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March 16-22, 2021

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

Professors prepare students for divided political climate

By CASSIDY WIXOM

Utah political science and law professors said students need to focus on compromise and having productive conversations to accomplish good in the increasing divisiveness of politics.

Utah Valley University political science professor Steven Sylvester said the "last four years have systematically changed the way we view politics."

Sylvester said a "win at all costs" mentality has slowly been growing in politics but has been especially fueled by Donald Trump's presidency. This mentality, he said, reduces all incentive for compromise.

"It doesn't need to be all about winning," he said. "If we just view politics as a zero sum game, we're really never going to move anywhere. We're not really going to move forward at all."

As a professor, Sylvester said he teaches his students to think for themselves, look at the other side of politics and always leave room for negotiation.

"We as professors have to teach our students that looking at the other side not as the enemy, but as a way to learn more," he said.

The rising amount of calls for impeachment is contributing to the divisiveness of politics because the threat of impeachment is sometimes used by lawmakers as "a tool to punish their enemies," Sylvester said.

"We shouldn't just be calling for impeachment of the other side just because we don't like what they're doing," he said.

BYU law professor Stephanie Plamondon Bair said impeachment is a "legitimate tool that is built into our system of checks and balances in our government, but it's also a tool that is meant to be reserved for very specific and usually pretty extreme situations."

This tool is important to call on when needed and appropriate, but shouldn't be "tossed around" as a way to threaten, intimidate, or gain political advantage over people you disagree with, she said.

Bair said this highlights how living in a pluralistic society, there are divergent views on approaches to policy and solutions for societal issues.

For her, it is important to train students to have "productive conversations rather than just retreating to their sides and digging in their heels and not listening."

These divisions, combined with a norm against compromise, makes it difficult to communicate and to "accomplish things that we really do need to accomplish just to keep our society functioning and doing things that are



Sydney Gonzalez

The increasing divide between democrats and republicans can often be attributed to individuals viewing the other side as "the enemy." Many political science and law professors believe productive conversations and compromise will help students prepare for futures in the divided political climate.

for the wellbeing of the citizenry," she said.

Bair said the BYU law school has always emphasized training students to handle situations where the others involved have various backgrounds, interests and perspectives. The change in the political landscape, she said, "has made it even more important for us as law professors to teach our students how to approach conflict and how to communicate with people in productive ways when those people have different interests from you."

Teaching students to not be afraid of having conversations with those whose viewpoints differ and learning to express viewpoints in rational ways will help students to achieve mutually satisfactory outcomes, she said.

Going into these conversations with the goal of understanding will help "combat the divisions we are seeing right now," Bair said.

BYU political science professor Jeremy Pope said party loyalty and fidelity have become more important than individual beliefs in the current political climate.

The Republican Party has gone through the biggest change with old-style conservatism starting to phase out and loyalty to Donald Trump becoming the current prominent feature of the party, he said.

"As the parties have tried to enforce ever higher levels of loyalty through

various mechanisms, including primaries, elected officials get more and more extreme," Pope said.

Pope wrote an opinion piece published in the Deseret News discussing polarization and partisan politics. In it, he said, "When partisanship has no limits, the republic will have truly fallen."

Pope said the longer he studies partisanship and party politics, the "more obvious it becomes that almost anyone can be led down the path to defending unethical, even criminal behavior that they would not justify under any other circumstance other than a partisan fight where the limits come off."

For Pope, he said it is important to teach students to have limits on their partisanship and to have their own personal beliefs instead of just believing everything on one "side" of politics.

Utah State University political science professor James Curry said he thinks politically things have "changed less than people perceive."

"Conflict has been a constant of our politics," he said, mentioning that parties will always fight about the political system, including Congress' policymaking actions.

All presidents make their mark on the political climate and "Trump's contribution to our politics was taking this to new levels, agitating the public

on both sides of the aisle," he said.

Curry said he focuses on training his students to know how politics "actually works" and teaching students how to pass policies and make laws.

Finding common ground between members of the parties is the only way to get things done, he said.

"The vast majority of policy proposals require bipartisan support to be enacted, I have always, and will continue to, infuse this lesson into my teaching," Curry said.

Director of the BYU civic engagement program Quin Monson said right now it is important for students to get involved in civic engagement projects.

Monson said he sees a lot of students who are idealistic when they enter politics and become disheartened experiencing the "toxicity" of the political environment.

He promotes local level engagement for students to get involved so they can see their efforts actually make a difference in local government, rather than being discouraged by the toxic environment of "partisan animosity" at the federal level.

The civic engagement minor is relatively new, only being offered at BYU for the past seven years. The program focuses on teaching students how to be involved in local government and how to make changes in public policy.

"We really can guide students to make a difference," Monson said.

from the mission office telling her she would fly to the England MTC, quarantine for two weeks, and then be sent to Germany.

However, because of the new virus strain, Germany closed its borders to the U.K. and Sister Borg ended up in isolation for four weeks in the Manchester MTC.

There were around 70 missionaries quarantined there in groups of four and after the fourth week, the mission office started sending groups into Germany.

"By all means, no missionaries should have gotten through the border," Sister Borg said. "It was literally a miracle every single flight."

Sister Borg's group, however, never made it to the plane. They came back from the airport and she said she was devastated. The 42 missionaries left were reassigned to serve in England and she expected she would be there for at least a six-week transfer.

After only 10 days, the missionaries were brought back to the MTC, flown to Croatia, spent a week quarantining and a week helping with earthquake relief, then finally flew into Germany.

"Crazily enough, just as my plane landed, Germany changed their policies again and closed their borders to Croatia as well," Sister Borg said.

She said it is crazy to finally be in Germany. When she was temporarily reassigned to England she thought she would never make it to Germany, "but God doesn't forget anyone," she said.

See MIRACLES on Page 4

'Miracles' allow missionaries to return to foreign missions

By CASSIDY WIXOM

A limited number of missionaries are returning to their original foreign assignments a year after the COVID-19 pandemic stopped the world and sent thousands of missionaries home.

The Provo, Utah and Preston, England Missionary Training Centers shut down March 16, 2020 and since then, all missionaries are being trained virtually.

During March and April 2020, almost all missionaries serving outside their own country were sent home, except for a few countries in Europe and Asia. At the same time, many missionaries whose service would end on or before Sept. 1, 2020, were released from missionary service early.

On March 31, the Church offered new options for individuals whose missions had been disrupted during the pandemic. Missionaries with time left to serve could choose to be temporarily reassigned to a mission within their own country until conditions allowed them to return to their original assignment, or they could choose to delay their mission for 12-18 months and finish their service at a later date.

Sister Belynn Borg was originally called to the Frankfurt Germany Mission. A week before she started the home MTC in August 2020, she got a call from her bishop who told her she was reassigned to the Farmington New Mexico Mission.



Sister Belynn Borg, a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, stands in front of the St. Paulus-Dom in Munster, Germany. Because of the pandemic, her journey to Germany included multiple reassessments, setbacks and quarantines.

Sister Borg spent 12 weeks in her reassessment and said she absolutely loved it, but still wanted to go to Germany "so badly."

The Church began sending limited numbers of missionaries to assignments outside their home countries in November 2020.

"This process is deliberate and cautious," former Church spokesman Daniel Woodruff said in a statement.

A close friend of Sister Borg's was

in the first group of missionaries sent back to the Berlin Germany Mission in November. Shortly after, Sister Borg had a dream that she said felt like God was telling her she would go to Germany soon if she stayed faithful.

She said she was excited at the thought of finally going to Germany, but at the same time wanted to stay where she was. "It was like my heart was being pulled in both directions."

Sister Borg then received a call

from the mission office telling her she would fly to the England MTC, quarantine for two weeks, and then be sent to Germany.

However, because of the new virus strain, Germany closed its borders to the U.K. and Sister Borg ended up in isolation for four weeks in the Manchester MTC.

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See MIRACLES on Page 4

BYU international student enrollment down 20%

By SYDNEE GONZALEZ

The number of international students enrolled at BYU declined by 300 students from 2020 to 2021, despite an upward tick in overall enrollment.

Data provided to The Daily Universe by BYU's communications team shows that while overall enrollment increased by 6%, international student enrollment fell by 20%. However, that 20% drop is lower than the national average decrease of 43%, according to data from the State Department and the Institute of International Education.

"The dip in (BYU's) numbers is directly connected to the challenges presented by COVID-19, with many students either not coming due to visa/pandemic restraints or people leaving to be at home," BYU spokesperson Todd Hollingshead said.

The pandemic might not be completely at fault, however. Colleges nationwide have seen international enrollment figures steadily decrease since 2016, although the total number of international students in the U.S. still exceeds 1 million.

While enrollment was already on a downward slope before former President Donald Trump took office, his administration's tightened immigration laws and anti-immigrant rhetoric likely exacerbated the issue.

A March 2020 report by NAFSA: Association of International Educators found that "university and industry leaders acknowledge that anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies contribute to a chilling effect on international study in the United States" and that "international students and scholars feel less safe and less welcome in the United States than the previous year surveyed."

A similar report from Graduate Management Admission Council titled "Early Warning Signals: Winners and Losers in The Global Race for Talent" found that visa struggles, the impact of anti-immigrant rhetoric and prospective students' concerns about safety were key to declines in international student enrollment. In fact, 54% of potential Indian students and 50% of potential Chinese students reported that the U.S.'s political environment would prevent them from applying to a business school in the U.S.

These concerns came to a head during 2020. Just months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration announced international students would be forced to leave the country if their universities held remote classes.

Students were left scrambling to figure out ways to stay in the country, and several universities moved to block the rule in court. The rule was eventually changed to just block first-year students from entering the U.S. if their colleges would be completely online.

Then in September 2020, the Department of Homeland Security released a proposal that would limit the time international students can study in the U.S. to two or four years. The proposal was met with widespread backlash from immigration advocates, members of Congress and universities, including BYU. The proposal's fate — and that of the thousands of students it would impact — is still in limbo.

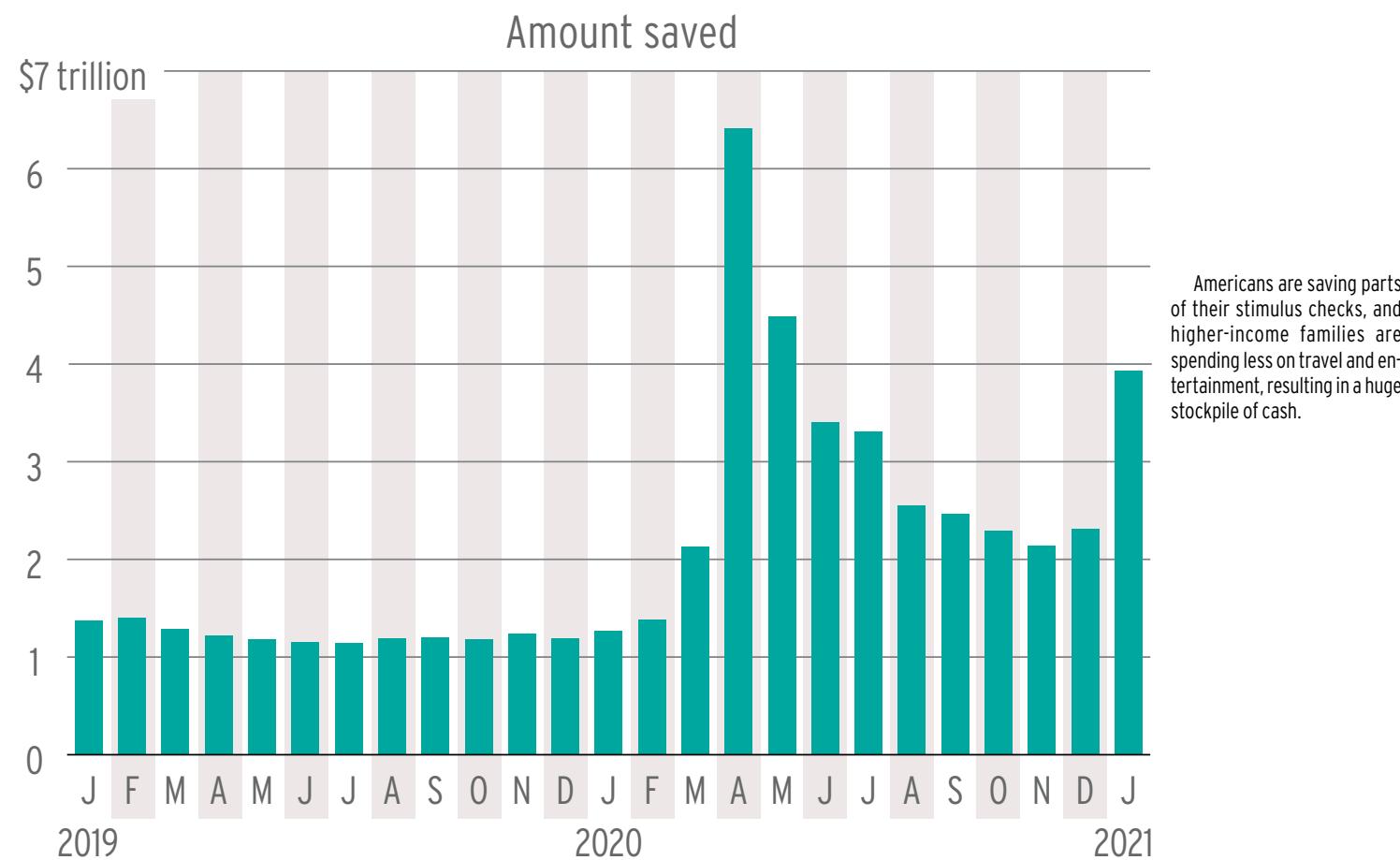
In addition, costs and competition from other countries and changes in government scholarship programs have also impacted enrollment.

Not all hope may be lost, though. In a report on the "Trump effect" on international student enrollment in U.S. universities, researchers from Central Michigan University found that countering the barriers that deter students from studying in the U.S. means "providing international students, staff and faculty the opportunity to see beyond the blustering of nationalistic and isolationist themed policies."

"Continued vigilance in representing higher education's mission while providing tools and representation for those affected by the Trump administration's policies is crucial to countering the anti-internationalization movement in the United States," the report states.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Savings skyrocket as aid rises, spending slows



Changes in saving and spending in the U.S. Data provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

From the Associated Press



Church leader says family donation to Biden was 'oversight'

A top leader with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said March 12 political donations made in his name to several Democratic candidates, including President Joe Biden, that violate the faith's political neutrality rules were done by his family.

Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf said in a statement provided by Church officials that the contributions came from an online family account associated with his name.

"I regret such an oversight on my part," Elder Uchtdorf said. "I fully support the Church's policy related to political donations from Church leaders."



Security camera hack exposes hospitals, workplaces, schools

Hackers aiming to call attention to the dangers of mass surveillance say they were able to peer into hospitals, schools, factories, jails and corporate offices after they broke into the systems of a security-camera startup.

That California startup, Verkada, said March 10 it is investigating the scope of the breach, first reported by Bloomberg News, and has notified law enforcement and its customers.

Swiss hacker Tillie Kottmann, a member of the group that calls itself APT-69420 Arson Cats, described it in an online chat with The Associated Press as a small collective of "primarily queer hackers, not backed by any nation or capital but instead backed by the desire for fun, being gay and a better world."



Concerns rise over Sri Lanka's move to ban burqas

A Pakistani diplomat and a U.N. expert have expressed concerns over Sri Lanka's proposed move to ban the wearing of burqas.

Sri Lanka announced plans on March 13 to ban the wearing of burqas – garments worn by some Muslim women that cover the body and face – and also said it would close more than 1,000 Islamic schools known as madrassas, citing national security.

Pakistan's ambassador to Sri Lanka, Saad Khattak, tweeted on March 15 that the ban would "only serve as injury to the feelings of ordinary Sri Lankan Muslims and Muslims across the globe."



South African official pledges to fund university students

In an effort to quell violent protests at universities, South Africa's education minister has vowed to make more money available to enable thousands of students to register for the 2021 academic year.

One man, a bystander, was killed in the protests March 10 at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand, adding pressure on the government to resolve the problem.

Throughout the week students have been protesting because thousands of poor students have been prevented from registering due to outstanding fees.

Provo School District to continue half-day schedule

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City School Board voted to continue with the current half-time school schedule until the end of the school year instead of returning to class full-time in a 6-1 vote on March 9.

Students in the Provo City School District have progressively come back to school as COVID-19 restrictions have changed. The district has been

in phase two of the process for the past few months, during which all students attend in-person Monday-Thursday on an early dismissal schedule.

A shift to phase three would implement a regular Monday-Friday schedule for all students as permitted by health conditions, increasing the days that students are in school.

Parents of students of all ages in the district expressed concerns for students who are struggling to keep up with the demands of school.

Much of Europe tightens anti-pandemic rules as virus surges

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tighter restrictions aimed at reining in surging coronavirus infections took hold in much of Italy and parts of Poland on March 15, while in France, Paris risks being slapped with a weekend lockdown as ICUs near saturation with COVID-19 patients.

In line with an Italian government decision late last week, 80% of schoolchildren, from nursery through high schools, were

locked out of classrooms starting on March 15. Ever-mounting numbers of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, steadily rising daily caseloads and infection transmission predominantly driven by a virus variant first discovered in Britain have combined to make Italian Premier Mario Draghi's new government apply "red zone" designation on more regions, including, for the first time since the color-tiered system was created last fall, on Lazio, the region including Rome.

Utah to lift mask mandate, offer vaccines to all adults

By LINDSEY REESE

Utah will join a handful of states next month as it lifts its statewide mask mandate on April 10.

The mandate will expire just days after the state opens vaccine appointments to all residents over the age of 18 on April 1.

For the most part, vaccinations will require two doses about a month apart from each

other. With just 10 days between the date vaccinations open up and the end of the mask mandate, most adults in Utah will not be partially or fully vaccinated.

Former Utah Gov. Gary Herbert announced a statewide mask mandate following a sharp increase in cases in November. However, the mandate will be dropped following legislative action to reopen the state.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox chose to work with the legislature to push the action back until at least April.

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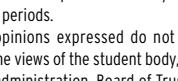
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Church announces baptistry to open in 14 temples

By CASSIDY WIXOM

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced 14 temples will open their baptistry to small groups starting on March 29.

"Today, we are grateful to announce a new phase in the reopening of temples that will allow even more of us to participate in temple work," President Russell M. Nelson said in an Instagram post on March 15.

"As the numbers of COVID-19 cases have begun to decrease in some areas, Church leaders have carefully monitored circumstances. This has led to an opportunity to open temple baptistries," the Church said in the news release.

Temple service will be by online appointment only and members can only schedule appointments within their temple district.

U.S. temples affected by the changes include those in Kansas City, Missouri; Medford, Oregon; Portland; Seattle; and Twin Falls, Idaho.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

BYU professor teaches Navajo family values through her language classes

By HOLLY CLUFF

BYU Navajo teacher Rena Dunn and junior Naabaahii Tsosie aren't related by blood, but they introduce themselves as siblings.

"There's no such thing as cousins (in the Navajo language)," Dunn said. "You're either brothers or sisters."

It's just one example of how important families and relationships are to the Navajo people. Dunn said because both her and Tsosie's fathers are members of the same clan, their fathers are brothers, and she and Tsosie are sister and brother.

"I want them to know that learning the language involves the culture," Dunn said. Through her Navajo classes, she spreads awareness of the Navajo nation's deeply-held family values.

Dunn grew up in the Gap area in Arizona. She said she spoke mostly Navajo at home and learned English in the boarding school she attended from kindergarten through eighth grade. Her mother worked hard as a rancher, taking care of cattle and horses to support Dunn and her family, with the help of other family members.

Dunn said her mother sent her off with advice when she decided to move to California for high school as part of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Placement Program. She described the Placement Program as an opportunity for Native American youth to live with a foster family and grow stronger in the Church, experience dominant society's ideals and better their chances of receiving a good education.

"Take what is best of the



BYU Photo
Rena Dunn teaches BYU's only Navajo language classes.

dominant society's ideals and way of life," Dunn remembers her mother saying. "You don't have to choose the things that are not good. Choose the things that are good."

The values Dunn said she chose were education, developing faith and testimony, and family. "Family values were very close with both my foster family and my Navajo family."

Tsosie said he learned that family is a very important thing to Navajos through learning a bit of their language. For example, he shared that the words for "maternal grandfather" and "paternal grandfather" are very different. Each family member has their own title and role.

There are a lot of Navajo stories that teach how families are important and how they should work together, Dunn said. The wise men

and medicine men talk about being kind to one's family, she said, adding that family includes extended family.

"My great-grandfather's eight children and their families are all considered to be a part of our family," Dunn said. They have been holding family reunions for the past 40 years.

She said she is grateful for the opportunity to teach her native language to students at BYU. "It was really good because it has brought me back to writing and reading Navajo, and also expanding my knowledge of a lot of the traditional stories and teachings that went on in Navajo culture, and why they played games."

Tsosie said he hopes he can use what he learns in Dunn's class to speak to his great-grandmother, who does not speak much English. He has also been reconnecting with his culture by doing tribal dances with Living Legends.

Chase Barfuss, a senior from South Jordan studying social sciences, said he took Dunn's class because he served his mission on a Navajo reservation. He really enjoyed the family-oriented culture.

"It's really fascinating to see how the language and the culture interact with each other," he said. "It really helps to just appreciate how amazing they are, and the cultures we have all around us that we sometimes fail to recognize."

Dunn said her grandchildren are learning about their culture now, and her granddaughter wants to learn the Navajo jingle dance and the hoop dance. Maybe her brother Tsosie, she suggested, could be the teacher.

There are a lot of Navajo stories that teach how families are important and how they should work together, Dunn said. The wise men

and we also knew that it would be a really good challenge for our students," she said.

Dance senior Madison McCook played a willie in "Giselle." The performances were her last with BYU Theatre Ballet.

"Usually the ballet ends with the couple being together and they're living happily ever after," McCook said. "But in this ballet, there's an emotional ending. In fact, I cried last night watching it."

McCook said she loves performing because of the people who find joy in ballet, and it can be difficult to perform for a camera rather than an in-person audience.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Students highlighted in new concert film release



A new website was launched to support female BYU students. The "Women of FHSS" website, released Feb. 25, provides resources for women in family, home, and social science majors to help them pursue their goals. The site was the brainchild of sociology professor Scott Sanders, academic and professional development manager Lindsey Blau, and history professor Sarah Reed.

The group said female BYU students face more opposition than their male peers because of religious and cultural stigmas relating to women's roles that leave them unprepared for life after graduation.

"Women face the challenge of understanding during college and even after graduation how their education and their life roles work together," Blau said. "Our goal is to help our female students understand how they can integrate their education into their lives in ways that uniquely distinguish them for a wide range of possibilities."

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Theatre Ballet performs over live streams



BYU Theatre Ballet performed Act II of "Giselle," excerpts of "Airs" by Paul Taylor and "A Choreographic Offering" by José Limón through live streams March 12-13.

Artistic director Hillary Wolfley said the ballet "Giselle" was chosen as a challenge for the dancers to rise to.

"We knew that Giselle was an iconic classic,

The "Lamb of God" concert film released on March 12 highlights the talents of BYU students. Composer Rob Gardner, a BYU Marriott School of Business alumnus, directed the project.

Filming took place in Park City. Numerous BYU students and alumni were involved in making the film, both behind the scenes and in front of the camera.

Vocal and instrumental soloists included School of Music faculty members Monte Belknap and Jaren Hinckley. The oratorio choir was entirely made up of 30 advanced vocalists from BYU.

One soloist was BYU alumnus and adjunct faculty member Dallyn Bayles, who plays Pilate in the film. Bayles is a professional actor, singer and recording artist. He has also toured with Broadway productions.

"I love performing Gardner's work," Bayles said. "There's such a passion behind it. He understands human emotion and expresses it in such a beautiful way, both lyrically and musically."

Student Courtney Lawson sang in the oratorio choir. Lawson said the performance proves the worth of music and performance art.

"It was exactly what I needed right now: a group of people I knew singing praise of Christ," Lawson said. "For many of us it was a reaffirmation of our testimony."

"Lamb of God" is available in select theaters across the country.

TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL
Tuesday, March 16
11:05 a.m.

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



Mark L. Pace

Sunday School General President

Mark L. Pace was called as Sunday School general president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in April 2019.

He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Utah in 1980 and a master of business administration from Harvard Business School in 1982. Prior to his call, he worked in commercial real estate development.

Brother Pace has served in many Church callings, including elders quorum president, Scoutmaster, bishopric counselor,

ward Young Men president, high councilor, bishop, and counselor in a stake presidency. As a young man he served as a full-time missionary in the Spain Madrid Mission. From 2012 to 2015 he served as president of the Spain Barcelona Mission. He was serving as an Area Seventy and a member of the Fifth Quorum of the Seventy when he was called as Sunday School general president.

Brother Pace was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He and his wife, Anne Marie Langeland, are the parents of seven children.

Selected speeches available at speeches.bry.edu

NEXT: UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL



Kyle S. McKay
General Authority Seventy

March 23
11:05 a.m.



March 24, 2021

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



Our Speaker Will Be
Professor
Michalyn Steele

4:00 – 5:00 PM via Zoom

Professor Michalyn Steele (Georgetown University Law Center '01) joined the faculty of BYU Law School as an Associate Professor in 2014, following two years as a Fellow and a semester as a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence at the Law School. She has taught Federal Indian Law, Evidence, and Civil Rights. She is a member of the Seneca Nation of Indians of New York. Professor Steele holds a B.A. ('92) and an M.A. ('94) in Humanities from BYU, with an emphasis in English literature and Native American studies.

801-422-7871 • admissions2@law.byu.edu



RSVP

Library exhibit uses road signs to symbolize direction from God

By ALLIE RICHAEI

The art exhibit "Signs and Wonder" on the first floor of the Harold B. Lee Library uses street signs to symbolize divine plans for life and protection from God.

"Signs on the roadway are similar to the commandments in that they are generally accepted and they keep us safe," exhibit curator Melanie Allred said.

"Signs and Wonder" artist Todd Stilson said he used the traffic system to represent God's direction and plan for all people. He emphasized that both traffic signs and signs from God are given for protection and safety.

"Street signs are a benevolent thing created for us," Stilson said. "People don't paint road signs to have you drive into a wall. They don't have an ulterior motive other than to keep you safe."

The library featured Stilson's work before and the staff was excited to show more of his art with this exhibit, visual arts librarian Christiane Ramsey said. She sees the pavement on the canvas as a symbol of the paths of life. "I see our past and our future, the paths we have or have not taken, and the signs we have or



Addie Blacker
Artist Todd Stilson sits in front of his piece "Brazen Serpentine," representing the Bible story of Moses raising up a healing serpent in the wilderness.

have not followed."

"Brazen Serpentine" is a painting of a curving arrow that marks the focal point of the exhibit. According to Stilson, the piece points back to the brazen serpent Moses held up in the wilderness. He said the painting shows that

mortality will cause harm and God will give healing.

For Allred, "Brazen Serpentine" shows that progression still occurs even when it does not happen linearly. She said it shows that God's plan is for all people to progress even when they feel they

are deviating from the path. "There's a lot of diversity in how that plan unfolds for each individual," she said.

Stilson used several mediums in his art, including tar-based paint, soil and calcium. He said the soil was used in one painting to represent Adam being born of the dust of the Earth and the calcium to represent Eve being made from Adam's rib.

Many pieces feature Adam and Eve, Stilson said, showing that the system on this planet is controlled by real beings. Allred said the exhibit as a whole represents the plan of salvation centered around Christ.

Stilson said he wants people to leave the exhibit recognizing that commandments from God provide protection and not restriction. "I hope that what people get is the idea that the commandments are good things," he said. "We shouldn't be afraid of them or fight against them."

Allred also said she hopes anyone who feels restricted by God's commandments can see the freedom that exists within them through the symbols in the artwork.

More information about "Signs and Wonder" is available on the BYU Art in the Library website. The exhibit will be on display until April 27.



David Bigelow

Elder Will Bigelow, right, poses with his companion in front of a church in Bahia Blanca, Argentina where he served before being sent home due to the pandemic. In mid-February, he returned to Argentina almost a year after being sent home.

MIRACLES

Returning to foreign missions

Continued from Page 1

Elder Will Bigelow spent a few months serving in Bahia Blanca, Argentina before being sent home during the lockdown. He was reassigned to the Independence Missouri Mission and spent nine months serving there, assuming he would stay there the rest of his mission.

In January 2021, he was given three weeks to prepare to return to Argentina.

Because of heavy travel restrictions in Argentina, only missionaries who had lived in Argentina long enough to establish residency prior to the pandemic are able to return at this time. However, many of the missionaries who served there prior to the pandemic have now completed their missions.

According to Elder Bigelow's brother Jared Bigelow, only a small group of missionaries who lived in Argentina long enough to establish residency have enough time left in their mission that the Church feels it is worth it to send them back. Because Elder Bigelow still has six months left to serve, he has returned to Argentina almost a year later to complete his mission.

"I think that some part of him was always holding onto the hope that he would get back to Argentina at some point," Jared Bigelow said.

Jared Bigelow said the pandemic has tested everyone's ability to cope with unexpected change and "our

full-time missionaries are no exception."

In order to stay positive, Jared Bigelow said Elder Bigelow remembers he can "do what he has been called to do no matter where he is."

"There is missionary work to be done in Argentina, Missouri and even in our own homes, so missionaries always have the opportunity to make the most of their full-time service," Jared Bigelow said.

Sister Emma Murdoch was called to Concepcion, Chile then reassigned to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. About a month and a half ago, her mission president called her to set up a screening to see if she could go to Chile. The next day she got flight plans for Chile and was set to leave three weeks later.

Even with her flight plans, Sister Murdoch was still worried about things that could prevent her from getting to Chile such as the ice storm in the South, COVID-19 tests, and canceled flights.

"But somehow by the grace of God, I was able to make it here," she said. "I know God needs me here for a purpose right now and I am ready to fulfill that purpose with a willing heart."

According to Woodruff, all missionary travel is dependent on local travel restrictions and can change at any moment. Individual missionaries who are eligible to travel will be informed by mission offices.

The Church is closely monitoring world events and making adjustments as needed as they send missionaries out to various missions across the world.

"The safety of our missionaries and those they serve is our top priority," Woodruff said.

International status will not affect students' eligibility to receive COVID-19 vaccine

By HOLLY CLUFF

International BYU students will be no less eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine than those with United States citizenship, campus officials say.

"Our understanding is that international students will be considered as part of the overall student category and will be able to access vaccines along with all students in higher education when that time comes," International Student Services director Sam Brown said. "We are waiting for more information from the state and will notify our students as soon as we hear anything."

Wendy Jones, Student Health Center nursing director, said the Health Center has gone through the state of Utah for approval to administer the vaccine. She said the center does not know exactly when it will receive the vaccine, but is hoping it will be soon and preparing accordingly.

When the center can administer it, she said it will model the county health department's procedures, practices and lists of questions — none of which ask about country of origin.

"We don't ask that," she said. "We welcome all that are associated with BYU."



Associated Press
A health worker loads syringes with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in Los Angeles, California. International students at BYU should not have trouble receiving the vaccine as long as they meet standard health requirements, according to on-campus offices.

She said any BYU student, faculty or staff member who qualifies under the governor's direction of who can receive the vaccine at that time will be eligible to receive it from the Health Center. The governor released the most recent qualifications on March 4.

"We want to help; we want to get this out, and we want to do everything we can for our community," she said.

Sebastian Arias is a

first-year master's student from Colombia studying accounting. He is not planning to visit home this year and said especially during Donald Trump's presidency, he was worried he would not be able to get the vaccine himself.

"But the current president is more open to immigrants and stuff like that, so that kind of helped a little bit," he said. "Like it won't matter where I'm from to get the

vaccine."

Arias said he does not feel the urgency to receive the vaccine because he already had COVID-19 and would like to see how it affects people in the long term, but he is glad the option is available for international students.

"I'm glad we are not different," he said, adding that he wants to be a good citizen and will receive it if required, despite his hesitations.

Nearly 1,000 BYU student survey respondents identify as LGBTQ

By LINDSEY REESE

Almost 1,000 BYU students responding to a recent survey identified as LGBTQ in a study conducted by two Provo clinical psychologists.

The research was published this month in the journal "Personality and Individual Differences." Researchers Jared Klundt and David Erekson got responses from 7,625 undergraduate BYU students — approximately 24% of the student body — and found that 996 of those indicated "a sexual orientation other than 'strictly heterosexual.'"

Both researchers have been involved with BYU Counseling and Psychological Services in the past. Klundt now works at Encircle, an organization that provides support to the LGBTQ community, and Erekson is currently a CAPS psychologist. The survey, conducted in



Sydney Gonzalez
A BYU student holds up a rainbow flag in support of LGBTQ individuals.

LGBTQ students at BYU were two times more likely to have suicidal thoughts than their

heterosexual peers. Erekson said sometimes people assume there are not

Erekson said.

In February 2020, many LGBTQ students and allies celebrated on campus after believing that a long-standing Honor Code rule prohibiting same-sex dating was repealed. BYU cleared up the confusion two weeks later by stating that same-sex relationships were still not compatible with the current rules.

On March 4, many BYU students participated in Rainbow Day, an event that encouraged supporters and allies of the LGBTQ community to come to campus dressed in rainbows. The event culminated that evening with students lighting the Y on Mountain in rainbow colors.

Encircle shared its support for all LGBTQ BYU students in a blog post. "This recent study says one thing very clearly — the LGBTQ+ students at BYU are not alone. 13.2% of BYU is LGBTQ+ and we love 100% of them," CEO Stephanie Larsen said.

Reflecting on the pandemic's impact on BYU

March marks one year since BYU notified students that classes would take an extended weekend off and then be held virtually for the remainder of the semester. What at first seemed like BYU's first spring break and a chance to move back home with family turned into an ongoing, worldwide pandemic that no one at the time properly understood. In reflection of this anniversary, here is a recap of how the pandemic affected life at BYU.

Feb. 22, 2020

BYU has its first on-campus case

BYU was notified by the Utah County Health Department that an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 was in attendance at the men's basketball game between Gonzaga and BYU on Feb. 22.



Associated Press

March 11, 2020

BYU begins canceling study abroad programs

The first study abroad programs affected by the pandemic were programs in China, South Korea and a few in Italy. Several students in China and South Korea for study abroad programs were brought home since the outbreak of the virus.

At the time, students were still planning on studying abroad during Spring and Summer Terms, but later all programs were canceled until at least Fall Semester 2021.

June 23, 2020

BYU announces Fall Semester plans

BYU announced it would hold hybrid classes, which combine in-person and remote learning, for Fall Semester.

A letter from President Kevin J Worthen said students and employees are required to wear face coverings in all classroom settings, in all university buildings, during interactions with campus guests and customers, in other areas where directed and when physical distancing is hard to be maintained.

The beginning of Fall Semester brought a lot of questions for students. One question was how BYU would handle testing its students for COVID-19. Students, faculty and staff were not required to be tested in order to return to campus. Instead BYU's testing plan required the testing of students and employees within four broad categories: symptomatic individuals, those who have had close contact with a known COVID-19 case, risk-based evaluation and testing, and randomized testing across the BYU community.

Aug. 27, 2020

Students begin returning to classes

BYU outlined its expectations of students regarding COVID-19 protocols for Fall Semester, but how it would enforce those guidelines was less clear – and it seems students took advantage of this.

Large gatherings where individuals were not wearing masks or practicing social distancing occurred in student's first week back on campus despite BYU's encouragement to avoid such gatherings and follow safety guidelines.



Preston Crawley
People dance at a Young/Dumb party on Sept. 4, 2020.

Sept. 4, 2020

Parties continue despite pandemic

Provo-based party company Young/Dumb hosted an indoor dance party one month after receiving local attention and social media criticism for a similar event. "The Glow Up Show Up: Back to School Neon Dance Party" took place Friday, Sept. 4, capping off BYU's first week back to school.

Sept. 22, 2020

Utah County officials pass mask mandate

The Utah County Health Department and county commissioners issued a public health order mandating masks on Sept. 22, 2020 after cases in the county spiked.

The order applied to anyone in the county in an indoor or outdoor public area where consistent social distancing isn't possible. It also allowed for multiple exemptions including individuals under 5 years old, those with medical conditions and people eating or drinking.

March 23, 2020

First BYU student tests positive

BYU received a notification that a student enrolled in classes at BYU tested positive for COVID-19. An off-campus property manager reported the case to the university on March 23, 2020.

April 24, 2020

BYU graduation is held virtually

Caps and gowns, commencement speakers, pictures with friends – all hallmarks of a traditional college graduation ceremony. But last year was drastically different.

COVID-19 forced BYU's graduating seniors to conclude their college experience online and disrupted their once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to formally celebrate their graduation.



Karmen Kodia
BYU broadcast journalism senior Karmen Kodia poses for a graduation photo wearing a cap, gown and mask.

Sept. 26, 2020

Football starts without fans

BYU Athletics originally announced that 6,000 fans would be in attendance at LaVell Edwards Stadium against Troy for the Cougars' home opener, but an increase in positive COVID-19 cases in Utah County altered the original plans.

The Cougars went on to defeat the Troy Trojans by a final score of 48-7 in the home opener, with several BYU players setting new career highs.

BYU sports were uniquely affected by the pandemic, as teams played in front of empty stadiums or saw multiple games canceled when opponents dealt with COVID-19 exposures.



BYU Photo
Quarterback Zach Wilson throws a pass in Provo during the Sept. 26 game against Troy.



KSL

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert addresses the state on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020. Herbert announced a statewide mask mandate and other guidelines.

Oct. 12, 2020

BYU announces Winter Semester plans

BYU students learned they would attend Winter Semester classes with the same options of blended and online delivery available in Fall Semester, in an Oct. 12 email from University Communications.

Nov. 24, 2020

Students make Thanksgiving plans

BYU encouraged students to return home and stay there through the holidays and end of the semester with all classes going remote after Thanksgiving.

Nov. 8, 2020

Former Utah governor announces statewide mask mandate

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert announced a statewide mask mandate Nov. 8, 2020, citing record COVID-19 numbers and full hospitals. Utah's cases numbers, deaths and hospitalizations shot up over the week leading up to the mandate.

Jan. 5, 2021

BYU adopts new testing plan

BYU adopted a new testing plan developed by the Utah System of Higher Education. According to a message from University Communications, all students who live in on-campus housing or have in-person classes were "asked to take a COVID-19 screening test during the first 10 days of Winter Semester." After the first 10 days, testing has been focused and random. Students who show symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to others with COVID-19 will also need to get tested.

Jan. 19, 2021

President Nelson gets vaccinated

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

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

March 11, 2021

Utah makes vaccine strides

As of March 15, 365,587 Utahns were fully vaccinated, with plans to gradually increase vaccine efforts and availability in the coming months.

However, Utah will join a handful of states next month as it lifts its statewide mask mandate on April 10. The mandate will expire just days after the state opens vaccine appointments to all adult residents on April 1.

BYU students can access resources during tax season

By INGRID SAGERS

Students can turn to different resources as they file taxes for the 2020 tax year, including the BYU Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and IRS Free File Online programs.

BYU accounting professor Troy Lewis said he is confident that no matter a person's background, they are interested in how taxes affect their life. "One thing important to know is this: unlike anything else or any other major on campus, every single person is interested in one tax return — their own."

Properly managing taxes can result in credits and refunds while mismanaging it can result in overpaying and frustration, he said.

While Lewis, a tax expert, said, "being knowledgeable about taxes makes you a very popular person at least one time a year." He also said no one needs to be completely in the dark about how taxes work. There are many resources students can turn to for guidance.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is an IRS-sponsored program, with sites all over the country. Lewis said the BYU program is overseen by faculty members and coordinators and is carried out by certified student volunteers. There are always shift supervisors who are tax experts to instruct volunteers and clarify difficult tax scenarios. The BYU community can access the program at vita.byu.edu.

Accounting master's student Lanie Beard is the lead site coordinator and chief volunteer for the BYU Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. She's been working with the program since her freshman year.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is the first year the program is completely virtual. Beard said there were normally 150 volunteers pre-pandemic, but this year there are about



Unsplash/Kelly Sikemma

BYU professor Troy Lewis is confident students needing assistance filing taxes can find the help they're looking for through the VITA club and other resources.

half as many. The program helps complete around 1,000 returns a year.

Lewis said the lab runs from the first week of February to the first week of April, so there is still time for students to request help from the program.

BYU sophomore Joseph Poole and his wife used the program's services while filing jointly for the first time after getting married. The couple wanted to make sure they understood proper protocol and to see if they could get a decent tax fund.

Poole said he doesn't think they would've gotten as big of a refund as they did without help from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

"The confusion and ambiguity of taxes is the most daunting part of the process. (The program) helps students know how to make taxes work for them instead of being subject to them," Poole said.

BYU's International Hub tax videos

BYU's International Hub organization consists of student teams who partner with colleges and companies to create and improve international products and projects. Its series of blog posts can be found at unvr.se/intlhbtaxes.

Beard and Poole work with

each other at the International Hub. Beard, head of the writing team, and Poole, head of the video team, collaborated to create educational tax content for students. Poole said they recognized how international students would also benefit from understanding how tax filing works for them.

"I realize lots of students, including myself, don't understand taxes and no one shows you a way to intuitively understand them. Lanie (Beard) and I wanted to make an easily accessible video series to help," Poole said.

The videos cover five topics: an introduction to U.S. income taxes, special information for students and non-citizens and information about preparation resources and COVID-19 relief. They can all be accessed at the International Hub's website.

IRS Free File Online

Lewis said there is an IRS site called Free File Online found at unvr.se/irsfreefile that will allow taxpayers to choose a free file option from certain partnering companies who prepare and file federal tax returns on their site for free. Lewis said it is important taxpayers don't just search "free file online," but visit the IRS website to get to the correct services.

Lewis said the 2020 tax year Form 1040 includes a section that asks whether a taxpayer received, sold, exchanged or otherwise acquired a financial

These partnering companies work with taxpayers if they meet certain circumstances, all varying from company to company, Lewis said.

There are a couple of important questions students need to ask themselves before they begin the tax filing process, he said, and they should remind themselves of a few key details.

Do all students need to file?

"In general, any income you receive is taxable," Beard said, adding that it's important for students to recognize there will almost always be a need to file.

Beard said one of the most difficult, complex portions of the tax forms comes from deciding whether students are dependent on or independent from their parents. If they don't know the answer to which one they are, they should seek help.

What's different this year?

The CARES Act added many tax form changes, Beard said. Taxpayers should consider professional counsel for their case-specific questions on how their tax filing is affected by stimulus checks.

Lewis said the 2020 tax year Form 1040 includes a section that asks whether a taxpayer received, sold, exchanged or otherwise acquired a financial

interest in virtual currency at any time in 2020.

Lewis has noticed many students are interested in cryptocurrency companies such as Ethereum or virtual currency like Bitcoin. He said the IRS reiterated on its FAQ page the need for taxpayers to answer the aforementioned question correctly.

If all students did was buy virtual currency and did not sell or trade it, they could check the box "no." However, he said any other action other than solely buying virtual currency will require a "yes" checked box.

In regards to titling, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' website has a "tax forms" area where members can access their charitable donation information for the 2020 tax year, Beard said.

If students who pay titling

would like to know more about how it is included in the charitable donations category on tax forms, they should seek out professional tax advising, Lewis said.

Important reminder

Beard said students need to keep their tax documents for at least three years, after which the IRS cannot audit those tax years.

Both Lewis and Beard stressed the importance of remembering the April 15 federal tax deadline. Even though it corresponds horribly with finals week, Lewis said it's better not to procrastinate.

He said if students are not able to file on time, they can file the extension Form 4868. The form allows taxpayers to extend the time they have to file but does not extend the penalties of not filing.

Police Beat

Provo

THEFT

March 6 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 1100 East and 1320 South.

March 7 - Property theft was reported at a residence near 1100 North and 2850 West.

March 8 - Property theft was reported at a bar near 400 West on Center Street.

March 8 - Property theft was reported near 400 West on Cougar Boulevard.

March 8 - Property theft was reported near 600 South on State Street.

March 8 - Property theft was reported in an alley near 100 East and 300 South.

March 8 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 1300 North on Freedom Boulevard.

March 8 - Property theft was reported at a residence near 1700 South on Industrial Parkway.

2700 North on Timpview Drive.

March 9 - A bicycle was reported stolen near 1100 East and 1320 South.

March 9 - Property theft was reported near 4000 West on Center Street.

March 12 - Property theft was reported near 1400 North on State Street.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

March 7 - An automobile was reported stolen from the Boulders.

March 8 - An automobile was reported stolen from a parking garage near 2400 South on State Street.

BURGLARY

March 8 - A non-residential burglary was reported near 1700 South on Industrial Parkway.

March 8 - A residential burglary was reported near 900 South and 500 West.

The daily part of The Daily Universe

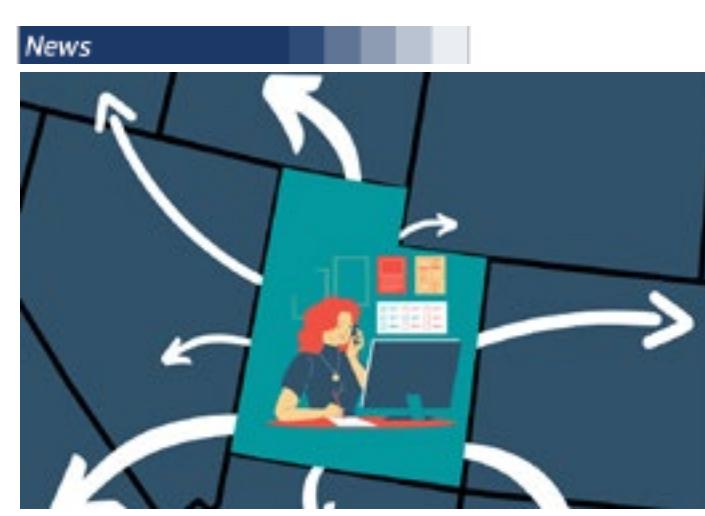
The Daily Universe Newsletter



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.



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



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unvr.se/subscribe

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.

BYU men's basketball team earns highest NCAA seed since 2011



NCAA/Preston Crawley photo illustration

The BYU men's basketball team earned a six seed in the NCAA Tournament East Region on Selection Sunday on March 14, its highest seed since 2011 and first selection since 2015. The Cougars will play the winner of Michigan State and UCLA on Saturday, March 20, followed by a second-round matchup with either Texas or Abilene Christian.

BYU football looks to reload offensive line after losing three starters



BYU Photo/Jaren Wilkey

Offensive lineman Clark Barrington practices during spring ball on March 4. Barrington is one of several BYU linemen with game experience looking to step up in the absence of three starters from last year's team.

By JEFF SALCEDO

BYU quarterback Zach Wilson was able to work his magic last season without much pressure thanks to an offensive line that allowed only 11 sacks on 336 pass attempts in 2020.

Three members of that offensive line are now gone, however, as left tackle Brady Christensen, right tackle Chandon Herring and right guard/center Tristen Hoge declared for the NFL Draft.

The Cougars now find themselves in a difficult situation during spring ball as they try to replace three NFL-caliber offensive linemen.

"Those guys were great players," redshirt junior center James Empey said. "I think we got a lot of good guys coming up and I'm confident in the boys we have."

Even with the losses of Christensen, Herring and Hoge, BYU still has experience on the o-line.

"The great thing is the last

few years we've had plenty of guys step in and really prove themselves," Empey said. "I'm confident with the guys we got right now that they can step in and fill in and we can keep it rolling."

Redshirt junior Empey, redshirt sophomore Clark Barrington, sophomore Blake Freeland and redshirt junior Joe Tukuafu all started at least four games last year. Barrington led the group with 10 starts, while Empey and Freeland each had eight starts.

Redshirt sophomore Brayden Keim, redshirt sophomore Harris LaChance, freshman Connor Pay and junior Mo Unutoa all appeared in multiple games last season. LaChance is the more experienced of the bunch as he appeared in 11 games last season.

"If you look at the number of guys that have played and have started, I think we're going to be fine," BYU head coach Kalani Sitake said. "From what I saw from our three groups of o-line, I'm excited about them."

On top of losing three NFL prospects, BYU lost the mastermind behind them, offensive line coach Eric Mateos, who accepted the same position at Baylor University.

BYU hired experienced offensive line coach Darrel Funk after Mateos' departure. Funk has coached at the collegiate level for 33 years, including stints at Michigan, San Diego State and University of Texas at San Antonio. Funk has had a knack for developing offensive linemen over the past three decades, particularly at Michigan, where he coached two-time NCAA All-Americans and three-time NFL Pro Bowler Taylor Lewan.

"I think Coach Funk is an awesome addition to our football team," Empey said. "I'm excited to keep learning from him."

BYU is confident that whoever takes the first snap at quarterback against Arizona at the new Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas on Sept. 4 will be in safe hands with a mix of talent, ambition and experience on the remixed o-line.



BYU Photo
BYU football players and staff pose with the new navy and royal blue helmets. Billy Nixon, second from right on top row, led the charge in getting input from players and presenting new uniform ideas.

BYU football prioritizing player experience with uniform updates

By JAKE GONZALES

The BYU football program unveiled two alternate helmets on March 1 to be used during the 2021 season and beyond. The additions include both a royal and a navy blue option.

But that is only half the story. While exciting, this is about much more than new helmets.

"The purpose of this is to create a canon of uniforms that ties all of our tradition together, allows us to be innovative, and heightens the player experience," BYU Interim Director of Equipment Operations Billy Nixon said.

These helmets have been in the works for a lot longer than one might expect. Nixon was made the interim director of equipment operations just prior to the season last year. Drawing upon the skills he learned as an experience design major at BYU, Nixon formulated a plan to enhance the players' experience, a goal he believes should be at the forefront of the program.

Last year, Nixon granted the football players total creative freedom, allowing them to pick their uniform combinations for each game. This resulted in an unprecedented season that included 10 different style combinations.

Following the successes of last season, both stylistically and on the field, Nixon elected to keep the momentum going. He approached David Almodova, director of marketing and promotions, with an idea that had been formulating in his mind for nearly five years:

royal and navy blue helmets.

Nixon had noticed a disconnect between past players and the current BYU football program. Most don't realize that, although the white helmets have been the standard for many years, the royal and navy blue helmets are not a new idea.

BYU football players throughout the last century have worn both royal and navy helmets.

"Our first football conference championship was in a royal helmet, with Virgil Carter," Nixon said. "In fact, LaVell Edwards was on staff for all three of those helmets, which a lot of people don't know. He was an assistant with the royal helmet, he was a head coach through the glory years with the white helmet, and he captained, he finished, with the navy helmet. If we talk about history, we cannot get rid of those helmets."

Other notable players over the years have worn helmets of both colors. Brandon Doman and Doak Walker Award recipient Luke Staley were pioneers of the navy helmet. As mentioned, former NFL quarterback Virgil Carter wore the royal helmet. This resurgence of classic helmets is not solely about innovation, but reconciling BYU's past with its present and future.

Nixon said he hopes bringing back these trademark helmets will allow football alumni to feel more connected to the program, and allow current players to feel more connected to the storied past.

The new helmets feature a satin finish, which has become the standard among big conferences like the Pac-12 and

Big-12. The designers played around with other concepts, including chrome and matte, but ultimately decided that satin matched the uniforms the best.

A little bit of innovation came into play when determining the facemasks. Last season, the team donned grey facemasks, affectionately called "The Giff," in honor of the classic look of former quarterback Gifford Nielsen. Nixon elected to keep this look, but spurred by Dave Broberg, the BYU Athletics creative director, decided to include a royal facemask as well.

"The royal facemask was really not on the agenda because it's not traditional," Nixon said. "But Dave Broberg was like 'No, no, no. The royal facemask on the royal. You have to make that available, Billy, because that is a gorgeous look.' And I completely agree."

A committee consisting of Nixon, Almodova, Broberg, and Director of Football Operations Jon Swift presented the new look to Athletic Director Tom Holmoe. Holmoe loved the marriage of innovation and tradition, eagerly giving the approval to move forward.

Former players Zach Wilson and Isaiah Kaufusi were consulted on the project as well, also voicing their resounding approval.

Nixon is confident that this is not the end of uniform innovation for the BYU football program. There will continue to be changes and innovations, but BYU fans can rest assured knowing that the tradition of BYU football will only be honored and magnified going forward.

BYU women's soccer falls to Santa Clara in the snow



Hannah Miner
BYU midfieler Olivia Wade collides with Santa Clara's Marika Guay at South Field on March 13. The Cougars fell 2-1 to the Broncos on a cold afternoon in Provo, after volunteers helped the team shovel several inches of snow off the field just hours before kickoff.

BYU gymnasts earn highest score since 2004



Hannah Miner
Senior Haley Pitou performs on the balance beam against Denver at the Marriott Center on March 11. The No. 12-ranked BYU gymnastics team earned a total score of 197.300 against Denver, the highest for the program since 2004.



Preston Crawley

BYU freshman tennis player Dominik Jakovljevic watches the ball in a Feb. 5 match against New Mexico. Jakovljevic is the son of two Croatian immigrants who moved to the U.S. after the Yugoslav Wars.

Tennis is life for BYU freshman and son of Croatian immigrants

By JAKE GONZALES

Very few Americans know about the Yugoslav Wars and even fewer have felt their impact. For BYU freshman tennis player Dominik Jakovljevic, the wars have made him the man he is today.

"My parents left Croatia after the war, which was in former Yugoslavia," Jakovljevic said. "Seven countries broke apart from each other. They decided to come to the U.S. because we already had family here. They booked plane tickets and they've been here ever since."

The Yugoslav Wars were a series of conflicts in eastern Europe that occurred from 1991 to 2001. The attacks were fueled primarily by ethnic differences, a clamor for independence, and numerous government insurrections. When the dust had settled a decade later, the former country of Yugoslavia was dissolved, leaving seven independent countries in its wake.

"Growing up, my parents told me some really gruesome stories about them," BYU student Jakob Klobcic, a Slovenian native, said. "Soldiers raiding villages, slaughtering women and

children. And Croatia got the worst of it."

Despite their less-than-ideal circumstances, Jakovljevic's parents managed to make a good life for themselves in the United States. They settled in Bellevue, Washington, opened a tennis academy, and just a few years later, a tennis shop. It is little wonder that Jakovljevic grew up loving tennis.

"I started playing tennis when I was six," Jakovljevic said. "My dad has always been into tennis. He played tennis in high school back in Yugoslavia. He used to be competitive with me when I was nine or ten years old, but when I grew up it became easier to beat him, you know? But yeah, it was just a good fit for me."

It did not take long for Jakovljevic to start earning recognition. By the time he had graduated from high school, Jakovljevic was ranked No. 30 in the nation by the Tennis Recruiting Network, reaching as high as No. 26 at one point in the season. This was good enough for a five-star ranking and several Division I scholarship offers, including from his eventual chosen destination, BYU.

"He's a good talent and a very hard worker," first-year BYU head coach Dave Porter

said. "He's very single-minded in terms of what he wants to do in tennis and life. He's made some significant contributions so far and we're expecting him to make more."

The men's tennis team has aspirations to make the NCAA Tournament this year, a feat the Cougars have not accomplished since 2013. Jakovljevic also has personal aspirations to qualify for the NCAA singles tournament. BYU has not had a qualifier since Eric Nyman in 2004.

But that is just the beginning for Jakovljevic. After he receives his four-year economics degree at BYU, Jakovljevic plans on entering the Association of Tennis Professionals and trying his hand at the Grand Slam tournaments, the sport's most prestigious contests.

"My role model is Novak Djokovic," Jakovljevic said. "We're basically from the same part of the world, we speak the exact same language. I try to copy his play style the best I can. Aggressive baseliner, likes coming in, punishes all short balls. He's a good role model on and off the court."

Despite his big aspirations, Jakovljevic recognizes that he has a lot of things he needs to work on before he can accomplish his goals.

"I'm pretty tall, six two or six three, but I feel like I'm pretty boney for my height, so I need to add a bit more meat and muscle mass to my body frame," Jakovljevic said. "If I do that, I feel that it will be a lot easier to play points in matches because I'll have more strength on the court and I can easily overpower opponents."

Jakovljevic also mentioned that he needs to focus on strengthening himself mentally as well as physically.

"If I want to try to go professional, the biggest thing that I need to work on is my mentality and confidence on the court," Jakovljevic said. "Without those two aspects, there's no chance that one can succeed on a higher level."

But first, Jakovljevic must make it through his time at BYU. Although he has big plans for his future, he is more than happy to take the time to develop with his team, who he said is like a family to him.

Jakovljevic and the BYU men's team are currently on a three-match win streak and started West Coast Conference play with a win against Santa Clara on March 6. The team travels to Las Vegas to take on UNLV on March 20, before returning to Provo to continue conference play against Saint Mary's on March 26.

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Trials, lacrosse lead to BYU senior's lasting conversion

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

Natalie Giles' path to baptism began with lacrosse and her older brother's death.

On the first encounter, Natalie Giles seems like a lifelong member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served a mission, is a senior at BYU studying public health and was married in the temple in November 2019. But a look into her past reveals the highs and the lows that shaped her life and led her to the gospel.

A Harleysville, Pennsylvania, native, Giles had never heard of the Church or the Book of Mormon until high school. She attended a local church as a child with her family, but all that changed when her 21-year-old brother died by suicide when Giles was just 9 years old.

"My family's never been the same since that, and I think that was a big thing that even kind of broke the spirituality of my family," Giles said. "I specifically remember the morning we got the call that he was missing. We were on our way to church. We turned around and went home and we never went back to church again."

Lacrosse: An escape

Giles turned to lacrosse as an escape as her family tried to cope with the loss of her brother. That escape became a passion, and eventually, the key to her conversion.

"I guess my whole interest (in the Church) started as a lacrosse player. All growing up, I played lacrosse, and I was just at a point I wanted to play in college. When I was 15, I verbally committed to go to Georgetown and play," Giles said.

Giles said when she turned

16, she was invited to try out for the national lacrosse team. "That was a big step. I actually made the U.S. team when I was 16 and I played in the World Cup right before I went to college," she said.

Even though she had worked hard to achieve these goals, Giles felt there was a disconnect with her success.

"I thought that there has to be something out there that's helping me do all these things because I didn't think that I was doing it on my own. I worked really hard, but I didn't think it was just due to that. I think that the stars were aligning — allowing me to have all those opportunities," she said.

Finding the Church

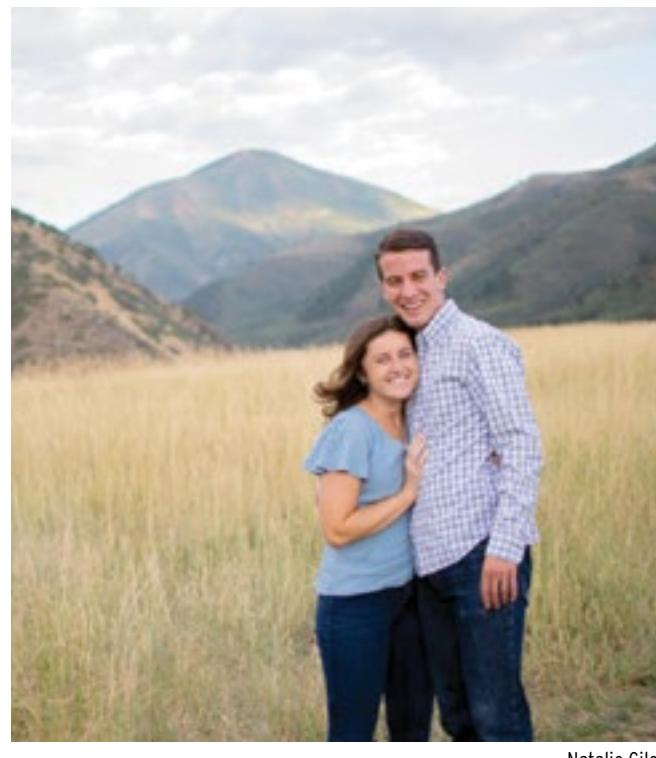
Giles became friends with two boys during her junior year who were members of the Church. As an athlete, Giles tried to avoid high school parties where drugs and alcohol would be present for fear of losing her lacrosse scholarship, and she noticed that these boys chose not to attend those parties either.

After getting to know the boys, she asked if she could go to church with them over the summer.

"It was weird because it was the beginning of the summer, so a lot of the families in their ward were away on family vacations. There were just a ton of old people there," she said. "I hadn't been to church in years, and I was out of the rhythm of playing and stuff."

Giles immediately noticed the different cultural aspects of the Church and she felt uncomfortable, wondering if she even knew how to pray correctly.

Giles did not go back to church with her friends until the beginning of her senior year when she began to have personal



Natalie Giles

Natalie Giles and her husband, Hunter Giles, were married in the temple almost four years after she was baptized as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Her path to membership in the Church included her brother's death, success in lacrosse and some sister missionaries who helped her love the plan of salvation.

questions about religion.

"When I was a senior in high school, I started getting all these questions like, 'Where is (my brother)?' because some faiths tell you that people who commit suicide are in hell," Giles said.

"We were all really close with my brother growing up and I refused to believe that he's in hell. So I had this indebtedness to God for all my achievements, but then I also had these questions like 'Where do we go after we die?'" Giles said.

Those questions drove Giles back to church with her friends during the fall of her senior year, where she met the missionaries.

Ashlyn Clark was serving in the area at the time and remembers teaching Giles about the plan of salvation, noting that this was the lesson that changed everything in Giles' conversion.

"I know (Natalie) had people whom she held dear that had passed. Learning that she would see them again and that they had the opportunity to learn just like she was doing, that was a specific moment I saw her light get brighter," Clark said.

This was only the beginning of how Giles's conversion would touch the lives of other people.

"As a missionary, you meet a lot of people that leave a lasting

impact on your life, but no one compares to Natalie. When I first met her, I felt (her) light," Clark said.

Giles said the plan of salvation was the "selling point" that helped her decide to get baptized.

"I grew up (learning that) everyone goes to heaven. That didn't seem right, but then it also didn't seem right that you go to hell if you have to deal with something hard and commit suicide," she said. "I really liked how the plan of salvation was justifiable; everyone can go to heaven but you have to do (certain) things, and if you die of suicide, you can still get to heaven."

"The plan of salvation really clicked for me," Giles said. "It doesn't sugarcoat anything but also doesn't banish everyone to hell."

Giles was baptized in January 2015, graduated high school later that year, and went on to play lacrosse at Georgetown University. But even after years of training camps and campus tours with her teammates, Giles suddenly felt "socially isolated" because of her newfound faith.

"They knew me as this girl that was fun but took her life seriously, and then all of a sudden, I'm this heavily committed Christian girl," Giles said. "I feel like that was very odd, especially because they knew me as this one person and then all of a sudden, I just flipped a switch."

Despite the challenges, Giles stuck to her faith. She said her time at Georgetown taught her about her weaknesses and gaps in her testimony that need to be strengthened.

Mission, marriage and the future

Giles decided to serve a mission after a year at Georgetown. She served in the Paraguay

Asunción North Mission from July 2016 to December 2017. After her mission, she transferred to BYU in January 2018 to play lacrosse for a few semesters, and to meet more people with her same standards.

Giles met her husband, Hunter, in the fall of 2018 when he moved into her student ward.

"Nat always seemed really interesting to me, and initially, I didn't know she was a convert. But then she gave a talk about her conversion story, and I leaned over to my roommate and I was like 'Oh, she's a powerhouse,'" Hunter Giles said.

Hunter and Natalie Giles were married on Nov. 30, 2019, and right off the bat, they had to tackle the challenges of Hunter marrying into a family that was not made up of members of the Church.

"It was a little tricky because they didn't really know anything about all the things that make me (who I am). Holding the priesthood doesn't mean anything to them," Hunter Giles said.

Despite the adjustment of getting married and gaining new in-laws with different family standards, the couple has found a way to build relationships with both families.

"It was definitely hard, but I could tell that Hunter was just a good personality for my family," Giles said. "And so, I always thought that I was going to fix my family, but I feel like Hunter does a good job of being like a neutralizer and asking questions, he's kind of like the peacemaker when everyone's home."

Despite the challenges that may come, Giles and her husband said they understand that God is in the details, but also in the big picture of their lives.



The former Provo High School campus will be used by the Utah County Health Department as a mass vaccination site.

BYU works with Utah County Health Department to open vaccination site

By VERONICA MACIEL

The Utah County Health Department is working in conjunction with BYU to open a new COVID-19 vaccination site at the former Provo High School campus.

The site is set to open sometime in March. The health department opened its American Fork site on March 8, and the former Provo High site will open soon after.

Health department public information officer Aislynn Tolman-Hill said BYU and the department have worked together closely for the past year with contact tracing and other COVID-19 related items. The creation of this site is one of their most recent collaborations.

"We are extremely grateful for such wonderful partners in the community and excited to continue to work with BYU," she said.

BYU and the health department are working together to get the site operational as soon as possible. Tolman-Hill said opening the site in March is dependent on the support staff getting the building ready with all of the supplies they will need.

The university has been involved in getting the building ready for use, but the health department will be responsible for staffing the site with volunteers, according to BYU Digital Communications Director Natalie Ipson.

"Though there isn't an official designation of BYU volunteers, we look forward to the opportunity that our campus community and alumni will have to serve as volunteers at the site," Ipson said.

Tolman-Hill said the health department has been working with the College of Nursing to staff other sites, such as the vaccination site in Spanish Fork and health department in Provo.

College of Nursing Associate Dean Julie Valentine said one way nursing students have been

involved is by administering COVID-19 vaccines.

"At this time, (the Utah County Health Department) has placed our nursing student volunteers on hold as they coordinate several mass vaccination sites. We will be ready to help as needed with (the Utah County Health Department) and/or our Student Health Center," she said.

Tolman-Hill said having staff is a significant need at large-scale clinics such as the one opening in Provo. She said the health department will continue to work with BYU, Intermountain Healthcare and Revere Health to meet that staffing need.

While the health department is still working to make sure all its vaccination sites are fully staffed, Tolman-Hill said it started recruiting volunteers last August. "We have had a great community response for volunteers."

Community members can sign up to volunteer to serve as greeters and other positions at the UServeUtah website. "We rely heavily on the generosity of volunteers, both medical and non-medical, as well," Tolman-Hill said.

With the close proximity to BYU campus, Tolman-Hill believes this new vaccination site will be convenient for faculty and staff to go and receive their vaccination.

She said when the site opens, individuals can sign up to receive the vaccine on the department's website. People can also receive text notifications for when there are new appointments available by texting UCHEALTH to 888777.

The former Provo High parking lot is currently designated as student or Y-parking. "When we do open the site, parking will be reserved for the vaccination site," Tolman-Hill said.

BYU assumed control of the former Provo High property back in 2018. To date, BYU has not announced any future plans for the site.

Western states chart diverging paths as water shortages loom

ASSOCIATED PRESS

As persistent drought and climate change threaten the Colorado River, several states that rely on the water acknowledge they likely won't get what they were promised a century ago.

But not Utah.

Republican lawmakers approved an entity that could push for more of Utah's share of water as seven Western states prepare to negotiate how to sustain a river serving 40 million people. Critics say the legislation, which the governor still must sign, could strengthen Utah's effort to complete a billion-dollar pipeline from a dwindling reservoir that's a key indicator of the river's health.

Other states have had similar entities for decades, but Utah's timing raised questions about its commitment to conservation and finding a more equitable way of surviving with less.

"There's a massive disconnect all centered around climate change," said Zach Frankel, executive director of the Utah Rivers Council, which opposed the legislation. "The other six basin states know the Colorado River is dropping, and they know they have to decrease their usage, while Utah is running around in this fantasy."

The river supplies Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Mexico as well as a \$5 billion-a-year agricultural industry. As the states face a dire environmental future and negotiations over a new plan to protect the waterway from drought, it's forced a shift in thinking.

The goal of renegotiating is figuring out how to use less, "not staking out political turf to try to figure out how to use more," said John Fleck, director of University of New Mexico's Water Resources Program.

"It's just not clear Utah has a willingness to do that," he said.

The six members of the Colorado River Authority of Utah would oversee the state's negotiations on the drought plan and other rules that expire in 2026. Opponents worry parts of the legislation would allow the authority to avoid scrutiny by keeping some documents



A bathtub ring of light minerals delineates the high water mark on Lake Mead at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, near Boulder City, Nevada. A plan by Utah could open the door to the state pursuing an expensive pipeline that critics say could further deplete the lake, which is a key indicator of the Colorado River's health.

secret and permitting closed meetings.

House Speaker Brad Wilson said Utah will pursue conservation, but that alone won't meet the needs of one of the nation's fastest-growing states. Utah is entitled to the water under longstanding agreements among the states.

"We just need to make sure that as we kind of preserve and protect our interests in the Colorado River, that we have the expertise and the tools we need at our disposal to do that," Wilson said.

The bill comes six months after the other states rebuked Utah's plan to build an underground pipeline that would transport billions of gallons of water 140 miles (225 kilometers) from Lake Powell to a region near St. George, Utah, close to the Arizona border. Other states, such as Colorado and Wyoming, also are pursuing projects to shore up their water supply.

Utah began pursuing the pipeline 15 years ago to serve the city that's seen a 23% population jump since 2010, according to census figures, likely driven by a warm climate, red rock landscape and outdoor recreation. The project is under federal review.

Water experts worry Utah, which experienced its driest year ever in 2020, is banking on water that might not be available and could further deplete Lake Powell. Utah is one of the so-called upper basin states that get their share of water based on percentages

of what's available but historically haven't used it all. The lower basin states — Arizona, California and Nevada — get specific amounts that are subject to cuts.

Utah plans to tap 400,000 acre-feet of water on top of the 1 million acre-feet it typically uses. An acre-foot is enough to serve one to two average households a year.

"Using more out of the Colorado River system might be on some piece of paper somewhere as a legal entitlement, but it is not a practical reality in the system that we've got today," said James Eklund, former director of the Upper Colorado River Commission, an interstate agency that helps states administer water rights.

With conservation in mind, states have passed laws focused on safeguarding other water supplies.

In Arizona, Gov. Doug Ducey recently signed a bill allowing farmers, ranchers and others to file a conservation plan and not lose their full water entitlements. Colorado and New Mexico also have eased up on "use it or lose it" laws.

The Arizona law doesn't affect the Colorado River but could boost water in other streams and rivers for wildlife habitat, recreation or city use.

"Everyone in the state needs to take a good, long look at the water that they're using and how much water they expect to use in the future and how to properly manage that so we can have long-term water security for everybody," said Kim

Mitchell of Western Resource Advocates, which supported the Arizona bill.

Utah isn't alone in a history of lawsuits, disagreements and posturing to defend its share of water, though much of it recently has come from lower basin states that use most of their water.

The Imperial Irrigation District in Southern California, which holds the single largest share of Colorado River water, refused to join the drought plan without federal money to address a briny inland sea that's become a health hazard as evaporation leaves behind contaminated dust. The Salton Sea also will be a sticking point in renegotiations, the district said.

Southern Nevada has built a pipeline near the bottom of Lake Mead to ensure taps will keep flowing to Las Vegas homes and casinos even if the reservoir no longer can deliver water to Arizona, California and Mexico.

And Native Americans want to ensure their voices aren't missing from talks as they say they have been in the past. The 29 tribes in the Colorado River basin collectively hold rights to about 20% of its flow.

"The days of tribes standing silently by as the federal government, states and other entities set the terms for managing and distributing water to which our people are entitled and depend upon for survival are over," Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis said in a statement.

As climate fight shifts to oil, Biden faces a formidable foe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden's bid to tackle climate change is running straight through the heart of the U.S. oil and gas industry — a much bigger, more influential foe than Democrats faced when they took on the coal industry during the Obama years.

Coal dominated U.S. power generation for decades, with the bulk of that fuel coming from the massive strip mines of Wyoming's Powder River Basin — a market that collapsed in recent years as utilities switched to natural gas.

Fast forward to 2021 — and oil and gas have eclipsed coal to become the biggest source of greenhouse emissions from public lands and waters, federal production data indicates. That's made government fuel sales an irresistible target for Democrats as they try to rein in climate change.

Biden's election has put big oil companies on the defensive after largely having their way in Washington under President Donald Trump. But in taking on petroleum companies with a moratorium on oil and gas lease sales, Biden picked a foe that spent lavishly over decades to secure allegiance from Republican lawmakers.

The industry is also deeply enmeshed in local economies from Alaska and the Gulf Coast to the Rocky Mountain drilling hub of Casper, Wyoming, posing a challenge to the Democrat as he tries to navigate between strong action on the climate and recovering from the pandemic's financial devastation.

"You're not hurting the big guys that are doing all the development. You're hurting these little guys that are dreaming up where no one else thought there was any oil and gas," said Steve Degenfelder, land manager for family-owned Kirkwood Oil & Gas in Casper, a community of about 60,000 known as The Oil City.

Trump's final months in office saw a huge spike in



Associated Press

An oil well is seen east of Casper, Wyoming, on Feb. 26. President Joe Biden's administration is at odds with the petroleum industry in the Rocky Mountain region and beyond for imposing a moratorium on leasing federal lands for oil and gas production.

new drilling permits after his administration sped up approvals. As a result, some companies with the biggest presence on public lands have announced that they are ready to weather changes under Biden.

An executive from Devon Energy told investors last month that the company was "ready to roll with the punches" and has about 500 drilling permits in hand. That will last the company for years in Wyoming and New Mexico.

"They expected this.... They prepared for it," said University of Oklahoma Associate Professor Robert Lifset, who teaches history of the U.S. energy industry. "But the difference now is going to be stark. (Oil and gas companies) don't get to run energy and environmental policy in the way they once did."

Gone from power in Washington are former industry lobbyists including Trump's Interior Department secretary, David Bernhardt, who oversaw a loosening of rules for drilling. They've been replaced in many instances with environmentalists and industry critics. Biden's nominee for Interior secretary, New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland, has a history of anti-oil activism.

Just a week after his inauguration, Biden announced the sales moratorium while officials review potential climate impacts and whether energy companies are paying enough. He's following a familiar template — a 2016 Obama-era moratorium on federal coal sales that Trump and other Republicans seized on as evidence of a "war on coal" by Democrats.

That last "war" was against a retreating army: Coal production in Wyoming peaked in 2008 — and by the time of the moratorium, most major coal companies had gone bankrupt and scuttled plans for major expansions.

The oil industry stumbled last year during the coronavirus pandemic and a price

war, but now companies such as Devon, EOG Resources and Occidental Petroleum are poised to expand their presence on public lands, including in the Powder River Basin.

Less insulated against the policy changes are smaller companies such as Kirkwood Oil & Gas, operating in downtown Casper since it was founded by William Kirkwood in 1965. It's now run by his sons with about 40 employees and drilling in several western states.

A company like Kirkwood can spend years piecing together federal leases like a jigsaw puzzle and assessing the profitability of oil and gas deposits as market conditions and oilfield technologies evolve, said land manager Degenfelder.

But after last year's price drop and now the leasing moratorium, its plans to further develop areas such as western Wyoming's Upper Green River Basin — home to two of the most productive U.S. onshore

gas fields — are on hold.

While some countries move away from fossil fuels, brothers Steve and Bob Kirkwood are on the lookout for places that aren't, such as Colombia. They're also considering private lands in west Texas and exploring other options such as mining metals used in electric car batteries.

Oil from federal and tribal lands makes up about a quarter of U.S. production.

Oil and gas companies and their supporters gave about \$136 million in the last election cycle, mainly to Republicans, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Kirkwood's owners and their wives donated more than \$15,000 to Trump's re-election campaign and other GOP causes, records show.

Trump supported the U.S. oil business, Steve Kirkwood said. "Biden will support it in Saudi Arabia, Iran — everywhere else."

Taxes on energy production and infrastructure in Wyoming

help bankroll schools, roads and public services. In the Powder River Basin, petroleum operations now provide most of the property tax base in some counties.

Last year, the government sent \$457 million to Wyoming from lease sales and energy production on U.S. lands in the state — second only to New Mexico.

Even with Trump gone, the oil and gas industry still has formidable allies in Congress, who say the moratorium would cost tens of thousands of jobs. Republican Sens. Steve Daines of Montana and Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming blocked immediate consideration of Haaland's nomination on March 12, citing her past statements against the oil industry.

Benefits to the climate from a ban on new oil and gas leases could take years to realize, according to economic analysts.

Like Kirkwood Oil & Gas, companies could respond by shifting some of their activities onto private lands in the U.S., and more oil would likely come in from overseas, said economist Brian Prest, who examined effects of a long-term leasing ban for the research group Resources for the Future.

As a result, almost three-quarters of the greenhouse gas emission reductions from a ban could be offset by oil and gas from other sources, said Prest. The net reduction would be about 100 million tons (91 million metric tons) of carbon dioxide annually.

Pressures on the oil and gas industry are growing along with concern over climate change, said Lifset, the Oklahoma history professor. Foremost are recent plans by major vehicle makers including Volvo and GM to transition to electric vehicles from gasoline, which takes up almost half the U.S. crude oil on the market.

"The real threat is not the government limiting production," Lifset said. "It's the economy and the culture moving away from consuming oil and shrinking the market."

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