



## Negative forecast

Authorities encourage preparation for worsening megadrought

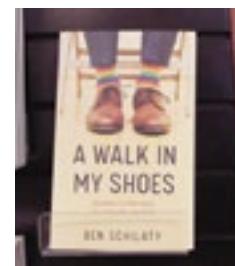
Page 6



## Sport inequality

Athletes speak out on the uneven treatment of men's and women's teams

Page 7



## Ben Shilaty

BYU administrator talks about LGBTQ experiences with the Church

Page 12

universe.byu.edu

March 23-29, 2021

# THE UNIVERSE

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Brigham Young University  
Provo, Utah

# BYU research adapts to the pandemic

By VERONICA MACIEL

The COVID-19 pandemic affected research across the BYU campus over the past year, creating unique challenges and opportunities for each school and college at the university.

While each department's research varies by field, there are a few key challenges and outcomes many of the colleges and schools experienced in their research.

### Setbacks for research

Many colleges and schools within BYU had to deal with implementing physical distancing protocols, working with students virtually and sometimes even canceling research.

Life Sciences Associate Dean Michael Barnes said faculty and students in the College of Life Sciences felt immediate disruption from the pandemic in their research.

Barnes said scientists adapted their labs to accommodate proper physical distancing, while others had to scale back or cancel field research that required travel.

The College of Life Sciences was not the only one affected this way. Associate dean and French and Italian professor Corry Cropper said many projects in the College of Humanities that rely on students being on campus slowed when the pandemic hit.

Cropper also said many conferences were canceled, which caused less collaboration between different institutions. Yet the canceled conferences and meetings also led to more free time to finish projects left on the back burner.

Student-centered research was also affected in the Ira A. Fulton College of Engineering, according to associate dean and mechanical engineering professor Tim McLain.

"For us, I believe COVID-19 has had its biggest impact on our ability to collaborate closely, foster interaction and perform experimental work, which is often carried out by teams of researchers," McLain said.

Professor and graduate program co-ordinator Neil Peterson said COVID-19's impact on research in the College of Nursing has been mostly negative.

"For example, one study that was



BYU Photo/Alyssa Dahneke

Abby Kooyman is working in the wastewater lab on the BYU campus using a biological safety cabinet. The lab is run by Professor Zach Aanderud and is working in conjunction with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to monitor COVID-19 content in wastewater.

being done at Utah Valley Hospital was stopped early, even though this project was very timely as it was on reducing burnout in nurses in the Emergency Department," Peterson said.

Social distancing has made research in the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences difficult because its research focuses on people, said associate dean for development and sociology professor Mikaela Dufur.

Associate dean and computer science professor Bryan Morse said the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences has also faced the challenge of not meeting face-to-face with its students and colleagues.

"We do the best we can through Zoom and other remote means, but sometimes there's nothing really that can substitute for working side-by-side on a problem, whether that's in a research lab or as a group working at a whiteboard," Morse said.

### Overcoming challenges

While these challenges were difficult, each college and school found creative ways to overcome them and continue to make an impact in their fields.

"Overall, faculty and students from the College of Life Sciences stepped up to the plate during the pandemic and

made significant contributions to the fields of microbiology, environmental science, epidemiology and public health," Barnes said.

For Cropper and his colleagues in the College of Humanities, the pandemic profoundly impacted the way they teach.

"We have been required to think of new ways to engage students — in class and also in our research. It has meant rethinking how to teach language, literature, writing, art and culture. I think we will emerge as better teachers," Cropper said.

Many professors are anxious to get back to the research they were doing

before the pandemic hit. Dufur said the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences faculty has done an amazing job of continuing student research, but hope to get their research agendas up and running again.

For many professors, their challenge was keeping researchers connected while being apart. Sarah Agate, experience design and management professor in the Marriott School of Business, kept her research team connected with a virtual running group. She said it was a fun way for them to stay connected and now they will analyze the records they kept.

### New research opportunities

Though there were many challenges brought by the pandemic, Barnes said it also brought new opportunities for research.

For example, life sciences research teams tested for COVID-19 in wastewater on campus and in Utah County. Other labs tested the effectiveness of alcohol-free hand sanitizers, mask-wearing and the COVID-19 vaccines.

Similar setbacks have not stopped the Ira A. Fulton College of Engineering from making a big impact during the pandemic either. Students, faculty and even alumni worked together on projects such as 3D printing masks for first responders and adapting ventilators for FDA approval and adult-use, McLain said.

For the College of Humanities, the pandemic fostered research and writings about what it is like to live through a worldwide pandemic, which wouldn't have been written or researched otherwise, Cropper said.

"Much of our research is based on literature, art, creative writing, film, language and other timeless productions of human culture," Cropper said. "And a lot of this material deals with isolation, pandemics, loneliness and sickness — all part of the human condition."

Agate said the skills she and her research team developed over the last year have helped them to envision more ways to go about their research. These ideas include conducting interviews and focus groups over Zoom, which will enable her team to reach a wider audience.

See RESEARCH on Page 4

# Urban planning firm begins designing framework plan for 'The Point'

By KARINA ANDREW

The planning process for converting the Utah State Prison site into a walkable urban center has officially begun.

In December, The Point board announced it hired urban planning firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill to create a master plan for the site. The Point whittled down a large pool of interested firms through a rigorous selection process before finally granting SOM the coveted position.

"SOM is one of the largest and most influential architecture, interior design, engineering and urban planning firms in the world," the press release that made the announcement reads.

The planning stage is projected to last for most of 2021 and is divided into four phases.

January and February were the "initial scoping" phase, which includes a site evaluation and identification of needs, opportunities and constraints.

Peter Kindel from SOM said there is a lot of expertise and input that goes into designing a new city, and all stakeholders have their own opinions of what the space should be.

"Our process, our mandate, or our goal is to incorporate all these goals and look at the site from a physical standpoint and figure out kind of how to put it all together," he said.

Using phrases like "15-minute-city" and "city of the future," board members and development planners told The Daily Universe this space will be a walkable, sustainable urban hub that designers can use as a blueprint for future development all along the Wasatch front.

In a "15-minute city," a person could travel anywhere within the city in 15 minutes — without a car. Kindel said



The Utah State Prison sits on nearly 700 acres of land, which the state plans to turn into a "15-minute city" after the prison is relocated to west Salt Lake City.

"walkability" will be an important factor in the site's design.

"One major goal, I think, is to create a model for how the Wasatch Front could build a little bit differently, where the pedestrian is actually prioritized," he said.

Besides facilitating pedestrian and bicycle transportation, planners will also focus on public transit as an integral part of the site's infrastructure. Board members and planners don't want this site to contribute to Utah's air quality problem or traffic congestion that often occurs in the area.

Draper Mayor Troy Walker, who sits on both the Utah Transit Authority advisory board and The Point board, said

the development planners are exploring options such as light rail and bus rapid transit — buses with their own separate lanes.

Walker said the infrastructure will have to be "transit heavy" to facilitate the flow of workers in and out of the area. "We can't have everybody driving there. It's not possible."

Matheson, executive director of The Point of the Mountain State Land Authority, also emphasized the goals to minimize automobile traffic. "We want to build a place where the car is not king, where maybe you don't need a car at all."

Utah residents also identified protecting the environment and creating

parks and open spaces as top priorities for this space. Jim MacRae from SOM said green infrastructure and what he called "ecological corridors," or open spaces connecting other parts of the city, will help keep the space environmentally friendly.

Matheson said the board has also asked development planners to explore the possibility of creating a carbon neutral city that uses resources more efficiently and generates renewable energy onsite. These techniques, he said, can make the city sustainable so that future generations can continue to enjoy it.

This month, the team will move into

phase two of the planning process, the "scenario development" phase, in which they design several potential layouts for the space. State Rep. V. Lowry Snow, R-St. George, one of The Point board co-chairs, said the public will have opportunities to give feedback on the various designs.

The third phase, beginning in May, is when the team will select the "preferred alternative" and begin refining the scenario in preparation for phase four. In this final phase, developers will create a finalized master plan for The Point.

With planning taking up most of 2021, and with the new prison site's construction not expected to be completed until at least 2022, Walker said it will likely be a couple years before someone could walk by and see any noticeable changes on The Point site.

Transparency and community involvement are top priorities for the board and developers during all phases of the planning process. In September, The Point surveyed thousands of Utah residents to get a feel for what they want out of the space. Overwhelmingly, Utahns wanted parks and open spaces and were opposed to high density housing.

Development of The Point site has been in the works for years. Rep. Snow said the Legislature first decided to relocate the Utah State Prison from Draper to West Salt Lake City around 2015, leaving the state in possession of around 700 acres of empty land. In 2018, Rep. Snow ran legislation that created the board that would head site development.

"We recognize that it's such a rare opportunity, not only in this country, but I think in the world, given its location," he said.

See also  
Page 6 to  
read more  
about urban  
construction

# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Vaccine trends in Utah

18%  
of population vaccinated

765,202 partially vaccinated  
419,623 fully vaccinated  
1,154,778 total vaccines administered

### BYU Total weekly COVID-19 cases

2/26-3/4	3/5-3/11	3/12-3/18
40	32	27

Data collected from Brigham Young University and the Utah Department of Health.

Allie Peterson

### Gov. Cox announces all Utah adults are eligible for vaccine March 24

By CASSIDY WIXOM

Cox previously announced a plan to open up vaccine eligibility for all adults on April 1.

In the state's weekly COVID-19 news conference, Cox said people can start scheduling vaccines on March 24, but they might not receive the vaccines right away.

"There will not be vaccine available for everyone in the state next week. I want to be very clear about that," he said. It may take

several weeks to schedule and receive the vaccine. He encouraged people to be patient when calling and scheduling.

"There won't be enough doses for everyone for a few weeks but we are heading in the right direction," he said.

All vaccines will be available for Utahns 18 and older, and for those between age 16 and 18, the Pfizer vaccine will be available. Cox emphasized the importance of receiving the second dose of vaccination at the same place the first dose is received.

### Expanded testing part of Biden administration school plans

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pushing forward with its plan to reopen schools this spring, the Biden administration is expanding coronavirus testing for teachers, staff and students and convening a summit for educators to share "best practices" for returning kids to the classroom. President Joe Biden has pledged to have most elementary and middle schools open to instruction by the end of his first 100 days in

office. The administration has been promoting the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill as a way to accomplish that.

The states will share \$122 billion for K-12 schools, with allocations ranging from \$285 million for Vermont schools to \$15 billion for California, according to the Education Department.

The money can be used to reduce class sizes and modify classrooms to enhance social distancing, install ventilation systems and purchase personal protective equipment.

### U.S. schools prepare summer of learning to help kids catch up

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Although the last place most kids want to spend summer is in a classroom, experts say that after a year of interrupted study, it's crucial to do at least some sort of learning over the break, even if it's not in school and is incorporated into traditional camp offerings.

Several governors, including in California, Kansas and Virginia, are pushing for more summer learning. And some states are

considering extending their 2021-22 academic year or starting the fall semester early.

The new \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package should help, as it allocates \$122 billion in aid to K-12 public schools, including \$30 billion specifically for summer school, after-school and other enrichment programs.

The influx of money and increase in summer offerings has come as a relief to parents of kids who struggled with remote learning during the coronavirus pandemic.

### Teachers lament 'chaotic' virus rules in German schools

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under pressure to ease Germany's virus restrictions, officials last month agreed to gradually reopen schools. Confirmed COVID-19 cases started climbing again, leading some states to backtrack while others pressed on and insisted that in-class teaching must be the rule.

Authorities in Berlin purchased about 1,900 air filters that experts say will reduce the risk of the virus

spreading throughout classrooms. But the available number is only enough to supply each of the capital's 900 schools with about two devices.

Berlin's online teaching platform is so overloaded during the day that some elementary school students must wait until 6:30 p.m. to have their video lessons. More reliable commercial systems were rejected over privacy concerns.

And while Berlin now offers free tests for staff and students, there is no requirement for anybody to take them before going to school.

## Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



### Mars findings cataloged in Navajo language

Native people have had ties to land in North America since time immemorial, and now that connection is expanding to the cosmos.

The Perseverance rover has been on Mars for a month, collecting data and making discoveries with each passing day. A number of the findings, through a collaboration with NASA, have been cataloged in Diné Bizaad, the Navajo language.

The Perseverance team started with a list of 50 words and will expand the list as needed. According to a tweet from the rover itself, some terms have already been used, such as tsé Áichí (red rock), yéigo (diligence) and séítah (amongst the sand).



### Gov says anti-porn bill has needed message

A bill that would mandate pornography filters on every device sold in the state would send an "important message" about keeping explicit online content away from kids, Republican Gov. Spencer Cox said.

It marks the latest salvo in Utah's legislative efforts to curb the availability of porn.

He said he wasn't as worried about constitutional concerns swirling around the proposal because it would not immediately go into effect.

The bill specifies it will only be enforced if five other states also enact similar laws, a provision added to address concerns that it would be logistically difficult for manufacturers and retailers.



### Striking Myanmar rail workers move out as protests continue

Residents of Myanmar's second-biggest city helped striking railway workers move out of their state-supplied housing March 20 after the authorities said they would have to leave if they kept supporting the protest movement against last month's military coup.

Mandalay residents carried the workers' furniture and other household items to trucks, van and pickup trucks.

The state railway workers last month went on strike as key and early supporters of the civil disobedience movement against the Feb. 1 coup that toppled the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.



### Sonoma County to use artificial intelligence against fire

Sonoma County officials say they will add artificial intelligence technology to help fight wildfires with a 24-7 monitor to track fire outbreaks.

The technology will be added to the county's network of wildfire detection cameras that monitor California's backcountry to spot the first outbreak of flames. Many of the cameras are affixed to existing radio communication towers.

"This early detection technology will provide emergency managers and first responders with round-the-clock monitoring, a sophisticated addition we are excited to add to our alert and warning toolkit," Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Chair Lynda Hopkins said.

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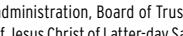
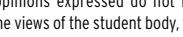
Kris Boyle

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### CDC changes school guidance, allowing desks to be closer

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students can safely sit just 3 feet apart in the classroom as long as they wear masks but should be kept the usual 6 feet away from one another at sporting events, assemblies, lunch or chorus practice, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said March 19 in relaxing its COVID-19 guidelines.

The revised recommendations represent a turn away from the 6-foot standard that has sharply limited how many students some schools can accommodate. Some places have had to remove desks, stagger scheduling and take other steps to keep children apart.

While there is evidence of improved mental health and other benefits from in-person schooling, "we don't really have the evidence that 6 feet is required in order to maintain low spread," she said.

Also, younger children are less likely to get seriously ill from the coronavirus and don't seem to spread it as much as adults do.

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# HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

## BYU museums create scavenger hunt for students



A student gives a guided tour of the Education in Zion exhibit in summer 2019. This campus museum is one of the five participating in March at the Museums.

By ALLIE RICHAEI

BYU students can participate in a pandemic-friendly scavenger hunt across the five campus museums during March at the Museums.

Museum of Art educator Philipp Malzl said each campus museum usually hosts one night a year when hours are extended and visitors can go on exclusive tours of the exhibits. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, this year's Night at the Museums was replaced with a full month of scavenger hunts.

March at the Museums participants can pick up a flyer at any of the five BYU museums, Malzl said. The flyer has clues for each museum that can be solved and handed in for a sticker. Once a participant

collects all five stickers, they can show the stickers at any museum front desk and receive a water bottle.

The five participating BYU museums are the Museum of Art, Education in Zion, the Bean Life Science Museum, the Museum of Paleontology and the Museum of Peoples and Cultures. The March at the Museums flyer and Museum of Art website have a map with locations of all five buildings.

"Each museum on campus has its niche," Education in Zion curator Heather Seferovich said. "It's nice for people to learn that there are multiple exhibits on campus and where they are."

Malzl said he hopes both adults and children will take advantage of the museums BYU has as institutions of learning outside of a

classroom.

"The exhibitions are constantly changing, which is fun for me personally to always learn about new time periods and movements and styles," he said, adding that he gets to see people learn and get excited about new exhibitions.

Spanish translation senior Jenna Sandau said there have also been changes to the Museum of Paleontology where she works. It was closed for renovations until March of this year, when it opened just in time for the scavenger hunt.

Seferovich said the purpose of this new activity is to get students to come to the museums and be rewarded for it. "I hope we've given people a good excuse to come and see the treasures we have here on campus."

## Daily Universe advertising manager awarded BYU Student Employee of the Year



Daily Universe business manager Ellen Hernandez, left, and advertising student Eric Forbush work together on promotion and advertising for paper. Forbush was awarded the 2021 Student Employee of the Year Award out of 14,000 student employees. Read a Spanish translation of this story at [unrv.se/spanish](http://unrv.se/spanish).

By INGRID SAGERS

Daily Universe student advertising manager Eric Forbush won the 2021 Student Employee of the Year Award out of 14,000 BYU student employees.

Forbush has almost three years of experience working on promotion, branding and marketing for the paper. He attributes receiving the award to the "incredible leadership and guidance" of his advisers and his use of different skills while constantly trying new things.

"I was never afraid to pitch unique or different ideas," Forbush said.

BYU Student Employment Office manager Jennifer Jarvis presented his award letter on March 11.

"It was recognized that you went above and beyond your job description, looking at problems that affected your team, your department and the community," the letter

states. "They were impressed with your dedication and how you exemplify the principles and core values of Brigham Young University."

Jarvis said the National Student Employee Association coordinates a selection process and then chooses the National Student Employee of the Year to recognize the achievements of collegiate student employees.

Universe business manager Ellen Hernandez has overseen and worked closely with Forbush throughout his time as an advertising consultant for the lab.

"From an employer's standpoint, Eric is a dream employee. He works at such a high caliber and is someone I can count on no matter what," Hernandez said.

Hernandez has observed students throughout her time as an administrator who are timid about disagreeing with her or proposing different ideas. She said Eric is such a valuable employee because he's never afraid to

respectfully present different viewpoints.

A memorable experience for Hernandez was the 2020 College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers convention where Forbush presented a workshop on media business.

Hernandez said she received messages from advisors throughout the country about Forbush's presentation. These administrators were so enthusiastic in their feedback on his clear professionalism and knowledge.

"These were all peers in the industry who were so blown away by him. He's just a great ambassador for the communications program and BYU," she said.

In normal years, Jarvis said the university would send the award's recipient to compete in regional and national competitions coordinated by the association. It is not holding its regular competition because of COVID-19, so Forbush will not participate in any competitions this year.

### IRA A. FULTON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Professor improves facial recognition software



A BYU professor has developed a more secure type of facial recognition software. Electrical and computer engineering professor D.J. Lee created the Concurrent Two-Factor Identity Verification, which requires users to not only show their face but also make specific facial motions. Users set up the verification by recording a short clip of them performing a unique facial motion or lip-reading. The device then stores these motion features for later verification.

"The biggest problem we are trying to solve is to make sure the identity verification process is intentional," Lee said. "We're pretty excited with the technology because it's pretty unique to add another level of protection that doesn't cause more trouble for the user."

Lee and his Ph.D. student Zheng Sun recorded and tested 8,000 video clips of subjects during a preliminary study. The network they developed verifies identities with more than 90% accuracy with further developments in the works. Lee has filed a patent on the technology and said he hopes his system will be used to restrict workplace areas, online banking services, ATM usage and more.

### COLLEGE OF FAMILY, HOME AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Initiative hopes to prevent hereditary cancer



BYU's Center for Family History and Genealogy and the University of Washington are collaborating on a public health initiative to prevent hereditary cancer. The Connect My Variant project is headed by Brian Shirts, a University of

Washington professor of laboratory medicine and pathology. Shirts identifies subjects with gene variants that indicate a risk for cancer. The BYU genealogy team, directed by professor Jill Crandell, then researches those patients' family lines to identify which ancestor might have had the same gene mutation.

"Once we've identified the ancestor, we can do research and find relatives that the participant can contact and tell them of their potential increased chance of cancer," Crandell said. "This is helpful because most people don't know their relatives beyond first cousins."

BYU family history students also play a major role in the project.

"BYU has the best genealogy program in the world, so it made sense for a partnership on this project," Shirts said. "Knowing your family history is important, but knowing how you might be impacted by your heritage and using that information to help save the life of one of your cousins is impactful."

### MARRIOTT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Students win Super Bowl analytics challenge



A team of BYU information systems students won the University of Utah Game Day Analytics Challenge. This competition invites student teams from Utah colleges to analyze tweets to determine the effectiveness of Super Bowl ads. Juniors Carter Beck, Parker Mecham, Benjamin Sierra and Scott Young won \$1,000 cash for taking first place in the undergraduate division. The team created an infographic with insights they gained from their analysis of which ads did and did not do well.

Beck said the team found that winning Super Bowl commercials needed three factors: celebrities, an entertaining angle instead of an inspiring one, and a brand ambassador willing to tweet about the company during the game. Mark Keith, a BYU information systems professor, helped prepare the winning team by teaching them how to analyze and compile data.

"The students were incredible," Keith said. "They found their own creative solutions using only their existing business knowledge, technology skills and statistical reasoning. The students on this team exemplify the type of people that we hope all our students will become."

## TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL  
Tuesday, March 23  
11:05 a.m.

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



**Elder Kyle S. McKay**  
General Authority Seventy

Elder Kyle S. McKay was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in March 2018. At the time of his call, he had been serving as a member of the Fifth Quorum of the Seventy in the Utah North Area.

Elder McKay received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Brigham Young University in 1984. In 1987 he received a juris doctor degree from Brigham Young

University. From 1987 to 2018, Elder McKay practiced law in Oregon and Utah.

Elder McKay has served in a number of Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Japan Kobe Mission, elders quorum president, ward Young Men president, high councilor, counselor in a bishopric, bishop, counselor in a stake presidency, and stake president.

Elder McKay and his wife, Jennifer Stone, are the parents of nine children.

Selected speeches available at [speeches.byu.edu](http://speeches.byu.edu)

### NEXT: UNIVERSITY FORUM

**Drew Gilpin Faust**  
American Historian and Author



March 30  
11:05 a.m.

# Physically disabled BYU students aim to break barriers, correct misunderstandings

By KRISTINE KIM

BYU communications student Daniel Andersen was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy when he was 2 years old. The disease causes general muscle weakness, so he cannot walk. He also has a weaker respiratory system and finds it difficult to write or type for a long time because of stamina issues.

For BYU students with a variety of physical disabilities, it can be difficult navigating school, social events and life in general.

"Unfortunately, the disability community across the nation, and across the world, is a forgotten and largely misunderstood community," Andersen said.

Andersen said the disability community is usually highly stigmatized and often not included in conversations of diversity and inclusion.

Students with physical disabilities often have many struggles that most physically able students do not have to face, including having difficulty studying or finishing assignments before the deadline assigned by professors.

"If I got sick, some professors would be very accommodating of the request for the deadline day to be moved back a week or so. However, some professors were not very flexible. They believed that if they make it easier for one student, then it's unfair for the other students in the class," Andersen said.

Andersen said students who have disabilities are essentially at the mercy of their professors, and the grade they get is dependent on the professor's leniency and understanding of their circumstances.

However, Andersen said "BYU has made some really good strides recently in trying to improve accessibility and the quality of resources available to students with disabilities."



Josh Bernhard

Daniel Andersen, a BYU communications student, said that the disability community across the nation and at BYU are mostly a forgotten and misunderstood community.

The University Accessibility Center is a resource available to all students who have any disability that affects their education experience.

"The UAC seeks to foster an environment where disability is viewed as a valued aspect of human diversity. The entire university has the responsibility and

opportunity to work towards that vision, and there are efforts being made across campus to ensure that this occurs," said Clay Frandsen, University Accessibility Center director.

BYU alumna Kylie Webster said there seems to be a slight disconnect with BYU's resources that are available

for students with disabilities, and there is always room for improvement.

"I get sick and physically can't get out of bed because of my disability, and it's really hard when professors would get frustrated if I was late or had a hard time turning in an assignment later," Webster said.

Webster was diagnosed at the age of 5 with Leigh's Disease, a neurological disorder that makes it difficult for her to walk. Recently she was able to hike Y Mountain, a feat made possible through her perseverance and the help of her friends at the BYU Alumni Association.

When asked about her experience of being able to achieve her dream of hiking to the Y, Webster said it was an emotional journey of training and walking long distances every day for this specific moment.

"There's a lot of emotions. I was really proud of myself because I didn't think I could have done what I did. I felt like 'impossible' is really nothing; if you want something bad enough you can make it happen," she said.

One of Webster's good friends, BYU student Savannah Heath, was able to help her up to the Y. Heath said she admires Webster for her example of willpower, strength, determination and persistence.

"She deserves everything — including every opportunity. She's not limited by her circumstances," Heath said. "It's important for people to know that her disability doesn't define who she is. She can do just as much as we can, but do it in a different way than us sometimes."

Heath believes just because someone may look different on the outside, it's crucial that people break down the barriers, walls and mindset of being different.

"We should see each other as we really are; seeing each other for our hearts and souls, not for anything outwardly or inwardly that can sometimes be seen as a limitation," Heath said.

moved online.

"Teachers' jobs suddenly became so stressful that in many cases it wasn't ethical for (the students) to try and collect data in the ways they had planned and that would have been perfectly acceptable in normal circumstances," McDonald said.

Associate Director for Research and Academic Programs V. Stanley Benfell said the Kennedy Center, the hub of international studies at BYU, had to cancel summer study abroad programs for both 2020 and 2021 because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Benfell said the center's academic programs focus on international and area studies, so they try to support and foster international research. They do this by offering grants to assist faculty who are presenting their research at international conferences.

Some conferences have become virtual, so faculty can still present research remotely. But COVID-19 has made completing research impossible for some scholars as it depends on their ability to travel, Benfell said.

## Hope for the future

While inspired by the themes of the pandemic, Cropper said the College of Humanities looks forward to the resumption of travel, collaboration with colleagues at other institutions, the resumption of its eye-tracking lab and the beginning of a new language neurolinguistics lab.

McLain said the College of Engineering looks forward to the time when students and researchers can be back in the labs at full capacity. He said being in person causes a strong and vibrant learning community to develop around challenging research topics through students mentoring and training one another.

As with most colleges, Peterson said the infrastructure for online research has improved significantly and has created more opportunities for projects with focus groups in the College of Nursing.

Peterson said these groups will be an asset in the future of research and will be used in a planned study a graduate student is doing with women and activity trackers.

## New initiative connects BYU women with inspiration and resources

By HOLLY CLUFF

The College of Family, Home and Social Sciences began an initiative this semester to connect female students with the resources they need to be successful in life after graduation.

Three professional development committee members are spearheading the initiative: history professor Sarah Reed, sociology professor Scott Sanders and Lindsey Blau, academic and professional development manager for Liberal Arts Advisement and Careers. They launched the Women of FHSS website on Feb. 25 and will hold a kick-off event on March 25.

"I remember meeting with some women students in my office who felt like life had to be a certain way," Blau said. "I remember being one of those students. When someone gives you the resources, it's a really empowering feeling."

The initiative's mission is to "develop practices and programs that will help students identify and develop a deep understanding of career development experiences, promoting conversations that sustain fairness and equity as they seek multiple applications of a BYU education," according to its website.

The website features interviews with a variety of women — homemakers, professionals and returning students — who share their journeys and experiences. Reed said she and her colleagues wanted students to see examples of what different paths could look like for them.

The website also includes recent news articles, a calendar of gender-related events and links to supporting organizations in Utah and on campus.

"I hope that women feel supported in whatever it is



BYU Photo/Nate Edwards  
Female students engage in a lab meeting with psychology professor Julianne Holt-Lunstad (out of frame).

that they decide to do," Blau said. "I feel a responsibility to help women overcome shame and guilt they might be feeling as they are true to themselves and their interests."

A majority of women who come to BYU have an idea of what life is going to look like after graduation and struggle when it's not realized, Blau said.

She said she faced this struggle herself when she graduated from Utah State University. She had planned on marrying early and having a large family, but struggled when she found herself single for several more years.

"It would have been nice to know that my experience was actually pretty typical and to learn from other women how their faith developed and the things they accomplished being single," she said. "It was almost like I needed permission to be ok where I was."

Reed said she wants to reframe unmet expectations as "opportunities" for the students.

A lot of female students do not realize the opportunities before them and have the idea that they must choose a family or a career, Sanders said.

The Women of FHSS is not alone in this effort. "There's a ton of resources and services available on campus, but you have to know how to navigate it," Sanders said. He explained that one thing the initiative is trying to do is put all the campus resources for women in one place so people can find and use them.

The kickoff event on March 25 will give students the opportunity to meet face-to-face (over Zoom) with female panellists. Blau said she wants the event to be interactive, and she hopes attendees come with questions.

"We're focused on FHSS, but we hope anybody takes advantage of it," Reed said, referring to the initiative as a whole.

The eventual goal is to show how women and men can support one another and help them recognize the roles they can take in one another's lives, Blau said.

She said the committee over the initiative is also conscious of unique challenges women of color face, and they are working with the Committee for Diversity, Collaboration and Inclusion to learn how to help women of all backgrounds.

## On-campus internships create new ways to teach languages

By INGRID SAGERS

The BYU College of Humanities offers an on-campus internship course where students work on creative, language study projects.

WordScenes and Language like Locals are two innovative internship projects used to teach languages in innovative ways.

The Humanities On-campus Experiential Projects course is overseen by academic advisor Doug Porter. He said it revolves around learning project management skills, effective teamwork and managing relationships with clients.

However, Porter said the main focus for students is their sponsored language project. These projects are led by real company sponsors.

He said when students add the course, they submit an application to determine which internship project fits best with their interests and backgrounds.

Often, BYU alumni will become sponsors, or businesses are referred to Porter. He said the sponsors submit an application and talk with him about the interns and resources he has available.

"A lot of students went on LDS missions where they learned languages and are now interested in doing something with those languages," Porter said, adding that the number one priority is to promote career readiness.

### WordScenes

WordScenes is one of the internship projects and will be launched as an app at the end of 2021. It uses scenes from television and movies to provide context while users are learning a new language.

Co-founder and BYU MBA student Jordan Ellett said he believes there currently isn't anything out there that will give customers a

## RESEARCH

### Overcoming setbacks at BYU

Continued from Page 1

"I think the technological skills we're all gaining during this time and comfort engaging with each other in virtual settings is going to open up research possibilities that we wouldn't have thought of pre-pandemic," Agate said.

COVID-19 presented a research opportunity for McKay School of Education professor Jason McDonald and a student he was working with.

He said the student had been studying online course development team effectiveness before the pandemic hit.

McDonald said once the pandemic started, the student was asked if she could expand the project scope to examine how course development teams work when they are forced to meet at a distance.

She found it was easy for meeting organizers to just transition from in-person to a Zoom video conference.

However, people burned out of Zoom meetings quickly.

McDonald said most people on the team wanted opportunities to use more creative means of collaboration.

### Research forced to stop or pause

Usually, the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences has projects that involve traveling to archaeological sites and interviewing or observing research subjects in person, Dufur said.

"It's important for people to know that her disability doesn't define who she is. She can do just as much as we can, but do it in a different way than us sometimes."

Heath believes just because someone may look different on the outside, it's crucial that people break down the barriers, walls and mindset of being different.

"We should see each other as we really are; seeing each other for our hearts and souls, not for anything outwardly or inwardly that can sometimes be seen as a limitation," Heath said.

## On-campus internships create new ways to teach languages



Cassidy Wixom  
The BYU College of Humanities offers an on-campus internship course where students work on creative, language study-based projects. Read a Spanish translation of this story at [unrvse/spanish](http://unrvse/spanish).

tailored experience to learn a language.

Ellett said the project's most prioritized feature will be customized lessons for each user. WordScenes creators want to use the context, visual emotion and storyline in filmed mediums while users experience language on a deeper level.

"Similar to how Google Maps indexed the physical world, we want to index language," Ellett said.

He said WordScenes will give app users the scenes that represent what they're trying to learn and the context behind it. WordScenes hopes to help people foster connections across boundaries and cultures.

"Breaking down language and cultural boundaries is so fulfilling and exciting. There's too much division in the world and WordScenes is something to help us understand one another," he said.

### Language Like Locals

Another internship project within the class is Language Like Locals, a weekly informational Spanish newsletter.

Junior communication disorders major Jillian Anderson is a student in the internship class working on the newsletter.

She said BYU alumnus Andrew Walton recognized returned missionaries needed something to help them maintain their Spanish skills while giving them other language learning contexts besides religion.

Anderson said Walton came up with the idea of a Spanish newsletter that could offer fun and exciting content and now oversees the project.

Language Like Locals includes travel sections on different countries each week and newsreels from those countries, Anderson said. Recipe and song suggestions, with links to Spotify, are featured from various Latin American countries, as well as a "word or question of the day" segment.

Anderson said Language Like Locals is a perfect on-campus internship to prepare her for her career.

She is minoring in Spanish and said the newsletter is very valuable to her because it gives her access to real-world situations, news and content native Spanish speakers use or see.

"I know after graduating, I'll be working with people in the real world. I feel like this newsletter reaffirms BYU's message of going forth to serve by helping readers broaden their language skills to reach more of God's children," she said.

# Utah County assisted living facilities work toward normalcy

By MARGARET DARBY

Assisted living facilities and programs in Utah County are taking steps to return back to normal with more Utah residents now fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Local assisted living homes made dozens of changes during the past year to fall in line with rules mandated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Utah's governor. These changes included mask requirements along with restrictions on visitation and socialization between residents.

The COVID-19 vaccine is currently available in Utah to healthcare workers, residents ages 50 and older, and adults with qualifying medical conditions. It will be available to all Utah adults on March 24. As of



Preston Crawley

Country View Assisted Living in Provo is allowing more visitors into its facility as more of the population is vaccinated against COVID-19. Utah County's assisted living facilities are hopeful that vaccinations will allow restrictions to be eased.

March 22, over 419,000 Utahns have been fully vaccinated, including many of whom live in assisted living facilities. This has allowed managers to give

residents more freedom. Tera Babcock, assistant administrator at Canyon Breeze Senior Living in Orem, said the majority of the residents

at the facility chose to be vaccinated, with the exception of just three. "They've all gotten both their vaccines and most of our employees have too. It's

allowing them to have more freedom."

At Canyon Breeze and other assisted living facilities, residents are able to see family again and participate in group activities a few times a week.

"We have gone ahead and let more visitors come in and let residents go out a little bit more because we really felt it was best for their mental health to be able to do that," said Laina Passey, administrator at Country View Assisted Living.

Andrew Braille, owner of 1 Assist Care, said receiving the vaccine is a personal decision that all residents get to make on their own. But at homes where fewer are vaccinated, restrictions have not loosened up.

"Probably about a third of everybody, seniors and employees are not wanting to get the vaccine," Braille said. "They want to wait and see what the

ramifications are long-term because this is a brand-new vaccine. Until we know everybody is vaccinated we're going to continue to follow the same protocols."

At Legacy Village of Provo, administrative assistant Graham Ferguson reported the majority of residents have been vaccinated and they have not seen a single positive COVID-19 case since January. He believes that "things will return back to normal."

It is still largely unknown what the future for assisted living will look like, but the administration of the vaccine offers some hope.

"Our residents definitely are concerned about the future and wondering if the restrictions will change or if this is going to be an ongoing forever thing, so they are frustrated about the unknown," Passey said.

## Tenants union holds first meeting



Preston Crawley

BYU students met on March 16 to form a new tenants union, hoping to advocate for the rights of renters in Provo.

By LINDSEY REESE

A group of BYU students met on March 16 in hopes of starting a tenants union.

The group was started by Ethan Webb, a BYU sophomore and economics major. The union describes itself on its Instagram page as "a group of students interested in protecting student renters' rights."

The first meeting was held over Zoom and consisted of a small group outlining what the union might become. A few of the issues discussed were potential non-profit organization status, committee ideas, and the need for legal aid.

Many of the students at the meeting expressed their initial reasons for joining at the

beginning of the meeting.

"I care about affordable housing and I have had a lot of bad experiences with my landlord and my management. I'd like to know more about where my rights as a renter come in and how I can go about resolving some of our issues," BYU junior Gracia Lee said.

Another issue was focused on lobbying for BYU to stand behind its students over the landlords of contracted housing. Some members felt that BYU did not stand behind students when many BYU-contracted housing complexes did not allow students to vacate their contracts when the COVID-19 pandemic began last year. Many students complained during this time that they were locked into their contracts with no way to leave despite classes going remote

and campus being closed.

Members also felt it was important for the union to remain a non-partisan group, ultimately refraining from identifying with any specific political group. They want the tenants union to be open to all, including those who may not be traditionally left-wing, a common stereotype about unions.

"Rather than potentially alienate people who share our grievances, I think we should try to bring them in because we want the same things and similar policies," BYU finance student Trenton Borders said.

The group will continue to meet in the future to address current issues as well as create an actionable plan for the future. Those interested in joining can find more information on the union's Instagram page.

The Provo City Council approved the mail-in voting method for the 2021 municipal primary and general elections during a March 16 City Council meeting.

## Provo City Council approves mail-in voting for 2021 municipal elections

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City Council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution authorizing Mayor Kaufusi to approve an inter-local agreement with Utah County to conduct a vote-by-mail election for the 2021 municipal primary and general elections.

Election ballots will be sent out three weeks prior to the dates of the elections. Municipal primary elections will be held Aug. 10, and general elections will be held Nov. 2. Residents will vote for mayor, a city-wide council member and city council members in districts two and five.

Voting by mail is not a new concept in Provo. A

vote-by-mail system was also used in 2017 for both primary and general elections.

In the August 2017 edition of the city publication "Inspire," the mayor's office wrote that "it's a sign of modern times and a new way to cast a ballot. In vote-by-mail elections, people can mark their ballots on the day they want, from the convenience of their homes, and with enough time to think through their decisions."

The community seems to share this same enthusiasm for voting by mail.

"We've had a great response from the community about actually returning those ballots to the dropboxes," said city recorder Amanda Ercanbrack in the March 16 City Council meeting.

There are 20 ballot dropbox

locations in Utah County, three of which are in Provo.

Ercanbrack said there has been "a great decrease in the number of people who want to vote in person and turn in their ballot in person. Rather than every city having an actual vote service center or polling location, (there will be) fewer centers located throughout the county."

Residents should not be worried if they would prefer to vote in person, as this will still be an option.

"I did talk to one of the (county) representatives earlier today and it does sound like they plan to have (a polling center) in Provo, which will be great," Ercanbrack said.

For more information about voting by mail this year, visit [vote.utah.gov](http://vote.utah.gov).

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## Provo City partners with US Forest Service to preserve foothills and canyons

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

The Provo City Council voted unanimously on Tuesday, March 16, in favor of a resolution outlining support for the U.S. Forest Service's continued ownership and preservation of sensitive lands in Provo's foothills and canyons.

Mayor Michelle Kaufusi and the City Council have been working with the Utah Valley Trails Alliance to "support sustainable recreation on the trails of the southern Wasatch Mountains, especially 'foothill' trails in the wildland-urban interface," according to the alliance's website.

The website also states the organization "will be helping Provo City and the U.S. Forest Service Pleasant Grove District develop trail plans for the foothills from Provo Canyon to Slate Canyon."

Prior to the vote to support this resolution, Provo City Council members reached out to members of the public for their opinions on the plans for new trails.

"The feedback was



support behind this. I think it's a wonderful idea and I appreciate all the work and effort that's gone into it to get it to this point," Provo resident Kaye Nelson said. "Hopefully, this will help preserve some of the wonderful treasures that we have in the foothills and in the canyons."

Provo resident Craig Christiansen said, "Things like a pandemic help us to realize how fabulous these resources are, and the need to maintain open access and the ability for us to enjoy these incredible resources that are right here in our backyard."

"Other cities dream of this, and I'm so grateful that our city is not just dreaming about it. (It is) actually doing it."

Provo residents and city government members look forward to the preservation of the lands that so many hold dear.

"We wanted to send a clear message to (the citizens and) the Forest Service that we would like to partner with them to continue to keep those areas especially areas up above Route 189 in Provo Canyon, south of Route 189. There are areas that are much beloved by our citizens," Christiansen said.

The Provo City Council voted in favor of a resolution to work with the Utah Valley Trails Alliance and U.S. Forest Service to preserve and develop trails in the foothills from Provo Canyon to Slate Canyon. [Read a Spanish translation of this story at unvr.se/spanish](http://unvr.se/spanish).

Councilman George Handley said.

Handley said the feedback from the public provided a "template for thinking about how to

improve and create new recreational opportunities within city boundaries, and how to take better advantage of some of the open space in the possession of

the Forest Service."

Residents also commented during the City Council meeting.

"I just want to throw my

# Forecast for spring: Nasty drought worsens for much of US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

With nearly two-thirds of the United States abnormally dry or worse, the government's spring forecast offers little hope for relief, especially in the West where a devastating megadrought has taken root and worsened.

Weather service and agriculture officials warned of possible water use cutbacks in California and the Southwest, increased wildfires, low levels in key reservoirs such as Lake Mead and Lake Powell and damage to wheat crops.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's official spring outlook on March 18 sees an expanding drought with a drier than normal April, May and June for a large swath of the country from Louisiana to Oregon, including some areas hardest hit by the most severe drought. And nearly all of the continental United States is looking at warmer than normal spring, except for tiny parts of the Pacific Northwest and southeast Alaska, which makes drought worse.

"We are predicting prolonged and widespread drought," National Weather Service Deputy Director Mary Erickson said. "It's definitely something we're watching and very concerned about."

NOAA expects the spring drought to hit 74 million people.

Several factors go into worsening drought, the agency said. A La Niña cooling of parts of the central Pacific continues to bring dry weather for much of the country, while in the Southwest heavy summer monsoon rains failed to materialize. Meteorologists also say the California megadrought is associated with long-term climate change.

March 18's national Drought Monitor shows almost 66% of the nation is in an abnormally



Associated Press

This Feb. 17, image shows an empty irrigation canal at a tree farm in Corrales, New Mexico, as snow covers the Sandia Mountains in the background. Much of the West is mired in drought, with New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Utah being among the hardest hit.

dry condition, the highest mid-March level since 2002. And forecasters predict that will worsen, expanding in parts of Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota, with small islands of relief in parts of the Great Lakes and New England.

More than 44% of the nation is in moderate or worse drought, and nearly 18% is in extreme or exceptional drought, all of it west of the Mississippi River. Climate scientists are calling what's happening in the West a "megadrought" that started in 1999.

"The nearly West-wide drought is already quite severe in its breadth and intensity, and unfortunately it doesn't appear likely that there will be much relief this spring," said UCLA climate scientist Daniel Swain, who writes the Weather West blog and isn't part of the NOAA outlook. "Winter

precipitation has been much below average across much of California, and summer precipitation reached record low levels in 2020 across the desert Southwest."

With the Sierra Nevada snowpack only 60% of normal levels, U.S. Department of Agriculture meteorologist Brad Rippey said "there will be some water cutbacks and allocation cutbacks in California and perhaps other areas of the Southwest" for agriculture and other uses. It will probably hit crops in the Golden State.

Winter and spring wheat crops also have been hit hard by the western drought with 78% of the spring wheat production area in drought conditions, Rippey said.

The dry, warm conditions the upcoming months likely will bring "an enhanced wildfire season," said Jon Gottschalch, chief of NOAA's prediction branch.

Swain of UCLA said the

wildfires probably will not be as bad as 2020 because so much vegetation already has burned and drought conditions retarded regrowth. Last year, he said, wildfire was so massive it will be hard to exceed, though this fire season likely will be above average.

Drought and heat breed a vicious cycle. When it's this dry, less of the sun's energy goes to evaporating soil moisture because it's not as wet, Swain said. That leaves more of the energy to heat up the air, and the heat makes the drought worse by boosting evaporation.

"Across the West, it is clear that climate change has increased temperatures essentially year round, which has decreased mountain snowpack and increased evaporation — substantially worsening the severity of the ongoing drought conditions," he said.

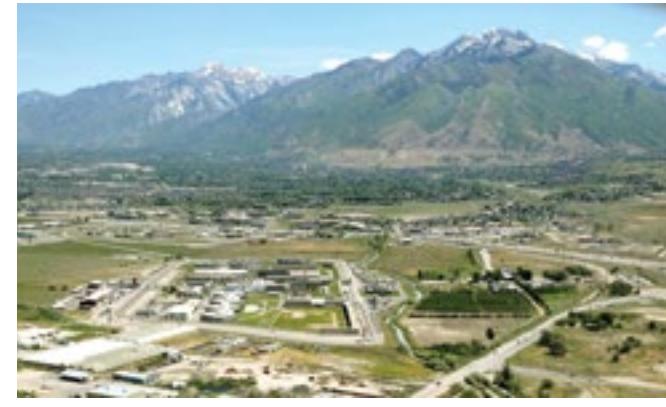
In the next week or two, parts of the central United States may get pockets of heavy rain, but the question is whether that will be enough to make up for large rain deficits in the High Plains from the past year, Nebraska state climatologist Martha Shulski said.

The drought's flip side is that for the first time in three years, NOAA is projecting zero major spring flooding, with smaller amounts of minor and moderate flooding.

About 82 million people will be at risk for flooding this spring, mostly minor with no property damage. That's down from 128 million people last year.

Flooding tends to be a short-term expensive localized problem while drought and wildfire hit larger areas and are longer lasting, NOAA climatologist Karin Gleason.

Since 1980, NOAA has tracked weather disasters that caused at least \$1 billion in damage. The 28 droughts have caused nearly \$259 billion in damage, while the 33 floods have cost about \$151 billion.



Envision Utah

The Utah State Prison site will soon be converted to an urban hub that could provide many opportunities for BYU students.

## BYU gets to 'The Point'

By KARINA ANDREW

Development planners have begun drawing up a framework for a new urban center on the Utah State Prison site, and the potential impact to BYU students could be enormous.

The area, designated "The Point," is going to be transformed from a prison block surrounded by a dreary landscape to a walkable, metropolitan "15-minute city" within the next several years. This urban hub is meant to be a city of the future — walkable and sustainable, with green infrastructure and diverse housing, work and recreation venues — which could potentially provide a whole slew of new opportunities to BYU students and graduates.

Development planner Doug Voigt said the site development could present opportunities for partnerships and collaboration. Voigt works for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, the urban planning firm selected to create The Point's master plan.

"In terms of economic and innovation partnerships, you see a lot of universities working with private industry to further research or advance manufacturing," he said. "And that's usually interdisciplinary, so it could be anything from the school of business to the school of engineering, finding ways to partner with companies that may co-locate at The Point."

Diogo Myrrha, an entre-

preneurship founder at BYU's Marriott School of Business, also noted the potential for local internships for Utah's college students. Myrrha participates in a working group for The Point to offer his perspective as a member of the tech community.

The Point, right next to Utah's Silicon Slopes, could attract tech companies hoping to set up shop in the new metropolis. These companies could provide internships for current students and jobs for graduates.

"The other real advantage is it can create a place for graduates to move once leaving school," Voigt said. "I mean, this provides a really exciting way to accommodate that future growth."

Myrrha said incoming tech companies can also increase diversity in a relatively homogeneous community. This in particular is a big plus for BYU students considering moving to the area, most of whom spent their college career surrounded by people from similar demographic groups. While the university struggles with a lack of diversity, BYU graduates relocating to The Point to live or work could be exposed to people living a wider variety of lifestyles.

"The idea here is to think differently so we can attract diverse talents, so we can attract diverse industries, so we can attract, ultimately, diverse population to this wonderful Mecca that Utah is," Myrrha said.

# The daily part of The Daily Universe

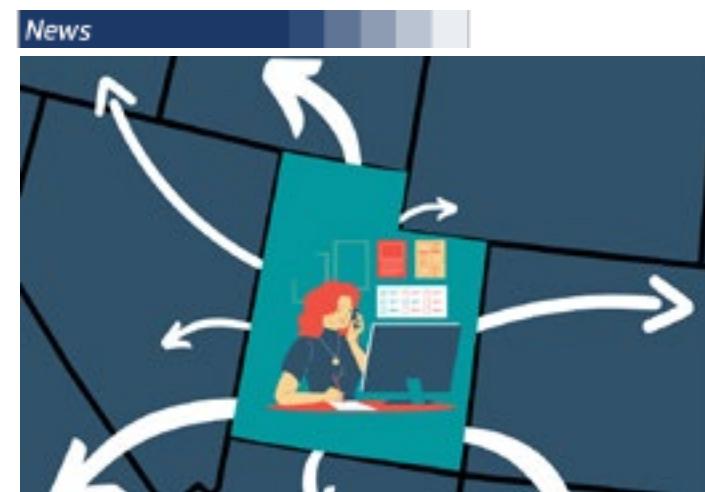
## The Daily Universe Newsletter



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



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# Chandon Herring: A 'Viking' on his way to the NFL

By ISABELLE ZYHAILO

The morning air is crisp and cool, No. 77, "The Freak", walks out onto the field at LaVell Edwards Stadium and smells the freshly-cut grass. It is game day at BYU and he is hungry for some pancakes.

But BYU's 6-foot-7 offensive lineman Chandon Herring has set his eyes on a new opportunity: the NFL.

Herring moved to Denver following the football season and has been working on his agility, strength and technique for BYU Pro Day on March 26 and the NFL Draft in April.

In the weight room, which he calls "the most honest place you can go to," Herring can power clean 380 pounds, bench press 410 pounds and squat 600 pounds. He runs a 4.9-second 40-yard dash, which is extremely fast for a lineman.

Dave Feldman, a Fox Sports reporter, chose Herring to be on his annual "Freak List" of physically-intriguing college football players during the 2020 preseason and said Herring is the "complete specimen".

"He's a Viking of a human being," Jeff Hansen, sports reporter from 24/7 Sports, said. "People aren't supposed to be his size and move that well. Even for a college football player, Herring's athleticism is freaky."

Hansen said what Herring did at BYU had to be appealing to the NFL. "He played four positions along that offensive line at BYU, and could have played all five. That kind of versatility is incredibly valuable at the NFL level."

Herring loves a good old-fashioned pancake for breakfast, but in terms of football, he uses his



BYU Photo

Chandon Herring blocks for Zach Wilson against Toledo in 2019. Both Herring and Wilson are preparing for the NFL Draft and will participate in BYU's Pro Day on March 26.

strength and speed to take any chance he can to get "pancakes" in games as well. A pancake in football refers to when an offensive lineman's block leaves a defensive player flat on his back.

"One of the most satisfying feelings is when you pancake somebody," Herring said. "It is a very satisfying moment because you have reached a point when you can impose your will on them, against their own, and that is a great moment."

Fellow offensive lineman and friend James Empey said the way Herring practices and trains sets him apart from the rest.

"He does a lot of things really well," Empey said. "He can run and get under defenders and lift them and drag them. That's where you

can see his strength come in and it shows on the field and in his tapes."

Herring and Empey met at a summer BYU football camp in high school and Empey noticed how much he has grown since then.

"He was tall, lanky and skinny (in high school) and I remember getting off of my mission and he was already a huge guy," Empey said. "Just to see him for where he was in high school, he worked so hard to be here."

Herring has talked with former Cougars Austin Hoyt and Dallas Reynolds, who started his NFL career in 2009 as a free agent with the Philadelphia Eagles.

However, Herring has primarily gone to his coaches for advice, including former BYU offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes and offensive

line coach Eric Mateos.

"The best thing to hear is that yes, it's going to be a rough process, but that I can do it and that it is a doable process," Herring said. "Attempting to go to the NFL is a huge commitment for anyone to do. Less than one percent of people in college sports have a chance in the NFL. It's great to know that I can."

He attributes a lot of his success to the strength and conditioning staff as well, because they go beyond the weight room and have supported him since he started at BYU.

He said he owes them a lot.

"Over the years I have had five different coaches, but throughout it all, it has been the same strength staff, and they know you and know how to get the most of you," Herring said. "They are also there as your own personal fan base, because once you put in the work they want to see you succeed."

Herring was invited to go to the College Gridiron Showcase in January in Texas. Almost every NFL team was there, and the Dallas Cowboys brought 12 different scouts to that event.

He was able to sit down and interview with all of the teams for a couple of days and show his abilities for a day of combine-style drills that were position-specific.

Herring was one of four pulled aside to do more drills in front of scouts and he said it was a great opportunity. One of his goals there was to have a good time and make sure everyone else did as well.

"At the CGS I was able to show my body composition, how I move, and they have film on me, but on Pro Day, then they want to see how I can perform athletically," Herring said.

At BYU's Pro Day, prospective picks will be doing combine drills

such as the 40-yard dash, vertical jump, shuttle run, bench press and broad jump. BYU will likely have five players taken in the NFL Draft this year, which hasn't happened since 2002.

Herring spends his time in Denver balancing workouts and his last semester of school. He has also been active on social media and has spoken to youth groups in the area.

"When you go into training you have at least one to two coaches watching you at all times and so every detail how you do is critiqued so that you get the most out of every single thing you do," Herring said. "These are the little details all the time that make you better."

Herring said he declared for the NFL Draft because he wants to see how good he can be. "Everything is considered a hobby until someone is willing to pay you for it. It's a great opportunity to not only see what I can do, but also that you have a lot of influence in the NFL. You (can) do a lot of good things."

BYU's offensive line was a semifinalist in the 2020 Joe Moore Award for the most outstanding offensive line group in college football. BYU has a reputation for being on top at that position.

"I think it speaks volumes to Kalani (Stake) and the culture he has built on the team," Herring said. "He is very particular and upfront when he recruits. He is looking for guys who not only will excel in football but also do well in school and who have a good attitude for life."

Herring said he will be surrounded by family during the draft, which will go from April 29-May 1.

"Any team will be lucky to have him," Empey said. "He is a good guy off the field, a good leader and would be a good addition."

## BYU athletes and others speak up on social media about NCAA tournament gender inequality

By ISABELLE ZYHAILO

The NCAA came under fire on March 18 when photos and videos comparing the amenities at the men's and women's basketball tournaments began to spread on social media.

The most shared video was from Oregon player Sedona Prince, who posted a video on TikTok and Twitter comparing the weight rooms provided to the women, with just a single set of small dumbbells and a stack of yoga mats, and the men, with several benches and weight machines.

Prince's video now has millions of views across several platforms. BYU senior Paisley Harding also posted a video on TikTok and Instagram, showing and commenting on the scarce equipment the Cougars were provided.

BYU and other teams resorted to doing workouts in the middle of their hotel floor. Harding said they luckily brought resistance bands, and their strength and conditioning coach, Steven Arnold, led them in workouts.

Lynn Holzman, the NCAA vice president of women's basketball, later came out with a statement on Twitter. "We acknowledge that some of the amenities teams would typically have access to have not been as available inside the controlled environment. We want to be responsive to the needs of our participating teams, and we are actually working to enhance existing resources at practice courts, including additional weight training equipment."

Some Twitter users pointed out that this is a violation of gender equality as described in Title IX.

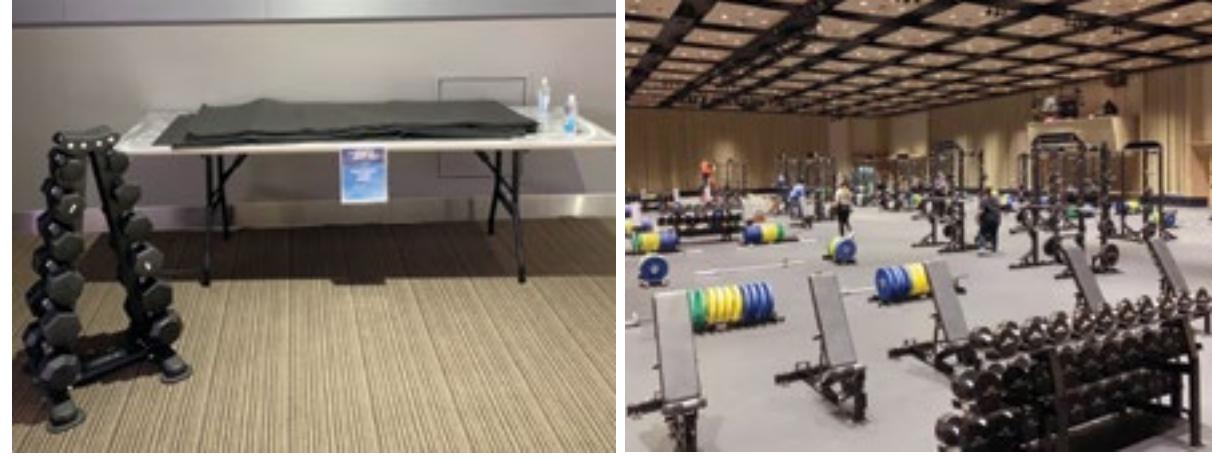
According to the NCAA website, "Title IX requires the equal treatment of female and male student-athletes in the provisions of equipment and supplies."

The NCAA swag bags provided to athletes also differed in quantity and marketing, with the men's saying "The Big Dance" and the women's showing the NCAA logo followed by "Women's Basketball."

Holzman calls the differences "minor" and used their location for explanation.

"We proactively work together with the men's basketball staff when putting together those student-athlete gift bags, there are some minor differences to that," Holzman said. "And those are because of things we identified that were more differences relative to the location, for example, the difference between an umbrella and a blanket."

Dan Gevits, senior president of the NCAA, said the championship



The NCAA men's basketball tournament weight room, right, is compared to the women's on the left. BYU women's basketball players and others spoke about the inequality in amenities.

has some challenges, including branding. "We also have somewhat of a challenge that we have different equally-valued, greatly-valued broadcast partners: ESPN for the women's championship and CBS and Turner for the men's championship. And so branding around broadcast is an issue for those partners, as well as for the two championships."

He said he would add it to the to-do list but that it wasn't a major issue.

The food provided at each of the tournaments was also brought up and gained traction on social media.

"We are in seven hotels in San Antonio and working with the hotels in supplying the food," Holzman said.

She said the hotels have restrictions with food service but when the teams got out of quarantine, other food may be brought to them.

Gavitt took the blame for these conditions in a press conference on March 19.

"When we fall short of these expectations, that's on me," Gavitt said. "I apologize to women's basketball student-athletes, to the coaches, to the women's basketball committee for dropping the ball, frankly, on the weight room issue."

He said they would fix it as soon as they can and talked with all of the coaches the night before.

"I was pretty shocked by the presentation with how amazing the men's was and with how despicable ours was," Harding said. "With my TikTok and the other videos going around, some people have said 'that's what women deserve,' which is disheartening to hear."

She said there is a misunderstanding all over the world with women's sports, and presumed it stems from women's sports coming later in history than men's.

"I think people should really educate themselves on the situation. It's not about money, it's not about time

or resources. It's really not," Harding said. "It's just about what the NCAA wanted to put their money toward."

The universities do not pay to go to March Madness, so all expenses are on the NCAA. Harding said with Title IX, they were supposed to be equal.

BYU head coach Jeff Judkins said being treated second all the time is hard and the team would like to have equal opportunity.

He did say, however, that at BYU they were treated very well and that the administration gave them great opportunities like a trip to Europe every four years, flying first class, being at the same hotels and practice facilities as the men.

Judkins said the game has changed so much from 20 years ago, from not seeing anyone on TV to now seeing women's basketball getting so much exposure, as well as having better players.

Sophomore Shaylee Gonzales said they were so blessed to be at the tournament and thankful for everything they received, but it was still frustrating.

"I'm not complaining on what we are getting," Gonzales said. "The main point is equality. And being a women's athlete, I think it is important that we use our voice and we show everyone else what we are getting, compared to the men's. It is super unfair and I think we should be getting the same resources, the same equipment that the men are getting."

Gonzales said even though the men bring in more money than the women, it is about equality.

Zach Kancher, associate head coach at Towson University refuted the revenue argument in a tweet. "If access to NCAA Tournament resources (actual weight room, real food) were truly based on revenue, then MBB #16 Hartford should have access to fewer resources than #1 Baylor in the MBB bubble. But both those teams have

the feelings involved.

"As we've seen throughout our country this past year, in particular in a variety of ways of individuals, human beings, people being discriminated against, marginalized, where there are inequities. When it is personal, it is as real as it can get," Holzman said. "So it hurts, and when people passionately care about something, in this case women's basketball, our fans, our student athletes who are playing this game, it's our responsibility to give them a great championship experience and one they can be proud of."

Harding posted a follow-up video on her TikTok following the initial call-out, sharing the NCAA's response vowing to provide more exercise equipment.

On March 20, two days after the first videos were posted, the NCAA posted photos of the newly-opened women's weight room in San Antonio, complete with weight racks and resistance bands.

## Women advance with upset over Rutgers



Shaylee Gonzales celebrates the BYU women's basketball team's 69-66 win over Rutgers in the NCAA Tournament in San Marcos, Texas. The 11-seed Cougars became the first lower seed to win a game in the tournament, taking down 6-seed Rutgers.

BYU Photo

# March Madness: Men fall to UCLA



**BYU Photo**  
Matt Haarms boxes out a UCLA defender on March 20 in Indianapolis. The 6-seed Cougars were upset 73-62 by 11-seed UCLA to make an early exit in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

# BYU Olympics sports overview: gymnastics championship, win streaks for volleyball

By JEFF SALCEDO

BYU's Olympic sports went undefeated over the weekend with a conference championship for gymnastics and extended win streaks for both volleyball teams.

#### Gymnastics

The No. 12 BYU gymnastics team won the Mountain Rim Gymnastics Conference championships on March 20 with a 196.925 score, edging out Boise State by 0.2 points.

Senior Abbey Miner-Alder (9.9, vault) and senior Angel Zhong (9.875, bars) had much-needed career-highs for the Cougars.

This is BYU's second consecutive MRGC title. Next up, the Cougars will compete in the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championships.

#### Women's volleyball

The No. 16 BYU women's volleyball team swept No. 21 San Diego on March 20 for the Cougars' fifth-straight win in their first game in front of fans this season in the Smith Fieldhouse.

"The energy in the Smith Fieldhouse was great," BYU head coach Heather Olmstead said. "I think the fans definitely helped give us some energy and helped us through playing a tough San Diego team."

The win caps off a big week for the Cougars as they beat San Diego in four sets on the road earlier in the week.

"It was so fun having fans in the Fieldhouse. I missed it," sophomore setter Whitney Bower said. "It was so fun seeing people out there cheering."

BYU will head to Moraga, California, next to take on Saint Mary's on March 26.

#### Men's volleyball

The No. 2 BYU men's volleyball team picked up a pair of wins on the road against No. 4 Pepperdine, where the Cougars hadn't won since 2018.

The second win on March 20 extended BYU's win streak to seven, six of which have been sweeps.

Junior outside hitter Davide



**Preston Crawley**  
Grace Wee, left, and Whitney Bower, right, celebrate against San Diego on March 20 in the Smith Fieldhouse. The Cougars swept the Toreros in the first match in front of fans this season in Provo.

Gardini led the Cougars with 16 kills on a .556 clip in the 3-1 win on March 19.

BYU displayed its defensive toughness on March 20 as the Cougars netted 11.5 blocks in a three-set match. Senior opposite hitter Gabi Garcia Fernandez led BYU with 12 kills.

The Cougars look to extend their win streak as they return to the Smith Fieldhouse for a two-match series against USC, which starts on Friday, March 26.

#### Women's soccer

The No. 17 BYU women's soccer team scored five unanswered goals after conceding early on in a 5-1 thrashing of Pacific on the road.

Pacific's sophomore midfielder Rianne Molenaar opened the scoring seven minutes in to give the Tigers an early 1-0 lead.

BYU sophomore forward Bella Folino scored to tie the score at 1-1, nearly 20 minutes after Pacific's goal.

After the halftime break, BYU compiled four goals to pull away from the Tigers. Sophomores Brecken Mozingo and Rachel McCarthy, Folino and senior midfielder Mikayla Colohan all scored in the second half.

Colohan picked up two assists to go along with her goal, and sophomore midfielder Jamie Shepherd also tallied an assist.

BYU's next game will be on March 24 on the road against San Diego.

#### Women's swim and dive

Two Cougars competed in the NCAA swimming and diving championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, last week.

Kennedy Cribbs placed 26th in the women's 1-meter dive with a score of 264.90.

Katie McBratney placed 41st in the women's 100-yard breaststroke.

The NCAA championships mark the end of the season for BYU, though several Cougars have Olympic aspirations and will be competing in the national team trials this summer.

#### Baseball

The BYU baseball team completed a three-game sweep against Loyola Marymount over the weekend on the road.

BYU pitchers were on another level during the series as they compiled 33 strikeouts over the three games, while only giving up 14 hits.

Senior outfielder Danny Gelalich provided good hitting during the series, going 5-of-9 with two RBIs, a double and a triple.

Both junior catcher Joshua Cowden and infielder Andrew Pintar provided home runs during the series.

The Cougars return to home to face UVU in the Crosstown Clash on Tuesday, March 23.

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



# 2021 HOUSING GUIDE

Now on  
racks across  
campus

## BYU chemistry professor highlighted in PBS *Terra* mini-documentary



Professor Brian Woodfield was asked by a PBS mini-documentary crew to explain some of the science behind how ice farmers in Colorado have supercooled water. Woodfield worked with a small team of students, including Grace Neilsen and Peter Rosen, to help him prepare for the demonstration of supercooling water for the cameras.

By INGRID SAGERS

BYU chemistry professor Brian Woodfield was recently featured in a PBS *Terra* mini-documentary focused on the world's largest man-made ice wall in Colorado.

Woodfield was sought out by the PBS film crew because of his expansive knowledge on the unique sciences behind the properties of water and supercooling. He and a team of students were asked to prepare supercooled water demonstrations for the PBS team to film.

The PBS documentary covered the incredible Ouray Ice Park man-made ice climbing walls in the Uncompahgre Gorge in Colorado. The Ouray Ice Park website says, "Beginning in November, ice farmers spray water down the canyon walls of the Uncompahgre Gorge resulting in the creation of awe-inspiring walls of ice."

The documentary showed the ice farmers utilizing the supercooling water technique through over 250 sprinklers to create more than 100 manmade ice climbs that climbers and tourists from all over the world come to see.

Supercooling water is a low-temperature phenomenon where pure water is cooled very slowly until the temperature hits below zero degrees Celsius, Woodfield said. Supercooled water needs something to form around, like dust, pollen or other ice molecules. If the water and the chosen surfaces are extremely clean, the water has nothing to form around to turn into ice.

In his documentary interview, Woodfield said if a little piece of ice is dropped into a container holding the purified water, "the water molecules in the vicinity of that ice, as it enters, start bonding and it just (freezes) as fast as possible."

Woodfield said the ice walls are a slow, natural process and a massive undertaking. "How fast you do it though governs how well-organized it goes in. The faster you freeze it, the more flaws that crystal is going to have."

The walls are well-made crystals, so they are stronger and harder to break. Freezing gradually over time is key to creating the ice that can support climbers, he said.

Woodfield had his student team prepare for filming with the PBS crew on Dec. 21, 2020, to create demonstrations of supercooling water gradually or quickly.

Senior biochemistry major Peter Rosen said the team prepared for the film crew's arrival the entire December 2020 finals week. Though it may have been an unfortunately busy time to prepare the supercooling presentations, Rosen said it was a very enjoyable experience.

"The thing about the demonstrations was that they were really finicky, so it was really gratifying to have (the film crew) really appreciate all the work we had put in," he said.

BYU biochemistry senior Grace Neilsen said Woodfield worked alongside the lab students to consistently supercool water on demand. It was important to make it reproducible. Woodfield's students sent progress videos to the PBS film team as they prepared for their actual visit.

Rosen said once the team had figured out how to consistently supercool water, it was fun to decide which containers would look the coolest when the water was poured in and other flashy, aesthetic aspects of the presentations.

The PBS crew came to the lab for a couple of hours to film the team's different presentations of supercooled water in different tubes, flasks and beakers. Neilsen said the visitors were kind and really excited to be working with the BYU team.

One of the reasons Neilsen said she loves studying different aspects of science is the "aha" moments — the moments when everything clicks together and the result is meaningful.

"The first time I saw the supercooling work, I felt like a little kid who's introduced to something new and wonderful. It felt so special to see it for the first time — it was a definite 'aha' moment," she said.

Rosen said something he's experienced by learning from Woodfield is the gratification of coming up with answers and explanations to questions no one else ever has.

"Students often ask me how I've learned or know so much. I say, 'because I'm old,'" Woodfield said. "If someone is lucky enough that their brain doesn't forget things and you're always asking questions, you'll learn marvelous things over a lifetime — and I have."

## Interior secretary to visit Utah ahead of monument review

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newly confirmed Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland is planning to visit Utah next month before submitting a review on whether to reverse President Donald Trump's decision to shrink national monuments in the state, the agency announced March 17.

Haaland is expected to submit the report to President Joe Biden after the trip in April where she will meet with tribes, elected leaders and others. Specific dates were not immediately announced.

Biden ordered the Interior Department to research whether he should restore the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante on the day the Democrat took office.

Native American



Deb Haaland, the newly confirmed Interior Secretary, will travel to Utah to visit two monuments that have caused debate between state Republicans and Native American tribes.

tribes supported the creation of Bears Ears by President Barack Obama, but Republican state leaders had railed against it. Grand Staircase is older, but it had long been a point of contention for conservative state leaders who considered both monuments federal government overreach.

The reductions made

by Trump paved the way for potential coal mining and oil and gas drilling on lands that used to be off limits, though activity was limited because of market dynamics.

Bears Ears, which contains tribal sacred lands, was downsized by 85% and Grand Staircase-Escalante cut by nearly half.

The review also

includes the marine monument Northeast Canyons and Seamounts off the New England coast.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition said in a statement on March 17 that Haaland's visit is "welcome news" but reiterated their request for Biden to quickly restore the Bears Ears monument.

## Push on for reopening of Grand Canyon's east entrance



Associated Press

Grand Canyon National Park officials tentatively plan to reopen the park's eastern entrance in late May, but there's sentiment in the small northern Arizona city that depends on tourism that sooner would be better.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grand Canyon National Park officials tentatively plan to reopen the park's eastern entrance in late May, but there's sentiment in a small northern Arizona city that depends on tourism that sooner would be better.

"Our sales tax for this year is down nearly 30% from last year," Page city manager Darren Coldwell told the Arizona Daily Sun. "Our Horseshoe Bend visitation is down 80%. So when we say that our numbers dropped off the face of the earth, they really did."

Meanwhile, Page Mayor Bill Diak worries the highway's continued closure will do lasting damage to the city's economy and small businesses.

For years, Diak said Page has marketed itself as part of a loop route for tourists visiting national parks and monuments in the Southwest.

But with State Route 64 closed, the loop route has been disrupted.

"People come out of Vegas, and they come in one way through I-40, and do the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, continue on up to do Page, Lake Powell, or they go on over to Monument Valley, come back in the other way," Diak said. "Both Utah and Arizona have marketed that for years, and then finally it has taken hold over the last three years. Now we're going to lose all that."

For now, many campsites at the Page-Lake Powell Campground sit empty.

"Starting from spring break in March, for the last five or six years, our campground has been sold out every single weekend all the

businesses and other facilities. Two of the tribe's four casinos reopened March 19.

Navajo Nation roads remain closed to visitors, but the Navajo Nation Council is considering a bill to rescind those closures — which don't affect the highway into the park.

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"Starting from spring break in March, for the last five or six years, our campground has been sold out every single weekend all the

way into Thanksgiving," said Ron Colby, who manages the campground and a nearby bait shop.

Colby said business has been down 78% compared to 2019. There were a few weeks last summer that approached normal occupancy levels, but that eventually dropped off.

Diak and Coldwell, the city manager, have been lobbying park officials to reopen the highway.

Park spokesperson Joelle Baird said Superintendent Edward Keable is considering reopening the eastern entrance on May 21, before Memorial Day weekend.

Baird said the final decision will be made only after careful consideration and consultations with tribal leaders.

Other factors that must be weighed include park staffing needed to reopen the entrance and the possibility of changes in the pandemic, Baird said.

The stretch of State Route 64 through the Navajo Nation outside of the park is a popular spot for roadside vendors trying to capitalize on tourist traffic, but those services remain prohibited by the tribe's public health orders.

Jared Touchin, a spokesman for tribal President Jonathan Nez, said those restrictions could be revisited soon if the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths on the reservation continue to drop.

## BYU clubs readjust to in-person activities after pandemic break

By ELENA CASTRO

BYUSA clubs started back up in-person after a semester and a half of being remote or canceled because of the pandemic.

With clubs being approved to be in-person starting March 2, club presidents and BYUSA club members have had to come up with plans and guidelines in order to keep students safe.

BYUSA Clubs team lead Michael Barrera said there was a lot of excitement when in-person clubs first got approved.

"Clubs as a BYUSA area got permission for Clubs Night by putting together a detailed and in-depth plan on how we were going to protect students from COVID," he said. Individual clubs go through a process to get their own approvals from BYUSA to meet in person, he added.

The BYU team in charge of clubs knows the essential role clubs play on campus and that they are a fantastic way for students to meet and create lasting friendships, Barrera said. "As



The BYU Laugh Out Loud Improv club performs together for the first time since the club went remote. BYUSA clubs

a BYUSA Clubs team we are just so excited to get people meeting safely and carefully."

Laura Out Loud Improv club president Logan Sowards also said he is excited to have clubs back in person. "With improv, we definitely feed off

each other's energy and the energy of the people watching us. You don't feel that same sort of energy over Zoom."

Sowards said comedic timing — something essential for a club such as improv — is a struggle via online methods because of internet lagging.

He said it was hard for people to want to attend meetings during the height of the pandemic because people were already spending a lot of time on video chat services.

Sowards said he feels clubs meeting in-person is a huge improvement.

"For me, there is a little bit of a disconnect that occurs when I only see someone through a screen. Being in person allows for a greater sense of connection."

Laugh Out Loud Improv meets on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 214 of the Crabtree Technology Building. Students can visit the club's Instagram page for more information.

BYU K-pop club president Alex Bollinger said although it has been difficult to head a campus club in the wake of COVID-19, BYUSA "has been very accommodating in helping however much they can."

Meeting face-to-face will help BYU clubs find a sense of community, he said. "I believe reviving K-pop club to be in-person will again connect K-pop lovers with each other across Provo. It is so much easier to connect when we can dance together even if it is five feet apart."

The K-pop club meets every other Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the Wilkinson Student Center ballroom. Students can visit the club's Instagram account for more information.



Chattanooga Times Free Press B. W. BREMMER



Gary Varvel

© Gary Varvel

## WEEKLY QUESTION

Daily Universe editors post a question on Instagram each week asking readers their view on a specific topic. Here's what they had to say. Responses are unedited.

### Should college education be free?

No. There should be increased access to scholarships and need-based financial aid.

—CYCLIENTIST

I'd love for it to be free, but someone has to pay for it, so what's the give and take here?

—MARCICANDLAND

I think it should definitely be more affordable

—\_BAILEY.RAMBO

No. Why? Specially coming from byu where tuition is so inexpensive.

—JOAOGRIL014

No. Why should a welder who never went to college pay for my education?

—RYAN.ECHOLS.56

I think education should be free, yet I'm afraid quality education would decrease

—1234MICKEY

Either free or extremely cheap

—BON\_JOSEY

No. I think paying for education makes me more invested in my studies.

—SHAYLA.LYNN88

I think it would help but I also think the educators should be paid fairly.

—BILINGUALPIANIST

Yes, many European countries have implemented free education, why can't the US?

—KRISTINEKIIM

If it becomes free I better get a reimbursement or something

—CADECHRISTIANSEN

I think it should be more affordable, but making it free cheapens the experience

—JAMESUMPHRESS

And who's going to pay for this "free" education? The US already has \$27+ tril of debt

—JARDNER393

I like what BYU does. Highly subsidized but we still pay some so we take ownership

—JENNA.VASQUEZ

## READERS' FORUM

### Human trafficking

### Starving student athletes

Amid a shifting political landscape and global pandemic, media and the general public are paying less and less attention to victims who are being forced or fraudulently coerced into labor or commercial sex acts. Although human trafficking may not seem like a big issue because of its inherent secrecy, we must treat it like the catastrophic issue that it is by promoting awareness.

Students may wonder how they can make a difference while balancing all their current commitments. The good news is that being an active part of the solution doesn't require you to give up your personal goals and activities. What we need most right now are people that are educated, aware and willing to speak up in any circumstance. Research the signs of trafficking and know how to respond if you notice something suspicious. More than anything, the victims that are currently oppressed need people who are compassionate and willing to speak up if they notice something that doesn't feel right.

According to Sunrise for Children, two children across the globe are trafficked every minute. Each and every one of us has the ability to make a difference and advocate for change. We're taught that by small and simple means, great things are brought to pass. If we can promote awareness to the BYU community, each small action will work together to create an immense change and movement for good throughout the world.

—Kelton Couperus  
Egg Harbor, Wisconsin

We understand the challenges and expenses of a college student, balancing time between schoolwork, social life and working a job is difficult. Now imagine a college student with 10 to 15 hours of practice each week and road trips during class. This is the life of an extramural athlete at BYU. They have this time restraint without the benefits that NCAA athletes get. We can compensate these extramural athletes by offering them the same meal plan that NCAA athletes receive.

I am currently on the BYU's extramural lacrosse team and when I work only 12 hours a week, I find it difficult to attend practice every day and complete all my homework. The recommended daily calorie intake for an athlete is 3,000 to 6,000 calories, which is a lot of food and extra expenses. Offering a meal plan would save extramural athletes money and time. Twenty-one out of the 27 BYU teams receive the meal plan, which means that only the six extramural teams don't. These teams work hard to represent their school and we can do better in providing benefits fairly to all the student-athletes at BYU.

I challenge the administration to consider the benefits of providing meal plans for extramural athletes. Giving them the same access to meal plans as NCAA athletes will help them better represent BYU as they compete in their respective sports, while simultaneously increasing their academic and athletic success.

—Kyle Brown  
Draper, Utah

## Tweet Beat

A compilation of tweets that relate to college students, Provo and the BYU campus. Submit tweets to [universe.ideas@gmail.com](mailto:universe.ideas@gmail.com) or [@UniverseBYU](https://twitter.com/UniverseBYU)

### @RichJMarsh

My direct deposit: \$0 still  
Me at the Olive Garden: I guess just the olive tonight.

### @totscheetos

Had a dream I went to the moon and of course my biggest concern was my sisters doing stuff without me

### @Spencer\_Durrant

Underrated benefit of being fat: you don't get as cold during the winter.  
Worst part about being fat: the second it warms up, you start sweating like a convict in a courtroom.

### @tiamammamia\_

i guess it's time to start the 6-7 page paper due at midnight.

### @mozzarellaastick

in provo twitter but not of provo twitter

### @colbyajohnson

My race and gender completely undercut what I'm about to say but every time I listen to mr. brightside feels like the first time

### @saimyguy

I swear imma meet the love of my life and she gon like pancakes over waffles

### @aubreelynd

my brother just said that sodalicious is iphone and swig is android

### @bennley

target and dr martens should really pay me with how much i hype them up for free

### @Joshyk

\*stimmy finally drops\*  
@BYU: How can I help you?  
Me: Yeah lemme buy an actual spring break

### @itsabsaf

I told my mom I got my stimulus direct deposit and she goes "you should open a retirement account" OKAY BUZZKILL

### @factaurial

This week a very tired person was explaining to me how much they loved "Morder Among the Murmans" and I haven't stopped thinking about that since.

### @rodeoman

they're only funeral potatoes if they're from the funeral region of utah

### @SpencerKimb12

Quickest way to rally my family against a common enemy? Bring up BYU housing management.

Tweets are unedited.

## OPINION OUTPOST

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

### One year together, apart

In the year since the pandemic began, people learned to be together while apart and navigated the pain of feeling apart while together. Screens, small and large, became crucial links to the rest of the world.

Activities and routines that commanded crowds — visiting museums, attending concerts, working out, learning, traveling, partying — ceased or found a new life online. Holidays usually celebrated

by family gatherings became fraught with consequences.

Memories of a pre-pandemic world, where people could stand shoulder to shoulder with faces bare, began to feel like dreams — as did moments of unexpected connection.

—Editorial Board

*The New York Times*

### The Biden stimulus

The Biden package is massive. It puts up to \$1,400 into the pockets of low-paid workers and members of their families. It extends a wide range of welfare payments into the autumn, boosts parental tax credits, and maintains special unemployment reliefs and health care subsidies. Much of the support is unconditional.

The poorest fifth of US households will see their incomes rise by 20%. Child poverty may be cut in half.

The economic impact will also be massive. In particular, it lays the ground for a U.S. economic bounce-back that would have seemed unthinkable last year, but which will now be felt around the planet.

—Editorial Board

*The Guardian*

### Earthquakes

Utah lawmakers paid much more attention to the current pandemic than to the earthquake during the just-completed annual session. ... The next emergency probably won't involve masks. The most likely scenario would

be a long-term drought ... Or it might involve a powerful earthquake that causes massive destruction, leading to serious disruptions in utilities ... and possibly looting or other civil unrest.

—Editorial Board

*Deseret News*

### Utah highways

... Streets and highways are bad for us. They kill us quick and they kill us slow. As we move back to life as it was B.C. (before coronavirus) we can choose to change our behavior in ways that make

them less so. More telecommuting. More use of public transit, on existing routes and via services baked in to all new housing and commercial developments. Safer paths for pedestrians and bicycles.

—Editorial Board

*The Salt Lake Tribune*

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

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

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



## A walk in his shoes: A BYU administrator's life as a gay Latter-day Saint

By MADISON SELCHO

Ben Schilaty decided he wanted to join the rowing team when he was a freshman in high school. He went down to the boathouse to meet the other 25 guys who were trying out and the coach explained the first drill.

Each person was to find a rowing machine and row for as long and as hard as they could. No one was allowed to stop until they were so exhausted they couldn't keep going.

Ben's father, Buzz Schilaty, was waiting outside the boathouse for his son when he saw the coach leaving tryouts to go to a meeting. When Buzz came inside to find Ben he found his son still rowing.

When his father asked him to stop, Ben responded that the coach told them not to stop so he wasn't going to stop. Ben kept rowing for another 20 minutes until his father finally ripped him off of the machine.

"It is this story that shows everyone who Ben is. He does not quit. If Ben is going to do something, he is going to do it 100% to the end," Buzz said.

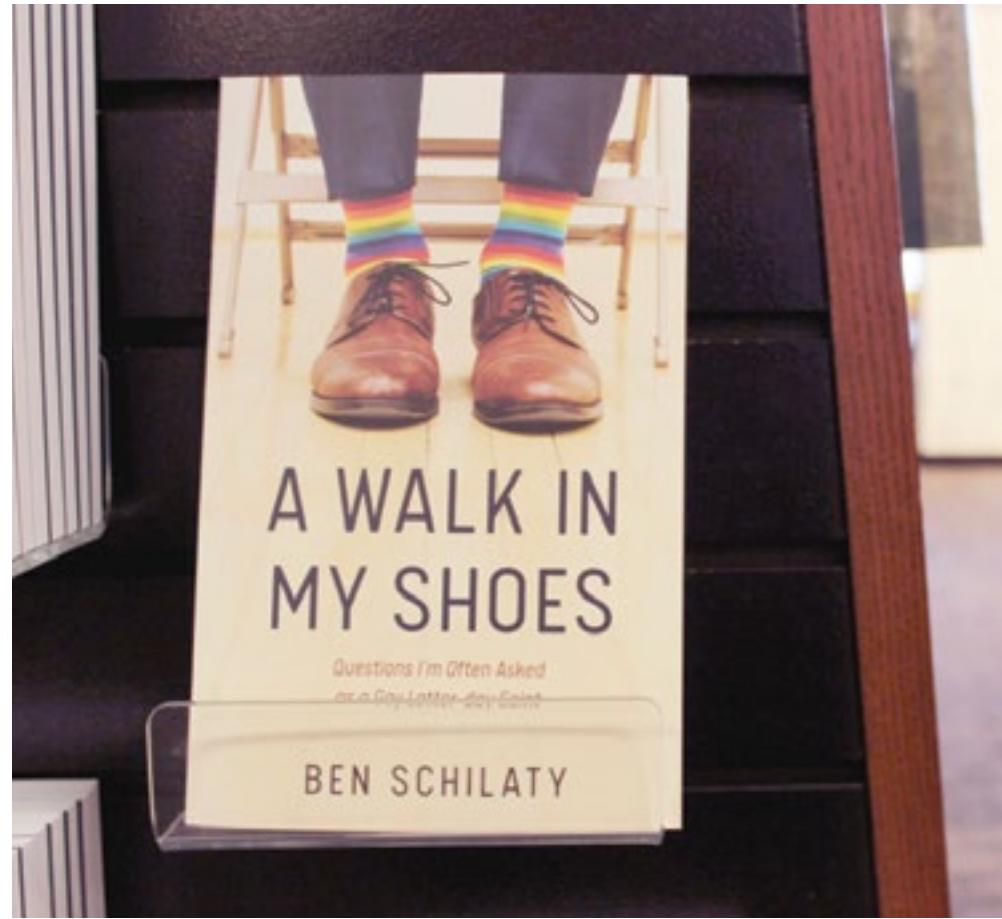
Now a BYU Honor Code Administrator, Ben takes this same 100% attitude to living his life as a gay, active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

### 'Where do I find my home?'

"It's tough because for some people I'm too much of a Latter-day Saint for the LGBTQ community but then for others I'm too LGBTQ for the Latter-day Saint community. So, it's almost like 'Where do I find my home?'" Ben said.

Despite the impossible situation he has found himself in, Ben has continued to show that through the power of Jesus Christ all things are possible.

"I'm walking a covenant path that has as its destination a form of eternity that I'm not sure I even want. But I'm walking it because I feel



Allison McArthur

BYU Honor Code administrator Ben Schilaty's new book "A Walk in My Shoes" helps readers understand more about the LGBTQ experience within the Church.

called to do so," Ben said.

Ben said he has found love and support from both family

members and friends. "As I get to know people and as they get to know me in both

communities I have found lots of people who do know me and do care about me and

that's where I find a place where I do belong."

### Writing a book

Ben shares his story of being both gay and an active Latter-day Saint in his new book, "A Walk in My Shoes: Questions I'm Often Asked as a Gay Latter-day Saint."

Ben tells readers that it is through the power of Jesus Christ and finding his purpose in God that he finds strength to walk a path that is very difficult and often not talked about.

In his book, Ben shares some stories of coming out to his family and friends and how they reacted. One of the first people Ben came out to is a longtime friend, Mitch Peterson.

Ben said he attributes his activity in the Church today to the way Peterson accepted and loved him all those years ago.

"I really hope people get a sense of just how complicated and impossible his situation is. What he is going through isn't easy and I hope people can have resolve to try a lot harder to be kind to everyone," Peterson said.

Peterson expressed his admiration for Ben's character and determination. "Ben has created and is still creating

a safe framework for LGBTQ members of the church but members need to help do their part," Peterson said.

### Love others

"Ben came the way God wanted and intended him to come and I believe that is the same for everyone else. The Savior loves everyone so we need to love everyone; it is just that simple," Buzz said.

One thing Peterson said members can do for the LGBTQ community inside the Church is to grow closer to Christ's basic teachings.

"I love the way the Good Samaritan is set up. It starts off with the question of what can I do to have eternal life? The answer is to love your neighbor as yourself," Peterson said.

Ben shows by example that the best way to make everyone feel that they belong is to treat them as normal human beings.

"There are people knocking right now, and not just LGBTQ people. So many people who just want to be heard and understood," Ben said. "If we are to build Zion, we must create a place where hearts and minds come together and where everyone belongs."

## Police Beat

### Provo

#### THEFT

**March 13** - Property theft was reported near 1200 East and 900 South.

**March 13** - Property theft was reported near 400 North and 500 West.

**March 13** - Property theft was reported near 1100 North on Oakmont Lane.

**March 14** - Property theft was reported near 1500 North on Canyon Road.

**March 15** - Property theft was reported at a residence near 1400 East and 1230 South.

**March 15** - Vehicle parts were reported stolen near 1800 North on State Street.

**March 16** - Property theft was reported near 300 East and 300 South.

**March 17** - Property theft was reported at The Boulders.

#### BURGLARY

**March 13** - A burglary was reported at a storage shed near 1700 North on Willowbrook Drive.

**March 15** - A burglary was reported near 200 South and 1000 East.

**March 15** - A burglary was re-

ported at a residence near 1700 North and 450 West.

**March 17** - A burglary was reported near 3000 North on Piute Drive.

#### ROBBERY

**March 14** - A robbery involving a knife was reported on the street near 600 North on University Avenue.

**March 18** - A robbery involving a knife was reported in a parking garage near 500 North on University Avenue.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT

**March 15** - Forcible sexual abuse was reported near 1000

North and 500 West.

**March 17** - Forcible sexual abuse was reported near 1000 North and 500 West.

#### BYU

#### TRESPASSING

**March 18** - An individual was reported for jumping over the fence at the MTC.

#### AGENCY ASSIST

**March 14** - Officers responded to a request for assistance from the Provo Police in locating a hiker lost in Slate Canyon.

#### PROPERTY DAMAGE

**March 14** - A woman was report-

ed for driving her car through a closed gate near the Ellsworth Building, causing damage to the gate as well as to the vehicle.

#### NUISANCE

**March 14** - An individual was reported for skateboarding on campus and was asked to leave.

#### RECOVERED VEHICLE/DRUGS

**March 16** - Officers located a stolen vehicle with three occupants at Wymount Terrace. The driver was arrested for driving on a suspended or revoked license, possession of a stolen vehicle and meth possession.

## DATE IDEAS SURE TO MAKE THEIR HEART MELT



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

