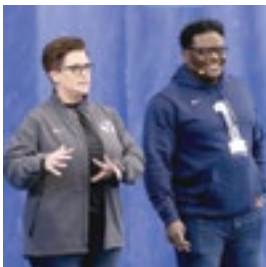




## Zion community

Students display art in the HBL reflecting diversity and inclusion

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## Be the change

Athletics alumni speak to students about rooting out racism

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## Guesswork vs. facts

Conspiracy theories flourish next to legitimate COVID-19 questions

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February 23 - March 1, 2021

# THE UNIVERSE

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Provo, Utah

## COVID-19 variants: BYU could stay open if campus stays careful



Preston Crawley

Students on BYU campus follow mask guidelines to help protect against COVID-19. BYU researchers say campus should stay open if students and faculty follow BYU and CDC guidelines.

By VERONICA MACIEL

The effects of new SARS-CoV-2 variants on the BYU community are still largely unknown. However, BYU virology researchers said it is normal for viruses to mutate, and if students and faculty continue to follow guidelines like mask-wearing and washing hands, BYU should stay open.

Though the U.K. variant has been found to be more contagious, BYU researchers Brian Poole, Brad Berges and Brandon Lopez said it most likely will not be deadlier than the original virus found in the U.S. and the current vaccines should still work against the variants.

Berges and Poole are both professors in the Microbiology and Molecular Biology Department, and Lopez is an undergraduate student studying microbiology. All three have done research on SARS-CoV-2.

One recent study Berges and Lopez participated in focused on how COVID-19 reacts to disinfectants such as hand

sanitizer. Poole recently published a paper about overcoming vaccine hesitancy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are three new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19: the U.K., Brazil and South Africa variants.

The only one detected in Utah to date is the U.K. variant classified as B.1.1.7. The U.K. government has found the virus to spread 50% more efficiently than the current strands found in the U.S., Berges said.

"In other words, if I'm standing close to you, and talking to you or coughing around you, maybe there's a 10% chance you would get infected from me. But if I have (the U.K. variant), there's now a 15% chance you'd get infected from me," he said.

Even if these viruses transmit better than the current ones here in the U.S., scientists have found they don't cause more serious diseases so far, Berges and Poole said. However, they also said because this is a new virus, there is a lot that scientists can't predict without more research.

Both Berges and Lopez said they believe if BYU students and faculty continue to follow the guidelines set by the university and the CDC, the school should continue to stay open with a possible rise in cases.

"As long as we're being careful, we'll be fine. The issue comes when we're not being careful," Lopez said. "A moment of carelessness is when transmission happens the most."

Berges said the changes in the virus can't be detected from a standard test, which makes it difficult to track the variants.

"We do have the capacity here at BYU to actually determine the sequence of which virus somebody has," he said, adding that it's unlikely BYU will start testing for these variants unless a new variant has a higher fatality rate.

The vaccines being administered in the U.S. will still work against the new variants but are slightly less effective in protecting people from contracting the variants compared to the original virus, Poole said. However, he believes this shouldn't put anyone off from getting the vaccine.

"So far, (the vaccines) have still all been highly effective against the serious effects of the virus," he said. No one who received the vaccine has been hospitalized or died due to COVID-19.

### COVID-19 variants

**B.1.1.7 or U.K. variant:** According to the CDC, this variant was identified in the U.K. in fall 2020. It is known to spread more quickly and easily than other variants. It was first detected in the U.S. near the end of December, and over 1,200 cases have since been reported in the country. It is the only variant detected in Utah so far.

**B.1.351 or South Africa variant:** This variant was first detected in South Africa with similar changes to the U.K. variant, but developed independently from this variant. So far, 19 cases have been reported in the U.S.

**P.1 or Brazil variant:** As the newest variant to be detected, the P.1 variant was first found in people traveling from Brazil to Japan. It has then spread to the U.S. with two cases detected in Minnesota and another case in Oklahoma.

## Utah legislature looks to improve 'troubled teen' industry

By DECKER WESTENBURG

Lawmakers, former "troubled teens" and their advocates are discussing whether the state is doing enough to regulate Utah's troubled teen industry.

During hearings at Utah's Capitol Hill earlier this month, the specifics of SB127 received unanimous approval in committee.

If passed, the bill would require facilities to document instances of physical restraint, develop a non-discrimination policy and participate in suicide prevention trainings. There would also be more regulations around chemical restraints and how often state inspections will occur.

Paris Hilton, a media personality, testified before state lawmakers about her experiences inside a Utah program for troubled teens during the 1990s, which were highlighted in her 2020 YouTube originals documentary, "This is Paris."

Hilton was sent to Provo Canyon School at age 17, and she was there for 11 months. She claims she was abused mentally and physically, and that staff members would beat her and force her to take unknown pills. She said she was also often sent to solitary confinement without clothing.

Last fall, Hilton led a protest in Utah calling for the closure of the Provo Canyon School that included supporters from all 50 states. Since the release of her documentary last summer, she has called on local and national leaders to action because the troubled teen residential treatment industry affects children from all 50 states. According to bill sponsor Sen. Mike McKell, R-Spanish Fork, there are currently 5,600 children in 240 licensed facilities in Utah.

Although children are often placed in these facilities against their will, Jeff Netto shared his experiences as a "local Utah boy" in Utah's homegrown for-profit industry with legislators. He spoke of repeatedly being placed in a five-point harness and not being allowed to use the restroom.

After recounting his experiences, he pleaded with lawmakers to pass legislation to protect Utah's children. Netto, who now owns and operates a local Utah business, shared that he made it out, but that he "doesn't know anyone else who did."

"Utah is supposedly built on family values, but the neglect from this state has brought us here today," Hilton said.

Breaking Code Silence senior government relations coordinator Caroline Lorson has worked to bring attention to the industry that profits off of troubled teens. Her organization seeks to highlight the lack of regulation in the teen residential treatment industry.

"There is not an industry as unregulated as this one is," Lorson said.

Survivors' experiences caused lawmakers to question if they were "doing enough" to regulate the industry.

Sen. Luz Escamilla, D-Salt Lake, shared that as a mother of six children she could not imagine any of these circumstances happening to them. She said the bill "did not go far enough" to regulate the industry.

In an effort to promote change quickly, Sen. Daniel Thatcher, R-West Valley City, called for an immediacy clause and questioned if it was time to create a commission to address major issues within the industry.

Sen. Mike Kennedy, R-Alpine, a physician raised the question about whether a conversation should be had on forbidding such programs.

As of Monday, Feb. 22, the bill was in the hands of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

## Doctrine vs. culture: Supporting women's choices in the workplace, education

By CASSIDY WIXOM

Women in Utah often face unique challenges entering the workforce or seeking higher education because of the prevalence of predominant cultural attitudes within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Part of the Church's culture heavily focuses on the doctrine of the family structure and clearly defined roles for men and women. The faith's signature statement on these roles, "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," states that mothers "are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children" while fathers are "responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection" for their families.

Because of this, there is an assumption among some members that all women should be stay-at-home mothers. Often this leads to members prematurely judging other women's choices to work outside the home or further their education.

"A lot of people don't separate culture and doctrine," said Utah Women and Leadership Project Director Susan Madsen, who has been studying the role of women in society for decades.

Regarding families, Madsen said sometimes members choose to judge other's personal family choices thinking if a family isn't a certain way, then they aren't following the doctrine of the Church.

"Judging each other is actually contrary to the Church's doctrines and teachings, yet it's alive and well in the state of Utah," Madsen said.

Church historian Matthew Grow said "obviously, women have been central since the very beginning days" of the



BYU Photo

Accounting professor Melissa Western mentors her students during a meeting. Western has experienced firsthand how Church culture sometimes poses challenges to women in education and business.

Church, but published history has not reflected that. Church history has long been a male enterprise that historically forgot or pushed aside women's stories, he said.

Now the Church is actively working on improving the representation of women in Church history, he said. As one of the writers for the "Saints" books, he said the team has been trying to include a wider diversity of stories to more completely represent the history of the Church.

Besides more accurately depicting history, Grow said the Church has improved over time by allowing women to take a more public role in participating in the "vital" work of the Church.

Thousands of female missionaries, more tightly integrating Relief Society and Young Women's organizations into the structure of the Church, public

speeches by female authorities and the inclusion of female leaders in Church leadership executive councils all contribute to the Church's increasing reliance on women's voices and influence in decision making, Grow said.

While the Church supports and encourages women to seek community leadership positions, further their education and participate in public policymaking, the culture of the Church sometimes opposes its teachings, Madsen said.

### Women's choice to work

Madsen said some people take the separation of male and female roles to the extreme, believing that all women should do one thing while all men should do another. She said this leads to an either/or mentality where people assume there are only two options for

women: work outside the home or have a family.

"It doesn't have to be all or nothing. It's not you can do this *or* this, but it's *and*," she said. As a mother and Utah State University professor, Madsen said having a baby does not mean a woman needs to quit college or not work.

Both options are possible and women have been doing "and" throughout time, Madsen said. "We raise our kids and we work in the yard and we clean the kitchen and we go help get the right to vote."

BYU accounting professor Melissa Western said she loves the Church doctrine that says women have a divine role. She said the Church values her as a woman and doesn't require her to be a man to have value, but too often, Church culture gets in the way.

The Church has "a cultural view that mixes personal family decisions and defines them as what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ," she said.

The biggest challenge is when people in the Church feel like women working outside the home is considered outside of the gospel, Western said.

People assume that because she works outside the home, Western is neglecting her role as a mother. She said raising her children is "absolutely essential" and it's "the most important thing" she does. She joked that the only thing she neglects to do is the laundry.

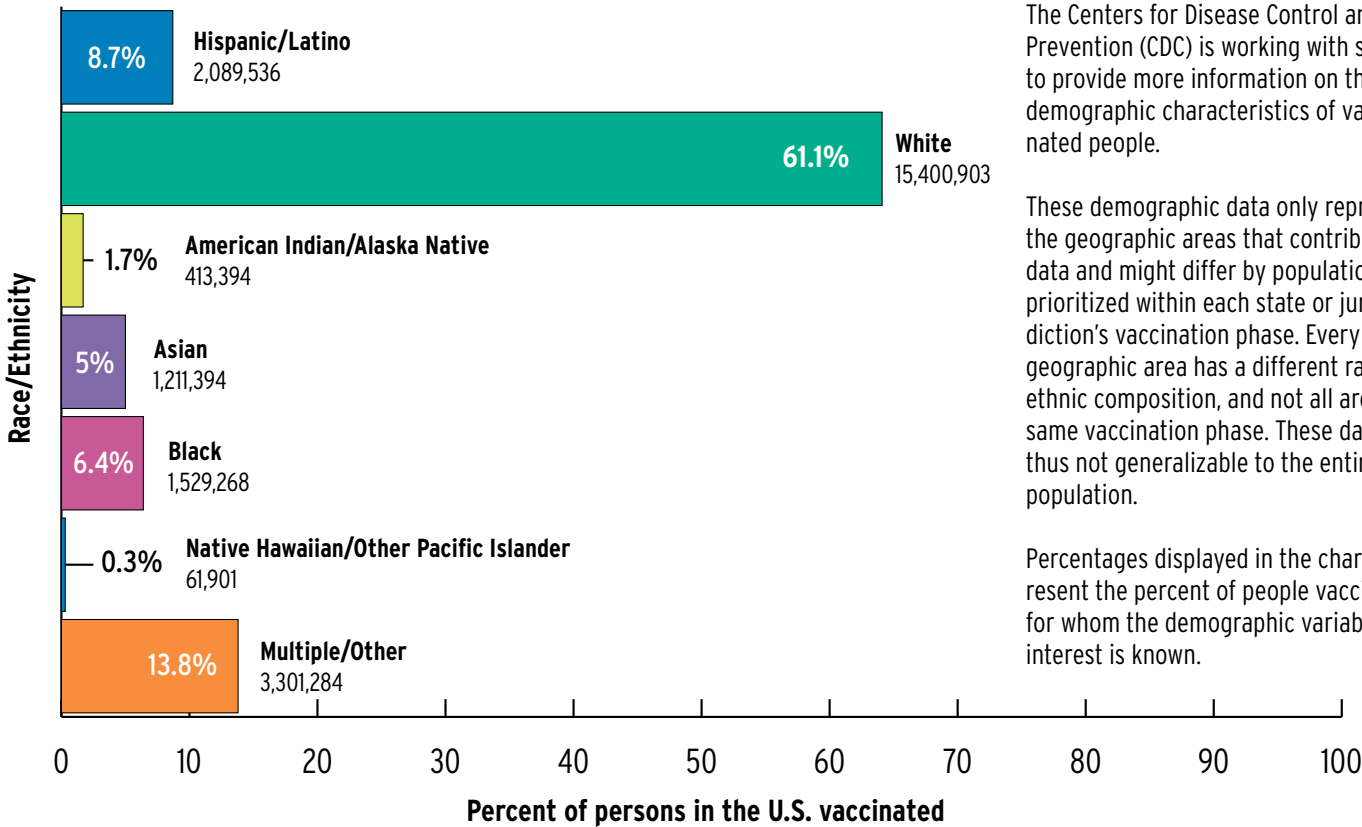
For Western, her job is her way of serving and building Zion by mentoring and teaching students. "If we believe in the gospel, we have to care about other people and part of how I demonstrate that is I help other people's children to find their way."

See RELIGION on Page 6



# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Demographic characteristics of COVID-19 vaccine recipients in the U.S.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with states to provide more information on the demographic characteristics of vaccinated people.

These demographic data only represent the geographic areas that contributed data and might differ by populations prioritized within each state or jurisdiction's vaccination phase. Every geographic area has a different racial and ethnic composition, and not all are in the same vaccination phase. These data are thus not generalizable to the entire U.S. population.

Percentages displayed in the chart represent the percent of people vaccinated for whom the demographic variable of interest is known.

Allie Peterson

Data provided from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Data from 44,138,118 people with one or more doses administered. Race or ethnicity was available for 24,007,713 (54.4%) people with one or more doses administered. Updated Feb. 22.

### Native Americans embrace vaccine, virus containment measures

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEROKEE, N.C. — While minority communities across the United States have struggled to trust the vaccine, the opposite is true for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, a Native American tribe of 16,000 in western North Carolina, and other tribes across the country. The federal Indian Health Service said Feb. 16 that it has administered nearly 385,300

doses of COVID-19 vaccines. At a rate of about 18,490 per 100,000, that's higher than all but five U.S. states, according to an AP analysis of federal data. The trend owes itself both to a harsh reality — Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are four times more likely to be hospitalized from COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — and tradition. Community before self has long been a core principle in Native American culture.

### Hospitals still ration medical N95 masks as stockpiles swell

ASSOCIATED PRESS

One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, many millions of N95 masks are pouring out of American factories and heading into storage. Yet doctors and nurses like Mary Turner, a COVID-19 intensive care nurse at a hospital outside Minneapolis, say there still aren't nearly enough in the "ICU rooms with high-flow oxygen and COVID germs all over."

While supply and demand issues surrounding N95 respirators are well-documented, until now the reasons for this discrepancy have been unclear. The logistical breakdown is rooted in federal failures over the past year to coordinate supply chains and provide hospitals with clear rules about how to manage their medical equipment. Exclusive trade data and interviews reveal a communication breakdown — not an actual shortage.

### Utah catching up on vaccine appointments postponed by storm

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — The Southwest Utah Public Health Department announced plans to reschedule appointments for coronavirus vaccinations delayed by a winter storm last week. The severe weather impacted shipments of vaccine to area clinics from outside the state, KSTU-TV reports. Southwest Utah Public

Health Department said its Feb. 18 appointments have been rescheduled for Feb. 22, 25 and 27. The Weber-Morgan Health Department also rescheduled Feb. 18 appointments for Feb. 22. Utah residents age 65 and older are now eligible to receive vaccines and should check with local health departments for appointment availability. Utah so far has distributed more than 607,000 vaccines, including more than 83,000 in the past week.

### Germany reopens some schools amid fears pandemic may rebound

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — Elementary students in more than half of Germany's 16 states returned to school Feb. 22 after more than two months at home, the first major relaxation of the country's pandemic measures since before Christmas. Kindergartens also reopened their doors for pre-school children, giving much-anticipated relief to stressed parents

trying to juggle working from home and childcare during the lockdown. Education Minister Anja Karliczek has defended the decision to reopen schools. Schools should use "all available means to prevent virus transmission," Karliczek told German news agency dpa, expressing confidence that state education officials who are in charge of school matters in Germany would consider the infection numbers when deciding where to reopen.

## Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



### Weather experts: Lack of planning caused cold influx

Last week's killer freeze in the U.S. was no surprise. Government and private meteorologists saw it coming, some nearly three weeks in advance. They started sounding warnings two weeks ahead of time. They talked to officials. They issued blunt warnings through social media. And yet catastrophe happened. As of Feb. 19, at least 20 people have died and 4 million homes at some point lost power, heat or water. The event shows how unprepared the nation and its infrastructure are for extreme weather events that will become bigger problems with climate change, meteorologists and disaster experts said.



### Postpartum depression survivors speak out

According to data from the Utah Department of Health, 43% of Utah women with a recent live birth experienced depression or anxiety, said Gabriella Archuleta, public policy analyst with YWCA Utah. Utah survivors of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, advocates and lawmakers gathered for a virtual conference on Feb. 17 to announce that Gov. Spencer Cox has declared February 2021 Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month and to celebrate the state's advances in maternal mental health resources and recognition.



### Utah legislative committee approves rioting penalties

A Utah legislative committee has passed a bill that would increase penalties and eliminate bail for rioting in response to last year's protests against police brutality and racial injustice. Republican state Sen. David Hinkins presented the bill to the Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Committee with members of the neighborhood watch group United Citizens Alarm, KUER-FM reported Feb. 18. The legislation, sponsored by Hinkins, would also give immunity to someone driving a car who hits or kills a protester if the driver fears for their life. That language was removed from a different bill after public complaints.



### Historic Black colleges to receive grants for campuses

Several historically Black colleges and universities will receive more than \$650,000 in grants to preserve their campuses as part of a new initiative announced Feb. 16. The funding for the HBCUs comes as leaders of the colleges and universities continue to advocate for additional funding nearly a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, which has threatened the survival of many already chronically underfunded schools. Details about the initiative were shared with The Associated Press ahead of the announcement. HBCUs have long been underfunded as a result of decades of structural racism and lack of equitable public funding, said Brent Leggs, executive director of the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, which is supplying the grants.

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**f** **t** **@** **U** **BYU**  
letters@byu.edu  
News 801-422-2957  
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### UK speeds up vaccinations: All adults get 1st jab by July 31

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON —The British government declared Feb. 21 that every adult in the country should get a first coronavirus vaccine shot by July 31, at least a month earlier than its previous target, as it prepared to set out a "cautious" plan to ease the U.K.'s lockdown. The previous aim was for all adults to get a jab by September. The new target also calls for everyone 50 and over and those with an underlying health condition to get their first of two vaccine shots by April 15, rather than the previous date of May 1. The early success of Britain's vaccination effort is welcome good news for a country that has had more than 120,000 coronavirus deaths, the highest toll in Europe. More than 17.5 million people, a third of U.K. adults, have had at least one vaccine shot since inoculations began on Dec. 8. News of the new vaccine targets came as Prime Minister Boris Johnson met Sunday with senior ministers to finalize a "road map" out of the national lockdown.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

## Utah Legislature considers bill directed at BYU police

By ALLIE RICHAEAL

The Utah Legislature is considering a bill that establishes regulations and authority given to law enforcement agencies in private schools.

According to sponsor Sen. Curtis Bramble, R-Provo, SB191 applies directly to BYU because it's the only private institution in Utah with a police agency.

The bill establishes a certification process for private police agencies and describes policy and procedure requirements. It also establishes due process procedures for taking formal action against a private law enforcement agency.

Bramble said this legislation is necessary after a case nearly decertified BYU police. The Utah Department of Public Safety threatened to decertify University Police on allegations of improper investigations and the sharing of police records by former Lt. Aaron Rhoades. Judge Richard Catten dismissed the case in January, indicating that the statute was too ambiguous as to how complaints and investigations should be conducted.

BYU spokesman Todd Hollingshead said BYU is working on the bill with lawmakers



Preston Crawley

SB191 sets regulations on law enforcement agencies in private higher education institutions. This bill applies directly to BYU as the only private university with a police force in Utah.

and the Department of Public Safety to give clarity to the regulations on its police force.

"We've said all along that the best way to keep students safe on a college campus is with a dedicated, on-campus, state-certified police force, and this legislation confirms that the Utah Legislature agrees with that approach," he said.

Public Safety Commissioner Jess Anderson told The Daily Universe he was consulted about the bill. He said it establishes necessary trust in those who hold power to arrest and use force. "That's a big deal, and I don't take that lightly."

"This is a great opportunity

for us to be able to move the police department along in an effort to establish accountability, transparency and establish public trust," he said.

Bramble also said this bill provides accountability to BYU's private police agency. "I think BYU and the Department of Public Safety have both come forward in good faith, and we're putting forward a bill that provides the framework for BYU police to work with the Department of Public Safety."

The bill passed through the Senate Business and Labor Committee on Feb. 17 and will go to the floor of the Senate for consideration at a later date.

## MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### New strategy class introduced to teach new software programs



A new strategy class in the BYU Marriott School of Business prepares students to adapt to evolving technologies in their future careers. Strategy Analytics 2 (STRAT 412) is designed to give students collaborative learning opportunities as it teaches them essential new software programs. Strategy senior Ty Touse said the class helped him develop marketable job skills, including an increased sense of confidence in quickly learning how to use new software. Recent graduate Derek Lowe said the course helped him not only learn how to use technology to solve problems but also learn more quickly and effectively.

"Because trends in software change rapidly, this new course builds students' confidence with these analytical tools so they can continue to learn and enhance their analytical abilities throughout their careers," course instructor Ben Lewis said.

"The class was built on open communication, so my classmates and I felt free to comment and ask questions to understand the different strategic tools," Touse said. "I can say that because of this class I feel more comfortable trying to learn any new software and understand a decent portion of it within a two-week period. That is definitely a marketable asset."

## MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### Rollins Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology welcomes new director



Chris Crittenden

The Rollins Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology gained a new director. The Rollins Center at the Marriott School of Business is a resource dedicated to helping BYU students learn how to start and grow their own businesses. As the newest director, management professor Chris Crittenden

plans to expand the reach of the on-campus resource, creating new projects and programs to build more connections with students. Crittenden's past entrepreneurial successes include co-founding the app Yumprint that was recently acquired by Walmart, leading national implementation of Walmart's online grocery service and growing Reef Capital Partners to almost \$1 billion in investments.

"We are thrilled to have Chris as our new director of the Rollins Center," BYU Marriott School Dean Brigitte C. Madrian said. "I'm confident that Chris' expertise, combined with our students' passion for innovation, will lead to continued success in the students' entrepreneurial endeavors with the Rollins Center."

"I'm excited to join the Rollins Center team," Crittenden said. "We have a lot of momentum, and I look forward to using that momentum to build programs across campus that deepen our impact with students."

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Successful BYU Winter Choirfest hosted virtually



Professor Andrew Crane directing BYU Singers

BYU choirs uplifted audiences with their annual Winter Choirfest, hosted virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The show featured the Concert Choir, Women's Chorus, BYU Singers and Men's Chorus and included a variety of music, from the Venezuelan "Fiesta" by Cristian Grases to the spiritual "My God Is a Rock in a Weary Land" by Daniel Kallman. Concert Choir conductor Brent Wells said the pandemic safety measures feel normal to the singers now, giving them a chance to focus solely on making music. The online setting also gave the choirs a unique opportunity to share subtleties to enhance the audience's experience.

"The world has been so disrupted; making music has been tough for so many people," Wells said. "BYU choirs can continue to perform and make an impact thanks to our live-streamed performances, and our audiences appreciate the positivity."

The Women's Chorus' program was intended "to offer reassurance, peace and comfort in uncertain and challenging times," said conductor Sonja Poulter.

## Muddled promises on schools pose political problem for Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden is in a political firestorm over how and when to get more schools open amid the coronavirus pandemic, with Republicans seizing on confusion surrounding Biden's goal to reopen a majority of schools within his first 100 days to paint the president as beholden to teachers' unions at the expense of American families.

His administration in recent weeks has sent muddled and at times contradictory messages about Biden's goal. On Feb. 16, the president said his 100-day goal was to have most elementary schools open five days a week, seeming to conflict with his own press secretary, who had said the week before that schools would be considered "open" if they held in-person classes even one day a week.

Biden's aides dismiss the controversy as a flareup that will disappear once the coronavirus is better under control and more school districts reopen, pointing to recent polls suggesting the public so far believes Biden is doing a good job in handling the issue.

But there could be lingering damage if Biden is seen to break an early promise on an issue so important to so many Americans.

Teachers' unions have said they support reopening schools once officials are able to make the buildings safer, but they need the \$130 billion included in Biden's proposed American Rescue Plan to make it happen. And even if the bill passes Congress by the Democrats' mid-March deadline, it's unclear whether districts would be able to make changes in time to hasten school openings before the end of Biden's first 100 days.

Dan Domenech, executive director of the School Superintendents Association, said teachers are willing to go back to in-person learning "only if this bill is passed, only if the dollars get to the school districts in time for them to be able to do the work that they need to do in terms of spacing, in terms of sanitizing, and only if we get the majority of our teachers vaccinated."

"It's possible. But at this stage, at this point, it's not probable," he said.

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said in an interview she hopes Biden will meet his goal, and has said teachers should return to school when



Associated Press

President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with labor leaders in the Oval Office of the White House, Feb. 17, in Washington.

COVID-19 mitigation strategies are in place. But she noted that with social distancing, school still won't feel normal.

"You're not going to be able to have every single child in every single school in the normal way that we think about normal school," she said.

Until the nation reaches herd immunity with the widespread distribution of the vaccine, Weingarten said, "we're not going to be normal."

This leaves Biden caught between teachers' unions expressing caution towards his expanded goal on reopening, and critics who say just one day of classroom time a week for a majority of schools is far too little. Data from Burbio, a service that tracks school opening plans, recently reported that 66% of K-12 students already are learning in-person to some degree.

Republicans have been using the issue to hit at Democrats for weeks, pointing to data suggesting that many schools are safe to open now and charging that the Biden administration is siding with teachers' unions over science and the needs of American families.

"In places across America where public education depends on the whims of a powerful public sector union, the best interests of children have often come dead last," Mitch McConnell, the top Republican in the Senate, said during a floor speech earlier this month. "As the months have rolled by and the data have poured in, it's become clear that schools can open safely."

Republicans see the issue as one that has an urgent and immediate impact on nearly every American family, and one that's particularly salient

for the kinds of suburban swing voters who can be decisive in tough House districts and state-wide races.

Democrats believe they can turn the issue back on any Republicans who vote against the COVID-19 aid bill, and plan to hammer those lawmakers for blocking funding to get kids back to school.

While teachers' unions have embraced what they say was much-needed leadership from the president after the Trump administration left educators worried about their health and without adequate protection, they also acknowledge that Biden's goal has put pressure on the unions to deliver. "Has it made it harder, you know, on everyone to have an ambitious, bold goal for the American people? Of course," Weingarten said, adding that she gives Biden "credit for wanting to help families get to a sense of hope."

Part of what's contributing to the confusion, according to National Education Association President Becky Pringle, is that there's no one-size-fits-all program that schools can implement to meet Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on how to safely reopen. She said she felt that's what was guiding the Biden administration's now-discarded one-day-a-week standard for reopening.

"It was an acknowledgment that every school has different challenges in meeting those guidelines," Pringle said, noting that implementing social distancing guidelines, for example, would be a different challenge in crowded urban schools than it would be in more sparsely attended rural schools.

TODAY

UNIVERSITY FORUM  
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Dr. Dambisa Moyo

Macroeconomist, Author, and Global Affairs Expert

### "The Macroeconomic, Geopolitical, and Social Trends Defining Our World"

Dr. Dambisa Moyo is an international economist and macroeconomy and global affairs expert. Her work has been widely used by decision makers in strategic investment and public policy, and *Time* magazine has named her one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Dr. Moyo was born in Lusaka, Zambia, but her family lived in the United States for a time while her father pursued his PhD. They later returned to Zambia, where she grew up. She began her college education in Lusaka and, like her father, received a scholarship to complete her studies in the U.S., where she completed an undergraduate degree in chemistry and an MBA in finance at the American University in Washington DC. She went on to receive a master's degree from Harvard and a doctorate in economics from Oxford.

Dr. Moyo is respected for her unique perspectives, her balance of contrarian thinking with measured judgment, and her ability to turn economic insight into investible ideas. She has earned a strong reputation as a top-tier opinion former as well as a trusted advisor. She currently serves on a number of global corporate boards, including 3M Corporation, Chevron, and Condé Nast. She worked at the World Bank and at Goldman Sachs for nearly a decade before becoming an author and international public speaker. Recognized for fresh and innovative ideas, she is the author of four *New York Times* bestselling books. Her newest book will be published in May 2021.

She is married to Jared Smith, and the two currently live in Utah. Dambisa's favorite quote is "No does not mean never, it means not now."

## NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

Gary E. Stevenson  
Member of the Quorum  
of the Twelve Apostles



MARCH 2  
11:05 a.m., BYUtv



# Bill to teach consent in Utah schools fails to pass committee

By LINDSEY REESE

A bill that would have required Utah schools to include consent in their public sex education curriculum was defeated this week in Utah’s House Education Committee. HB177 was rejected by the education committee in a 7-4 vote. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Carol Spackman Moss, D-Salt Lake, and written by BYU Law faculty member Brittney Herman.

The education amendment bill aimed to bring sexual assault prevention to Utah schools. Utah already has laws intact about teaching consent, but the bill sought to clarify those guidelines to include teaching what things do not classify as consent.

Herman said she was inspired to write the bill following her own experience with sexual assault. She felt that if the person who had assaulted her had received proper education on the topic, things may have ended differently.

In Utah, rape is one of the only violent crimes that is higher than the national average. According to the Utah Department of Health, one in three Utah women will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives.

“Every other violent crime is lower, but rape is higher. So clearly the education we



Sadie Anderson

HB177 would have brought sexual assault prevention to Utah schools through teaching what does and does not qualify as consent.

currently have is not sufficient,” Herman said.

Representatives had qualms with many facets of the bill, Herman said. One of the issues was that some legislators felt that it was inappropriate to teach middle and high school-aged children about sexual violence, as it could be potentially triggering for them.

University of Utah law student Madison Barr felt those concerns were not

a valid argument against teaching consent in school. “Unfortunately, children are also victims of sexual abuse and sexual violence. Maybe your child won’t be a victim, but more children you know will be victims.”

Despite the bill being defeated in committee, Herman said she felt hopeful for the future of her bill and hopes to revise it and bring it back to legislators in order to hopefully get it past the committee.

“I think that’s what’s best for Utah students, so while I’m a little bit disappointed I am definitely also hopeful that we can get something passed.”

Herman founded and continues to run We Will, a nationwide organization dedicated to preventing sexual assault and supporting survivors. The organization works through formal and informal education to help educate others on the topic. Those interested in can visit its website.



Mark A. Philbrick/BYU Photo

The Provo City Council discussed the best ways to reallocate over \$7 million from the federal CARES Act in its meeting on Feb. 16. Two of the proposed items have been continued to the next City Council meeting on March 2.

## Provo City Council reallocates CARES act funds in split vote

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City Council met virtually on Feb. 16 to discuss the reallocation of over \$7 million from the city’s general fund into various capital improvement funds to make the money available for local projects including a fire station, grocery store, park and airport terminal.

This influx of \$7,879,285 came from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act which “provides for payments to state, local and tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak,” according to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. This act has allowed state and local governments to continue their work despite the economic impacts of COVID-19.

The following five purposes for the money were proposed at the meeting by the mayor’s office:

- \$10,000 appropriated in the mayor’s office and the general fund to complete some earlier projects that were started that haven’t been finished
- \$3.5 million in the new Legacy Capital Improvement Plan Fund for a new fire station in a new location
- \$400,000 in that same Legacy Capital Improvement Plan Fund for some airport terminal changes
- \$1 million in the Economic Development Fund to be used to attract a grocery retailer
- \$1 million in the Parks Capital Improvement Plan fund for Canyon Road Park.

In choosing the projects, Chief Administrative Officer Wayne Parker said the city was “looking for unfunded

critical capital needs that we just didn’t have another answer for yet.”

With such a large amount of money on the table, several council members expressed concerns for the usage of the money, particularly the money going toward the grocery store and the park items in the list.

“I don’t have a great justification for my constituents as to why we’re spending this money this way,” Councilwoman Shannon Ellsworth said. “I do see that (the proposed projects) advance other projects that are further down the line. But people are going to ask why weren’t those other projects prioritized. So I feel like there’s still homework to be done.”

“If any council member felt like we should review the process, I think we should,” Vice Chairman Dave Shipley said. “It’s a big enough amount of money and it’s a big enough opportunity that I think taking a step back and going through our process a little bit would be good.”

The council discussed the option of moving forward with the money for the mayor’s projects, the new fire station and the airport as planned, with the option to allocate some money to the grocery store market and infrastructure research, but not all were in agreement.

“It’s a process issue at this point, and I think it’s a dangerous precedent with this amount of money to not get questions answered,” Shipley said.

The council voted 4-3, with George Handley, Ellsworth and Shipley opposed. The amended resolution passed with changes to the amount for the grocery retailer development, removal of the park funds. The council will continue the discussion on March 2.

# Utah GOP defends Romney amid criticism over impeachment vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Utah Republican Party has defended Sen. Mitt Romney after an online motion accused him of misrepresenting himself as a Republican and embarrassing the state by voting against former President Donald Trump in his impeachment trials.

Hundreds of people have signed the document being circulated on social media. It says Romney failed to “represent the average conservative Utah Republican voter” by voting to convict Trump at his second impeachment trial, among other complaints.

In response, the Utah Republican Party issued a statement Feb. 15 that defended both Romney and Sen. Mike Lee, who voted to acquit Trump, KUTV-TV in Salt Lake City reported.

“The differences between our own Utah Republicans showcase a diversity of thought, in contrast to the danger of a party fixated on



Associated Press

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, pauses to answer questions from reporters after the Senate voted to consider hearing from witnesses in the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump, at the Capitol on Feb. 13.

“unanimity of thought,” the statement read. “There is power in our differences as a political party, and we look forward to each senator explaining their votes to the people of Utah.”

Romney said in a statement after his vote Feb. 13 that Trump had violated his oath of

office and deserved to be convicted under the House’s impeachment charge.

“President Trump attempted to corrupt the election by pressuring the Secretary of State of Georgia to falsify the election results in his state,” Romney’s statement said. “President Trump incited the

insurrection against Congress by using the power of his office to summon his supporters to Washington on January 6th and urging them to march on the Capitol during the counting of electoral votes. He did this despite the obvious and well known threats of violence that day.”

Six other GOP senators voted to convict Trump on Feb. 13. Romney also voted to convict Trump in his first impeachment trial, in which Trump was accused of pressuring Ukraine to dig up dirt on Joe Biden during the 2020 presidential election.

There have been rumblings among Utah Republicans about censuring Romney, which state parties have done in other places after lawmakers voted against Trump.

Brandon Beckham, a GOP State Central Committee member, told KUTV-TV that he would vote to censure Romney for his vote in Trump’s second impeachment trial. Beckham started a resolution against the senator after his vote in the first impeachment trial.

# City Council faces land battle for west Provo grocery store

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City Council passed an ordinance with a 6-1 vote on Feb. 2 to rezone 11 acres of land in order to expedite the process to build a grocery store in west Provo.

The land in question is 1920 W. Center, which was rezoned from community shopping center (SC2 zone) to neighborhood shopping center (SC1 zone).

While Provo residents living east of I-15 are afforded 16 grocery stores scattered north and south of BYU, those living in west Provo must travel across the freeway to do their weekly grocery shopping.

Residents of west Provo have been calling for a grocery store to be built in their area for several years, with many hoping a store would be built at 1920 W. Center. The piece of land in question is owned partially by Kroger, the parent company of Smith’s Food and Drug, and partially by Provo resident Rick Cox and his family. While the Cox family is ready and willing to develop this piece of land, Smith’s has not made an effort to put plans in place for a new grocery store that the community claims to need.

“We think that the city has given Smith’s ample opportunity to come forward



Addie Blackler

The Provo City Council passed an ordinance on Feb. 2 to rezone 11 acres of land owned partially by Smith’s in order to allow the city to zone other land in the area for a grocery store. Other grocers have been hesitant to build in west Provo because of the land owned by Smith’s, leaving residents of west Provo having to cross the interstate in order to do their grocery shopping.

and come with a proposal, and they have failed to do so. We’re supportive of whatever decision that City Council wants to make,” Cox said, representing the Cox family at the City Council meeting.

“This has needed to be done for a long, long time,” said Provo resident Melanie McCord. “It’s time to play hardball with Smith’s. They are not doing one of the things that they claim is their

corporate goal, which is to serve communities. They’re not, and I think they need to be shaken up a little.”

Members of the economic development department have looked into other pieces of land in west Provo where a grocery store could be built but have been unsuccessful in securing a buyer while Smith’s owns the land in question.

“Since this property has a lease agreement for a

potential grocery store site, (that) eliminates (any other company’s) interest in pursuing a grocery store at any other property on the west side of Provo,” said economic health director Keith Morey. “We’re hoping that this rezoning removes that barrier and allows companies that have expressed interest in possibly moving forward on other locations in (west Provo).”

While many west Provo

residents are in favor of a grocery store in their area, several people expressed their disapproval of a rezoning.

“It is too bad to see this property lost as a potential commercial property,” said Jonathan Hill, a neighborhood chair in west Provo. “It’s right on the corner of two major roads on the west side of Geneva and Center Street. It would be really great to see some good commercial (real estate) go on here, but (Smith’s) controls it and this seems like the only kind of reasonable way that the city can kind of force their hand a little bit.”

“I do have some concerns about the rezoning,” said Scott Yergensen, another neighborhood chair in west Provo. “We’ll continue to see people in my neighborhood leak out to Orem to do their shopping. They’re not going to shop at a store off University Avenue. (The property is) unfortunately tied up, but I would hate to see this rezoned to medium density residential when it’s an ideal location for a grocery store.”

Provo City officials said they understand the consequences of rezoning this plot of land, but many of them expressed strong opinions in favor of the rezoning in order to better serve the residents of west Provo.

“We would do whatever we

needed to do to put a grocery store there if it was an option,” Morey said. “We have been in regular communication with Smith’s up until recently. They know that this item is on the agenda tonight. If there was an opportunity to put a store here and do something else that would maximize that property for the city and for the property owners, we’d be happy to do whatever we needed to do to make that happen.”

Councilwoman Shannon Ellsworth opposed the vote to rezone this piece of land, claiming that it “feels manipulative to change someone’s private property rights with their zoning in order to elicit a response from a corporation.”

The other six members of the council all expressed their support for the rezoning as a means to expedite the process to build a new grocery store in west Provo.

“The zoning ordinances are a tool for us to use to do what we think is best for our citizens. There’s interminable log jam here that has been going on way too long, and I just empathize too much with the citizens in this southwest part of town. I think we’ve got to do whatever we think is appropriate to provide them with a grocery store that they’ve hoped for for years and years,” said Councilman Bill Fillmore.



# BYU Operation Outbreak hosts virtual disease simulation

By VERONICA MACIEL

BYU researchers are hosting a campus-wide virtual outbreak of a disease similar to COVID-19 using phones as the “virus” distributors. The outbreak began on Friday, Feb. 19.

The outbreak simulation is directed by the student association BYU Operation Outbreak in connection with Operation Outbreak, an outreach program by Sarasota Military Academy prep school and the Sabeti Lab at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT.

The group will run the simulation through an app available for Apple and Android. According to the BYU Operation Outbreak website, the app uses Bluetooth technology to “spread” a virtual virus between phones. It will include virtual masks and vaccinations to help simulate a real outbreak.

Participants will be able to track their progress during the simulation on the app, which

will show them their number of contacts, virtual symptoms and health status.

The simulation will last nine days, from Feb. 19 to March 1.

BYU Operation Outbreak was founded by microbiology student Curtis Hoffmann. Faculty adviser and microbiology professor Brett Pickett said Hoffmann really took the initiative and ran with this project. “He reached out and set everything up.”

Pickett said Hoffmann connected with the founder of Operation Outbreak, Todd Brown, back in November 2020 to see if the BYU group could hold a simulation on campus. Brown said Operation Outbreak would love to hold a simulation on a college campus.

BYU Operation Outbreak hopes this experiential learning opportunity will help students better understand how their daily routine can expose them to any current or future pathogens, Hoffmann said.

The simulation will also focus on vaccine hesitancy



Operation Outbreak

Students and teachers participate in a past simulation with Operation Outbreak at Sarasota Military Academy in Florida. BYU researchers started hosting a campus-wide virtual outbreak of a disease similar to COVID-19 using phones as the “virus” distributors on Friday, Feb. 19.

through anonymous questionnaires given before and after the simulation. Hoffmann said BYU Operation Outbreak hopes it will show how vaccinations will help the campus reach herd immunity.

“It’s not a game. But it’s a way

for us to model what herd immunity might look like at BYU when we reach a certain level of vaccinations,” he said.

Pickett said he hopes the group will learn more about how campus culture affects the spread of viruses. “We really

want students to just live their regular lives,” he said, adding that doing so will help them collect the most accurate data as possible.

BYU campus project lead and molecular biology student Craig Decker said he is excited for students to take part in this campus-wide simulation. “Students will have an opportunity to learn more about vaccinations and see how many people we really come into contact with each day that could have the virus.”

The original Operation Outbreak started in 2016 when Brown wanted to teach middle school students the mechanisms for outbreak response and containment, Hoffmann said. This was in response to the Ebola outbreak happening at the time.

Hoffmann said the outbreaks usually include opportunities for students to role-play keeping their community running while learning about biology and public health in the process.

After talking with professors

in the College of Life Sciences Public Health Department, Hoffmann said BYU Operation Outbreak decided to do a simplified version of the original simulations. The BYU version includes a virtual virus and vaccines, rather than the role-playing situations that happened in previous in-person versions.

For the simulation to work, Hoffmann said participants must keep their Bluetooth on at all times. Data collected will be kept completely anonymous.

After the simulation is completed, Hoffmann said the data will be sent to the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard to be synthesized. Pickett said BYU Operation Outbreak hopes to hold a seminar once they have the results.

The group will also help host simulations at different schools in the Alpine School District in the coming months, Hoffmann said. To find more information and see live simulation statistics during the virtual outbreak, readers can visit the BYU Operation Outbreak website.

## BYU Wind Energy Club heads to prominent competition this summer

By INGRID SAGERS

The BYU Wind Energy Club is participating in the highly competitive U.S. Department of Energy’s Collegiate Wind Competition from June 7-10.

The competition has been around since 2014, but this will be the club’s first year competing. The group received a \$20,000 grant to complete the competition’s two tasks: create viable plans for a future wind farm and create a small wind turbine.

Club members will compete against other schools’ projects and present their wind farm proposal and turbine virtually because of COVID-19 safety precautions. The competition chooses only 13 university clubs to compete from applicants across the nation.

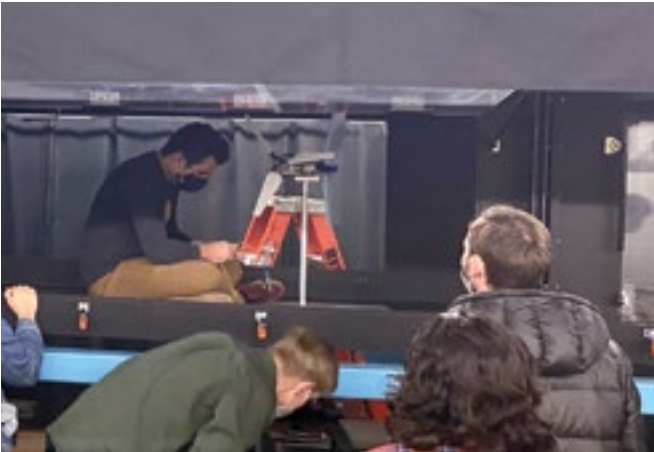
For club member Wesley Holt, the biggest honor of the competition is just being chosen. He said he’s grateful to receive opportunities to network with real companies that recruit students from the event.

Club members divided up competition work, focusing on either the wind turbine or the proposal for a theoretical wind farm in South Dakota.

The capstone team for graduate students works in-person to build the wind turbine completely from scratch inside of a large wind tunnel. Faculty adviser and BYU professor Andrew Ning said the small turbine must demonstrate it can produce power at certain speeds.

Club president James Cutler said wind farm plans must include details like how many windmills will be included, manufacturing needs and possible financial effects of the farm.

The BYU Wind Energy Club started in November 2020. As a member of The Church



James Cutler

BYU Wind Energy Club members work to build a wind turbine. They are preparing for the Collegiate Wind Competition in June.

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Cutler said he strongly felt using the Earth’s resources responsibly is a part of God’s divine charge to take care of the planet. He is passionate about wind energy being a renewable resource to fight extreme global climate change.

“I prayed a lot and felt inspired to start the club. I felt God’s encouragement to give students a career opportunity where they could take care of the Earth,” he said.

Ning said all the credit for the club’s success goes to the students’ work ethics. “If students have an interest and a passion, they don’t need to wait around for some faculty member. James took charge and the other students took the initiative to really make these cool opportunities possible.”

The club is made up of students from programs like computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, finance and more.

Members are passionate about the renewable energy career field and the opportunities they’ve already received working together as they head to the competition this summer.

Sebastian Zapata, an electrical engineering senior from Chile, works on the wind turbine’s generator. He hopes to be a part of the innovative work being done with floating wind turbines and said he’s excited to use his skills to bring wind energy experience to his home country.

Club vice president Eric Lee said he feels motivated by unanswered questions and innovation needing to be done in wind energy work. “There are a lot of problems to be solved, but that means the field has a lot of promise to it,” he said.

BYU junior Dane Robinson said he’s had fun seeing the real impact wind energy has on the Earth, adding that he is extremely motivated to work in renewable energy due to economic growth in the field.

“It’s crazy how fast wind turbines are being put up and it’s awesome how many capable, skilled people are involved,” Robinson said.

The Collegiate Wind Competition will reevaluate if each collegiate team can come to Indianapolis in the fall to do in-person wind turbine testing. Readers can find up-to-date information on the competition’s website.

## Public relations campaign helps BYU students ‘Find the Kind’

By ALLIE RICHAEAL

Five BYU public relations seniors started the social media campaign “Find the Kind” to promote civility on college campuses through small acts of service.

The group launched its Instagram account on Feb. 4 and will run the campaign through March 4. The Instagram account gives followers challenges to show kindness and shares uplifting personal stories. The seniors also plan to have a blackboard on campus where students can share ideas for showing compassion.

“We’re making it very simple for people,” said campaign social media coordinator Mariam Shockey. “We want people to find the kind daily but in a simple way.”

Social media coordinator Peyton Payne said she saw a lack of civility in the world, which sparked the idea for the campaign. “People have forgotten how to be kind,” she said. “People are very self-focused, and so our whole campaign started from that.”

The campaign’s audiences are college students and working professionals. It aims to provide safe ways to show kindness on campuses, in workplaces and in society, account executive Marisa Johns said.

The “Find the Kind” campaign title was chosen by the group members as a way to help students be proactive. In addition to Johns, Shockey and Payne, the group also includes Madi Wickham and Tyler Erickson.

Johns said the group sent out a survey on civility before launching the campaign. Of the 267 responses, 97% said more kindness is needed today. The survey demonstrated to Johns that although the world



Tyler Erickson

BYU public relations seniors created a campaign called “Find the Kind” to foster civility on campus. The campaign’s Instagram account has weekly spotlights and challenges to be kind to others.

can be a dark place, there are people who want to promote goodness.

Kindness is especially important during the pandemic when people are physically farther apart, Johns said. She hoped the campaign would help give people a sense of closeness even while socially distanced.

One kindness story shared on the campaign Instagram page features BYU medical laboratory science sophomore Stephanie Shakespeaere.

She shared her difficulty with school and mental health since coming to BYU and how a professor’s act of kindness helped her. Her Spanish professor pulled her aside, asked her if she was OK and told Shakespeaere to come to

her with any problems in the future.

Another campaign goal is to give people an introspective view of themselves so they can better understand other viewpoints. “I think the main thing is people needing to find the kindness within themselves but also look outside of themselves,” Shockey said.

The group plans to have a diversity and opinion meeting through Zoom where students with opposite worldviews will discuss their beliefs until both sides come to an understanding.

“In order to be civil, you need to have a kind heart so that you are more understanding of people who aren’t like you or have different opinions,” Shockey said.

## Students build ‘Zion community’ through diversity, collaboration and inclusion art contest

By HOLLY CLUFF

Lita Little Giddens started struggling to figure out how to improve the art displayed within the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences when she joined the school’s new Committee for Diversity, Collaboration and Inclusion in January 2020.

The college’s mission was to establish a Zion community, but she said the art in the halls did not reflect Zion or a diverse community.

Giddens said the solution came to her while she was praying.

It took several months before the idea came to her during prayer: a student art competition. Student art could replace the outdated pieces.

“Oh my gosh, their voices, their vision — this is how we can move forward,” she said. “It’s about hearing their voices and combining their vision with ours.”

Giddens and the committee



Allison McArthur

The BYU Diversity, Collaboration and Inclusion student art contest displays submissions on the first floor atrium of the Harold B. Lee Library. The contest focused on building a Zion community.

put out calls for art in Fall Semester 2020. They displayed the submissions on the first-floor atrium of the Harold B. Lee Library on Feb. 1, where they will remain until the semester ends in April. The theme of the

contest matches the theme of the college: to establish a Zion community.

“It is by the students; it is their testimony,” Giddens said. “It is their vision of what Zion means to them.”

The students who participated used a variety of mediums, including chalk, paint, photographs and embroidery floss.

Katy Ogden, a family studies senior, said she took inspiration

from several sources: her husband’s mixed-Polynesian heritage, their daughter and the diversity she saw while growing up in the Washington, D.C. area. Her chalk drawing took first place and shows men of different cultural backgrounds giving a baby girl a priesthood blessing.

“The cool thing about the Church and priesthood holders is they can come from any background,” she said. “They can bring their culture and experiences to the table. Holding the power of God is not meant for one type of person.”

Nicholas Rex, a sociology sophomore, took photos at Black Lives Matter protests over the summer and arranged them into a collage titled “Your Fight is My Fight” that took third place in the contest.

“I tried to make the main focus of the piece a Latina who’s holding a sign that says ‘your fight is my fight,’” he said. “Seeing that girl — that’s when it hit me. She is here because she realizes that her sisters and brothers’ fight is her fight as well.”

Rex said he hopes to show the positivity and unity that was at the core of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The committee decided on contest winners by looking at and talking about the submissions together. Giddens said it chose a first, second and third place winner and let College of Family, Home and Social Sciences Dean Ben Ogles choose a Dean’s Honorable Mention.

“They were all good; they were all a different person’s perspective,” Rex said.

Every submission is on display, and Giddens said she loves what the students came up with. She and the committee intend to continue the contest next year.

After several more contests, they will fill the halls with art from students, she said. This will begin on the ninth floor of the Spencer W. Kimball Tower, where the FHSS dean’s office is housed.

“This is a display of art, but also a display of purpose, a display of meaning, a display of testimony,” she said.



RELIGION

The roles of women at work and home

Continued from Page 1

Western said she won't ever judge someone for choosing to work outside the home or not. She said all that matters is each person listens to God to find their own path, no matter how different it is from the "standard."

"There's lots of nonstandard paths that people take because they are able to receive (direction from) the Spirit," she said, referencing both Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith as examples of those who followed a non-standard path.

Instead of judging women's choices in their careers, Madsen said women's choices should be valued. Whether they choose to stay at home, enter the workforce or increase their education, Madsen said girls need to know the options they have in life.

"If she believes that she only has limited choices, then I would say she really doesn't have a choice," Madsen said.

Lori Wadsworth, department chair of BYU's Romney Institute of Public Services and Ethics, said when she was younger she was told her only career options were nurse, secretary or teacher. But today, she said women have a much wider range of education, family and work choices available to them.

"I don't believe everyone needs to have a career," Wadsworth said. But as women, "I do believe we need to be a force for good in the world."

Being a force for good will look different for everyone, she said, which is why she thinks personal revelation is so important.

Every person has a "different responsibility, a different calling, a different work we can do" to make a difference in the world like the Church hopes all members do, Wadsworth said.

Having worked at BYU in business and leadership for over 30 years as a faculty member and administrative employee, Wadsworth said she is

thrilled to see the door opening and changes being made to increase women's opportunities.

**Challenges women face**

Public management professor Eva Witesman said one of the greatest challenges facing women who are navigating life choices is the cultural tendency to interpret Church hierarchy in a worldly way.

The world commonly interprets power as domination, supremacy and superiority, but the Church's hierarchy is based on a prophet who serves with compassion and love and seeks to help others with God's priesthood power, she said.

"By interpreting power in a worldly way, we conflate inappropriate dominating attitudes or actions with religious authority. And this is weaponized against women, whether intentionally or not," Witesman said.

If people more truly understood priesthood power, she said, then they would elevate women rather than put them down.

Both Witesman and Wadsworth said there aren't enough women exemplars or role models for girls to look up to in business and education. Witesman said it can make women feel directionless or worry they are using their talents wrong, and not having role models makes it harder for women to see themselves in positions of authority.

Until recently, Witesman said the only female exemplar she had was her mother. But now, the dean and department chair of her program are women as well as the Faculty Advisory Council co-chair and the associate academic vice president.

"It is difficult to express what an overwhelming relief it has been to witness their leadership," she said. "I no longer question whether I can or should lead and can instead focus on the unique ways in which I might be able to contribute."

Increasing numbers of women in government positions have caused girls to be more interested in politics, Madsen said.

"You can't be what you don't see," Madsen said. With the recent election of Vice President

Kamala Harris, Utah Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson and the campaign of Aimee Winder Newton for Utah governor, young women and girls have examples of women in politics to look up to and see themselves in.

In higher education and the workforce, a lack of female leadership can lead to missed perspectives. Bringing in people with diversity of background helps fix problems that might not have been seen before.

Western described a meeting she attended where a BYU faculty member mentioned he doesn't meet with female students individually because he is highly committed to morality, but he mentors male students individually. She said almost everyone else in the meeting agreed and praised the man's actions.

As the only female in the meeting, Western said she was scared to speak up, but eventually told her colleague that from her perspective, although he had good intentions, not mentoring female students was disadvantaging them in their education.

"I think our call is to educate Zion. Women are a part of Zion," she said to the other professors. The colleague responded saying he had never thought about it that way and a new dialogue was opened up on how to better mentor students.

Another challenge for women is undervaluing or underestimating their own potential, Wadsworth said. Research has shown that women tend to take a safer route when applying to jobs, only applying after they know they reach 100% of the qualifications, she said.

Men, however, will apply for a job if they know they meet at least 60% of the qualifications. She said the men have it right and women should be bolder with applying for jobs. However, Wadsworth said many times women are hesitant because they feel they "need an individual invitation because there is this sense that we don't measure up."

By always waiting until they get external validation or confirmation that they are good enough, Wadsworth said women can miss out on potential opportunities and growth.



Associated Press

Utah Gov. Spencer J. Cox speaks during a briefing at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City on Jan. 8. Cox said Feb. 18 that he wouldn't yet be comfortable signing the current version of a bill that would ban transgender girls from female sports, though he's continuing conversations with the sponsors.

Governor: Spending time with trans kids 'changes your heart'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah's conservative Republican governor choked up Feb. 18 as he spoke about the struggles faced by transgender teenagers, though he didn't commit to vetoing a bill that would ban them from girls' sports.

Gov. Spencer Cox sought middle ground on a polarizing issue that is coming up in statehouses around the U.S., saying he wouldn't sign the current version of the proposal but there are "real, valid, serious concerns" among supporters who say transgender athletes can have an advantage in women's sports.

Cox became emotional during a televised news conference on PBS-Utah as he talked about the difficulties faced by transgender teenagers.

"These kids. They're just trying to stay alive," he said. "When you spend time with these kids, it changes your heart in important ways."

Cox has been known for his compassionate stances toward LGBTQ people, though he's navigating the issue for the first time as governor and facing a bill supported by people like the influential speaker of the House. Discussions are ongoing, he said.

Utah is one of more than 20 states where similar bills have been introduced. The bills have also advanced in states like Mississippi, North Dakota, Montana and Tennessee.

Its Utah sponsor, Republican Rep. Kera Birkeland, has said it would ensure fairness by making sure female athletes aren't competing against those identified as male at birth. She has not detailed any cases of openly transgender athletes playing school sports in Utah.

Opponents, though, say the bill would discriminate against kids who are already marginalized and if passed

could expose the state to lost revenue, as when North Carolina passed the so-called "bathroom bill" in 2016. It also runs counter to Democratic President Joe Biden's executive order prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity in school sports.

Cox also said Feb. 18 he has "threatened to veto" a second bill restricting gender-confirming medical care for transgender youth in Utah, though he also suggested common ground could be found there.

As of Monday, Feb. 22, the bill was in the hands of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Police Beat

- BYU THEFT**
- Feb. 15** - Belongings were reportedly stolen from a classroom in the Snell Building.
- Feb. 15** - A bicycle was reported stolen from a bike rack at Heritage Halls.
- Provo THEFT**
- Feb. 14** - Property theft was reported in an alleyway near 2000 West on Center Street.

- MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT**
- Feb. 14** - An automobile was reported stolen near 500 West on Center Street.
- Feb. 18** - An automobile was reported stolen near 800 South on Stubbs Avenue.
- Feb. 10** - A sexual assault was reported near 100 South and 300 West.
- ROBBERY**
- Feb. 15** - A robbery involving a knife was reported in the street outside The Boulders office at 750 S. 650 West.

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

# 2021 HOUSING GUIDE

Now on racks across campus



# BYU Women's basketball finishes perfect at home



Preston Crawley

The BYU women's basketball team celebrates a 61-56 upset win over No. 16 Gonzaga in the Marriott Center on Feb. 18. The Cougars went undefeated at home this season, winning all nine of their games in the Marriott Center, and look poised to make deep runs in the West Coast Conference and NCAA tournaments in March.

## Derwin and Vicki Gray tell BYU student-athletes to 'be the change' in efforts to 'root out racism'

By CALEB TURNER

BYU Athletics alumni Derwin and Vicki Gray were invited to speak to BYU student-athletes during Black History Month on Feb. 16-17, sharing a message centered on “being the change you want to see,” in efforts to “root out racism.”

BYU Athletic Director Tom Holmoe and Senior Associate Athletic Director Liz Darger reached out to the Grays in January, and the couple accepted the invitation to return to their alma mater where they met and addressed current student-athletes.

Their unique experiences as minority and non-Latter-day Saint student-athletes at BYU serve the department's goals of inspiring and creating a more inclusive and diverse athletic program.

Derwin played football at BYU from 1989-1992 and Vicki was a javelin thrower on the track and field team during the same period. The couple married in 1992 and now live in North Carolina. Derwin is the founding and lead pastor at the Transformation Church in Indian Lands, South Carolina.

The couple held 20 meetings over a two-day period at BYU, including two round-table dinners with minority students and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

They used the story of the Good Samaritan from the New Testament to illustrate how to look beyond what's perceived as normal and love others, despite the differences people may have.

“The Samaritan was not supposed to be the hero of the story,” Derwin said. “The Jews and Samaritans had a 700-year ethnic feud, but yet the Samaritan showed incredible love to go and help the Jewish man who had been bloodied and beaten and robbed.”

The message, in the end, comes down to “love your neighbor as you love yourself,” according to Derwin, who sported a BYU Football “Love One Another” hoodie during several of the talks he gave.

“There are things that Latter-day Saints will think are normative to the rest of the world, and it's not,” Derwin said. “Love says, ‘how do I include, embrace and understand the perspectives of another.’ Love says, ‘I want to get to know you, I want to know what you value, I want to know where you come from.’”

He told the student-athletes to not be “color blind,” but “color blessed.”



BYU Athletics

Vicki Gray, left, and Derwin Gray speak to BYU student-athletes on Feb. 17 in the Smith Fieldhouse. The couple held 20 meetings over two days as part of Black History Month and BYU's efforts to “root out racism.”

“Those who say they want to be color blind have never had their color be a disadvantage for them,” Derwin said. “To be color blessed means I recognize the beautiful image of God in every human being, of every ethnicity, and that I can be blessed by their color, by their culture, by the person that they are.”

BYU men's basketball head coach Mark Pope praised the couple and the power of these meetings in his weekly coaches show on BYUtv.

“To have him here in person with his wife was truly one of the most spectacular people that we've had address our athletic department and our team in a long time,” Pope said on the show. “He and his wife have such a magical way of taking ridiculously complicated, partisan, emotion-charged issues and bringing them straight back to the gospel where nothing is dumbed down, and you understand them more profoundly.”

Derwin said the message was received by BYU student-athletes in an “epic way,” above and beyond what they expected.

“The response was incredible,” Derwin said. “We found the student-athletes to be brilliant and mature. They want to move beyond just conversations to actions.”

The couple attended the BYU women's basketball game against Gonzaga on Feb. 18 and noted that the team stood arm-in-arm during the national anthem, wearing shirts that said, “united against racism.”

“I'm hopeful for this Gen Z, they get inclusion, particularly student-athletes,” Derwin said. “Athletes have led change for generations now.”

Vicki said while it will always be a cultural challenge for minorities and non-LDS student-athletes to attend BYU, she believes the department

has more of a structure in place now to help non-traditional athletes succeed at BYU than it did when she was in Provo. She highlighted the recent hiring of Whitney Johnson as associate athletic director for diversity and inclusion and said it was encouraging to spend time with her.

“They're trying very hard to make sure student-athletes have the support they need,” Vicki said. “I see Tom (Holmoe) and Liz (Darger) and the athletic department trying to do whatever they can to embrace the student-athletes and help them feel supported.”

Derwin said the impression he got from the student-athletes, especially those of color, is that there is a “disconnect” between the inclusion they find on their teams versus what takes place on campus.

“In some ways, it's gotten better (since I was at BYU) but in some ways, it's actually gotten harder, because of social media and because there's so much more awareness,” Derwin said of being a minority at BYU. “Athletes are learning that they have a voice.”

Derwin said he applauds the student-athletes at BYU for wanting to create an environment of loving their neighbor and believes they can be an example to the rest of the BYU campus and to the world of “what it looks like to love one another.”

Overall, the Grays said it was a powerful trip that exceeded their expectations, and Vicki said many student-athletes expressed their gratitude for the discussions.

“I think they felt like they had been heard,” Vicki said. “They felt like there was someone who could relate to what they were saying, the change they were trying to make. I think it just encouraged them to feel like somebody saw them.”



Preston Crawley

Abe Valdez bats against UVU in 2020. Valdez had his senior season shortened due to COVID and decided to use his extra year of eligibility to help the Cougars in 2021.

## BYU baseball begins 2021 season with Texas road trip

By JEFF SALCEDO

The BYU baseball team will look to improve on a 7-9 record in a shortened 2020 season as the Cougars open up their 2021 season on the road in Texas.

The Cougars face a busy opening week to their season as they play eight games in seven days. BYU begins the season with a four-game series against Texas State on Feb. 20-23, followed by another four-game series against the University of Texas Feb. 24-27.

BYU was voted fourth in the West Coast Conference coaches poll, receiving one first-place vote. No Cougars were named to the All-WCC preseason team.

The Cougars return nearly every player from the 2020 team, with the exception of a few key pieces.

Two BYU pitchers, Justin Sterner and Jardo Lessar signed MLB contracts over the summer.

Sterner, who signed with the Miami Marlins, posted a 2.86 career ERA. Sterner's career ERA is fourth-best in BYU history and the best since Mike Wood's 2.60 ERA from 1976-1978.

Lessar signed with the New York Yankees during the offseason. Lessar pitched a 4.60 career ERA with a 1.45 WHIP.

BYU will also be missing dual-sport athlete Jaren Hall. Hall will focus his attention on football in hopes of winning the starting quarterback spot this fall.

Two of BYU's key returnees are relief pitchers.

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Bryce Robinson threw a team-best 1.32 ERA in 13.2 innings in relief last season. Sophomore right-handed pitcher Mikade Johnson pitched a

2.16 ERA in 8.1 innings of relief work.

Head coach Mike Littlewood discussed the team's pitching strength in a recent BYU SportsNation interview. “This is the most depth we've ever had (pitching-wise) since I've been here. We have a lot of guys who have great velocity, have good command, can really pitch. I feel like we have probably a dozen options to go to.”

Freshman left-handed pitcher Boston Mabeus and junior outfielder Cole Gambill are newcomers BYU fans should keep an eye on, Littlewood said.

Mabeus is returning from a mission and is projected to start in one of the first two series for the Cougars.

“Really good 12-6 curveball, developing a good change (up). He'll be a key for us,” Littlewood said.

Gambill is a transfer from Salt Lake Community College, where he batted .311 with 27 RBIs in his sophomore season. Littlewood said Gambill is their projected starter in the right field.

“Good left-handed hitter, really good defensive outfielder. We're looking for big things from him,” Littlewood said.

Senior outfielder Hayden Leatham is expected to make big strides this season, after getting experience in division baseball last year.

“He came and struggled a little bit last year, but he's looking really good this year, it's just experience,” Littlewood said.

The 2018 JUCO All-American led the team in home runs last season with two.

The first home game for the Cougars will be on March 11 against the University of Utah, following a road series at the University of Oregon the first weekend in March.



# College athletes coming together to promote change

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whether talking to a teammate, close friend or complete stranger, San Jose State football player Drew Jenkins has a go-to question when discussing hot-button topics: "Are you OK with the society you live in?"

"And most of their answers are no, they're not OK," the sophomore defensive back said. "So, then you should take it into your own hands and see if something's going wrong. You should be able to do something about it. You don't want to just sit on the sidelines, just like you don't want to sit on the sidelines when you're in a game."

A political science major, Jenkins has spent the past several months suiting action to words, joining fellow students across the country in using the platforms they have as athletes to speak out about issues like racism and police brutality. They are helping educate their peers about what it feels like to live as a minority, embracing the responsibility to try to create tangible change.

For many, the push has led to the formation of athlete groups dedicated to inclusion and outreach. In fact, every Pac-12 Conference university now has some form of coalition to support Black and minority athletes — eight of those organizations were established over the past year, some still in the early planning stages, while others have built on what they already had in place.

At San Jose State, Jenkins and teammate Christian Webb are involved in a group called People of Change and led a march last year. On Feb. 12, they made a presentation to their teammates on Black history and why it is celebrated in February "just to educate them on this month," Jenkins said.

They also hope to hold an event in the coming weeks to raise money for further community action, with plans to meet as an entire organization sometime in March if it can be done safely under COVID-19 protocols.



Preston Crawley

The BYU women's basketball team members stand arm-in-arm wearing shirts that read "United Against Racism" during the national anthem prior to a game against Gonzaga on Feb. 18 in the Marriott Center. Several BYU teams wear phrases and patches on their warm-ups and jerseys with messages such as "Root Out Racism," and "Love One Another."

Many of the groups emerged in the aftermath of George Floyd's death last May while he was in the custody of Minneapolis police.

"It's just somewhere to go and people that you trust and that you feel safe also voicing your opinion with," said University of California baseball player Darren Baker, whose father, Dusty, manages the Houston Astros. "I think it was something that was long overdue. It's unfortunate that some events around the country had to happen for this to finally become a thing, but I'm glad it did."

At Stanford, defensive end Thomas Booker is part of a movement on campus he and others considered essential in the current U.S. climate. The group, called CardinalBLCK, is mostly meeting over video calls for now with members scattered. While still firming up a mission statement, the group aims to be progressive in community outreach.

"We felt like we needed a community that had all of our interests in mind and at heart," Booker said. "What we envision for the organization to be is, first off, a place that Black Stanford student-athletes can go to and have similar faces and opinions and ideas expressed for them, where as before there

wasn't ever a real formal organization for that. Stanford is a majority-white institution so sometimes it can feel isolating, specifically as a student-athlete and all the stereotypes that come along with that."

Stanford athletic director Bernard Muir, who is Black, has served in a supporting role for CardinalBLCK. He acknowledges the administration won't always handle things perfectly and this is a forum for everyone to find ways to be better. Stanford athletes approached him after Floyd's killing.

"I think the country was hurting," Muir said. "Certainly our student-athlete population was hurting, so they wanted to come together and talk and vent their frustrations and talk about their own experiences here on campus."

The moment Jenkins can get everybody together again in person he plans to host a town-hall forum for all San Jose State athletes to tackle social justice issues in a safe space.

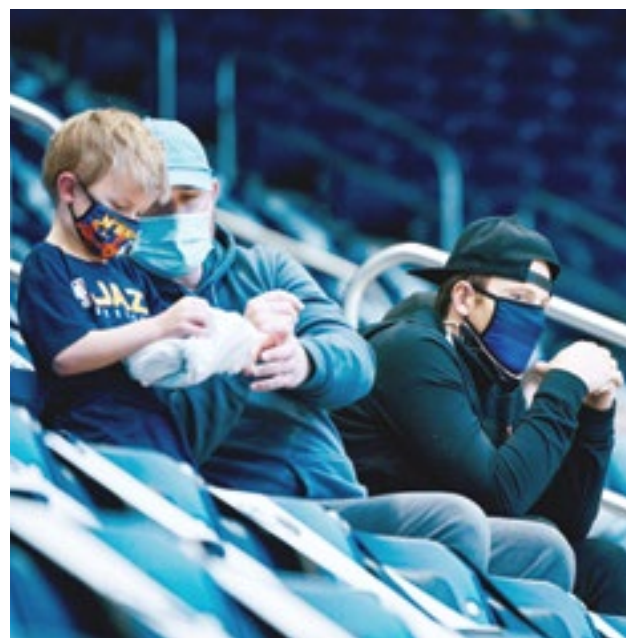
He and Webb led a march from campus to City Hall last year, and Jenkins made sure all his teammates who were eligible to vote became registered for the presidential election in November — 102 in all.

"That right there is huge to me," said Spartans quarterback

Nick Starkel, a grad transfer working to complete his master's degree in justice studies. "For me, personally, it was an opportunity for me to listen and to learn, and to be able to empathize with my teammates of color. Because I don't know what it's like."

Cal women's basketball players Cailyn Crocker and Sierra Richey — Crocker is Black, Richey white — helped set up the Racial Justice Council with support from administration in Berkeley and their outspoken Black head coach, Charmin Smith. The group features two representatives from each of the school's sports teams. Three separate discussions were held on social issues and 600 athletes attended at least one session.

"The education piece is going to be huge, because the foundation of this council is really educating and making people feel more comfortable," Crocker said. "Cal generates and creates some of the best people in the world, and if they have this foundational understanding of people and backgrounds and ethnicities and races already, once they get out in the real world it's going to be a better world for everybody. That's thinking kind of big, but that's a huge foundation of who we are."



Preston Crawley

Utah Jazz owner Ryan Smith, right, attends a BYU men's basketball game on Jan. 30 as part of a limited group of fans and family in the Marriott Center. The NCAA plans on allowing a limited number of fans at the NCAA Tournament in March in Indianapolis.

## NCAA allows limited fan attendance at men's tournament games

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NCAA will allow a limited number of fans to attend all rounds of next month's men's basketball tournament in Indiana.

The governing body said Feb. 19 it is permitting 25% capacity at the venues to allow for social distancing. That figure will include all participants and essential staff along with the family members of team players and coaches.

Attendees must wear face coverings, and cleaning and disinfecting efforts will be emphasized at venues in keeping with COVID-19 safety protocols.

The NCAA said in its statement it acted in conjunction with state and local health officials. NCAA chief medical officer Brian Hainline said the decision also followed conversations with the organization's medical advisory group and will rely on testing and monitoring services from

the Indiana University Health system.

"The No. 1 priority for decisions around the tournament continues to be the safety and well-being of everyone participating in the event," Hainline said.

The NCAA had previously announced the 68-team tournament will be played entirely in Indiana because of the pandemic, with most games in Indianapolis. The tournament will begin with First Four games on March 18 at home arenas for Big Ten Conference schools Purdue and Indiana, with those venues located about a one-hour drive — in opposite directions — from downtown Indianapolis.

At Indiana, the school said it will allow up to 500 fans for tournament games at Assembly Hall with some seats reserved for local medical workers and first responders who have been vaccinated.

The Final Four takes place in Indianapolis on April 3. The national championship game follows two days later.

# The daily part of The Daily Universe

## The Daily Universe Newsletter



Sign up now.  
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News from BYU's Daily Universe directly to your inbox

Good morning,

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

Top Stories

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

By Media Mehr

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

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





Kristine Kim

Conserve Utah Valley is an organization dedicated in preserving open spaces through Utah Valley, including Bridal Veil Falls. Bridal Veil Falls is a local gem that attracts many visitors throughout the year.

## Conserve Utah Valley aims to protect open spaces throughout Utah Valley

By KRISTINE KIM

Conserve Utah Valley is a recently organized non-profit organization that advocates for the conservation of open space and local areas throughout Utah Valley.

Conserve Utah Valley started as a group of BYU students and faculty whose main interests were protecting Bridal Veil Falls from potential development, but the group's mission has now expanded beyond that.

Bridal Veil Falls is a scenic waterfall recreation area in Provo Canyon that attracts thousands of local visitors per year. However, late last year, Utah developer and owner of Cirque Lodge treatment center Richard Losee wanted to build a drug rehabilitation center and a tramway that would go up and down the falls. If built, the tram would be open to the public for a fee.

"I wasn't happy about it. I think that what makes Utah County beautiful is Bridal Veil Falls and having it up for development would be sad for many people who have been going there for many generations," said BYU public relations student Andrea Vega.

As Conserve Utah Valley started to fight for protection of Bridal Veil Falls, it was able to get the attention of local activists, Utahns and the local government.

"We wrote hundreds of letters to the county commissioners and had other people do the same. We collected signatures, then presented those signatures, emails and letters to the county commissioners at a public forum where they voted on the initial conservation easement that protected Bridal Veil Falls," said Conserve Utah Valley assistant executive director and BYU student Adam Johnson.

The group teamed up with local leaders and environmental

activists, gaining traction and funding to be organized into a non-profit organization.

In a Jan. 22 press release, Conserve Utah Valley stated that through its efforts, it was able to push the Utah County Commission to "put Bridal Veil Falls into a conservation easement, permanently protecting the falls and the surrounding area from future development."

Conserve Utah Valley advisory board member and BYU environmental law professor Brigham Daniels said the group is grateful for local and state leaders who helped protect Bridal Veil Falls. "It is vital that we protect it for all those who treasure it and for generations to come."

Johnson said while the initial goal was to protect Bridal Veil Falls from further development, the organization now encompasses so much more. "We're here to protect and sustain treasured canyons, foothills, open spaces and waters of Utah Valley."

The group has been working on multiple projects. Currently, Conserve Utah Valley is trying to put a few parcels of land under conservation easements. It also has been organizing garbage cleanups in Slate Canyon and other areas within Utah Valley.

"Over the last decade or so, some of the public lands have started being developed or threatened, and the natural beauty has been taken away. However, people are coming together and being able to confront this," Johnson said.

Conserve Utah Valley currently has over 50 volunteers helping out on different environmental projects in Utah County. Volunteers are able to utilize their set of skills to help with different aspects of the projects the group is working on.

"If anyone wants to help out, we will find a place for them. We need as much help as we can get," Johnson said.

## NCAA bracket trickier in this unusual season



Hannah Miner

BYU's Alex Barcello drives against Gonzaga's Jalen Suggs on Feb. 8 in the Marriott Center. No. 1 Gonzaga and BYU are likely to make the NCAA tournament, but the tournament itself might look different than previous years.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

There's no need to worry about geography in this year's NCAA Tournament.

Get ready for plenty of talk about the so-called "S curve" instead. And don't worry — it's not that complicated.

With the entire tournament taking place in or near Indianapolis, there is no reason for the four geographic regions that have been a part of past NCAA brackets. The NCAA doesn't have to ensure the best teams play closer to home.

The NCAA instead is trying to use the "S curve" in which a team's placement is more dependent on its strength than its location. The No. 1 overall seed ideally would have the No. 8 overall seed as the second-best team in its region, the top No. 2 seed in the same section with the No. 7 overall seed and the same approach for 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5.

Whether that happens isn't a sure thing: Rules prevent conference rivals from facing off early in the tournament and the S curve — the NCAA helpfully put out a specific explanation of this term — often gets broken up.

"The likelihood of being able to be a perfect S curve is probably unlikely," said Kentucky athletic director Mitch Barnhart, who chairs the NCAA Division I men's basketball committee. "There's going to have to be modifications."

It is creating plenty of uncertainty for teams competing for bids — as well as the people filling out the bracket.

"This is just an unprecedented tournament, an unprecedented time," Wisconsin coach Greg Gard said. "Hopefully it's only a one-off and we're only going to have to do this and navigate this one time this way."

### Those conference matchups

Teams from the same conference can't meet before the regional final

if they've already played each other at least three times in a season. If they've faced off twice, league foes can't meet until the regional semifinals.

Some of this is already being played out. For instance, when the committee revealed last week which schools would earn the top 16 seeds if the bracket were being announced that day, No. 4 overall seed Ohio State was included in a region with No. 14 seed Texas Tech, rather than No. 13 seed Iowa. Ohio State and Iowa already met once, are scheduled to face off again Feb. 28 and could battle each other a third time in the Big Ten Tournament.

No. 8 overall seed Houston was in a region with No. 3 overall seed Michigan rather than No. 1 overall seed Gonzaga. Plenty of other pairings also didn't quite match what a true S curve would have reflected.

### Lack of nonconference games

Division I teams played fewer than half as many nonconference games as usual this year. That makes it tougher than ever to compare the credentials of teams from various leagues.

It also could make it particularly challenging for teams from outside the major conferences to land at-large bids. Typically, contenders from those leagues build their resumes by beating schools from bigger leagues. Those schools didn't get nearly enough of those opportunities this year.

Barnhart said the biggest challenge is the fact that pandemic-related pauses have caused some teams to play fewer games than others through no fault of their own. There's also the dilemma of how to rate a team that might lose a game or two due to the rust factor after a long layoff.

"There is no hard-and-fast rule," Barnhart said. "I think the thing we've got to understand is, we're going to play the ball as it lies. The

resumes are the resumes."

### How low is too low?

Up to now, no team has ever earned an at-large bid with a worse record than the 16-14 mark that Villanova had in 1991 and Georgia had in 2001.

That could change this season, because the pandemic limited the number of so-called guarantee games that allow major conference teams to boost their records.

Jerry Palm, who forecasts the NCAA brackets for CBS Sports, said a team could make it this year while being only one or two games above .500 as a possibility. Joe Lunardi, who predicts the bracket for ESPN, believes even a team with a losing record could get an at-large bid.

Finding a team that fits that profile is tricky. Maryland (13-10) was an obvious candidate before the Terrapins won three straight games to pull above .500.

The highest-rated team with a losing record in the NET rankings is Penn State (7-10). The Nittany Lions dealt their NCAA hopes a severe blow by falling to Michigan State and Nebraska in their last two games. They lost to Ohio State 92-83 on Feb. 18, but an upcoming matchup with Iowa — ranked 11th in the AP Top 25 — give them a chance to raise their stock.

### Measuring road wins

One dilemma facing the committee is how to determine the value of a road win during a pandemic, when teams are playing in front of no fans or much smaller crowds than usual.

"It diminishes the effect of the home-court advantage, so to speak," Barnhart said. "But I never want to lose sight of the fact the team has to test to get on the bus or play, they've got to travel, they've got to stay in a hotel, they're out of their element, they're playing in an area they aren't used to, all those things."

Through Feb. 14, home teams had won 65.9% of Division I games, not far off last season's pace of 68.4%.

## Measure to retire Native school mascots fails in Utah House



Associated Press

A resolution that would encouraged Utah schools to retire Native American mascots failed to pass through the Utah House. The resolution's sponsor, Rep. Elizabeth Weight, D-West Valley City, began drafting it while her alma mater, Bountiful High School, was reexamining its mascot.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Utah House failed to pass a resolution that would have encouraged schools to retire Native American mascots.

Several conservative state lawmakers spoke against the resolution, with one questioning whether legislators were being overly sensitive and if animal mascots would next be considered too controversial, The Salt Lake Tribune reports.

The measure was defeated mostly along party lines, with only a few Republicans voting in favor. The nonbinding resolution would not have forced schools to retire their mascots.

"I'm not trying to directly compare the two," Republican House Majority Leader Francis Gibson said of the resolution. "But will we have PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) arguing against that as well?"

Democratic Rep. Elizabeth Weight, the resolution's sponsor, said the measure was about being "more conscientiousness of our Native American neighbors."

The resolution was intended to start conversations about the hurtful use of Indigenous imagery, Weight said.

Weight, a former teacher, previously said using Native American mascots makes characters of living people, leaving many offended. Humans should not be compared to

animals or treated as mascots, she argued.

Weight began drafting the resolution while her alma mater in northern Utah, Bountiful High School, reexamined its mascot, "The Braves."

The Bountiful student body has for decades worn red face paint and feathers to school events. Football games have included students doing a "tomahawk chop" and calling the entrance of other teams, "The Trail of Tears," a reference to the forced relocation of thousands of Native Americans in the 1800s that resulted in at least 3,000 deaths.

After receiving a petition from some alumni and Native American groups, Bountiful stopped using the mascot name and is seeking another.



Gunlock State Park

Visitors enjoy the water at Gunlock State Park in Washington County. State park visitation increased by 2.6 million in 2020.

## Utah State Parks sees 2M increase in visits amid pandemic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah State Parks has reported park visitation increased by 2.6 million between 2019 and 2020 despite safety restrictions implemented during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Our state parks saw elevated visitation numbers throughout the traditional summer season," Utah Division of Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Rasmussen said. "Not only that, but record-breaking visitation continued into the fall and winter, and has not tapered off like it normally does."

The agency reported that the 44 parks across Utah recorded 10.6 million visitors combined last year

compared to the 8 million recorded in 2019, KSTU-TV reported. Officials said popular boating and off-highway vehicle areas statewide also saw increase use.

Park officials announced in April last year that many state parks would reopen after weeks of being restricted to in-county residents to limit the spread of COVID-19. Some stayed closed based on local public health orders.

"We never closed our doors to the public. While there was a time when visitation was restricted due to local health orders, we were always open," Rasmussen said.

Utah State Parks expects visitation to remain high this year as people continue to find outdoor spaces to escape during the pandemic.





## 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 the next COVID-19 relief bill be passed? Why or why not?

It's not nearly enough, but yes. The working class deserves a bailout for once.

@CHRISTIANWALKERMUSIC

Yes! I want free money

@ANAY220

No. More money means more inflation. Things will start to cost more. Prices will never go down.

@EMMAMAMA4

Yes. Because people need relief and the government is the only entity that can reach all people.

@AIR\_RICK515

I think that the bill should be passed as long as the virus is still a problem. People need money.

@BILINGUALPIANIST

Absolutely- some people have been unemployed for nearly a year and NEED relief \$

@MANDARITTER

Way too much government spending

@MELISSA\_GLADE

This will kill our nation for generations to come

@GSELCHO

I think it should be something you apply for; I don't need the money and feel bad getting it

@CAMMYGIRL159

No. Most people are not even spending the 1st checks. Just let people return to work!

@JOHNNYBL00D3

It's been so long without meaningful aid that too much is better than too little. Give money back to the people

@JM01114

Duh. If the US can afford to give billionaires a trillion dollar tax cut it can give much needed covid relief.

@TESSIE\_BABES



## READERS' FORUM

### Vaccine mandate

With around a million vaccines rolling out a day, discussions have arisen about whether it should be mandatory for all citizens to take before reopening the country. Although it is clearly unconstitutional to enforce a nationwide vaccine mandate, there are other ways in which we can be practically forced to take the vaccine with fear of being ostracized from society.

It is not too far-fetched to envision a near future where we would need to carry a vaccination card to return to our everyday lives. This may start with universities, like BYU, saying such requirements are necessary to attend in-person classes. Next, we'd see airports, concerts and amusement parks all requiring proof of vaccination. But why would it stop there? Who's to say that next, it won't be businesses, supermarkets and public transportation?

Some see the record-breaking production of the vaccine as a miracle directly from God, while others see it as a rushed product of untrustworthy bureaucrats. In America, we believe that everyone should exercise their agency, especially when it comes to their own health. For example, my grandmother has decided to take the vaccine, while my grandfather, who already had COVID-19, has decided that he doesn't want an experimental vaccine. We must allow all Americans to make that decision, about their own health, without fear of being cast out of society.

—Derek VanBuskirk  
Palm Springs, California

### Post-trauma therapy

I am recovering from a rollover car accident, where the car I was in flipped over four times. The only physical damage that was done was three broken bones in my right arm. But the psychological damage would take much more effort to heal than a quick surgery at the hospital.

The Anxiety Depression Association found that "more than eight million Americans between the age of 18 and older have PTSD." According to a telephone poll done by the American Psychological Association, "87% of those polled pointed to lack of insurance coverage as a barrier to seeking treatment, and 81% pointed to cost concerns."

Before going to therapy, I had PTSD symptoms for weeks after my accident. I would often break down and experience flashbacks. But, once I started to get help from a professional, I realized that I simply needed to talk out these issues with someone who would listen. My therapist knew how to ask the hard questions, get to the root of my fears and how to effectively treat them.

I was able to overcome these traumatic experiences and distance myself from fear and anxiety. Everyone should be entitled to proper and necessary healthcare, especially when it comes to mental health. Victims of car accidents who feel as though therapy would be beneficial to their healing process should not have to choose otherwise based on cost.

—Eve Black  
Naperville, Illinois

## Tweet Beat



#BYU #BYUprobs

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

Leave comments at  
universe.byu.edu or @UniverseBYU

@TMoran93

My love would be so much easier if I could wink. Like, imagine all the awkward situations solved with a wink.

@alyssalimp

Weird that March is next month when March was also last month

@carly\_car\_

I've been sitting at my desk for 30 minutes working up the courage to open my laptop. I am so, so tired of this (everything)

@classicmrm

in reality I'm only a few years older than my roommates but the fact that I had to explain that "cougar blvd" used to be "bulldog blvd" makes me feel ancient

@shannybearrr

told someone I like twilight unironically and they ghosted me call that dodging a bullet

@gliterwrl

"How do you know them" bro we go to the same social media

@karlee\_fries

i sure have purchased an alarming amount of clothing during this pandemic just for them to sit in my closet/drawers while i wear the same joggers, leggings and hoodies every week :)

@GeorgesNiang20

Nothing beats waking up to some nice snow fall in Utah!!! Pure bliss!!

@zarahemla21

Remember when it took 2 weeks for an amazon package to come in

@06fordexplorer

what is joe Biden's plan to stop bathing suit companies from selling tops and bottoms separate for \$70 each

@phoebeannek

Sometimes my body be like: I know you've slept 12 hrs but what if you sleep some more

@heykyleharris

If someone shrunk their kids today they'd be cancelled, straight up

@factaurial

mentally and emotionally preparing myself to reenter the testing center for the first time in a full year

Tweets are unedited.



Jacob Brown



When you don't go to class but your group puts your name in the project



## OPINION OUTPOST

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

### Reopen schools

The past year has inflicted devastating lessons on what happens when elected leaders fail to follow the science in making decisions that affect the public's well-being.

Yet, the ongoing debate about whether to reopen the nation's public schools shows those lessons still haven't been adequately learned. The scientific evidence for safely reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic has been clear for months. Ongoing fears about COVID-

19 are understandable as the nation approaches the grim mark of 500,000 deaths from the coronavirus, but fear can't be allowed to further harm the education of millions of America's children.

We must follow the science. And the best science available indicates schools can open safely.

—Editorial Board  
USA Today

### Gas tax

Many states have recently adopted higher gas taxes to pay for highways, refuting the conventional wisdom that such policies are politically toxic. Like all excise taxes, gas taxes are regressive and should come with measures to protect the

poor, but the higher new-car prices and nontransparent income transfers that result from current fuel-economy regulations and electric vehicle tax credits are regressive, too, and not transparent.

Too often, climate policy proposals imply Americans can enjoy a free lunch on the way to sustainability. Gas taxes are more honest.

—Editorial Board  
The WashingtonPost

### Rush Limbaugh

... Unlike others on the talk-radio right, he kept his sense of humor and rarely let anger drown his fundamental optimism about the United States. Limbaugh knew he was an entertainer, not an intellec-

tual or politician, and he said so many times. He was popular because he was superb at his craft and represented traditional American values that the dominant culture too often demeans.

—Editorial Board  
The Wall Street Journal

### The Constitution

Governments discriminate against the "free exercise" of religion ... when they allow gatherings for secular purposes, whether to shop ... or assemble in bus or train terminals, but forbid worship services or

require them to be held exclusively outdoors.

Back in November, the court's majority said that, "in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten."

—Editorial Board  
Deseret News

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

- All letters should be submitted by email to [universe.ideas@gmail.com](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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**Garfield®**

**Non Sequitur®**

**Peanuts®**

**Pickles®**

**Zits®**

**Sudoku**

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

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

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

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

### The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0118

**ACROSS**

- Get ready to hem, say
- Hankering
- Thomas Edison's middle name
- Boxing venue
- \_\_\_ Hari (W.W. I spy)
- Russian "no"
- City where you won't find the Eiffel Tower
- Cotton processors
- Not to mention ...
- Org. for which Jason Bourne works in "The Bourne Identity"
- Author Charlotte, Emily or Anne
- City where you won't find the Parthenon
- 1965 Alabama march site
- Saintly "Mother"
- Utopian
- Plant on a trellis
- 1950s White House nickname
- "Nuts!"
- Gets ready, as for surgery
- Insect flying in a cloud
- CPR pro
- Sound made by helicopter rotors
- Rings, as a church bell
- Yasir of the P.L.O.
- What the back of a store might open onto
- City where you won't find Virgil's Tomb
- Pal of Jerry on "Seinfeld"
- 1965 Alabama march site
- Saintly "Mother"
- Excessive drinking or gambling
- City where you won't find the El Greco Museum
- Neck and neck
- Cousin of "Kapow!"
- Refrigerator compound
- Cincinnati squad
- "Well, that was stupid of me!"
- Commuter boat

**DOWN**

- Owner of the first bed that Goldilocks tested
- Tehran's land
- "Here comes Poindexter!"
- Prefix with lateral or cellular
- Easter-related
- "Let me rephrase that ..."
- Receipt line just above the total
- Org. that runs Windy City trains
- Fading stars
- Kind of goat that's the source of mohair
- Not understanding, in either sense of the word
- 20-ounce size at Starbucks
- Confounded
- Might of attire you put on while using a mirror
- Valentine's Day flower
- I.R.S. agent, quaintly
- More than a couple
- Part of a golf club
- Pro or con, in a debate
- Dutch cheese
- All riled up
- Curly-leaved cabbage
- Online market for craftspeople
- What follows the initial part of a master plan
- Repeated bit in jazz
- Neuter, as a horse
- Small, brown bird
- Join in couples
- 1986 sci-fi sequel set in deep space
- Venerated symbols
- "Not a chance!"
- Still surviving
- Walked nervously back and forth
- Far out
- Designer Christian
- \_\_\_ Pictures, one of Hollywood's Big Five studios
- Cry of surprise
- Drink like a cat
- Bauxite, e.g.

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

M	C	R	I	B	D	R	I	P	S	C	A	M
E	L	I	S	A	I	A	G	O	C	A	S	A
S	A	F	E	R	W	R	A	P	P	A	R	T
A	N	T	E	N	N	A	E	T	U	N	D	R
A	O	Y	L	M	A	T	I	O	N			
C	U	B	A	N	C	I	G	A	R	S		
U	N	T	I	E		E	M	T		D	O	G
S	T	E	M		I	O	T	A	S	A	M	A
S	O	N	S		S	E	A		A	M	P	N
M	I	A		O	A	F		A	R	E		
I	N	T	E	R	N		F	L	A	X	S	E
S	U	B	R	E	D	D	I	T		A	C	U
T	S	A	R	E		E	Y	R	E		M	O
S	E	T	S		R	E	E	D		S	T	O
L												

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### The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0119

**ACROSS**

- Source of the line "The meek shall inherit the earth"
- Regarding
- Dramatic exhalation
- One of the two main branches of Islam
- Something not often seen on roofs anymore
- World capital on a fjord
- Collectible caps of the 1990s
- "Bygone Crayola color
- Case for small toiletries
- Superman's adoptive family name
- Penthouse perks
- Org. affected by Title IX
- Buildup at the mouth of a river
- Utterly convinced of
- Do some stitching
- Large wine vessel
- Narcissistic trait
- Govt. pill-approved body
- "\_\_\_ bin ein Berliner"
- "Sweet, healthful treat
- Very long time
- Member of cable news
- Brutish
- Departed
- Driving force?
- Cul-de-\_\_\_
- Month après avril
- Deprived (of)
- They're rounded up in roundups
- Singer Barenilles
- Citizens of Dubai and Abu Dhabi
- Workers' rights org. since 1965
- Butting heads
- "World's largest terrestrial arthropod
- Puerto \_\_\_
- Turnpike expense
- Actor Mickey of "The Wrestler"
- Pastry decorator
- Salacious stuff
- "Hold on ... almost ...!"
- Friend
- Partner of hide
- Partner of dangerous
- Disney's Nala, for one
- Mickey of the Yankees
- Like a wink or a nudge, maybe
- Many sopranos' songs
- Part of an archipelago
- Item waved at a rave
- "In what way?"
- Opposite of saves
- "Sign in a deli window, perhaps
- Large, herbivorous dinosaur that could walk on two legs
- Difficult area to maintain control of in the game Risk
- \*Staple of Japanese cuisine
- Where visitors may stay
- "So \_\_\_!" (sarcastic retort)
- Cost of a ride
- Like some roomy jeans
- Figure of speech?
- Childish comeback
- Word repeated in "\_\_\_ are \_\_\_"
- "As Seen on TV" channel
- "My bad"
- Garment whose name sounds like 54-Down
- Rights org.
- Flash of lightning
- Word that can follow either half of the answers to the starred clues
- Large tea vessel
- "You wanna \_\_\_?"

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

M	I	L	D	E	W	E	Y		M	D	S		E	C	C	E
I	S	S	A	R	A	E		O	O	P		P	A	R	D	
K	I	D	N	E	Y	S	T	O	N	E		A	R	I	D	
E	A	T						A	N	T		C	O	L	O	N
S	H	A	M	S		A	R	F				W	A	L	K	
B	I	P	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	B	I	L	L			
T	H	I	S	T	O	O	S	H	A	L	L	P	A	S	S	
O	A	T				H	U	E			R	I	M	E		
P	R	O	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R		B	A	C	K		
P	L	U	S			T	R	Y			O	K	N	O		
P	E	D	E	S	T	A	L	S			E	R	A			
E	D	Y	S			B	R	I	E	F	M	O	M	E		
S	O	O	T			A	Y	N			I	T	S	A	L	O
O	N	U	S			R	A	G			T	I	V	H	O	S

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# The superspreaders behind top COVID-19 conspiracy theories

ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the coronavirus spread across the globe, so too did speculation about its origins. Perhaps the virus escaped from a lab. Maybe it was engineered as a bioweapon.

Legitimate questions about the virus created perfect conditions for conspiracy theories. In the absence of knowledge, guesswork and propaganda flourished.

College professors with no evidence or training in virology were touted as experts. Anonymous social media users posed as high-level intelligence officials. And from China to Iran to Russia to the United States, governments amplified claims for their own motives.

The Associated Press collaborated with the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab on a nine-month investigation to identify the people and organizations behind some of the most viral misinformation about the origins of the coronavirus.

Their claims were explosive. Their evidence was weak. These are the superspreaders.

**Francis Boyle**

**Who he is:** A Harvard-trained law professor at the University of Illinois, Boyle drafted a 1989 law banning biological weapons and has advised the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Palestinian Authority.

Boyle has no academic degree in virology or biology but is a longstanding critic of research on pathogens. He has claimed Israeli intelligence was involved in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing; that SARS, the swine flu and Ebola have been genetically modified; and that West Nile virus and lyme disease escaped from a U.S. biowarfare lab.

**COVID claim:** Boyle says the coronavirus is a genetically engineered bioweapon that escaped from a high-level lab in Wuhan, China. He maintains it shows signs of nanotechnological tinkering and the insertion of proteins from HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus. He



Associated Press

During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than just the virus has spread around the country. In the U.S. different conspiracy theories about the virus began to flourish. Some of the groups and men in this graphic contributed to these false ideas.

alleges that U.S. Researchers helped create it, and that thousands of doctors, scientists, and elected leaders are conspiring to hide the truth.

**Evidence?** Boyle bases his argument on circumstantial evidence: the presence of a Biosafety Level 4 lab in Wuhan, the fact that other viruses have escaped from other labs in the past, and his belief that governments around the world are engaged in a secret arms race over biological weapons.

Biosafety Level 4 labs - or BSL4 labs - have the highest level of biosafety precautions.

"It seemed to me that obviously, this came out of the Wuhan BSL 4," Boyle told the Associated Press.

A World Health Organization team concluded it was extremely unlikely the virus escaped from the Wuhan lab, and other experts have said the virus shows no signs of genetic manipulation.

**The Centre for Research on Globalization**

**What it is:** The Montreal-based center publishes articles on

global politics and policy, including a healthy dose of conspiracy theories on vaccines and the Sept. 11, 2001, Terrorist attacks.

The center's website, "has become deeply enmeshed in Russia's broader disinformation and propaganda ecosystem" by peddling anti-U.S. conspiracy theories, according to a 2020 U.S. State Department report, which found that seven of its supposed writers do not even exist but were created by Russian military intelligence.

**COVID claim:** While the center has published several articles about the virus, one suggesting it originated in the U.S. caught the attention of top Chinese officials.

On March 12, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian retweeted an article published by the center titled: "China's Coronavirus: A Shocking Update. Did the Virus Originate in the US?"

"This article is very much important to each and every one of us," he posted in English on Twitter. "Please read and retweet it. COVID-19: further

evidence that the virus originated in the us."

The story by Larry Romanoff, a regular author at the center, cites several debunked theories, including one that members of the U.S. military brought the virus to China during the Military World Games in fall 2019. Romanoff concludes that it has now "been proven" that the virus originated from outside of China, despite scientific consensus that it did.

**Evidence?** The World Health Organization has concluded that the coronavirus emerged in China, where the first cases and deaths were reported. No evidence has surfaced to suggest the virus was imported into China by the U.S.

**Greg Rubini**

**Who he is:** Greg Rubini is the name of an internet conspiracy theorist who claims to have high-level contacts in intelligence and listed his location on Twitter as "classified," until he was kicked off the platform. His posts have been retweeted thousands of times by supporters of QAnon, a conspiracy theory

centered on the baseless belief that Trump is waging a secret campaign against enemies in the "deep state" and a secret sect of satanic pedophiles and cannibals.

**COVID claim:** Rubini has tweeted that Dr. Anthony Fauci created the coronavirus and that it was used as a bioweapon to reduce the world's population and undermine Trump.

**Evidence?** Rubini's doesn't appear to be the intelligence insider that he pretends to be.

Buzzfeed attempted to track down Rubini last year and determined it is the alias of a 61-year-old Italian man who has worked in marketing and music promotions. A previous version of his Twitter bio indicates he is a fan of classic rock and the films of Stanley Kubrick.

Attempts to reach Rubini online and through business contacts were unsuccessful.

Rubini has bristled at efforts to verify his claims. When a social media user asked: "My question to you @gregRubini is, 'where and what is your proof?'" Rubini responded curtly: "And my question is: why should i give it to you?"

Twitter suspended Rubini's account in November 2020 for repeated violations of its policies.

**Kevin Barrett**

**Who he is:** A former lecturer on Islam at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Barrett left the university amid criticism for his claims that the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks were orchestrated by people linked to the U.S. and Israeli governments.

Barrett calls himself "a professional conspiracy theorist, for want of a better term" and has argued government conspiracies were behind the 2004 Madrid bombing, the 2005 London bombing, the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting.

**COVID claim:** Barrett said he is "80%" sure coronavirus was created by elements within the U.S. government as a bioweapon and used to attack China.

Iran was a secondary target, he has argued. Writing for Iran's

PressTV, he said the early outbreak in that country "suggests that the Americans and/or their partners the Israelis ... may have deliberately attacked Iran."

Barrett further detailed his views during an interview with the AP.

"It seemed fairly obvious to me that the first hypothesis one would look at when something as extraordinary as this COVID pandemic hits, is that it would be a U.S. bio-war strike," he said.

**Evidence?** Barrett cited reports that the U.S. warned its allies in November 2019 about a dangerous virus emerging from China. Barrett said that's long before authorities in China knew about the severity of the outbreak.

Official sources have denied issuing any warning. If the U.S. did know about the virus that soon, it was likely thanks to intelligence sources within China, which may have known about the virus as early as November 2019, according to former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

**Luc Montagnier**

**Who he is:** Montagnier is a world-renowned virologist who won the Nobel prize in 2008 for discovering HIV.

**COVID claim:** During an April interview with the French news channel CNews, Montagnier claimed that the coronavirus did not originate in nature and was manipulated. Montagnier said that in the process of making the vaccine for AIDS, someone took the genetic material and added it to the coronavirus. Montagnier cites a retracted paper published in January from Indian scientists who had said they had found sequences of HIV in the coronavirus. AP made multiple unsuccessful attempts to contact Montagnier.

**Evidence?** Experts who have looked at the genome sequence of the virus have said it has no HIV-1 sequences. The paper from Indian scientists was withdrawn after social media users picked up the paper as proof that the virus was engineered. As soon as it was published, the scientific community widely debunked the paper on social media.

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