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A Cache Valley nonprofit held a panel with Utah law enforcement officers to increase awareness for child sex trafficking.

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Latter-day Saints have a new Sunday schedule.

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Aggie gymnastics earns highest ever season-opening score.

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Fee Board discusses proposals for 2019 student fees

By Naomi Ward
NEWS SENIOR WRITER

The Utah State University Student Fee Board met Wednesday night to discuss proposed increases in student fees from the Counseling and Psychological Services office, the Institute of Government and Politics and Global Engagement office.

LuAnn Helms, interim CAPS director, emphasized a need for mental health services at USU and lack of funding, partly due to the restructuring of the Division of Student Affairs. James Morales, Vice President of Student Affairs, explained excess funding from other

departments had been used to help fund CAPS in the past, but since the division's reorganization last September, departments that had provided about \$250,000 have since been removed from student affairs.

"I no longer have those resources to provide year to year support for these positions," Morales said. "It's a critical, unfortunate situation that we're in."

Helms cited student surveys that showed almost 40 percent of USU students feel depressed, and over half reported overwhelming anxiety. To meet the International Association of Counseling Services standard

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On Wednesday, Jan. 9th, the University held their first fee board meeting of the year held at the Senate Chambers in the Taggart Student Center. The University Student Fee Board is comprised of members of the Utah State University Student Association (USUSA) and students at large.

PHOTO BY Jason Rimando



Creating a community of change with the Animal Rights Club



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Tennis starts the new year strong

By Daniel Hansen
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The Utah State men's tennis team began their season on Sunday with two dominant victories, defeating Weber State 7-0 before handling Idaho State 6-1. "There were a lot of positives and a lot of things for us to work on," said USU head coach James Wilson. "I was pleased with the results, but know we have to get a lot better."

The Aggies started the day in doubles play versus Weber State, wrapping up victories in the 2 and 3 matchups, as USU's Sergiu Bucur and Rithvik Bollipalli defeated Weber State's Paul Ohde and Cezary Walkusz, 6-2, while Felipe Acosta and Duro Opacic defeated Nick Werner and Bo-han Li 7-6 (7-5).

With the doubles point in hand, USU moved to singles play, where the Aggies dominated, winning all matches in straight sets. Acosta gave USU its second point of the day, defeating Ohde 6-3, 6-1. Bucur followed shortly, defeating Junhao Ye 6-1, 6-1 in the 2 matchup, while Opacic defeated Michiel Van Schoor 6-1, 7-5 at the 4 spot.

At the 1 spot, Isaac Arturo Arevalo beat Kris Van Wyk 6-3, 6-1. Jose Carvajal continued USU's dominant day, defeating Nick Werner 6-2, 6-2, before Rithvik Bollipalli finished out the match with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Bo-han Li.

After a short rest, the Aggies came back out to the court for part two of the doubleheader to take on Idaho State. Utah State again walked away with

the doubles point on the strength of Arevalo and Carvajal defeating ISU's Peter Thrac and David Felix 6-1, with Opacic and Acosta sealing the point with a 6-4 victory over Fynn Lohse and Francis Filipovich.

In singles play, Acosta continued his stellar day, finishing off Filipovich in straight sets to win 6-1, 6-1. Arturo staved off Felix at the 1 spot, winning 6-4, 6-4 to put USU on the verge of their second victory of the day. Carvajal sealed the win with a dominant straight sets victory, not dropping a game in a 6-0, 6-0 win over Gary Rendek.

The final matches played out the remainder of the match, with Opacic finishing off Lukas Ridemar in the third set with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 victory. Bucur battled back from a first set stumble to defeat Thrac 0-6, 6-1, 6-2. Lohse put Idaho State on the board in the final match of the day, defeating Bollipalli 6-3, 6-3.

"First matches are always a little bit shaky in some regards," Wilson said. "We got to see our guys see some real competition and it gives us a lot of things that we need to get better at."

The matches kicked off Utah State's defense of their second straight Mountain West title. Last season, USU went 19-9 en route to a conference championship before losing to TCU 4-1 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Utah State will continue their season on Saturday when they play at San Diego at 2 pm. The Aggies will then play UC Irvine on Sunday at noon.



Sophomore Jose Carvajal awaits a serve while playing against Idaho State on Sunday. The Aggies won against both Weber State and Idaho State, 7-0 and 6-1.

PHOTO BY Iain Laurence

Nonprofit educates about human trafficking

By Peter Pigott
NEWS STAFF WRITER

A local nonprofit organization hosted a panel on Friday to raise public awareness about human trafficking.

The Malouf Foundation, the charitable arm of local linen-manufacturing company Malouf, hosted the founders of Operation Underground Railroad, a Utah-based nonprofit dedicated to combatting the global child sex trafficking industry.

Tim Ballard, a former special agent for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and founder and CEO of Operation Underground Railroad, said the extent of child sex trafficking worldwide was grossly underestimated.

“More people are enslaved today than ever before,” he said. “I think people would be shocked if they knew the reality of human trafficking.”

Ballard said human trafficking is pervasive throughout American society, which is the largest source of demand for the global sex trafficking industry. He said human trafficking even occurs in Cache County, and that his nonprofit has provided consultation services for the Cache County Sheriff’s Office.

According to Operation Underground Railroad, child sex trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the United States. There are nearly 30 million people enslaved worldwide according to the Walk Free Foundation, including at least two million child slaves.

Ballard said he was motivated to start the nonprofit because of the limitations he faced while serving as a special agent in the federal government.

“I became exposed to cases that were totally outside the jurisdiction that I was really allowed to work in,” he said. “Unfortunately, the places where we were finding these kids, the governments of these countries didn’t have the resources to make a difference.”

Because the federal government’s jurisdiction is limited to U.S. territory, he believed he could make a bigger difference by founding a nonprofit which also works in partnership with foreign governments to combat human



From left: Sam Malouf, Tim Ballard and Jon Lines address a crowd about human trafficking.

trafficking abroad. Operation Underground Railroad currently operates in 22 states and 20 foreign countries.

Former Department of Homeland Security Investigator John Lines has served as the organization’s Director of Operations since 2016. He emphasized the importance of donations and spreading awareness about the issue.

“We are changing generations,” he said. “The private individual that gives us five dollars a month, that is saving generations.”

The panel spoke about the degree to which child sex trafficking occurs online.

“In the deep, dark layers of the internet, there are people that get on there that buy and sell children,” Lines said.

He explained that Operation Underground

Railroad provides technical expertise to foreign law-enforcement organizations to combat human trafficking on the dark web.

O.U.R. has generated public awareness about the issue by contacting congressional representatives and networking with other nonprofit organizations. Their documentary film, “Operation Toussaint,” recounts a recent operation in Haiti that resulted in the arrests of the country’s top four human traffickers.

“Once your eyes are opened to the cause and the issue, it’s not heroic to be involved, it’s humane,” said Sam Malouf, the founder of Malouf Foundation. “When you’re aware of this, it’s not something you can or should turn away from. It’s something you get more involved in.”

In addition to hosting awareness events and

fundraisers, a portion of all Malouf sales is donated to fighting human trafficking. The foundation has also launched a video series called “OnWatch,” which provides training to recognize the warning signs of human trafficking.

“I guarantee you know someone who can come and join the cause,” Lines said.

Lines said that if someone wants to help, they can volunteer, make donations and raise awareness about child slavery.

Donations to the Malouf Foundation and Operation Underground Railroad can be made at malouffoundation.org and ourrescue.org. The documentary “Operation Toussaint” can be found on Amazon Prime Video.

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Police: Utah mall shooting that wounded 2 was gang dispute

By Brady McCombs
Associated Press

MURRAY, Utah (AP) — A shooting at a suburban Salt Lake City mall that sent hundreds of panicked shoppers fleeing started as an argument between rival gang members inside the mall and later erupted in gunfire outside, leaving two people wounded, police said Monday.

Two 19-year-old men were arrested on suspicion of attempted aggravated murder, but investigators are not yet sure if either of them fired the shots that hit the victims, who were also involved in the fight, said Kenny Bass, a police spokesman in the Salt Lake City suburb

of Murray.

Shots were fired by the both sides, and those injured were believed to be people with the gangs. No bystanders were hit or injured, Bass said.

Compounding the pandemonium, a fire alarm at the Fashion Place mall that had been malfunctioning for days went off inside the mall, sending people running for exits, Bass said.

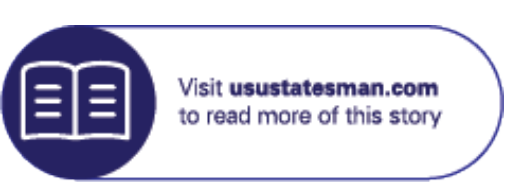


Photo by Trent Nelson/The Salt Lake Tribune
People evacuate with their hands aloft after a shooting at the Fashion Place Mall in Murray on Sunday Jan. 13, 2019.

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and earn re-accreditation, USU will need to fund between 18 and 28 positions. Helms said that, should the proposal pass, CAPS hopes to have 13 therapists on the main campus and 5 to work with students on regional campuses.

The CAPS proposal includes five items, listed in order of importance, Helms said. First, to fix the CAPS budget deficit, which will cost students each \$1.82.

Second is funding for a 75 percent time psychologist position currently held by Dr. Frazier, which would cost students \$2.21. Helms stated that the salaries for CAPS employees range from 63 to 69 thousand, compared to the national average for university counseling centers, 64 to 85 thousand. Helms said the office has had multiple employees leave for better paying jobs.

Third is funding for the second half of a psychologist position for the Caine College of the Art, which would cost \$1.39. Helms said the college, whose students make up a disproportionately high number of the students seeking mental health services, offered to fund part of a position that will devote part time to arts students, while still being partly available to other students. The position, which has yet to be filled, would be new.

Helms said while CAPS provides therapy services to about five percent of students, they provide therapy services to about 10 percent of CCA students. CCA senator Sierra Wise stated that part of the position’s creation was in response to the piano department investigation.

Fourth on the list of items is funding for a full time licensed clinical social worker, which would cost \$2.17 per student. Helms said this position would be used to handle lots of initial consults and crisis intervention.

Lastly, the proposal included an item for funding a full-time licensed marriage and family therapist and two USU practicum students, which would cost \$2.87 per student. If passed, this therapist would also be able to work with individual students should the demand for family counseling be lower than expected.

“We’re operating in the red. We don’t have enough money,” Helms said. “I don’t believe students should have to pay for all our services, but if we help one student to cope better, that usually has a positive impact on their roommates, friends and classmates. There’s a ripple effect to create a healthier environment.”

Most students expressed support for the proposal, with a few expressing concern about the sustainability of the new CCA psychologist position. The proposal will be voted on in the next meeting on Jan 23, with the board considering options to fund all five items, fund only the first four, fund only the first three or not pass at all.

The second proposal for additional funding came from the Institute of Government and Politics and the Global Engagement



PHOTO BY Megan Albrechtsen

The HURD calls out after referees’ penalize Utah State during play against Air Force on September 22. The Aggies beat the Falcons, 42-32.

office. Shannon Peterson, director of global programming for the IOGP, proposed a new \$5 semester fee that would create a Global Opportunity Scholarship Fund, a seed pool that would create \$1000 travel scholarships for 210 students.

Peterson said priority would be given to seniors, previous non-participants and students who demonstrate financial need, considering “current participation is primarily limited to scholarship recipients and students of higher socio-economic status.”

“It’s not really fair that these opportunities are only going to those who know about them and have resources already available,” said Peterson.

Multiple fee board members brought up concerns about the accessibility of scholarships, compared to the number of students contributing to the funds. Diversity and Organizations VP Josh Johnson said having roughly 500 to 600 students that apply for study abroad each year and having the scholarships only available for 210 people, there is no reason to believe the students receiving the new scholarships won’t be the exact same students.

Peterson had stated that while only about 2 to 3% of USU students study abroad, a spring 2018 campus survey had indicated 90% of students want to participate. Johnson pointed out that the survey was only completed by 255 participants, about 0.01% of the Logan campus student population.

Erik Olson,College of Engineering, senator mentioned that STEM students are less likely to study abroad than students in the humanities. Olson said engineering students rarely study abroad because the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology applies to programs mainly in the United States, and most engineering credits in international schools would not transfer back to Utah State.

Cameron Pitt, Huntsman School of Business senator, said he supports study abroad opportunities getting to a wider audience, but also expressed concern that the scholarships would go to students that already have the means and access to global opportunities.

“Before I vote yes or no, I really want to know what the qualification process is to award these scholarships,” Pitt said.

In a straw poll, three board members voted partially while all remaining members voted against. Because the proposed fee is new, if passed by the board the proposal would be included as a referendum on USUSA election ballots this February.

The board will meet again on January 23 to vote on the proposals.

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STUDENT LIFE

Professor finds love in USU, students, and Dolly Parton



PHOTO COURTESY OF Rose Judd-Murray
Rose Judd-Murray attended Utah State University from 1993 to 1997 while working on her undergraduate degree. She now is a professor at USU.

By Erick Graham Wood
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

In the Ag Science building, on the first floor, in a small cubicle, there is a desk with a sign that belongs to Professor Rose Judd-Murray, a science teacher on campus. On that sign is a picture of famed folk-singing legend, Dolly Parton, and it reads, “What would Dolly do?”

That question is in the back of Judd-Murray’s mind every day.

“I was country before country was cool,” Judd-Murray said when asked about the sign, which was given to her by a friend. “She is one of the most intelligent musicians and songwriters of all time. She doesn’t write songs that rhyme. She writes songs that speak to her.”

One might not expect to find many similarities between a country singer and a science teacher, but Judd-Murray connects to Parton on a personal level, citing Parton’s personality and kind nature as qualities that she adores. Similarly, students of Judd-Murray also cite these qualities as reasons they like her.

On ratemyprofessors.com, every user rating for Judd-Murray is positive. Comments include: “Rose’s Science and Modern Technology is by far one of the best, most rewarding courses I have ever taken at the university,” “she makes class so interesting and fun,” and “Rose is an awesome professor who cares about her students.” Rate My Professor may not be the most reliable way to gauge the quality of a professor, but Judd-Murray also won the 2017 Graduate Student Teacher of the Year Award, which is given by the USU Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

“I love teaching and I love working at this university,” Judd-Murray said. “The class these students are talking about is my science and technology class. I love teaching that class and the content and the interaction we have is amazing. I tend to gauge the way the semester goes by the general feeling in the classroom.”

Judd-Murray said that it is important to her that she gets to know her students, remembering their names at the very least. “I make people write their names on placards, and I try to remember them and know them. My students roll their eyes and I teach about 80 kids in that class, but I really try to remember each student and gauge if they feel connected to me or if I feel connected to them.”

Judd-Murray attended Utah State University from 1993 to 1997 while working on her undergraduate degree. She then

returned to USU to work on her master’s degree from 1999 to 2002 and is hoping to finish her doctorate this spring.

“USU is the only school that I applied to because I wanted to be a veterinarian and this was the school best suited for that,” Judd-Murray said. “But I loved it here and loved undergraduate work.”

Judd-Murray realized her Senior year that she didn’t want to

“It’s very important to me to be able to sit across from people with different opinions and have that not affect how I treat them ...

— Rose Judd-Murray

go to vet school and started working for USU Extension until returning to school.

“I worked for nonprofits and USU and just fell in love with Logan. It was an easy place to live and have that transition,” Judd-Murray said. “The faculty here does care about students and genuinely wants them to succeed. I feel a real responsibility now because over so many years I have had so many mentors, and while finishing my school I found that having a faculty member that will invest in me has changed the entire trajectory of my life.”

Judd-Murray says teaching provides many opportunities to to “pay it forward.”

“There are great dividends,” she said. “There are some days when you just do your job, but any time you can mentor students it’s a huge reward.”

Judd-Murray is originally from Warship, Utah, which is about seven miles from Park City. She said that in the ‘80s, while she was growing up, Park City was just “an Albertsons and a Pizza Hut,” so she was used to a small town. She is the oldest of four girls and was scared to move to Logan alone, but said that she has made lifelong friends here.

“Great things happened here. It was an easy choice to keep coming back,” Judd-Murray said.

In the Fall semester, Judd-Murray will start as assistant professor for the School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education at USU. She said that ultimately she decided to be a professor in Logan because of the students, the community and her coworkers.

“I have three kids now and we like it here,” Judd-Murray said. “I love to be in the classroom and hear people laugh and then I’m laughing and we are just comfortable, and if that happens I can check off a box and say that was a good semester.”

Former student Alyssa Cods said that she loved Judd-Murray’s class because it was important information given in a way that didn’t feel like a lecture.

“Sure, we had assignments, but Rose cared that each of us were retaining the information and excited about the information,” Cods said.

Judd-Murray said her advice for students is “if you’re struggling, let someone know.”

“Professors care, and it is hard for us to know unless you tell us,” Judd-Murray said. “As faculty, we have to recognize that sometimes we can save ourselves a lot of headache by helping the students. Health and stress challenges matter to me.”

She also stressed the importance of writing everything down and just doing one’s best.

“Best doesn’t mean you will get an A, but if that’s your best, I can accept that and so should you. That’s your best; don’t feel shame.”

Judd-Murray’s goals, which include finishing her doctorate degree and trying to not be a perfectionist, line up with this philosophy.

“At some point we are taught to believe that perfectionism exists. Perfection is unattainable, and I want to look at each semester and ask myself, ‘what is it I can do to do my best?’ and leave it there,” Judd-Murray said. “I want to be okay with my best effort and realize that perfect people aren’t the only ones who get happiness and fulfillment. Also, awards don’t always equal success. The dollar amount in your research and grants don’t equal success.”

Judd-Murray also believes that food, clothing and shelter are fundamental rights and that we can do “a whole lot better as a human race” to make sure everyone feels valued.

“It’s very important to me to be able to sit across from people with different opinions and have that not affect how I treat them or my own beliefs,” she said. “It’s a challenge to learn that disagreement doesn’t have to amount to hate. I do get mad. Injustice makes me crazy. I try really hard in my classes to limit my opinions. There are some classes that it behooves a professor to explain opinions, but I teach science so I try to deliver facts.”

Judd-Murray strives to make the world a better place, even if it’s just one class, or student, at a time. Sometimes she may imagine the world the way it is in a Dolly Parton song where “the sky is green, and the grass is blue” as she goes to work each day asking, “What would Dolly do?”

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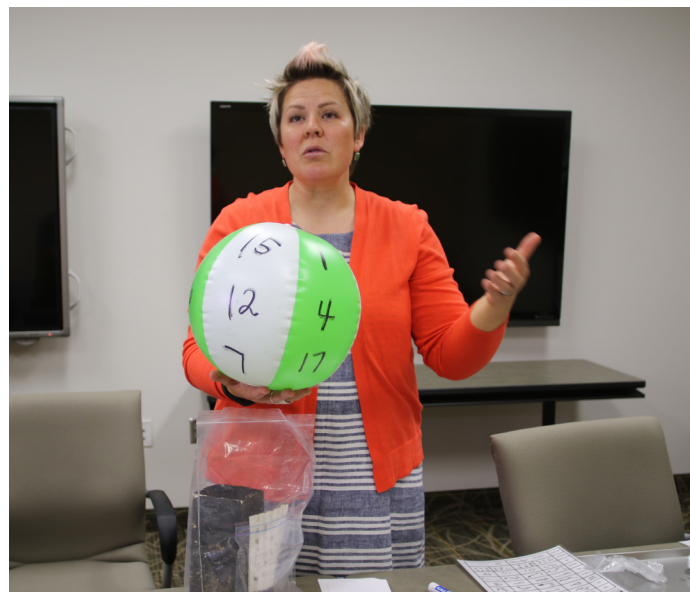


PHOTO COURTESY OF Rose Judd-Murray

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What Latter-day Saints can do with less church, more Sunday



PHOTO BY Iain Laurence

Latter-day Saints started a new home-centered curriculum which shortened the three-hour block to two hours.

By Erick Graham Wood
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

Back in October, President Russell M. Nelson of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced a home-centered curriculum that would change the typical three-hour block of church services to a new two-hour schedule. The change started on January 6.

When the announcement was made, social media was flooded with responses and memes that ranged from “now we can all get home early enough to watch football” to “that moment when your three-hour nap gets cut down to two,” or my favorite, a picture of Nelson wearing the infinity gauntlet and snapping away one-third of the schedule.

The idea is that the third hour will be used to “enhance gospel learning and living at home and in our personal lives,” according to the LDS Church website.

So, if gospel study isn’t on your agenda this year (or maybe it is, but you are looking for ways to spend your fourth or fifth hours on a Sunday), here are some ideas for you:

1. Go For a Walk

Instead of actually spending your day watching football or on social media, try taking a walk for an hour each Sunday. While you are on the city streets, feel free to pick up some of the trash and collect it in a bag. By the time your hour is up, you will have not only gotten some great exercise, but you will have also helped give service to your community.

2. Visit a Local Nursing Home

Many people spend Sundays visiting the hospitals and nursing homes with the sacrament. This is something that can be done on

a Sunday, even if you don’t have anyone specific to visit. You can offer to play the piano or to play games with the residents.

3. Read a Book That You Normally Wouldn’t Pick Up

Knowledge is one of the best things in this life. Students spend so much time reading what other people want them to read or get stuck reading the same type of books. For a change, try reading something that expands your horizons and maybe helps you to humanize your fellow human beings.

4. Visit Your Family and Friends

Life can get so busy and Sunday sometimes becomes a detoxing day where we close off from others to recharge. However, it’s important to do the opposite. With your extra time, why not visit the people you have been too busy to see? Ask them if you can do anything for them and make sure that they are doing okay. This small effort will keep your relationships going strong through the new year.

All in all, just put actions to your beliefs. There is nothing wrong with any form of religion when the followers have pure intent. This means one shouldn’t be expecting their moral dessert in the afterlife. One shouldn’t go to church the minimum amount of hours required just so they can go to heaven. In fact, to be a good person, the afterlife shouldn’t even be on your mind. Good people do good things for the benefit of others without expectations or being asked. Do something good, spread kindness and love, and don’t let your Sundays pass you by.

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THE CENTER FOR WOMEN & GENDER

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Career Achievement Awards 2019

The Center for Women and Gender at Utah State University seeks nominations for its 2019 Career Achievement Awards, designed to recognize the accomplishments of Cache Valley women. Women can be nominated in either the Community or Campus division in the following three categories:

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PHOTO COURTESY OF Michael Palmer/USU Athletics

Utah State sophomore Leighton Varnadore performs a beam routine in the Pitt Quad Meet Saturday afternoon in Pittsburgh, Pa. The Aggies tied for second-place on the beam with a score of 48.350, while posting a total score of 194.600.

Gymnastics starts season strong

Aggies post best season-opening score in program history at Pitt Quad Meet; Ward-Sessions captures two event titles

By Lauren Lomeli
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The Utah State gymnastics team opened up its season on Saturday afternoon, placing third while recorded the highest season-opening score in program history.

The quad-team meet took place in Pittsburgh, Pa., and was hosted by Pittsburgh, with No. 22 West Virginia in attendance along with Eastern Michigan.

West Virginia took first at the meet with a total score of 195.500, followed by Pittsburgh

at 194.750, Utah State in third with a score of 194.600, and Eastern Michigan finished fourth with 192.700.

“We’re really excited to get the highest season-opening score in the program,” said Utah State head coach Amy Smith. “It wasn’t a pretty

meet for us. We had to fight throughout the meet for the outcome we got, but it’s a great starting point to build off of. This was also one of the goals we had at the beginning of the preseason, so we were thrilled to accomplish this tonight.”

USU senior Madison Ward-Sessions took two event titles for the Aggies, taking her career total up to 24 titles. She earned a score of 9.825 win on the bars, and a was in a three-way tie with two other gymnasts from West Virginia at 9.900 to share the floor title.

To kick off the afternoon, USU began on the bars and scored 48.525 overall. Along with Ward-Sessions bars title, junior MaKayla Bullitt tied for fifth with a 9.775, while fellow junior teammate Madi Tueller scored a 9.600 after not competing for the past three years.

On the beam, sophomore Autumn DeHarde took second with 48.350 with fellow sophomore Leighton Varnadore tying for fourth with a 9.700.

Following the 9.900 Ward-Sessions earned on the floor, DeHarde was the next top finisher for Utah State where she put up a 9.825 to tie for sixth place.

“I was a little nervous, but I was able to calm down, focus and make my routines,” Ward-Sessions said of her performance. “I was happy with how I finished and was happy with how well the team did.”

Varnadore was able to score her career-best vault score of 9.800 to help the Aggies put up a total event score of 48.850 to close out the meet. She wasn’t the only Varnadore at the meet for Utah State, however, as her twin Logan made her vault debut with a 9.725 to add to the total score.

The Aggies will open up their home portion of their schedule on Friday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. when they host in-state Mountain Rim Gymnastics Conference rival BYU at the Spectrum.

Aggie defense stifles Cowgirls in 50-42 victory

By Daedan Olander
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

In its lone home matchup against Wyoming this season, the Utah State women’s basketball team defended the Spectrum and won its third Mountain West Conference game on Saturday afternoon, beating the Cowgirls 50-42.

Wyoming entered the game 9-3, and leading the nation in three-point shooting percentage and fewest turnovers per game. USU is now 8-7 overall and 3-1 in conference play.

Following her 14 point, 15 rebound performance against Fresno State, USU junior forward Shannon Dufficy continued rolling with another double-double, increasing her scoring output to 24 and adding 14 rebounds against Wyoming.

The game marks her ninth double-double of the season, and she now has a double-double in each of the Aggies’ first four games against MW opponents.

“Shannon Dufficy had another monster game,” said USU head coach Jerry Finkbeiner, who had high praise for his star. “Right now she might be the best player in the league.”

Trailing after the first quarter 11-6, USU responded in a huge way in the second. The latter part of the half began with a seven-point run by the Aggies, and they finished the quarter leading

by five, up 22-17.

A Wyoming three by senior guard Marta Gomez tied the score at 26 with 4:44 left in the third, however, and the rest of the quarter was tightly contested. The game was deadlocked at 34 entering the final period.

Utah State won by virtue of another strong finish to a half, and they held the Cowgirls scoreless for over six minutes of the fourth quarter. By the time Wyoming got on the board in the fourth, USU was leading 40-34, and they never ceded their advantage, winning the game by eight.

“This is a big win,” Finkbeiner said. “This is the first big win we’ve had this year.”

Utah State had eight blocks--four by junior forward Hailey Bassett-Meacham--as well as nine steals. The Aggies also outshot the Cowgirls from the field and both the three and free throw lines. USU held Wyoming to 32.7% shooting from the floor, under 20% from three, and 54.5% from the charity stripe.

“We had a great defensive effort,” Finkbeiner said. “We played pretty good defense, pretty good offense for 39 minutes.”

The Aggies stay at home Wednesday when they face the San Jose State Spartans at 11 a.m. before heading to Fort Collins, Colo., to face Colorado State on Saturday.



PHOTO BY Iain Laurence

Utah State senior guard Rachel Brewster is defended by Wyoming’s Taylor Rusk in Saturday afternoon’s basketball game. The Aggies won the game while holding the Cowgirls to a season-low 42 points.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VS. SAN JOSE STATE
WEDNESDAY | 11 AM
ELEMENTARY DAY

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

VS. BYU
FRIDAY | 7 PM
FREE ADMISSION FOR STUDENTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

VS. COLORADO STATE
SATURDAY | 7 PM
FATHER/SON TICKET PACKAGE

UTAH STATETM

Aggies end drought, earn first win at Wyoming since 1962

By Jason Walker
SPORTS SENIOR WRITER

The Utah State men’s basketball team overcame an early eight-point deficit against Wyoming to nab its second conference victory, and first win in Laramie since 1962.

At the 7:35 mark in the first half, the Aggies (12-5, 2-2 MW) had scored just 10 points and were on pace for a season-low in first half points. After that point, though, USU found its sweet spot offensively, scoring 22 points in the last seven minutes, capped off by a 30-foot 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer from senior guard Sam Merrill. Senior forward Quinn Taylor scored all seven of his points of the game in that seven-and-a-half-minute span.

“We just stuck with our stuff offensively,” Merrill said. “We were missing shots early, but we just kept moving the ball and were able to get what we needed.”

In that same 7:35, Utah State held the Cowboys (4-13, 0-4) to nine points, taking the game from a 16-10 Wyoming lead to a 32-25 halftime Aggie lead.

“Really proud of our guys and how we responded,” said USU head coach Craig Smith. “Wednesday night (against Fresno State) was a tough game. We were a little sluggish Thursday, but I loved the way we practiced yesterday. Certainly, when you get off to the start that we got off to, you’re kind of sitting there. The way they play, if you’re down 10 in this game it feels like you’re down over 20. It was just such a low-possession game.”

The game was a clash of styles, with Wyoming trying to force a slow-paced game onto the comparatively hyperactive Utah State offense. The Cowboys also went small for most of the game, trying to counter Neemias Queta’s pres-

ence inside by forcing him out of the paint.

The tactic worked early as Wyoming built a 12-4 lead by the first media timeout, but after 40 minutes, Queta came out on top. The 6-foot-11 center finished with 14 points, five rebounds and a pair of blocks. He also finished the game shooting 6 of 7 from the field. In his last three games, Queta has made 17 of 18 field goal attempts.

Utah State also got a big boost from its bench, mainly from Dwayne Brown Jr. and Diogo Brito. The two guards came went into Saturday’s game having scored a combined 21 points in three conference games. When the final buzzer sounded in Laramie, Brown and Brito had accounted for 23 of the Aggies’ 25 total bench points (Wyoming only had four points via non-starters).

“Those two guys really elevated their game,” Smith said. “They’ve both been kind of struggling, quite frankly, and that made a huge difference. Even Tauriawn Knight, who hadn’t played the last two games, gave us a nice little spark at the end of the first half. He brought a different pace to the team, that really got us going.”

Merrill also had something of a bounce-back game. Though not struggling to the same extent, the junior guard had seen his scoring averaged drop from 19.7 in non-conference play to 16.7 in the three conference games. Merrill scored 22 points in the winning effort, grabbing a career-high eight rebounds and dishing out four dimes.

USU will play its next game on the road at San Jose State (3-12, 0-3) on Wednesday at 8 p.m. before returning home Saturday to host Colorado State (7-10, 2-2).

 @thejwalk67



PHOTO BY Matt Halton
Utah State sophomore guard Abel Porter brings the ball down the court in a game last week against Air Force. The Aggies are now 12-5 overall, 2-2 in conference play after defeating Wyoming on Saturday afternoon 71-55.

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Column Local music needs your help

By Allison Allred
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

Logan has something really special going for it when it comes to local music. WhySound has been giving musicians from Cache Valley and beyond an opportunity to come together and network with other musicians, while also providing a venue to share their music with live audiences large and small.

WhySound and the newer venue The Cache, have a common goal: To provide Cache Valley citizens with places where local music can be heard. But local music will cease to exist if students and the rest of the community don't come to shows and contribute to this scene.

Logan has been the birthplace of and has helped launch groups such as Panthermilk, Fairpark Twins, Little Barefoot, Shua Taylor, Mojave Nomads, Dr. Barber, Ugly Boys and others — the list goes on.

As WhySound also doubles as a recording studio, many of these groups have been able to use the space to record albums and EPs in order to further disseminate their music to the fans they collect in Logan and elsewhere.

This unique and vibrant music scene has fluctuated throughout the years. Sometimes, the venues are bursting to capacity. Other years,

the Big Agg Show and Logan City Limits are wonderful and usually free opportunities for students to experience local music, and their value should not be underestimated. But those events don't give students a chance to experience all the local music that the valley has to offer. These bigger events use the same local musicians that rely on the existence of local

venues like The Cache and WhySound. One could argue that the Big Agg Show and Logan City Limits would not be possible without these venues.

Students, I know money is sometimes difficult to come by. Trust me, I get it.

But if you can find it, spending some of your hard-earned dollars on local music is a worthy use of your money. Whether it be at The Cache, WhySound or in buying music from local musicians, local music keeps the artistic heartbeat of Logan alive. We can't let local music be something that takes a backseat in this town.

There are shows happening at each venue

nearly every weekend and even on some weekdays. So, if you are looking for something new, something different, or maybe even something familiar, grab your friends, lovers, roommates and anyone else. Take them to a show. You will be contributing to something special that helps local business. You'll be helping hard-working musicians that come through Logan grow as artists.

If you are looking for a good introduction to local music, you can catch Salt Lake City group Ritt Momney at WhySound on Jan. 26.

Local music doesn't have to be something for niche groups and "artsy kids." There is really something for everyone. So give it a try and help keep the scene alive.

— allisonallredd@gmail.com

[@allisonallredd](https://twitter.com/allisonallredd)

Allison Allred is a senior studying Journalism. Since coming to Utah State in 2016 she has been involved in a variety of things, but her favorite has definitely been working with Student Media—writing and learning about local music. You can catch her at concerts nearly every weekend or find her in the Aggie Radio studio for her show, the Flower Power Music Hour.

“Local music doesn't have to be something for niche groups and 'artsy kids.' There is really something for everyone.”

they struggle to attract any concert-goers.

WhySound and The Cache need Utah State students to keep their venues alive and thriving. Should the sad day ever come that either of these venues have to close their doors, Cache Valley would lose one of the things that makes it a special place to be.

University-sponsored music events, like



PHOTO BY Megan Nielsen



PHOTO BY Megan Nielsen

B

BACKBURNER

Hard

		3		6			8	
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5	3	1	4	6	8	7	2	9
6	9	8	1	7	2	5	3	4
7	8	6	2	4	1	9	5	3
4	5	9	7	8	3	1	6	2
1	2	3	6	9	5	8	4	7
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JANUARY 15 - 21					
TUESDAY 1/15	WEDNESDAY 1/16	THURSDAY 1/17	FRIDAY 1/18	SATURDAY 1/19	MONDAY 1/21
<p>Jazz at Caffe Ibis 1:00pm Caffe Ibis 52 Federal Ave</p> <p>Learn to Belly Dance with Shimmering Sands! 7:00pm Whittier Community Center 290 North 400 East</p> <p>Community Conversations on Climate Challenges 7:00pm Logan Library 255 North Main Street</p>	<p>Women's Basketball vs. San Jose State 11:00am The Spectrum</p> <p>Love and Logic Class 6:30pm Logan Library 255 North Main Street</p> <p>Parenting the Love and Logic Way 6:30pm Logan Library 255 North Main Street</p> <p>Classic Country Dance Night 9:00pm Cache Valley Fun Park 255 East 1770 North North Logan, UT</p>	<p>Swing Club Opening Social 7:30pm HPER Building, Room 211</p>	<p>USU Gymnastics vs BYU 7:00pm Dee Glen Smith Spectrum</p> <p>Music in the City presents Strawberry Fields 7:30pm Fine Arts Center Brigham City 58 S 100 W Brigham City, UT</p>	<p>2019 Willy Wapiti's Smoke Pole Biathlon 10:00am Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area - Curtis Creek Blacksmith Fork Canyon Hyrum, UT</p> <p>The Women's Wave Women's March 2019 12:00pm Historic Cache County Courthouse</p> <p>Men's Basketball vs Colorado State University Rams 8:00pm Dee Glen Smith Spectrum</p>	<p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day USU will be closed January 21, 2019 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.</p>

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