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## The Utah Statesman, March 17, 2015

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# THE UTAH STATESMAN

Tuesday, March 17, 2015 • www.usustatesman.com • (435)-797-1742 • Free single copy



MCT Campus photo

## Common Hour discontinued

► **By Manda Perkins**  
asst. news editor

After seeking student, faculty and staff input, the Utah State University executive committee has decided to discontinue Common Hour following the spring 2015 semester. "We found that we simply could not handle the student need for classes if we didn't put that hour to use," said Tim Vitale, director of public relations and marketing for USU, in a prepared statement. "The day just wasn't long enough to get students into the classrooms they needed without taking advantage of that hour."

Results of a survey sent out at the beginning of winter break found the majority of participants were neither favorable nor unfavorable of Common Hour, at 38 percent of more than 3,000 participants.

"The survey showed us that the Common Hour wasn't being used as it was originally intended," said Assistant Provost Andi McCabe in an email to The Utah Statesman. "Few students attended Common

Hour events regularly, and many didn't even know what the Common Hour was."

The survey asked participants if Common Hour affected their ability to schedule classes, attend campus events, schedule study time or meetings and commute to campus. The majority of responses indicated it did not improve or make it harder to do any of those things.

The 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. gap in the Wednesday schedule, used for campus-wide

activities and meetings was founded in 2012 by USUSA, the new ASUSU. But since its implementation, some students and faculty members have found difficulty in scheduling classes.

"It's a matter of space and time utilization," McCabe said. "We need to put that hour to use by teaching classes at that time and not letting classrooms sit vacant for any period during those prime hours."

USUSA President Douglas Fiefia said the

► See **HOUR**, Page 2

**DOUG FIEFIA**  
USUSA PRESIDENT

"I think that getting rid of Common Hour was putting a Band-Aid on a bigger issue."

## Legislature passes non-discrimination bill

► **By Brenna Kelly**  
staff writer

A Utah proposal protecting gay and transgender individuals was signed into law by Gov. Gary Herbert on Thursday, March 12.

The law prohibits refusal to employ or house individuals based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The law, which earned a stamp of approval from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, bars housing and employment discrimination against LGBT individuals while protecting the rights of religious groups and their followers.

The new legislation specifically refers to sororities and fraternities, stating that they cannot refuse membership or rental agreements to individuals based on sexual ori-

entation or gender identity.

Brooke Lambert, LGBTQA Program Coordinator at Utah State University, said the law won't affect discrimination on campus because university policy already addresses the issue.

"Our campus and student code already has non-discrimination practices in place for LGBTQA students, faculty, and staff," Lambert said.

Equality Utah's Executive Director Troy Williams said this law is unprecedented in Utah.

"I think it's phenomenal that people from different backgrounds have come together to craft legislation that actually deals with both of these issues," Williams said, referring to the issues of discrimination and religious freedom.

Williams said it has taken years

to get this legislation to a point where it was seriously considered.

"(Equality Utah) has been here for seven years, and every year there's been some kind of roadblock that's prevented us from actually moving forward," Williams said. "To have our legislation pass unanimously in a Senate hearing today was phenomenal."

Lawmakers became emotional during the two-hour hearing in which the bill was discussed, as LGBT residents, religious groups and conservative groups spoke for and against the measure.

Several conservative senators supporting the law said it provides equally strong protections for LGBT and religious individuals.

— brennakelly818@gmail.com

## President seeks to make college affordable

► **By Mandy Morgan**  
senior writer

President Barack Obama announced in January a plan "to lower the cost of community college — to zero" in the U.S.

Through federal and state funding, Obama hopes community colleges will cost nothing for students who keep at least a 2.5 GPA, attend part-time and plan to work towards a degree or transfer to a four-year school.

The plan could save an average of \$3,800 for a full-time community college student, according to a White House release, and could help 9 million students in the U.S. if utilized.

"It gives more opportunities for people who can't afford college to get (an) education," said Huxley Ng, an international student from Hong Kong. "If it's free for everyone, even international students, I think a lot of foreign students will come to the U.S. to study."

Ng, a junior majoring in international studies, attended two years at Snow College because the

requirements were lower than most for international students. She paid about \$5,000 each semester attending Snow College from 2009-2011.

She said one possible result of Obama's plan could be less people choosing to go to community colleges rather than four-year institutions.

However, professor Michael Lyons of the political science department at Utah State University, said the plan could incentivize more young people who don't really have a plan for the future to jump into college prematurely.

"I think there's too much pressure on people to start college at 18," Lyons said. "It is possible to wait a few years to start college. A lot of 18-year-olds are not ready when they come to college, but many of them, if they came back two or three years later, would excel."

Lyons said the problem lies in post-graduation opportunities for high school graduates, which are low-paying jobs that hold little chance of future careers.

Many young people

choose to go to college because it seems like the best option after graduation, even if they don't have specific plans for their future, Lyons said, which leads young people to float around at college and not make progress towards a career.

"I would like to see a much larger share of the population encouraged to go out and work in the world, join the military, join the Peace Corps," he said. "Once you have a more realistic handle on how the world works and who you are, come back to college."

Lyons said a better option could be mandatory, universal national service for a year or so after high school graduation, in which young people could be out in the world before starting college.

"We certainly need to focus on getting better jobs for high school graduates," he said. "It's already happening with Peace Corp and the military. ... I guess I'd like to see the non-military options expanded."

Stephen Lee studied for a semester at a community



Annie Hall photo

**PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PLAN** to lower the cost of community college could save full-time students an average of \$3,800.

college in Arizona before serving a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was about \$1,000 for 16 credits, which he said was very affordable.

"I initially went there because I was trying to

study while at the same time save money for my mission," Lee said. "I am very glad that I did that because I saved up quite a bit of money and still got a good education."

Though he agrees that Obama's plan could help

students, Lee sees FAFSA as a realistic option for those in financial need.

"On another side, I feel like having students save up money for college allows them to see the

► See **COLLEGE**, Page 2

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# College

From Page 1

importance of making college count," Lee said. "If students really want an education, they need to work for it. I feel like if this plan were to be put in place that there would be a lot more students who would go but not care."

Lyons agreed that junior college usually isn't very

expensive, and financial aid is available to those in need, which is one reason he doesn't expect the proposal to get far with in Congress.

"I think the aid should be targeted to those who will really struggle financially if they try and enter college," he said. "I'd like to see more money given to students who would like to go to college."

— *mandy.m.morgan@aggiemail.usu.edu*

# Hour

From Page 1

majority of executive council members would've liked to make Common Hour work for students and faculty by sorting out the bigger issue of classroom scheduling.

"We understand that because it is during prime class time and classrooms go unused moving the schedule back an hour, but we believe that the experience that students have at these lectures are worth it," Fiefia said in an email to The Utah Statesman. "I believe that growth will continue to happen at USU and that classroom space will always be an issue that is coupled with growth. I think that getting rid of Common Hour was putting a Band-Aid on a bigger issue."

Vitale said this will not deter opportunities to invite speakers to campus.

"The only difference is that there will not be a block of time set aside where no classes are taught," he said. "As a

result, speakers could be brought in any day or time that is convenient for both students and the speakers' schedules."

McCabe said this will have "little impact on the campus community."

"The university, colleges, and departments will continue to host guest speakers that the students will be interested in hearing. There will not be a specific day/time set aside for these, but they will be scheduled when most convenient for those who want to participate. Having this open calendar would also allow high-profile speakers to accept invitations without the constraints of Common Hour schedule."

Fiefia said discontinuing the program likely will not affect students "too much negatively or positively," but the cancellation is premature.

"Personally I believe that we got rid of a program that could have positively enhanced the student's experience here at USU," he wrote.

— *manda.perkins@hotmail.com*  
Twitter: @perkins\_manda

## Nation & World In brief

### Logan, United States

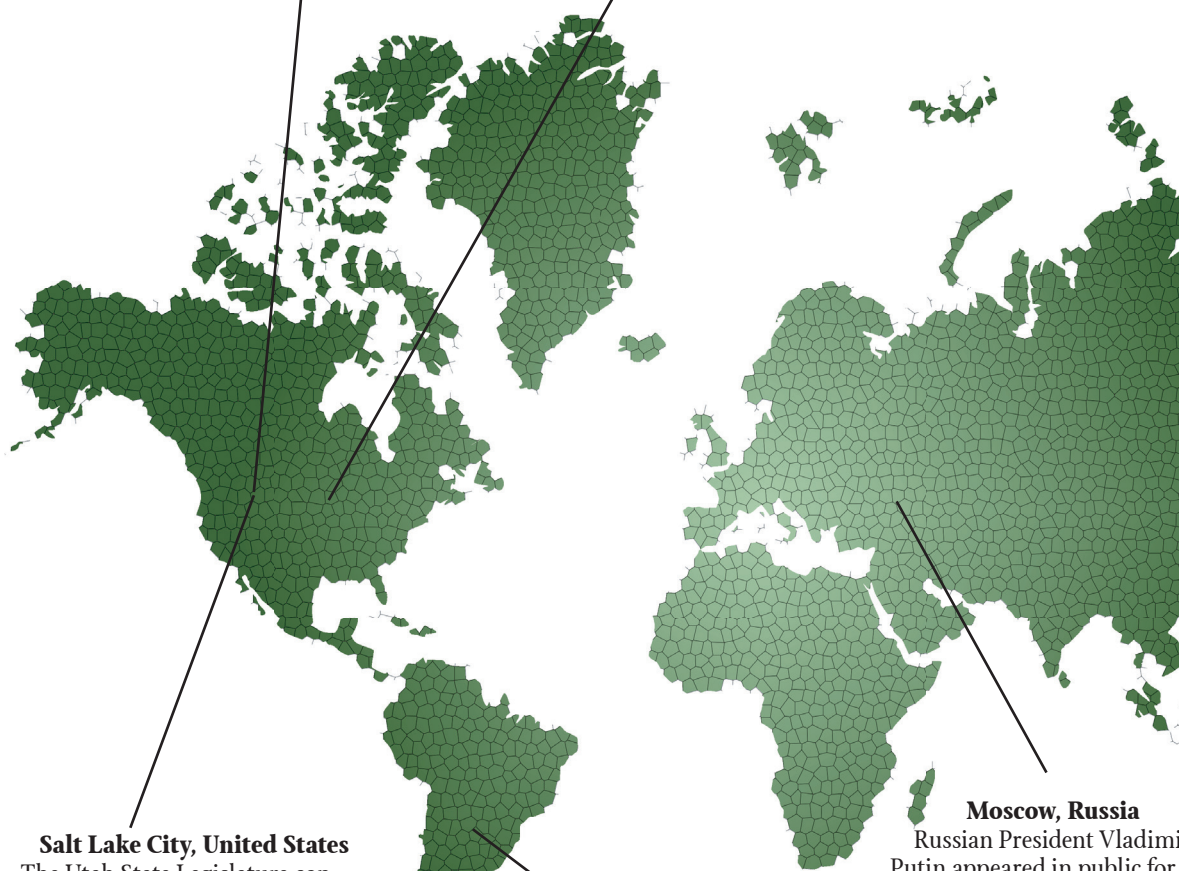
In an effort to prevent drunk-driving fatalities, the Cache County Sheriff's Office will be deploying extra deputies on the evening of St. Patrick's Day.

Chief Deputy Matt Bilodeau said the additional prevention measures come at no extra cost to the sheriff's office as the funding comes from the federal government. He added that the community's apparent lack of interest in alcohol consumption does not necessarily mean lower drunk-driving rates, and all citizens should celebrate responsibly.

### Ferguson, United States

After allegedly shooting two police officers last week in Ferguson, Missouri, 20-year-old Jeffrey Williams made his first court appearance Monday morning. Authorities said he previously told investigators he had attended a demonstration the night of the shooting, and the shooting was the result of a dispute, but Williams missed his target and struck the police officers instead.

Williams is being charged with two counts of first-degree assault, one count of firing a weapon from a vehicle and three counts of armed criminal action.



### Salt Lake City, United States

The Utah State Legislature concluded this year's general session on Thursday after passing over 500 bills. Featured legislation included an updated anti-discrimination law, legalization of execution by firing squad and a gas tax bill.

Also passed this session were bills reforming prison legislation, tightening restrictions on e-cigarette sales and requiring high school students to pass a civics test before graduating.

### Argentina

Two pilots and their eight French passengers died in a double helicopter crash in northwest Argentina on Monday. Among the passengers were three of France's top athletes. They were filming the reality survival TV series "Dropped."


The helicopters were flying beside each other when they collided mid-air and hurtled toward the ground. Officials in Argentina are investigating the cause of the crash as the flying conditions were reportedly good and both pilots had extensive flying experience.

### Moscow, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin appeared in public for the first time in 10 days when he met with the President of Kyrgyzstan on Monday.

Putin's absence stirred speculation as he was accused of receiving plastic surgery and being ousted in a coup, and he denied claims that he was attending the birth of his alleged girlfriend's baby in Switzerland.

While he refused to address the issue in a press conference, Putin added that he is "in great shape."

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Contact USU Police at 797-1939 for non-emergencies.  
Anonymous reporting line: 797-5000  
EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

# Police Blotter

## Friday, March 6

• USU Police responded to an incident when an individual drove through the gates at the student center turnaround. The east gate was damaged. The driver of the vehicle was located. Police are still investigating.

• USU Police responded to a concerned individual who reported several suspicious phone calls made to her phone. It was reported that she could hear a women screaming for help. Officers contacted the screaming women and determined that it was a series of prank calls to the wrong number.

• USU Police responded when a pair of black finger-less gloves were found on the evening bus. The gloves were logged and placed into safe keep.

## Saturday, March 7

• USU Police were informed of a suspicious person sleeping in Old Main. Police are investigating.

• USU police and Logan EMS responded to a spectator at the USU basketball game who was having a medical emergency. The patient was ultimately transported to Logan Regional for further medical attention.

• USU Police responded to the LLC on a report of a smell of marijuana. Officers were unable to detect any marijuana, however, officers did contact an underage male who had been consuming alcohol. The male was issued a misdemeanor citation for MIP Alcohol and released.

## Tuesday, March 10

• USU Police observed two male individuals in the area of the pedestrian tunnel that leads from the teal parking lot to USU's south campus housing. The two male individuals appeared to secret themselves near some bushes and smoking from a pipe. Officers contacted the two male individuals who were smoking marijuana. Both individuals were issued misdemeanor citations for possession of marijuana.

## Thursday, March 12

• USU Police responded and assisted Logan City Police on a driver who ran from a vehicle during a traffic stop. USU Police cleared when assistance was no longer needed.

## Saturday, March 14

• Logan police officers responded to two calves running along 1000 W. Both were corralled back into their pen by Officers.

## Monday, March 16

• Logan police responded to an adult female who ingested approximately 80 Benedryl tablets. The female was alert and aware of her surroundings. Ambulance personnel transported her to Logan Regional Hospital for treatment.

• Logan police took report of a suspicious incident that occurred at First Damn Park. A male individual had invited another female into a camper trailer. The individual had left the scene before officers arrived.

• Logan police responded to a retail theft at Smith's Marketplace. One female was arrested for retail theft after she removed 2 donuts from the case and according to her own admission "sampled" them.

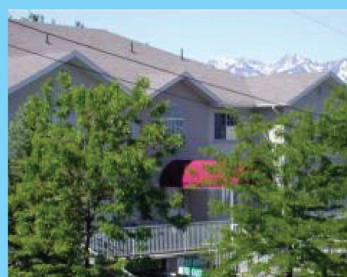
► Compiled by Manda Perkins

  
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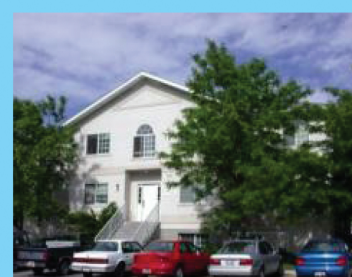
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# STUDENT LIFE

## Aspiring vet shares thoughts about St. Patrick's Day tradition



Thakary Minson photo

*The Utah Statesman interviewed Caprice Garcia, a freshman from South Jordan.*

**Utah Statesman:** What brought you to Utah State?

**Caprice Garcia:** The veterinary science program, it is similar to the one in Washington.

**US:** So you are planning to become a vet?

**CG:** Yeah, I really love animals so it fit.

**US:** Is that your dog there?

**CG:** Yes, it's a girl. Her name is Zen.

**US:** What did you do for spring break?

**CG:** I went to Salt Lake and helped my parents move. I also have a job there so I worked a lot of the time.

**US:** Where do you work?

**CG:** Brick Oven – it's the restaurant.

**US:** Did you do any homework over spring break?

**CG:** Yeah, I did plenty of homework. I was glad for it.

**US:** What is your favorite app on your phone right now?

**CG:** Pandora, just because while you are doing all the walking around or homework you can just listen to some music. I use it the most out of all of my other apps.

**US:** Before making a phone call, do you rehearse what you are go-

ing to say?

**CG:** Not usually. Like I think about what I am going to say but not like specifically.

**US:** Do you think it would be weird if people did do that?

**CG:** No. Well I mean, I guess it depends on what type of phone call it is. Like if it important or something like that, you know?

**US:** Tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day. Are you going to wear green?

**CG:** Probably not dress in green, but I will probably try to integrate green somehow, like a little mark on my hand or something like that.

**US:** Why won't you go all out?

**CG:** Well green is not my favorite color, so.

**US:** Why do you think we pinch people if they are not wearing green?

**CG:** Um, I'm not really sure. I have never looked into it really.

**US:** Maybe it was just some random thing the Irish did?

**CG:** I really have no idea, but probably just trying to single people out or something like that because they are not part of the tradition.

**US:** Why do you think that we, as Americans, celebrate an Irish tradition?

**CG:** Just as Americans, we are so diverse. We like celebrating holidays that are not necessarily ours.

## Jason Mraz slays at Salt Lake show

I've been a fan of Jason Mraz for about 11 years now.

When my fandom began, Mraz only had one album out. Everyone has that friend with good taste, who subconsciously influences your music listening for the rest of your life. Joelle – the previously mentioned friend, who still has fantastic taste – pointed me to the treasure that was his acoustic stuff. I was instantly hooked.

Picture you are a die-hard fan of a musician renowned for live performances. Then said artist doesn't come to tour near you for over a decade. You can imagine my turmoil.

My years of waiting finally ended last Friday at Abravanel Hall.

Quite a bit happened in Mraz's life during those 11 years. He released four more studio albums, two live albums and several EPs. He finally won his, in my opinion, much-deserved Grammy awards. He became so philanthropic that he created the Jason Mraz Foundation, which touches base on issues of social equality, education and the environment – as stated much more eloquently on his website.

Most of all, he became known to most as that-guy-in-the-fedora-who-wrote-"I'm Yours," the ear worm of summer 2008. I'm sure he gained a genuine following from that success, but there is much more to Mraz than a wholesome singer-songwriter persona. He has crazy talent and charm and is warm-hearted.

As for the concert itself, it's safe to say I adored it. My boyfriend, who came with me, said I was grinning like an idiot and looked like I was about to cry the entire time.

Mraz had two opening acts. The first was Cody Lovaas, a

16-year-old singer-songwriter who Mraz took under his wing for touring experience. Lovaas has enormous talent hidden under his mop of curly hair.

Raining Jane performed next. The two acts, who met at a music festival, discovered their chemistry when writing the song "A Beautiful Mess" together. The latter group went on to write and perform on the entirety of Mraz's latest album, "Yes!," touring with him and establishing a steadfast friendship that shines on stage. Raining Jane was dubbed as "the girl group I've always wanted to be a part of" by Mraz.

As expected, most of the songs performed were from "Yes!" Mraz's commercial hits, "I'm Yours," "I Won't Give Up" and "The Remedy," were set list staples. I was delighted, however, when Mraz brought out gems from previous albums. This included a performance of "Mr. Curiosity" with an operatic voice so unreal, it caused the person behind me to exclaim, "Is that really him?"

A Mraz concert isn't complete without a few snarky quips. One of my favorites was when he dubbed himself and Raining Jane as "Girls to Man," complete with posing with their instruments.

If Mraz ever comes back for another tour, saying I highly recommend attending would be an understatement. Just keep a look out for the girl grinning from ear-to-ear near the front. It's probably me.

– Whitney Howard is an English major, who will someday marry Jason Mraz and have 10,000 of his babies – Hey, a girl can dream. Send addresses for wedding invitations to [whitney.howard@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:whitney.howard@aggiemail.usu.edu).

Whitney Howard



Real talk



Mark Bell photos

## Luck o' the Irish

**MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY** each year on March 17. The holiday was originally a religious celebration honoring the patron saint of Ireland, according to History.com. Over time, the tradition spread and evolved into a worldwide festival, prompting enthusiasts across the globe to wear green, form parades, eat corned beef and cabbage, drink and celebrate Irish culture.



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## Aggies face adversity



Annie Hall photos



**ABOVE: FUNDA NAKKASOGLU DRIVES** past a San Jose State defender in the first round of the MWV tournament in Las Vegas on March 9. **ABOVE RIGHT: NAKKASOGLU GETS FOULED** on a shot attempt after slashing through two defenders in the paint. She finished the game with a team high 26 points. She also set a new MWV record for free throws made and percentage making 14 of 14 attempts from the charity stripe. **RIGHT: FRESHMAN GUARD TILAR CLARK GOES UP FOR A SHOT** past Spartan defender Ta'Rea Cunnigan. Clark had 16 points, three assists and four rebounds. The Aggies lost the game 99-85. Rebecca Woodberry fueled San Jose State's scoring by knocking down eight 3-point shots and scoring 26 points.

► **By Kalen Taylor**  
sports editor

It's been a season full of changes for the Utah State women's basketball team.

The team went 8-22 in the 2014-2015 season and 5-12 in Mountain West games during the regular season. The Aggies lost to the San Jose State Spartans in the first round of the conference tournament March 9, ending the season.

Though many may look upon the record and early exit from the tournament and think less of USU. However, those within the program recognize that the past season has been a success.

In the 2013-2014 season the Aggies were led by prolific scorer, senior guard Jennifer Schlott. Schlott averaged over 26 points per game last season and is USU's all-time leading scorer with 1,556 points.

Knowing that she wasn't returning, the coaches were planning to rely heavily on junior guard Makenlee Williams and junior center Stephanie Bairstow. Just seven games into the season, both Williams and Bairstow left the team citing personal reasons.

"The coaches have been really good," said USU senior forward Franny Vaaulu. "It would have been

nice to have the other players on the team, but they didn't want to stay, and we don't need that negative vibe on the team. The coaches did a good job of keeping it positive."

At the time, Williams was the team's leading scorer with over 14 points per game. She had started in all seven games and was seventh in the Mountain West in scoring. Bairstow played in all seven games and started four. In her career she averaged nearly seven points per game to go along with just under four rebounds.

Williams transferred to Gonzaga, where she had to sit the rest of her transfer year, and Bairstow is now playing in Australia. The USU women's basketball team, however, continued on its way without them.

"Our team surprisingly came really close together," said Vaaulu, one of four seniors on the Utah State squad. "Most teams losing their best offensive players would drift apart, but we came together and shared our points. We gave a big role to Funda

(Nakkasoglu), and she stepped up and took it. I think having a freshman take that role and us supporting her brought us closer together."

The team had four seniors this season: Vaaulu, guard Elise Nelson, forward Ingrida Strikas and guard-forward combo Jasmine Porter.

All of the seniors recognized that the loss was hard for the team but

together was the only thing we could do to get through it."

Third-year Utah State coach Jerry Finkbeiner explained the difference in the team and the role of the young players after losing Williams and Bairstow.

"We lost returning players that were all scorers," Finkbeiner said. "Funda's job this year was to get the ball to

these kids. She was going to be a secondary scorer. It took us about a month and half to evolve, but Funda is our only real scorer. Unintentionally, we kind of evolved that way."

Nakkasoglu averages over 17 points per game, the second most by any freshman at the Division I level.

"We lost two of our best shooters," Nakkasoglu said. "We needed to bring up younger players, start working more as a team and run offenses that could incorporate everyone's positions and not just two options."

Coaches and players alike credit the team with coming together and playing closely, despite the adversity they faced early in the season.

"We definitely got closer," Nakkasoglu said. "Everyone knew their role. I think everyone worked harder at training to fill up the roles that we had lost. It brought friendship on the court and off the court."

Clark got a chance to prove herself a key player this season as well. She started in every game after the departures of Williams and Bairstow. Clark said she and her teammates relied on the seniors for stability throughout the rest of the season.

"I know, as a younger player, this season has been a whirlwind of a lot of emotions," Clark said. "The seniors have always been there to calm the waves, and they've been great role models for us. They have been really positive through every situation."

Along with the seniors, the coaches kept things rolling for Utah State, not allowing the team members to lose hope.

"The coaches have done great," Nelson said. "They've always had a belief in us as players and a belief that we can get things done. Our record isn't that great and we've lost a

► See **ADVERSITY**, Page 6

### FRANNY VAAULU SENIOR FORWARD

*"It would have been nice to have the other players on the team, but they didn't want to stay and we don't need that negative vibe on the team. The coaches did a good job of keeping it positive."*

also saw the need to push forward. Nelson said that Tilar Clark and Funda Nakkasoglu, both freshmen guards, stepped up to play larger roles.

"Funda is the heart of our team offensively," Nelson said. "Tilar stepped up as a shooter, but it's been a team contribution. We knew we were going through adversity at the time, but we knew that coming to-

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# Years



Kylee Larsen graphic

## Students recognize accomplishments of iconic basketball coach Stew Morrill at Utah State

► **By McKayla Montierth**  
staff writer

Stewart “Stew” Morrill has become and forever will be a legend tied with Utah State’s men’s basketball.

In his seventeen years coaching at Utah State, he broke record after record and elevated Utah State to be in the 6th-best winning percentage in the nation. However Morrill had many other accomplishments before his coaching career at Utah State.

“There is an old expression,” said Wyoming head coach Larry Shyatt after the game on Thursday, “You never know what you have until you don’t have it anymore,” and we are losing a great one, not just a great coach — a great coach and a great

man.”

As a collegiate athlete, he played for Rick’s College, then with the Gonzaga Bulldogs. After his college career he played professionally in Europe before moving on to coaching. Morrill had coached basketball for twenty-three years before coming to Utah State University, but he will always be known for his work at USU.

What the Aggies will remember the most about Morrill will be how he led Utah State’s basketball team to a 402-156 record and nearly 73 percent win total, achieved under his leadership. He became the all-time win leader at Utah State in 2008 when the Aggies beat the Boise State Broncos, giving him 225 wins at the time.

Morrill continued to lead his team

to multiple 20-win seasons and four-straight Western Athletic Conference titles in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Achievements like these are what earned Morrill the WAC Coach of the Year award in 2009, 2010 and 2011. When Morrill began at USU, he was coaching in the Big West. His team then made the jump to the WAC and moved again in 2013 to the Mountain West.

After 17 years with Utah State, Morrill announced his retirement during the season, and his last game was Thursday, a loss to Wyoming in the MW tournament. Even though there are many who are sad to see Morrill go, they understand that after coaching for 40 years, he has earned his retirement.

During Morrill’s last home game against Colorado State on March 7, fans came together to help give him a unique send off. More than fifty players from the past came together along with former USU coaches to show their appreciation for Morrill’s work at Utah State.

Students gave him a framed jacket with his name and the number 17 on the back for all the years he has coached at USU. Morrill also received a jersey from his bosses that had the number 40 to signify all his years of coaching throughout his career.

“It’s an emotional thing,” said Morrill after the Colorado State game. “Then the game starts and away you go.”

Even though Thursday’s game was a loss, fans had reason to celebrate all that Morrill achieved over the years.

Among his student-athletes, colleagues, friends and family, Stew was known for his hard work, dedication, honesty and concern for the welfare of his student-athletes. It was through hard work and dedication that he was able to lead the Utah State basketball team to achieve so much.

Fans can only hope that in the years ahead the Aggie basketball team continues to succeed, following the path that Morrill set.

— mckaylamontierth@gmail.com

**2005 Morrill’s team** moves out of the Big West and into the Western Athletic Conference in 2006. USU won the Big West in 2005 and the WAC in 2006 and made two more NCAA tournament appearances.

**2012 the Aggies** finished in fourth place in the WAC but played in the NIT tournament and went 4-1, losing in the championship game. The following year USU was 11-7 in conference play in its final season as part of the WAC.

Kalen Taylor graphic

**1999 Stew Morrill** comes to Utah State and coaches his first season of a team in the Big West Conference. The Aggies were 15-13 in their first season under Morrill but quickly improved to two-straight 28-6 seasons and two NCAA tournament appearances.

**2009 the first year of** Morrill winning three-straight WAC titles, three-straight WAC coach of the year awards and three straight NCAA tournament invites.

**2015 Morrill decides** to call it quits after 17 years. The Aggies enjoyed a successful season in their second year as part of the Mountain West. Although no conference tournaments were won and no postseason play occurred in his final two years, being part of the MW is a big jump from the Big West where it all started.

## Adversity

From Page 5

lot of close games, but because our coaches believe in us, we still have a belief in ourselves.”

With the season done, the team is now looking forward to next year. Even though the four seniors won’t be there anymore, many young, experienced players will take to the floor for coach Finkbeiner. Next season guard Mariah Miles, forward Julianne Anchling and forward Tijana Djukic will be the senior leaders of the squad.

“I think they are going to be 10 times better next year than they were this year,” Vaaulu said. “There are so many freshmen — Tilar, Funda, Hannah (Hutchins), Bailey (Peck). They all stepped up. They’re ready to be on the next level. I’m excited for them next year.”

— kalen.s.taylor@gmail.com  
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## Anything can happen with basketball in March

Anyone who claims to be a March Madness genius is selling you something.

There’s skill involved, sure, but actual basketball knowledge can only carry you so far. I don’t claim to be an expert bracketologist, but I do know one thing that apparently those on ESPN and sports talk radio have forgotten.

Games aren’t won on paper. Sounds cliché, and you’re likely thinking to yourself “Well, obviously.” But really think about what that means — that means the best basketball team in the NCAA tournament may not actually win out. In fact, the odds of that happening are not just a coin flip, but a series of coin flips.

Yeah, I’m talking about Kentucky.

I can’t remember a tournament with a more talked-about No. 1 seed. The hashtag campaign, the weekly odds of winning against its upcoming opponents — columns like this discussing the actual likelihood of them racing through the bracket and winning it all this year. It all feels like it could be leading to one of the most incredible college basketball seasons of all time, or a mon-



**Logan Jones**

**Nothin but net**

umental, nation-wide bracket-destroying collapse.

Kentucky has been “dominant” all year, if your definition of dominant includes scraping out an overtime win against Ole Miss, followed by a double-overtime win against Texas A&M four days later. How soon we forget the Wildcats were one Georgia-team-forgetting-how-to-play-basketball away from a major upset just this month.

I’m not saying Kentucky isn’t the best team in the field, but I am saying that no matter what the sport, the best in the field only wins some of the time.

How many Super Bowl winners in the last ten years were the regular season favorites? How many top 25 college football teams maintain their ranking throughout the season? Major league baseball, NBA, it’s the same story every time. You can’t determine anything for sure by looking at the numbers — that’s the fun of sports, and the fun of bracket-making.

Vegas oddsmakers have the likelihood of Kentucky winning it all this year at 50 percent, a safe bet for anyone who doesn’t want to look like an idiot in their office pool. After all, if the Wildcats go down, so will the majority of their

coworkers’ brackets.

But the guys in Vegas aren’t fortune-tellers. Their odds are created by a relatively simple algorithm aimed to balance those betting for a team with those betting against. So, if you’re hanging your hat on Vegas odds, know that those numbers stem from gamblers whose only expertise come from watching a lot of sports — which, as you can tell by the ESPN experts’ busted brackets every year, don’t usually matter much.

What that means for John Calipari’s squad is as a result of being this season’s Goliath, they’ll have to weather the storm of every single team’s best effort. Every eye will be on them, every opponent an underdog wanting to be the Wildcats’ first loss.

Could Kentucky run the table? Of course. But sure things in sports are rare — the Hornets drafting poorly, the Giants winning the World Series every other year, Russell Wilson spending Mondays in Seattle Children’s Hospital. The Wildcats are no sure thing, and last I checked, Goliath didn’t come out on top.

— Logan Jones is a junior majoring in journalism and doesn’t want to brag or anything, but he’s correctly picked the NCAA tournament champion correctly three times in five years. Contact him at logantjones@aggiemail.usu.edu or @Logantjones

## Let your mistakes make you better

I've been working on a story about suicide — look for it in the next few issues — and it's been a really eye-opening experience.

No, not because I'm shocked at how many people contemplate suicide or because I've been saddened by the loss that survivors feel when a loved one passes — though I do feel for them. It's mostly because, amidst this research process, I've really thought about my own experiences with suicide.

I remember being depressed at times as a child, crying to my stuffed animals until I fell asleep. I remember fighting with my family members and trying to wait patiently until God worked everything out.

It really started in middle school, though. I remember everyone was depressed. I remember I felt like all my friends were either anorexic or cutting. I don't mean that in a disrespectful way — that's just how it was.

A classmate of mine took her life when we were in eighth grade. She was a friend, but we didn't go to the same church anymore and didn't have classes together. I remember making eye contact with her the day before she died and deciding not to say hello.

I remembered that experience for a long time. I spoke about her at our high school graduation. I talked about what an impact she had on my life because I never wanted anyone to feel as lonely as she must have felt. That's part of why I was so nice to ev-

eryone in high school. I didn't want her death to be in vain.

Then I came to college where no one knew me. I didn't have three older siblings who had paved the way for my good reputation like I did in high school. It was a whole other ball game, and I quit thinking about Amber so much.

It was easier to think of myself and my own insecurities. It was easier not to turn to friends because I didn't have as many.

Don't get me wrong — I've been both happy and sad for my whole life, but coming to college is hard. Everything in life is hard. And when you screw up, it's easy to think that maybe you're the reason why life is so hard. But that's not true.

Spring break was really relaxing for a lot of people, and that's awesome. But for me it was full of some really high points and really low points. The cause of my highs and lows is, quite frankly, none of your business, but I know I can't be the only one who had a rough week.

My article quoting professionals and students who are not associated with the newspaper won't be published for another

week or so, but why should I wait to tell students who are struggling that they aren't alone?

I'm hard on myself, and I know it. A lot of us are. And it probably stems from good intentions and wanting to be your best self. But sometimes you have to accept that you can't change the past. Your mistakes are there to help you grow.

When you really think about the times when you've changed the most in your life, does they stem from some amazing, grand achievement?

I'd venture to say they stem from moments of weakness, and fighting to overcome or move past that weakness is what made you stronger and got you attention for being so wonderful.

So if you're struggling, struggle on. I know that life is hard, and things happen that temporarily blind you to all but your own pathetic state. But don't let them blind you for too long. Open your eyes and see that you can overcome it.

Soon you won't see yourself as pathetic, and you'll quit selling yourself short.

— Mariah Noble is graduating at the end of the semester. She is the editor-in-chief of The Utah Statesman. Please send comments to [m.noble@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:m.noble@aggiemail.usu.edu).



Mariah Noble

From the chief

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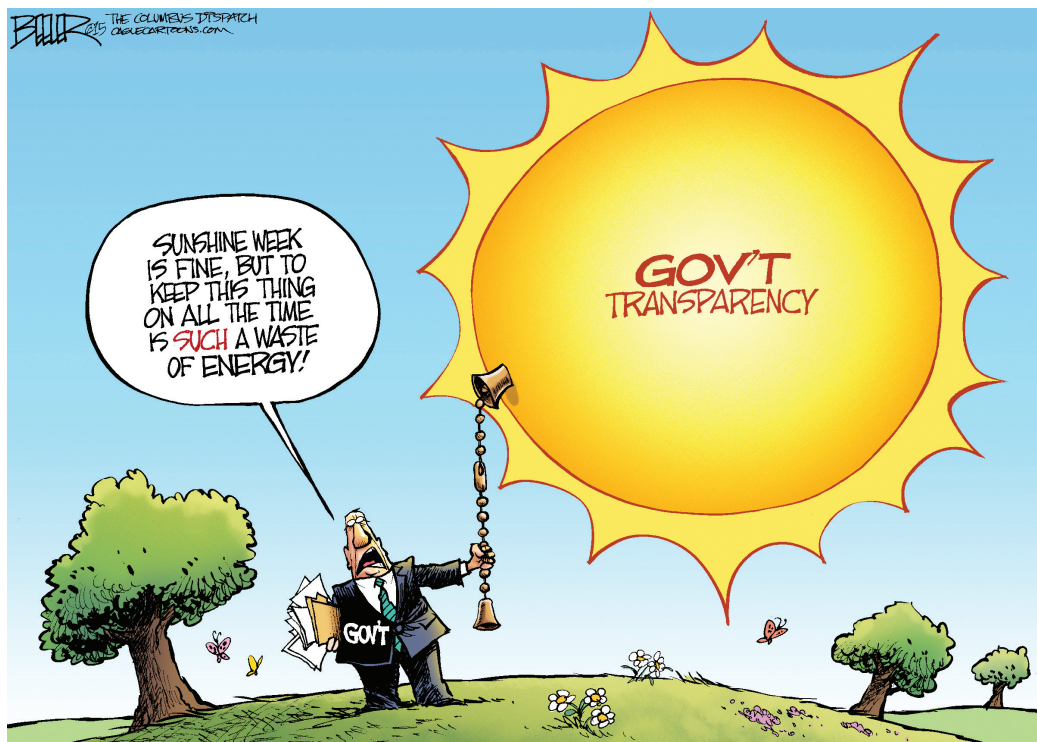
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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All letters may be shortened, edited or rejected for reasons of good taste, redundancy or volume of similar letters.

No anonymous letters will be published. Writers must sign all letters and include a phone number or e-mail address as well as a student identification number (none of which is published). Letters will not be printed without this verification.

Letters can be hand delivered or mailed to The Statesman in the TSC, Room 311, or can be emailed to: [statesmaneditor@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:statesmaneditor@aggiemail.usu.edu).



## Horoscope love forecast

### Aries: March 21 - April 19

There's a lot going on for you right now. You're trying to find that perfect work/personal life balance, and it hasn't been easy. One aspect of your life is going well while the other sucks. Be patient. Jupiter is bringing you some helpful insights into your situation.

### Taurus: April 20 - May 20

Venus will be in your sign for several weeks, and you'll magically transform from a "Nottie" to a "Hottie." Your charms will finally be noticed by those cute guys and girls. You'll feel more confident about your sexual charisma, and you'll project strong vibes.

### Gemini: May 21 - June 21

A restless moon is inspiring you to change things. If you're single, you could ask someone out. If you're in a relationship, you might ask your honey to work with you on a project or a commitment that the two of you can enjoy focusing on.

### Cancer: June 22 - July 22

A pile of planets in friendly Water signs are helping you hit a nice groove. You'll make progress on the career front while enjoying plenty of quality time with friends or lovers. You'll feel more comfortable with yourself than you have in a while.

### Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22

Don't assume that, if you're having a bad day, things will remain that way for your long-term future. A moon opposition is casting a temporary shadow on you, but it won't last. Jupiter is counteracting any negativity affecting you over the next months.

### Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Venus is increasing the passion quotient in your relationship. If you're dating someone, you'll want to spend lots of sexy, private moments with your sweetheart. If you're single, you'll become bolder about finding someone who will appreciate your earthy charms.

### Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Don't be too hard on yourself. Despite your best efforts, it could be difficult finding that perfect balance of physical passion and friendly communication in your relationship. Right now, Venus is highlighting the physical aspect.

### Scorpio: Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

Venus will be opposite your sign for a while, and this means that you shouldn't pressure yourself to make a major decision about love. Who knows what the future holds? Who can tell what you'll want a week,

a month, or a year from now? Keep an open mind.

### Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You won't hesitate to let your sweetheart know how you really feel because the moon is inspiring you to be super honest. If something has been bothering you, you won't hide it any longer. There's no need to go to war; just talk things out.

### Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Sometimes you prefer to communicate by physical touch instead of using words. Venus is encouraging you to express yourself in passionate ways instead of wasting time chatting with your partner. Get right to the point and make things happen.

### Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You could feel dizzy because a lot of chaos is surfacing. You might be changing jobs, living situations, or romantic partners quite, and you'll barely have time to adjust. The moon says hang on; it could be a bumpy ride!

### Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20

You'll discover that someone has a crush on you, or a person from your past still desires you. Mercury is creating moments of intense connection with someone. You should take your time before responding. Be sure of your own feelings first.

— Jennifer Shepherd, the Lipstick Mystic®, is an astrologer and columnist with over 2 million readers. For mystical fun and psychic insights visit [www.lipstickmystic.com](http://www.lipstickmystic.com).

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# CALENDAR

Submit events at [usustatesman.com/events](http://usustatesman.com/events).

## Tuesday, March 17

High: 70 | Low: 39 | Partly cloudy

- Story Time | North Logan City Library | Free, 10:00 am
- Russian Recital | Caine Performance Hall - Utah State University | Free, 7:00 pm
- Crafting a Continuum: Rethinking Contemporary Craft | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
- Fifty Works for Fifty States | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day

## Wednesday, March 18

High: 61 | Low: 32 | Sunny

- Campbell Organ Festival | Kent Concert Hall, Chase Fine Arts Center, USU Campus | Free, 7:30 pm
- Jazz Combos | Caine Performance Hall - Utah State University | \$5-\$10. Adults: \$10, USU Faculty/Staff: \$5, Youth: \$8, Senior: \$8, USU Student: Free with ID, 7:30 pm
- Crafting a Continuum: Rethinking Contemporary Craft | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
- Fifty Works for Fifty States | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day

## Thursday, March 19

High: 63 | Low: 32 | Sunny

- ARTsySTEM: The Changing Climates of the Arts & Sciences | Caine Performance Hall - Utah State University | Free, 6:00 pm
- The Changing Climates of the Arts and Sciences | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
- Fifty Works for Fifty States | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
- Crafting a Continuum: Rethinking Contemporary Craft | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All day

## Friday, March 20

High: 68 | Low: 36 | Sunny

- Story Time | North Logan City Library | Free, 10:00 am
- Storytime at Willow ParkZoo | Willow Park Zoo, Logan UT | \$0.50, 11:30 am

- Utah State Women's Softball | Utah State Softball Field | See Website, 3:00 pm
- Common Sense Medicine | Alpine Cleaning Conference Room | Free, 6:30 pm
- Science Unwrapped | Eccles Science Learning Center, Emert Auditorium | Free, 7:00 pm
- Rock Against Rape | Whittier Community Center | \$5, 7:00 pm
- Hansel and Gretel | Ellen Eccles Theater-Cache Valley Center for the Arts | \$12-\$25, 7:30 pm
- Driver Out | Why Sound | \$5, 8:00 pm
- Latin Dance Night | Spring Creek Fitness | \$5, 9:15 pm
- The Antics Comedy Improv | Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre | \$5, 9:30 pm
- The Changing Climates of the Arts and Sciences | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
- Crafting a Continuum: Rethinking Contemporary Craft | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
- Fifty Works for Fifty States | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day

## Saturday, March 21

High: 66 | Low: 37 | Partly cloudy

- 2015 'Spring Strut' Turkey Hunting Clinic | Hardware Ranch WMA | Free, 10:00 am
- Utah State Women's Softball | Utah State Softball Field | See Website, 1:00 pm
- Hansel and Gretel | Ellen Eccles Theater-Cache Valley Center for the Arts | \$12-\$25, 1:30 pm
- Movie Night and Silent Auction | USU Taggart Student Center Ballroom | \$3, 6:00 pm
- Hoodoo in Concert | Stokes Nature Center | \$8-\$20. \$8 individual / \$20 family, 7:00 pm
- The Clash MMA | George S Eccles Ice Center | \$20-\$55. VIP Group pass also available, See Website, 7:00 pm
- Hansel and Gretel | Ellen Eccles Theater-Cache Valley Center for the Arts | \$12-\$25, 7:30 pm
- Dana & Susan Robinson Folk Concert | Crumb Brothers Bakery | \$15, 7:30 pm
- Josh Johnson | Why Sound | \$5, 8:00 pm
- The Changing Climates of the Arts and Sciences | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
- Crafting a Continuum: Rethinking Contemporary Craft | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day
- Fifty Works for Fifty States | Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art | Free, All Day

This issue dedicated to:



**Collin Burton** | undeclared | freshman | Omaha, Nebraska

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# MOUNTAIN WEST BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

## Wyoming men win first MW title

► By Kalen Taylor  
sports editor

Wyoming beat San Diego State 45-43 on Saturday to improve to 25-9 on the season and clinch its first NCAA tournament invite since 2002.

"I love the way these guys play," said Wyoming head coach Larry Shyatt after the win. "I have always trusted them. I'm so happy for our ball club, for our university and most of all for these five seniors who came and took a chance on our staff. They took a chance on the University of Wyoming at a time that was not easy."

The Aztecs had a chance for a 3-pointer at the buzzer, but it wasn't meant to be and the shot missed, leading to Cowboy win.

"We've been in dogfights all year," said junior guard Josh Adams, who was named tournament most valuable player after the game. "This is the style we play. I know a lot of the critiques about us — we're grinding it out, we're going to lose energy. We had bounce in our step and were able to grind it out all the way to the end of the game, and now we're going dancing."

Wyoming led the entire first half and

finished with a three-point lead at the half. In the second half San Diego State battled back and both teams took turns leading the game until Adams nailed a 3-point shot with just over a minute left to give Wyoming the lead for good.

"We came here, and I say it all the time," said Larry Nance Jr. who scored 14 points and had six rebounds in the San Diego State game. "Coach promised to be a piece of something bigger. If I remember right, that court just about 20 minutes ago was something bigger. That's what we're taking back to Wyoming. All those fans, this trophy, the tournament MVP and an NCAA tournament berth."

San Diego State held the edge in bench points against Wyoming. The Aztec bench put up 21 points compared to just one point for the Wyoming bench. Despite the difference in bench scoring and holding Wyoming to just six points in the paint, San Diego State came up short.

"I will congratulate Larry Shyatt," said Steve Fisher, head coach of San Diego State. "He's a good friend, for what he's done, and for his team with their grit and toughness. But we have a team that has proven that we have that same

mettle, and I'm disappointed we're not the ones out chopping the nets down. But we're not. That's the reality of it. That disappointment and feeling truly has no boundaries."

Wyoming was the four seed in the tournament and beat Utah State 67-65 in its first game. Adams led the way against USU, scoring 19 points and dishing out six assists. After defeating the Aggies, the Cowboys set their sights on the Broncos for their second game.

Playing against top-seeded Boise State on Friday, Wyoming needed a little extra time to get the win but finished with a 71-66 advantage after overtime. Adams again led all scorers this time with 27 points.

"I'm just happy for these five guys that are a year ahead of me that I've had a chance and privilege to spend three years with," said Adams after the Boise State game. "I know they've wanted this for a long time. I'm glad to be a part of it, and I'm glad I could do something propel them to that spot and help out a little bit."

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ABOVE: Darius Perkins cuts through the lane for a layup against Wyoming. BELOW: Jojo McGlaston fights off Wyoming defenders as he takes to the lane for a shot.



1. Julian Pearre goes up-and-under for a shot against a Wyoming defender.
2. David Collette gets one of his multiple dunks during the second half of the men's tournament game in Las Vegas.
3. Kirany Giles performs with the rest of the Aggies during the cheerleaders MW Extravaganza performance at half time of the Boise State vs. Air Force game.
4. Julianne Anchling takes the ball down the court to get an open shot near the rim.
5. Elston Jones looks for an open shot against while battling in the post against Wyoming's interior defense.
6. Julianne Anchling shows her concern for the team as the San Jose State game slowly slipped away from Utah State.
7. Funda Nakkasoglu keeps the ball away from the Spartan defender and looks for an open teammate or a chance to put up a shot.
8. Stew Morrill coaches David Collette in the last few minutes of their tournament game against Wyoming.
9. Jalen Moore leaps past Larry Nance Jr. for a bucket near the rim in the final game of the season against Wyoming.



## Boise State takes the women's tournament crown by knocking off New Mexico

► By Kalen Taylor  
sports editor

A No. 4 seed Boise State secured its first Mountain West conference tournament title Friday defeating the No. 2 seed New Mexico 66-60.

"When we started, the number one goal we had was finish," said Boise State guard Brooke Pahukoa, the tournament's most valuable player. "We have this big pyramid. It says: Finish on the top. When we were down during the season, when we lost some games we shouldn't have, it was tough for us."

The Broncos led wire-to-wire in the game. The Lobos kept it close the entire night but couldn't gain control of the game. Sophomore guard Yaiza Rodriguez led Boise State with 18 points on 5-of-10 shooting and also had four assists. Pahukoa had 16 points and forward Miquelle Askew had 12 points on an effective 4-of-5 shooting from the floor. "We just kind of grinded

it out and never stopped believing," said Boise State coach Gordy Presnell. "You know, we let them get it down to five but never let them get all the way back into it. I was really proud of them. I thought Yaiza was terrific. She kept calling the same pick'n roll over and over and over. Brooke has been all in. It's been a great run. They're Boise State believers, both of them, and we're excited about the win."

For New Mexico guard Antiesha Brown had 23 points and six rebounds. Following Brown was Khadija Shumpert who scored 17 points in the game.

"They played a tremendous game," said New Mexico head coach Yvonne Sanchez. "They definitely had the pieces with 18 points on 5-of-10 shooting and also had four assists. Pahukoa had 16 points and forward Miquelle Askew had 12 points on an effective 4-of-5 shooting from the floor. They took us out of what we wanted to do. They're going to represent the Mountain West Confer-

ence very, very well." The road to the final for Boise included a 76-67 win over the eighth seeded San Jose State Spartans. New Mexico beat Fresno State 64-53 to get into the game. "San Jose is a really good team," Pahukoa said after the San Jose State game. "They like to run the ball. They like to pressure you. We're more of a composed halfcourt team. When we have a point guard like Yaiza who can read the floor really well, it makes it easy."

With the win Boise State moved to 22-10 on the season and the team is headed to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2007. This is the third trip for Boise State to the big dance, and the Broncos are 0-2 in their previous two trips to the tournament.

Boise State received a No. 15 seed and will face off against No. 2 Tennessee in its first game.

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Twitter: @kalen\_taylor



Tilar Clark drives on the baseline against a stingy San Jose State defense. Clark and the rest of the Aggies trailed by eight points at the half but couldn't withstand a barrage of 3-point shots by the Spartans to make a comeback in the game.



JASMINE PORTER



ELISE NELSON



SEAN HARRIS



INGRIDA STRIKAS



FRANNY VAALU

Jasmine Porter looks for an open teammate to pass the ball to during the last half of the MW tournament game against San Jose State.

Elise Nelson dribbles past the defense and down the open lane on offense. Nelson had 10 points and nine rebounds in the game.

Sean Harris keeps the ball away from Cowboy defenders, while looking for an open teammate to get the ball to.

Ingrida Strikas stays away from the contact while preparing for a shot against San Jose State.

Franny Vaalu tries to shake off a defender on her way to the hoop. Vaalu had four points and six rebounds in her final contest.

## LAST MOMENTS ON THE COURT

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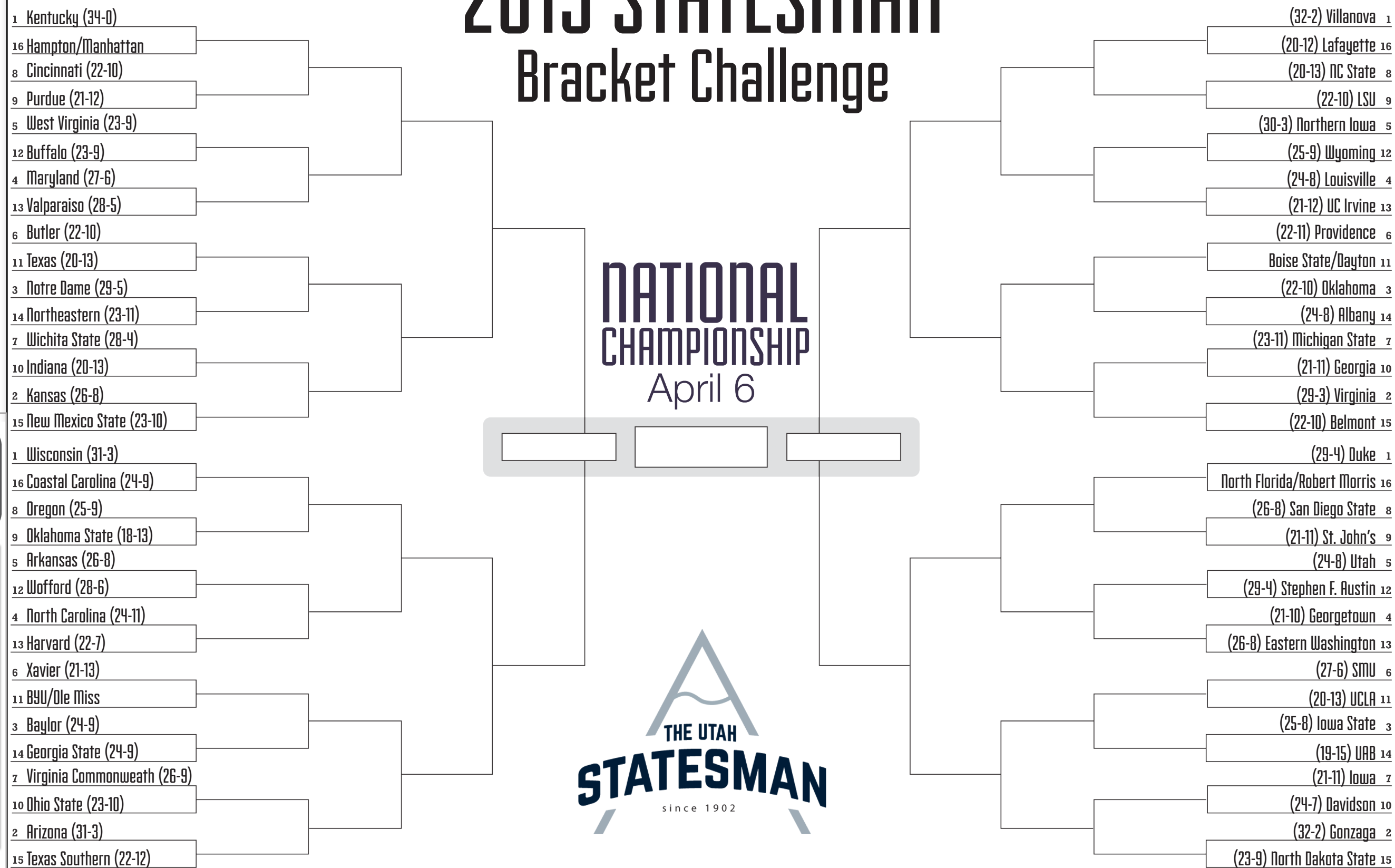
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4. Challenge your friends to play
5. Login and save your picks by Tuesday March 17th
6. Post a creative photo of your bracket on social media using the hashtag

# #USU BRACKETS

# USUSTATESMAN.COM/BRACKETS

Enter for your chance to win:

- Free 6-month all-access membership to Sports Academy and Racquet Club
- 30-minute massages from Sports Academy and Racquet Club
- On-campus block meal plans
- Prize packages and gift certificates from Buffalo Wild Wings
- Free Bluetooth speaker from Lynn's Audio and Video
- Aggie apparel packages from The HURD
- And more...

