



Fundraiser

Provo church raising funds to restore after years of wear and weather

Page 5



400th win

BYU women's soccer head coach reaches milestone win

Page 7



Flag bill

Bill passed to create Utah commission to study a new flag design

Page 12

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March 9 - 15, 2021

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

@UniverseBYU
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

Politics, personal preference divide Latter-day Saints over wearing masks at church

By MARINA MCNAIRY

Kary Jane Hutto realized she would need to attend church in person again after her husband was called as bishop of the McKinney Texas 8th Ward on Jan. 3.

Hutto's family had spent almost a full year watching church online from home, staying indoors and exercising caution during the COVID-19 pandemic. As her husband started his new role as bishop, Hutto's family of six prepared to go back to church in person.

"We decided to all go as a family, always masked up," Hutto said.

She immediately noticed a change in her ward's attendance. The pews were nearly empty when Hutto's family returned.

After a month, the number of members attending in person slowly increased, but have not returned to pre-COVID-19 attendance. Hutto said many members in her ward continue to attend online because they prefer not to wear a mask.

"They didn't and still don't believe that the coronavirus is real," Hutto said. "Wearing a mask during church services is still divisive due to political differences and a lot of ignorance."

Such experiences are still prevalent, despite being a year into the pandemic. Many Latter-day Saint wards invite half of their members to come in person on alternate weeks while the other half watch online. Other congregations are also dealing with the fall-out of varying COVID-19 opinions and political views.

Rob Colman, the first counselor of the Nampa 24th Ward bishopric in Idaho, has also seen church attendance drop.

"The majority of comments that we hear are not wanting to be 'forced' to wear masks," Colman said. "They feel it is all politically based. At first, when it was more of a suggestion than a mandate, there were members on the other side of the spectrum saying that we all needed to be wearing them."

Emily Anderson with BYU's chapter of Turning Point USA, a conservative student group, has noticed the impact of mask divisiveness in Provo wards. "People are traveling more, going to wards where they don't have to wear masks and where activities are being held, or they're home more often, zooming in," Anderson said.

With the political divisiveness created during the 2020 election year, some members don't want to wear masks because the coronavirus has



Sydnee Gonzalez

Nearly a year into the pandemic, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are still divided over wearing masks at church services. Some feel it is an important safety precaution, while others believe it is government overreach.

also been politicized and now divides people, Anderson said.

Both Hutto's family and Anderson contracted COVID-19, despite exercising caution.

"I had so many friends and members in my ward that couldn't believe we got it with how careful we were," Hutto said. "It was a beat down."

Since contracting COVID-19, Anderson has "relaxed on the restrictions" and hasn't gotten sick again. "My dad got COVID when he was completely isolated," Anderson said.

Brad Williams, a physical therapist in Twin Falls, Idaho, said some of the patients he treats at local nursing homes have been hospitalized for COVID-19.

While Williams adheres to the mask mandate and safety precautions, he said, "It takes very little research to understand that mask-wearing has a debatable effect on infection and morbidity rates. This is one of those rare occasions in which the Church has been forced by governors and the state to formulate policy on what has become a political lightning rod."

Kanon Foote, head moderator of a BYU Conservatives Instagram page, said, "The government should have 0% say in mask mandates. It should be left totally up to the private sector — businesses and religious organizations — and the individual."

Some states, like California, are still prohibiting various church gatherings and activities. Indoor church attendance is limited to 25% of building capacity and choir practices are forbidden.

Williams said he believes that "members don't wish to adhere to arbitrary policies which are targeted more toward churches than other gatherings."

Situations with politicians mandating masking and social distancing behavior for citizens but ignoring those guidelines themselves, like California Gov. Gavin Newsom visiting a Napa Valley restaurant in November, may have influenced members' perception of COVID-19 policies.

"Certain members won't listen to restrictions on religious gatherings

because they're mandated by those who behave hypocritically," Williams said. "To the subset of members who do not believe in the efficacy of mask-wearing, it is a matter of principle."

In a recent letter from the First Presidency, leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint wrote that they want to be "good global citizens" and do what they can to control the contagious illness. A phased approach to reopening formal Sunday

Church gatherings was implemented last year. Those guidelines are based on local restrictions in each area.

"We will continue to be prayerful and proceed with an abundance of caution. Your safety and well-being will always be our utmost concern," Church President Russell M. Nelson, a former heart surgeon, said in a video to members.

Some members want to attend church services, but don't want to wear masks. "If the Church truly supports agency and accountability, they

would let us make our own health decisions," Anderson said. "People just want to worship without being forced."

Although Colman doesn't enjoy wearing masks, he wears one at every ward function and meeting. "Our leaders have asked us to and it allows us to worship in person," Colman said. "If wearing a mask allows someone else to feel safer and able to go out, then I am good with that. Like our leaders have said, it is an act of Christlike love."

According to Colman, too many people are turning the mask mandate into a political statement and are missing the point of doing what Church leaders have asked members to do.

"It is not a political thing or about losing our rights at this point, it is an act of Christlike love and obedience to the Brethren. It's a sacrifice we make to be true disciples of Jesus Christ," Colman said, adding unwillingness to adhere to the guidelines "is a lack of faith and peoples' unwillingness to submit to the will of our Heavenly Father."

LGBT students and allies light the 'Y' in rainbow colors

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

The 'Y' was lit in rainbow colors on March 4, sparking joy among LGBT students and allies as well as outrage from other members of the BYU community.

The Y lighting was the grand finale of "Rainbow Day," a day set aside each semester to show support for LGBT students and faculty. The tradition is sponsored by Color the Campus, an organization founded by BYU student Bradley Talbot in 2019. About 40 individuals participated in the event, which lasted from 8-9 p.m.

Talbot, a gay BYU senior, told the Daily Universe he was responsible for planning the rainbow lighting of the Y, which he hopes was inspiring and comforting to LGBT students and faculty.

"It's not a symbol of protest; it's a symbol of unity," Talbot said. "We are here and we are going to be supporting and loving (LGBT students and faculty) no matter what. And we hope to do that with BYU."

For Calvin Burke, a gay BYU senior, Rainbow Day was "a celebration of love and belonging for students like me, who do not often feel like we belong or are loved."

About 20 minutes after the Y was



Emily Harrah

Color the Campus, an organization started by BYU students to support LGBT BYU students, lights the Y on March 4.

lit, the university released a statement on social media saying it "did not authorize the lighting of the Y tonight."

Talbot said he wasn't too concerned about the response. "I think they were just a little panicked," he said. "It's a little humorous that they felt the need to do it so quickly when it took them two weeks to respond to the Honor Code changes last year."

The tweet was met with backlash from both individuals who supported and opposed the rainbow Y. LGBT individuals and allies suggested that the tweet reflected the university's lack of support for the LGBT community.

"If you truly cared about

education and the gospel, you would care about all your students. Very proud of @colorthecampus and all LGBTQ+ students and allies at BYU," said writer Kevin Carr O'Leary in response to BYU's tweet.

"The reality of the situation is that BYU is in a tricky spot with this. That being said — this comment does nothing but reward the hateful beliefs and rhetoric of bigots who use the good name of the Church and BYU to discriminate against others," said @kylecoug in response to BYU's tweet.

Others condemned BYU for the statement, using religious language to condemn LGBT individuals.

"Take it down! Things like

that don't belong at a school owned by the church," tweeted @misterultra4k.

Shortly following its first tweet, BYU released another one, stating "The Y is BYU property and any form of public expression on university property requires prior approval."

Talbot said he didn't attempt to seek approval for the event since it was an extension of Rainbow Day, which he said the university is aware of but doesn't officially approve.

"I do recognize that there could be some repercussions — and I could have gone through better channels — but I'm prepared to face

those consequences," he said. "This is more important to me than anything that BYU could do ... I know this is risky, but I was willing to take those risks, and I don't regret it."

BYU Police Lt. Jeff Long said the department received three calls reporting the incident; however, no police action was taken since "no crime was committed."

"Flashlights don't meet the elements of vandalism," Long said.

Talbot said he would love to meet with BYU officials and that the event was not meant to antagonize the university. "This is the opportunity that BYU has to be our advocate or our obstacle," he said. "This is us trying to bridge the gap between these two communities and sow loving unity and strength."

He provided the Daily Universe with the following statement on behalf of the Color the Campus organization:

"We at Color the Campus invite the BYU Board of Trustees to follow the Apostolic Counsel of President M. Russell Ballard, 'to listen to and understand what (their) LGBT siblings are feeling and experiencing.' We invite the Board of Trustees to meet with LGBTQ+ BYU students to hear their stories, so they understand the effects their actions have on some of most marginalized & victimized students at CES schools."

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 year in review

Total worldwide cases
116,849,611

Total cases in the U.S.
29,034,161

BYU
Total cases Winter Semester 2021
1,007
7-day rolling average
6

Highest number of daily cases in the U.S.
Jan. 7, 2021
862,146

Missionaries 2020
64,021
Missionaries 2021
54,000

Total cases in Utah
374,850

Total vaccines administered in Utah
857,750

Total deaths in Utah
1,977

Total fully vaccinated in Utah
310,327

National unemployment rates
February 2020 **3.5%** April 2020 **14.8%** February 2021 **6.2%**

Data and information retrieved from The New York Times, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Utah Department of Health, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and coronavirus.byu.edu.

Allie Peterson

More than 100,000 have died of COVID-19 in Italy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy surpassed 100,000 dead in the pandemic, a year after it became the first country in Europe to go on lockdown in a bid to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The Italian Health Ministry on March 8 said 318 people had died in the last 24 hours, bringing the total to 100,103, the second highest in Europe after Britain.

Italy recorded its first virus death on Feb. 21, 2020, when

78-year-old Antonio Trevisan of Venice died.

Italy's total virus cases surpassed 3 million last week, with a new surge powered by the highly contagious variant that was first identified in Britain.

Nearly 14,000 new positives were recorded Monday as the number of people in ICUs rose to 2,700 — 95 more than a day earlier. Italy imposed a draconian nationwide lockdown March 9, 2020, which continued for seven weeks and included a shutdown of all non-essential manufacturing.

Spring-break partying falls victim to COVID-19 crisis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colleges around the U.S. are scaling back spring break or canceling it entirely to discourage partying that could spread the virus and raise infection rates back on campus.

Texas A&M University opted for a three-day weekend instead of a whole week off. The University of Alabama and the University of Wisconsin-Madison also did away with

spring break but are giving students a day off later in the semester.

Even some students who have the time to get away aren't in the mood. To be sure, many college students looking to blow off steam or escape the cold and snowy North are still going to hit big party spots such as Florida, Mexico, California and Las Vegas to soak up the sun and go bar-hopping at night.

But many others say they will be reluctantly skipping trips this year.

Utah opens vaccine appointments to people ages 50 and up

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah opened COVID-19 vaccine appointments up to people ages 50 and older on March 8, Republican Gov. Spencer Cox announced during his weekly pandemic briefing on March 4.

Cox also said that Utah residents 18 and older with certain health conditions — diabetes, chronic kidney disease or obesity — can start making vaccine appointments. The expansion

will mean 700,000 more state residents can be vaccinated, he said.

People with a body mass index of 30 or higher can also be vaccinated. The previous threshold was 40 or higher.

Cox also announced last week that Utah had been approved to get 20,000 doses of the new single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

There have been 507,954 people immunized with one dose and 277,717 people immunized with two doses in Utah.

California to let Major League Baseball, Disneyland reopen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

California lifted some coronavirus restrictions on outdoor sports and entertainment venues, clearing the way for fans to attend games on Major League Baseball's opening day and for theme parks like Disneyland to reopen for the first time in more than a year.

The rules take effect April 1, but they only apply to people living in California. Baseball teams, event organizers and theme parks are

not allowed to sell tickets to anyone living out of state as public health officials try to limit mixing while continuing to roll out coronavirus vaccinations.

The San Diego Padres, Los Angeles Angels and Oakland A's all announced they will have fans in the stands for opening day on April 1.

Disneyland Resort President Ken Potrock did not say when the iconic theme park would reopen, but added "we can't wait to welcome guests back and look forward to sharing an opening date."

Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



LGBTQ rights bill ignites debate over religious liberty

A sweeping bill that would extend federal civil rights protections to LGBTQ people is a top priority of President Joe Biden and Democrats in Congress. Yet as the Equality Act heads to the Senate after winning House approval, its prospects seem bleak — to a large extent because of opposition from conservative religious leaders.

The public policy arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, calls the act "the most significant threat to religious liberty ever considered in the United States Congress." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has assailed it as discriminating against people of faith.

The act is the latest version of proposals previously introduced in Congress without success. It would amend existing civil rights law to explicitly cover sexual orientation and gender identity, with protections extending to employment, housing, education and public accommodations such as restaurants, theaters, hotels, libraries, gas stations and retail stores.



Malala takes her passions to the small screen with Apple

Malala Yousafzai is a Nobel laureate known around the world for her activism, but she's also a cartoon fan, and is taking her love of television and film to Apple TV+.

Yousafzai, 23, who graduated from Oxford last June, announced March 8 that she has partnered with Apple in a multi-year deal to develop dramas, documentaries, comedies, animation and series for kids.



GOP state lawmakers seek to nullify federal gun limits

With Democrats controlling the presidency and Congress, Republican state lawmakers concerned about the possibility of new federal gun control laws aren't waiting to react.

Legislation in at least a dozen states seeks to nullify any new restrictions, such as ammunition limits or a ban on certain types of weapons. Some bills would make it a crime for local police officers to enforce federal gun laws.

That can create confusion for officers who often work with federal law enforcement, said Daniel Isom, a former chief of the St. Louis Police Department who is now a senior advisor for Everytown for Gun Safety. Federal law plays a big role in some areas, such as keeping guns away from domestic violence offenders.



College educators form alliance to defend free expression

Around 200 scholars from across the country have formed the Academic Freedom Alliance, which has a mission to help college educators "speak, instruct, and publish without fear of sanction, bullying, punishment, or persecution."

Launched March 5, the non-profit organization arose out of discussions among some Princeton University faculty members over how to counter what they see as growing intolerance of differing viewpoints. They plan to serve as advocates for those they believe have been unjustly attacked, and to provide money for legal support if needed. Members will pay an annual fee of \$50 if they are tenured professors; \$35 for others; and the alliance also is seeking donations.

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Study finds masks, dining rules help curb spread

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new national study adds strong evidence that mask mandates can slow the spread of the coronavirus, and that allowing dining at restaurants can increase cases and deaths.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the study March 5. It looked at counties placed under state-issued mask mandates and at counties that allowed restaurant dining — both indoors and at tables outside. The agency's director says it shows decreases in cases and deaths when people wear masks. And it found increases in cases and deaths when in-person restaurant dining is allowed. The study was released just as some states are rescinding mask mandates and restaurant limits.

The scientists found that mask mandates were associated with reduced coronavirus transmission.

The reductions in growth rates varied from half a percentage point to nearly 2 percentage points.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

BYU students lift others through start-ups



welift/Luke Nafrada

BYU students started welift, an on-demand moving company that currently employs students from BYU, UVU, Dixie State University, Utah State University and the University of Utah.

By INGRID SAGERS

BYU students from different backgrounds are aiming to lift and help others through start-up companies, which have diverse solutions for distinct problems.

These startups include Tribe, an upcoming app designed to help those struggling with pornography; welift, an on-demand moving service; and Breath of Life, an anti-choking device.

Tribe

Junior product management major Chandler Rogers is the founder of Tribe, an app that will connect those struggling to overcome habituation and addiction to pornography.

Rogers said Tribe started with the realization of how many people grapple with pornography use and how hard it may be to access expensive professional help.

Struggling individuals often take scary but courageous leaps to even talk to those closest to them, he said. Tribe will take the initial awkward conversation out of getting help and support.

“A foundational principle of Tribe is that connection heals addiction. Regardless of the addiction, connection to others is a key piece of recovery,” Rogers said.

Once users open the app, they’ll be brought to the landing page and linked into a group, or “tribe,” where they can build relationships with members and professionals.

Rogers said he has worked on the app with help from computer science students, professional therapists, business owners and his wife, a BYU entrepreneurship major.

Rogers hoped naming the app Tribe would encapsulate the idea of working together and not being alone. He said the word “tribe” connotes the fight and struggle people experience while resisting pornography.

For now, Tribe’s primary focus is tackling pornography;

however, Rogers said the long-term goal will be to help people break any addiction or bad habit and create healthy lifestyles.

“There’s too much isolation in this world. What really matters is getting support and giving it to others,” Rogers said.

welift

Giving support to customers was a key principle behind the creation of welift.

Construction and facilities management major Luke Nafrada created welift with his wife, Sydnee Nafrada, after realizing the possibilities an on-demand moving service could offer BYU students.

Welift is a servicing company with a comparable concept to Uber and Doordash and a facilitating marketplace.

He said customers from across the state can find welift’s social media platforms or the company’s website to request a welift moving team in their local area.

“I love how easily welift helps college kids trying to make ends meet. These movers are sometimes in tight spots and paying their way through school,” Nafrada said. “It’s one of the greatest rewards from this whole experience.”

He said some may not realize how often a spur-of-the-moment moving need can pop up and hopes welift will be the best resource for those situations.

The company began in January 2021 and has already seen a promising return on its investment. Nafrada said after doing market research and surveys, the company received very positive feedback on market need and desire for its services.

Nafrada said his wife, Sydnee, has overseen the booking and marketing side of the operation and was the driving force between welift’s partnership with the Penske truck leasing company.

“We’re looking to partner with other companies and influencers, but our biggest priority is how we service our

customers and treat our fellow student employees,” he said.

Breath of Life

BYU entrepreneurship major Elizabeth Jeffrey’s business started from the desire to service caretakers more effectively.

Jeffrey is a busy mom of six children. Although her family and class schedule keep her busy enough, she saw the need for the creation of a new choking remedy device.

“When we named the product ‘Breath of Life,’ we hoped the description will give people hope and peace of mind that this product can really save lives,” she said.

The product will be used with one hand so the user can phone for help and continue to try to help the victim, Jeffrey said.

Breath of Life is intended to be extremely easy to use, portable and inexpensive. Jeffrey said the other anti-choking devices on the market have to be used with both hands and the person choking has to be lying on the ground. These stipulations are often too difficult to attain, she said.

Jeffrey said when a child starts to choke, it’s frightening and parents panic. If a person is not prepared to administer the Heimlich, they’ll often freeze from fear, she said.

“I have felt so passionate about this project since the beginning. As a mom, I think children choking is one of the biggest fears parents have,” Jeffrey said. “I also think it will bring peace of mind to caretakers of elderly or disabled people.”

Jeffrey and many fellow students and BYU professors have collaborated on Breath of Life since February 2019 and hope to have the final product by April 2021. A team will present the device to doctors to get its safety requirements approved. She hopes it will be ready for market in May.

“I’ve worked so hard on this and I hope that it can be used in homes, classrooms, hospitals, ambulances and everywhere it could be needed. Breath of Life’s purpose is really to serve and reach as many people as possible,” Jeffrey said.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Graphic design alumna wins national competition



Audrey Hancock

BYU graphic design alumna Audrey Hancock won the title of 2021 National Champion of the AIGA Professional Association for Design Command X. This is the second time a BYU graduate has claimed the title after Ainsley Romero won in 2019. Hancock graduated in August 2020 with her bachelor’s in graphic design. Hancock was awarded cash, prizes and plenty of exposure. The Command X competition involved understanding design strategy, creatively executing projects and giving excellent presentations.

“Designers have been reaching out to me on LinkedIn or Instagram, so it’s been cool for networking,” Hancock said.

Hancock said she loves the combination of creativity and structure involved in graphic design.

“It’s definitely a creative career to pursue, but I love that there are rules,” she said. “It’s artistic but also structured enough that it satisfies me.” Hancock has also landed a freelancing job with the large advertising agency Wieden+Kennedy.

HONORS COLLEGE

Honors student working with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center



Gabe Richardson

BYU Honors student Gabe Richardson is working with NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. The senior studying physics and mathematics credits the Honors program for helping him attain the skills he needed to join the Pathways Program.

“Curiosity is a necessity working at NASA as we work to solve some of the hardest problems,” Richardson said. “The Honors focus on interdisciplinary thinking has helped maintain my curious mind and continue to love learning many

kinds of new ideas. These new ideas create pathways for creativity and innovation in solving hard problems.”

Richardson was working on developing high-reflecting mirrors for spacecraft optics at NASA when he decided to ask the principal investigator if he could get further involved in the program. His skills in optical fabrication and testing were the perfect match for what the team needed. Richardson has been instrumental in developing NASA’s Quantum Dot Spectrometer, which lets scientists interpret light-matter interactions on a miniaturized scale.

“Do not underestimate the power of finding the right people at the right time and working hard to gain others’ trust and confidence,” Richardson said. He said taking Physics 220 helped him get in touch with NASA mentors and start doing research.

DAVID M. KENNEDY CENTER

Three BYU students named as Fulbright semi-finalists



Clockwise from top left, Orion Weller, Natalya Nielsen, and Ashlen Lemon

Three BYU students and alumni have been named as semi-finalists in the 2021-2022 Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Ashlen Lemon won an English Teaching Assistant Award that will allow her to teach English in Cambodia. Natalya Nielsen and Orion Weller both won Study/Research Awards. Nielsen will study Swedish and Danish literature in Sweden before earning a Ph.D. in Scandinavian studies. Weller will research natural language processing in Israel and will work to make computer science and artificial intelligence methods more effective.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. The program gives graduate students and college alumni chances for English teaching, studying and research in more than 140 countries. More than 11,000 students applied for grants this year. Lemon, Nielsen and Weller were among 2,200 to receive grants and were selected based on their service record, leadership potential and academic accomplishments.

A cappella group Noteworthy releases album

By ALLIE RICHAEAL

BYU’s female a cappella group Noteworthy released its new album “This Is Noteworthy” on March 5.

“I think it’s our best-produced album,” Noteworthy director Amy Whitcomb said. “And the talent that it features is incredible.”

Lizzy Newbold, a senior studying English and alto in the group, said most of the music on the album is already on the BYU Noteworthy YouTube channel. Some covers included on the album are “You Say” by Lauren Daigle and “Lose You to Love Me” by Selena Gomez.

“The album contains a mixture of pop songs, chill ones and spiritual ones,” said Ellie Hughes, a soprano and senior studying public relations. “There’s something for everyone here.”

Newbold said Noteworthy was focusing more on live performances before the pandemic hit and the group lost its opportunities to perform.

The group decided to make an album that illustrates what a live show would be like, she said. “The solution was to create an album so that we could still get



Amy Whitcomb

Noteworthy is a female a cappella group that released a new album “This Is Noteworthy” on March 5.

the music out.”

The album title “This Is Noteworthy” comes from a re-branding of the group over the last three years, Whitcomb said. The show they planned before the pandemic had a theme of self-love and self-empowerment, and she wanted the songs to be heard. “It can be a more tangible thing that marks an important shift in Noteworthy.”

Hughes also said it was exciting to see Noteworthy’s work forever documented. “It’s really cool that this time of my life is going to be permanently recorded in an album and music videos, and I’m going to be able

to share these things for the rest of my life.”

Whitcomb said she hopes people who listen to the album feel known, loved and empowered to do anything they set their mind to. Hughes and Newbold said they hope people will get up and dance as they listen to the Noteworthy album.

“I just hope that people feel something,” Newbold said. “If it’s an urge to dance, if it’s an urge to celebrate life, if it’s a vulnerable emotion that they’re able to feel and process through song, I hope our album can do that.”

TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL
Tuesday, March 9
11:05 a.m.

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



Dr. Janalee Emmer

Associate Director, BYU Museum of Art

Dr. Janalee Emmer is the associate director of Exhibitions and Programming at the BYU Museum of Art. She received her doctorate in art history from Pennsylvania State University and her master’s and bachelor’s degrees from BYU. She has taught at Ohio Wesleyan University, the University of Tennessee, and Bucknell University. Her area of study is modern and contemporary art, with particular interest in 19th-century French art, women artists, American art, and Asian art and architecture.

Dr. Emmer has organized numerous exhibitions, includ-

ing, most recently, *Patrick Dougherty: Windswept; A Studio of Her Own: Women Artists in the Collection*; and *Far Out: The West Re-Seen, Photography of Victoria Sambunaris*, the latter of which is currently on exhibition at the BYU Museum of Art. Her museum experience includes the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Palmer Museum of Art on the Pennsylvania State campus, and the Springville Museum of Art. Dr. Emmer has had a longtime interest in art history, museums, and teaching and enjoys being engaged in all of those areas at the BYU Museum of Art.

Selected speeches available at speeches.byu.edu

NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

Mark L. Pace
General Sunday School President



March 16
11:05 a.m.

Prospective *BYU* students can have hope while applying in a pandemic

By INGRID SAGERS

Prospective *BYU* students can look forward to their *BYU* applications with optimism, even with the most recent changes due to COVID-19.

Director of Admission Services Lori Gardiner said COVID-19 is one of many factors that has impacted the application process and how many students are admitted. The waiving of ACT and SAT test scores became the most notable change to the process.

“*BYU* has tried hard to stay on top of the ever-changing issues surrounding the pandemic,” Gardiner said.

Admissions and the Financial Aid and Scholarships Offices recognized it would be difficult for applicants to take standardized tests because of the effects of COVID-19, she said. All of these offices worked closely with the President’s Council to make the decision to go test-optional for this admission cycle.

“*BYU* Admissions will continue its holistic review as it processes admission applications, considering involvement and accomplishments in and out of the classroom during the high school years,” an August 2020 press release reads.

Applying students would not be penalized for offering pass/fail grades, it continued. Students limited in the activities they could pursue due to the pandemic were also not disadvantaged.



BYU Photo/Nate Edwards

Prospective *BYU* students currently do not need to include their ACT or SAT scores on the university’s applications. They are encouraged to focus on the *BYU* Aims and being authentic while applying.

BYU media relations manager Todd Hollingshead said *BYU* had a 59% acceptance rate during the Spring/Summer/Fall 2021 admissions cycle, with 7,309 out of 12,379 applicants accepted. This was the first admissions cycle with optional test scores.

For the previous Spring/Summer/Fall 2020 semesters, the university accepted 7,942 out of 11,593, with a 68.5% acceptance rate.

Gardiner said students who hope to be admitted to *BYU* for Winter Semester 2022 and beyond should focus on and evaluate how *BYU*’s Aims can mold their lives.

“Future students should be familiar with the Aims of a *BYU* Education and should try to live a life that is aligned with the Aims,” she said. “It’s also important for students to be authentic in their applications. They should answer the

prompts and do their best to give Admissions a clear picture of who they are.”

Blaise Carroll, a high school senior from Cumming, Georgia, said getting into *BYU* was worth going through every stressful part of living through the pandemic. He received his acceptance letter on Feb. 15, the most recent admissions decision day.

Carroll said COVID-19 prevented him from attending

classes in-person at the end of his junior year and the entirety of his senior year of high school.

Getting good grades became harder while learning online and certain classes were cut out of his school entirely, he said. It was at least encouraging to know the SAT score would be an optional part of *BYU*’s application.

Carroll said applying was an overall fun experience and he is excited to become a part of the

BYU community. “Getting into *BYU* is something I’ve wanted since I was a little kid — it’s always been my dream. Opening the (acceptance) letter was a really surreal moment.”

Provo native Katie Jenks never thought she wanted to attend *BYU* and didn’t even apply to the university her senior year of high school. She’s been a pre-nursing major at Southern Utah University for two years now.

Jenks came back to Provo for *SUU*’s past fall break and decided to visit the *BYU* Wilkinson Student Center. While she was there, she felt a strong sense of peace as she looked at scriptures and gospel art on the walls.

She then decided to apply to *BYU*, knowing the pandemic had changed the application and hoping for the best. She was ecstatic when her acceptance letter arrived.

“*BYU* offers the aspect of putting Christ into our education unlike anywhere else. For me, that’s so important; I realized that *BYU* is where I want to be so I rushed to start applying,” Jenks said.

Her advice to future applicants is to keep an open mind while applying to colleges. She said it may seem like a lot of work, but it will be worth applicants’ time to send applications to many schools.

“I never thought I would go to *BYU*. I never planned on going there. I was so closed-minded. Just apply everywhere. Don’t be afraid of the yeses or noes,” Jenks said.



Provo Development Services

Parents wait to pick up Treeside Charter School students on a neighboring private developer’s land.

Provo City Council passes rezone for more housing in South Provo

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City Council approved the rezone of 8.5 acres in the Spring Creek neighborhood area to a medium density residential zone in a 5-2 vote on March 2.

The area in question, which is located next to Treeside Charter School in South Provo, would provide the space for the construction of 30 townhomes, 30 studio apartments, 64 two-bedroom apartments and 80 one-bedroom apartments.

“We feel like it’s helpful to have some additional housing units that will attract families that will bring some stability to the area,” said Brandon Jones of the Provo development services department.

This rezone was brought before the City Council at the end of 2020, but members of the community and Provo city officials were concerned with the effects that more residents in the area would have on the safety of the students attending Treeside Charter School.

Parents of Treeside Charter School students line up their cars starting at State Street during school pick-up and drop-off. Because there is limited space in the parking lot for parents to pull in, the school has directed parents to pull onto the land on the north end of the lot, which is not leased by the school, but by the developer of the housing units to be built.

“This is a problem that happens with every school, that you’re going to have these kinds of issues to the traffic problems for the 20 minute period before school starts and in the same thing at the end of the day,” said Craig Carlisle, who represented the housing developer at the meeting.

The developer offered to pay for a gate to prevent people from using their land and a crossing guard “to direct traffic so that if anybody is coming into the residential areas or leaving the residential areas, (the crossing guard) can assist them to merge into the traffic

so it wouldn’t cause any more congestion there,” Carlisle said.

Members of the public had mixed opinions about the rezone, mainly worried about the safety of the students walking to their cars or walking home before or after school.

“Our primary concern is the drop off and loading zone and having cars going through those who are late to work or trying to get to class,” said Treeside school board member BJ Taylor. “If you’re dropping off the kid, you may be waiting there for 5-10 minutes. And frankly, that’s that’s not a great situation to have people who are late to school or late to work when the thing that would be slowing them down is the safety of kids.”

Other members of the public expressed their hope in the rezone.

“I am someone who has been renting in this neighborhood,” said Provo resident Alyssa Sheehan. “I’m just really excited about the opportunity and option of having more affordable housing in this area, especially South Provo.”

“The number one problem we face on the Wasatch Front right now is affordable housing, bar none,” said Provo resident Burl Allen. “The only way Provo will continue to attract young, talented (professionals) is by providing this sort of housing.”

Councilwoman Shannon Ellsworth opposed the vote for this rezone, stating that “this area does have a lot of density. However, what we don’t have here that makes density makes sense, is commercial amenities,” such as a grocery store nearby.

Ellsworth also opposed the addition of the crossing guard with the worry that the city would be liable for the safety of the students if a crossing guard did not show up for work. Council members and staff recommended this provision from the resolution.

The entire meeting can be found on the City Council’s YouTube channel.

Diversity advocate hopes to heal hearts, build Zion at *BYU*

By HOLLY CLUFF

Leah Key-Ketter remembers the exact moment she knew Lita Little Giddins was different from the rest of the Citrus Singers in their college performing group. Key-Ketter was standing in the wings watching Giddins perform a solo.

“There was something so different and so magnetic, and it wasn’t about her. It was about being honest to the song,” she said. “I remember standing in the wings and going ‘Oh my gosh, she is so good.’”

Giddins later signed with a manager, performed for a year in Los Angeles and received an invitation to go to New York. Key-Ketter said she could have gone on to do anything, but Giddins chose to pursue what she believed God wanted her to do.

Establishing Zion

Forty years later, Giddins is managing the *BYU* College of Family, Home and Social Sciences’ Committee for Diversity, Collaboration and Inclusion. She began the position as a half-time employee in January 2020 and became a full-time manager a few months later.

“Establishing Zion is a full-time effort,” Giddins said. “I’m just grateful.”

She oversees a committee of eight students that helps create a more welcoming “Zion community” on campus, according to the college’s personnel coordinator Carina Alleman. In addition to holding classroom panels on social issues and coordinating the committee’s art contest, Giddins has been contributing to a report that addresses the campus experience for people of color.

Giddins said the report will help people understand the love, direction, connection and healing the committee is trying to create on campus.

“She’s very different from your typical *BYU* employee,” Alleman said. “I think we all benefit from her different approach to things and the way she comes to problems. She wants to help as many people as possible.”

Healing others

Alleman said she admires Giddins for her humility, faith, sincerity and above all else — her love. “Whenever I interact with her, she always says something like ‘I love you’ or ‘Thank you for all you do,’” she said. “It’s just so meaningful.”

Key-Ketter said Giddins



Lita Little Giddins

Lita Little Giddins is pictured with her family. Longtime friend Leah Key-Ketter said that other members of the Giddins family share Lita Little Giddins’ way of helping others feel welcomed and loved, and that each of her daughters have impressive portfolios of their own.

has a way of making people feel welcomed and important. When she attended Giddins’ wedding, she knew nobody, but she said everybody was nice to her because of the warm and welcoming atmosphere her friend created.

Giddins said this way of loving people has come with intention, effort and divine help.

“I was raised with people being unkind — you know, I’m a Black person — and people viewed me as less,” she said. “I prayed that I could develop a heart that is loving.”

She said she prays to love people and see them as children of God, and she has learned that the people she encounters might be needing an extra measure of healing. “I have to remember that when the judgment comes, it’s not about me. It’s about their healing.”

Healing was a central motif in her reflections on her former career in therapy and her current position at *BYU*.

She said as a new mother and first-generation college graduate, she thought she had done enough college, but prayer led her to pursue a master’s degree. She became a licensed therapist with an emphasis in expressive arts therapy.

“Being a licensed therapist is such a gift,” she said. “I can help in this healing.” She called her background in therapy a key to building Zion and creating a place that is safe.

It comes with challenges, Giddins said. “I love the people that I work with, and I want to be a part of the healing and I want it to happen fast,” she said. “I need to trust God and trust that He is in control. This is His work, not mine.”

Trusting God

She said she had to take a leap of faith and trust God as a young woman when she felt the Lord wanted her to serve a mission. Things were working out in Los Angeles at the time, and her voice was the best it had ever been. It was a scary decision to go, she said.

But the Lord provided the chance for her to employ her passion by touring her mission in England, singing and performing to the people. “I never would have imagined that,” she said.

Although she is a social worker by profession, she never had to sacrifice her passion for the arts. “That’s a part of me, and it’s not separate,” she said. “The arts are a huge part of the healing processes for people.”

She said as a graduate student, she incorporated all forms of the arts in her presentations, and she continued to use them as a professional therapist. She worked with adults with autism and learning disabilities at a residential facility and helped them express emotions through dance and music.

And even though she sacrificed her chance to perform in

New York as a young woman, she said she still has many connections to the city. The Center for Latter-day Saint Arts in New York City invited her and her husband Kevin to go there four or five years ago. She also has many friends in the city, and she and her husband go and see productions there.

“I still got to go to New York and work, just in a different capacity,” she said. “(God) provided a way to do it that was more enjoyable. I just love Heavenly Father. I love Jesus.”

She noted other ways she saw God’s hand throughout her life: the questions that led her to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the loving mentor and friends she found when she joined the Citrus Singers and the opportunity to receive her graduate degree for no cost while her husband worked for *BYU*.

What she is most grateful for in her life is her relationship with God and Jesus. “They know beginning to end,” she said. “They saw down the road that I would be in this position and serving in this capacity.”

Key-Ketter said Giddins has already offered so much to the people around her, and she still has so much more to offer.

It’s evident when Giddins talks that she loves the Lord and encourages others to be like the Savior, Alleman said. “If we could all show love for each other the way Lita does, we would be Zion already.”

Historic Provo church fundraising for building renovation



Sydnee Gonzalez
The Provo Community Congregational United Church of Christ hopes to raise \$2 million for a restoration project to update and repair its buildings to continue to serve as community gathering places.

By MARGARET DARBY

Over 130 years of time and weather damage have made it necessary to restore and repair Provo's Community Congregational United Church of Christ's buildings in order for the church to continue to serve the community. The church began fundraising in February for contributions to make the much-needed repairs possible. The church's goal is to raise \$2 million during a 12-month period. The renovation process began with the church's Rev. Keith Cupples. After years of retirement as a Methodist pastor, Cupples was asked to lead the United Church of Christ in Provo. He took the position but requested not to receive any salary or pension for his work. Cupples said "the light of God came in" to his bedroom on Easter 2020 and he experienced a vision from God instructing him to "renovate the church."

The Provo Community Congregational United Church of Christ started Provo's first kindergarten and has been serving the community in that way ever since. The building also provides a gathering space for other community services such as 12-step groups, community choirs, Cub and Boy Scout troops, health screenings and seminars. "As far as concerts and things like that, we have been having more of those but it has become apparent that the size and space that we are working with has been a challenge to host larger events," said Dave Lewis, the church's building liaison, public affairs director, organist and music director. "We believe we can host large events for the community that are uplifting and powerful." The church buildings have not had any repairs other than minor cosmetic updates since they were built. The repairs and renovations are essential to keep these historic buildings standing. "This community has a

chance to share love and connection with a smaller group that could use help and cannot do this on their own," said Issac Paxman, Provo's deputy mayor who has volunteered his own time to serve the cause. The church has a three-phase plan for the updates. The first phase involves the most critical updates such as water-proofing the buildings, replacing the 1923 tile roof and removing asbestos. In phase 2 they will make repairs to electrical, lighting and plumbing. Phase 3 includes adding a pipe organ and expanding the chance to accommodate larger groups. When the Provo Tabernacle burned down, the city lost a community gathering place. Cupples said part of the vision for the renovations is to provide a place for community recitals, concerts and anything else uplifting and beneficial to the community. It will also provide a local pipe organ to replace the one lost with the tabernacle. "As we renovate this building, it is more than a building.



Associated Press
A health worker prepares a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Many minority groups in Utah are hesitant to receive the vaccine due to mistrust of the healthcare system.

Utah minority groups hesitant to take COVID-19 vaccine

By MADISON SELCHO

Some members of Utah's minority groups are hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, despite efforts to improve education and accessibility. Salt Lake County has made the vaccine more accessible by taking it to Black churches and mosques so minority groups might have easier access, but skepticism still remains for many within these groups. "Some are hesitant because of the history of medical mistreatment of Blacks," said Calvary Baptist Church Pastor Oscar Moses. Moses pointed to different moments within the Black community's history where distrust was placed, including the study of syphilis in Black men that happened without their knowledge or consent. These negative experiences with healthcare have caused skepticism of new medicines that come to their communities. Other minority groups have also expressed mistrust of the healthcare system because of medical mistreatment, including the Muslim community. "Despite the efforts of

a Muslim public health committee, our community had a lot of barriers for our members," said Luna Banuri, executive director of Utah Muslim Civic League. While there is still hesitation, many minority leaders throughout Utah are working to bring information to their communities so they can make an informed choice about the vaccine. "It is essential to provide a sense of trust for African Americans and other minority communities," Moses said. In order to help these groups understand the vaccine better and what is in it, many of these leaders have worked with healthcare officials to give these groups access to information. Banuri and her group have launched an education plan "to try and convince the Muslim population that vaccinations are safe," Banuri said. Ultimately these leaders feel that it is through their own efforts that they can make the difference in educating their communities on this issue. "Black churches can lead the way in building confidence in the vaccination process and safety," Moses said.

Watered-down Dixie State name change bill passes Utah Senate



Associated Press
Students from Dixie State University protest at the Utah State Capitol Wednesday, Feb. 24 in Salt Lake City, to urge lawmakers to revive the stalled name-change plan. A push to change Dixie State University's name has ignited a political firestorm, further pitting the university and its students against southern Utah residents who've been putting pressure on Republican lawmakers to kill the idea.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A watered-down version of a bill that would start a process for Dixie State University to change its name passed in the GOP-dominated Utah Senate March 3 after an unusual public disagreement between the state's legislative bodies. A panel of senators approved a new version of the bill earlier this week that would require the name to be reconsidered next year but allow the option of keeping it. The measure easily passed the full Senate despite several Republicans voicing concerns that the legislation is a product of cancel culture gone too far.

The bill's sponsors say the updated legislation would give the community the chance to have more input as it moves to the House. Dixie State had faced scrutiny in the past over its name but resisted changing it. The area was nicknamed Dixie, a reference to Southern states, when settlers with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, many of them from the South, tried to make it a cotton-growing mecca in the 1800s. Supporters say the name is important to the area's heritage and is separate from the history of slavery. But efforts across the U.S. to remove monuments, names and other Confederate symbols have intensified during the

nation's reckoning over racial injustice. Dixie State has taken other steps in recent years to remove Confederate imagery. In 2009, the school's nickname was changed from the Rebels to Red Storm. A statue depicting a soldier on horseback waving a Confederate flag with one hand and reaching out to a wounded soldier with the other was removed in 2012. Senate Republicans agreed last week to hear the legislation after appearing to stall the bill, which had been passed by the House. University students rallied at the Capitol in Salt Lake City last week to urge lawmakers to revive the name change plan.



Marina McNairy
Senior members have leaned on expert medical advice and their faith to decide whether to get vaccinated, seeing it as a test of faith to follow Church leadership.

Some senior Latter-day Saints anxious to get COVID-19 vaccine, others hesitant

By MARINA MCNAIRY

Some older Americans are struggling over whether to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, including some members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A number of senior members have leaned on expert medical advice and their faith to decide whether to get vaccinated, seeing it as a test of faith to follow Church leadership. "Historically, vaccines work. They may not be perfect, but they have proven to be worth the small risk for me, as well as for those around me," said Pam Cluff, a 60-year-old Boise, Idaho resident. "I look at my grandchildren and am happy they now have protection from measles and other diseases. There is a real benefit to them." Although Cluff and her husband have been attending church services in person since 2021 began, they plan on getting the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. "We keep our masks on and distance," Cluff said, adding that getting

the vaccine may increase her comfort level with in-person meetings. "For those of us believers, we have been praying and even fasting that the pandemic ends," said Nicholas Hodgman, an interventional cardiologist in Nampa, Idaho. A practicing Latter-day Saint, he said, "We prayed that the present pandemic may be controlled, caregivers protected, the economy strengthened and life normalized. God answered that prayer with a miracle cure: The mRNA vaccine." In a Facebook post, Hodgman compared the mRNA vaccine to the first miracle Jesus performed. "There was a wedding. Jesus's mother needed wine, but they had none. She asked Jesus and He miraculously changed water into wine. There was a need and God provided for that need." "The people that are refusing to wear masks and get vaccinated don't realize this pandemic is not political. It's bigger than that. It is a real threat to our health," said Diane Harris, a 79-year-old Salt

Lake City resident. "A neighbor on my corner says she isn't going to get vaccinated. A lot of older people I know have mixed feelings." According to Harris, another elderly member in her ward is not interested in getting the vaccine either. "I tried convincing her by saying the Prophet set the example for the rest of us. My friend still won't get it." "I feel like we are in Moses' day, wandering in the desert," Harris said. "When the vipers were biting the people, all they needed to do was look at the brazen serpent on a pole and they would live." Harris said wearing a mask, social distancing and getting the vaccine is similar to looking at the brazen serpent. "The mRNA vaccine against COVID has and will control the pandemic, it has already protected me," Hodgman said. "I have cared for multiple COVID patients since having the vaccine, and it has already strengthened the economy and looks to normalize life." Hodgman added, "When we ask for wine, why not take it and say thank you?"

6 Dr. Seuss books won't be published for racist images

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Six Dr. Seuss books — including “And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street” and “If I Ran the Zoo” — will stop being published because of racist and insensitive imagery, the business that preserves and protects the author’s legacy said March 2.

“These books portray people in ways that are hurtful and wrong,” Dr. Seuss Enterprises told The Associated Press in a statement that coincided with the late author and illustrator’s birthday.

“Ceasing sales of these books is only part of our commitment and our broader plan to ensure Dr. Seuss Enterprises’ catalog represents and supports all communities and families,” it said.

The other books affected are “McElligot’s Pool,” “On Beyond Zebra!,” “Scrambled Eggs Super!,” and “The Cat’s Quizzer.”

The decision to cease publication and sales of the books was made last year after months of discussion, the company, which was founded by Seuss’ family, told AP.

“Dr. Seuss Enterprises listened and took feedback from our audiences including teachers, academics and specialists in the field as part of our review process. We then worked with a panel of experts, including educators, to review our catalog of titles,” it said.

In “And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street,” an Asian person is portrayed wearing a conical hat, holding chopsticks, and eating from a bowl. “If I Ran the Zoo” includes a drawing of two bare-footed African men wearing what appear to be grass skirts with their hair tied above their heads.

Books by Dr. Seuss —born Theodor Seuss Geisel in Springfield, Massachusetts, on March 2, 1904 — have been translated into dozens of languages as well as in braille and are sold in more than 100 countries. He died in 1991.

He remains popular, earning



Associated Press

Dr. Seuss Enterprises, the business that preserves and protects the author and illustrator’s legacy, announced on his birthday, March 2, that it would cease publication of several children’s titles because of insensitive and racist imagery.

an estimated \$33 million before taxes in 2020, up from just \$9.5 million five years ago, the company said. Forbes listed him No. 2 on its highest-paid dead celebrities of 2020, behind only the late pop star Michael Jackson. Within hours of the announcement, Dr. Seuss books filled more than half of the top 20 slots on Amazon.com’s bestseller list. “Mulberry Street” and “If I Ran the Zoo” were on the list, along with “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”, “Green Eggs and Ham” and others still being published.

Random House Children Books, Dr. Seuss’ publisher, issued a brief statement March 2: “We respect the decision of Dr. Seuss Enterprises (DSE) and the work of the panel that reviewed this content last year, and their recommendation.”

Dr. Seuss is adored by millions around the world for the positive values in many of his works, including environmentalism and tolerance, but criticism has grown in recent years over the way Blacks, Asians and others are drawn in some of his most beloved children’s books, as well as in his earlier advertising and propaganda illustrations.

The National Education Association, which founded Read Across America Day in 1998 and deliberately aligned it with Geisel’s birthday, has for several years deemphasized Seuss and encouraged a more

diverse reading list for children.

School districts across the country have also moved away from Dr. Seuss, prompting Loudoun County, Virginia, schools just outside Washington, D.C., to douse rumors last month that they were banning the books entirely.

“Research in recent years has revealed strong racial undertones in many books written/illustrated by Dr. Seuss,” the school district said in a statement.

For the country’s libraries, what to do with the Seuss books being withdrawn continues a longstanding conflict between the values of free expression and acknowledging that some content may be hurtful. Libraries rarely pull a book even when some find it racist or otherwise offensive, said Deborah Caldwell Stone, who heads the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom. They are more likely to place it in a less prominent location, or otherwise choose not to promote it.

“Shelf space is precious and librarians do periodically cull the book collections and remove some titles. But they usually do so because no one is asking for that book anymore,” she said.

In 2018, a Dr. Seuss museum in his hometown of Springfield removed a mural that included an Asian stereotype.

“The Cat in the Hat,” one of

Seuss’ most popular books, has received criticism, too, but will continue to be published for now.

Dr. Seuss Enterprises, however, said it is “committed to listening and learning and will continue to review our entire portfolio.”

The move to cease publication of the books drew immediate reaction on social media from those who called it another example of “cancel culture.”

“We’ve now got foundations book burning the authors to whom they are dedicated. Well done, everyone,” conservative commentator and author Ben Shapiro tweeted.

Others approved of the decision.

“The books we share with our children matter. Books shape their world view and tell them how to relate to the people, places, and ideas around them. As grown-ups, we have to examine the worldview we are creating for our children, including carefully re-examining our favorites,” Rebekah Fitzsimmons, an assistant teaching professor at Carnegie Mellon University, tweeted.

Numerous other popular children’s series have been criticized in recent years for alleged racism.

In the 2007 book, “Should We Burn Babar?,” the author and educator Herbert R. Kohl contended that the “Babar the Elephant” books were celebrations of colonialism because of how the title character leaves the jungle and later returns to “civilize” his fellow animals.

One of the books, “Babar’s Travels,” was removed from the shelves of a British library in 2012 because of its alleged stereotypes of Africans. Critics also have faulted the “Curious George” books for their premise of a white man bringing home a monkey from Africa.

And Laura Ingalls Wilder’s portrayals of Native Americans in her “Little House On the Prairie” novels have been faulted so often that the American Library Association removed her name in 2018 from a lifetime achievement award it gives out each year.



Preston Crawley

The Milken Institute Best Performing Cities index rated the Provo-Orem metropolitan area No. 1 for its economic growth. [Read a Spanish translation of this story at unvr.se/spanish.](#)

Provo-Orem rated No. 1 ‘top-performing economy’

By EMILY ATWOOD

The Provo-Orem metropolitan area placed first for the “top-performing economy” for 2021 in the annual Milken Institute’s Best Performing Cities index.

The Provo-Orem area has been named to the Milken Institute’s Top 10 list consistently since 2018.

The Milken Institute is a think tank based out of Santa Monica, California. It used a number of factors to evaluate cities based on their economy — including how cities responded to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic — job opportunities, broadband access and housing affordability.

Several other Utah cities also made their way onto the rankings, such as the Ogden-Clearfield area and the Salt Lake City metropolitan area.

Kevin Klowden, executive director of the Milken Institute Center for Regional Economics and California Center, broke down the several factors included in the research and rankings. He said the Provo-Orem area especially excelled in the highest wage growth, at 11.5%.

“These aren’t just good jobs, these are well-paying jobs. This is a big deal. It’s a more diversified economy,” Klowden said.

Provo topped several large cities in California that had been topping the charts

previously. The Milken Institute attributes this to the negative repercussions California’s economy has faced due to COVID-19 circumstances and, relatedly, the large exodus of families from California cities to more affordable places across the United States like Utah.

This influx of new residents is just one of the factors that caused the advance in Provo’s economy.

“There’s been a lot of economic growth around here for some years. It’s not just something that’s happened because of the COVID,” said BYU economics professor Michael Ransom.

Ransom said Utah Valley benefits from an “agglomeration economy,” which is when an urban economy has synergy between different locations and businesses nearby. An example of this is Silicon Slopes and Provo tech companies in close proximity to each other.

Provo City economic development director Keith Morey said he believes Utah’s state government and Provo’s local government have worked to develop a strong state and local economy.

“We’ve had healthy state budgets and healthy local government budgets, and I think that affords some stability,” Morey said. “This ranking is a really strong tribute to the leadership in our community and what they’ve done to help make this a great place to be and work and live.”

There’s something new in the neighborhood...

2021 HOUSING GUIDE

Now on racks across campus

Rockwood reaches 400th win with BYU women's soccer

By CHASIA WEBB

BYU women's soccer head coach Jennifer Rockwood reached her 400th win at BYU on March 6 against Loyola Marymount, putting her among the winningest coaches in the NCAA.

The milestone came in Rockwood's 26th season with the Cougars, putting No. 14 BYU at 4-2 on the season, and 400-116-44 under the long-time head coach. Fewer than 25 coaches in NCAA women's soccer history have reached the 400-win threshold.

"I just can't believe I have been doing this for so long," Rockwood said. "I'm not that old."

Rockwood was born in Provo while her parents were attending BYU. Her father worked for BYU Police, and when her mother went into labor, BYU Police cars took her to the Utah Valley Hospital.

Rockwood grew up in Lake Oswego, Oregon, and began playing sports in rec leagues at the age of six.

She was quite athletic and played four different sports in high school, including soccer and basketball. She really enjoyed soccer, but there were not many opportunities to play soccer collegiately.

"Soccer wasn't huge in the West yet," Rockwood said.

After graduating in 1984 she decided to attend Ricks College, where she played basketball for the school. She was interested in going to school around more like-minded people as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, after growing up where there were few in Oregon.

In 1985, after her first year at Ricks College, Rockwood transferred to BYU to play for the women's soccer club team. She played for the club team for the remainder of her college career and even took on a player-manager role her senior year.

"I did a lot of behind the scenes stuff as a junior and senior," Rockwood said. This opportunity was her introduction to coaching women's soccer.

After graduating, Rockwood thought she would be leaving behind Utah. However, she took her first official coaching job at a private high school in Provo, where she was also teaching. While working at the



Addie Blacker

BYU women's soccer head coach Jennifer Rockwood celebrates with her team after a win at South Field. Rockwood reached her 400th win at BYU on March 6.

school, she continued to work with the women's club team at BYU.

"I had great opportunities coming out of graduation," Rockwood said. "I was probably the cheapest, youngest person that knew what was going on. Someone had confidence in me."

Over the seven years she coached the women's club team she recorded 128 wins, 25 losses and nine ties. In the final two years before being sanctioned by the NCAA, she led the team to the Western National Collegiate Club Soccer Association title and placed second in the NCCSA National Championships.

BYU women's soccer was sanctioned in 1995 and Rockwood has stood at the helm for all 26 seasons. She has led the team to 13 regular season championships and eight conference tournament championships

over her tenure. She has coached 13 seasons being ranked in the Top 25, while being placed in the Top 10 in six of those seasons, the most recent being fifth in 2019. She has also led the Cougars to 20 NCAA Tournament appearances, reaching the Sweet Sixteen six times and the Elite Eight three times.

Rockwood has also been named conference coach of the year seven different times across three conferences: Western Athletic, Mountain West and West Coast. In 1996 and 2012 she was named Regional Coach of the Year and in 2019 her coaching staff was recognized as the United Soccer Coaches Regional Staff of the Year.

Over the years, Rockwood has been able to build one of the best women's soccer programs in the

country, creating a winning mentality that has attracted many great players to BYU.

"It doesn't matter how good of a coach you are, you won't be able to be successful (without the right players)," Rockwood said. "We want kids and players who are wanting to come to BYU for all the right reasons. They put more into it when they want to come here."

Senior forward Cameron Tucker has played at BYU for four years and has enjoyed the fun atmosphere playing for Rockwood.

"She's super fun and great to be around and she teaches great values," Tucker said. "She motivates and pushes me and she's helped me gain more confidence."

Relationships with her players and staff have been the most rewarding

part of coaching for Rockwood.

"Looking at a group of seniors and seeing them come full circle, those are some of the things you remember more than the wins and the losses," Rockwood said.

"She's awesome," sophomore forward Rachel McCarthy said. "She's always pumping us up. You can just tell how much confidence she has in each of us. She believes in us."

Rockwood feels blessed and humbled to do what she loves and be successful in her career.

"To be listed among (the top coaches), I feel humbled to be part of a few in an elite group," Rockwood said.

Expectations for this season and for the future are the same as always for BYU: win the WCC Championship and get into the NCAA Tournament.

BYU basketball freshman Caleb Lohner 'continues to amaze'

By JAKE GONZALES

He goes by many names. Some call him "Beach Boy." Others, "Goldilocks." Some have even taken to calling him "Hercules" due to his chiseled features and blonde curls.

Whatever some might call him, there can be no doubt that BYU men's basketball freshman Caleb Lohner has taken the BYU fanbase by storm in just his first year in Provo.

"I think he's an awesome athlete," BYU fan Braden Knudsen said. "He's been so fun to watch all season. Whenever he goes up for a dunk, I hold my breath, just waiting for him to slam it down. I sometimes forget he's a freshman. He's definitely got a bright future ahead of him."

Lohner has been a frequent starter in the second half of the season for BYU. It seems that with each successive game, the freshman's contributions become more and more vital. In fact, just last month, Lohner tallied a career-high 19 points, on 6-of-8 shooting, and nine rebounds as the Cougars thrashed the Pacific Tigers in Stockton, California.

"I'm just here to win games and help the team however I can," Lohner said. "I've been put in a special situation right now to help these three seniors accomplish their goals. And I'm just going to keep riding, keep doing what I'm doing, and we'll see how that pans out. But yeah, I love BYU, and I hope that I just keep going up and up."

Lohner was a late addition to the roster, signing with the Cougars last summer after initially committing to the University of Utah. At this point in the season, it's hard to imagine this BYU team without Lohner on it.



Preston Crawley

Caleb Lohner, left, celebrates with teammate Hunter Erickson. Lohner has exploded onto the basketball scene in his first year at BYU and is an integral part of the team's success.

impressive numbers since West Coast Conference play started in January. Most notably, Lohner averages 6.7 rebounds a game, good enough for first on the team and seventh in the

conference. He also scores the most points of the non-seniors on the roster, averaging 7.3 points a game.

But despite Lohner's dominance in the paint, head coach Mark Pope is

most impressed by his unique mentality and work ethic.

"Caleb Lohner worries about the right things," Pope said. "That is his greatest accomplishment this season.

And when you build your game that way like he's doing, which very few players are smart enough or willing to do, you have a chance to grow into something really incredible. He just continues to amaze."

It was not always this way, however. Lohner saw significant playing time in the first few games of the season, but as with most true freshmen, the adjustment to Division I basketball was not a smooth one. It took some time for the game to slow down enough for Lohner to make a significant impact.

Lohner struggled with his shooting early, missing his first 13 3-point attempts to start off the season. Coaches and fans alike raved about his 3-point shooting in high school and practice, but his shots just weren't falling early on in games.

Only after he became more confident in his role on the team did the lid come off the basket. After making just four of his first 25 attempts from deep, Lohner flipped a switch and made 14 of his last 25 attempts to finish the regular season with a respectable 36% 3-point rate.

In his breakout performance at Pacific on Feb. 18, Lohner missed just one 3-pointer, going 5-of-6 from deep.

Now, as the Cougars head into the postseason, the team will need Lohner to perform at his peak. Ten years after joining the WCC, the Cougars still have yet to win a conference championship. Although Gonzaga's dominance this year makes a tournament victory unlikely, the Cougars are at their best when Lohner's shot is falling.

One thing is certain: Lohner and the Cougars are clicking at the right time, and with this group, there is a great deal of potential for something special.

BYU distance runner Conner Mantz pushes the limits

By JEFF SALCEDO

Breaking BYU's school record was the only thing on Conner Mantz' mind as the BYU junior track and cross country All-American lined up for the 5,000-meter race at the UW Invitational on Feb. 12.

Not only did Mantz's first-place time of 13:28 smash the previous record of 13:36.36 held by Clayton Young, it placed him as the world leader in the 5,000-meter this year.

"The school record is something that is prestigious here. Just to be able to get on top of the list was a huge goal," Mantz said.

Mantz has placed first and broken records in track and cross country several times this year, but what makes his feats more impressive is that he is doing both sports at the same time.

The COVID-19 pandemic moved the cross country season, which usually happens in the fall, to the winter this year. This led to cross country and indoor track taking place in the same season, something that has never happened before.

Mantz and his teammates face the unusual situation of balancing two sports simultaneously.

"This season is very different. It's kind of exciting because you're able to have the variation of training and in racing," Mantz said.

The biggest adjustment for athletes and coaches alike in juggling a multi-sport season is the alterations in practices.

BYU's distance runners switch up their training routine based on what type of race they will be running next, Mantz said.

Fortunately, the switching of practice routines has not affected Mantz's work ethic.

Mantz typically runs between 90 and 110 miles per week, split up into two daily workouts. In his morning workout, Mantz runs five to



BYU Photo/Nate Edwards

Conner Mantz, right, runs at the 2019 NCAA cross country championship, where the Cougars took first place.

six miles, followed up by another eight to 10 miles in the afternoon.

In addition to the daily workouts during the week, Mantz also does a 17 to 20 mile run on Saturdays.

On top of the run-based workouts, Mantz has two days of strength training every week.

While many coaches want more effort from their athletes, cross country and track and field head coach Ed Eyestone would like for Mantz to tone it down.

"I find myself more as a coach trying to hold him back in practice. It's not uncommon for me to tell him we need to slow down a little bit on these to save your body," Eyestone said.

Mantz's work ethic was on full display at the Silver State XC Challenge on Feb. 4.

He was trailing Northern Arizona University freshman Nico Young throughout much of the race. Mantz was surprised to see Young pushing the pace throughout the race,

but had a feeling the freshman would eventually tire out.

On the last stretch of the race, Mantz sprinted past Young and continued his long strides to take home first place with a 22:50.4 time.

"I was feeling good enough, I was pretty confident in passing him (and) beating him on the last sprint," Mantz said.

Even though Mantz has been dominant in both track and cross country, he may not be able to compete in both sports' championships because of the short turnaround from the events.

The NCAA cross country championship and NCAA track and field championship are scheduled just two days apart, making it difficult for Mantz to compete in both. The short turnaround between events has left distance runners with a tough decision: individual glory in track or a national championship for the team in cross country.

"If anyone can do that double it would be Conner Mantz," Eyestone said. "I think he

would be capable of winning a 5,000-meter individual title. If we did anything less than win as a team (in cross country) then we might have some regrets."

The decision by the NCAA to schedule the championships two days apart has been an unpopular one in the eyes of BYU distance runners and coaches.

"They kind of have the hard decision of what's greater, my NCAA championship or the team's NCAA championship, so it's kind of sad ultimately for all those guys of that level of excellence," senior cross country and track athlete Elijah Armstrong said of Mantz and his teammates.

With the lack of recovery time between the two events, BYU has decided to "go all in" to defend its cross country national championship.

"We feel like we have a chance to defend our national championship. In evaluating, we really felt like our best chance would be if we go all in at cross country. We're gonna go full strength in the national championships," Eyestone said.

Mantz will be huge for the Cougars if they want to repeat as NCAA cross country champions in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on March 15. The junior will try to improve upon his 2019 finish by taking the top spot in the race.

Mantz seems to be on pace to take first place at the NCAA championships as he is the only returnee from the top five finishers in the 2019 race. In the period between the 2019 race and now, he has only gotten better, finishing in the top two at every cross country meet he competed in this season.

"I really want that national title because it seems that I've placed high quite a few times. A win is a lot (sweeter) than a third-place finish," Mantz said.

When the gun fires off at the start of the race in the NCAA cross country championships, Mantz will look to do what he's done all season: win.

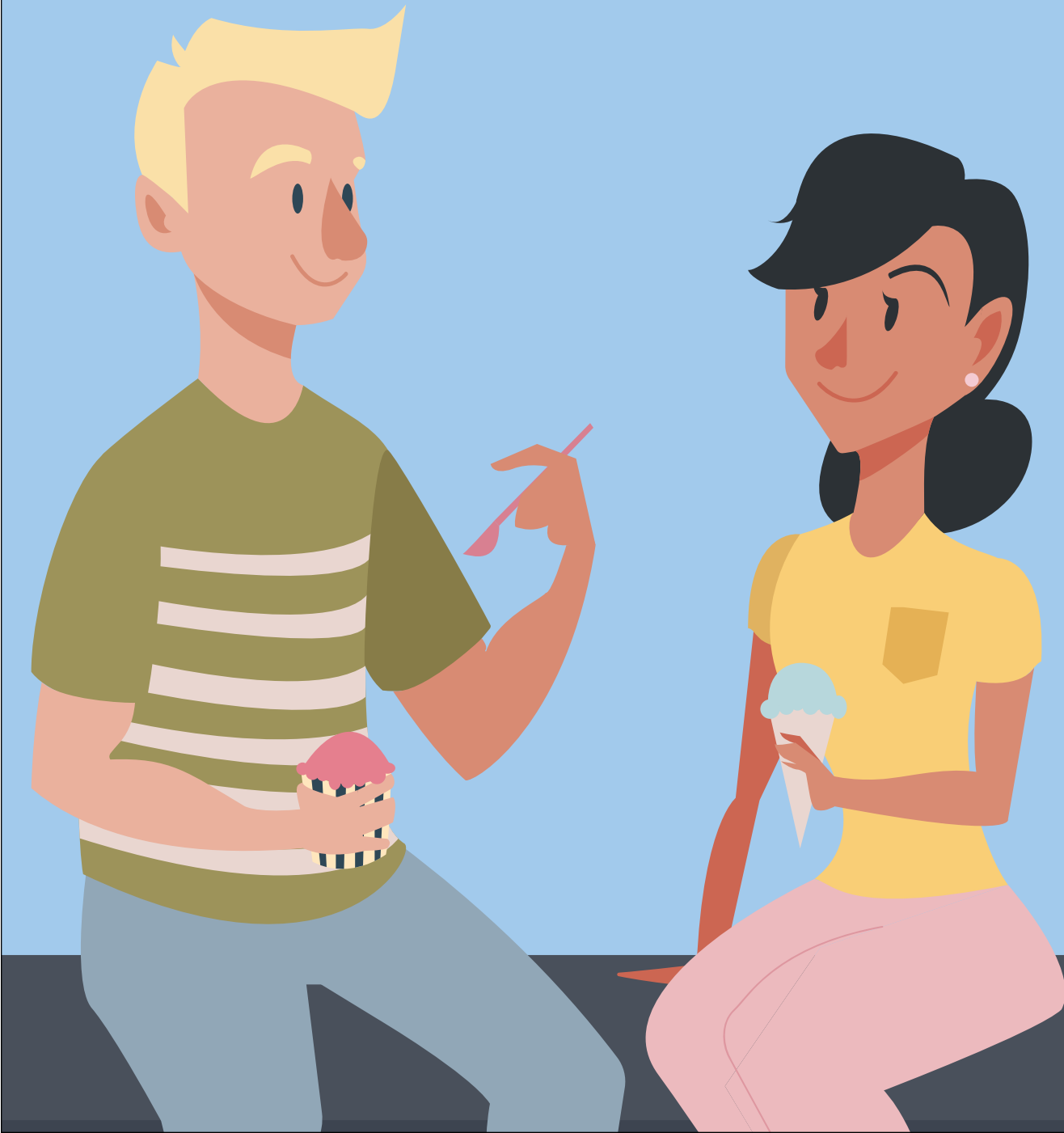
No. 2 men's volleyball picking up steam



Hannah Miner

Gabi Garcia Fernandez spikes the ball against Grand Canyon on Feb. 18 in the Smith Fieldhouse. The Cougars were swept by GCU on the road on Feb. 25, but have since won nine consecutive sets, moving to 8-2 on the season ahead of back-to-back home matches against Stanford on March 12 and 13.

DATE IDEAS SURE TO MAKE THEIR HEART MELT



Find some sweet dates for cool people and more in the latest edition of TWO magazine out on racks now



BYU student sees diversity as the unique makeup of each individual

By INGRID SAGERS

Kyrie Papenfuss often felt lonely as her family moved from Japan, to Texas, to Boston, to Los Angeles, to the Bay Area, back to Japan and then to Utah.

But when people think of Papenfuss, they think of an extroverted, driven leader who can easily connect with anyone.

“Kyrie is so incredibly fearless,” close friend and BYUSA coworker Jakob Fjeldsted said.

Papenfuss said people may not ever guess connecting with others can be difficult sometimes for her.

“I definitely see her as a leader in her community, fighting for the rights of those underserved,” BYU Women’s Services and Resources Director Dixie Sevison said.

Papenfuss said she knows the extroverted leadership side of herself has directly come from knowing what feeling left out is like. Moving so often created a soft spot for those who feel marginalized or in the minority.

Growing up all over the world has led her to love people and appreciate diversity, she said. She sees people as diverse, not because of ethnicity alone, but

because of the diverse makeup of each individual.

“A lot of people tend to define a diverse person by their race or socioeconomic status or country they’re from. But moving around has shown me that diversity comes in so many other ways,” Papenfuss said. “Diversity is not just your sexuality or your faith or the color of skin; there are so many other factors that make people diverse.”

Service and support

Papenfuss worked at the BYU Women’s Services and Resources office for two and a half years as the marketing and event coordinator on campaigns. She oversaw events regarding emotional and domestic abuse, pornography, assault and eating disorders.

While at Women’s Services and Resources, she also got involved with BYUSA and became the Honor vice president. She was placed over several campaigns, including overseeing the first year of BYU’s PEN talks.

Papenfuss said she especially loved working on PEN talks during her time at BYUSA because of her passion for reaching out to those who may feel marginalized because of their beliefs, character or color of



Kyrie Papenfuss

BYU student Kyrie Papenfuss was placed in charge of the BYUSA PEN talks panels when the talks first started. She said the purpose of the BYUSA PEN talks campaign is to give students an opportunity to share their diverse experiences.

skin. PEN talks gave panelists the opportunity to discuss their experiences as students.

She said she also headed Freshman Honor Week, and the Mental Health Matters, Light Our Campus, Service Squad and Y-Wishes campaigns.

As Women’s Services and Resources director, Sevison saw the great level of connection

event Papenfuss had planned for Women’s Services and Resources. Sevison said when the staff showed up before the event started, they realized almost every single thing had gone wrong in set-up and organization.

“Instead of falling apart, Kyrie just engaged all of us to help her,” Sevison said. “Afterwards, I told Kyrie nobody knew everything had fallen apart. Everyone had wanted to help her because she had laid foundations of great relationships with every single person.”

Prioritizing people

BYU political science senior Jakob Fjeldsted’s relationship with Papenfuss goes all the way back to the same hospital in Japan, where they were both born.

Fjeldsted said his and Papenfuss’ families were close friends and the two students reconnected at BYU. He became a BYUSA executive director under Papenfuss during her time as Honor vice president.

Fjeldsted believes Papenfuss to be one of the most organized human beings he’s ever met. He has seen her use planners, whiteboards, Google Calendar and printed copies of meeting agendas to keep her busy life

in order. He said her work ethic is what he admires most about her, and she prioritizes making people feel valued and planning in advance.

Fjeldsted often reflects on a surprise birthday party Papenfuss threw for him, with everyone on their BYUSA team in attendance. Papenfuss served his favorite Japanese curry and had everyone write personalized notes for him.

“That experience illustrates Kyrie really well. We were in the middle of a ton of prep work for fall service projects and campaigns,” he said. “She often makes people feel very special for the things that make them special.”

He praised her ability to tell him or others when a mistake is being made, but in a way that will help them progress.

“I have seen Kyrie in more circumstances than anyone else: intimate family gatherings, parties, professional settings, BYUSA meetings, the MTC, BYU classes. Throughout all of these places and settings, she’s never afraid of anyone or anything,” Fjeldsted said.

“No conversation or interview is too hard for Kyrie. She’s not afraid to make herself known — like I said before, she’s fearless.”

BYU professors express excitement over Mars rover Perseverance

By EMILY ATWOOD

NASA successfully landed its Perseverance rover on the surface of Mars on Feb. 18 after a 203-day journey.

The successful landing was confirmed in mission control at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California at 3:55 p.m. EST. The rover is equipped with the most cameras ever sent to space along with caching systems that are the first of its kind.

BYU professors from various areas of study who research planetary science weighed in on the significance of NASA’s achievements with Perseverance on Mars.

To BYU geological sciences professor Jani Radebaugh, projects like the Perseverance Mars rover allow for greater exploration of the planets. Radebaugh is currently working on NASA’s Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Titan, Jupiter’s largest moon, and also studies the Earth’s surface with BYU graduate students in order to more fully comprehend planetary surfaces.

“We’re really starting this new era of planetary surface exploration. I think it’s really important to go out and look at the Earth and what we understand about materials and landscapes and processes on Earth. We then can easily apply those findings to other planets outside of Earth,” Radebaugh said.

Over the next decade, the rover will expand on the



Associated Press

NASA’s rover team celebrate the successful landing of Mars rover Perseverance on Feb. 18 at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

knowledge scientists have of space through high quality footage and important physical samples from the surface of Mars.

Shih-hua Wood Chiang, a BYU electrical and computer engineering professor, is also involved in planetary research, specifically on the nature of Martian dust and how rotor crafts such as Perseverance can withstand the natural occurrences of planets.

“It’s a great thing to happen for human society to be able to expand our reach to other planets,” Chiang said. “And long term, hopefully, the human race will be able to expand beyond Earth to live on Mars.”

NASA has said that one of the purposes of Perseverance is to pave the way for human missions to Mars.

Byron Adams, a BYU biology professor and planetary scientist, said projects such as

Perseverance can have a huge impact not only on science and the next generation of scientists, but also on society as a whole.

“It’s opening our eyes to different ways of exploring,” Adams said. “We’re exploring, we’re pushing boundaries, we’re seeking. It’s one of the most hopeful things that humans do.”

NASA scientists plan on investigating the surface of Mars with Perseverance in order to search for signs of ancient microbial life.

The landing of Perseverance is “one of those pivotal moments for NASA, the United States, and space exploration globally,” acting NASA Administrator Steve Jurczyk said in a press release.

In just the first few weeks since touchdown, the rover has recorded audio footage of the surface of Mars, footage of its landing, and first-of-its-kind high-definition panoramic images.



Associated Press

The Federal Reserve reported March 5 that consumer borrowing fell by \$1.3 billion in January, the first setback since a \$9 billion decline in August.

Credit card borrowing falls to lowest in level in 4 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Borrowing by Americans fell in January for the first time in five months, as the use of credit cards fell to the lowest level in four years, offsetting gains in auto loans and student loans.

The Federal Reserve reported March 5 that consumer borrowing fell by \$1.3 billion in January, the first setback since a \$9 billion decline in August.

The weakness came from a \$9.9 billion decline in borrowing in the category that covers credit cards. It marked the fourth straight decline in that category and was the biggest drop since a \$10.8 billion fall in August. It pushed credit card activity down to the lowest level since January 2017.

The category that covers auto and student loans posted an \$8.6 billion increase in the

first month of 2021, following an even bigger gain of \$11.6 billion in December.

Consumer borrowing is closely watched for indications about Americans’ willingness to take on more debt to finance their spending, which accounts for two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

Since the pandemic hit a year ago, millions have lost their jobs and households have grown more cautious, boosting their savings levels as a hedge against economic uncertainty.

Nancy Vanden Houten, senior economist at Oxford Economics, said she believes the drop in borrowing reflects a decision by consumers to use their \$400 stimulus checks from a relief bill passed in December to pay down debt rather than increase spending.

But she forecast that consumer borrowing will rebound. “We expect growth in

consumer credit ... will accelerate in the months ahead as spending springs back to life in response to a healing labor market and more fiscal support,” she said. She estimated that half of the \$1.9 trillion rescue package making its way through Congress will provide direct relief for households.

In a separate report, the government said March 5 that U.S. employers added 379,000 jobs in February, the most since October. The increase was viewed as a hopeful sign that as virus cases drop, restaurants and other hard-hit businesses are stepping up their hiring.

The drop in borrowing in January meant total consumer credit in the Fed report dipped by 0.4% to \$4.18 trillion. The Fed’s monthly report does not cover home mortgages or any other loans backed by real estate such as home equity loans.

9-ton rock full of dinosaur bones still yielding fossils

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A giant rock jammed full of dinosaur bones continues to amaze Utah scientists as they slowly pick away at it to reveal its secrets, unscrambling what may be Utah’s biggest single discovery of dinosaurs.

But the problem after years of such effort is finding enough money to continue, the Deseret News reported.

“People kind of expect the funding is there,” said state paleontologist James Kirkland. “Everyone thinks someone else is paying for it. And in the end, you don’t have many people paying.”

A retired couple in Pennsylvania is now trying to energize the fundraising effort. The two dinosaur enthusiasts previously donated \$50,000 to the cause. Now they’re offering an additional \$50,000 as a matching grant if other donors kick in the same amount.

The pile of fossilized bones was discovered 20 years ago on a rocky slope near Moab.

“It’s certainly one of the most amazing things that I’ve ever seen in my career,” Don

DeBlieux of the Utah Geological Survey said in June of 2013. That was just after scientists and volunteers encased a big chunk of the rock in a protective jacket of plaster and burlap. They subsequently hauled the rock to the Wasatch Front and began the effort to puzzle out its ancient contents.

Now, nearly a decade later, the 9-ton rock is parked in a state-owned garage in Salt Lake City.

“It’s just jam-packed with bones on the surface here,” said Scott Madsen. “It’s just an amazing assemblage of bones.”

Madsen, a professional fossil preparator, has spent years drilling, carving and dusting the surface of the rock to expose the bones. “Trying to remove the rock from the bone without damaging the bone,” he said. “We’ve got a femur, a tibia. There’s a beautiful lower jaw right here.”

That’s just one tiny section of the rock’s surface. No one can see inside the slab of rock, but scientists believe it contains the fossilized bones of many dinosaurs.

“I think there are dozens,” Kirkland said.

It hasn’t been proven yet



Associated Press

Utah Department of Natural Resources paleontologists Don DeBlieux, left, and James Kirkland look at a giant rock encased in plaster and burlap that is full of dinosaur bones at the Department of Natural Resources office in Salt Lake City on Nov. 13, 2014.

but Kirkland is nearly certain it’s a pack of reptiles from a species that was named for its discovery in the state of Utah. The fossilized bones appear to be disassembled skeletons of Utahraptors.

“Including four little tiny babies,” Madsen said. “And we’re talking about a chicken-sized animal here.”

Adult Utahraptors were

medium-sized, voracious predators, similar to the quick, vicious killers that terrorized children in a fictional kitchen in Steven Spielberg’s film “Jurassic Park.”

Geologists have concluded that the slab full of bones was originally a puddle of quicksand 136 million years ago. It appears that some unlucky plant-eating dinosaur got stuck

in the quicksand and a pack of Utahraptors moved in on him for dinner.

“What happens,” Madsen said, is “they get in here and they can’t get out either. And they end up dying and getting buried and disappearing in the muck.”

Geologists believe the quicksand hardened into sandstone around 136 million years ago.

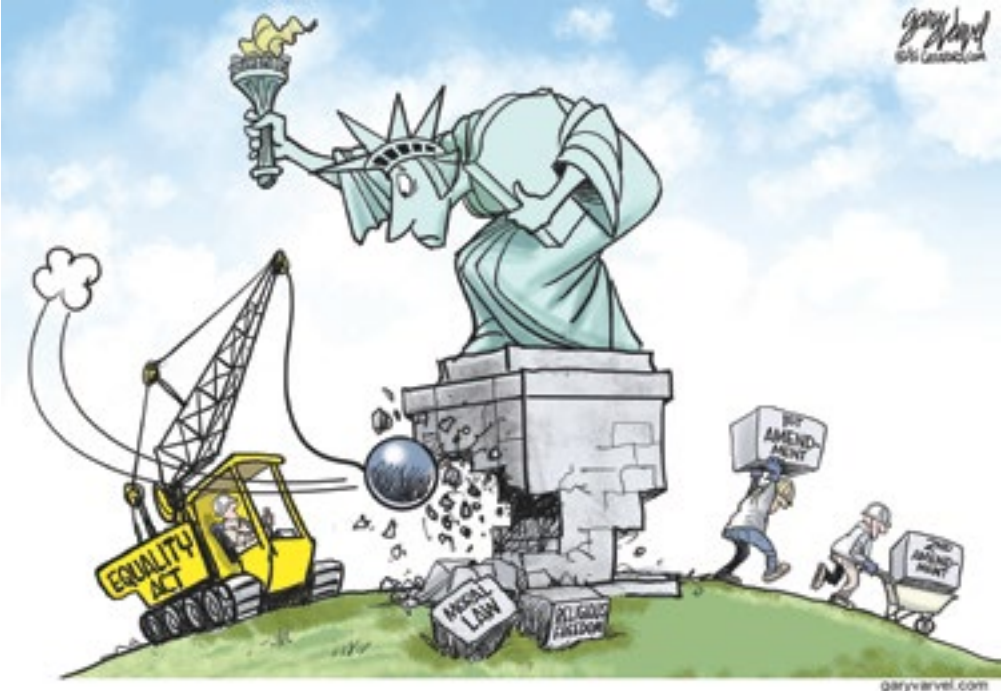
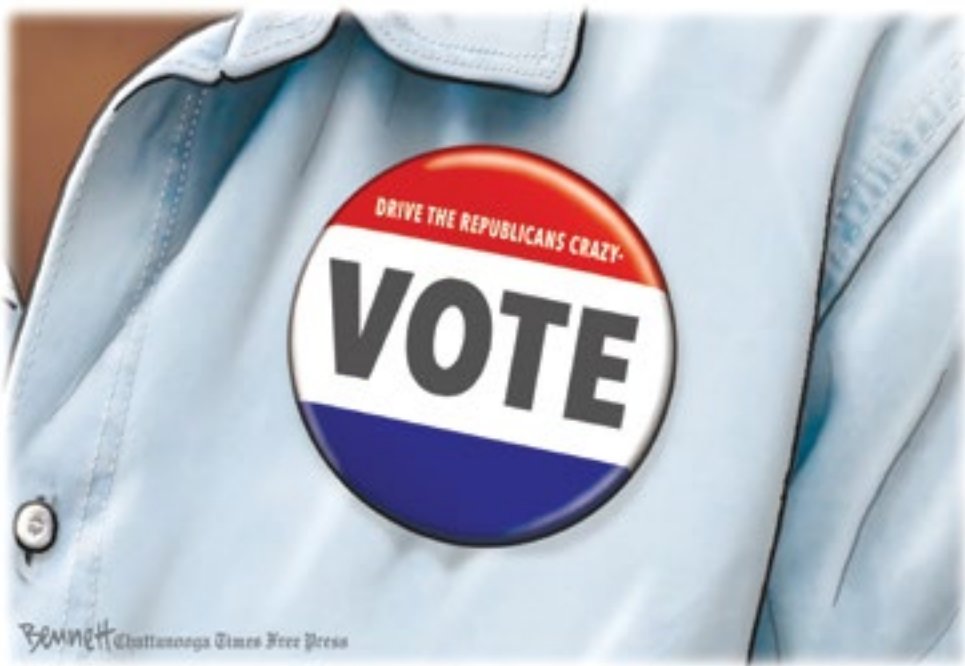
Kirkland’s hope is that scientists and volunteers will eventually be able to extract enough bones to assemble an entire sequence of Utahraptor skeletons that show the creature at all ages and sizes. The skeletons might ultimately be put on display at the Natural History Museum of Utah and, perhaps, at a proposed Utahraptor State Park.

“I mean this thing will provide generations of researchers good, new science.”

The Utah Geological Survey does not have money in its budget for the fossil preparation work. So far, most of the funding has come from out-of-state dinosaur enthusiasts and paleontology buffs. Schoolchildren in Utah and elsewhere have also contributed significant amounts of money.

The matching grant offered by the Pennsylvania couple will expire on May 1, setting a de facto deadline for raising another \$50,000. If that effort fails, it’s not clear if the work will continue. Secrets that have been locked up for 136 million years may stay that way.

Donations to the project can be made at the Utah Geological Survey’s website.



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 Utah's minimum wage increase? Why or why not?

No. It will decrease the number of people that companies have the budget to employ.
@BRINLEY.CK

Yes. No one should work full time and live in poverty. It's that simple.
@TESSIE_BABES

100% YES! Everyone has already!!! Idaho & Utah gotta catch up!
@DAYNA_JANKOWSKI

Definitely not to 15 I could not find a job for so long in Cali because of the minimum wage
@SARAH_HEYWOOD

Yes - it's basically impossible to survive on your own working full time minimum wage
@WHITOF SOPH

Yes! Because on campus wages (for students) are low and my rent just went up by 25%
@CATEELINA

no. the price of everything else comes up too with it which will increase the poverty level
@M_RIDING

No. It hurts more people than it helps by forcing businesses to hire less employees
@JACFRA2000

Yes. The current minimum wage doesn't account for inflation.
@CIERA_BOBEARA

It's basic economics... sounds great. Doesn't work. Everything goes up.
@WPADGE

Absolutely not, it'll raise the cost of living and take many businesses out
@CAMDYN.CROSBYU

No. Some people's wage will increase. But more will lose their job making their wage=\$0
@JOHNNYBLOOD3

STAFF OPINION

Thank you Steve Fidel

"Director of the Universe" — as far as job titles go, it doesn't get much better than that.

During his nine years with that title, however, Steve Fidel has expanded his role to be so much more than just the director of our newsroom. He's been an advocate for the staff, a mentor, the Brimhall's unofficial snack source and a friend.

If you know Fidel, you've probably heard him talk about his two egos: The Daily Universe brand and the success of his students. After introducing them, he'd always follow it up with, "If one is doing well, so will the other."

The Daily Universe brand has certainly flourished with Fidel's direction. He's overseen the production of 447 print editions of the newspaper and the massive expansion of our online storytelling efforts. Under his leadership, the Daily Universe and its staff have received numerous regional and national awards. Some of the Universe's biggest stories during Fidel's time at BYU include a series on catfishing that was picked up by Dr. Phil and more recently the Universe's extended coverage of the COVID-19 crisis.

But it's impossible to boil down Fidel's legacy at the Universe to just the products he helped produced. Yes, his list of accomplishments is full of amazing feats, but it doesn't capture what may

have been Fidel's most important work at BYU: inspiring others.

Fidel has mentored and worked with hundreds of students both on the Universe staff and through his involvement with classes in the journalism program. Not only has he motivated us

to be better journalists, but he is also deeply invested in us as individuals. One minute he's helping you brainstorm ideas for a story you're working on, the next he's giving you life advice and then making you laugh with a dad joke. No matter the question or the issue, you knew you could always trust Fidel with it and that he'd do his best to help you resolve it. And after he was done answering your question, he'd usually follow it up with "What

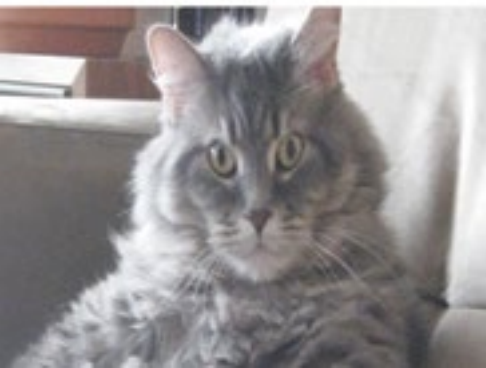
can I do for you?" That example of genuine love and compassion for those around him, and the camaraderie it created, is one of the most lasting consequences of Fidel's time with the Universe.

Because of the hard work and dedication he put into building up his "two egos," it's heartbreaking for our staff to say goodbye as he moves on to head up KSL.com. But that hard work and dedication also mean both egos are in good shape to continue in his absence. Because of Fidel's faith in us as individuals and as an organization, we're ready to take on great things.

— Universe Staff



Netflix: "Are You Still Watching?"
Me:



me holding up my sketch pad to the camera to show the exam proctor that I'm not cheating



Brock Dowdle

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

@shannybearrr

People just don't eat bagels in Utah it's so bizarre

@maddysonline

dad wants me to go to BYU to avoid debt mom wants me to go anywhere but byu to avoid a boy so I will be dissapointing someone for sure

@jennapurrlee

a 21yo just asked me if I've heard of an old school band called Green Day

@goldengia

i wish utah had street names. i like them

@IndecisiveJones

after 2020 "beware the ides of March" just hits a little different

@a1Xnotafed

my sister is 20 years old and still afraid to order at the drive thru smh

@darthcaro

dude i just made some french fries better than chick-fil-a's. i'm never eating out again.

@unofficiallymad

like your right hand not knowing what the left hand does but it's my right hand working on homework while the left hand gets on twitter without me noticing

@cslamms

i get mad at people for not replying fast like it doesn't take me 2-3 business days

@kindahungrym

no one knows me as well as the people who are on my close friends list on instagram

@mike_bo_bike

Happy to announce I am off the market!! I'm not taken I've just given up

@Kiywii

Unpaid internships are definitely jacked up but doing free work by choice to open doors is wildly underrated

@MackBeave

when should i start putting out to secure a Lake Powell invite for the summer?

@mairpodz

if a professor makes me do one more group project over zoom im going straight to byu dot com and dropping out

Tweets are unedited.

OPINION OUTPOST

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

Don't miss the shot

Leaders at all levels need to be more imaginative about more thoroughly and equally distributing the vaccine. One good start recently was a plea by the nation's first Black and South Asian vice president, Kamala Harris, urging people of color to take the vaccine: "Let's not let COVID get us."

Biden should also set a more aspirational, if risky, goal of 2 to 3 million vaccines a day ...

— Editorial Board
USA Today

Back to school

Across the country, parents are demanding more aggressively that schools reopen, including high schools. They're frustrated with slow bureaucracy on school reopening plans, obstinate teachers unions and pick-and-choose "science" to justify closed buildings. They're worried about their kids' mental health.

— Editorial Board
Chicago Tribune

Brazil's threat

Brazil is reeling from the coronavirus pandemic, and its agony ought to be a warning to the world. When the virus is spreading out of control and mutating as it is in Brazil, it

poses a potential danger everywhere. Brazil's surge has given rise to a new variant known as P.1 that appears to be more transmissible and may be capable of overcoming natural antibodies.

— Editorial Board
The Washington Post

Homelessness

If there is one thing we should have learned about the ongoing shame of homelessness in Utah, it is that it is a large, complex problem that requires a big, comprehensive solution. That it isn't going to be solved by small cash donations and hand-me-down baby shoes.

The most important thing to remember is that, whatever

structure we use, however we draw the box chart and allocate the responsibilities, any system that is as seriously underfunded as previous attempts have been will fail. Again.

— Editorial Board
The Salt Lake Tribune

Byrd rule

If Senate Democrats wish to use the reconciliation process to take away Republicans' ability to filibuster the proposed \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package, they must adhere to the Byrd Rule.

If that sounds arcane and complicated, it is. Just remember that it keeps senators from piling a bunch of unrelated items into a bill, where they will receive little or no debate, and then ramming them into law.

— 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. 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.

BEFORE I TELL YOU ABOUT OUR NEWEST PRODUCT, I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE I HAD AS A CHILD.

IS YOUR STORY RELATED TO THE TOPIC, OR IS IT JUST AN EXCUSE TO YAMMER ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

I'M TRYING TO MANIPULATE YOUR EMOTIONS TO SHORT-CIRCUIT YOUR CRITICAL THINKING.

OKAY. CARRY ON.

OUR AUDIO IS GARBLED. I CAN'T HEAR WHAT YOU ARE SAYING.

NO, I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT A GERBIL. I SAID OUR AUDIO IS GARBLED.

HOW'D YOUR ZOOM CALL GO?

I SOLVED ZERO PROBLEMS AND MAY HAVE ENDANGERED A GERBIL.

SLUP!

POP!

LIKE THE COFFEE?
IT'S HALF-CAFF

YES
AND NO

INSTEAD OF READING
THE NEWS TODAY...

I WOULD LIKE TO
MAKE FUNNY FACES

NYAH,
NYAH

ACTUALLY, I
PREFER THIS

JIM DAVIS 5-B

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THE MOST IMPORTANT CLASS IN LAW SCHOOL

LITIGIOUS CALCULUS 101

FAIR UNFAIR \neq RIGHT WRONG \times 200 P.H.

LEGAL

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THE FINAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

SO WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES?

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Panel 1: A boy and Marcie are standing outside. The boy says: "WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL, SIR..."

Panel 2: Marcie, wearing glasses and holding a book, says: "I'M NOT GOING, MARCIE... I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE!"

Panel 3: The boy, looking frustrated, says: "I'M GETTING DUMBER EVERY DAY, AND IT'S ALL JUST TOO EMBARRASSING..."

Panel 4: The boy, looking dejected, says: "I'M THE ONLY KID IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION TO HAVE A STRAIGHT 'Z' AVERAGE!"

Panel 5: The boy, looking determined, says: "YOU HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL, SIR... YOU CAN'T JUST QUIT!"

Panel 6: Marcie, looking surprised, says: "WHY CAN'T I? YESTERDAY ONE OF THE TEACHERS EVEN CRITICIZED MY LUNCH!"

Panel 7: Marcie, looking serious, says: "SHE SAID I HAD TOO MANY DOUGHNUTS AND NOT ENOUGH CARROTS..."

Panel 8: Marcie, looking determined, says: "IT'S TIME TO QUIT WHEN THEY EVEN CRITICIZE YOUR LUNCH!"

Panel 9: The boy, looking surprised, says: "IT'S TIME TO QUIT WHEN THEY EVEN CRITICIZE YOUR LUNCH!"

Panel 10: The boy, looking surprised, says: "IT'S TIME TO QUIT WHEN THEY EVEN CRITICIZE YOUR LUNCH!"

LET ME GET A SHOT OF YOU TWO WITH MY NEW PHONE.

SMILE, EAR!

NO.

IT'S OKAY, MOM. I CAN ADD A SMILE IN PHOTOSHOP.

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE HIM A CLEAN SHIRT AND TRIM UP THAT BRISTLE UNDER HIS NOSE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SENDING YOU A TEXT.

I'M RIGHT HERE. WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY?

EVERYONE TEXTS THESE DAYS. I FIGURE I NEED TO GET WITH THE TIMES.

DING! WHAT'S FOR DINNER, SWEETIE PIE?

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR SHOES, I BERTHERED THEM BY THE DOOR.

YOU'LL MISS TRIPPING OVER MY STUFF WHEN I'M GONE.

SO HE EATS BY THE YARD NOW?

THAT EXPLAINS THE MUSTARD STAINS ON THE CEILING.

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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.

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Edited by Will Shortz No. 0202

BLACK PUZZLEMAKERS' WEEK

Every daily crossword this week, Monday to Saturday, is made by an African-American contributor. Soleil Saint-Cyr is a high school senior in Moorestown, N.J. This is her New York Times debut. To read more about this puzzle, see nytimes.com/wordplay.

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12
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55				56	57				58				59
60				61					62				
63				64					65				

7 Ambivalent reply 29 Deion

8	It's "just a number"	31	Tiny bit		on computer screens, e.g.
9	Trim	34	Until now	47	Covers again, as a lawn
10	Second-least valuable avenue in Monopoly after Mediterranean	36	Traps to support conservation	50	Skin problem portmanteau
11	Batting next	37	Not paying a cent, as a tenant	52	Old TV's "Search"
12	Overtakes	38	Leave rolling in the aisles	57	Prefix with skeleton
14	Bit of asparagus	40	Containing tin	58	Pizzeria owner in "Do the Right Thing"
17	Financial expert Suze	41	Dinosaur in Super Mario World	59	Any who wrote "The Joy Luck Club"
22	Winter falls	43	Once-popular place to store music		
23	Cereal go-with				

Utah House passes bill for state flag redesign, 125th Commemorative Utah flag

By CASSIDY WIXOM

The Utah House of Representatives passed a bill to create a Utah state flag task force and designate a flag commemorating the 125th anniversary of Utah’s statehood in the final days of the legislative session.

The task force will undertake a potential redesigning of the Utah state flag and make Jonathan Martin’s flag design from the Organization for a New Utah Flag the commemorative flag for Utah’s 125th anniversary.

Martin and his father, Richard Martin, created the Organization for a New Utah Flag in 2017 and have been trying for three years in the Utah Legislature to replace the current Utah state flag with their design.

With the flag as the commemorative Utah flag, Jonathan Martin said he hopes eventually the flag could become the official state flag.

This year their efforts finally paid off on March 4 when the House voted 49-23 in favor of the bill, SB48. Shortly after, the bill passed concurrence.

“To feel like we have given something to Utah, that means a lot to me,” Jonathan Martin said.

Originally from Texas, Jonathan Martin is very proud to live in Utah now and thinks it is so special he got to contribute something that has a lasting history and legacy to Utah.

For him, “Texas is in the heart, but Utah is in the soul.”

Jonathan Martin said his design has seven points of story and symbolism in it on significant aspects and features of Utah that sets it apart from other flags. Not only does the flag tell the history and heritage of Utah, “the flag is a part of Utah history now,” he said.

The flag uses symbolism to represent items like the transcontinental railroad, Utah’s motto “Industry,” the red rocks of Southern Utah, the snowy



Organization for a New Utah Flag

The Organization for a New Utah Flag has proposed a new design for the Utah state flag. This flag, designed by Jonathan Martin, is part of a Utah Senate bill that was just passed to make the design a commemorative flag for Utah’s 125th statehood anniversary.

mountains, the Great Salt Lake, Utah’s statehood and the Native Indigenous tribes.

Richard Martin said this commemorative flag is the only thing the Utah Legislature is doing to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Utah’s statehood. He said the design is timeless and will last for years to come.

Jonathan Martin said although he hopes his flag becomes the official state flag, he still supports the task force process. He said he is excited to see what happens next and “this design could inspire something that is just as incredible.”

Sen. Dan McCay, R-Riverton, sponsor of the bill, said he is “excited to capture the hearts and imagination of Utah as we work together to design a flag for the next generation.”

According to Jonathan Martin, Gov. Spencer Cox really likes the commemorative flag design and especially the beehive stamp in the center of it. Martin also said Sen. Curtis Bramble, R-Provo, already has the flag hung in his office and Sen. Jacob Anderegg, R-Lehi, has one hanging in his doorway.

Rep. Keven Stratton,

R-Orem, told Jonathan Martin when this bill passed, it was one of the happiest moments in his career in regards to passing a bill.

“It’s already making a lot of people happy,” Jonathan Martin said.

Compared to normal, “boring” bills about taxes, government funds and legal adjustments, Richard Martin said having a fun and interesting bill like this is exciting. He enjoyed seeing the senators and representatives “see something they love” and “get behind it.”

In the days leading up to the final vote, Jonathan Martin said he was very worried and didn’t sleep much at night. Even though he was pretty sure the bill would pass, he worried about potential challenges that could pop up.

“I knew it was coming, but until it’s official you’re always on pins and needles,” he said.

Richard Martin said even as recently as Monday, March 1, he felt like there were still roadblocks in the way to get the bill passed. But now, all he feels is relief.

“Right now feels so good,” he

said. “It feels like (we) snatched victory from defeat.”

One such obstacle occurred a few days prior to the bill’s passing when some representatives brought up concerns of the flag being affiliated with DezNat, a controversial Twitter community.

Before the bill passed, Jonathan Martin said he was not concerned about the affiliation with DezNat because it was such a small amount of people who appropriated the flag in Twitter memes and a Facebook post. Martin reached out to the DezNat Facebook page to take down the post and the page’s moderators complied.

Jonathan Martin never received a response to his request for a DezNat Instagram page to change its profile picture which is currently a variation of his central beehive symbol but with a white background and red star.

The group commonly uses the blue and white Deseret Nation flag instead for its community, so the connection was not enough to cause concern, allowing the bill to still pass through the House.

Utah lawmakers vote to create 2 new state parks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah state lawmakers approved the creation of two new state parks on March 4.

The new Utahraptor State Park will be located in the Dalton Wells area in Grand County near a huge deposit of dinosaur bones in the eastern part of the state. The park will be named after the state dinosaur.

The Lost Creek Reservoir in Morgan County will be renamed the Lost Creek State Park.

The bill was passed 63-9 in the House. The state will designate \$36.5 million for the two state parks. The legislation now heads to Republican Gov. Spencer Cox’s desk for signing.

Supporters of the creation of the Utahraptor State Park hope the government will preserve fossils that are currently being stolen from the area, KSTU-TV reported.

The Utahraptor State Park would be located about 15 miles northwest of Moab and would comprised of land, trails and campgrounds.

Police Beat

BYU

NUISANCE

Feb. 27 – A group was reported for playing soccer inside the Tanner Building parking garage. An officer informed them of better options for playing fields and asked them to relocate their game.

DRUGS

Feb. 27 – Possible drug possession was reported at Heritage Halls.

THEFT

March 1 – A locked-up bicycle was reported stolen from the Harris Fine Arts Center.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

March 2 – Interior burn marks were reported on a vehicle in a parking lot near LaVell Edwards Stadium. Cause is unknown. It is unknown whether the damage was accidental or intentional.

VEHICLE BURGLARY

March 2 – Personal items were reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle in a parking lot near LaVell Edwards Stadium.

Provo

THEFT

Feb. 27 – A bicycle was reported stolen from a residence near 1000 North and 750 West.

Feb. 27 – Vehicle parts were

reported stolen from a parking garage near 500 North on University Avenue.

Feb. 28 – Property theft was reported near 4000 West on Center Street.

March 1 – A bicycle was reported stolen near 1100 East and 450 North.

March 4 – Property theft was reported near 1100 South on State Street.

March 4 – Vehicle parts were reported stolen near 400 East and 600 North.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Feb. 27 – An automobile was reported stolen off the street near 200 North and 1600 West.

Feb. 28 – An automobile was reported stolen near 1600 North on Freedom Boulevard.

March 3 – An automobile was reported stolen near 700 West and 1720 North.

March 3 – An automobile was reported stolen near 500 West on Center Street.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Feb. 28 – A rape was reported near 1000 North and 500 West.

March 2 – Forcible sexual abuse was reported at a public school near 4500 North on University Avenue.

The daily part of The Daily Universe

The Daily Universe Newsletter

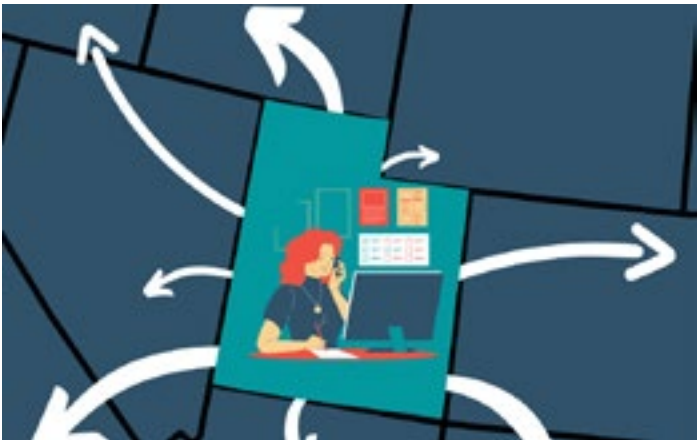


Good morning,

Today’s newsletter covers BYU’s new policy for out-of-state work, fall sports that moved to winter and the first Reader’s Forum of the semester.

Enjoy.

News



Sydnee Gonzalez

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

By Sydnee Gonzalez

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



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