The individuals said they were not targeting people and were warned to be conscientious of hikers in the area.

#### VEHICLE FIRE

**Feb. 8** - A car parked in a lot near the Maeser Building caught fire due to mechanical issues. Provo Fire responded

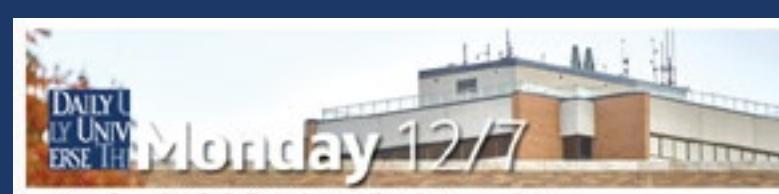
to extinguish the fire, and the University Police responded to assist in determining the cause of the fire. No injuries were reported.

#### RECOVERED PROPERTY

**Feb. 9** - A stolen van was found parked in a lot near Heritage Halls. An individual arrested several weeks ago for campus bike thefts had the key to the van in his possession. The van was returned to its owner in Orem and a charge of possession of stolen vehicle was added to the suspect's charges.

# The daily part of The Daily Universe

## The Daily Universe Newsletter



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 Maddie Mehr

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

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

# Sara Hamson leads by example for BYU women's basketball

By ISABELLE ZYHAILO

BYU women's basketball senior Sara Hamson is one of the tallest players in the nation at 6-foot-7, first in the West Coast Conference in blocked shots, the reigning WCC Defensive Player of the Year, and part of a legendary family of BYU athletes.

The female side of Hamson's family has had most of the athletic success. Hamson, her mother Teresa, and older sister Jennifer hold the top three spots on the list of most blocked shots in BYU women's basketball history.

"I think I am only 130 (blocks) behind (my) mom, so coming back next year I hopefully can crack that," Hamson said.

Hamson said how amazing it is to have the opportunity to share that with her family, and is grateful for how she was raised.

"I've been playing for as long as I can remember," Sara said. "I probably (started in) kindergarten, little rec leagues, back when you had colored wristbands to match who you were guarding."

Her love of team sports came from playing a variety of sports growing up, including soccer, volleyball and softball. She said she was very privileged to have parents that let her try all the ones that interested her.

"She has always been tall and (blocking shots has) always been part of her game," her father, Dave Hamson, said. "I think people don't understand how long she really is."

Hamson's wingspan measures nearly seven feet, allowing her to block shots with relative ease. She matched her career-high of nine blocks for the fifth time in her career on Feb. 9 against Pepperdine.

"Our defense is very team-based and my teammates do a great job of running people off the line and making them run to me which makes my job easier," Hamson said. "When the opportunity arises, I take what I can get."

COVID-19 has affected this season in more ways than one, but she said her teammates are always watching out for each other.



Addie Blacker

Sara Hamson high fives teammates before a game in the Marriott Center. Hamson is a team captain this year and prides herself on leading by example on the court.

"This season has taught me resilience," Hamson said. "Because there have been so many unexpected things thrown at us, and at me, this year, I've been learning a lot and have been able to practice weathering all these challenges that life has thrown at us."

The Cougars went from playing one game in 10 days, to now six games in 14 days because of COVID-19 cancellations and reschedulings. She said it has made this season very unusual and tough, both mentally and physically. It is also hard for some of her teammates to balance school with the recent and sometimes last-minute travel for away games.

"Luckily though, our team is so good and so deep that we can all help carry that load of six games in two weeks," Hamson said. "I've been super impressed with the consistency with our team and just working hard every day and in practice by pushing through the hard times and showing up for every game."

This is Hamson's senior year and she is one of the team captains. However, because of a new NCAA rule, all four seniors on the team have until March to decide if they want to come back next season. She said they will most likely return for another year with the added COVID-19 eligibility.

"I think it's very exciting to see what we do this year," Hamson said. "We have high and lofty goals, but to achieve those we need to take it one step at a time and see what happens."

One of those goals is to be conference champions, but after her college career, she has big plans of her own.

"So plan A is to play pro and get drafted or play overseas," Hamson said. "If that doesn't work out, then get a programming job and travel the world because I would just love to have more experiences and see different cultures."

Being a team captain has helped Hamson grow as a person as well as grow her confidence in who she is. She

is focused on making sure people feel seen and noticed.

"I am very big on leading by example," Hamson said. "I am not the most vocal of our captains or seniors, so I like to say little things in practice, and try to be encouraging. There are a lot of good things that go on in our team and it's hard to get everything that goes unnoticed."

Head coach Jeff "Juddy" Judkins has been influential to Hamson. She said he has been the best coach for her, ever since her first semester at BYU.

"Juddy is so great," she said. "He has a lot of confidence in himself and a lot of confidence in me, and that has been so helpful to fully believe in my potential and support me in that."

Judkins said Hamson has stepped up defensively and has been more aggressive. Against Pacific on Jan. 26 he said she had her best offensive game of the season with 12 points on 6-of-9 shooting.

"It's great when you have so much

depth on a team and allow people to get better," Judkins said.

Hamson had her eye on BYU since she was very young, but it wasn't until she started playing more competitively that other colleges started looking at her. She said it was exciting for her to think about playing at a different school than her family, but as she narrowed down her options, BYU was the one for her.

BYU's roster will be expanding next season with five freshmen coming to the team, along with other potential newcomers.

"I would tell them to keep your head up and have a long term vision to see the whole picture," Hamson said in her message to new BYU athletes.

She also said college is a big change, but new athletes have to "control what you can, and go to work."

"We are excited that this year, because of COVID, isn't the end for this team because we will have next year as well," Hamson said.

## BYU Athletics hires associate athletic director for diversity and inclusion

By CALEB TURNER



BYU Athletics

BYU Athletic Director Tom Holmoe announced on Feb. 12 the hiring of Whitney Johnson as the program's first Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development, Diversity and Inclusion.

"Student-athletes are the center of everything we do. Providing them with the support they need is essential," Holmoe said in a press release. "Specifically over the past year, many diversity and inclusion issues have come to light that are prevalent in our nation, community and BYU Athletics family. These are not new issues. They are things we've been working on. We must be unified and work diligently to better educate and empower each other, to love one another and respect one another. We are so glad to have Whitney help us do so."

Johnson is a former student-athlete herself, having played basketball at both New Mexico and Southern Utah from 2011-2018. She comes to BYU from the headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where she worked with the missionary department.

"I am extremely honored and grateful to be a part of the BYU family," Johnson said in the press release. "The creation of this position is a testament to the vision of Tom Holmoe and his staff and their desire to create the ultimate environment in which student-athletes can succeed. Though the nation has suffered difficult times, the potential for growth and improvement is tangible, and I'm excited to help BYU Athletics lead the charge."

Johnson took a break during her time in college to serve as a full-time missionary for The Church in Mexico.

After her collegiate playing career and earning an MBA from SUU, Johnson worked at Indiana University, where she specialized in student-athlete development, including diversity and inclusion efforts. She then worked at the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis in the leadership development department. Among her efforts at the NCAA, she created a mentorship program to aid recently-graduated student-athletes in navigating the athletics industry.

Johnson is a board member of Return on Inclusion and Untold Athletes, a media

platform started by BYU tennis alumnus David Ball, and an active member of Women Leaders in College Sports.

Her duties will include overseeing the strategic vision and program implementation for diversity and inclusion within BYU Athletics, including for minority student-athletes in the core areas of race/ethnicity, international, LGBT, and student-athletes of other faiths.

Johnson becomes the second female and first Black member of the BYU Athletics senior leadership team. The hire is another step toward a more diverse program for BYU, after hiring Kalani Sitake as the first Tongan head coach in collegiate history in 2016.

BYU Athletics is currently running a campaign titled "Root Out Racism," among its student-athletes during Black History Month, inviting speakers to help them learn more about the history of race and leading a discussion on eliminating racism at BYU.

At the end of the press release announcing Johnson's hiring, the department said, "BYU Athletics is striving to follow the charge of President Russell M. Nelson, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU's sponsoring institution, as he has instructed members of the church to 'lead out' in abandoning attitudes of prejudice and to root out racism."



BYU Photo

Junior Carson Lundell takes a swing at Riverside Country Club. Lundell tied for first at the Nick Watney Invitational and helped the BYU men's golf team win its first tournament of the season.

## BYU men's golf finishes victorious at Watney Invitational

By JAKE GONZALES

The BYU men's golf team won the Nick Watney Invitational in Fresno, California, on Feb. 9 with a score of 273 in the final round to get the Cougars' first tournament victory of the season.

"I loved the attitude," BYU head coach Bruch Brockbank said. "I liked the gas, a lot of energy, they're working hard. It was just really fun to watch this group of guys put together and win the Watney. We were fortunate enough to make enough birdies to get the win."

BYU finished the final round at 15-under-par, the best 18-hole team score of the entire tournament. The Cougars completed the tourney with a three-round total of 833, narrowly defeating Loyola Marymount who placed second with a score of 836.

"When you've got five guys playing, a lot of times you've got one or two guys who are really struggling and the other three guys have to bail them out," Brockbank said. "But to have every one of your guys coming down the last three holes at three-under-par or better, you're just going 'wow, what just happened?' You know? Because it doesn't happen."

Not only did the Cougars win the tournament overall, but junior Carson Lundell tied for first with LMU's Gavin Cohen with a three-round total of 203 (68-69-66).

Two other Cougars joined Lundell in the top 10, with sophomore Cole Ponich finishing in fourth place and sophomore David Timmins tying for ninth. Neither player had ever finished in a tournament top 10 prior to this point in their BYU careers.

BYU was sitting squarely in third place prior to the final round but managed to surge past West Coast Conference foes LMU and Saint Mary's en route to victory.

Kelton Hirsch brought momentum to the entire Cougar squad in the final round. Hirsch immediately putted three birdies in a row, and Lundell followed suit with three birdies of his own. Soon enough, the whole team was following their example, finishing the round in glorious fashion.

With just a three-shot lead over LMU, things were extremely tight at the end. But just as the pressure was mounting, sophomore Cole Ponich birdied the last two holes to solidify the Cougar victory.

"As a coach, watching it play out was pretty fun to see," Brockbank said. "Every tournament you go to you want to be in contention and you want to win tournaments. We hadn't done it this year with the group, but man, they were playing like champs the last round for sure."

BYU will look to continue the momentum in Chula Vista, California as the Cougars compete in the Lamkin Invitational at the San Diego Country Club on March 8-9.

## Conference tournaments still on schedule despite concerns

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gonzaga's Mark Few isn't being asked the usual question of where his team should be seeded for next month's NCAA Tournament. The Bulldogs remain unbeaten and have been the top-ranked team all season, making them a virtual shoo-in for a top seed.

Instead, he is being asked if it makes any sense for Gonzaga to compete in its conference tournament given ongoing pandemic concerns.

"I think everybody is kind of waiting to see what's going to be the best thing for the league moving forward," Few said. "So, we'll just see how it goes."

With a little more than four weeks remaining until Selection Sunday, all 30 conferences playing this season are planning to hold tournaments to determine their automatic bids to the 68-team field. The deadline is Feb. 26 for leagues to notify the selection committee if they plan to shift the bid to their regular-season champion.

Coaches appear split on holding conference tournaments. A recent CBS Sports survey of 41 coaches found 27% were opposed.

Few would love to get his team two more games in a tournament setting and help raise the West Coast Conference's profile a couple more notches, but not at the expense of his team missing March Madness due to COVID-19. The NCAA has mandated that teams must have seven straight days of negative tests prior to arriving in Indiana. Players must have an additional two negative PCR tests before starting practice.

"There are some really stringent and strict protocols that we are going to really hit here to get ourselves ready," Few said. "We kind of discovered with our own little COVID-19 experience with all our guys, seven, nine days is kind of that window that if you're around somebody that is exposed and you can make it past that, you should be good. That's going to



Associated Press

The West Coast Conference logo is photographed at the McCarthey Athletic Center before an NCAA college basketball game between Gonzaga and Alabama State in Spokane, Washington, Nov. 5, 2019.

be really tight with the conference tournament."

Gonzaga's only advantage if it has a positive test is that the WCC final would take place March 9 while most conferences have their finals either March 13 or 14.

Two of the Power Five conferences have moved their tournaments to limit travel. The Big Ten moved its tournament from Chicago to Indianapolis earlier this week. The Atlantic Coast earlier decided to play its games in Greensboro, North Carolina, instead of Washington.

The SEC (Nashville) and Big 12 (Kansas City) are remaining in their current locations. Baylor coach Scott Drew said the Big 12 has told coaches their setup would be like a bubble similar to the NCAA Tournament.

The Pac-12 and West Coast — along with the Mountain West, Western Athletic and Big West — are playing in Las Vegas, with all five conferences discussing the best practices. The Big West had been held in Anaheim, California, since 2001 but moved to Vegas this year to set up a bubble.

Even though most conferences aren't expected to have fans at their games, they would

lose more money via television contracts if a tournament had to be scrapped. For some, that would be a second straight season of conference tournament disruptions since the pandemic's onset came in the midst of championship week last year.

Instead of tournaments, some coaches would like to see teams make up postponed games, but it is nearly impossible to make up everything at this point. For example, No. 2 Baylor has had six Big 12 games postponed, including both against West Virginia.

With the unbalanced schedules, the tournaments might also be the only equitable way to ensure all teams in a conference get a shot at making the big dance.

"Given what these kids have already dealt with all season long, do you really want to take that opportunity away? The answer to that is probably not," Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. "Fortunately, there are people a lot smarter than me that are going to make those decisions. Like usual, I'll just do what I'm told."

Duke's Mike Krzyzewski is in favor of the ACC tournament for two reasons — it is one of the oldest in the country and the automatic bid might be the

Blue Devils' only shot to make the field.

"The ACC tournament is such an important thing. I would want that more than making up a game during that time because of how important that is for our conference than a singular game," he said.

Louisville coach Chris Mack believes some teams will opt out of their conference post-season if they have an NCAA berth secured.

However, Kentucky coach John Calipari said teams opting out this year could have negative effects down the road.

Calipari doesn't hide his disdain for conference tournaments but does see the value in them.

"If the best teams in conferences opt out, the NCAA would probably come back and say your winner is not going to be an automatic bid. And so, why wouldn't we do it every year, the top four or five teams in our league just say we're opting out of the tournament so that we get one more team in. So, I don't think that will be the case," he said. "I think that either we'll all play or there will be a reason — and the reason would be the safety of the players and the coaches — that we wouldn't play."

## Women's volleyball undefeated through five games



Taylen Ballard Nixon blocks a hit against Gonzaga on Feb. 9 in the Smith Fieldhouse. The BYU women's volleyball team is 5-0 to start the season and will stay at home next to take on Loyola Marymount on Feb. 16 and 17.



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

## BYU's 'Bun Boiz' find balance between school and small business

By EMILY ATWOOD

Two BYU students got a taste of being student small business owners last weekend as they opened up their new fusion bao bun restaurant, Bun Boiz.

BYU juniors Jimmy Watson and Braden Swanson were inspired to start Bun Boiz because of their love for cooking and support from BYU and peers.

At the beginning of 2020, Watson and Swanson started to experiment in the kitchen with different kinds of chicken sandwiches. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, they worked to perfect their sandwich recipe and began experimenting with baking buns.

Though the two initially started to make food as a hobby to share with their friends, Watson said he had always wanted to start his own food business. He started to brainstorm many ways they could take their love for making and sharing food to the next level.

Watson's entrepreneurship class at BYU eventually motivated him to act on his idea. His professor encouraged him to take the first step and become a student entrepreneur.

"In September 2020, Jimmy came to me and explained the whole idea behind what is now 'Bun Boiz.' We decided to just take a bunch of food that we like to cook and eat and blend everything into a bun," Swanson said.

Through trial and error, Swanson and Watson spent time outside of school perfecting their recipes and laying out a business plan. Swanson said they had to learn to manage their time and experienced several sleepless nights during Fall Semester in order to effectively open up shop in February.

On Feb. 4, Bun Boiz opened a pop-up shop in downtown Provo selling a wide array of buns, including a spinach artichoke bun and a Buffalo



The Bun Boiz sell an array of Bao fusion buns, including a Buffalo chicken bun, spinach artichoke filled bun and cinnamon roll bun.

chicken bun. They recruited several other friends and students to help out with the process and, in what they called "organized chaos," introduced Bun Boiz to Provo.

Just in the first night, the Bun Boiz were shocked and excited to see that their entire inventory of buns sold out.

Watson attributes their success to helpful resources that they received through BYU and the Marriott School's Rollins Center. "BYU has so many resources; it's incredible. The sheer amount of help that we've gotten just by being BYU students makes me wish people would realize that they can reach out and take those first steps with their ideas," Watson said.

BYU student Emry Wallwork assisted the Bun Boiz on their opening weekend and experienced the frenzy and excitement of starting a small

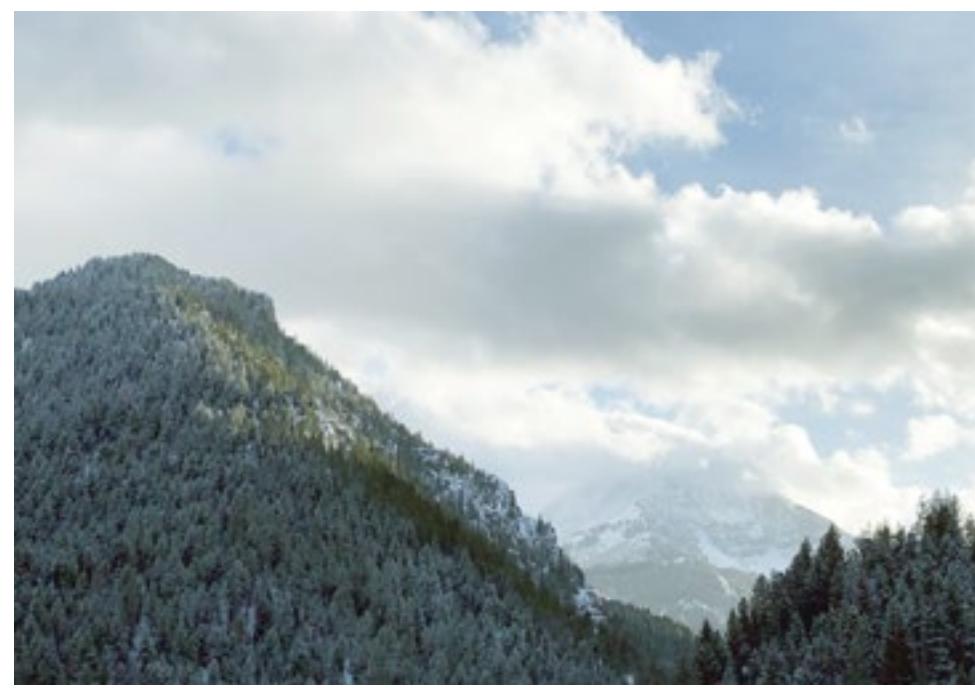
business as a student. Wallwork runs her own small business on the side and said it is a great creative outlet for her while at school.

"Starting a business is a lot more time put into it than you think it's going to be," Wallwork said. "So, if you're going to start something, go all in and be ready to put in hours and hours, whole weekends, and everything. But it's so worth it."

For now, Watson said they hope to continue opening up pop-up shops around Provo on weekends and eventually establish a full-scale casual fast-food restaurant for Bun Boiz.

"We just hope to keep making good food and more buns," Swanson said.

Bun Boiz is open for business in Provo on weekend nights. More information about Bun Boiz can be found on its website or on Instagram at @the\_bun\_boiz.



Addie Blacker  
Following avalanche safety guidelines and reading the Utah avalanche report can be crucial for safety during snow seasons.

## Avalanche safety guidelines, knowledge could save lives during snow season

By KRISTINE KIM

Avalanche safety has become a top priority for those who do recreational activities such as skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling in Utah's mountains after an avalanche in Salt Lake's Mill Creek Canyon buried and killed four Utahns on Feb. 6.

According to National Geographic, humans trigger 90% of avalanche disasters that they get caught in. Over the last 10 years, an average of 27 people died in avalanches each winter in the United States.

Outdoor recreation company Utah Mountain Adventures said the number one thing to do to avoid being caught in an avalanche is to recognize and understand what avalanche terrain looks like and stay away from it.

"The avalanche hazard has been extremely high this year," said Utah Mountain Adventures owner and president Julie Faure.

Avalanches are affected by many factors, including the weather, the layering, the snowpack and how sloped the mountain is.

Faure said an important aspect of understanding avalanches and whether the snow is stable is to "follow the weather from the beginning of the snowpack, around September or October."

As snow falls early in the season, if there isn't more snow for a long period of time, the snow on the ground will start losing its cohesion.

"When new snow falls on top of it, it's like marbles sitting on the ground, and then you have the new snow on top that becomes cohesive like a blanket," Faure said. "It has a certain thickness but it's sitting on what acts as marbles and if you tilt it upwards, then it will slide."

Those who really want to avoid any scare of avalanches should stay on slopes with a shallow incline, as most avalanches don't occur on slopes of 25 degrees or less — the majority occur on slopes that are

35-45 degrees.

"Where the snow is being deposited, higher temperatures, melting and water content of the snow can also make a difference," said BYU geography professor Matt Bekker.

There are also avalanche safety courses that anyone can take to learn the skills necessary for going into avalanche terrain.

"Read the Utah Avalanche report, know the risks, the slope angles you are skiing on, and carry the safety gear," said Utahn and local avid skier Matthew Conover.

Avalanche safety gear usually includes three pieces: an avalanche transceiver or a beacon, a snow probe, and a snow shovel.

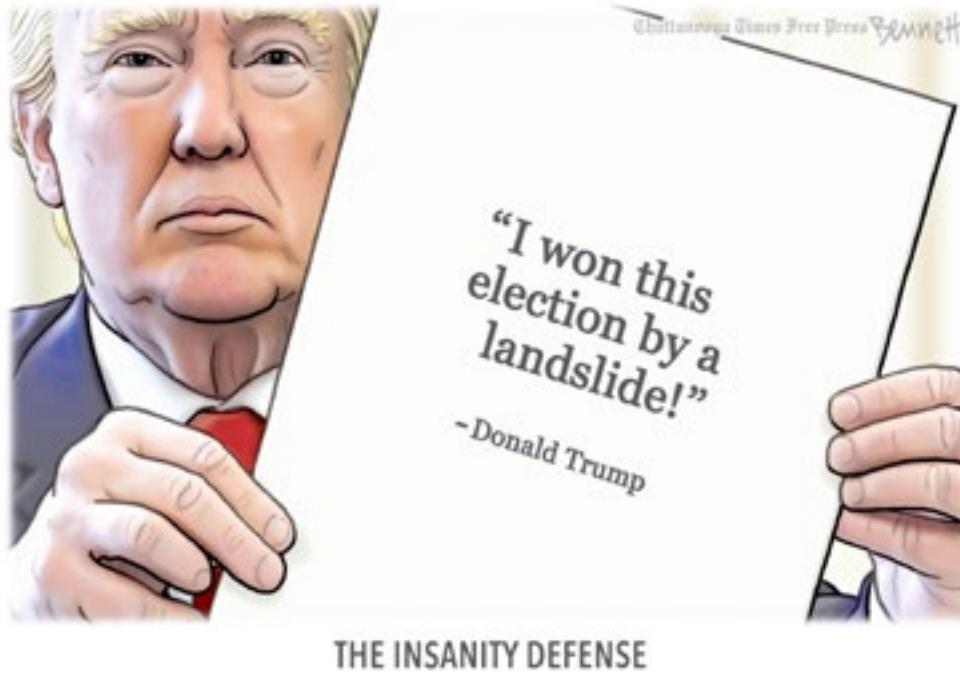
Conover said carrying avalanche safety gear and going in pairs or groups is usually safer than being alone when in avalanche terrain.

For more questions or avalanche safety course information, visit [avalanche.org](http://avalanche.org) or Utah Mountain Adventures' website.



# 2021 HOUSING GUIDE

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## 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.

### Should BYU require students to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, unless you have the antibodies already.  
@LEXBYBEE

It's a private university. It can do whatever it wants.  
@JAKEWOODS\_2019

Yes, unless specific health conditions prevent them doing so. Similar to beard waivers  
@CHALKARUTAH

Nope, especially for those of us who have already had covid  
@SCOTT\_TULEY

No the flu vaccine isn't mandatory, so why should the Covid vaccine be?  
@EMMAMAMA4

Yes! Many universities require the meningitis vaccine, how is the COVID one any different?  
@MANDY.RICKETT.ERICKSON

If it's going to open normal activities back up, then absolutely!  
@JEFFREYCROWLEE

In general yes, allow some exceptions.  
@ALEXIA.BIGELOW

No. People should be able to make their own decisions about their healthcare.  
@BDERIEG

A vaccine shouldn't be forced on the public. It should be voluntary  
@CHELSEA.DAY.425

Yes! Makes things safer and healthier for everyone :)  
@THERES\_A\_BELL

No. It should be a personal choice to put something in your body.  
@HEATHERSLATER\_

Yes, BYU has had vaccine requirements before such as TB/etc, so this isn't new  
@AUBREECURTIS

Him: "I'm not like most Provo bros"  
Most of the bros:



Juniors in Winter 2022 stepping onto BYU campus for the first time after 2.5 years of doing school at home due to COVID



Brock Dowdle

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

### Gun control

There are no school shootings on Zoom. And no live music means no cold-blooded massacres of concertgoers. But the fact that those ghastly paroxysms of death and despair have gone silent over the last year of pandemic shutdowns doesn't mean that the everyday horror of gun violence in America has. Indeed, meaningful gun control cannot become an afterthought for President Biden and congressional leaders....

— Editorial Board

*The Boston Globe*

### The great student loan scam

The Biden Presidency is quickly turning into Barack Obama's third term, only more liberal. Consider the Democrats calling on President Biden to use the pandemic to cancel \$50,000 in student debt per borrower. What they want everyone to forget is that in 2010 they used the last recession to justify a federal takeover of student loans that have since more than doubled to \$1.6 trillion. Now they're using the pandemic to justify loan write-offs they said would never happen.

The great student loan scam began in 2010 when Democrats used budget "savings" from ending the federal guaranteed-loan

program to pay for ObamaCare. "By cutting out the middleman, we'll save American taxpayers \$68 billion in the coming years," Mr. Obama declared. Where were the media fact-checkers then?

— Editorial Board  
*The Wall Street Journal*

### Porn filters

Utah has been a leader when it comes to recognizing the deleterious effects of pornography.... Now, lawmakers are considering HB72, a bill... that would require all cellphones sold within the state to come with content filters turned on.... Adult purchasers would be given a passcode with which to disable the filter, should they choose.

We urge Rep. Pulsipher... to

continue efforts to pass HB72 out of committee, just as we urge other lawmakers to find new and different ways to stymie the spread of pornography and its harmful effects on society.

— Editorial Board  
*Deseret News*

### Utah lands

All that land within the borders of the state of Utah that is owned by the government of the United States of America — about 65% of our total acres — has a big sign on it: Under new management.

It is an opportunity for Utah's elected leaders to form a new, more productive, more realistic relationship with the landlords of so much of the land that surrounds us. And for the new administration to do the same.

— Editorial Board

*The Salt Lake Tribune*

## OPINION OUTPOST

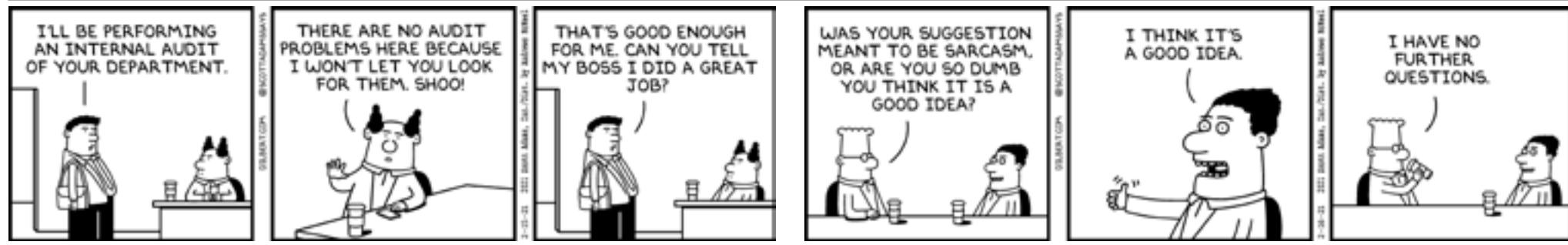
### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

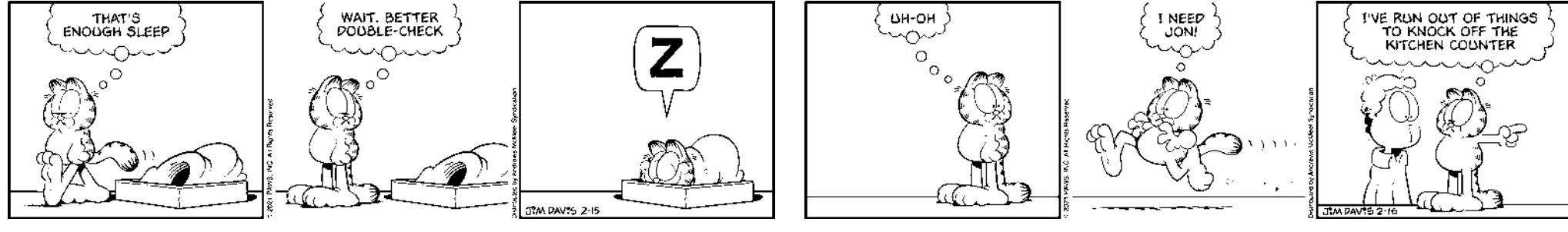
- All letters should be submitted by email to [universe.ideas@gmail.com](mailto:universe.ideas@gmail.com). The topic of the letter should be included in the subject line.
- Letters should also include the author's name, hometown (for students), campus position (for faculty and staff) and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published.
- Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity or style.

Opinion editor Kenzie Holbrook can be reached at [universe.ideas@gmail.com](mailto:universe.ideas@gmail.com).

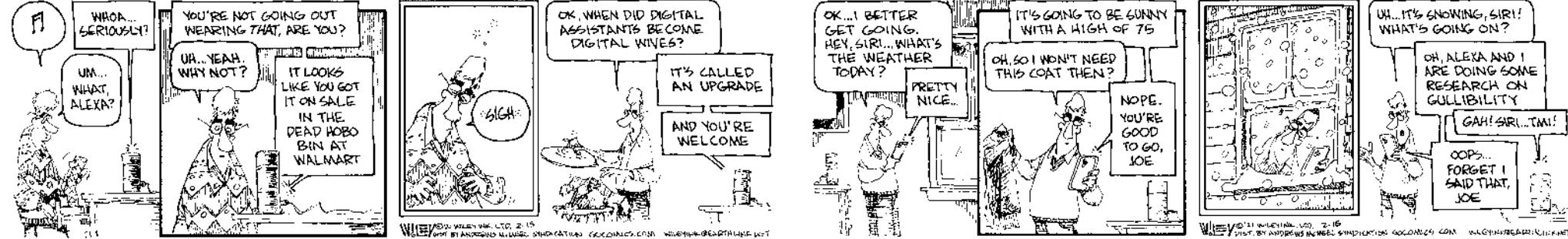
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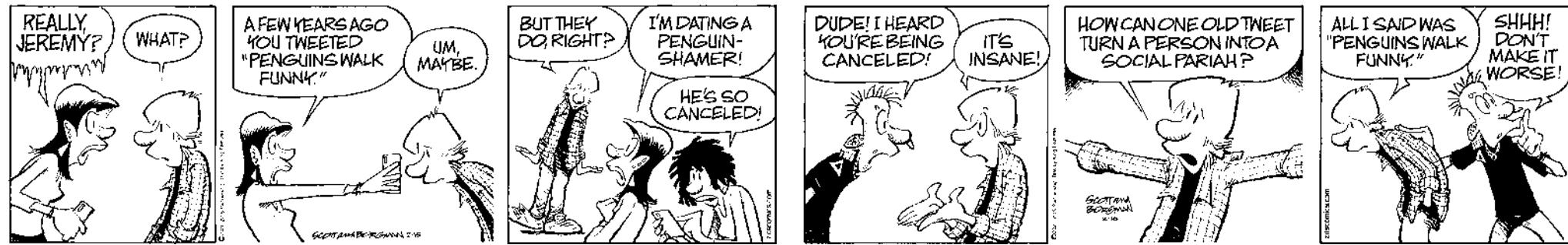
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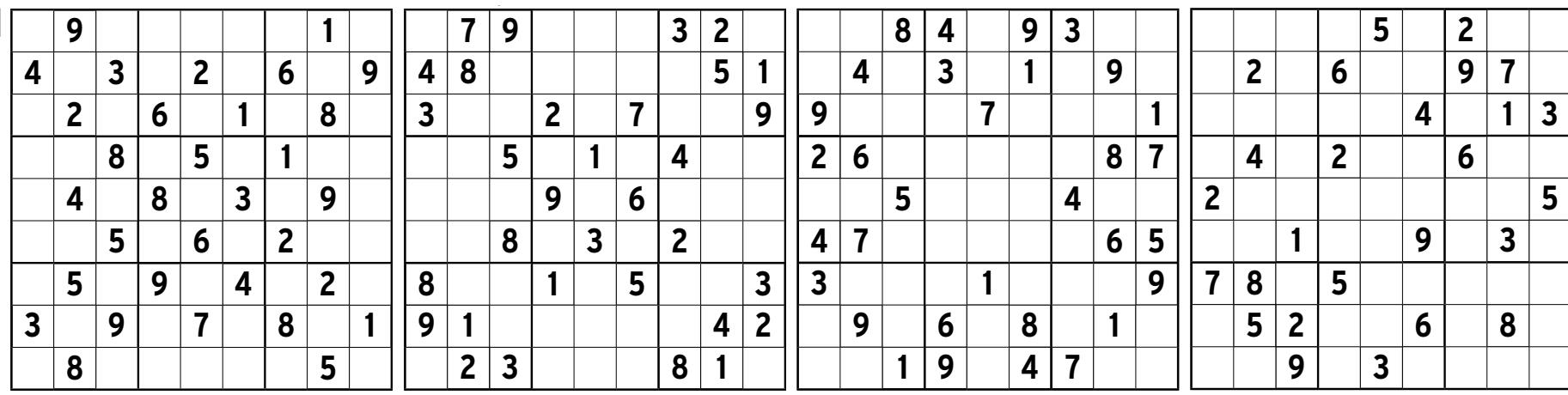


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## Sudoku

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



## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0111

## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0112

## ACROSS

1 Periodically sold fast-food item  
6 What melting ice cream cones do  
10 Swindle  
14 Actress Donovan of "Sabrina the Teenage Witch"  
15 "Othello" villain  
16 House in Mexico  
17 Less risky  
18 Cast celebration at the end of filming  
20 Feelers  
22 Frozen expanse  
23 Olive \_\_\_ (Popeye's sweetie)  
24 It can be used for welcoming or wrestling  
25 Charged particle  
26 Souvenirs from Havana  
31 Loosen, as laces and  
32 CPR performer

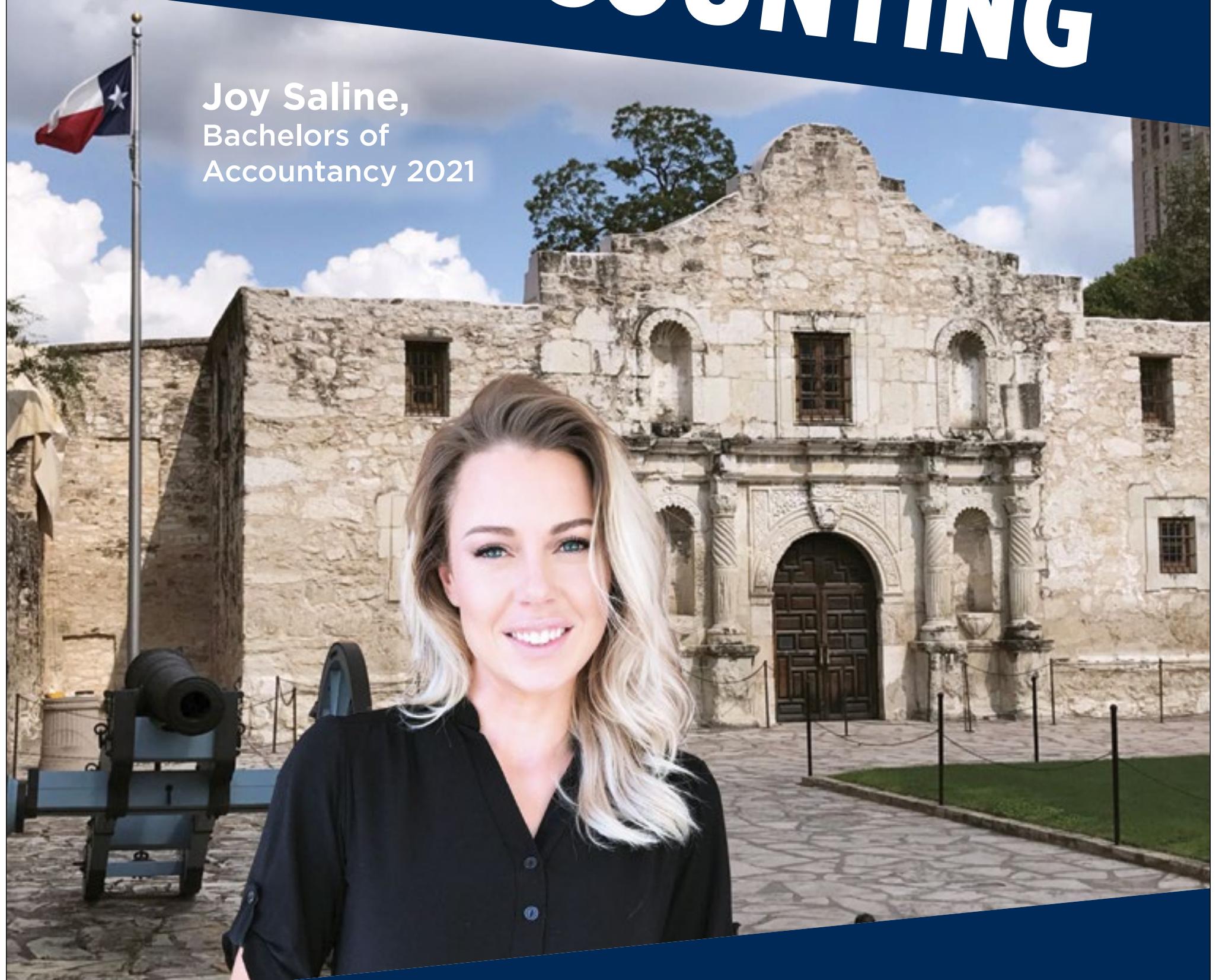
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