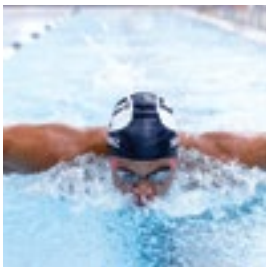


## Extra-ordinary art

Exhibit combines whimsy, sophistication to reflect on human experience

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## Olympic swimmer

BYU swimmer Josué Dominguez shares his Olympic journey

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## Stadium of Fire

Provo lights up again following 2020 cancellation due to COVID-19 pandemic

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July 7 - August 3, 2021

# THE DAILY UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

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Provo, Utah

## Green Flake movie highlights faith of early Black Latter-day Saints

By CASSIDY WIXOM

The new movie, “His Name Is Green Flake,” is inspired by the true story of an enslaved pioneer who helped pave the way across the plains for Saints to settle in Utah.

Mauli Junior Bonner, the creator and director of the film, is hoping it helps viewers appreciate the strength and faith of the early Black Saints.

Bonner had never heard of Green Flake until he performed at the “Be One” celebration with his family, The Bonner Family. The Be One celebration was put on by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 2018 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the priesthood ban on Black members being lifted.

At the event there was a presentation about early Black pioneers including Jane Manning James, Elijah Abel, Green Flake and more. Bonner said he left the celebration wanting to learn more about all these early Saints he had never heard of before.

Bonner dove into research on early Black Saints, meeting with historians, looking through journals, and learning as much as he could about the enslaved members, the first Blacks to receive the priesthood, and others. As a songwriter, Bonner’s research quickly turned into writing songs to help him release his creative thoughts and deal with the emotional toll many of the stories had on him.

Somewhere along this writing and reading process, Bonner ended up writing 200 pages of information on Green Flake and some other Saints that could be turned into a movie.

“I had no intent initially, but over time the songs and reading turned into writing scenes. I had never written a script or thought of making a movie and being a director. It



Mauli Junior Bonner

Mauli Bonner, left, directing the film titled “His Name Is Green Flake.” The film tells the story of an enslaved Black pioneer who helped early Saints travel to and establish Utah.

just happened during this process,” Bonner said.

### Sharing Black Saint stories

Looking at the script he had written, Bonner said he knew he had to make the film to help others learn what he had learned about the sensitive topic of enslavement in American and Latter-day Saint history. “Learning about their stories strengthened my testimony. I realized I needed to share these stories in the same spirit that I learned them,” he said.

Dana King is a BYU alumna and white member of Church who lives in

St. Louis. She said learning about the stories of early Black Saints and today’s Black Saints has helped her testimony immensely.

“Too often I hear Black history is only for Black people and I think we really miss out on the blessing it can be to us,” King said. She said learning about “Black struggle” can teach how to stand up to evil and find joy in trials. She also said the resilience of the Black Saints can teach members today to be more resilient and give people stories to draw strength from.

King served in her area with Church Public Affairs, and worked

with the local Urban League, The Dred Scott Foundation and more to be an advocate for unity in the St. Louis community. She is a former board member of blacklatterdaysaints.org, a website that celebrates Black Saints’ contributions to the Church and also helped organize Discover Your Roots, an African American family history conference. Her focus in all of this she said, is to be a bridge-builder between the white and Black communities, especially in the Church and in Missouri.

She said she appreciates storytellers like Bonner who are bringing stories

like Green Flake’s out of obscurity. Black history, is “the story of all of us,” King said. “It’s everyone’s history and leaving any part out is like leaving people out of the Restoration.”

Although creating a movie is usually a two-year process, Bonner was able to finish the script, gather a cast and crew, and start shooting “His Name Is Green Flake” only a few months after learning about him. They shot almost the entire film in just a week and a half in snowy Utah in December 2018. They completed the last few scenes, which required a different season, in May 2019.

Bonner then took a year off from the movie to spend time with his family and get back to his normal job. When the pandemic hit in 2020, he had enough extra time to put the movie together, add music and finalize the details.

### Impact of the film

“The film turned out to be beautiful and I don’t say that because I’m the director. I feel like I had nothing to do with it!” Bonner said. “The Lord guided everyone’s hands and lips and their scenes, and it was incredible.”

The movie was officially released on June 8, 2021, the 43rd anniversary of the priesthood ban for Black members being lifted.

“His Name Is Green Flake” won best Film in 10 film festivals including the London Independent Film Awards, the Los Angeles Film Awards, Venice Film Awards and more. The movie also received over 40 other awards for writing, costuming, score and acting, Bonner said.

Bonner said the film has been received well by both those in and outside the Church. He thinks it’s “an incredible healing agent” that opens education and discussions on the contributions and history of Black Saints and pioneers in the Church.

See MOVIE on Page 4

## 'Period poverty' affects millions of women, girls globally

By KRISTINE KIM

Globally, 3.5 billion women have monthly periods. According to the charitable organization Days for Girls, over 500 million women and girls, nearly 25% of all menstruators, experience “period poverty.” These women do not have access to feminine hygiene products.

According to Thinx and PERIOD, one in five teenagers in the United States has struggled to afford period products. According to the Days for Girls website, period poverty is a term used to describe the lack of access to adequate menstrual health management supplies and education for women and girls.

This lack of resources and supplies for menstrual health can have negative consequences on women.

### Expensive prices for feminine hygiene products

According to Pandia Health, if a woman was to use one tampon every six hours, that would equal 20 tampons for every five-day menstrual cycle, totaling 9,120 tampons in a lifetime. If a 36-tampon box costs \$7, the lifetime cost would be \$1,778.

With panty liners, an estimated average would be \$433.33 per lifetime.

If a woman was to use three to five pads a day over a five-day period, they would likely spend around \$4,752 in their lifetime on pads.

On top of the high prices on period products, there is also a “pink tax” on feminine hygiene products. According to Investopedia, “pink tax” is a price discrepancy in which services and products marketed to women cost more than identical products or services marketed to men. Out of the 50 U.S. states, 30 states still have this pink tax.

“In Utah, period products are taxed as a luxury item, but condoms



Days for Girls

Period poverty affects millions of women throughout the U.S. and the world. Many are unable to afford feminine hygiene products because of the price.

aren’t taxed,” said BYU alumna and Days for Girls global advocacy director Diana Nelson. “It’s under a pink tax because feminine hygiene products aren’t seen as a medical necessity, but as a luxury.”

### College students affected by period poverty

Women attending university campuses across the U.S. have been affected by period poverty and have been unable to buy feminine hygiene products because of how expensive they are.

According to private surveys from Penn State Days for Girls Club, 49% of respondents started their period

on campus and were unable to find period products. Approximately 13% of respondents also missed school or work because of a lack of access to period products.

Nelson shared a memory she had with her roommate when she attended BYU. Her roommate would often take toilet paper and make them into pads. At the time, Nelson didn’t realize her roommate was unable to afford pads, and therefore had to use makeshift pads that were uncomfortable and hard to use.

“I look back and I put all of it together. I realized I had all these pads I could have shared with her, but I didn’t know at the time,” Nelson said.

BYU Women’s Services and Resources Director Dixie Sevison said the office has a drawer full of different feminine hygiene products available for students, and they don’t limit how much each student can take.

Sevison said other university campuses have started offering feminine hygiene products to students for free on campus. Women’s Services and Resources has also started working on a proposal to BYU which would offer free feminine hygiene products to women on campus.

### Presenteeism and absenteeism

Women having periods may also struggle with presenteeism, a loss in productivity when employees are unable to fully function because of their period cramps or pain, according to Reuters Health.

Nelson said women who struggle with periods and period poverty can be physically present at school or work, but absent in their minds because of a fear they might be leaking and pain from period cramps.

There have been instances of women being called up to share a presentation or to show their work, and being unable to do so for fear of leaking, she said.

According to Days for Girls, absenteeism is another implication of not having access to feminine hygiene products or having extreme menstrual pain. Absenteeism is failure to report or remain at work or school as scheduled.

In March 2018, a period tracker app called Clue said 18% of women in the U.S. missed school, work or an event because of menstruation.

Nelson said pain and fear can impact women detrimentally — including their school and work performance. This could cause women to lose jobs or do poorly on performance reviews. This would affect women’s sources of income and put them at a further risk of losing their jobs or

create a risk for poverty.

### Raising awareness about period poverty

According to The Pad Project, talking about periods may be uncomfortable at first, but as people speak out more about menstrual health, it will allow society to confront the issues surrounding it.

“We can’t change something until we’re aware of it,” Nelson said.

Jessica Blotter, Days for Girls volunteer and BYU kinesiology and exercise science student, said it’s not a choice for women to go through menstruation. It’s natural and normal and shouldn’t be something they are ashamed about.

Blotter said even when she’s open about periods and cramps, some of her friends, especially male friends, have gotten embarrassed talking about it.

She said her roommate would stay home when she was having her period and refrain from spending time with other people because of a lack of understanding of periods within the culture where she was from. People from her culture told her she should stay home and refrain from interacting with other people, especially other men.

“Periods should be normalized, especially at BYU — you shouldn’t have to feel like you’re different because you’re going through your period,” Blotter said.

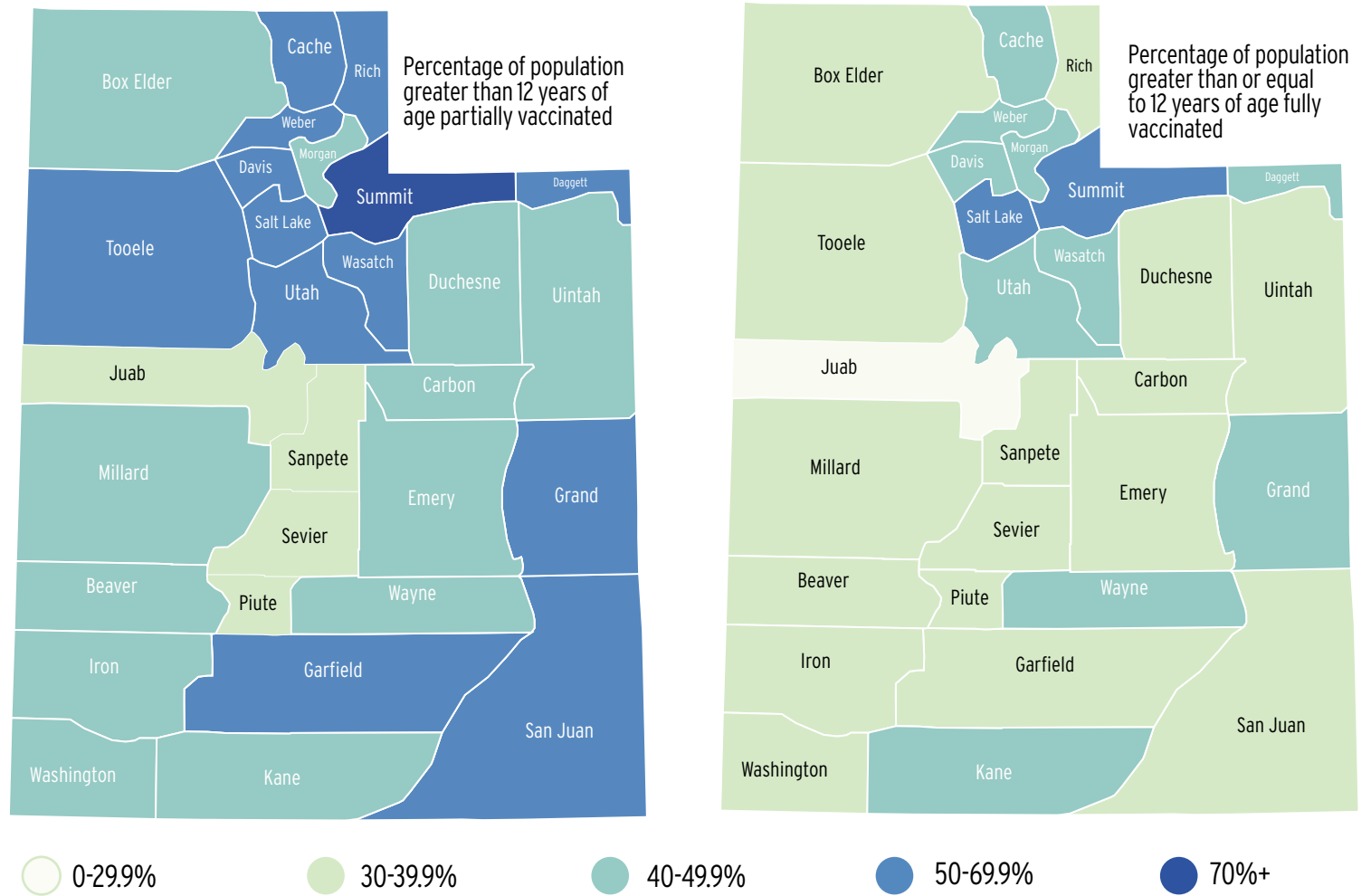
She hopes to raise awareness about periods and period poverty, and normalize talking about it. She also hopes to start a Days for Girls club or a club that raises awareness about menstrual health on campus.

Nelson said it must have been embarrassing for her friend to be in an environment where she should have had the supplies but couldn’t afford them because of expensive product prices. Her roommate couldn’t ask others for the help she needed, because no one talked about it.



# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Vaccination percentages per county and age group



Percent of county populations partially vaccinated (left) and fully vaccinated (right) according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of July 4.

Allie Peterson

## Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



### Wildlife, air quality at risk as Great Salt Lake nears low

The silvery blue waters of the Great Salt Lake sprawl across the Utah desert, having covered an area nearly the size of Delaware for much of history. For years, though, the largest natural lake west of the Mississippi River has been shrinking. And a drought gripping the American West could make this year the worst yet.

The receding water is already affecting the nesting spot of pelicans that are among the millions of birds dependent on the lake. Sailboats have been hoisted out of the water to keep them from getting stuck in the mud. More dry lakebed getting exposed could send arsenic-laced dust into the air that millions breathe.



### Fewer working-age people may slow economy

As America's job market rebounds this summer and the need for workers intensifies, employers won't likely have a chance to relax anytime soon. Worker shortages will likely persist for years after the fast-reopening economy shakes off its growing pains.

Consider that the number of working age people did something last year it had never done in the nation's history: It shrank.

Still, some economists foresee a silver lining for individuals: Fewer people of working age could compel companies to compete harder to hire and retain employees. And that could mean higher pay, better opportunities and other inducements to keep and attract workers, a trend already evident in the June jobs report the government released July 2.



### Boy Scouts bankruptcy plans have mixed responses

An \$850 million agreement by the Boy Scouts of America to compensate sex-abuse victims prompted outrage on July 2 from some survivors and their advocates, while others were encouraged and saw it as the best outcome that could be achieved under the circumstances.

The agreement, filed in court late on July 1 as a step toward resolving a complex bankruptcy case, includes the BSA national leadership, abuse victims, local Boy Scout councils and lawyers appointed to represent victims who might file future claims.



### Tribes say voting access hurt by US Supreme Court ruling

Voters in Apache County had to cast ballots at the polling location they were assigned. People registered in Navajo County could vote anywhere in the county. Coconino County used a hybrid model.

The Navajo Nation has long argued the approach is inconsistent and confusing, leading to ballots being rejected and tribal members being denied the same opportunity to vote as others in Arizona.

The U.S. Supreme Court disagreed on July 1 in a broader case over Arizona voting regulations, upholding a prohibition on counting ballots cast in the wrong precinct and returning early ballots for another person.

## BYU clubs allowed to plan events without COVID-19 protocols

By JEFF SALCEDO

Clubs will no longer have to socially distance, require masks and distribute individually packaged meals, among other protocols, but are still advised to, "exercise sensible caution," an email from the Student Academic Association Office said.

The decision to loosen COVID-19 guidelines comes as a positive one for clubs as they can host events in a pre-pandemic fashion.

"We're a social dance club, so it really limited us not being able to hold dances regularly and it limited the styles of dance we were able to do. We're really excited to be able to start planning dances, where it is a social atmosphere, you can dance with different people," BYU Vintage Swing Dance Club President Alyssa Ward said.

Clubs faced obstacles to overcome during COVID-19 as they were only allowed to have events on BYUSA Club Night alongside other clubs, instead of hosting an event on their own, Ward said.

## South Korea sees biggest daily virus jump in 6 months

ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korea has reported 826 new cases of the coronavirus, its biggest daily jump in about six months, as fears grow about another huge wave of the virus in the greater capital area.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said 633 of the cases came from the Seoul metropolitan area, home to half of the country's 51 million people, where officials pushed back

an easing of social distancing measures as infections soared over the past week.

Dozens of infections were each reported in other major cities and regions, including Busan, Daejeon and South Chungcheong Province.

Some health experts say government officials sent the wrong message to the public by announcing plans to allow for larger gatherings and longer indoor dining hours at restaurants starting this month to ease the pandemic's shock on the economy.

## Navajo Nation reports 5 more COVID-19 cases, 2 more deaths

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Navajo Nation on July 3 reported five additional COVID-19 cases and two more deaths.

A statement released by tribal officials said the additional deaths increased the tribe's pandemic death toll to 1,356.

The statement did not provide an updated count of total cases among residents of the sprawling reservation that includes parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Tribal officials did not immediately respond to a query but a statement released July 2 by the tribe had said that the number of positive cases stood at 31,012.

## BYU athletic department officially institutes name, likeness policies

By JACKSON PAYNE

Following the new NCAA regulations regarding compensation for name, image and likeness rights, BYU officially introduced its name, image and likeness policies for student-athletes on Thursday, July 1 to be implemented immediately.

Athletic director Tom Holmoe shared the new policies in a letter to all athletes and coaches on June 30, including a digital name, image and likeness disclosure form for athletes ready to enter into an agreement.

Noteworthy policy items include keeping compensation value within fair market bounds and forbidding compensation for specific athletic achievements ("pay to play"). Cougar athletes will also be unable to participate in agreements with businesses or products contrary to the BYU Honor code, including alcohol, tobacco and gambling.

Holmoe acknowledged that the policies would likely continue to develop as the new economic landscape of college sports takes shape following the decision.

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## Missionaries return to Provo MTC

By EMMA GADESKI

The Provo Missionary Training Center reopened for in-person training on Wednesday, June 23, when 248 missionaries arrived after completing a week of online instruction at home.

According to a news release from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, similar numbers are scheduled to arrive each Wednesday in the coming weeks. Missionaries will spend about two weeks training in person before traveling to their area of assignment. The Church also began a new era of online instruction at home for a week before missionaries head to the MTC.

The Provo MTC will operate at a reduced capacity for the foreseeable future as a precaution, and COVID-19 tests will be administered to anyone who exhibits symptoms during training. Only fully vaccinated missionaries can train in person at the Provo MTC as a temporary precaution.

Not all missionaries who have a mission call will train in person.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

## Vik Muniz exhibit shows viewers extraordinary side of reality

By GABRIELLE SHIOZAWA

The “Mona Lisa” in peanut butter and jelly. A portrait of Frankenstein’s monster made out of caviar. Francisco Goya’s “Saturn Devouring His Son” composed from piles of junk.

Vik Muniz’s art is whimsical and playful on the surface. As viewers look deeper at the contemporary artist’s work, however, they find what museum curator Kenneth Hartvigsen called “the sophistication behind the joke.” This includes social commentary and deep reflections on the human experience.

Visitors to the Brigham Young University Museum of Art can experience that powerful combination of whimsy and sophistication for themselves through the exhibit “Vik Muniz: Extra-ordinary.” The display opened June 18 and will be available until Nov. 27.

### The exhibit

Vik Muniz was born in São Paulo in 1961 and moved to the United States in 1983. His work has been featured worldwide in prestigious collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Extra-ordinary features more than 100 of Muniz’s works. Featured works include a high-tech series of sandcastle drawings carved into singular grains of sand, aerial photographs of large-scale bulldozer carvings he directed the formation of and intricate collages of famous cities.

This exhibit is unique for the Museum of Art in two ways: how well-known and prominent Muniz is in the contemporary sphere and how much of his work is accessible in a single display.

“To have a mid-career retrospective where people can see all the aspects of his career in one place, it does make it very special,” Hartvigsen said.

### “The Sugar Children”

One prominent feature in the Muniz exhibit is “The Sugar Children,” a series of six portraits of Caribbean children made out of grains of sugar. Muniz created these portraits in 1996 after visiting with families on the island St. Kitts who eke out a living working on sugar cane plantations.

This breakout creation launched Muniz’s career, as his photographs of the portraits were chosen for the Museum of Modern Art’s 1997 New Photography roundup.

“Each portrait serves as a reminder that the sweetest things in life can have bitter origins,” Hartvigsen wrote in the portraits’ label. He pointed out the poignance of each title,



Gabrielle Shiozawa

BYU student Claire Bates views a collage from Vik Muniz’s “Espelhos de Papel” series on display at the BYU Museum of Art. The exhibit “Vik Muniz: Extra-ordinary” is open from June 18 through Nov. 27.

which gives greater personality and definition to the subjects: “Jacynthe Loves Orange Juice” and “Lil’ Calist Can’t Swim.”

“You start to see them as individuals,” Hartvigsen said. “You start to think of them not just as children in a difficult situation but as people you might know.”

Muniz’s work is intended to not only entertain viewers and wow them with his technical expertise but also to make them ask questions about the way they see the world. Hartvigsen said Muniz’s work prompts audiences to look more closely and learn more deeply.

“I think that’s ultimately what his work is about: if you look once, do you see everything you’re supposed to see?” Hartvigsen said. “Do we see and feel and understand the world as deeply as we should? Or do we look at things once, make a decision or a judgment, and then move on?”

### “George Stinney, Jr.”

Muniz’s oversized collage “George Stinney, Jr.” shows a mugshot of the titular figure, the youngest person in the United States to be sentenced to death in the 20th century. Stinney was 14 years old when he was executed by electric chair in 1944 after being wrongly accused of murdering two little girls. Stinney’s case was reopened and he was posthumously exonerated in December 2014.

Hartvigsen described the visceral experience of seeing the artwork in person for the first time.

“It was a very profound experience to look at the mugshot and be very, very aware that this picture I was looking at was of a child,” Hartvigsen said.

The collage is made out of smaller images of people laughing and living their normal lives. It is part of Muniz’s “Album” series.

“The feeling I had was a

reminder that we are all part of our successes and our failures as a human race,” Hartvigsen said. “I am still part of this story, just as all these faces and people make up this portrait of George Stinney, Jr.”

### “Pictures of Garbage”

Muniz’s work finds the extraordinary in the ordinary, and his 2008 series “Pictures of Garbage” is no exception. For this seven-photograph collection, Muniz collaborated with Brazilian garbage pickers in Jardim Gramacho, a 321-acre landfill just outside Rio. Muniz employed impoverished trash pickers to help him create enormous works of art modeled out of refuse. The works took about a month each to create. The final products were sold as photographs to benefit the garbage pickers and help them gain a new lease on life.

The 2010 documentary “Waste Land,” directed by Lucy Walker, shows Muniz’s behind-the-scenes process creating the portraits. The documentary won the Audience Award for a World Cinema Documentary at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, among other prizes at other distinguished film festivals.

### “Look Again, and Look More Closely”

Visitors to the museum so far have expressed high praise for the Muniz exhibit. Hartvigsen said he has enjoyed walking around the gallery and seeing how people interact with and learn from the pieces.

“I think that’s what Vik’s work does: It says, ‘Why don’t you look again, and look more closely, and see if you can learn more or feel more?’” Hartvigsen said. “You spend more time with it, and it continues to teach you. I hope the show engenders that kind of thoughtfulness that sometimes is lacking in modern society.”

## IRA A. FULTON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

### Alumni wins historic Manufacturing Design Competition



Andrew Eyring

Frandsen. This was the first time in BYU history two students have made it to the final round at the same time.

Eyring’s award-winning project, “Analysis of a Closed-Loop Digital Twin,” uses a dice demonstrator to analyze data in sorting and production. This project lets manufacturers make predictions of how their machines will function.

Professor Yuri Hovanski and the BYU smart manufacturing research lab assisted Eyring in his research. Eyring’s wife also supported him and provided tips for presenting his project.

“I am feeling confident in my research,” Eyring said. “I think people are really starting to understand the importance of what we are doing here at BYU in terms of advancing research in smart manufacturing.”

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Dance alumna pushes toward success after setbacks



Kaley Jensen

A BYU dance alumna showed resilience in reaching success, overcoming an injury and redefining her purpose as a dancer. Kaley Jensen is a 2015 graduate and spent all four years of her undergrad performing with the BYU Theatre Ballet company. Afterward she performed with illustrious groups including the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Ballet North Texas, Bruce

Wood Dance and Ballet Dallas.

In June 2016 Jensen was a newlywed, studying postgrad at the University of Arizona and was accepted into the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, when she and her husband were hit by a drunk driver on an unlit highway. Her husband suffered only minor injuries, but Jensen’s back was broken. She had to wear a brace 24/7, could only bend at the waist and required help getting dressed.

Through physical therapy and her own hard work Jensen returned to performing in February 2017. Jensen said her months of recovery and downtime led to a great deal of reflection and appreciation.

“I really just tried to focus on the ‘What am I to learn from this?’ because what happened, happened,” Jensen said. She was inspired to create an app that allows her to coach dancers virtually. The program launched in spring 2020. Jensen chooses to keep her variety of classes small at 10-12 participants per session so she can develop individual relationships with them. Her program is called “Mind to Movement” and teaches Pilates, dance, body movement and nutrition.

## SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS

### Article on COVID-19’s psychological effects wins award



Pamela Brubaker

formed communities at the start of the pandemic, providing support and resources for those who were struggling. Their research uncovered a correlation between rising COVID-19 cases and conversations referencing depression, PTSD and psychologists.

“People became more aware of their need for psychological help as well as their own personal difficulties with social isolation,” Brubaker said of the pandemic’s toll.

Brubaker and her students hope their research will help readers continue to address mental health issues in more positive ways in the future.

“Not everyone actively reaches out and seeks help when they are struggling,” Brubaker said. “We have a responsibility to actively use social media to lift others by regularly offering kind words and expressions of gratitude. Our online actions can go a long way in uplifting others, whether or not we are in a pandemic.”

## LGBTQ community, allies host first BYU Pride March

By EMMA GADESKI

Members of the LGBTQ community and allies at BYU hosted the first ever BYU Pride March on Monday, June 28. The group is not sponsored by the university.

The event was organized by BYU Pride, a group which “aims to empower students to celebrate progress made by the LGBTQ+ community at BYU and to advocate for change through collaborative activism” according to its Instagram, @byupride.

Hundreds of people participated in the march, including BYU students, alumni and professors. It started at Joaquin Park and ended at Kiwanis Park south of campus. Provo Police helped direct traffic and keep everyone safe. A few guest speakers addressed the crowd at the beginning of the event, including actor Stacey Harkey, a former Studio C cast member. BYU alumnus and OUT Foundation member Emma Ramirez also spoke, along with a current BYU student.

Harkey, who is gay, said for 30 odd years of his life, he did what other people wanted him to do, and these people didn’t have to live with the consequences. His bishop who gave him counsel didn’t have to sit at home alone wondering why he was so broken.

“And it made me realize that if you’re going to live with the consequences of your own life, you have every right to take it into your own hands,” he said. “Every right!”

Harkey came out as gay publicly in 2018. A couple months before that, he said he was trying to live a single life and had also tried dating women. “I find myself single, incredibly active in every way I can be in the community,” he said. “And I am so, so sad. I am



Cassidy Wixom

BYU alumnus and actor Stacey Harkey speaks to the crowd at the first ever BYU Pride March on Monday, June 28.

so sad. So sad.”

He said he used to pray for God to fix him, but decided one night to pray and see if “God was cool with it.” He felt the most comforting peace and that he had been fighting who he was. He realized he is exactly who he’s meant to be, and said every person needs to know this as well.

“You are made by a Creator of perfection who does not make mistakes,” he said. “If you were like me looking in the mirror wondering why you were broken, you’re looking in the wrong mirror. Because we are not made imperfect. We are not made broken. And sometimes, a weed is just flower in the wrong place.”

After Harkey’s remarks, the crowd marched for about a mile with rainbow signs and outfits. One woman, Becky Edwards, wore a shirt and held a sign that said “Free Mom Hugs.” Edwards has a gay son and is aware of the pain of the LGBTQ community. She said she wants to be a “conduit of God’s love.”

Edwards went to her first Pride march a couple weeks ago and gave out hugs. “I knew that this is part of what I was sent here to do, was to love people who don’t feel the same amount of love that I naturally get because I’m straight.”

BYU alumnus Adrienne McKell attended the march with her husband, Jake McKell. She said she recently came out as bisexual and just graduated from BYU in April. “We’re excited to represent both BYU and the LGBTQ community.”

Another participant, Shelby Wagner also said she was participating to support the LGBTQ community. She said she doesn’t feel that BYU and Provo are very supportive, so the event meant a lot.

Kagen Nelson agreed and said he feels the community is a lot more represented in Salt Lake City, but it’s a little more “hush-hush” in Provo. “It’s amazing to see everyone turn out for this great cause.”

The event ended at Kiwanis Park with music and dancing.

## Nesting hawk attacks near Maeser and Brimhall buildings

By CASSIDY WIXOM

A student was attacked by a nesting hawk while running on campus near the Maeser and Brimhall buildings earlier this summer. Signs and barricades have been set up to prevent further nesting hawk attacks.

BYU communications student Joseph Hovey was running his usual route on campus when he noticed a flying bird. He didn’t think too much of the bird until he noticed it flying around again, but lower. He heard something from behind then felt a big thump on his head. “It scared me to death more than anything,” Hovey said.

He stopped, looked up and found a hawk perched on the tree above him. He thought “oh snap, that thing’s big,” before he took off running again, only much faster this time. As he ran away, Hovey noticed a lot of bird droppings under the tree and assumed there must be a nest up there.

Hovey called campus police and was transferred to Risk Management where he



Hannah Miner

Signs and barricades have been set up around the Maeser and Brimhall buildings to prevent nesting hawks from attacking students as they walk by.

reported the attack. He said Risk Management mentioned other recent reports had been made of the hawk and its nest in the tree.

Hovey said the experience was actually humbling for him and a reminder that Mother Nature is still in charge.

University Communications spoke with Paul Boekweg, BYU’s pest specialist, who said the birds are protected by federal law. During nesting season, the nests are also protected which is why BYU put up signs and barricades in the area.

Blocking off the area protects individuals walking there from the birds, and encourages people to avoid the birds so they don’t disturb the nest.

Reports of hawk attacks in the same area are not new. In 2016 several students and faculty were attacked, including two students who got scratched on their heads by the hawk. Similar attacks and area closures also occurred in 2018.

The western Marriott Center bridge is also closed because of crows nesting in the area.



# Post-COVID visitation surge turning Utah national parks into 'Disneyland'

By CALEB TURNER

If you're planning on visiting one of Utah's five national parks this summer, be prepared to wait a while to get in, and maybe even bring a backup plan.

Chief of Interpretation, Education and Visitor Services at Arches and Canyonlands National Parks Angie Richman said visitation numbers have increased every month at Arches since September 2020. She attributes this to the COVID-19 pandemic limiting international travel and forcing people to go outdoors for many of their activities, creating an unexpected jump in visitation for the national parks.

"We really encouraged the American population to go places that are outdoors, because outdoors is safer (from COVID-19)," Richman said. "Parks are one of those places that people have chosen to go."

Richman said that on any given afternoon people can walk around the parking lot at Arches and see a license plate from all 50 states. Despite the increased interstate travel, she said the majority of park visitors are still coming from Utah and neighboring Colorado.

To accommodate the increased visits, Arches has had to temporarily close its gates during the busy morning hours almost every day since March, whereas they previously only had to do so on holiday weekends.

"As the temperatures have increased, visitors are coming earlier and earlier," Richman said. "At Arches we only have so many parking lots. Once the parking lots are full at 100% capacity, then we have to do a temporary entrance delay, where we can't allow any more people into the park until we have enough people leave."



National Parks Service

Angie Richman, chief of Interpretation, Education and Visitor Services at Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, said visitation numbers have increased every month at Arches National Park since September 2020.

These delays can last several hours, as the park has to wait until the parking lots have at least 20 percent capacity to open back up. Because of this, Richman said they encourage visitors to come with a plan B, whether it's going to another nearby park such as Canyonlands, or just spending time around Moab at the various museums and other hiking trails. Visitors are then invited to return in the afternoon when the park is less busy, though Richman said they may still have to wait in line.

Recent BYU graduate Katherine Carling visited Moab in April, and said she decided to go to Canyonlands after seeing a long line at Arches at 8 a.m. She said Canyonlands was not very crowded, but when they went back to Arches at 4 p.m. the same day the line was still "massive."

"The trip was still fun, but I'd definitely say it could've been a lot cooler if we were able to add some variety like we would've at Arches,"

Carling said. "I bet Arches is more popular because of the Utah license plate. It made Delicate Arch iconic and that hike is always overrun with people now. It's insane."

BYU communications professor Ed Carter said he has intentionally avoided national parks since the pandemic started because they are too crowded and "feel like Disneyland or something." He shared his experience visiting Bryce Canyon National Park this summer when he got partway into the park and a traffic ranger turned him around without explaining what was going on. His group ended up doing a 5-mile hike just inside the park entrance, but he says, "The whole thing reinforced (his) commitment to stay away from national parks and go elsewhere as much as possible."

Carter added that he has tried to visit more "out-of-the-way outdoor recreation spots that may not have the name recognition but can be just as enjoyable and spectacular."

Another BYU alumnus, McKayla Robinson, said she visited Zion National Park in October 2020 and "it was the busiest (she has) ever seen it."

Despite the crowds and long wait times, people are still going out to Utah's national parks, and they are getting busier by the month. To help adjust to the growth and demand, Richman said her park is researching several ways to deal with the crowds, including a shuttle, secondary entrance and timed entry system. After more research and civic engagement later this summer, the park will put together a recommendation package for approval by regional and national directors.

Richman said possible long-term consequences of the jump in visitation could be staff burnout and an increase in new visitors that are unaware of park rules. "We've been really trying to be out on the trails and in the parking lots so we can inform people on how to have a safe and respectful visit."

## MOVIE

### *Saints learn from Black experiences*

*Continued from Page 1*

"By raising awareness of Green Flake and other important contributors to this sacred history, we can come together to celebrate those forgotten heroes," the Green Flake website states.

BYU alumni and Church member Lauren Halversen said the movie instilled in her a reverence for the faith and sacrifice the Black Saints had while enduring racial injustices.

"The film does a fantastic job of not only establishing the complexities regarding race within the early years of the church, but also developing the characters of the individuals portrayed," Halversen said. "Too many of us don't know their stories, and I am grateful for Maui and the work he did to fix that problem."

#### **Honoring Black Saints' history**

King said as people expose themselves to the stories of Black members, "You will come to know yourself and come to know that Black lives bless." Listening to other's stories helps individuals see Christ in different ways.

By further bringing the Black Latter-day Saint perspective to light, King said members of the Church will be more united in Christ and have the opportunity to be more successful ambassadors for the gathering of Israel. She hopes all members can be better about learning the history of Black members in the Church and actively make today's world a better place for them.

King said while individuals can't change the entire world, "we can make the spaces we occupy safe and it starts in our families and our wards."

After finishing the movie, Bonner realized there were no monuments in Utah dedicated to the Black Saints who helped establish Utah and contributed to the early Church. Because of this, Bonner decided all proceeds from the film would go to funding a monument to honor

and remember the sacrifice and faith of Black pioneers. He hopes this monument will "add a piece of remembrance for generations to come."

Bonner pointed out the strength and testimony Black members must have had to labor on and make donations for the construction of the Salt Lake temple when they knew they couldn't step inside. "Their faith allows me to realize there is nothing I can't endure for the Lord," Bonner said. He hopes all members of the Church today will draw strength from their faith and testimonies.

Official plans and details on the monument are unclear at the moment, but Bonner is working hard to get his dream realized. He has already met with This is the Place Heritage Park and begun discussions with them on building a monument for the Black pioneers there.

Bonner has also met with leaders of the Church to discuss another potential monument to be built at Temple Square in honor of the early pioneers' contributions to the Salt Lake Temple. As of right now, the outlook for both monuments is positive and Bonner is hopeful they will be built in the next few years.

To watch the film, individuals can purchase a "watch party" on the Green Flake website which includes access to the film for 24 hours and a Q&A session with the director and some of the cast. There are only four more screenings left which will be on July 9, 10, 23 and the final screening on Pioneer Day, July 24. All proceeds from the watch parties go to funding the monuments.

Some resources to learn about Black contributions to Church history include "A Century of Black Mormons" by University of Utah history professor Paul Reeve, the movie "Nobody Knows: The Untold Story of Black Mormons," and the book trilogy "Standing on the Promises" by Margaret Young and Darius Gray. The second book in Young and Gray's trilogy is called "Bound for Canaan" and includes many details of Green Flake's life and the pioneer trek west to Utah.

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# THE DAILY UNIVERSE


**DAILY U  
LY UNIV  
ERSE TH** Tuesday 4/6

News from BYU's Daily Universe directly to your inbox

Good morning,

Today's newsletter covers a look at the first Black faculty member to give a BYU devotional in over a decade, the Tweet Bear and an overview of news from the field of education.

News



**First Black faculty member in 14 years to give devotional**  
*By Holly Cluff*

A Black BYU faculty member will give a campus devotional for the first time in fourteen years on April 6.

Ryan Gabriel, a professor specializing in urban sociology, will give an address titled, "Healing Racism through Jesus Christ." He said he hopes his address can play a small role in helping people better understand Jesus Christ's atonement and its power to unite people of different races and ethnicities in a Zion community.

"It is pointing to Christ and thus not about the individual (giving the address), but who the individual is will shape how that message comes across," he said.

[Read more...](#)

**End of an era: The Daily Universe to print final weekly paper April**



# How cream of mushroom soup helped BYU's Josué Dominguez reach the Olympics

By SYDNEY TOWNSEND

Atlanta, Georgia — 2019

He lines up at the blocks, adjusting his cap and goggles. His hands meet the edge of the platform as he waits for the buzzer. Questions are bombarding his mind as he leaps into the water and muscle memory takes over. Touching the wall, he completes his 100-meter breaststroke in just 1:01.28.

Across the country in Provo, Coach Shari Skabelund excitedly navigates a crowded Smith Fieldhouse during a women's volleyball match to find BYU Athletic Director Tom Holmoe.

She has big news.

Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic — 2000

In the north-central part of the Dominican Republic lies Santiago De Los Caballeros, the second-largest city in the country. It is known as "La Ciudad Corazón," or, "the Heartland City." Baseball is the clear favorite when it comes to pastimes in the city, but not every child grew up hitting dingers and running around the diamond. For BYU swimmer and Santiago native Josué Dominguez, it was swimming laps in the pool.

Like most Dominicans, Dominguez grew up playing baseball. He played other sports too, like basketball, but was first introduced to swimming around four years old. His cousin, a club swim coach, encouraged Dominguez's father, Jorge, to enroll his two sons in a summer swim camp. After being pleasantly surprised following the camp, a coach told Dominguez and his brother they had potential in the sport and invited them to join the swim team.

"I think for me, it was always swimming," Dominguez said. "I love playing all the other sports, but swimming just had something that fit. When I was in the pool, I felt great."

The young prodigy was a natural swimmer and continued through his childhood. At just 12 years old, Dominguez qualified for the Dominican national team. As his swimming career started to ramp up, so did the responsibility and sacrifice. Between school, swim practice and full-time jobs, Dominguez and his parents had a lot to juggle. Jorge would often leave work to pick his son up from school, take him home to change and eat, then to swim practice, and then return back to work.

"Doing this day after day was stressful, for both of us," Jorge said. "There was one time Josué didn't want to go and after all the sacrifices I had made I said, 'You're going to swimming!'"

Dominguez doesn't have the typical swimmer's body. Unlike the long and lean muscle in most swimmers, he has a very muscular and solid frame. The muscle is the force behind his stroke, but his body needed to be tailored to his craft.

To stay competitive and in the best shape, Dominguez had to diet, which, for a young man who liked to eat, was the worst news to hear. His family



BYU Photo

BYU swimmer Josué Dominguez will get the chance to represent his country, family, school and faith in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

visited a nutritionist that prescribed Dominguez a diet that would help him convert fat into muscle and help him perform better.

"I would come home from long practices and the dinner would be something I didn't feel like was a dinner. I would have cream of mushroom soup with one piece of toast," Dominguez said. "I hated that diet."

Despite the undesirable food, Dominguez continued to excel in national and international meets, racking up titles and records, until he graduated from high school in 2014. His times punched him a ticket to the 2014 Summer Youth Olympics in Nanjing, China.

There, as a 17-year-old, he broke the men's Dominican national record for the 200-meter breaststroke, clocking in at 2:18.10. Later that year, at a meet in Mexico, he swam a 28.50 to break the men's 50-meter breaststroke record, and a 1:02.86 to break the 100-meter breaststroke record.

A rival from home was also in China for the games. He and Dominguez had always been neck and neck in competitions.

"He told me he got a scholarship to swim at a university in Missouri and asked me where I was going to school. I told him any school that would have me," Dominguez said. "He told me I could go anywhere I wanted."

At another swim meet that year, Dominguez recognized a familiar logo. Rafael Alfaro, a BYU swimmer at the time, was wearing a BYU shirt that caught Dominguez's eye. After talking, Alfaro took Dominguez's times and said that BYU could be a great place for him. He sent the times off to the coaches back in Provo. Not long after, BYU reached out to Dominguez and told him that he had a spot on the team after his mission.

"I was like 'no way!' I talked to my family right away," Dominguez said. "It made my whole year. It was the best news that I could have gotten at that moment."

Dominguez is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which owns BYU. The school

is well known among the Church's millions of global members and Dominguez had dreamed of swimming for BYU since he was a child. The enthusiasm was mirrored by his parents.

"Mexico Puebla South Mission" read the mission papers when he opened them up. Just one week earlier, Dominguez had qualified for the Olympics but chose to serve a mission for the Church instead. For 18 and 19-year-old young men, this two-year commitment is often met with deliberation about when to serve.

"For me, it wasn't hard. I made a decision that I was going to serve a mission no matter what. The question was just when I was going," Dominguez said. "My nutritionist said it would be better for my swimming career if I went earlier."

Mexico Puebla South, Mexico — 2015

Dominguez departed to Mexico in 2015 for his two-year mission. Not only did he give up two years of his life, but he gave up two years of training. Going into it, he knew he would have to reclaim his speed, as he was not allowed time in a pool, consistent with missionary rules around the world. His training time was cut down to just 30 minutes in the morning with workout videos his companion had and workouts BYU sent him.

Along with his morning workouts, Dominguez kept in shape by playing sports such as basketball. Seven months into his mission, he tore his ACL playing basketball. "The first thing that came to my mind was 'Oh man! My swimming career.'"

After a visit to the mission doctor, it was clear Dominguez had to return home to get surgery. A couple of months of recovery and rehab had him back out serving in Mexico where he could finish the rest of his mission.

Provo — 2015

BYU freshman freestyler Connor Stirling opened his mission call, "Mexico Puebla North." When his BYU coach found out where he was

assigned, his coach informed him there was a missionary serving in the south mission that, if everything went as planned, would be at BYU soon. The coach asked Stirling to keep an eye out for him.

"I had always heard legends of this mammoth of a man, this hulk," Stirling said. "This guy that was a great missionary and a great person."

Stirling was determined to befriend Dominguez.

Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic — 2017

Dominguez returned home to the Dominican Republic in 2017. He wasted no time getting back in the pool and fighting to get his previous times back. But with a recent ACL tear, it didn't come easily. He would go straight from therapy to practice. Luckily, Dominguez was not alone. His therapist, family and coach were right there with him.

Before he could attend BYU, he had to pass an English proficiency test in addition to other standardized tests. He passed these with flying colors and the stage was set for him to make his way to Provo. While he was excited, his parents were still grappling with the fact that their son would be so far away. But they knew that he wouldn't get a similar opportunity if he stayed in his home country.

"To know he was going to a very prestigious university that was also the university of the Church was very joyous," Jorge said. "But the stress came when we wondered how we were going to pay for the expenses that the scholarship wasn't going to cover."

After conversations between BYU and Dominguez, his parents learned they would just have to cover the airfare to Utah. A good family friend heard BYU had accepted Dominguez and offered to pay for his ticket. Jorge politely declined.

"The Lord facilitated the way so that Josué could accomplish everything. If he was meeting his goal, the sacrifices we had to make didn't matter," Jorge said.

Provo — 2018

As soon as Dominguez stepped foot on campus, the swim team was thrilled. Stirling, also recently returned from his mission, became close with Dominguez.

"We always joke on the team that me and him are twin brothers," Stirling said. "We share the same birthday, served in the same mission, and a lot of our lives were just waiting for us to meet."

But the connections between the two run deeper.

Stirling's grandfather attended a BYU swim meet in Virginia and recognized a familiar face from the stands. After the meet, he asked Stirling what "the Dominican guy's" name was. Stirling told his grandfather it was Josué Dominguez. After piecing the information together, Stirling's grandfather realized he was Jorge's mission president in the Dominican Republic.

Throughout his time on the team, Dominguez has greatly added to BYU's swim program. Teammates and

coaches have relied on him for his energy and demeanor. His example has placed him in a natural leader position.

"Josué is the definition of a firm foundation," Stirling said. "He has a solid presence on the team. No matter what time of year it is, no matter how tired everyone is, he is able to pick everyone up."

Since his time at BYU, Dominguez has acquired two school records: 52.69 in the 100-meter breaststroke and 1:55.97 in the 200-meter breaststroke. Levi Jensen, the previous record holder in the 100-meter breaststroke, took Dominguez under his wing and even encouraged him to break his record.

Skabelund has been impressed with Dominguez since she first saw him. "When he came here (the coaches) were like, 'Oh my goodness, this guy is fast.'" As she has continued to work with him, her pride has only grown.

Atlanta, Georgia (U.S. Open) — 2019

Dominguez's times steadily improved over the course of his three years at BYU. He found himself back to where he started pre-mission: an Olympic qualifier. Standing on blocks, anticipating the horn, he was just a minute or so away from realizing his Olympic dreams. The noise and distractions disappeared when his hands broke the stillness of the water.

Skabelund nervously tracked Dominguez's times. She raced across the fieldhouse to find Holmoe and share the news, "We have an Olympian."

Then COVID-19 shut the world down.

The Olympic Games were postponed and Dominguez's dreams of competing were pushed back another year. The swim team was not allowed to practice anymore. Dominguez had to jump at every opportunity to get in the pool and train. He was able to swim at local gyms, the Provo Recreation Center and various outdoor pools in the area.

"It didn't matter if the Olympics were going to be this year or next year," Dominguez said. "That was the mentality that helped me get through COVID season."

Even without the regular practice schedule during the season, Dominguez came out of the off-season with faster times than before. At the 2021 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships in February 2021, Dominguez swam an electric 51.81 100-meter breaststroke, more than a second faster than his previous record.

For Dominguez, breaking records has never been a top priority. "(It is) more about beating myself. I have to be faster than I was before. If that means breaking records, let's do it."

With the Olympics coming up this month, Dominguez will finally get the chance to represent his country, his family, his school, and his faith on the world's biggest stage. The podium would be a long shot in these games. His goal right now is to make the semifinals.

Turns out the diet with cream of mushroom soup was worth it.

## BYU Football unveils newly-renovated locker room

By JACKSON PAYNE

The BYU football team continued its offseason push ahead by introducing a long-awaited new locker room to players.

The completely redesigned facility, located in the Student Athlete Building on campus, was unveiled on June 21 after months of anticipation and uncertainty. Last year, concerns over COVID-19 revenue losses and other priorities led some players to believe the project would be scratched. However, it ended up being a question of when, not if, the renovation would take place.

Athletic director Tom Holmoe announced last year the department was projected to lose \$20 million because of COVID-19, but a fundraising campaign called "All In" could quickly raise more than \$15 million in just a few months. The fundraising money was not used for the locker room renovation. The Student Athlete Building's endowment fund paid for the upgrades, the first such project since the building's opening in 2004.

"This project is possible because of the generosity of so many great



Nate Edwards/BYU Photo

The BYU football team continued its offseason push ahead by introducing a long-awaited new locker room to players.

Cougar fans who years ago contributed to the building of the Student Athlete Building and its endowment," Holmoe said when the renovation was announced in April. "Cougar

Nation's tremendous support of BYU Athletics continues to bless the lives of our student-athletes."

Nearly every aspect of the locker room has been updated from the

carpet, the ceilings, the TV's and of course, the lockers themselves.

"It's vibrant," running back Tyler Allgeier said. "It was literally night and day compared to what we had,

it's so bright. We're grateful to have an upgrade like that and grateful for all of those who helped support and fundraise for it."

The new crib for the Cougars includes a Nike cleat wall, shuffleboard, personalized lockers and other amenities specially designed "by players for players." One such area is the barbershop in the bathroom area, where players can clean up their haircuts before games.

"I'm still in awe," wide receiver Neil Pau'u said. "None of us are interior designers, but we all agreed on what we wanted and seeing it come to fruition was just beautiful."

Reaction videos circulated on social media with the players showing their overwhelming approval.

The Cougars hope such an impressive locker room experience will assist the program in attracting promising talent to Provo for years to come.

"I think that what Kalani has done with the locker room itself has moved us into a new lane where now a lot of high school kids in Utah would want to stay here," Pau'u said. "Walking into something brand new with so much more space says a lot about what Kalani is trying to do for his players."



# Immigrants are human beings, not a political agenda

By JEFF SALCEDO

Immigration, particularly illegal immigration, is a hot-button topic that splits the nation in half. The United States was founded by immigrants and built by immigrants, from pilgrims traveling from Europe in the 1600s to Chinese immigrants building railroads in the 19th century to Latin immigrants coming from Latin America today. Whatever your political preference or opinion on the topic may be, the human beings often get overlooked when discussing immigration.

President George Washington related the importance of welcoming immigrants of all walks of life: “The bosom of America is open to receive not only the Oplulent and respected Stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all Nations and Religions; whom we shall welcome to a participation of all our rights and privileges,” Washington said in a letter he wrote to Joshua Holmes.

Like 98.7% of the nation, I am not of pure Native American descent and have immigrant ancestry. What makes my situation different than 73% of U.S. citizens, who have U.S. born parents only, is my parents immigrated to this country.

My father, Bernardino Salcedo, came to the U.S. legally from a small town called



Pixabay

Whatever your political preference or opinion on immigration may be, human beings are often overlooked when discussing the topic.

Mascota in Jalisco, Mexico, when he was 9 years old. My mother, Irma Salcedo, came illegally from Suchitepéquez, Guatemala, in her 20s. Both have worked and grown accustomed to the U.S. lifestyle over the years.

Just like people take pride in reading and hearing stories of their ancestors coming from Europe to the U.S. in the 18th and 19th century, I feel pride and joy hearing the stories of my parents, aunts and uncles getting to the U.S. and

becoming accustomed to life here.

The stories my family retell of adjusting to life in the U.S. range from friendly experiences to dealing with blatant racism. My father often recalls the experience of when he wanted to order an ice cream sandwich during his first week in the U.S. but couldn't because of the language barrier. Then a new friend reached out to my dad to order the treat for him. The simple gesture, which happened 50 years ago, has stuck

with my dad ever since.

While there have been positive experiences, my father also tells stories of being called a “beaner” in middle school by his white classmates. Unfortunately for immigrants in contemporary society, there appears to be more instances of conflict than of compassion.

It is common to see a viral video of people harassing others based on their race with phrases like “Go back to your country” being yelled at immigrants. The harassment led to

an escalation of hate crimes as more than half of these crimes are motivated by race and ethnicity, according to NBC News.

While those events represent a fraction of sentiments of the U.S. population, it is alarming to see people openly harassing someone over their race and immigration status.

Politics are to blame for this anti-immigrant sentiment that has been rampant over the past few years, particularly with former President Donald Trump's infamous quote about immigrants. “When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people,” Trump said in his 2015 presidential announcement speech.

The problem with Trump's quote and others like it is that gathering data about undocumented immigrants is difficult and some of the claims are wrong. This type of rhetoric essentially put a target on immigrants' backs for the crime problems in the U.S.

Trump isn't the only one at fault for the dehumanization of immigrants as politicians from both political parties don't focus on the human aspect of immigration, but the political aspect of it. A prime example is

the immigrants placed in cages near the border, which has spanned over Democratic and Republican administrations.

The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America displayed the crime rate by documented status in Texas, which checks documented status of all arrestees, and found that undocumented immigrants commit less crime based on percentage. Even with claims about immigrants being unsubstantial, people still perceived immigrants as the brunt of the country's problems.

The anti-immigrant rhetoric reached a boiling point on Aug. 3, 2019, when Patrick Crusius murdered 23 people, targeting Hispanics. Crusius posted a manifesto online before carrying out the killing spree, including a section on why immigration negatively impacted the U.S.

Politicians of both parties need to step up and start showing that immigrants, undocumented or not, are people who deserve to be treated respectfully. Instead of seeing immigrants as part of a political agenda, we should put ourselves in their shoes to see the hardships they face and try to help them as much as we can.

It could be as simple as helping someone order an ice cream sandwich, a moment that can stick with them for the rest of their lives.

# Let's change the way we talk about Church missions



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Too many individuals are hurt by our stereotypes and assumptions about missions. There is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to living the Gospel.

By GABRIELLE SHIOZAWA

When I started BYU as a freshman in 2019, everyone around me seemed to either be a returned missionary, waiting on their call or getting engaged. I was fresh out of high school and uncertain about my future. I felt terrifyingly out of place.

I submitted mission papers in June 2020 after months of wrestling with comparison. I didn't know whether I should serve but wanted to show God I was willing to do so. Five months later my mission papers were rejected because of health concerns. By then I was already committed to another semester at BYU and a job at The Daily Universe, but I still felt crushed: I felt I wasn't good enough to serve God.

Since then I've had the same conversation far too many times with well-meaning peers: They ask where I served, I tell them I didn't and they give me reassurance and pity I didn't ask for. I am exhausted from feeling inadequate and having to explain myself over and over again.

I know I'm not alone in this struggle. The way we talk about missions in the Church needs to change. Too many individuals are hurt

by common stereotypes and assumptions.

The intensifying mission application process now takes a more meticulous look at whether individuals make good missionary candidates. This process keeps at-risk individuals from being harmed by a mission's rigor, but I believe it also keeps earnest youth from serving. I know many who have had their applications postponed or rejected for past physical and mental health concerns, despite their willingness to serve.

Many young men benefit from the policy change made in October 2012 allowing them to serve at age 18 instead of 19. Others experience increased pressure and judgment when they choose to work or attend college before putting in their papers. “I am not suggesting that all young men will—or should—serve at this earlier age. Rather, based on individual circumstances as well as upon a determination by priesthood leaders, this option is now available,” President Thomas S. Monson said during the October 2012 General Conference announcement.

Some missionaries come home early because of health concerns, family problems, worthiness issues or homesickness. Others receive

calls but postpone them or cancel them when they get engaged instead. Some simply do not feel called or compelled to serve a traditional mission but instead devote themselves to building up the Kingdom of God in other ways. I have seen missions change some of my friends' lives for the better, enriching their testimonies and strengthening their resolve. Doctrine & Covenants 4:3 says, “if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work.” But I've also seen missionaries come home broken and scarred by difficult experiences.

There is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to living the gospel. There is no singular right way to serve God. In every instance it is a personal decision.

The sorrow I once felt over my rejected mission papers has diminished as I have discovered other ways I feel called to serve God and others. My empathy and understanding for others has increased through this hardship.

My hope is simply that others will also find this level of compassion for each other. I hope we can all learn to change the way we talk about missions in the Church.

I hope we can learn to listen more than we talk.



Canva

People will be going to the movies to see fast cars, superheroes and larger-than-life basketball stars this summer, and it will be glorious.

# Movies are back and bringing people together this summer

By CALEB TURNER

One of the toughest and most disappointing parts of the pandemic for a lot of people was the lack of social experiences because of popular events getting postponed or shut down.

For me in particular, one of the hardest things was the never-ending stream of headlines announcing that many of my most-anticipated movies were being postponed. The delays started at a few weeks or months but eventually turned into more than a year for most releases.

Of course I missed the sporting events, concerts and other social events, but the movies hit especially hard. My family is very much a movie-going family. The best part of every holiday together is going to see the latest movie, and the Oscars are bigger than the Super Bowl in my house.

Movies are a topic of conversation, a (usually) entertaining activity and something that brings my family together. I don't think we're alone in this. Going to the movies is a shared cultural experience that was largely absent from society during the pandemic.

Especially in the era of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and other blockbuster franchises, the majority of the population goes to see the same movies. When there is so much that divides us, movies provide

something in common for everyone to enjoy and discuss.

There were a few events that made up for the lack of theater showings during the pandemic, including the Michael Jordan “Last Dance” documentary on ESPN and new streaming shows such as “Tiger King” and “WandaVision.” Even though we watched these in our homes, they still provided some semblance of a shared cultural experience. We talked about them on social media and with friends and saw countless memes come from them.

Still, the experience was incomplete without the in-person social experience of going to the theater with friends and family, laughing and crying with a crowd of people and then talking the whole way home about what you liked and didn't like.

But movies are making a comeback this summer in a big way.

As vaccines became more available across the country theaters re-opened and the movie delays finally came to an end. The release schedule will be extra crowded for the second half of 2021, with movies slated for 2020 and 2021 all hitting theaters together.

The unofficial start to the resurrected summer movie season was the apocalyptic horror film “A Quiet Place Part II,” the follow-up to the 2018 hit. The surprising and encouraging part of the film's

release was that it made the same amount of money in its first weekend at the box office that it was projected to make before the pandemic according to NBC News.

With that, the floodgates were opened, and Hollywood is set for a major comeback with a barrage of surefire hits and franchise films.

Just to name a few: Lin Manuel Miranda's “In the Heights” debuted on June 11 and “Fast and Furious 9” came out on June 25. Marvel's “Black Widow” will hit theaters on July 9 and “Space Jam: A New Legacy,” featuring LeBron James, will come out on July 16. And that's just this month.

A handful of Disney and Marvel films, a new James Bond movie, the highly-anticipated adaptation of Frank Herbert's “Dune” and a long-awaited fourth Matrix movie are all set to hit theaters before the end of the year.

Do you remember what it was like the last time a big Marvel movie came out, or, if you're old enough, how people reacted when the original “Space Jam” hit theaters? These are major cultural moments in the making, and there is power to bring people together in theaters across the nation this summer.

Whether you consider yourself an avid moviegoer or not, people will be going to the movies to see fast cars, superheroes and larger-than-life basketball stars this summer, and it will be glorious.



# Utah County summer fun



Fireworks explode in the air during Stadium of Fire's grand finale on Saturday, July 3 at LaVell Edwards Stadium..

Hannah Miner

## Stadium of Fire lights up Provo

By JACKSON PAYNE

Stadium of Fire made its triumphant return to LaVell Edwards Stadium on July 3, carrying on a notable Provo Independence Day tradition. The annual festival, which dates back to 1980, suffered its first ever cancellation in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The planned 40th anniversary celebration from last year's show was incorporated to this year's production, with headlining performances from country artists Lee Greenwood and Collin Raye. Extreme motorsports team Nitro Circus added a series of jaw-dropping motorcycle stunts to the festivities between country sets. An extensive opening ceremony, complete with a military flyover, honored first responders and members of the armed forces. Seven recipients of the "freedom awards" were also highlighted, most notably President Dallin H. Oaks, First Counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "When they honored the

specific men and women who sacrificed so much for this country ... (it was) unforgettable," sophomore David Higbee said. For BYU students there, the opportunity to attend a such a large-scale event was a breath of fresh air following the drudgery of a COVID-19 school year. "I loved the feeling of being surrounded by so many people again, looking around and seeing everyone unified," sophomore Rachel Plumb said. Greenwood can be credited as a unifying force, with his famous patriotic anthem "God Bless the U.S.A." being belted in unison throughout the stadium during his performance, followed by a loud chorus of "U.S.A." chants. Greenwood would perform nine songs in total, including his chart-topper "Fool's Gold." "Celebrate America and thank a soldier," Greenwood urged the crowd following his performance. Raye's lively, energetic slot of songs included a few of his well-known tracks, some newer material and a cover of Led Zeppelin's "Rock and Roll." The country rhythms from Raye

and Greenwood easily got the crowd on their feet and dancing throughout the night. In addition, members of Millennial Choirs and Orchestras offered a few songs of their own with the accompaniment of "America's violinist" Jenny Oaks Baker. There was even a surprise appearance from former "American Idol" finalist and teen idol David Archuleta, a fan favorite on campus to this day. "I was stoked to see David Archuleta in person," sophomore Jill Maxwell said. "It was something I had dreamed of for years." Following the tributes, music and stunts, the crowd was treated to the famous finale of pyrotechnics. The impressive fireworks display — the largest such stadium offering in the country — was cued to a series of songs from across the four decades of the festival's history, featuring artists such as U2, MC Hammer, Justin Timberlake and others. "After a long year of quarantine, there was nothing better than getting together with friends to watch the fireworks and celebrate our country," sophomore George Davies said.



People play a carnival game at Springville Art City Days on June 11.

Decker Westenburg



"Michael Barrow & The Tourists" perform on Center Street during Freedom Days.

Melissa Collado



"South Pacific Island Art" vendor sells art at Freedom Days on Center Street.

Melissa Collado



Utah residents participate in America's Freedom Festival Balloon Fest on July 2 at Fox Field, Provo.

Melissa Collado



Students paint the sunset at Rock Canyon Park.

Hannah Miner



BYU student Brianna Johns practices slacklining at the duck pond.

Hannah Miner



# Converts bring diversity, experience to Church

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

Converts to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are valued members with diverse backgrounds, and they have much to offer in their church service.

Even in a pandemic, the Church saw 125,930 convert baptisms in 2020 according to the annual statistical report from the First Presidency.

But who are the people joining The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

### Tony Morteazazadeh

Tony Morteazazadeh had no intention of being baptized when he moved from Iran to the United States in 1979.

Morteazazadeh was a proud Muslim at the time, and he planned to keep it that way. But in 1978, revolution broke out in Iran, and 16-year-old Morteazazadeh started getting more involved in the fight than his parents were comfortable with.

Out of fear for their son's safety, Morteazazadeh's parents suggested that he go live in the United States, despite his desires to stay in Iran.

Morteazazadeh finished high school and attended college where he befriended two sisters, Nancy and Denise, who were members of the Church. His interest was piqued after learning about their values, which were very similar to the values that he was raised with as a Muslim.

Morteazazadeh decided to move to Utah to stay close to these sisters as they attended BYU. It was in Salt Lake City that he was introduced to the missionaries.

"I had seen some of the missionaries around. I knew they were younger guys and probably less experienced and knowledgeable, and so I thought that was a good opportunity for me to maybe teach them why they were wrong and I was right," Morteazazadeh said.

Morteazazadeh believed that Muhammad was the last

prophet, and struggled with the things the elders taught him. The elders that taught him did not know much about Islam and it was difficult for Morteazazadeh to accept the idea of another prophet after Muhammad.

Morteazazadeh said he prayed for an answer after meeting with a couple sets of missionaries. He had an overwhelming feeling come over him and started crying. Morteazazadeh realized in that moment that this was a sign from God. He said after that experience, he knew without a shadow of doubt that the story of Joseph Smith was true and the Book of Mormon was true.

Morteazazadeh was baptized in 1984, and a few years later, he met his wife Kristy, who grew up in Mona, Utah.

Morteazazadeh is now a husband, father, translator for General Conference and high councilman for the Provo Married Student 23rd Ward, and his background gives him a unique perspective as a member of the Church.

### David Jones

Texas-native David Jones is a BYU student studying neuroscience.

"I grew up Christian, but we were just nondenominational, nothing specific. ... My parents divorced when I was two, so I was primarily raised by my mom," Jones said.

Jones grew in his relationship with God early in his childhood. But without a father figure in the home, Jones also looked to God in times of trials where others would look to a parent, thus developing his faith in prayer from an early age.

This relationship with God followed Jones into high school, where he was exposed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by a few of his classmates. One friend, Courtney, eventually invited him to church and to Sunday dinners with her family.

After attending church several times over the course of about a year, Jones faced the



Tony Morteazazadeh

From right, Tony Morteazazadeh and his wife Kristy snapped a selfie while hiking. Morteazadeh is a 1984 convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from Iran.

question of whether Joseph Smith was a prophet. In an attempt to prove a point and disprove Church members, he decided to read the Book of Mormon.

On a Sunday approximately one year later, Jones had finished reading the Book of Mormon and prayed to ask if it was true.

"I prayed that morning, and I didn't get an answer ... so I went to church, and I was sitting in the chair with my arms crossed. Then about halfway through that meeting, I felt something start from the top of my head, and it washed down through me, and all the anxious feeling I had was just washed away. And then I heard a voice come into my head that said, 'it is true.'"

Jones had to wait until he was 18 to get baptized because his mother did not approve of his decision. He was baptized on Dec. 31, 2016, and went to school at Texas A&M before serving a full-time mission in Cusco, Peru and Kennewick, Washington.

Jones said he is grateful for his background as a convert to the Church because of the added confidence that he has in his own personal testimony. When people tell him that he is brainwashed

and naive in his faith, Jones can easily combat that claim because of his conversion at a later age.

"I definitely enjoy the perspective having been raised in a different culture. I love the Church's doctrine. I love the Church completely. I've had so many things happen to say that it's true, I can never deny that," he said.

### Ashley Rivera

Ashley Rivera, a BYU computer science major and Florida-native, met the missionaries after they knocked on her door at the beginning of her senior year in high school.

"I was raised by my mom to be a nondenominational Christian. I prayed every night and all these things I was familiar with, but I wouldn't go to a specific church," Rivera said.

Rivera's mom was resistant to having the missionaries over when they first knocked on their door, but she allowed them to come back to help her daughter strengthen her relationship with God.

"One day I just, I was honestly put on my knees by God and I was just like, 'All right, my situation kind of sucks right now', and I had actually



Zoe Nackos

Sister Zoe Nackos near the Christus statue in the Independence Visitors Center.

stopped praying for a bit when the missionaries showed up because I was going through some stuff," Rivera said.

She said she opened the Book of Mormon and read the introduction, which talks about gaining a testimony through prayer. "And then I got this reply that was like 'it's time to be baptized.'"

Rivera did not have to wait until her 18th birthday to be baptized, as her mom was supportive of her decision to pursue her faith. She was baptized on Oct. 12, 2019, and her mom was baptized five months later on Feb. 15, 2020.

"I didn't anticipate ever getting baptized or becoming a member because I didn't know about the Church," she said. "I was like, 'How do I balance that now? How am I Ashley that goes to school and Ashley that goes to work and Ashley that goes to church?'"

Rivera said she decided to come to BYU because she wanted to surround herself with people who had similar values and learn more as a new convert to the Church.

"It's so much fun (here) because everybody else grew up in the Church, everybody else served missions, and I'm just that odd man out, but I never feel like an odd man

out because they're just so welcoming," Rivera said.

### Zoe Nackos

Converts to the Church come from all types of backgrounds, with many of them blending in perfectly with the students at BYU.

Texas native and BYU student Zoe Nackos grew up attending a Baptist church as a kid, but she started attending The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with her dad when she was 12 years old. Her dad was a member of the Church; her mom was not. Because of this, her mom required that she wait until she was 18 to get baptized.

"As a 12-year-old, that's pretty hard to hear because I just want to do this good thing," Nackos said. She remembers having to wait to get baptized only got harder the older she got.

Nackos attended high school all the while looking forward to her 18th birthday, which was the date set for her baptism. After much thought and consideration, Nackos approached her mom about attending BYU after high school.

Her mom told her that if she wanted to go to BYU, she might as well get baptized and get member tuition. "That was definitely not what I was expecting her to say. I still figured I had to wait until my birthday. Instead, it was like five months before, and she also let me and my two younger sisters get baptized as well at the same time. That was a huge miracle," Nackos said.

With the support of her home ward and her mom's blessing, Nackos and two of her sisters were baptized on Nov. 5, 2016.

Nackos started attending BYU the next fall, and decided to serve a full-time mission. She was called to serve in the LDS Church's visitors center in Independence, Missouri, the same place where she decided she wanted to serve a mission while on a youth conference trip before she was even baptized.



## A Menagerie of Fun



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