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## The Utah Statesman, October 27, 2016

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## NEWS | No clowns

Dress like a clown for the Howl and you might be denied entrance.

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Cache Valley's sports culture is thriving.

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## STUDENT LIFE | HOWLoween Weekend

Prepare to meet the Great Pumpkin with these helpful ideas.

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# USU PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED

## Former provost Noelle Cockett first female president in USU history

## Students react to new president

By Isabel Forinash and Michael Burnham  
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITERS

On the evening of Oct. 26, 2016, the Board of Regents filed inside the auditorium of the Eccles Conference Center as former president Stan Albrecht and his wife took a seat center-stage. Only a handful of bright-eyed students attended the announcement of the new president of Utah State University, Noelle Cockett.

Although the announcement and nominations have been months in the making, students expressed feelings of excitement as well as unawareness before the event that was to take place at 5:30 that evening.

Several groups of students walking just outside the conference center minutes before the announcement agreed that they have not heard of nor kept track of the candidates and did not realize the decision had come up so quickly. They still, however, had expectations of the soon-to-be USU president.

"I would hope that it would be someone who cares about diversity and making sure our educations are deep and broad," said Elizabeth Randall, a student majoring in constitutional law.

Some students were evidently excited about the event and had no problem voicing their enthusiasm.

McKenna Allred, a sophomore majoring in journalism, participated in the student panel that interviewed the final four presidential candidates and had gained a good perspective on what she expected in the university's new president.

"I'm expecting really great things, especially along the lines of student involvement because they will be involved and I am really excited to see who it is because they are all such good candidates," said Allred with an undeniable passion for USU.

Another student who participated in the student panel was Kylee Hopkin, a communications studies major who works for Student Orientation and Transition Services.

"I think it's a unique opportunity we have to be a part of this process," she said. "I actually sat in on the student's committee yesterday and listened to presentations from all four candidates."

The announcement of Noelle Cockett as the new president of Utah State left several students reflecting on her history with USU and how she will be able to apply that to her new position.

"It'll be a great thing to have Noelle Cockett as our president because she's not only been around Utah State for a really long time, but she also knows where we're wanting to go and where we've been in the past," said Hadley Burton, a business administration and marketing major.

Former Utah State University Student Association president Trevor Sean Olsen said he thinks Cockett brings experience to the table.

"I think she, being the provost, has great experience," Olsen said. "It's nice to have someone who's been so involved at Utah State continue to be involved and continue the trajectory that President Albrecht has set. I think it's really exciting."

Olsen also said he hopes Cockett continues Albrecht's focus on the students.

"I really hope that she continues to listen to the student voice," he said. "I hope that she will continue that focus on students and make sure students are the number one priority."

Olsen said he hopes Cockett continues the good things from President Albrecht, but also makes needed improvements.

"I hope that she doesn't coast," he said. "We see people come in and coast off what people in the past have done and I hope that she'll take some initiative to take the university the direction that she hopes to."

He said he also hopes she continues Albrecht's emphasis on the academic aspects of the university, like research and seeking funding and increased enrollment for graduate programs.

"I think she'd be the right person for that, having been the provost," he said.

Kaitlin Archibald, a senior who also works for Student Orientation and Transition Services, hopes one of these improvements is a stronger emphasis on student retention.

"Student retention is kind of a problem here at Utah State," Archibald said. "A lot of people



PHOTO BY Sydney Oliver

Former executive vice president and provost Noelle Cockett was named university president Wednesday evening. She will officially take over for the retiring Stan Albrecht in January.

By Melanie Fenstermaker  
NEWS CONTENT MANAGER

At a meeting in front of colleagues and friends Wednesday, Noelle Cockett accepted an invitation from the Board of Regents to lead Utah State University as the new president.

"Together, we will make USU an institution whose future is boundless and bright," Cockett said, beaming.

In January, Cockett and her husband, John, will formally take the reins from President Stan Albrecht and first lady Joyce Albrecht to head Utah State University.

Out of the four finalists selected, Cockett was the only incumbent from the university. She has worked closely with Albrecht and other administrators at USU since she was named executive vice president and provost in 2013.

She said she admires the work Albrecht has done and hopes to "build on the successes Stan and Joyce have established."

"Today I pledge to the USU community that as president I will tirelessly devote my skills, experience and energy to keeping this institution true to its land-grant mission, to doing everything possible to increase its success and impact, and to ensuring that the university flourishes and continues its tradition of excellence in years to come," she said.

In addition to being the only incumbent, Cockett was also the only female candidate. Now, Cockett will be USU's first female president. Since the university was founded in 1888, it has seated 15 presidents, all male. In fact, Cockett is one of only a handful of female presidents who have served at public universities in Utah's history.

According to her bio on the university's website, Cockett grew up on a beef cattle ranch in eastern Montana. She has a bachelor's degree

in animal science from Montana State University and a master's and doctorate degree in animal breeding genetics from Oregon State University.

Cockett spent five years as a research geneticist in Nebraska, and was then hired as an assistant professor at USU in 1990.

"My husband John and I arrived in Cache Valley in 1990, intending to remain only a few years; however, I soon learned how very special Utah State University is and came to realize this is exactly where I wanted to be, both professionally and personally," she said.

She was promoted to associate professor in 1993 and full professor in 1996. According to her bio, she has also served as the interim dean of the School of Graduate Studies and the vice provost for Academic Affairs.

Cockett said she's had a dream to be the president of the university. During the years she worked at the school, she said she grew to admire Albrecht's leadership and the greatness of the university.

"Like so many others over the 128 years of USU's existence, I have developed a love and passion for all that Utah State is," she said.

As university provost, Cockett worked closely with Albrecht and other university administration. In October, Albrecht tasked Cockett with leading a sexual assault prevention task force.

Albrecht said Cockett has his "absolute, full support" and said she has a "great experience ahead of her."

"I would just urge our administrative team, our faculty, our students, our staff, our boards — and I'm confident that they all will — to support our new president as they have supported me," Albrecht said.

Albrecht, who announced his retirement in February, will have served as president for almost 12 years when he officially steps down in 2017.

The four finalists, who were announced on Oct. 19, were interviewed in the days preceding the announcement.

They were Don Blacketter, the chancellor of Montana Tech; Keith Miller, a former faculty member at the New President Academy at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities; and Mark Rudin, who has been the vice president for research and economic development at Boise State University since 2007.

On Oct. 26, the candidates were interviewed by four groups of university affiliates, including students, faculty, staff and the Board of Regents. Interviews with each candidate lasted about 40 minutes.

Blake Lyman, a member of a group of about 30 students who represented the student population, said the groups asked the candidates specific questions about how they would lead the university.

Lyman said the interviewers took rigorous notes about the candidates' potential strengths and weaknesses, then submitted the information to the Board of Regents.

"I definitely think it was fair and needed," he said. "We each got a chance to really get into some meaty issues. We really got to know the candidates and what they brought to the table."

The Board of Regents ultimately chose the president, and students didn't vote on the matter.

Cockett said she is grateful for support from students and colleagues, and hopes to help them continue to see growth and success.

"Our outstanding staff, administration, trustees and many friends will keep the message alive that USU is an institution of greatness," she said.

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# No clowns at the Howl, USUSA says



FILE PHOTO  
Students dance at the Howl, a Halloween dance party at USU that attracts thousands of young adults from across the state, in 2015.

By Alison Berg  
Staff Writer

Clowns seem to be everywhere lately: on the news, in movies and even on campus — but they won't be at the Howl.

The Utah State University Student Association recently published a press release stating, "Due to the current climate towards clowns, we highly discourage dressing as a clown; this is for your safety inside and outside of the event. If you come dressed as a clown, you may be refused admission."

While heavy face paint and props have always been discouraged, dressing as a clown has never been a ticket to admission refusal. In fact, USU has used "creepy clowns" as a past theme for the Howl.

Spencer Bitner, the Taggart Student Center associate director and student events adviser, said USUSA is mostly concerned about students' safety.

There have been accounts around the nation of students creating mobs to try to hunt down — and possibly hurt — people dressed as clowns.

"We are discouraging clown costumes for the students' safety," Bitner said. "We're worried that someone could take offense to someone people dressed like a clown and try to hurt them."

The rule against clowns was created in early October, when clowns were popping up all over the nation, and some were causing harm and distress to citizens.

"We feel like the clown hype has kind of died down recently," Bitner said. "Originally our administrators were concerned about students' safety. We were concerned about a student dressing like a clown, acting creepy and getting hurt."

Because the Howl attracts thousands of people, certain precautions are taken to ensure participants' safety. These precautions include banning props of any sort, masks, and heavy face paint which can cover someone's identity. "Our biggest concern is identifying people if they do cause problems. If someone has face paint on, it's harder to take face paint off than to take a mask off," Bitner said.

Crimes happen every year at the Howl, and a precaution is taken to ensure these crimes are

handled properly.

"We can't let someone come in and potentially do something nefarious and not be able to identify them," Bitner said.

Although the Howl is an event in honor of Halloween and it has a scary aspect to it, Bitner said it is intended to be fun and safe for all attendees.

"We want people to come and have fun in the context of The Howl, but we also want them to know if they come dressed in any way that is offensive or obscene, they may not be let in," he said.

The Howl sold out at 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

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# Torrey Green goes to court



By Alison Berg  
Staff Writer

Former Utah State University football player Torrey Green appeared for his initial hearing in the Cache County First District Court today at 10 a.m. in front of Judge Thomas L. Wilmore.

The judge and attorney decided to hold Green in jail on a "no bail" status in the Cache County Jail. The bail hearing is set for Dec. 13, where the judge will decide on the possibility of Green posting bail.

Cache County Attorney James Swink said he "feels Green is a threat to society and should not be released from custody."

Green was arrested on five charges, but nine women initially made reports against him. Not all reports moved forward in the prosecution process.

The Cache County Attorney's office initially received nine reports filed against Green. Five of the reports have been charged against him, two victims have chosen not to move forward with prosecution, one did not show

sufficient evidence and one is still under investigation.

"We respect the rights of the two victims who chose not to move forward with the prosecuting process," said James Swink, Cache County attorney.

Swink said "hundreds of hours have been spent investigating these cases and I'd like to express appreciation to victims' services for their help in keeping the victims informed." Skye Lazaro, an attorney from Salt Lake City, is representing Green.

The case is still under active investigation. Sufficient evidence has not been discovered for either side to argue the case yet, "which is why the bail hearing was set for December," Lazaro said.

Lazaro said it is too soon to comment on Green's defensive strategies.

"Both sides are still putting their cases together," he said.

The state will provide witnesses at the bail hearing.

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# Voting in person this year? *Think again*

**By Morgan Pratt**  
Opinion Content Manager

The 2016 presidential election is Sarah Anderson's first chance to vote. Anderson, a junior studying history, said she is "80 percent certain" she is going to vote for Evan McMullin.

"I am honestly not that politically inclined," she said. "But I thought maybe I should actually vote, because... I can actually make a difference."

Anderson said she doesn't want her first vote ever to be "dumb," because she'd have to live with that decision.

It's also Cache County's first time hosting a vote-by-mail presidential election.

Anderson said she planned to find an in-person polling location on election day. But Cache County switched to mostly mail-in ballots, so waiting to vote at a polling location at the nearest elementary school on election day isn't an option this year. There will be three open polling locations in the county: the County Administration Building, Nibley City Office, and Smithfield Civic Center. Most students are expected to vote by mail-in ballots. She opted to not get a ballot in the mail because she moved around so often. Anderson thought she was good to go on election night. "I was here in Logan when I registered to vote," she said. "Then I went home for the summer and I came back and I don't have the same address."

Jill Zollinger, Cache County Clerk, said most people should have received their ballots in the mail by now.

"I think everybody has an address and so they can vote," Zollinger said.

But Anderson hasn't received a ballot.

Anderson isn't the only one. Damon Cann, a Utah State University professor who specializes in American politics, said youth voters struggle with voting because of how often they move around.

"For a lot of Utah State University students, their ballot might go to their parent's house where they registered to vote, instead of going to them," he said.

Jeff Dransfield, Cache County resident, said he is particularly upset that student votes will be repressed.

"They won't even know where to mail in their ballots because they're going to be living in a different place than where their information is being sent," he said.

Zollinger said getting college students to vote was an issue in the past.

"But hopefully with mail-in ballots, they will have better opportunities to vote," she said. "They're busy with classes and things."

Cache County was one of the first counties in Utah to switch to vote-by-mail nearly four years ago, said Val Potter, who served on the Cache County Council.

"The turnout for voting was very low when we first started," he said.

Mail-in ballots were the cheaper options, he said. He also said the county was faced with

buying new voting machines, which would cost \$70,000 to \$80,000 and the machines have a limited life span.

Zollinger said with mail-in-ballots, people can spend time to research the candidates and issues they can vote for.

"If you're in a booth, you either don't vote on it or you make an uninformed vote," she said. Two years ago, Cache County used mostly mail-in ballots during the general election.

"The turnout was up," Potter said.

That's exactly what Cann expected. The goal of vote-by-mail is to increase voter participation, he said. Also, it makes it easier for voters to compare and contrast candidates, Cann said.

"Vote-by-mail may initially increase voters," he said.

When cities and counties switch to vote-by-mail, it's a novelty for voters, so they're more likely to vote. But Cann said that initial increase in the first election isn't sustained over several election cycles.

"In the first vote-by-mail election, you see a spike in voter turnout, typically," he said. "In the second, it recedes. By the third or fourth vote-by-mail, you see voter turnout back to the same place that it was before the switch." The increase in voter turnout only happens if there's an accompanying media campaign to alert voters of the change in voting, Cann said.

"I've seen some social media from the political parties," he said. "They carry some of that load as well as the Cache County Clerk's office."

**Last Day to Register:**  
*November 1st*

**Last Day to Vote by Mail:**  
*November 6th*



Graphic by Emma Roberts

going to suppress votes," he said.

Dransfield said it doesn't matter whether the county is doing opting to go with vote-by-mail to save money or to suppress people's votes,

it's still suppressing votes.

"It's unconstitutional, frankly," he said. "And it's undemocratic. A democracy should be concerned about it."

Potter said by switching to vote-by-mail permanently, Cache County on the right path.

"There was some backlash because people

don't like change," Potter.

There are more than 50,000 Cache Valley residents who are registered to vote. Zollinger said she expects 40-50 percent of those people to vote.

For more information, visit [vote.utah.gov](http://vote.utah.gov).

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**In the first vote-by-mail election, you see a spike in voter turnout, typically,**

— **Damon Cann, Utah State University professor**

Zollinger said the state of Utah ran some ads about the switch to mail-in ballots and radio PSAs were aired. However, Zollinger said Cache County didn't host a social media campaign to alert voters. That's the state's responsibility.

Anderson said she never received any information about the switch to mail-in ballots.

"We haven't gotten any ads or anything about that," she said.

Cann said he expects there to be less people who vote by mail in Cache County during this presidential election.

"Because Cache County residents are getting accustomed to the vote-by-mail," he said. "But there will be some."

The last day to register to vote online or at the Cache County Clerk's Office is Nov. 1 and the last day to send ballots to Zollinger is Nov. 6. There are several ballot drop box locations for voters to send their ballots without using a stamp. On election night, there will be three polling locations in the county, including one at the Cache County Clerk's office.

Dransfield said three polling locations isn't enough.

"I think it's great that we do mail-in ballots, but when people go to vote on election day and they don't know what's going on, that's



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# Start planning your 'HOWLoween' weekend

By Isabel Forinash  
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

The morning of Oct. 31 dawns on you accompanied by a crisp breeze, the falling autumn leaves and the personally terrifying desperation as you realize that despite your heightened social life, you have nothing planned for the most lit night of the year. Excluding the approaching Christmas season, obviously.

Especially amidst midterms and fall break, some students have trouble finding a reason to celebrate the Halloween holiday.

Spencer Cosgrove, a sophomore majoring in international business said, "I used to do something with my family, but I will probably just end up watching Netflix."

Other students would even go so far as to say that they have no memories of even celebrating the national holiday.

"When it comes to Halloween, there is no 'usually' for me. I never went trick-or-treating so now I just celebrate holidays like this by myself," said Ariel Velardi, a junior in English creative writing.

Regardless of whether or not you can relate to the trauma of nonexistent plans, this list of tricks and treats is bound to keep you spooked and ready to party for this year's Halloween.

### 1. Pumpkin Potluck

Everybody loves some free food, so what better way to celebrate the season of pumpkin spice than with a dinner/dessert bar dedicated to the glorified flavor? Have your friends and family fill the table with pumpkin pies, pumpkin spice rolls, vanilla-glazed pumpkin chocolate chip cookies, salted pumpkin seeds and more. Bon Appetit!

### 2. Twix and Sweets

No college student is ever too old for the timely tradition of trick or treating, especially when you live right next door to everyone you attend school with. Spread the word throughout your apartment complex, dormitories, and neighborhood street at the bottom of Old Main for everyone to leave a bowl of goodies outside their doors the night of Halloween. The temptation of free candy up for grabs is sure to lure everyone out of their homes and turn the night into one big candy social.



PHOTO BY Katelyn Mahnkens

For a good fright, haunted houses and scary movies are the go-to this Halloween.

### 3. Competitive Costuming

If you were looking for your chance to validate the infamous Halloween costume theory from "Mean Girls" that Halloween is the one night a year that it's socially acceptable for girls to reveal a little more and wear a little less — now you have it! Whether or not you and your posse choose to follow through with that theory, throwing or attending a costume party is still a great way to get into the Halloween spirit. Put a competitive spin on the party by offering sweet rewards for the best-dressed couple, most frightening outfit or most creative costume.

### 4. Tricks, no treats

You cannot celebrate Halloween without a little mischief and mayhem. Seize this holiday as your opportunity to secretly get back at that annoying roommate, crazy ex or even your friends, within legal limits of course.

Brady Garvin, a sophomore at Utah State University, recounted what has become a yearly tradition for him and his friends.

The group, usually consisting of four to six friends, dresses up solely as bananas and gorillas. As the night shadows roll in and the neighborhood families start to make their rounds, the

life-size bananas strategically lay in the path of an oncoming group of trick-or-treaters. Meanwhile, the gorillas hide in bushes nearby with a getaway car just around the corner waiting for the signal. Just as the trick-or-treaters are stepping over the banana corpses, the gorillas pop out, sweep up the bananas from off the ground, throw them into the popped trunk of the getaway car that just so happens to always have impeccable timing, and speedily drive away, all while making the most obnoxious animal noises.

"It's the funniest thing ever because it totally freaks people out. If I wasn't doing that on Halloween, I don't know what else I would be doing," Garvin said.

### 5. A-mazing events

As students of USU and members of the Logan community, there is a level of inclination that we all possess to take advantage of the many events and venues that the county has to offer, especially those fit for the Halloween season.

Emi Facer, the Activities Committee director

see "HOWLoween" PAGE 5



PHOTO BY Abby Shemkunas

Pumpkins take a central role in many Halloween activities.

## "Students React" FROM PAGE 1

come in but a lot of people don't finish. It's always been important, but I feel like as a president, there could be more done."

President Cockett's experience and previous job experience with Utah State University was also found to be a trait that many students admired.

"I am excited because of her experience and her love for Utah State. She has been around and people know who she is," said Lizie Allen,



PHOTO BY Sydney Oliver

Noelle Cockett speaking at her presentation Wednesday evening.

a student majoring in parks and recreation.

With a shaky voice, President Cockett said in her acceptance speech that she planned on tirelessly devoting her skills, experience and energy to keeping the university true to its legacy and leading the Aggies towards a future that is boundless and bright. Cockett's words echoed true in students reactions as they anticipated her future plans.

"I expect President Cockett to carry out what former President Albrecht has already established, but to move our school forward successfully and help us advance with new technologies and expand Utah State," said Sawyer Hemsley, a student majoring in communication studies.

President Cockett's son, Dylan Cockett, who is an applied sciences, technology and education major, said he's excited for his mother's new position.

"She's worked really hard for the university. My mom's always been extremely dedicated," he said.

USU has always been a big part of the Cockett family's life and will continue to do so with President Cockett's new position as president of the university.

"It's great to see my mom progress to this position. I think she'll do great for the university and for the students and help the university continue to grow," Dylan said.

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PHOTO BY Matt Halton

Noelle Cockett was appointed as the new Utah State University president by the Utah Board of Regents. She will begin her term at the beginning of 2017.

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# PHOTOGRAPHER SPOTLIGHT

— **Morgan Empey, Statesman Photographer**



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#### “HOWLween” FROM PAGE 4

for USU, is an avid supporter for all of the activities on and around campus.

“Participating in all of the awesome fall activities would be my favorite way to celebrate Halloween,” he said.

Corn mazes, the North Logan Pumpkin Walk, the Historic Logan Ghost Tour in downtown Logan and of course, the biggest dance party in all of Utah, the HOWL: Watch Your Back, are all events that you can take advantage of to spice up your Halloween night.

#### 6. “Do-It-Yourself” Hauntings

As poor college students, sometimes we are forced to have fun on a budget. If haunted houses and corn mazes get too expensive for your taste, use your roommates and a couple cheap party favors from Hobby Lobby to transform your apartment into a haunted house that all your neighbors and fellow students can walk through. With a couple of tipped over chairs, spiderwebs, dim lights, and roommates all dressed up like the walking dead, you will have the spookiest house on the block. Not to mention the looks on all your friends’ faces will be priceless. y

#### 7. Clown Huntin’

Put a Halloween twist on the classic game of Cops N’ Robbers by getting a group of friends together and identifying 2-3 people as the clowns of the group. After allowing them a couple minutes to run to anywhere on campus, the rest of the group sets off on, probably, the only clown hunt they will get in their lives. Wearing clown masks and costumes are highly discouraged, however an all-black outfit is not a bad substitution.

#### 8. Candy Binge

If simply buying bags of candy and having it go to waste is too mediocre for your taste, dig through old family recipes and those shared on Google, and make some homemade candy for your roommates and neighbors. Not only will it keep your house smelling sweet, but it is a great excuse to invite people over so that you all are not bored out of your skulls Monday night.

#### 9. S’mores, spooks, and smoke

Embrace the warm-ish weather while it lasts by throwing together a bonfire for all your friends to gather around and share the scariest stories from childhood. S’mores, extra blankets and a flashlight are recommended to make this Halloween fire a night to remember.

#### 10. Netflix n’ Scare

After all the lit parties and sweet candies, the best way to end the night is with a scary movie next to your lover and friends, munching on some caramel popcorn. Recent releases perfect for the occasion include “Don’t Breathe,” “Lights Out,” or “The Purge: Election Year.” For a more traditional take, pop in “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” “Hocus Pocus,” or “The Corpse Bride.”

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### FOR ADVERTISING CONTACT:

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### MISSION STATEMENT

Connect members of the Aggie community and provide a voice for all through impactful, relevant and diverse multimedia coverage.

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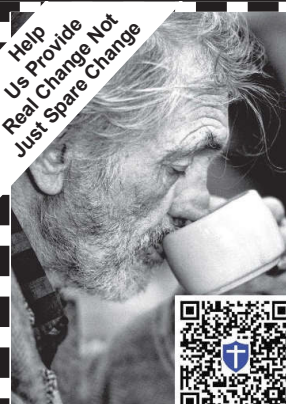
\$19.80 provides 10 delicious Christmas dinners  
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