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Utah State University, "The Utah Statesman, February 26, 2019" (2019). *The Utah Statesman*. 661.
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NEWS | USUSA Elections

Get to know the four candidates running for USUSA student body president

see PAGES 1 - 2

STUDENT LIFE | Elections

Current USUSA President, Jaren Hunsaker explains why it is important for students to know their candidates.

see PAGE 5

SPORTS | Road Warriors

Aggie men's basketball team overcomes late deficit to defeat Boise State in overtime 78-70.

see PAGE 7

Track and Field take home 2 titles at Indoor Championships



PHOTO COURTESY OF **Wade Denniston/USU Athletics**
Sophomore Hunter Simonsen jumps in the men's high jump event in the Mountain West Indoor Track and Field Championships. Simonsen claimed the title, jumping at 2.18 meters.

By **Adam Larson**
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The Utah State track and field team finished with two titles and 14 top-three finishes at the Mountain West Indoor Track & Field Championships from Thursday to Saturday at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

The Aggie men finished in third place with 97 points and the Aggie women finished in sixth place with 57 points, the most since joining the Mountain West Conference.

Colorado State finished first on the men's (151 points) and women's (139 points) side.

Utah State finished 1-2-3 in the men's high jump with sophomore Hunter Simonsen winning the event with a 2.18 meter (7-01.75) jump, which tied for the fourth best jump in school history. Freshman Chandler Obray finished second and senior Leaugen Fray finished third.

"It's surreal," Simonsen said. "Being injured the last year-and-a-half and being able to come to conference and jump 2.18 meters is an incredible feeling. I have no words, honestly. It is just absolutely incredible, especially at conference, to go one-two-three. It's insane. To be able to train with them and learn so much from them throughout this season has been a blessing in disguise. They have been awesome."

Junior Kyle Morris won the men's shot put with a personal best throw of 18.38 meters, good for fourth in school history. Sophomore Josh Barclay took second in shot put with a throw of 17.13 meters. Senior Brenn Flint finished second in shot put on the women's side, throwing for 16.41 meters.

"It feels awesome," Morris said. "I came in with the mentality that I was going to win. Josh and I were working for this the entire season. We knew we were going to take 1-2 and that's what we came here to do. We did it and no matter the outcome, I was going to be happy. It definitely feels good to be on top."

The Utah State women set two school records in the meet in the weight throw and the distance medley relay.

Junior Maia Garren topped the previous Aggie record of 19.14 meters by Keeley Eldredge with a throw of 19.49 meters in the weight throw during the competition. Garren finished second in the event.

"That was a pretty special meet for her to have," USU head track & field/throws coach Matt Ingebritsen said. "I know she's been working on that this entire season and that's been the goal. Obviously, she probably would've wanted to do it a little bit earlier in the year, but this was the right venue to do it in and the right place to do it. I couldn't be more proud of what she has done because that was a good school record she broke."

The Aggie women also broke the school record in the distance medley relay with a time of 11:31.69 behind seniors Megan Ryan, Shannon Maloney and Cierra Simmons-Meacham as well as junior Kasia Lawrynowicz. The quartet broke a school record of 11:37.89 set earlier this season.

Utah State's next track meet will be at UC Irvine on March 15 in the Collegiate Classic.

@ajlars13

Netflix biopic based on USU alumna gets release date

By **Erick Graham Wood**
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

Amberley Snyder can check "appear in a biopic about myself" off her bucket list.

The Utah State University alumna spent the summer of 2018 as a stunt double and resource for the Netflix movie "Walk. Ride. Rodeo." The upcoming biopic is based on her own life story as a barrel-racer and the car crash that left her paralyzed from the waist down.

The film, which focuses on Snyder and her mother, is a tale about overcoming trauma and making the best out of the life one is given.

Snyder knows a lot about that topic. After her crash in 2010, Snyder was in the hospital and physical therapy for months but eventually found herself back in the saddle riding horses again. She graduated from USU in 2015 and received her master's degree last year.

"I was raised to have an attitude to persevere, work hard and continue to strive for my goals no matter what," Snyder said. "Having been raised that



PHOTO COURTESY OF **Amberley Snyder**

way and having parents who are examples of that made it easier to keep going regardless of the wheelchair."

Snyder said that she knew reliving the event would be traumatic, and when a production company first approached her to make the movie she was uncom-

fortable with the idea.

Snyder said it was "exciting yet challenging" to see herself portrayed on screen. Tina, Snyder's mother, thought the film would inspire others and touch lives.

"They really took special care in how

see "Netflix movie" PAGE 7

USUSA presidential profile: Sami Ahmed

By **Harley Barnes**
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Sami Ahmed is running for Utah State University Student Association president this year. He was born in Ethiopia, and moved to the U.S. when he was 11 years old with his mom and little brother. He is studying finance with a minor in chemistry. Ahmed is always seeking knowledge and loves history, debating and talking to others around him. He still carries some of the customs from his homeland, like respect for his elders with him from Ethiopia. Having seen much of the world, Ahmed served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Australia and has also visited Korea and Rome. Ahmed has a strong loyalty to Utah State. "I think my favorite part of being an Aggie is that it's a school where the students support each other. There has always been a stigma surrounding Utah State that it has a high acceptance rate and things like that so they think you

can't achieve things," he said. "The students here are so supportive you can do anything you want. It's super friendly, I'm the minority and I'm usually the only black guy. But in my experience I have never once felt like an outsider." Chris Fawson, one of Ahmed's professors also notes the ability Ahmed has to not only appreciate and value the university, but also to use the resources he has at USU to succeed tremendously. He said Ahmed is intellectually curious and open to learning. "He is a good friend and a good person who challenges others to rise to their potential." Fawson also said often times student may look at Utah State as a fallback, because a student's parents or grandparents went to school there. Those student may not see Utah State as an active choice. "I think having people in those government roles that have made Utah State an active choice, they think more about what does a Utah State experience mean to a student and how do you leverage that experience most effectively.



PHOTO COURTESY OF **USUSA Public Relations and Marketing**

Sami gives that perspective. Utah State was a choice that he strategically used to improve his life and the community he lives in," Fawson said. Ahmed has always been inspired by the saying hung up all over Huntsman Hall that says "Dare Mighty Things." He says he has a deep drive to help every student reach their potential and

to always aim for nothing less of success. This is evident in the way he has lived his life and used every tool that Utah State could give him. Among the many friends who have impacted him in his life, Sheila Clark is one. A very close friend of Ahmed, she says "I always like to talk to Sami. He is easy to talk

see "Sami Ahmed" PAGE 3



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USUSA presidential profile: Rhett Ballantyne

By Autumn Miskin
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Rhett Ballantyne says he loves Utah State University and he loves people.

Rhett grew up in Morgan, Utah, and spent the majority of his childhood hanging out with friends, playing basketball, golfing, skiing and camping with his dad and brother.

“One thing I admire about Rhett is not only does he make friends easily, but he’s very including of them,” said Daryl Ballantyne, Rhett’s father.

Rhett wants to make Utah State a more inclusive school by supporting diversity organizations on campus, such as the LGBTQ community, the Diversity Center and any other non-traditional student organizations.

“Generally, I want to represent all the students,” Rhett said. “I want to meet their goals and really be their voice.”

He served a two-year mission in El Salvador and Guatemala for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“He had a lot of experience with diversity on his mission and I think that helped, even, broaden his viewpoint of how people come from different backgrounds and they all have great value,” said Monika Ballantyne, Rhett’s mother.

Monika said she believes Rhett would make a great president because he has always been able to stay extremely organized, even back in high school.

“When he was here in the summer, doing an internship, he made a list of goals and things he wanted to work on, like the books he wanted to read,” Monika said. “He is always thinking about how to improve whether its himself or something else.”

Rhett’s organization shows through the five-



PHOTO COURTESY USUSA PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

step plan he designed for his campaign.

“I want to help lower student fees by working with professors and increasing [open educational resources] awareness, create transparency with events and academic resources so people are aware of things, empower students and implement their ideas, improve mental health on campus and represent all students,” Rhett said.

Rhett says he believes the best way to discover issues needing to be addressed is by getting involved in multiple diverse organizations.

“I’ve gotten involved in different aspects of the university to understand different issues,” he said. “I love talking to people and understanding the different concerns that are there.”

Daryl has seen Rhett become successful through his participation in organizations at Utah State.

“Rhett grows and learns through being involved,” Daryl said. “He sees something, like president, and puts his whole soul into it.”

In his freshman year at Utah State, Rhett’s

see “Rhett Ballantyne” PAGE 3

USUSA presidential profile: Daria Griffith

By Taylor Cripe
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Daria Griffith was never meant to be an Aggie. The daughter of Brigham Young University alumni and a mother who is a professor at BYU, Griffith grew up around people who “bleed a different shade of blue.”

“Growing up I was always asked if I was going to the law school there, to be under my mother’s department,” Griffith said. “I always considered it, but I felt like it wasn’t the place that I could make the biggest impact.”

Despite her parents’ influence, Griffith is a true-blooded Aggie who is now running for Utah State University Student Association President.

Griffith was born in American Fork, Utah, and grew up going to school in Lehi. She started attending USU in fall, 2015. As a child who struggled with dyslexia, she was told she would never succeed in college or life. On her first day at USU, however, Griffith was inspired by other students who felt alone and that they couldn’t make it in higher education. She realized she could be an influencer and help people feel more confident and prepared to face life. Griffith is double majoring in communication studies and psychology.

Griffith describes herself as confident and compassionate and says that her friends would probably describe her as witty and sassy. Something unique about Griffith is she has spent time practicing to research with government institutions. Her mentors have worked in private practice and the CIA. She has also been in the fine arts for 16 years.

“Doing theater for that long gave me a background on how to be a good orator and present myself in a way that communicates a strong message as well as problem-solving and empathy,” Griffith said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USUSA PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

In her free time, Griffith likes to hike and is working on rebuilding her art skills. She also participates in the community by working with an organization called Jump the Moon, which focuses on the art skills of people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Through her Kappa Delta Sorority, she also works with Girl Scouts and Prevent Child Abuse America.

“I participate in these activities because, to me, it’s a way to the show the importance of building confidence, and inspiring action in people that have difficulties feeling that way due to abuse or poor financial means and show that there is someone who cares about them,” Griffith said.

Other than holding several leadership positions in Kappa Delta, Griffith joined the Student Alumni Association as the mentoring director when she was only a freshman. Since 2015, she has been the executive assistant and president with her seat as the Student Alumni Vice President on USUSA. Griffith is also responsible for starting “Beards for Cancer,” a club that has become a permanent part of the

see “Daria Griffith” PAGE 3

USUSA presidential profile: Joshua Johnson

By Jordan Forest
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Whether it’s partnering in Latin dance, playing Super Mario Bros with his younger brother, or making his own version of Ramen noodles for friends Josh Johnson is constantly connecting with them.

Johnson grew up in a small farming community in Northern New Mexico for the first twelve years of his life.

“We were poor. We were dirt poor,” he said. “My mom ran a daycare out of the house while she went to dental school at night and my dad was a long range trucker, so he’d be gone for days at a time.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF USUSA PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

However, this situation did not stop his family.

“At the age of 8, my mom taught all four of her kids different things,” Johnson said. “One of those things for all of us was dancing. So she taught us the Latin basics like merengue, bachata, salsa. And I’ve just grown up loving dancing ever since.”

Eventually, Johnson’s parents both “worked their ways up” and his family of six eventually moved to Colorado, where he says their lives changed.

“It was such a change from small, young, country poor little boy that I see in my mind,” he said.

Growing up, Johnson developed ambitions. “As a kid, I wanted to be an engineer. I loved tearing things apart and figuring out why they work- just that kind of precocious little boy.”

These ambitions followed Johnson to school. While at first he was dual majoring in mechanical and chemical engineering at a program in Colorado, those plans eventually changed.

“On my mission, I had this really amazing companion who wouldn’t stop talking about two things: USU and Sigmi Phi Epsilon fraternity,” Josh Johnson said.

Johnson has since gotten involved in both. He transferred from his school in Colorado and

went on to join Sigmi Phi Epsilon, a fraternity.

Johnson is majoring in international business and global communications. With those degrees, he says he is interested in doing advocacy work. He would love to do international law or international business advocacy law.

He said his service as a missionary in Mesa, Ariz. has been an inspiration to him in this journey. He said that they sometimes referred to it as “Mesaco,” Arizona because of how many Hispanic and Latino people lived there.

“It was so eye-opening to me to see the states of life these people were leading and trying to balance the idea that these people are in the United States,” Josh Johnson said. “A lot of them are U.S. citizens and yet they’re living in a certain way that I wasn’t even accustomed to, even when I thought I was poor as a young boy, we never had to live like that.”

In line with this desire to become an advocate, Gorety Ramirez, one of Johnson’s friends, described his strength in being able to listen to people of a variety of perspectives.

“Like anyone else, we all have opinions and we all have statements,” Ramirez said. “But he’s one of those people that’s willing to sit down, and even if you don’t have the same perspective, he’ll just listen to it and understand.”

Johnson said he lives by this idea. “Even though I have very specific views on life, if someone sees differently than me, I’m not going to shame them,” he said. “I’m going to take the time to figure out why they think that way.”

Moving towards his advocacy goals, Johnson is currently working on and law school appli-

cations. He says he would love to go to school at Columbia. In conjunction with this, another goal of his is to work at the United Nations.

Kyle Hacking, one of Johnson’s friends, spoke to Johnson’s ability to connect with others.

“He really gets people,” Hacking said. “He really understands how people work. He just has that ability to empathize with a lot of people through his own experiences.”

The two met during their time working as part of the A-Team, an on-campus student group.

“He is so willing to connect with people,” Hacking said. “I saw that on A Team so much. There would be students who just instantly he was willing to be there, and be their friend.”

Johnson’s friends and family also mention his ability to see the potential in others.

“He’s always seen the very best in me, and I feel like he often sees the very best in people,” said Chelsea Price, Johnson’s sister. “But he also really wants them to achieve their best.”

This type of attention to individuals is what has kept Johnson motivated daily in his work as Vice President of Diversity.

“What you put out, you get back,” he said. “I believe that if I worked that hard for my Aggie family, then in some way, those same energies, that same love and dedication will come back to me.”

Johnson says he longs for his authenticity in service to shine through.

“I hope that they see that it’s all for other people, and not self-serving, because my biggest thing since I’ve gotten back from my mission has been ‘How can I serve others?’” said Johnson.

USU apologizes for code blue accident



USU President Noelle Cockett and other university officials address the false Code Blue alert of an "armed aggressor" sent Wednesday, Feb. 20 on Thursday, Feb. 21.

By Naomi Ward, Peter Pigott and Alison Berg
NEWS STAFF WRITER, SENIOR WRITER AND MANAGER

One student learned of an "armed aggressor" at Utah State University from his wife, who was at home with their four children in a state of panic. Although he was on campus, he hadn't received the "Code Blue" emergency alert his wife received, and was unaware of the situation.

Another student saw the Code Blue message light up on her phone as she was studying for a test. Understanding her personal safety was her first priority, she quit studying and sought safety.

"I was so shaken from the experience that I did not do very well on the exam," she said.

Both students spoke during a town hall in the Taggart Student Center Sunburst Lounge on Thursday. Roughly 100 students and faculty were in attendance.

President Noelle Cockett stood at a podium jotting down the students' suggestions. "I

realize how frightening that was," she said. The event sought to express the administration's empathy for students concerned or frightened by the false alarm. It was also designed to provide an explanation for why it occurred and how the Code Blue alert system can improve in the future.

While a technician was working on a button for the university's emergency snow removal system on Wednesday, the Code Blue alert was inadvertently triggered, sending emails and text messages to thousands of people with the warning to "run, hide or fight." Shortly afterward, students, faculty and their families received an update that the alert was a false alarm.

During the upgrade to the snow removal button, the "all clear" switch in the emer-



"Sami Ahmed" FROM PAGE 1

to and very knowledgeable for his age." Both Clark and Fawson believe that communication skills and the ability to effectively communicate to groups is one of Sami's greatest talents. Ahmed is proud to be an Aggie and wants students to know that there is always help given at Utah State. "You belong at Utah State. And if you are different it's not a bad thing because the Aggies will welcome you," Sami says.

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"Rhett Ballantyne" FROM PAGE 2

participation in school programs was limited to the frisbee club team.

"I wasn't really involved at all," Rhett said. "But then, I roomed with the student body president the next year and I got really involved really fast."

Rhett said all the things he's been involved in don't necessarily matter now, but they have taken him from a freshman playing ultimate frisbee to a confident student running for president.

"He is really determined," Monika said. "He really wants to make a difference and I actually find that really inspiring in my son."

Rhett wants to improve Utah State though the needs and requests of its students and faculty.

"He doesn't do it for ego," Monika said. "He's genuine, honest, kind and he really cares and has a big heart."

Rhett has experience working with previous USUSA presidents and he wants to be the new voice of this campus.

"I am very passionate about Utah State University and where it's headed," Ballantyne said. "I like the quote that says, 'You cried when you were born, and the world rejoiced. Live in such a way that when you die the world will cry while you rejoice.'"

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"Daria Griffith" FROM PAGE 2

student service center. Those closest to Griffith are not surprised she is running for student body president.

"I was not surprised that she decided to run for a position to help other students at this university become better leaders and to accomplish their goals," said Tony Ahlstrom, who is the student association's giving executive. "She has done an amazing job and her impact will be forever felt among members of the SAA, an impact that she now hopes to spread to an even greater portion of the student body. She is also extremely perseverant and has overcome

many obstacles throughout her lifetime and never lets a roadblock stop her from reaching her vision," Ahlstrom said.

When asked why people should vote for Daria, communication studies Lecturer Clair Canfield said Griffith has an impressive work ethic. "I think what matters most in a leader is someone that genuinely cares about the people they are entrusted to serve," Canfield said. "I do not doubt that Daria cares about the students of Utah State University and will make them her utmost priority."

Griffith worked for Canfield as a teaching assistant, and he said she made every effort to make a difference in the growth of her students.

As president, Griffith will focus on student wellness in all areas, including safety and mental

Health. She wants survivors to have a voice, and to feel like something is being done. Most of all, Griffith wants to encourage USU students to "live life unafraid."

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The most eligible ‘Bachelor of Logan’

USU students create their own “Bachelor” themed event

By Shelby Black
STUDENT LIFE SENIOR WRITER

Inspired by the popular reality TV show, group of Utah State University Students put together their own “bachelor” themed event complete with first impressions, dates, and a rose ceremony.

Logan’s most eligible bachelor is Josh Anderson. With some coaxing from his friend Zeus Parker, production manager, and Baden Ballard, video editor, he agreed to be apart of the event.

To spread the word, the friends created a Facebook page with an introduction video. They were surprised by how quickly the page gained attention.

“The first night we had maybe like a hundred views,” Anderson said. “The next day I woke up and we had over a thousand. It blew up a lot faster than we thought it would.”

Working with a crew of ten people, the three held weekly meetings to quickly pull together their ultimate bachelor party. They even sorted through over 60 female applicants. For them, the planning process has been enjoyable.

“It was very efficient. A lot of it is just cause of the team we have. They are all very creative and in it to have fun,” Ballard said.

Throughout the planning process, the group has had to be aware of what they can and cannot do. Recently, another student-made show called “The Bachelor of Provo” encountered legal complications from ABC and was forced to remove its videos. The creators of Bachelor of Logan plan to avoid this kind of trouble.

“We are not going to be “The Bachelor,” and we are not trying to copy what they have going,” Parker said. “The only reason we used the bachelor setting is just because it is a well-known idea. We want to do our own thing and just have a fun event.”

Bachelor of Logan took place on Saturday night and lasted three hours. During these three hours, Anderson and the



PHOTO BY Megan Albrechtsen

Josh Anderson, the Bachelor of Logan, sits between the eight remaining contestants after round one. Everyone who is “safe” received a rose.

contestants held group dates, single dates, and a final rose ceremony. The prize for the winning contestant? A second date with Anderson.

Anderson described what qualities he was looking for in the contestants.

“One of the biggest things I get out of life is I want to enjoy it, so I think finding someone to enjoy life with and have a good time is my number one goal,” Anderson said.

Depending on how this event turns out, Anderson, Parker, and Ballard hope to do more events like it in the future. More

than anything, though, they hope that everyone had fun with it.

“We hope to see some awkward moments and some people going out of their way to create some drama. It is going to be competitive because we had a lot of good applicants, but everybody has a chance,” Parker said shortly before showtime.

A highlight video is expected to be released about a week after the event.

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Finding a healthier view with Health Ed Department



PHOTO BY Alek Nelson

Students met for a body image workshop put on by the Health Education department. The workshop teaches about the importance of having a positive body image.

By Alek Nelson
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

Students met at the HPER building Tuesday night to learn and discuss healthy habits in the “Healthier View, Healthier You” body image workshop.

The one-hour workshop was put on by five students in the Health Education department to teach about and spread awareness of the importance of having a positive body image. Participants had opportunities to discuss issues associated with body image and how social media can skew perceptions of it.

Camille Wirthlin, a freshman majoring in civil engineering, especially enjoyed the discussion portions of the workshop, noting that everyone was “pretty open with their ideas.”

To prepare for the workshop, Bekah Bednar and her classmates conducted a study at Utah State University last semester to determine how much of a problem negative body image is on campus. The results showed that there was definite room for improvement.

According to the survey, 15% of students reported struggling with an eating disorder at some point in their lives, and only 30% of students had received information about eating disorders before.



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Accepting Applications for Summer and Next School Year

USUSA Elections: *Why should you care?*



PHOTOS BY **Megan Nielsen**

USUSA president Jaren Hunsaker, pictured in the reflection of a mirror, mingles with students at Parfaits with the President. The event is intended to give students the chance to meet their student body representatives and learn more about what student government does for USU.

By Shelby Black
STUDENT LIFE SENIOR WRITER

With Utah State University Student Association elections this week many students wondering why they should vote and who they should vote for. Jaren Hunsaker, current USUSA president, explained what he does in his position and why students should be excited for the upcoming elections.

As president, Hunsaker is a very busy man. His assigned duties include holding office hours, attending events, and sitting on 25 different campus committees. The purpose of these various meetings is to improve student life around the university.

“A lot of what we do in these committees is conversations that lead to actions items of what needs to be changed and how we



are going to accomplish that. You have a purpose in each committee in what you are going to do, and that is to improve student life and improve student academics,” Hunsaker said.

These different committees and authority figures around campus have established a relationship with student leaders to achieve various goals. Linda Zimmerman is the director of the USUSA Student Involvement and Leadership Center. Every day, she works as a guide alongside Hunsaker and other student leaders.

In an email Zimmerman wrote, “Our roles are to provide leadership and guidance to our officers and assist them in the mission and goals of their individual charters. We hold them accountable to the students they serve.”

Hunsaker and the other USUSA officers may attend these various meetings and complete other tasks, but they are just like any other student. They still attend class, do homework, and walk across

the quad just like everybody else.

Hunsaker says that because they are regular students, elected officials want to do their best to represent the student body. USU has given students the ability to have their voices heard, and Hunsaker encourages students to use it.

“I one hundred percent believe that USU puts the student opinion at the forefront. USU cares so much and does do much for their students. It has blown my mind how much power the student has,” Hunsaker said. “That power comes from student leaders and their ideas. If you don’t vote for the student leaders you want, you aren’t going to be able to see the change that you want.”

Along with Hunsaker, Samuel Jackson, Student Advocate VP, works to ensure students opinions are being heard. He explained that USUSA receives a large budget each year from student fees. Students should care how this money is being used for them.

“We are here using your money, and if you want it to be used correctly or in a way that you think is appropriate, you should vote for people you think are going to carry it out the right way,” Jackson said. “College is really short and decisions get made quickly. If you don’t have a voice and you don’t have a say, your opportunity passes just like that.”

During election season, candidates will have town halls and debates. These events will allow them to share their ideas and initiatives, helping students to get to know them.

Hunsaker explained what students should look for in candidates during these events.

“You get to see their character as well, which to me is one of the most important things,” he said. “The truth is anyone can run for a position. No one is qualified, but everyone is capable. So if we choose those with the best character, you will have the best student government.”

As the current USUSA officers finish their terms, students can find them on the third floor of the TSC. They are always open to visitors.

“We want to be able to represent you, we want to meet, you, and we are up here, so come and visit us,” Hunsaker said.

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“Netflix movie” FROM PAGE 1

they brought about her story,” Tina said.

“Walk. Ride. Rodeo.” stars Spencer Locke as Snyder and Missi Pyle as her mother. However, unique to this film, Snyder does all the stunts herself. This was non-negotiable for Snyder in allowing the production company to tell her story.

“I sometimes look at my life and think of where I might be if not for this,” Snyder said of her injury. “It is so hard to guess. I am a true believer in ‘everything happens for a reason,’ so I feel that I had a purpose to serve and am hopefully serving it. There was a reason I am in the situation I am in and have to believe that.”

Snyder said there were many times she wanted to quit rodeo, but her passion kept her going.

“[Rodeo] is the place where I still get to compete and accomplish my life goals” Snyder said. “I truly treasure the moments I get to have on my horse in or out of the rodeo arena because it gives me the opportunity to be like everyone else, and that

means a lot.”

After her accident, Snyder had to make adjustments to her horse-riding technique.

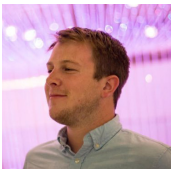
“I have a seat belt and other modifications on my saddle that hold me in and keep me center when I compete,” Snyder said. “When I get on my horse, I don’t worry about my legs, but more on my voice, hands, balance and communication with my horse. Balance is a huge factor for me now. I have to constantly be aware and one step ahead of my horse or I will be thrown off center.”

Snyder also had to adjust her own expectations of riding as she worked to get back in the saddle.

“Mentally, it is freeing yet challenging. In the beginning, I struggled because I wanted riding to be just like it was before,” Snyder said. “That was not realistic, and it took a lot of time to accept that. I have to understand my abilities and then use what I have. This is a challenge both on and off my horses.”

Even though Snyder’s gig as a movie star is coming to a close, Snyder likes to keep busy.

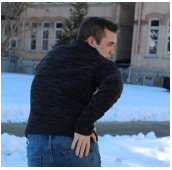
“Rodeo season is beginning, and my sisters have been train-



@jadenjohson

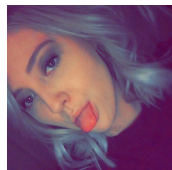
No, random dude who I’ve never interacted with in my life –

Following me on Twitter a week before the USUSA elections won’t make me any more likely to vote for you



@nathan_taylor97

Is Donald Trump in charge of pressing USU’s code blue button?



@madihilton

I hate to admit it but I love the drama that comes with USU elections

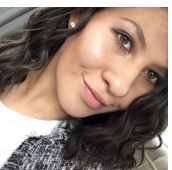


@_kkelly

Moral of the story:

Whether real, fake, warranted, or unwarranted, we all need to make sure we are signed up for Code Blue alerts. Doesn’t matter if it’s a snow day or a (real) shooter, we need to be prepared.

Also USU needs to not send out “accidents” like that.



@Paulinarivera13

just wanted to say that i’m very grateful we have a president like noelle cockett who cares so much about our student body and is willing to listen to our concerns. all hail the queen



@Malonehansen

Utah State people are my favorite people.

—erickwood97@gmail.com

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Road Warriors



PHOTO BY **Darin Oswald/AP Photo**
Boise State guard Marcus Dickinson forces a jump ball call while attempting a steal from Utah State's Quinn Taylor during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019, in Boise, Idaho. (Darin Oswald/Idaho Statesman via AP)

Merrill's late heroics help Aggies erase late deficit to defeat Boise State in overtime

By **Jason Walker**
SPORTS SENIOR WRITER

Utah State narrowly survived a late-game surge at Boise State, giving up a nine-point lead before having to force overtime and ultimately defeating the Broncos 78-71.

With 46 seconds left in the game, Broncos guard Justinian Jessup hit a 3-pointer. At that point, the Aggies' hopes were fading while the home crowd erupted. Just a handful of minutes earlier, the Aggies (22-6, 12-3) were in control of the game 59-50 and on the road to boot.

But a 16-2 run from Boise State had changed things. Jessup's three was the tail end of that run. Now Utah State had its back to the wall with not much time left to turn the tide back in its favor.

Yet, the Aggies didn't give up.

"We just kept fighting and came out ready to play," USU guard Abel Porter said.

On the ensuing possession from Jessup's three, Porter slung a pass ahead of the defense to Sam Merrill, who was promptly fouled and sank two free throws, putting the team back on the route to tying the game.

66-63

Seven seconds later, Diogo Brito ran down

and fouled Alex Hobbs, a 91 percent free throw shooter coming into the game. The first shot went in, but the second clanked off the right side of the rim and into the hands of Brito.

67-63

The Aggies narrowly averted complete disaster as Porter lost the ball but fought through two Broncos to force a held ball. With the possession arrow going USU's way, it allowed Merrill to once again make a play.

"We're a reflection of our coach, and we have really good leadership out there."

— Utah State junior guard Sam Merrill

He drove to the hoop but was fouled before his shot, negating the soft floater that bounced through the net. Merrill hit the two free shots, automatic as ever.

67-65

Once again, the Aggies ended up fouling Hobbs, who had missed on free throws just three times all year before Saturday. But Hobbs clanked one of his two shots off the rim again, leaving open a window.

68-65

This time, Merrill took the ball down the court himself. Sensing an opening, he drove to the left of the key, spun back to the rim and laid the ball safely home plus the foul. The junior guard, now with 29 points to his

name, made it 30 with the game-tying free throw.

68-68

Jessup's game-winning attempt missed its mark at the buzzer, sending the game into overtime. In the extra frame, however, Utah State removed the drama that pervaded the final minutes and seconds of regulation. The Broncos made just one shot — a 3-pointer from Jessup — in the extra five minutes while Brock Miller, Porter and Merrill each hit a pair of free throws to pace the team offensively.

Getting to and dominating in overtime wasn't easy. But according to Merrill, it's a byproduct of what the team has become over the course of the season.

"We're a reflection of our coach and we have really good leadership out there," Merrill said. "We found a way to get into overtime and then we let our defense do the rest of the work, they only scored once in overtime. That's who we are and that's a huge win for us."

Had Utah State lost the

game, it would have jeopardized the team's chances at a regular season conference title. Those hopes were revived after Mountain West-leading Nevada (25-2, 12-2) lost at San Diego State (18-9, 10-4) on Wednesday. The Aggies are still one game behind the Wolf Pack but will host the conference leaders March 2 in the Spectrum in what may be a title-deciding contest.

USU head coach Craig Smith, after Saturday's game, praised the Broncos for how well they performed despite having a down year.

"I thought Boise State played really, really well," Smith said. "They're a good team, their record is not indicative of how good they are. They had guys that really played well. Obviously, they had the week off, so they threw some new things at us, but I couldn't be more proud of our guys."

Though he was certainly proud of the end result, Smith didn't ignore the failings of his team at certain points of the game.

"There was just a ton of empty possessions," Smith said, adding, "Thank goodness Sam (Merrill) has 21 first-half points and really bailed us out of some bad offensive possessions."

On defense, the Aggies held the Broncos to 42 percent shooting but BSU made 48 percent overall in the second half and 50 percent from deep with USU allowing 12 threes total throughout the game. Smith pointed to urgency and execution for the holes that popped up during the second half.

"We didn't have the urgency defensively that we normally have," Smith said. "Jessup gets loose on us for two wide open threes where Abel (Porter) over-helps and (Justin) Bean gets lost in transition."

This week will be another key week in the Aggies' basketball season. They'll host both San Diego State, a team USU lost to 68-63 on Feb. 9 in San Diego, and Nevada. Both teams are in the top three of the Mountain West, along with the Aggies who are currently in second place.

@thejwalk67



PHOTO BY **Darin Oswald/AP Photo**
Utah State center Neemias Queta towers over Boise State's Alex Hobbs to force a miss during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019, in Boise, Idaho.



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VS. NEVADA
SATURDAY | 6:30 PM
SENIOR NIGHT

MEN'S TENNIS

VS. DENVER
FRIDAY | 2 PM

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VS. COLORADO STATE
MONDAY | 7 PM
SENIOR NIGHT

Down go the reigning champions

Brewster, Dufficy tie career-highs as Aggies defeat top-ranked Boise State



PHOTO BY **Savy Knapp**
Utah State senior guard Rachel Brewster goes against Boise State's Joyce Harrell during Saturday afternoon's game at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. Brewster recorded a career high-tying 22 points along with 7 rebounds and six assists in the game.

By **Daedan Olander**
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Winning team! Losing Team! Winning team! Losing team!

The chants rained down in the Spectrum on Saturday, with USU students pointing in unison from the Aggie bench to Boise State's and then back again. It's easy to feel good when your team is about to beat the top-ranked squad in their conference, which is exactly what the Utah State women's basketball team did on Saturday, picking up a win against Boise State, 81-68.

"One of the coolest moments was hearing some of our student body say, 'loser team,

winner team'" USU head coach Jerry Finkbeiner. "Winning's fun."

Handing Boise State their fourth loss of the season, and just the second in MW play, was a total team effort from Utah State.

The Aggies had four players score in double-digits, while senior guard Rachel Brewster and junior forward Shannon Dufficy both tied their career highs in points, Brewster with 22 and Dufficy with 26.

"Rachel Brewster had an amazing first half, and Shannon Dufficy had an amazing second half," Finkbeiner said, "and we had two really good complements to them, Steph Gorman and Olivia West."

The opening half and especially the first

quarter belonged to Brewster. She had their first six points and 10 of their first 12. The period was also a good one for USU, as they shot 10-16 from the field. The period ended with the Aggies up, 24-16.

"It started off really well," Brewster said of her night, "and (I) just had a lot of confidence for the rest of the game."

The Broncos went on a run to start the second quarter, and a pair of free throws by BSU's Marta Hermida early in the period tied the game at 24. From there, the remainder of the quarter, as well as much of the game, was a battle. The quarter ended with with a two-point USU advantage.

Before the Broncos were forced to intention-

ally foul in the final minutes of the game, the two teams were waging war throughout the second half. Two Steph Gorman threes late in the fourth, however, put the Aggies up by eight points with 2:09 left in the game, and USU made their free throws down the stretch to win, 81-68.

"Up to this point in time, we can beat anybody on a given night, the problem is we can also lose to anyone on a given night," Finkbeiner said.

The Aggies hope this game provides a spark for them as they travel to play San Diego State on Wednesday evening to take on the Aztecs with just three games remaining before the MWC tournament begins.



PHOTO BY **Savy Knapp**
Utah State junior guard Eliza West dribbles the ball during the Aggies' 81-68 victory over Boise State Saturday afternoon.



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OPINION

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

We need to learn from the false alarm

Each month, the editorial board of *The Utah Statesman* will share our view on a topic we think is worth addressing. This month, we're looking back at the Code Blue Alert false alarm that occurred last week.

To submit a response to this column, or submit a letter to the editor on a new topic, email your submission to opinion@usustatesman.com.

Just after 3 p.m. on Wednesday, an alert was sent to Utah State University students and faculty. It read: "Code Blue: We've received reports of an armed aggressor on the USU Logan campus. Run, hide, or fight. Police responding. More info to come."

Like many of you, those of us at USU Student Media were at first a bit confused and shocked before jumping into action. We locked the gate to our office, turned off the lights, and tried to find a corner of the office that was less exposed.

Then we all hid and waited to hear more.

Thankfully, after eight minutes that felt like an eternity, another alert informed us that it was a false alarm and that we were all clear. Eight minutes in real time wasn't much, but just think what eight minutes may have done if it hadn't been a false alarm.

Like many of you, those eight minutes left us feeling shaken and scared. That false alarm, though, also exposed some concerns within the Code Blue Alert system and with the campus-wide response to an armed aggressor.

This experience gives all of us the opportunity to consider ways to improve both the system and our response.

To their credit, the university has shown a willingness to do that. President Noelle Cockett hosted a listening session on Thursday where she solicited feedback from students and others. The university also created an online system for stu-



Utah State University President Noelle Cockett and USU police chief Michael Kuehn address the false Code Blue alert that was sent out on Wednesday. PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall

dents, staff and faculty to leave comments or make suggestions. That form can be accessed at usu.edu/emergency/feedback.

Of primary concern in an emergency is how quickly the alert can be spread. This false alarm exposed many on our campus that aren't signed up for Code Blue Alerts at all, and others who aren't signed up to receive immediate notifications.

In our office, many of us didn't receive a text message alert. If we hadn't been sitting at our computers with email notifications on, we wouldn't have realized an alert had even been sent.

Other universities around the nation have moved to an opt-out, rather than an opt-in, system for emergency notifications. In other words, students, faculty and staff have to actively choose not to receive alerts. The University of Utah, for exam-

ple, saw nearly 98 percent of its campus community register for text alerts when an opt-out system was introduced in 2014. Utah State leadership has expressed an interest in a similar system, but it has not yet been implemented.

For now, you can sign up for Code Blue Alerts and adjust your alert settings by visiting usu.edu/emergency.

Some students shared on social media their concern that professors continued to lecture after the alert had been sent, and others were told to leave the building they were in, even though the location of the alleged aggressor had not been revealed. Both circumstances should be addressed going forward.

While this false alarm was a mistake that should never have been made, the university has apologized and is taking

steps to prevent similar false alarms in the future. In the meantime, it can serve as a drill of sorts that may help us be more prepared in a future emergency.

We encourage the university leadership to continue analyzing the campus-wide response and to provide better clarity and training to educate students and faculty.

We don't want to lose any Aggie because they simply weren't prepared.

We also encourage the students, staff and faculty of Utah State to individually educate yourselves on how to appropriately respond to these types of situations, and to provide feedback to the university.

To learn more about how to approach an active shooting situation visit dps.usu.edu/emergency/runhidefight. Additional resources are available at <https://www.ready.gov/active-shooter>.



Utah State University hosted a "listening session" on Thursday to gather feedback from the campus community. PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall



Letters to the editor

Have an opinion you'd like to share? Email your letter to [**opinion@usustatesman.com**](mailto:opinion@usustatesman.com).

Letters must not contain personal attacks or other inappropriate language and should be limited to 400 words or less. Anonymous letters will also not be published; please include your name and a phone number or email address (neither of which will be published).

Letters received by *The Utah Statesman* will be published online at www.usustatesman.com, as well as in the print issue of the *Statesman*, depending on space.

B

BACKBURNER

Medium

						1	
	1				9	4	6
6	2		3		4		
		7	2		5		1
		4				2	
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4	5		1				8
	7						

© Puzzles provided by sudokusolver.com

TO PLAY: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved, just use logic to solve.

SOLUTION FOR 02/26/19:

Medium								
9	4	3	7	5	6	8	1	2
7	1	5	8	2	9	3	4	6
6	2	8	3	1	4	7	9	5
3	9	7	2	8	5	4	6	1
5	8	4	9	6	1	2	3	7
1	6	2	4	3	7	9	5	8
2	3	1	6	9	8	5	7	4
4	5	9	1	7	2	6	8	3
8	7	6	5	4	3	1	2	9

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TUESDAY 2/26	WEDNESDAY 2/27	THURSDAY 2/28	FRIDAY 3/1	SATURDAY 3/2	MONDAY 3/4
<div>24/7 Dad®, Cache County 7:00pm Logan Regional Hospital, Classroom 5 & 6 1400 North 500 East Logan, UT</div> <div>Learn to Belly Dance with Shimmering Sands! 7:00pm Whittier Community Center 290 North 400 East Logan, UT</div>	<div>Dementia Dialogues Educational Sessions 3:30pm Sunshine Terrace Foundation 248 W 300 North Logan, UT</div> <div>Men's Basketball vs. San Diego State 7:30pm The Spectrum</div>	<div>Helicon West Open Mic Night 7:00pm Logan City Library</div>	<div>Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous 5:00pm Mountain Crest High School 255 South 800 East Hyrum, UT</div> <div>USU 56th Annual Powwow 6:00pm The Fieldhouse</div> <div>"The Jolt" jump rope show 7:00pm Logan Rec Center 195 South 100 West Logan, UT</div> <div>Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 7:30pm Ellen Eccles Theatre</div>	<div>Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous 9:00am Mountain Crest High School 255 South 800 East Hyrum, UT</div> <div>Hunt The Beav Benefit for Common Ground 9:30am Beaver Mountain Ski Resort</div> <div>USU 56th Annual Powwow 12:00pm The Fieldhouse</div> <div>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 1:30pm and 7:30om Ellen Eccles Theatre</div> <div>Men's Basketball vs. Nevada 6:30pm The Spectrum</div>	<div>Women's Basketball vs. Colorado State 7:00pm The Spectrum</div>

ADD YOUR EVENT AT [USUSTATESMAN.COM/EVENTS](https://usustatesman.com/events)
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