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## The Utah Statesman, July 16, 2019

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SPORTS | Surprise resigning

This Aggie coach was one of the winningest in school history, but chose to leave the program.

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STUDENT LIFE | Swoll bowls

Two USU students cultivated their passions for health into a new smoothie bowl business.

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NEWS | Abortion debate reaches Utah

As the national debate rages on, how will Utah be affected?

see PAGE 2

## USU received over \$4 million from border protection in the past decade



PHOTO BY CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (File)  
A TARS blimp in Puerto Rico, docked before launching. The blimps provide low-level radar surveillance on the border between the United States and Mexico.

By Carter Moore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

A review of a federal database shows Utah State University has accepted more than four million dollars in funding from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. That funding is being used to develop technology for eight blimps to help track down aircraft on the southern border.

The radars in these blimps, known as the Tethered Aerostat Radar Systems- or TARS, were at least partly developed at Utah State University, and Customs and Border Protection paid the university's research foundation \$4.1 million for its work. According to federal spending databases, Utah State accepted more funding from Customs and Border Protection than any

other university since 2010.

Neither Border Protection nor the USU research foundation responded to repeat-

“*That funding is being used to develop technology for eight blimps to help track down aircraft on the southern border.*”

ed requests for comment, but Utah State's spokesman Tim Vitale said the university has no involvement with Border Protection's daily operations.

“Our role is just to provide scientific research or services in our areas of expertise,” Vitale said. “We have been working with state, local and federal agencies for decades and decades, around the world.”

Customs and Border Protection has drawn

strong criticism recently for its handling of asylum seekers arriving from Mexico, and democratic lawmakers have gone as far

as calling the detention centers “concentration camps.”

While the aerostat radars are mostly tracking low flying aircraft for drug smuggling, critics say any relationship between the university and Border Protection is an issue.

“I think the question here is 5, 10, 15 years down the road, how do we want this institution to be remembered?” asked Paulina Rivera-Soto, the elected student advocate Vice President for Utah State's Student Association. “Because of the current situation, it is sending a message to our students.”

🐦 @CarterTheGreat

## Spreading awareness for ASL



PHOTO COURTESY: Sandi Herrin  
Curt Radford, a USU professor of ASL, volunteers his time at “The World's Largest Sign Language Class” to raise awareness for ASL.

By Shelby Black  
STUDENT LIFE SENIOR WRITER

Communication connects people. Whether one speaks English, Spanish, Japanese or American Sign Language, a simple hello can make a huge difference.

According to Communications Service for the Deaf, about 1 million people speak American Sign Language as their primary language, which is only 0.3% of the American population.

A recent event held in Idaho Falls, Idaho, hoped to tackle this issue and help people learn basic phrases in American Sign Language. “The World's Largest Sign Language Class” was Sandi Herrin's idea to help many more people become exposed to sign language. Herrin worked for several months to put together an event that attempted to break the current world record for the largest sign language lesson.

“I wanted to get as many people in one place as I could to learn sign language. I thought maybe we go for a world record,” Herrin said. “We worked for a couple of months to get as many people out as we could. We didn't break the record, but it was so much fun.”

According to Herrin, on June 3rd, the Civic Auditorium in Idaho Falls filled up with nearly 600 to 800 people ready to learn sign language. One of the people in attendance was Curt Radford, Utah State University professor of American Sign Language. Radford was a volunteer at the large-scale event and was able to help spread awareness for ASL.

Radford grew up in Ririe, Idaho, and was grateful for the opportunity to give back to the local Deaf

see “ASL” on PAGE 6

## Utah State women's basketball enduring offseason of change

By Jason Walker  
SPORTS SENIOR WRITER

The Utah State men's basketball program is currently experiencing a renaissance, harkening back to the mid-major dynasty of the early 2000s. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the university's women's basketball team.

After a semi-successful 2018-19 campaign that saw the women's side finish 17-16 (just the second time in the last six seasons the team finished with a winning record), head coach Jerry Finkbeiner has seen a near exodus from his team's locker room.

Two players — Rachel Brewster and Deja Mason — graduated with the former signing with a semi-pro Australian team. Four others — Roxani Bountouka, Olivia West, Shannon

Dufficy and Eliza West — entered the transfer portal and two, Dufficy and Eliza, have already found new homes.

Eliza West drives to the basket in transition against Air Force on Saturday February 16, 2019. West set the USU all-time assist record in her junior year but will transfer to NAIA Southeastern University.

Both Bountouka and Olivia West were unable live up to preseason expectations. Bountouka, a freshman from Greece, did not play a single minute on the court due to an offseason injury. West, on the other hand, under-performed greatly as she went from being Utah State's leading scorer in 2017-18 to the fourth leading scorer (no major recruits or transfers joined the Aggies between the two seasons, West just simply scored less). She also started just 13 games,

her lowest total since her freshman season.

Dufficy was a very pleasant surprise for last year's squad. She finally overcame inconsistency troubles and became the Aggies' leader in minutes, points, rebounds and steals. Along with that she set program records for double-doubles in a single season, the mark for most consecutive double-doubles and became just the second Aggie in the Mountain West era to be selected to First-Team All-Conference. Instead of returning to likely become the all-time leader in rebounds, Dufficy will play for Missouri



FILE PHOTO BY Megan Nielsen/The Utah Statesman  
Utah State's head coach Jerry Finkbeiner in the huddle during a timeout in a game against Colorado State in the Mountain West Tournament at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

next year.

Though Dufficy had yet to become the

see “Exodus” PAGE 7





PHOTO BY Rich Pedroncelli/AP Photo (File)  
People rally in support of abortion rights at the state Capitol in Sacramento, California on May 21, 2019. Trump administration rules imposing additional hurdles for low-income women seeking abortions are on hold once again.

# How will the national abortion debate impact Utah?

By Alison Berg and Naomi Ward  
NEWS MANAGER AND NEWS SENIOR WRITER

While recent abortion bans in Alabama and Missouri gain traction in national news, debate surrounding legislation that restricts access to abortions isn't exclusively a southern issue.

In the Utah Legislature's last session, Rep. Cheryl Acton, R-West Jordan, introduced HB136, which would ban abortions in Utah after 18 weeks, four weeks earlier than abortions had previously been allowed. The bill originally called for a 15-week ban, but was later revised. It includes exceptions for severe brain abnormalities, the life of the mother and, unlike the law in Alabama, victims of rape and incest.

Katrina Barker of the Planned Parenthood Association of Utah said PPAU had worked throughout the session to try and stop the bill from passing.

"There was a lot of outspoken opposition," Barker said.

"Dozens of doctors wrote letters and op-eds and met with legislators personally to say that this is not in the best interest of women's health in Utah."

But Barker said pro-choice advocates felt ignored by the Utah government.

"Legislators and the governor did not listen," Barker said.

Acton's handouts in a Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Standing Committee meeting list several arguments in favor of the bill, including fetal pain perception, potential medical risks post-abortion and Utah's "culture of life."

The bill passed in both Utah's House and Senate, and in March, was signed by Gov. Gary Herbert. However, due to a joint lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union and a following injunction granted by a federal judge, the bill has not yet been enforced. Barker said nothing has changed as far as Utahans' access to abortions.

"We have an obligation to the community and the people we serve to help protect their rights," Barker said. Comparing the bill in Utah to some of the "heartbeat" bills passed in other states, she said, "It's not as extreme, but it's still a ban. The government is taking away the choice of pregnant people to be able to make medical decisions that should be private and made between a patient and their doctor."

"Politicians should have no place in that."

Political science Assistant Professor Laura Gamboa-Gutierrez said a majority of abortion legislation has little to do with local abortion laws and much to do with an attempt at federal abortion bans.

"A lot of these bills have less to do with local politics than national politics; they're designed to reach the Supreme Court and hopefully overturn Roe v. Wade."

Gamboa-Gutierrez said while abortion is a nationwide issue, it's especially prevalent in Utah, which mandates abstinence-based sex education.

"It's very hard to tell what the Supreme Court will do," she said. "I'm guessing these bills will move through the system, leaving us with two questions: Will SCOTUS pick them up? How will they decide on them if they do? Individual justices

have their own ideological interests, but they also have judicial interests. It's not clear to me whether SCOTUS is ready to pick up such a contentious case and engage in a fight against Roe v. Wade."

Gamboa-Gutierrez said a ban on abortion will disproportionately affect low-income women, immigrants and racial minorities, as low-income women and racial minorities are more likely to experience unintended pregnancy.

"Access to sex education, contraception, childcare – all of these things feed the when and where and how to have a baby," she said. "Whether life starts at conception or not is a philosophical and religious question. But we might actually reduce abortions by reducing reasons women have abortions in the first place."

Barker also believes the money required to take the lawsuit through the courts could be better spent on sex education and "finding out why our maternal mortality rates are high."



PHOTO BY Ted S. Warren/AP Photo (File)  
Demonstrators opposing abortion take part in a rally at the Capitol, in Olympia, Washington on January 19, 2016.

"It costs millions of dollars to take a court case like through the courts," Barker said. "If the state loses, they are responsible for those fees and that's taxpayer money. I think that's a real shame."

Mary Taylor, president of Pro-Life Utah, addressed the concern of the potential cost of a lawsuit, saying, "There is also an annual cost of doing nothing. There is no hard data on how much abortion is costing the state of Utah, but we do know enough to see clearly that the annual cost is substantial."

Taylor stated that costs of preterm birth due to a previous abortion as well as for physical complications, mental health and substance abuse increases in the second trimester of pregnancy are all direct costs to the state.

"Of course, there are societal and indirect costs associated with this as well," Taylor said. "Let's not forget the human cost, which is at bare minimum, one human life."

Whether the joint challenge to Acton's bill is upheld remains to be seen, but Barker is optimistic.

"President Trump and his judicial nominations have helped anti-abortion politicians feel they have a chance that SCOTUS will rule differently than they have in the past," Barker said. "I believe history is on our side. Ultimately, the courts will prevail in upholding constitutional precedent."

@naomiyokoward @alison\_\_berg

# Former USU student charged in murder case

By Taylor Cripe  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

A former Utah State University student has been arrested for aggravated murder, aggravated kidnapping, desecration of a body and obstruction of justice in connection to the slaying of 23-year-old Mackenzie Lueck.

Ayoola Adisa Ajayi, 31, was taken into custody at 9:20 a.m. on June 28. Police believe Lueck met with Ajayi at a North Salt Lake park on June 17th.

Ajayi attended Utah State University on and off from 2009 to 2016, according to UUS spokesman Tim Vitale. During his time at USU, Ajayi was a computer science major. He left in fall 2016 and did not graduate.

Ajayi is a green card holder from Nigeria, according to the Salt Lake County District Attorney's office.

After being taken into custody by SWAT, Ajayi was booked into Salt Lake County Jail on charges of aggravated murder,



aggravated kidnapping, desecration of a body and obstruction of justice.

Another suspect was arrested and taken from the scene; he was released after questioning.

During a press conference, Salt Lake Police Chief Mike Brown said that the day after Lueck disappeared, Ajayi's neighbors reported that they saw smoke coming from his backyard. The 31-year-old was identified as a person of interest and police searched his home. A fresh dig was found.

"Excavation of the burned area was conducted, which resulted in the finding of several charred items, that were consistent with personal items of Mackenzie Lueck," Brown said. "Other charred material was located, which has now been determined to be female human tissue."

Despite evidence that the burned items, along with DNA, are connected to Lueck, Chief Brown would not comment on whether they had found her body and said that the "investigation was ongoing."

Lueck had been missing since June 17th when she arrived at the Salt Lake City Airport. Surveillance from the airport shows her in baggage claim before getting into a Lyft vehicle. Her driver claims she was dropped off at the North Salt Lake park around 3 a.m.

Police were able to use social media and cellphone data to determine that Lueck and Ajayi had been communicating before she disappeared.

"This was outstanding detective work, and this was cutting-edge investigation. When we talk about the digital footprint, through the work that we've done, and our federal partners, and then our state partners with the DNA, this is a cutting-edge investigation and this is what has led us to this arrest," Brown said.

Despite phone records that show the two communicated the day before she disappeared, Ajayi denies ever meeting up with Lueck.

University of Utah issued a prepared statement in connection with Lueck's death.

"The death of Mackenzie Lueck is devastating news," University of Utah President Ruth V. Watkins said. "On behalf of the university, I express our heartfelt sympathy to the family, friends and classmates of Mackenzie during this very difficult time."

Ajayi is being held without bail in the Salt Lake County jail.

@cripe\_taylor



# Health passions & smoothie bowls

## USU students start new business in Cache Valley



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall/The Utah Statesman  
Dexton Lake will serve as the 2019-2020 USUSA executive vice president. Lake previously served as the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Senator.

By Shelby Black  
STUDENT LIFE SENIOR WRITER

Two Utah State University students have turned their health passions into a reality this summer through a smoothie bowl business.

Ian Jeppsen and Bronson Stohlworthy both enjoy working out and cheering together on the USU cheer team. Since they began cheering for USU, the duo realized there weren't very many healthy, accessible and tasty snack options that they could enjoy after a good workout in Cache Valley. This lack of options is what led them to create their new business.

"I was always hungry for a business adventure so I jumped on board," Jeppsen said. "Both of us work out and we wanted something quick and healthy that we could grab after the gym. That is where Swoll Bowl was born. In the beginning, we had these crazy ideas and it almost didn't seem realistic, but then things fell together."

The two started building their business from the ground up. They purchased an old trailer and renovated it entirely themselves. Then came obtaining the proper licenses and permits along with figuring out the perfect smoothie combinations. Sage Rindfleisch, a friend of Jeppsen and Stohlworthy, explained that her friends went through a lot to open Swoll Bowl.

"Blood, sweat and tears literally have gone into this trailer. I feel like they went against a lot of odds. They had a lot of things they had to overcome and not everything went smoothly. I am really proud of them for everything they've accomplished," Rindfleisch said.

After many late nights and taste tests, the Swoll Bowl stand was ready for their opening day. The two were surprised at the turnout they had for their opening day and said they are still receiving immense support from the Cache Valley community.

When building their menu at Swoll Bowl, Stohlworthy wanted to be able to cater to everyone's tastes and dietary requirements. Whether customers want something fruity, full of chocolate or allergy-friendly, the bowls are customized to each customer's liking. Stohlworthy said this all stems from their main purpose of spreading a healthy lifestyle.

"Our goal is to promote a healthy, active lifestyle and overall health of Americans. We are trying to keep it literally as healthy to the point of using fruit as we can. We don't want to stray from that and we want to keep quality," Stohlworthy said.

As college students themselves, Jeppsen and Stohlworthy have been balancing internships, classes and health goals all while running their own business this summer. They hope that other students will want to taste their healthy snack alternative and keep their bodies fueled for classes, the gym and other activities.

"We think that college kids would want to come to try us out because we offer a higher protein than most places and you are getting more nutrients for your money. You are not risking any diet or health. Our whole goal and initial purpose is to have something healthier and tasty in Cache Valley," Stohlworthy said.

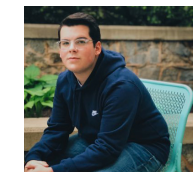
—shelby.black@aggiemail.usu.edu  
@shelbsterblack



# TWEETS of the WEEK

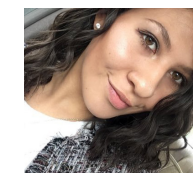


@MerrillCazier  
Apparently it's #CowAppreciationDay. There's no one else we would rather celebrate this day with than @BigBlueofficial



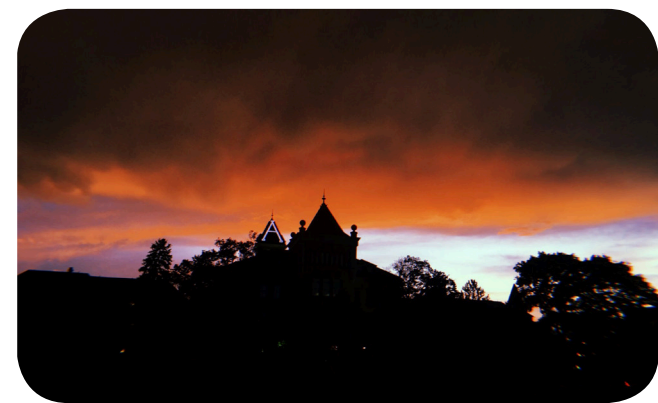
@GageCarling

Hey @USUAggies I could really use a hug from Big Blue right now, any way you could get us to link up?



@Paulinarivera13

Alexa, play "Castle on the Hill." See you soon @USUAggies!!



# Logan's 'Summer Citizens' - Judie Shyman & Ed Melnick



PHOTO BY Kortni Wells/The Utah Statesman  
Judie Shyman and Ed Melnick are two participants in Logan's Summer Citizens program. The husband and wife duo love to spend their summers in Logan, UT.

By Kortni Wells  
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

The Logan Summer Citizens program is as unique as its participants. No two summer citizens share the same experiences or even the same background.

An accent enters in on their first hellos, and it is quite apparent Judie Shyman and her husband Ed Melnick are from anywhere but Utah.

One sentence of conversation with this summer citizen couple has everyone wondering:

Where did they come from, and why did they choose Logan as their ultimate summer destination?

another planet", the country that surprised the couple most was Ethiopia.

"We figured it would be an interesting country to visit. We didn't realize the biblical history that Ethiopia presented, and the people were really nice. They love the American people," Melnick said.

Their love of travel stems from their appreciation of the United States and all that they have been given from their lives.

"We wish more people could travel so they could appreciate the United States. We are so lucky to live in this country," Melnick said. "Fortunate enough for Judie and I, we love spending time together. We like being active and doing all

Shyman and Melnick grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and lived on Long Island where she was involved in travel training employee services and community relations for a large government contractor.

Meanwhile, Melnick served as a school administrator, known as the top person in his line of work in New York City, specializing in special education.

The couple became world travelers early in life, spending time in Antarctica, Ethiopia, Mongolia and India.

While Antarctica reminded Melnick and Shyman of "an old science fiction movie on

these things together."

When the time came to search for a place they could retire outside of New York, they set off on their own little U.S. adventure to find their ideal retirement destination.

They knew their search criteria for their new city involved plenty of activity, a good temperature that wasn't too hot or too cold and a college town.

In Tucson, Arizona, they found just that.

"We weren't planning on retiring there, we were actually just visiting, but we saw that it looked like a great place to live," Shyman said. "I just felt comfortable that it just felt right going by gut feeling."

With plenty of swimming pools, tennis courts and the University of Arizona nearby to keep them busy, Shyman and Melnick remain happy and healthy with their Arizona lifestyle during the fall, winter and spring months.

"I didn't think I would become so enwrapped in it," Melnick said.

The summer heat of Arizona took them on an adventure to find a destination that offered plenty of activity but wasn't as hot as Tucson.

About a decade ago, Melnick and Shyman were visiting Colorado during the summer while some of their friends had come to Logan.

@kortniwells



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# McGuire nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year

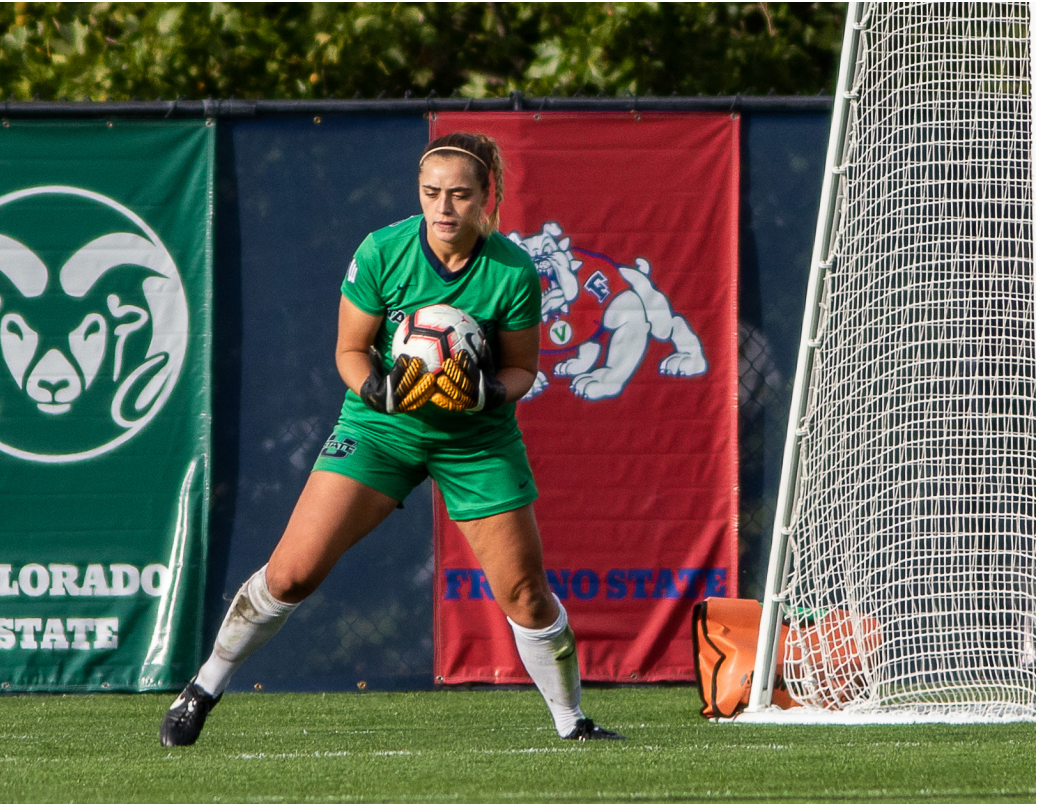


PHOTO via **USU Athletics**  
Senior goalkeeper Grace McGuire collects a ball and stops a shot attempt against Wyoming on Sept. 28. McGuire recently graduated from Utah State with both an undergraduate and master's degree in business management.

**By Dalton Renshaw**  
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

Yesterday Grace McGuire, a former Utah State soccer player, was announced as one of 585 nominees for the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year award. McGuire recorded 80 saves for the Aggies a season ago, the ninth-most in a single season in Utah State history. She started 16 of the 18 games Utah State played last season and allowed 1.45 goals per contest. But for her career, her 1.13 goals against average ranks sixth all-time in the program's history.

On the NCAA's official website, it lists the award as one that, "honors graduating female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, service and leadership."

The Committee on Women's Athletics votes for which of the nominees will make the Top-30, and encourages schools to nominate two student-athletes if, "at least one of the nominees is a student-athlete of color or international student-athlete." The finalists will be invited to Indianapolis on Oct. 20 where the

2019 NCAA Woman of the Year winner will be announced. The complete field of nominees competed in 23 different sports across all three NCAA divisions, including 262 from Division I, 131 from Division II and 192 from Division III.

The selection committee will determine the top-three honorees from each division from the Top 30 and then announce the nine finalists in September. From those nine finalists, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics then will choose the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year.

McGuire recently graduated from Utah State with both an undergraduate and master's degree in business management. McGuire served as the Mountain West's NCAA representative for the conference's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and the president of Utah State's SAAC. McGuire also worked as an intern in Washington D.C., as a member of Representative Mia Love's staff during the summer of 2017.

@dren\_sports

# USU men's basketball coach talks team's past success, future

**By Aaron Chertkow**  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

With the start to Utah State's basketball season nearing closer, Jason Walker and Dalton Renshaw sat down with USU men's basketball second-year head coach Craig Smith to discuss last year's results, and what to expect this season.

When asked about last season and what he was doing for this offseason Smith said, "Nothing's like last year. When you first get hired, there's a million things going on. Everyone thinks of the professional side of it. You're recruiting, guys are transferring out, you're trying to bring new people in and you're building relationships with your players. But then every university has a different set of protocol ...You're trying to get a new style of play. There's some terminology that's the same, but then there's other ones where it's almost like learning a whole new language, quite frankly."

With these changes under his belt, he has been able to place a greater focus on recruiting. The coaching staff will be in four different cities in four days to look at different players. Along the way, Coach Smith will be heading overseas to watch current Utah State center Neemias Queta play for his home country Portugal in the FIBA U20 European Championship.

While talking about Queta, Smith discussed his experience of helping him through the NBA Combine. He explained the process of sending their paperwork to the NBA, who then distributes that information to each of the 30 teams. Each team then gives feedback as to when they project that individual to be drafted, whether it be in the top half of the first round, the bottom half of the second round or not at all. While Neemias may be coming back to Utah State xafter considering the information the NBA provided him, Coach Smith only has his players' best interests in mind.

"Everyone always says, 'I bet you're happy to have him back,' and we are," he said. "But at the end of the day, we just want what's best for Neemias."

Walker asked Smith what it was like having the guys on the team play in international competition, the success that they had last year and what he felt the benefits were.



PHOTO BY **Matt Halton**  
Smith on the court for the Utah State men's basketball team that hosted the Air Force Falcons on Saturday, Jan. 5.

"You can't put a price tag on what it feels like to play in the NBA tournament," he said. "You can imagine it and you can think about it; you can see that and go through that as much as you want, but going through that is a whole other deal ...you have to earn confidence. You have to earn everything in life. But you have to put yourself out there and go through that to see what that feels like. Going through these kinds of things and playing at that level of competition I think is incredibly beneficial."

Even with this experience that Coach Smith talked about, the team still lost several players. As Renshaw inquired about how he felt about the upcoming season and the changes, Smith became excited as he talked about the possibilities.

**Visit [usustatesman.com](http://usustatesman.com)**  
for more photos related to this story.

# USU men's tennis coach abruptly resigns

**By Jason Walker**  
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

In a move that may have caught the Utah State athletics program off guard, men's tennis head coach James Wilson and 2018 Mountain West Coach of the Year announced he will step down as the team's coach "to pursue other career opportunities" as stated in a press release via the USU athletics department.

Utah State sent out the release out June 24, just under two months after the team's season-ending upset loss to Fresno State in the Mountain West Conference Tournament semi-final. It was the first time in Wilson's tenure that the Aggies lost in the conference tournament.

Wilson coached Utah State for three seasons, accumulating a 61-27 record and winning two MW tournaments and a pair of regular season conference titles. The Aggies also reached a program-best No. 37 overall ranking in the NCAA with Wilson at the helm. In his first season, Utah State won 23 games, a program single-season record.

USU won at least 19 games in each of Wilson's three seasons with a 19-9 record this past season, culminating in a second-place finish in the MW standings in the regular season and the eventual aforementioned loss to Fresno State in the conference tournament.

Several of USU's best players in program history played under Wilson including five of the top 11 all-time leaders at USU in combined



Coach James Wilson advises players Ritvik Bolliapalli and Sergiu Bucur between matches. USU beat SDSU 4-2 at their March 29th match.

match wins. Jaime Barajas, the program leader in career wins, played two seasons under Wilson. Sergiu Bucur and Jose Carvajal, two players rising rapidly in the all-time ranks, have played their whole collegiate careers to this point under Wilson's tutelage.

Wilson had two years remaining on his contract and would have made just over \$165,000 for those two seasons (\$80,000 for 2019-20 and \$85,000 for 2020-21). By terminating his contract early, Wilson will be

forced to pay USU \$10,000 in "liquidated damages" according to the terms of his contract.

Assistant coach Carlos Di Laura is also no longer with the team. Utah State said in the release that "a national search will begin immediately" to find the next coach of the Aggie men.

@thejwalk67



# A plea for local newspapers

## Why you should buy the paper, what you'll miss if local news dies

By **Daedan Olander**  
OPINION MANAGER

This summer I've had the opportunity between college semesters to work and live in Salt Lake City, and in my brief time in Utah's capital, I've come to love it.

One of my favorite things to do is walk around the avenues and other residential streets just west of the University of Utah's campus, admiring houses which were built in the 1800s and 1900s -- the early years, right after the city was founded.

I'm an old man at heart.

With many historic, beautiful homes to look at, I take special notice

of the ones which have glossy plastic bags waiting for them each morning, heedless of weather or holiday; the newspaper is no respecter of either.

I send silent thanks to the people who have the paper delivered each morning, either from *The Salt Lake Tribune* or *Deseret News*; to me, it

makes no difference.

Salt Lake is one of only a handful of cities in the entire country which has two major newspapers operating in its backyard.

It's not hard to figure out why.

A Pew Research Study in 2018 found that only 16 percent of Americans get their news

over print emerged after years of steady declines in newspaper circulation and modest increases in the portion of Americans who use social media."

The study also shows that younger readers are less likely to get their news from printed papers.

Both findings cast ominous uncertainty around

a scale which is unrealistic for national publications. They celebrate life on the obituary pages and bring people together at local events. In many senses, they are the lifeblood of a united community.

And they are dying.

Recently, my mom sent me an article that was reprinted in my hometown's newspaper. It was about Anne McClain, an astronaut and a native of Spokane, Washington. Even while in space, she wanted to receive a digital copy of the *The Spokesman-Review*, Spokane's local paper.

"Anne McClain is an astronaut for many reasons, with intelligence being one of the biggest," the article reads. "And she was smart enough to know she could read her hometown newspaper digitally. Even in orbit."

"There are valuable lessons there -- the biggest confirming that the smartest people in the universe read their local newspaper."

In this media-driven age, anybody can post the "news" online where people may access it at no cost. We all like free things, and getting the news from social media is as cheap as it gets, in more ways than one.

Yes, local newspapers cost a few dollars a month. You get what you pay for or what you don't.

To borrow a slogan from the New York Times: The truth is worth it.

“The smartest people in the universe read their local newspaper.”

-- *The Spokesman-Review*

from print newspapers, less than television (49 percent), news websites (33 percent), radio (26 percent) and even social media (18 percent) -- people in the survey were counted in multiple categories if they consumed news from more than one medium.

The report states, "Social media's small edge

adults don't take advantage of their right to vote: they don't feel they can make a difference.

The local community is where most people truly have the greatest impact, but many sacrifice their opportunity to contribute simply because they fail to keep up with their city's daily news. Local papers inform and notify on



AP PHOTO/Hugh Van Es

In this July 21, 1969 file photo, U.S. Air Force Sgt. Michael Chivaris, Clinton, Mass.; Army Spec. 4 Andrew Hutchins, Middlebury, Vt.; Air Force Sgt. John Whalin, Indianapolis, Ind.; and Army Spec. 4 Lloyd Newton, Roseburg, Ore., read a newspaper headlining the Apollo 11 moon landing, in downtown Saigon, Vietnam..

# Don't be a conservative or a liberal, be an individual

By **Kristian Fors**  
OPINION STAFF WRITER

Are you frustrated when someone asks, "Are you a conservative?" or "Are you a liberal?"

The only function which these questions serve is an attempt to categorize someone to one side of a seemingly two-sided debate. People who ask this question are primarily seeking to pigeonhole someone into a particular tribe to know who belongs to their own ideological group. They want to make an a priori judgement about the validity of their words. This type of logic is dangerous because it doesn't view people as humans; it views them instead

as members of mutually exclusive categories, and it often serves as the basis of polarization and discrimination.

Identity politics is a dangerous game. This classification of individuals into identity-based subgroups feeds into a pernicious mindset that can lead to the dehumanisation of others which has been the source of many atrocities throughout history. Identity based dehumanisation is the reason that more than 6 million individuals with Jewish heritage were tortured and slaughtered by the Nazis during the Holocaust, along with 5 million others who were discriminated against for their identity. It's the reason that as many as

7.5 million Ukrainians were systematically starved by the Soviets in the Holodomor famine, among many more that were killed in the Soviet Union's Gulag system. Labels such as Republican, Democrat, Libertarian and so forth serve no purpose other than to censure others and judge them on the basis of their perceived identity. That's wrong. The only acceptable way to view anyone is as an individual. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that it was his dream that his children would be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. Likewise, we should judge people based on the content of what they say, not the labels assigned to them.

As a personal challenge, I have made a commitment to not contribute to the polarization that categorizes people into mutually exclusive groups. That worldview does not lead to anything productive nor does it reflect enlightenment individualism. I'm not going to support the mechanisms that can be used to lambaste or cause harm on the basis of nothing more than labels and was used to justify the Holocaust and the Gulag. If people ask me about my views on particular issues, I'll be more than willing to explain my thoughts about them. However, as for the question about where I stand politically, all I can say is that I am an individual.





PHOTO COURTESY: **Sandi Herrin**  
Upwards of 800 people attended the event, learning basic sign language alongside the Deaf community in Idaho Falls.

“ASL” from PAGE 1

community and reconnect with people in the area.

“I got goosebumps again in Idaho Falls when I saw lots of people signing and participating in the lesson. It means a lot to me that people are willing to learn ASL to communicate with the Deaf community,” Radford wrote in an email.

During the night, those in attendance were able to learn basic sign language with members of the Deaf community in Idaho Falls. In the end, for Herrin, it wasn’t about the world record, but rather the connections that were made and the learning that took place.

“It was not about breaking the world record, it was about getting people in one place and learning sign language. There are more people willing to step outside of their comfort zone than I thought. It was really a community effort,” Herrin said.

This event was just one step in the journey to making ASL more common in daily life. Professor Radford commented that it is great when members of the Deaf community can make connections with others in public places that members of the hearing world might not always think about.

“The Deaf community appreciates people learning ASL and trying to have a basic conversation with them especially when they go into the grocery store, doctors office, dentist, hospital, or a police station.” Radford wrote.

Herrin hopes to be able to host another event similar to this and continue spreading American Sign Language through lessons and conversations.

“We have so many ways to make connections and our face-to-face connections are as important. Being able to not leave anyone behind in that effort is just as important,” Herrin said.

@shelbsterblack



PHOTOS BY **Tim Carpenter and Iain Laurence/The Utah Statesman**  
The Aggies have lost six players from last season’s squad due to graduation and transfers, including the team’s leading scorer Shannon Dufficy (5) and the program’s all-time assists leader, Eliza West (1).

“Exodus” from PAGE 1

career leader in her top statistical category, Eliza West, had already reached that summit. The Australian native set the career record for assists with 457 in just three seasons. But like Dufficy, the potential to reach higher peaks will be lost as West will conclude her college basketball career at NAIA school Southeastern University. Utah State played a NAIA team, New Mexico College, this past

season, destroying the side by a school-record 71 points.

The Aggies will enter 2019-20 having lost the top scorer, rebounder, steals, assists and block leader. Mason, the all-time leader in blocks at USU, is the only one in that group of four players that was forced to leave. The outgoing players made up 65 percent of minutes played this past season, 63.2 percent of points, 71.6 percent of rebounds and 74.3 percent of assists.

Added to the excessive loss of players, Utah State also lost assistant coach Paris Johnson after just one year spent with the team in that role. Johnson accepted an assistant role with the Hawaii women’s basketball team.

Utah State will go from a team with six underclassmen — four of which played sparingly — in 2018-19 to a squad with nine this upcoming season.

@thejwalk67

## BYU updates honor code following student criticism

### Adds ‘innocent until proven guilty’ clause

PROVO, Utah (AP) — Brigham Young University has updated its honor code process following widespread student criticism that it lacks transparency and compassion.

University officials announced the changes Wednesday. They include following an “innocent until proven guilty” policy and allowing someone to accompany students in honor code meetings.

Honor code office director Kevin Utt said the chances are meant to reduce anxiety and misunderstanding among students.

The Utah university is owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and mandates students follow a code that prohibits

premarital sex, the consumption of alcohol, coffee and tea among other rules to comply with the church’s health code.

Students began an informal campaign earlier this year to reduce honor code punishments that ban activities common at other colleges including drinking, premarital sex, beards and piercings.



PHOTO BY **Rick Egan /The Salt Lake Tribune via AP (File)**  
Students rally at Brigham Young University to oppose how the school’s Honor Code Office investigates and disciplines students, in Provo, Utah. The university updated the Honor Code to include an “innocent until proven guilty” policy and allow someone to accompany students in honor code meetings.

C

CALENDAR

JULY 16 - 22

TUESDAY 7/16	WEDNESDAY 7/17	THURSDAY 7/18	FRIDAY 7/19	SATURDAY 7/20	SUNDAY-MONDAY 7/21-22
<b>Stick N Shoot</b> 7:15am 2825 N 200 E North Logan, UT	<b>Rock N Roll Summer School</b> 8:30am 98 W. Main Logan, UT	<b>Rock N Roll Summer School</b> 8:30am 98 W. Main Logan, UT	<b>Rock N Roll Summer School</b> 8:30am 98 W. Main Logan, UT	<b>Community Art Day at the Gardener’s Market</b> 9:00am 650 North 1100 East Logan, UT	<b>Stick N Shoot</b> 7/21 3:45pm 2825 N 200 E North Logan, UT
<b>Senior Game Day</b> 11:30am 675 East Main Street Hyrum, UT	<b>BLCHC Providence Clinic Grand Opening</b> 11:00am 517 West 100 North Providence, UT	<b>iPad Class</b> 2:00pm 255 North Main Street Logan, UT	<b>Cache Valley Mountain Man Rendezvous</b> 10:00am 4025 U.S. 89 Wellsville, UT	<b>Mountain Man Rendezvous</b> 10:00am 4025 U.S. 89 Wellsville, UT	<b>Cache Valley Figure Skating Club</b> 7/22 5:00pm 2825 N 200 E North Logan, UT
<b>Logan Pride Maker-Camp</b> 3:00pm 255 North Main Street Logan, UT	<b>Senior Game Day</b> 11:30am 675 East Main Street Hyrum, UT	<b>Logan Pride Maker-Camp</b> 3:00pm 255 North Main Street Logan, UT	<b>Wizarding Dayz Summer Carnival</b> 12:00pm 450 South 500 West Logan, UT	<b>Wizarding Dayz Summer Carnival</b> 10:00am 450 South 500 West Logan, UT	<b>Monday Movie: October Sky</b> 7/22 6:30pm Logan Library Logan, UT
<b>Soup ‘n Stroke Support Group</b> 4:00pm 248 W 300 North Logan, UT	<b>Logan Pride Maker-Camp</b> 3:00pm 255 North Main Street Logan, UT	<b>Thursday Evening Music at the Museum</b> 5:00pm 650 North 1100 East Logan, UT	<b>Stick N Shoot</b> 5:15pm 2825 N 200 E North Logan, UT	<b>Movie: Apollo 11</b> 1:30pm Logan Library Logan, UT	
<b>When We Left Earth</b> 6:30pm Logan Library Logan, UT	<b>National Poetry Awards Livestream Featuring Local Student Poet Taylor Fang</b> 3:00pm 650 North 1100 East Logan, UT		<b>The Marriage of Figaro</b> 7:30pm 18 W Center St Logan, UT	<b>SNC Canyon Jams Performance</b> 6:00pm 2696 E. Highway 89 Logan, UT	

ADD YOUR EVENT AT [USUSTATESMAN.COM/EVENTS](https://usustatesman.com/events)  
Deadline for calendar submissions is Sunday at midnight.



B

BACKBURNER

Very Easy

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

© 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 06/11/19:

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

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