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SPORTS | Run, Rebels

Men's basketball rolls past UNLV 82-65 for sixth-consecutive win.

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STUDENT LIFE | Sheep Day

Every semester students go with 'Doc' McNeal to a ranch in Wyoming to gain hands-on experience.

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NEWS | Electric Vehicles

Utah State University has the only electric vehicle facility of its kind in the United States.

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'Is Polarizing Partisanship the New Normal?'

Former AZ Senator Jeff Flake visits USU

By **Peter Pigott**
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Jeff Flake, former Republican senator from Arizona, gave a speech at Utah State University on Monday.

The event was organized by The Foxley Forum, a program by the Institute for Government and Politics to bring public figures to USU to discuss national issues.

Flake, who retired from his Senate seat in December after choosing not to run for reelection,

is well-known for his public opposition to the presidency of Donald Trump.

The forum was titled "Is Polarizing Partisanship the New Normal?"

Neil Abercrombie, the vice president for Federal and State Relations under the IOGP, said Flake was chosen as a speaker for the series because students exhibited an interest in him.

"For us, the goal is to have students engaged

see "Politics" PAGE 7



PHOTO BY **Megan Nielsen**

Former Arizona Senator Jeff Flake speaks on the topic "Is Polarizing Partisanship the New Normal?" at Utah State University on Monday, Feb. 4, in Logan, Utah. Flake was invited by the Institution of Government and Politics to help engage students and other community members.

Utah State's 2019 football schedule released



PHOTO BY **Matt Halton**

Junior defensive end Dalton Baker runs onto Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium in Laramie, Wyoming on Saturday, Oct. 20. The Aggies play the Cowboys at home for the 2019 season on Nov. 16.

By **Jaden Johnson**
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

The Mountain West conference announced its full conference schedule for the upcoming football season Monday afternoon, finalizing the Utah State's 2019 slate.

The Aggies will open the 2019 season on the road in Winston-Salem, N.C. on Aug. 30 when they take on Wake Forest. This will be the third time in program history USU has faced the Demon Deacons, the previous two coming in 2014 and 2017. The teams split the previous two meetings.

The first home game for USU will come Sept. 7 when it takes on Stony Brook for the first time in program history. Stony Brook is the lone FCS opponent on the schedule for the Aggies. They will then have a BYE week before starting conference play.

The Aggies will face their first Mountain West opponent when they take on San Diego State Sept. 21, the first time Utah State and SDSU have played since 2016. They will then return home to face Colorado State on Sept. 28.

A break in the Mountain West-portion of the schedule will come on Oct. 5 when the team travels to Baton Rouge, La. to face off against

SEC opponent LSU. The Aggies and the Tigers have only met twice in program history, most recently in 2001. LSU won both meetings.

After USU's second BYE of the season on Oct. 12, USU will resume conference play against Nevada Oct. 19, before heading to Colorado Springs to take on Air Force Oct. 26.

Another break in Mountain West play comes for the Aggies Nov. 2 when they play host to in-state rival BYU. Utah State has won this game each of the past two years, and won three of the past five meetings with the Cougars.

On Nov. 9 Utah State will travel to Fresno, Calif. to take on reigning Mountain West champions Fresno State. While the Bulldogs are coming fresh off of a conference title, they only retain 38% of their starters from last year's squad which went 12-2. They rank as the 129th team out of 130 FBS teams in terms of returning production.

The Aggies will then return home for back-to-back home games against Wyoming and reigning Mountain Division champions Boise State on Nov. 16 and Nov. 23, respectively. Boise State was the only Mountain West team to defeat Utah State last year, when

the teams met up in Boise the final game of the regular season.

The regular season schedule will conclude Nov. 30 in Albuquerque, N.M. when Utah State takes on New Mexico. The Mountain West Conference Championship game will be held Dec. 7 at the home site of the higher-ranked division champion.

Utah State is coming off an 11-2 season, tying for its best finish in program history. Further information about kickoff times and television networks will become available as the season gets closer.

 @jadenjohnson00

2019 Schedule

Aug. 30	@ Wake Forest
Sept. 7	Stony Brook
Sept. 14	BYE
Sept. 21	@ San Diego St
Sept. 28	Colorado State
Oct. 5	@ LSU
Oct. 12	BYE
Oct. 19	Nevada
Oct. 26	@ Air Force
Nov. 2	BYU
Nov. 9	@ Fresno State
Nov. 16	Wyoming
Nov. 23	Boise State
Nov. 30	@ New Mexico
Dec. 7	MW Championship

Reducing waste and fighting hunger

The Campus Kitchens Project opens chapter at Utah State



PHOTO BY **Matt Halton**

The Campus Kitchen officially opened last year and works with USU Dining Services and Catering to reduce food waste on campus. The club takes the food to their kitchen, located in the The Hub, and creates balanced meals for students to pick up at Student Nutrition Access Center.

The Campus Kitchen at Utah State University is working to put the food on campus to better use.

The Campus Kitchens Project is a nonprofit program designed to help reduce food waste and increase food security in communities across the nation. The Logan chapter of this organization was officially launched near the end of 2018.

"We pick up all the bread, pastries, and Aggies Eats items that weren't sold, and we bring them to SNAC pantry. Last year, our volunteers recovered 21,000 pounds of food," said Kara Bachman, Campus Kitchen at USU partner.

Bachman works at the Student Nutrition Access Center and sees the need for nutrition resources. "Students don't always have the time to make meals or have access to balanced meals, so as part of Campus Kitchen USU, we want to make balanced meals for students," she said.

In addition to working with USU Dining Services and Catering to reduce food waste on campus, The Campus Kitchen at USU has also partnered with local businesses Sweeto Burrito and Juniper Take Out and Restaurant to collect leftover food. The club takes this food to their kitchen, located in the The Hub, and creates balanced meals for students to pick up at SNAC.

Jackie Hendrickson, a representative of the Hunger Solutions Institute, explained that although many don't realize it, there is a "hidden hunger" among students.

Hendrickson and the Hunger Solutions Institute collaborated with Food Sense to examine food security on campus last year. Their survey showed that 32% of students were experiencing food insecurity.

"Everyone eats and know the importance of food. Helping people get food and be able to have that can have a lot of benefits," Hendrickson said. "If you knew that your neighbor was hungry, you'd have no problem giving them your food."

The Campus Kitchen at USU recognizes this issue and is taking action, but it can be a complicated task.

Cassandra Twiggs, president of The Campus Kitchen at USU, explained that they want to create meals like grilled cheese, soup, salads, or breakfast sandwiches. They have be creative in what they make in order to meet food safety

see "Campus Kitchen" PAGE 7

USU welcomes new Title IX employees

By Josh Wilkinson
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Utah State University held an open house in the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art on Thursday to welcome the new positions in the Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity office.

Alison Adams-Perlac, Hilary Renshaw and Emmalee Fishburn join the new office as the director, Title IX coordinator and prevention specialist, respectively.

As the three accept their new roles within the university, they step into an office that has been a focus of attention for media within the state, following sexual harassment allegations against former university employees last year, as well as the high-profile trial of former USU football player, Torrey Green.

“It’s always best to look forward” Adams-Perlac said. “My approach is ‘Are there things we can do better right now?’ and ‘How can we move forward?’”

Finding individuals with the ability and the enthusiasm to tackle discrimination and sexual misconduct on campus was key in the search for new AAEO staff members, according to university administration.

“Both Allison and Hilary

bring a great deal of experience and expertise,” said Frank Galey, the USU provost. “I am very confident that they will take USU’s work to addressing discrimination and sexual misconduct to the next level.”

Fishburn said media attention last year brought more awareness for both faculty and staff.

“I think [media attention] brought more awareness in general, especially for students,” Fishburn said. “I think that when we say we’re from the Title IX office they’re like ‘Oh, I have more of an understanding of what Title IX is.’”

According to Fishburn that awareness helps the AAEO office members do their jobs better.

“That might seem counter-intuitive to people, but the more that people know about us, then we can actually walk into spaces and have good conversations with them because the ice has already been broken,” Fishburn said.

Passed by Congress in 1972, Title IX is what has been termed a “civil rights law”, or in this case, a law focused on protecting individuals from sex-based discrimination in education.

In recent years, a shift of focus at a federal level has brought a greater level of



PHOTO BY Tim Carpenter
Utah State University holds open house for the new Title IX director Alison Adams-Perlac on Jan. 31

application of Title IX against sexual harassment in educational settings.

Fishburn said harassment and discrimination can occur on all levels, and while many USU students do well in accepting others, there is still room for improvement.

“We all come with different cultural backgrounds and understandings of other individuals and their diversity,” she said. “I think that there are some elements where Utah State students are more accepting than students I’ve worked with at other institutions and other spaces where they aren’t.”

The new AAEO director and Title IX coordinator said they feel confident to tackle the challenges to come, and stressed the importance of having an open dialogue between their office and the

students.

“Our goal, always number one, is campus safety and making campus a place where everyone feels accepted and welcome and free of discrimination and sexual misconduct,” Adams-Perlac said. “The way that we do that is by understanding when there are problems and concerns.”

As Adams-Perlac and Renshaw take office, they intend to make use of campus resources to diminish levels of discrimination and continue to foster relationships between the AAEO, students and other campus organizations.

“We have the resources to be able to now make strides in what we’re doing,” Renshaw said. “It’s exciting.”

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Electric vehicle facility gets largest solar array on campus

By Carter Moore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Electric Vehicle & Roadway Research and Test Track Facility at Utah State University is installing the largest solar array on campus, and researchers said the new array will help power their vision of their future.

“That will be enough, coupled with the energy stored in this facility, to run all the energy in this lab — and this is an energy consuming lab,” said David Christensen, executive director of the Sustainable Electrified Transport Lab, or SELECT.

The lab already uses a 20 kw array, and is installing 108 kw above a new retention pond to capture drainage.

“We made a trade with facilities,” Christensen said. The rest of the cost for the panels will be paid by a Blue Sky grant from Rocky Mountain Power, he said.

“You would expect to see this in Detroit or Silicon Valley...But those people come here, on a regular basis. They walk away amazed that this exists here, and at this caliber.”

— David Christensen
Executive director of the Sustainable Electrified Transport Lab

SELECT was started in 2016 as a project to bring together engineers and industry experts to make electrified transportation more accessible and try to solve associated engineering concerns.

“In a lot of ways, it is a world class facility,” said Ryan Bohm, the lab’s manager. “To make electric vehicles something that works for the masses and can be adapted by all, there are substantial challenges to that. We are working on all those major challenges and trying to solve them.”

The research facility and test track is the only one of its kind in the United States, with the only others like it existing in Europe and South Korea. Christensen and lead researcher Regan Zane host industry leaders and engineers from all over the world to show off the facility.

“You would expect to see this in Detroit or Silicon Valley,” Christensen said. “But those people come here, on a regular basis. They walk away amazed that this exists here, and at this caliber.”

One of SELECT’s most ambitious projects is creating wireless power transfer on roadways — charging electric vehicles as they drive. The test track at the lab is currently outfitted with coils capable of charging the first ever electric bus, and any vehicle outfitted with wireless charging receivers.

“We are past the point of ‘can we do it?’ We can do it. Now we are scaling it up,” Christensen said. “The idea is to keep the vehicle at the 60-80 percent charge, the sweet spot for the battery.”

SELECT is electrifying a highway in Illinois later this year, Christensen said, and hopes to install an electric lane in Utah in the near future.

Bohm said they eventually hope to install chargers on one lane on Utah’s Interstate 15, and if Utah hosts the 2030 Olympics, Bohm said the electric lane could be a highlight for foreign visitors.

“We can certainly hope for that,” Bohm said.

Wireless induction has already been implemented by Tesla, BMW, Volvo and other electric vehicle manufacturers, but Christensen said standardizing the systems and working with states to install charging roadways will be the next challenge.

“The transformation has been amazing, but there is still a lot of work to be done,” he said. “We are working on all those major challenges and trying to solve them; to take what used to be just a vision, or completely unknown, and make it feasible for the masses.”

The solar panels will be live in March or April, Christensen said.

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Closed: Logan’s cookie war ends

By Nate Cutler and McKay Johnsen
NEWS CONTRIBUTORS

Logan’s fierce cookie business rivalry came to an end as Baked officially closed its doors Tuesday Jan. 29, 2019 at 8 p.m.

Chad Thompson, the owner of Baked, said company administrators are redirecting their efforts toward Utah county.

“We are looking to focus on just our Lehi location for now. We love Logan and have been extremely happy to be part of this wonderful community the last few years,” Thompson said.

For many in the valley, Baked was a highly debated topic especially when involving its cookie competition with Crumbl. Students would also contest their affinity for which company they thought surpassed the other.

When asked about the marketing and sustainability of Crumbl in an interview, Thompson said he doesn’t want to ruin the “cordial” relationship with not just Crumbl but all cookie businesses.

“We are doing well for ourselves, and of course want the best for all in the business. Right now we are growing at a pace that’s sustainable,” Thompson said. Fast growing companies like many Utah tech companies and even Crumbl may experience the Krispy Kreme mentality of our parent’s age. It was hot for the time but they just had too many stores and couldn’t keep up with how fast they expanded.”

He said he believes that someone may buyout Crumbl in the next few years. Just like cake pops, caramel apples and waffles that came and went, he said he thinks investing in a cookie shop

is also faddish. Similar to how customers can expect hamburgers as the single menu item at In-N-Out, companies like Chip and Crumbl are invested in their niche as a cookie business.

“That’s why we chose the name Baked,” Thompson said. “So we potentially could have any baked goods even when fads change every few years.”

Crumbl has continued to expand in 2019. It is opening a location in Colorado and a second store in Las Vegas, with a total of 19 locations.

Michaela Whitney contributed to this story.
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PHOTO BY Megan Nielsen

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Cox Honeyland celebrates 90 sweet years in Cache Valley



Cox Honeyland is celebrating their 90th year of honey production in Cache Valley.

PHOTO BY Alek Nelson

By Alek Nelson
STUDENT LIFE WRITER

“Utah’s Gourmet Honey Specialists” are celebrating their 90th year of honey production in Cache Valley this year. Just south of downtown Logan, a quaint white building with vinyl siding houses Cox Honeyland and Gifts, a family-owned business that sells honey, fudge, and gifts.

Cox Honey is a fifth-generation family-owned business. According to statistics from the Family Business Alliance, only 3% of family businesses survive past the third generation, making Cox Honey truly unique.

A Family Tradition

The Cox family’s beekeeping heritage began over 100 years ago when Henderson Cox and his family settled in St. George, Utah. While there, Cox began beekeeping with his family as a hobby.

Marion, Cox’s third son, settled in Cache Valley at the start of the Great Depression in 1929. After arriving in the valley, Marion decided to start beekeeping and raising livestock to support his family.

The honey business stuck and soon turned into a family affair. As Marion’s children and grandchildren grew older, they began to help with the beekeeping responsibilities of the small business.

The company grew and more family members became involved until the decision was made to create a location to sell honey to the public. In 1989, the gift shop that still stands south of downtown Logan opened to serve locals and visitors. Margene Cox, the wife of one of Marion Cox’s sons, used her expertise in retail to help the store become successful as a honey and gift shop.

A Cache Valley Staple

Since Marion Cox initially started beekeeping in Cache Valley in 1929, the venture has grown with no signs of slowing down anytime soon. In 2010, for example, Cox Honeyland

see “Honey” PAGE 7

Monster Concert showcases a community of musicians

Thirteen pianos crowded the stage of the Daines Concert Hall as the Utah State University Youth Conservatory put on its annual Monster Concert on Friday, February 2.

Conservatory students have been preparing since November for the event. The result was a family-friendly concert that was engaging and fun for audience members of all ages.

The concert featured plenty of audience participation, providing opportunities for audience members to sing and even dance as students and teachers throughout the community performed together.

The pianos and performers shared the stage with an essential feature of the concert: a big, furry blue monster. Kids throughout the audience were completely enraptured as this gentle giant came to dance on stage, act out lyrics in sing-a-longs, and lead audience members in “The Chicken Dance.”

“We just really wanted it to be exciting for friends and family and then the students themselves performing. So that’s why we

sort of put our own little twist on it,” said Emily Ezola, director of the USU Youth Conservatory.

Ezola said that the Monster Concert is a tradition dating back to the ‘80s. Back then, the monster wore a big brown suit that they had to go all the way to Kaysville, Utah in order to rent.

When asked about the inspiration for this concert, Ezola said, “Pianists are often on their own. They practice a lot alone. They don’t really get a chance as much to collaborate in the same way that violinists do or instruments that are in a band. But the benefits that you can gain from being in an ensemble are huge. So it was important to us, as part of really the music education component, to get them to play with each other.”

The USU Youth Conservatory is a teaching lab for both undergraduate and graduate piano majors, and it creates a valuable teaching environment for college students.

“They get to have real-life experience right away when they come to our program, super unique to Utah State, actually,” said Ezola.

The Monster Concert specifically gives USU piano majors the unique opportunity to “lead rehearsals and conduct a fleet of pianos and pianists.”

In addition to benefiting the students of Utah State, the Conservatory also contributes to the community by offering piano lessons to youth in Cache Valley at affordable prices.

“Again, that’s part of our goal, is to keep this as accessible to the most people that we possibly can,” said Ezola, adding that the Conservatory is a way to “keep up with music education and to connect to the community and give kids the chance to learn how to play piano.”

The collaboration of musicians at the Monster Concert was evidence of that community.

“We want lifelong music lovers and piano players,” said Ezola. “I think this helps just kind of fuel that motivation.”

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The importance of Sheep Day

Variable credit class provides hands-on experience for students

By Samantha Clark
STUDENT SUBMISSION

Professor Lyle “Doc” McNeal has been teaching at USU for almost 40 years; for the last 27, he has been organizing and running Sheep Day with the Broadbent family.

Once a semester, numerous Utah State students trek to the Broadbent’s ranch in Wyoming early on a Saturday morning to perform breeding soundness exams (BSEs) on hundreds of rams. The exams help identify rams with *Brucella ovis*, a microorganism that causes infertility. These “dud” rams can transmit *B. ovis* to ewes, where it can infect other males.

McNeal and the Broadbents, who own the ranch and the rams, met while McNeal was managing the largest ram sale in the country. McNeal told the Broadbent family about the benefits of BSEs, and together they developed Sheep Day. McNeal is able to teach agriculture students how to do BSEs, and the Broadbents get their rams tested and their flock improved.

In 2002, McNeal started working with Tami Spackman, an advisor in the Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Science department, and made Sheep Day a variable credit class. Students can now take the class and earn up to five credits.

Each Sheep Day takes months of extensive planning between McNeal and the Broadbent family. McNeal organizes all of the supplies and finds drivers for the students attending the event. McNeal also calls the McDonald’s in Evanston, Wyoming and warns them that 100-plus people will be stopping there early on the day of the event.

Once the day arrives, students travel to the ranch, unload supplies, and are divided into teams for the day. McNeal demonstrates a BSE on a ram and answers any questions the students have. Then students get to work conducting BSEs on every ram in the Broadbent’s herd.

Blood, wool and semen samples are taken from each sheep. Students examine the sperm samples under microscopes and record their analysis. If the ram is healthy, it is marked with a green line on its forehead and it placed into one pen. If a ram appears unhealthy and not suitable for breeding, McNeal reviews it and then makes the call to cull the ram. A red X is marked on its forehead and the animal is placed into the cull pen.

Once every ram has been tested, everyone packs up the supplies, takes a group picture, and loads up into the minivans and buses to head back to Logan.

Over the next few days, students at USU’s South Farm research center clean all of the instruments and put all of the supplies back where they belong. McNeal and Laurel will grade all of the wool samples using a machine called the OFDA 2000 (Optical Fiber Diameter Analysis). When the blood results come back, McNeal and students compile the final reports

“It gave me an opportunity to experience something I didn’t get to growing up.”

— Leslie Price
Sheep Day Attendee

to tell the Broadbents which rams to cull.

This program has increased the Broadbent’s lambing rate from 104% to 120%. It’s increased revenue and improved their entire business.

However, Sheep Day has a bigger impact than just improving one ranch in Wyoming: it’s taught thousands of students. It allows ADVS students prove to themselves and others that they are meant to be in their program. It gives students valuable experience to talk to future employers about.



Students perform breeding soundness exams on rams.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF Samantha Clark

The first Sheep Day I went to, I worked side by side with people that will be my colleagues for the rest of my life. I found a passion for sheep that led me to take more sheep classes and go on more amazing trips to different states, learning even more about sheep. It’s a program I put on my resume, a program I’ve written college admissions essays about, and a program I encourage every student to take part in at least once.

Andrew Myers is an animal science major who feels that Sheep Day is an important learning experience. “It offers students an opportunity to further their understanding of the importance of agriculture,” Myers said. “It gives them a place to do something they might enjoy that they don’t usually get to do.”

Amber Reed, another animal science major, grew up in a

growing up,” she said.


Although Sheep Day started out as a program for agriculture students, students from all majors can come and learn.

Leslie Price, a communications major, said that Sheep Day is important “because it teaches kids there is more to raising livestock.”

Sheep Day teaches important skills to future veterinarians, farmers, professors, and consumers, and every person that participates walks away having learned something about agriculture. Sheep Day gives students an attachment to the land and agriculture. Even students who were raised in a city environment are given a way to connect to the land, making them a better student, a better citizen, and maybe sparking a love for agriculture in them.

Sheep Day for spring semester will be held on April 13th.

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Utah State junior guard Diogo Brito lays the ball in on a fast break against during Utah State's 82-65 victory over UNLV on Saturday afternoon at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum.

Aggies make it six-straight

Utah State keeps rolling, picks up 17-point win over UNLV; now second in MWC

By Dalton Renshaw
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Utah State picked up its sixth-consecutive win with a 82-65 over UNLV at home Saturday afternoon. The win put the Aggies in second place in the Mountain West Conference standings.

Within the first three minutes Utah State had established a style of play to carry the team throughout the game. The Aggies climbed to an early lead of 8-2 and did so through some terrific ball movement and holding UNLV to shots from the perimeter. This was something the Aggies focused on coming into the game. “Our keys were to get back on transition defense and then keep them off the offensive boards and I don’t know how many they scored in transition, but it wasn’t a lot,” junior guard Sam Merrill said. “They only had nine offensive rebounds, so we did a great job there, did a great job defensively all game and that’s what’s going to win us games all year.”

On nearly every occasion the Runnin’ Rebels tried to drive to the basket, they would be met by two or three Aggies, most notably freshman center Neemias Queta. Queta exceeded his season average of 2.5 blocks per game at the half with three, to go along with 13 rebounds. Utah State yet again out-rebounded their opponent at the half, this time by a margin of 27-16. The Aggies were fueled by quality bench play that was able to spark an 11-2 run between 10:19 and 7:09, a main factor being junior guard Diogo Brito. Brito had nine of his 15 points in the first half and played just as well on the defensive of the court. “I thought he was really, really good,” head coach Craig Smith said. “I though he did a great job defensively he’s got such active hands in the right spot. There was a few times I called something and he was like ‘coach I got, I got it, we

already called it’ and it worked. So it’s nice when the players are smarter than the coach.” Crisp passing and unselfish ball movement helped the Aggies to 13 assists on 18 made field goals in the first half, Merrill being one of the players who was highly involved in the action. Merrill had four assists as well as a team-high 12 points at the intermission. On the game, Utah State had 22 assists on 30 made field goals, something the team likes to think of as a strength. “That’s who we are as a team, that’s the identity we’ve sought to create from the first day,” Merrill said. “We don’t get as stagnant, I feel like,” Brito said. “Just move the ball and eventually a guy will be open. We’ve been trying to throw the ball inside more and more every game, you know. Because it slows things down and opens things up and having that inside presence helps us a lot getting open shots.” By the the start of the second half, Utah State had picked up right where they left off in the first, keeping UNLV at a comfortable distance. Early on in the second half UNLV was able to hit a couple of open looks and shed Utah State’s lead down to 16, but that was as close as they would get. If UNLV started to make some open looks, Utah State would counter with a run of their own. At a few points midway through the half, UNLV guard Kris Clyburn, or forward Joel Ntanbwe would hit a three and Utah State would immediately focus back in on defense. This propelled them on a 12-3 to stretch the lead to 72-43 with 8:20 left to go.

After the Aggies sat some of their starters late in the half, UNLV was able to go on a 9-0 run to close out the game, ending the game 82-65. The late-game push from UNLV was inconsequential in the grand scheme of the game. “The way we did it is what was key,” Smith said “We got great production out of a lot of different guys. At the end of the day we shoot 49 percent and hold them to 37 percent.” This Utah State team continues their winning streak, stretching it to six games, but will have some tough tests waiting for them up ahead. “Next week is going to be a brutal, I mean, we’re in the middle of, I call it the gauntlet. UNLV at home, at Fresno and at San Diego State,” Smith said. “So we don’t have much time for turnaround, we’ll have another practice tomorrow and hit the road on Monday.” Utah State travels to Fresno to take on the Bulldogs Tuesday night to avenge the buzzer-beater loss the team suffered just a few weeks ago. That was the last game the Aggies lost before starting its current win streak.

@dren_sports



During Saturday afternoon’s game at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum, Utah State junior guard Diogo Brito (left) lays the ball up past a group of UNLV. USU freshman center Neemias Queta (right) dunks the ball. This was Utah State’s third-consecutive win over UNLV, and its fifth win in the past seven meetings with the Rebels.



PHOTOS BY Tim Carpenter

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UTAH STATE™

Aggies post season-high score, fall to SUU

By Lauren Lomeli
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The Utah State gymnastics team recorded its best score of the year so far with a season-high 194.900 on Friday night. USU lost to host Southern Utah University, which recorded its own season-high score of 195.500.

Once again, Utah State senior Madison Ward-Sessions snatched a pair of individual titles, winning the vault and the all-around events, bringing her career-total to 30 wins. “Madi put together another solid all-around performance,” said USU head coach Amy Smith. “It was great seeing her edge out her previous personal best with a 9.825 on beam and anchor our beam lineup. It’s been really great seeing her deliver in the all-around for us this season.”

USU junior MaKayla Bullitt placed second on the bars with 9.850, with freshman Grace Rojas following closely behind with her career-high of 9.825. Sophomore Leighton Varnadore recorded a 9.700, and Ward-Sessions scored a 9.750 for fifth.

A mountain of pressure was placed on freshman Maya Perez-Lugones during her beam routine after Utah State suffered a fall in their second routine. The freshman executed a career-high 9.725 as she completed her routine, before crumbling to the ground

due to a leg injury.

On the vault, Ward-Sessions served as the anchor, and with a score of 9.800 she was able to earn one of her two individual titles. This was Ward-Sessions first vault title of the season, and the fifth of her career. Varnadore followed with a 9.775, while her twin sister Logan Varnadore came close with a 9.725. Rojas secured a 9.700, and junior Elle Golison and sophomore Autumn DeHarde both tied with 9.650.

USU was able to secure a season-high team score on the beam with a 48.725. Ward-Sessions matched her season high 9.825 score along with DeHarde, and the duo was followed by another Aggie tie of 9.700 from sophomore Taylor Dittmar and senior Emily Briones. The 9.700 beam score also served as a season-high for Briones. Rojas competed in her first official beam routine and earned a score of 9.675.

“Something we can take away from this meet is we can still battle through some adversity. Maya getting hurt on the first rotation kind of shook us up a little bit,” Ward-Sessions said. “But, we were able to go and hit vault and finish all the other events. I was proud of the team for not letting anything really shake us.”

To finish the meet against the Thunderbirds, Ward-Sessions was awarded the individual all-around title with a score of



PHOTO BY **Tim Carpenter**
Utah State sophomore Leighton Varnadore performs a floor routine during the Aggies' Jan. 18 home meet against BYU. The Aggies earned a season-high score of 194.900 in their meet against Southern Utah Saturday evening in Cedar City, Utah.

39.175, along with SUU gymnast Karley McClain. This secured Ward-Sessions' 30th career individual title.

“At the end of the day, we battled through and came out with another season-high score,” said USU head coach Amy Smith. “The resilience of the team was great to see tonight because it was not an easy meet. We

just kept fighting to the very end. I'm really proud of the team.”

Utah State will next play host to Boise State on Feb. 8 at the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. The meet will begin at 7 p.m.

@lomeli_lauren



PHOTO BY **Iain Laurence**
Utah State junior guard Eliza West dribbles the ball in the Aggies' Jan. 16 home game against San Jose State. The Aggies fell to UNLV 77-56 Saturday afternoon in Las Vegas, their third-consecutive loss.

Aggies' losing skid continues vs UNLV

By Daedan Olander
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

On Saturday afternoon in its lone matchup with UNLV this season, the Utah State women's basketball team suffered a 21-point loss to the Lady Rebels, 77-56 in Las Vegas.

Throughout the game, UNLV's high-tempo offense left the Aggies looking a step slow. UNLV quickly put its transition offense on

display, and in the first quarter a blitzkrieg of a 15-point run put them up 19-9 with 1:49 left to play in the period. USU would trail for the rest of the game. The quarter ended with UNLV up 24-11, finishing it on a 20-2 run.

“We turned the ball over way too much in the first quarter,” said Utah State head coach Jerry Finkbeiner following the loss.

The Aggies remained resilient, however, and an Emmie Harris free throw with 6:31 left in the second period brought USU within seven points, 26-19. The latter half of the quarter was a back-and-forth battle between the two teams, and UNLV finished the half up, 40-28.

Utah State kept the deficit around 10 for much of the third period, and with 1:23

remaining, cut the lead to just six, but a dominant fourth quarter run by the Lady Rebels widened the margin to 20-points with 2:55 remaining in the game. From there, UNLV cruised to the victory, 77-56.

“We won two quarters, and they won two quarters,” Finkbeiner said. “Just their two quarters overwhelmed us in the first quarter and the fourth quarter.”

Utah State finished with 20 turnovers in the game, up from their 15.5 per game average. Ten of the turnovers were UNLV steals. USU was also outrebounded 38-24 by the Lady Rebels. The combination of the two factors led to UNLV taking 12 more shots than the Aggies in the contest.

“Turnovers just killed us,” Finkbeiner said.

Senior guard Nikki Wheatley spearheaded the Lady Rebels' effort, penetrating the USU defense with forays to the basket, which consistently led to points for herself or her teammates. She finished the night with 20 points and five assists.

On the visiting team, Shannon Dufficy, again, played a vital role in the Aggie offense. She finished with a career-high tying 26 points and seven rebounds, totals which would have likely been higher if foul trouble hadn't prevented her from playing stretches in the second half.

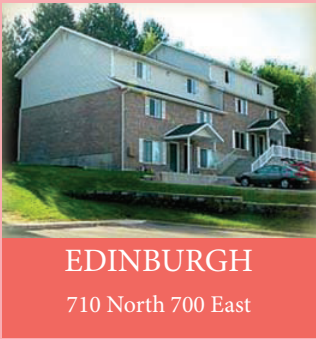
The Aggies will look forward to returning home to the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. to play Fresno State after an unsuccessful two-game stint on the road. The Aggies are now 5-4 in conference play and 10-10 overall.

“We're okay, it's been a long trip,” Finkbeiner said. “This is probably our toughest road trip of the season.”

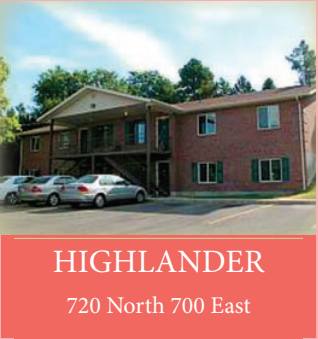
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“Honey” FROM PAGE 1

was recognized as Utah’s Family-owned Small Business of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Cox Honey produces roughly 250,000 to 350,000 pounds of honey per year, collecting from about 8,000 hives throughout the area.

After the honey is harvested, it is turned into a variety of products, including creamed honey in 14 different flavors, caramels, taffy, butter and honeycomb. Beeswax is also transformed into lip balms, candles and scented lotion sticks.

The store also sells a variety of gifts, decorations, homemade fudge and food products from other Cache Valley businesses. One of the notable attractions in the store is a live hive where visitors can watch bees in action through a plexiglass frame.

When asked what a typical day at Cox Honeyland was like, Maleesa Jacobsen, manager at Cox Honeyland and Gifts, jokingly replied, “Sticky.” Jacobsen said her favorite part about the business is “sweetening peo-

ple’s lives one drop at a time” by developing beneficial relationships with customers and other businesses in the community.

“There are a diverse amount of things that we do on a daily basis. Everyone has different roles in the business,” Jacobsen said. These responsibilities range from packaging honey to shipping out orders to teaching customers about bees and how honey is made.

Mandy, a first-time customer from North Ogden, visited the store with her husband to purchase honey on Dec. 1. They were impressed by how many products there were inside the building.

“There’s a lot of stuff,” she said. “You see it from the outside and think, ‘Oh, it’s a little gift shop,’ but then it keeps going. It’s fun to look around.”

Besides the retail location in Cache Valley, Cox Honey is also sold throughout Utah and the nation in stores like IFA, Seagull Book and Whole Foods. In addition, Cox Honey is sent all around the world on a regular basis

“Politics” FROM PAGE 1

in the political arena, and he’s someone that’s certainly been right in the middle of things in the last couple of years,” he said.

Flake discussed the political atmosphere that he says has resulted in increased division and government dysfunction.

“We’ve shattered our politics when polarizing partisanship has taken over,” Flake said.

In addition, Flake discussed his tendency as a politician to reach across the aisle, and how such bipartisanship has caused him to receive backlash online.

He recounted President Barack Obama’s 2012 State of the Union speech, during which he assisted Rep. Gabby Giffords (D-Arizona) to stand for applause. Giffords was at the time recovering from a traumatic brain injury as a result of an assassination attempt.

“People hadn’t seen a kind gesture, they saw somebody consorting with the enemy,” Flake said. “I was immediately deluged with phone calls and texts and emails asking, ‘Why would I agree with President Obama?’”

Flake was present at the 2017 congressional baseball match in Alexandria, VA., when a shooter fired more than 50 rounds, injuring six and nearly killing Republican Congressman Steve Scalise. Flake said he used his batting glove to stem another’s gunshot wound.

Flake more recently drew controversy when a video of a confrontation between him and a sexual assault victim went viral during Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court nomination hearing.

“She had very legitimate concerns, and she was exercising her right to be there,” he said. “But it wasn’t a comfortable position to be in. And that’s why so many members just rush to their corner, pick their tribe and stay there. That’s where the political incentives are today.”

Moderate stances and frequent opposition to hard-line Republicans have also brought

Flake’s name to the spotlight.

In today’s politics, Flake said “you don’t want to be the man in the middle.”

He discussed his decision not to seek reelection for his Senate seat.

“I would have to agree with positions that I didn’t agree with, or condone behavior that I simply couldn’t condone,” he said. “It shouldn’t have to be this way...to feel the weight and the burden of this partisan atmosphere around us.”

He decried the recent partisan shift in U.S. politics.

“Our responsibilities as elected officials are to put country above party, to look for opportunities to reach across the aisle, to recognize that your political opponents are not your enemies,” Flake said. “They may disagree with you, but they are not your enemies.”

Regarding the government shutdown, he remarked, “We have to come to a point where we can actually govern again, and the fact that we just got through a 32-day shutdown – and may be facing another – shows that we aren’t governing very well.”

“If we can’t keep the government open, then we certainly can’t tackle the other big challenges that are out there for us,” he said. “Have the angels of our better nature been permanently furloughed?”

When asked what he felt students can do to combat political polarization, he said to not get involved with groups that exacerbate division.

“You hear the phrase, from some on my side of the aisle, to ‘Own the libs,’” he said. “To do things that intentionally try to inflame division. I don’t think that’s useful.”

Senator Flake said he does not plan to run for president in 2020, and has joined CBS News as a contributor.

However, when prompted, he clarified that a future career in politics was still a possibility.

—pigott.peterson@gmail.com
@coffee_talk_

“Campus Kitchen” FROM PAGE 1

guidelines, which specify that food can only be heated twice.

“If the restaurant heats it, and then the consumer wants to heat it, then we can’t,” Twiggs said. “We have to figure out how these meals can work without heating them.”

The Campus Kitchen at USU said that they need lot of volunteers to help with tasks like campus and restaurant food recovery or running the SNAC pantry. The Campus Kitchen at USU is even offering to pay for students to get a food handler’s permit so they can help prep meals in the kitchen.

Despite the challenges of tackling hunger, Twiggs believes in food’s ability to bring communities together. “Food connects everyone,” she said. “I think we should care because we are a Aggie family. You shouldn’t let one of your siblings go hungry. You are always going to reach out to help your family.”

For more information on The Campus Kitchen at USU, visit their Instagram or connect with them on AggieSync.

—shelby.black@aggiemail.usu.edu
@shelbsterblack

via orders on their website.

Despite fluctuations, the honey industry has grown in recent years. According to market research website Statista, the value of honey produced in the U.S. increased from \$132.8 million in 2000 to \$318.3 million in 2017.

Cox Honey of Utah has contributed to those numbers through its sales and beekeeping over the past nine decades, and it appears that it will continue to bring a little sweetness to the world for the foreseeable future.

—alek.nelson@aggiemail.usu.edu
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Cox Honeyland is celebrating their 90th year of honey production in Cache Valley.

PHOTO BY Alek Nelson

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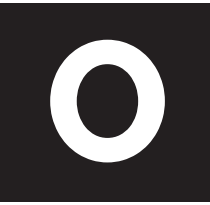
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Universal healthcare?

How a busy newsroom showed me the need for healthcare reform

By **Spencer Burt**
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Imagine getting in a serious car accident, or surviving a gunshot, stab wound or other assault. Imagine a long, difficult battle with cancer or some other serious illness. Imagine yourself watching a loved one suffer through one of these unexpected, unplanned and undeserved experiences.

Then during the long and difficult process of recovery or grieving by those left behind, you get a bill for tens of thousands of dollars owed for the ambulance ride, maybe even a helicopter transport, emergency room, surgery, operating room, recovery room, and every single cost down to the hospital gown.

If you don't have health insurance, you're toast. Even if you do, you might still be left with a big chunk to pay out of pocket.

Now, in addition to the trauma of losing a loved one or being seriously hurt, you're facing bankruptcy, foreclosure, a lifetime of trying to climb that mountain of debt for something you sure didn't ask for.

It feels like the hospital is just trying to kick you while you're down.

We've all seen the political discussions, heard the talking points and seen the proposed fixes — from Obama's Affordable Care Act to the GOP's American Health Care Act in response to the likes of Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez fighting for universal healthcare.

But allow me to share a more local point of view.

I spent last semester working as a full-time intern in the Deseret News/KSL combined newsroom. It was a great experience, but sometimes I had to cover pretty awful stuff: an alleged drunk truck

driver flipping over the highway barrier and killing all six occupants of an oncoming vehicle. An elderly couple driving their Jeep through a snowy mountain pass on Thanksgiving morning, sliding off and killing the man.

Even when I was assigned to write wholesome stories about people doing good in the community, I would see the daily emails about the latest bad car crash, workplace accident, assault, murder, etc. I sat by the writers tasked with covering these stories for the paper. I heard TV reporters and anchors recap these incidents and giving daily updates on some. Every day, there was another tragedy.

Then, almost without fail, a few days after each big incident we would receive an email about a GoFundMe account for the family's medical and/or funeral expenses.

Fortunately, donors almost always seemed to come through to help these families in emotional and financial ruin.

But it shouldn't have to come to that.

As many successful GoFundMe campaigns as I saw, I'm sure there are so many families in Utah and across the country whose campaigns didn't get shared enough or who nobody thought to make one. Now they have to face a seemingly impossible debt to pay (often made harder if the family's provider was either dead or physically unable to work).

Now, this isn't an indictment of the medical providers. I applaud the medical personnel who treated and continue to treat these life-threatening injuries, and even have to watch as someone dies in front of them in the ambulance or on the operating table. They cannot receive enough praise. (Or pay, for that matter.)

But the financial side of the healthcare

industry leaves the uninsured and underinsured with two options: either go viral, or go bankrupt.

I'm no political or financial expert, and I understand that there's a lot of nuance. But I believe our country can and should do better.

Sure, it will be a challenge. Changing a centuries-old private healthcare system would have countless complications behind the scenes. People don't want to lose the doctor they know and trust. People don't want to pay more taxes.

But I believe the basic principle of universal healthcare is possible, good and just.

You might have to increase taxes to pay for the program. No one likes the sound of that, but remember: you would no longer have to pay for health insurance, and neither would your employer. You'd never have to pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Everyone will have medical expenses in their lifetime, often beyond their control. The only question is, who will pay for it? Insurance companies cover big expenses from a pot of yours and others' monthly premiums. GoFundMe campaigns rely on sometimes hundreds of compassionate donors chipping in. Why don't we formalize that process and ensure that proper healthcare is available for everyone?

No family deserves to lose a loved one unexpectedly. No one deserves to be injured in a car accident or by an attacker. And nobody deserves to face crippling debt after enduring these traumatic experiences.

Spencer Burt is a news writer for The Utah Statesman and a senior studying journalism, public relations and marketing.

Have an opinion you'd like to share? Email your letter to 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 usustatesman.com, as well as in the print issue of the Statesman, depending on space.



Letters to the editor

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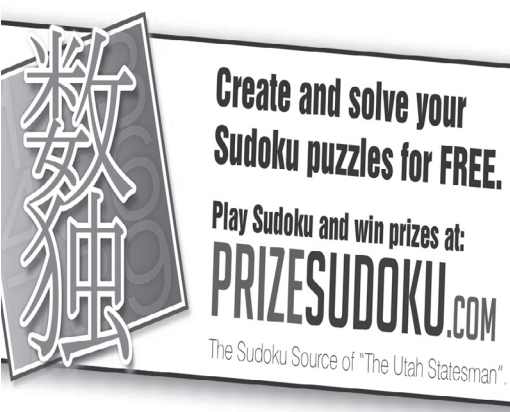
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TO PLAY: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved, just use logic to solve.



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2	6	9	7	1	8	4	3	5
4	5	7	9	3	2	8	1	6
1	3	8	6	5	4	2	7	9
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7	1	4	5	2	6	9	8	3
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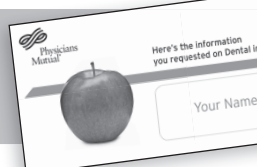
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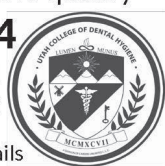
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FEBRUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 11					
TUESDAY 2/5	WEDNESDAY 2/6	THURSDAY 2/7	FRIDAY 2/8	SATURDAY 2/9	MONDAY 2/11
<p>Jazz at Caffe Ibis 1:00pm Caffe Ibis 52 Federal Ave Logan, UT</p> <p>Space Dynamics Laboratory/USU Lecture Series 4:30pm ENGR 201</p> <p>A Lie of the Mind 7:30pm Caine Lyric Theatre 28 West Center Logan, UT</p>	<p>Interview Prep Workshop 1:00pm Huntsman Hall 326</p> <p>Women's Basketball vs. Fresno State 7:00pm The Spectrum</p> <p>A Lie of the Mind 7:30pm Caine Lyric Theatre 28 West Center Logan, UT</p> <p>Fry Street & Friends 7:30pm Caine College of the Arts 4030 Old Main Hill Logan, UT</p>	<p>Better Notes = Better Grades Workshop 2:00pm Huntsman Hall 222</p> <p>Super Bowl Advertising Review 3:00pm Huntsman Hall 220</p> <p>Water & Environmental Seminar 4:30pm Engineering Lab 221</p>	<p>USU men's tennis vs Santa Clara 4:00pm The Sports Academy</p> <p>CHaSS Alumni Lunch Series: Alumni panel of recent graduates 12:00pm Merrill-Cazier Library Room 101</p> <p>USU men's tennis vs Montana State 4:00pm The Sports Academy</p> <p>USU Gymnastics vs Boise State 7:00pm The Spectrum</p> <p>Noises Off 7:30pm Utah Theatre 18 W Center St Logan, UT</p>	<p>Community Art Days 9:00am Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art</p> <p>Noises Off 1:30pm Utah Theatre</p> <p>Utah State vs. San Diego State 2:00pm The Spectrum</p> <p>The Chocolate Festival 6:30pm Riverwoods Conference Center</p> <p>American Festival Chorus & Orchestra: She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain Family Pops Concert 7:30pm Daines Concert Hall</p> <p>Noises Off 7:30pm Utah Theatre</p>	<p>Faith Distress Group 1:00pm TSC 310B</p> <p>Noises Off 7:30pm Utah Theatre</p> <p>Public Night 5:00pm Beaver Mountain</p>

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Deadline for calendar submissions is Sunday at midnight.



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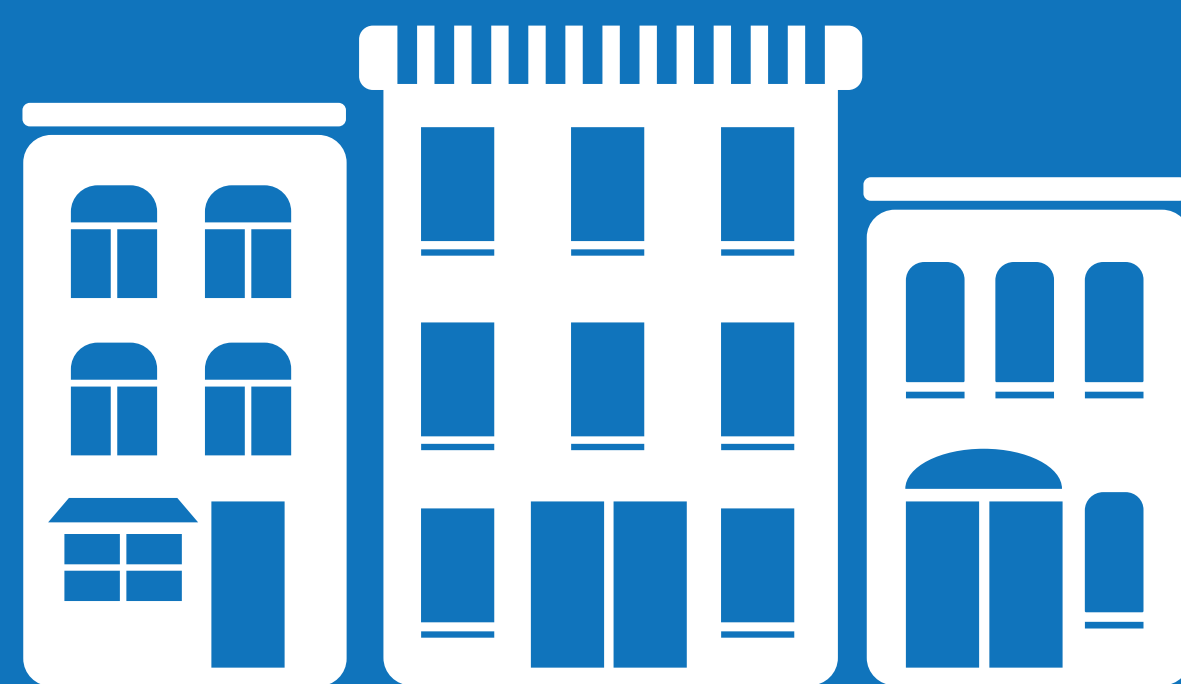
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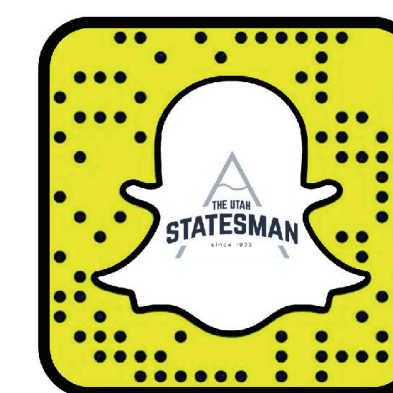
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