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SPORTS | On a roll

USU women's soccer finds its offense and a string of victories

see PAGE 4

STUDENT LIFE | Spider-Man

Students share their reactions to the news that Spider-Man is leaving the MCU.

see PAGE 3

NEWS | Code Blue

Alert system again puts USU students on edge

see PAGE 2

Welcome home, Gary

Utah State football routs Stony Brook, 62-7, in Coach Andersen's first game back at Maverik Stadium



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall

Freshman QB Andrew Peasley breaks away for a touchdown in the second half of USU's dominant performance against Stony Brook on Saturday night.

By Dalton Renshaw
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

In its opening game of the season at Maverick Stadium, Utah State was almost flawless, throwing down a 62-7 win over Stony Brook

Saturday night.

Utah State's first drive of the game, a 10-play, 54-yard affair, wasn't exactly an indication of an explosive offense. More like a slow burn that ends up re-igniting

after it takes in more and more oxygen. But after a field goal and a fumble on the first two drives, the Aggies ripped off five straight scoring drives to end the first half. The score was 34-0 by

the break, effectively sealing away any hope the Seawolves might have had in keeping it a close game.

A major factor in the Aggies' success was junior quarterback Jordan Love,

who bounced back from a three-interception game last week to throw for 294 yards on 25-34 passing, one touchdown and zero picks.

"He is a special quarterback and he stays so steady in that moment, takes what's there," USU head coach Gary Andersen said, "The offensive line allowed Jordan to get the ball out in a timely manner. They all executed at a high level. It's awesome for Jordan to have weapons. We try to recruit the most dynamic players that you can recruit at those skill spots, and it's great to put that group together."

Love wasn't short of weapons. Junior running back Jaylen Warren had another superb game rushing with 105 yards on just nine rushes and even caught two balls for 27 more yards.

In all eight Aggies were involved in the passing game before Love's night was over early in the third quarter. Graduate transfer receiver Siaoqi Mariner caught the lone touchdown from Love

and the two continued to develop a strong connection in just their second game together with Mariner reeling in five receptions for 73 yards. Fellow grad transfer Caleb Repp and sophomore Deven Thompkins were both favorite targets of Love's in the game and even after he exited the game, Thompkins continued to shine.

"The receivers are selfless as a crew. It was also great to see there's no one out there counting catches," Andersen said. "They're excited when their opportunity comes to make a play. We caught the ball extremely well and we made some big plays. You can't just be a guy that catches the ball downs. You have to catch the ball and make something happen. We have numerous guys that were able to do that tonight."

The young receiver/punt returner truly stole the show. Thompkins scored Utah State's first touchdown on the game, taking a punt back

see "Rout" PAGE 6

USU Athletics to conduct bag searches at sporting events



PHOTO BY Megan Albrechtsen

Over the course of the next year, USU Athletics will be implementing new security measures for fans attending games of USU football and men's basketball. Eventually, a clear-bag-only policy will be instituted.

By Joshua Wilkinson
NEWS SENIOR WRITER

Aggie fans and visitors should expect to see bag checks at some of Utah State University's major sporting events. In a press release on Aug. 23, USU Athletics detailed changes in security procedures to be implemented during the 2019-2020 football and men's basketball seasons.

"The checks this year are purely for safety. We want to make sure that nobody is

bringing in suspicious items that could be used for harm," said DJ Eckman, the USU Director of Event Operation and Facilities. "This isn't going to be like a TSA check at the airport where you empty out all your pockets, take off shoes and belts and go through a metal detector."

The press release details a number of prohibited items, including alcohol, fireworks, coolers, weapons and others. Most items found on the prohibited list this year are the

same as last year, according to Eckman. "If you don't have a bag, you still can come right in. Those with bags will just have a staff member do a quick check before they are allowed in," Eckman said.

The release also details the bag search policy. All bags brought to the games will be subject to search, according to the press release. However, the release states that guests with a 12-by-12-by-6 inch clear bag or a one-gallon size clear and

see "Bag Search" PAGE 6

Student releases USU tribute song: 'College With a View'



PHOTO BY Tashina Eggleston

Luke Huffman composed "College with a view" to capture the essence of college life as a USU student.

By Kortni Wells
NEWS SENIOR WRITER

A little while ago, a small-town Kentucky farm boy with a love of mountains, snowboarding and all things outdoors took a trip to the West with his mom.

That's all it took to convince Luke Huffman that Utah State University was the ultimate destination to finish his bachelor's degree.

"Nothing quite caught his eye like USU," Huffman's mother, Melissa Huffman,

said.

The senior, who is studying interdisciplinary studies with disciplines of landscape architecture, plant science and ecology, finds respite through afternoons in Logan Canyon.

Huffman's love for music and nature is what led him to write his newest song, "College With a View." The song captures the essence of college life through his wild adventures in Logan Canyon and his time spent outside.

Human biology major and

Huffman's friend, Chade Gonter, describes "College with a View" as a scrapbook.

"When I listen to it, it will paint pictures in my mind of all the things we did together at USU," Gonter said. "He doesn't just say what he is thinking in his songs. It really is just about having a fantastic time at beautiful USU, mixed with all of his very real memories."

While Huffman now has thousands of streams on Spo-

see "Huffman" PAGE 6

Sexual assault alert shakes community

By Naomi Ward
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Utah State University issued an email alert Thursday afternoon to tell students a sexual assault had been reported near campus in one of the fraternity houses.

The notice, sent out at 1:42 p.m., stated the report had come from a third party. According to the notice, the assault had taken place on Saturday, Aug. 31, although the suspect is unknown. The report also stated, “Drugs may have been used to facilitate the crime.” No further details were provided.

Director of Crisis Communications and Issues Management Amanda DeRito said because the report had come from a third party, the university “does not have a lot of information at this time.”

“None of the fraternity houses fall within the USU Police Department’s jurisdiction, and USU cannot speak for local law enforcement,” DeRito said. “We will be following all of our procedures to look into the incident.”

DeRito said these alerts are sent out so the university can be “as transparent as possible,” in part to comply with the Clery Act, which requires universities to disclose information about campus crimes.

“We send timely warning notices to educate our community about personal safety and being an active bystander when an individual notices inappropriate or harmful behavior,” DeRito said.

This reported assault was one of several in the past few years, many related to fraternities.

Jason Relopez, a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, was sentenced to a year in jail in 2016 after he plead guilty to forcible sex abuse of two women.

Similarly, Ryan Wray, president of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, did six months in jail in 2015 for sexually abusing a woman who was passed out at a party. Wray was tasked with taking care of partygoers who could not take care of themselves when he sexually assaulted the woman.

Students also received two code blue alerts about on-campus sexual assaults in 2017, one at the bottom of Old Main Hill, the other in a parking lot.

The notice told students to contact USU Police by phone or in person if they have any information about the crime.

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@naomiyokoward

Revolve Recycling closes Valley plant

By Carter Moore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

When Bob Hardy left work at Revolve Recycling in Logan last Tuesday, everything felt normal, until he got a call from a coworker that he learned his job would not exist anymore.

Hardy worked at Revolve for almost two years. He said he was just settled in, and liked the work. But now he, and 44 other Revolve employees are out of a job.

“That’s not a whole lot of people, but that’s 45 families that are affected.

Hardy wasn’t told why the plant closed, and said it didn’t seem anyone else knew either. But without local recycling, he knows garbage will just keep piling up.

“There’s always gonna be a need for recycled product, because we are going to run



PHOTO BY Mark Lennihan
A garbage truck unloads at the Logan Landfill

USU students now have free access to Adobe Creative Cloud

By Joshua Wilkinson
NEWS SENIOR WRITER

Utah State University students will now have free access to the Adobe Creative Cloud.

Adobe Creative Cloud is a set of apps and other programs offered by Adobe, including Photoshop, Illustrator and Acrobat. According to Madonna Bortle, USU IT Service Desk Manager, Creative Cloud was offered to students at a discounted price, however, this is the first time it has been offered for free to all active students.

Offering creative cloud to students has been an agenda item at USU for a while, Bortle said. “In the past, it was more of a point of not everybody wants it or uses it, so we’ll just do it for those that can purchase it themselves at a discounted rate and then we put it in the labs,” Bortle said.

However, Bortle said the Utah System of Higher Education has been in discussions with

Adobe for over a year now in order to get additional discounts based off of quantity.

“Basically all of the different universities in that organization were able to work with Adobe to get some better pricing, which gave us the ability to do this,” Bortle said. Bortle said once USU’s original license with Adobe expired in July, USU was able to begin working on making Creative Cloud easy for students to request.

However, it has not been smooth sailing for USU IT in getting Creative Cloud up and running for students.

Although Creative Cloud is now available for students, students in the past were forced to purchase licenses for themselves for classroom requirements. Students finishing up their degrees this year will only be able to use Creative



Cloud until they get their degrees.

“For me, I’m a senior, and it sucks because mine will expire in June,” said Lexie Sharp, a senior at USU who works at the IT service desk.

However, getting access to Creative Cloud for free is still significantly less expensive than the past student price. Adobe’s website lists student prices as \$19.99 per month for the first year, and \$29.99 for each additional month.

“We’re learning. Adobe likes to change some of their screens and things, so we are still working through some of those processes, to make it easier for students to sign up for it to make it to where we have all the things in the

process,” Bortle said.

According to Bortle, students have been running into several issues from using their Aggiemail to purchase creative cloud for their classes in the past.

“One area that we are having problems is that, if you have your personal account, and you’ve been paying for it, then your going to have to go change, in other words that’s not going to merge,” Bortle said. “So if you are using aggiemail, you are going to have to wipe that out. You can’t have two accounts with the same email address.”

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For 9/11 families, mixed views on Trump-Taliban talks

NEW YORK (AP) — If President Donald Trump’s now-canceled plan for secret talks with Afghanistan’s Taliban insurgents on U.S. soil was stunning, the date chosen was perhaps even more so: days before the anniversary of 9/11, the reason for the war they were going to talk about ending.

Sept. 11 victims’ relatives and first responders digested the news Monday with mixed feelings. Several called the timing unfortunate but the idea of talks worthwhile, a potential path toward peace for Afghans and Americans weary of Washington’s longest war.

“I don’t want to see other families suffer the way I did. That’s the bottom line. Not soldiers or innocent victims of terrorism,” said Jim Riches, a retired New York deputy fire chief who responded to the terror 2001 attacks and lost his son, Jimmy, a fellow firefighter.

Rosaleen Tallon was angry — though not at the U.S.-Taliban negotiations. She sees the Afghan Islamic militants as “small fish” compared with the nation she feels hasn’t been held sufficiently accountable for 9/11: Saudi Arabia.

“We’re not really getting at 9/11. That makes my blood boil,” said Tallon, who lost her brother, probationary firefighter Sean Tallon.

Tallon wants U.S. troops home, and she really wants the U.S. government to do more to probe allegations, which she and others have

raised in a lawsuit, that Saudi government employees knowingly assisting the hijacking plot. Riyadh denies it.

Trump tweeted Saturday that he canceled an until-then-clandestine weekend meeting at Camp David with Taliban representatives and Afghanistan leaders. He said he changed his mind after a Taliban car bombing in Kabul on Thursday killed 12 people, including a U.S. service member.

On Monday, the president declared that U.S. peace talks with the Taliban are “dead.”

Word of the planned Camp David meeting was a surprise to Ellen Judd, who chairs the Afghanistan committee of the September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, which involves over 200 relatives.

“I think it would be great if the troops were withdrawn. While we certainly want that, there is so much more involved in the peace process,” said Judd, who lost her partner, Christine Egan, in the attack on the World Trade Center.

Judd hopes the Afghan government — which has been largely sidelined from the negotiations — and civilians will have a role in a broader peace process that would produce a durable cease-fire.

The U.S. went to war against Afghanistan’s ruling Taliban a month after 9/11 for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001,



PHOTO BY Mark Lennihan
Norma Molina, of San Antonio, Texas, leaves flowers by the names of firefighters from Engine 33 at the September 11 Memorial, Monday, Sept. 9, 2019, in New York. Her boyfriend Robert Edward Evans, a member of Engine 33, was killed in the north tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

More than 2,400 Americans have died in the nearly 18-year war. About 20,000 American and allied troops remain in Afghanistan, and the Taliban control or hold sway over nearly half the country.

The Taliban “are the people who are partially responsible for our loved ones dying and other Americans dying,” Riches said, but “I’d like to see it end.”

Days before 9/11 might not be the right time, Camp David might not be the right place, and a peace agreement with the Taliban might not be realistic, but “you have to talk to the enemy if you want it to stop,” Riches said. “If you don’t talk to them, it’s just going to continue.”

Lee Ielpi also thought the talks could have been better timed. A retired firefighter,

he was at ground zero on 9/11 and lost his firefighter son, Jonathan, there. Still, Ielpi sees the president as a get-things-done leader and hopes he can eventually work out a deal — if it’s a stringent one.

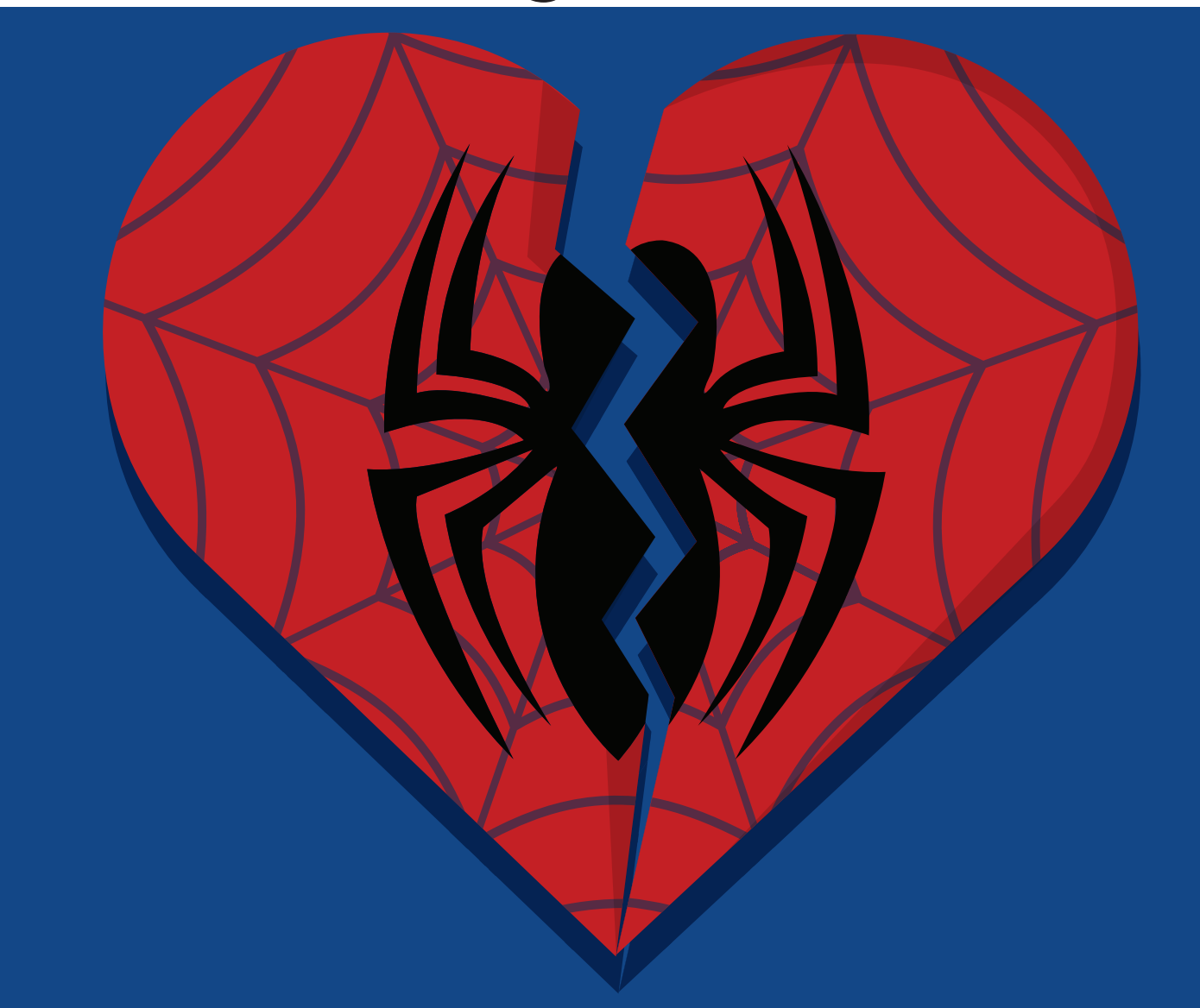
“I’m all for some kind of negotiated peace to bring our guys and gals back home, but it has to be the correct type of peace where the Taliban and al-Qaida are told point-blank ... any violation at all will be dealt with swiftly and with a lot of strength,” said Ielpi, a National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum board member.

Nearly 18 years after losing his brother-in-law on 9/11, Jim McCaffrey welcomes any effort to resolve the war in Afghanistan and credits Trump with trying to end it.

“So many people have forgotten the sacrifices and the price paid on 9/11,” he said. “So many people forget we’re still at war.”

SL STUDENT LIFE

Students react to Spider-Man leaving the MCU



GRAPHIC BY Rosie Davis

By Nichole Bresee
STUDENT LIFE CONTRIBUTOR

Superhero favorites are vanishing from the MCU again, except this time, Thanos is not to blame.

On August 20, Sony released a statement announcing a split with Disney after the two companies failed to reach an agreement over future Spider-Man movies and appearances. This means the fan-favorite webslinger can no longer be a part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

This controversial decision has brought about a plethora of fiery and passionate opinions from Marvel fans at Utah State University. “I think it’s a bunch of corporate nonsense,” Eryn Hanson, biochemical engineering major, said. “If people really cared about what the public wanted, this wouldn’t even be an issue. But conglomerates like that only care about making the most money. I think it’s stupid.”

The original deal between Disney and Sony set in 2015 agreed that, for movies featuring Spider-Man, Sony would finance the movie and make 95% of the first-dollar gross profit, while Disney got the remaining 5% and all of the merchandising revenue.

When the time came to create a new agreement in August, Disney proposed a 50/50 co-financing deal. This means that, while they would help finance 50% of the Spider-Man movies, they would also make 50% of the profit. Sony wanted to leave the deal as it was, according to a Deadline report, and in the end, the companies withdrew their partnership and therefore, Spider-Man from the MCU.

Irene Van Horn, an international business major, was angry when

she first heard about the news. While there was a lot of anger directed toward Sony, she realized Disney deserved some of the blame.

“Sony didn’t make money off of any of the Avengers movies Spider-Man was in, nor as much money as they could have on the stand-alone Spider-Man movies,” Van Horn said. “So Sony was just exercising their right as owners over the Spider-Man character to take back their character.”

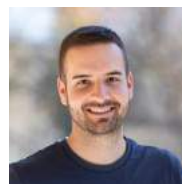
When Sony released its statement announcing the split, there was a huge public backlash on social media, with #cancelsony and #savespiderman trending for days. But as more and more people looked into it, the negative views toward Sony began to change, with the negativity largely turning to Disney, as well.

“I think Disney deserves it, but Sony also deserves it just as much, because neither of them were willing to come to an agreement for the sake of art and for the sake of pleasing their fans,” Tyler Monson, journalism and communication major, said. “The enemy of all is corporate greed. Yes, Disney is greedy for asking for more money on the Spider-Man movies, but they’re also writing and directing and casting and doing everything on the work for the movies. Sony’s just paying for them.”

Spider-Man actor Tom Holland has agreed to continue his contract and play Spider-Man for additional movies even though his character can no longer be in the MCU. Many fans like Monson fear what this could mean for future Spider-Man movies now that such a major character arc has been taken away.

“The only option Sony has is to do a prequel movie, but I don’t know how they’re going to do that after the cliffhanger that we left off on,” Monson said. “While we’re sick of the Spider-Man origin story, I would watch the Tom Holland solo movie because

TWEETS of the WEEK



@ryan_shores_

Loved seeing the student section like this. Great job @usuHURD! @USUFootball deserves a crowd



@nathon_taylor97

I want to know who decided NOT to have Noelle Cockette be the voice for the new cross walk. Blasphemous @USUAggies!



@USUBasketball

Our coach is better than yours.
#AggiesAllTheWay



he doesn’t have anything to do with the MCU until Civil War. He was already Spider-Man before that.”

Much of the public is still hopeful that Disney and Sony will reach an agreement soon, given all the public backlash.

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🐦 @breseenichole



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Album Review — DAD BOD’s “After Thought” ‘The epitome of chill rock’



ALBUM COVER FOR “After Thought”

By Alek Nelson
STUDENT LIFE COPY EDITOR

“Dad bods” are not only a strange trend, but also the inspiration for the name of one of Utah’s up-and-coming bands.

DAD BOD is a relatively new band, with their first self-titled EP released in January 2019. The band consists of members Michael Marinos, Marcus Marinos, Matthew Marinos and Ben Ostler and is based in Salt Lake City.

Their first album, “After Thought,” was released on Sept. 1. The debut album is a blend of low-key rock and indie pop that might be perfect for your next study session.

“Foreign Lands,” the sixth song on the album, is one of the best tracks and showcases the band’s ability to create great chill rock. The combination of wavy guitar sounds, falsetto vocals, and some dreamy saxophone and guitar solos make this a rich, beautiful track to experience.

DAD BOD also includes plenty of lo-fi instrumental tracks on

the album, which make this album perfect for your homework playlist.

The closing track and single, “Enough,” is another highlight of the album. “Enough” still has the band’s signature indie rock sound but also features a driving funk feel. Hand drums and drumset beats combined with the rhythms of the guitar make this a fun listen and track to dance to.

“After Thought” is a strong, fluid debut album for anyone interested in chill rock, indie or local music. It will be interesting to see how the band continues to experiment with their sound as they mature.

DAD BOD will be playing at The Cache Concert Series in Logan on Nov. 8. More information can be found [here](#).

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🐦 @nelsonalek

An explosion of goals helps USU women’s soccer win two straight



PHOTO COURTESY OF **USU Athletics**
Senior Imelda Williams (21) and Junior Kanyan Merril (13) celebrate after Williams’ game-winning goal against Weber State on Wednesday Sept. 4. The Aggies have won two straight games.

By **Sydney Kidd**
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The Utah State University women’s soccer team scored seven goals over two straight wins this past week, beating Weber State 2-1 and Marquette 5-1. It’s been a week to remember for the Aggies, and has featured more goals in a short period of time than has been seen in three years. Not since an 8-0 win over Sam Houston State in 2016 have the Aggies scored 5 or more goals in a win. After overcoming another sluggish start, Utah State came away with a 2-1 win against Weber State University on Wednesday.

It was no easy victory, as the final goal came after the Aggies battled through the second period of extra time. “To be able to win a game in overtime...there’s no better thrill,” head coach Heather Cairns said. Junior defender Imelda Williams scored the golden goal off a corner kick in the 13th minute of extra time. Williams’ header ended the match and finalized victory for the Aggies. Senior midfielder Ashley Cardozo had the assist on the goal. Williams was not the only back to score and both of Utah State’s goals came from its defenders. Mealii Enos scored the first goal of the match in the 68th minute of play. Much like the one netted by Williams, Enos’ goal was also a header, which came off a corner kick from Cardozo. “We worked on corner kicks... this week, quite a bit,” Cairns said. “And I think you saw that payoff.” The payoff was certainly big for Enos. “Scoring a goal is the best” Enos said. “It just it makes the whole game — all the effort you put into it — worth it.” There is no question the Aggies put in effort this week. Fans saw a more aggressive team with more possession time than they did on Friday against Utah. After a slow first half, where Weber State dominated the ball and Utah State only got three total shots off, the team finished regulation time

with eight total shots, five of which were on goal. By the end of the match the Aggies had 13 total shots, with nine on goal. Weber State had 10 total shots, with eight on goal. “Would we like to start harder? Yes,” Cairns said. “But did we solve it in the end? Yeah... I think our team is really starting to show what they’re made of.” Sunday afternoon the Aggies took on Wisconsin based Marquette on the road and exploded for five goals, all of which were scored by different players. “Today was just a fun, complete game, where we worked hard to have everything come together,” Cairns said. “Our defense was ruthless and our attack came alive with multiple players stepping up and making game-changing plays.” Five players opened their scoring accounts in the game, the first coming off the boot of freshman midfielder Sid Barlow. Cardozo doubled Utah State’s lead only a few minutes later, but her contribution wouldn’t be done after the goal. She would supply the final pass on two additional goals over the final 25 minutes of the game. Cardozo had an outstanding week, assisting two more goals against Weber State for a total of four over the week. Her efforts were good enough to earn her the America First Credit Union USU student-athlete of the week. In all, Utah State scored five including goals from sophomore forward Marli Niederhauser, junior midfielder Kami Warner and senior forward Alecia Robinson. The Aggies take the field again for two road games in Illinois this weekend, opening against Illinois State on Friday Sep 13 and heading to Chicago to take on UIC on Sunday Sep 15.

@SydChap

Editor’s note: This story contains a section writer by the editor about Utah State’s win against Marquette.

USU men’s basketball announces dates against USF and BYU

By **Dalton Renshaw**
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

Utah State University men’s basketball added two new dates to its schedule, both neutral-site games against non-conference opponents. The first will be against BYU on Dec 14 at 5 p.m. in the annual Beehive Classic held at Vivint Smart Home Arena in Salt Lake City, Utah. Weber State and the University of Utah are the two other schools participating and they will face off at 1p.m. the same day. The Aggies beat Weber State in a close contest this past season and fell to Utah the year prior. BYU finished with a 19-13 record this past season, including a resounding 95-80 win against USU early in the season. The Cougars return its top two scorers in seniors Yoeli Childs and TJ Haws. The two players combined for 39

points per game and started all 32 games. Four days later, Utah State will travel to Houston, Texas to take on the University of South Florida in the inaugural Battleground 2k19 tournament. It will be a three-game slate and the field includes Baylor, UTSA, Oregon State and Tennessee Martin in addition to USU and USF. South Florida is coming off a solid season, having captured the College Basketball Invitational title, and finishing the year with an overall record of 24-14. Utah State will be confirming more dates in the coming weeks as the regular season approaches. Currently, the team has confirmed and scheduled three non-conference games against North Texas, LSU and Florida.

@dren_sports

Thompkins’ breakout highlights receiving depth at USU

By **Jason Walker**
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

Standing behind a podium, sophomore wide receiver Deven Thompkins addressed the media holding his young daughter. A wide smile split his young face for numerous reasons. Among those were the recent birth of another child (this time a son) but more recently, Utah State’s 62-7 obliteration of Stony Brook and also Thompkins’ major role in such a lopsided win. Thompkins finally got to fully showcase his lightning 4.31 speed and quick feet on his way to a career night. The young pass-catcher reeled in five passes on the night for a game-high 77 yards. He also had two touchdowns which were the first and last of the game — a 45-yard punt return and a 10-yard catch from Henry Columbi.

Last week, Thompkins did not get as much volume, but he made the most of his two catches, taking one of them 56 yards for his first career collegiate touchdown. Being involved early like he has been is “amazing” to Thompkins. “I feel like a little kid again, honestly,” Thompkins said. “I’m actually able to display my talent and just show everybody this is who I am and this is what I love to do.”

Thompkins’ emergence as is one of many threats for the Aggies. Multiple players are stepping up, answering the summer-long questions about Utah State’s inordinate losses at pass-catching positions. The Aggies returned just 27 percent of pass-catching production from the record-breaking 3,567 yards quarterback Jordan Love threw in 2018. Replacing the likes of Ron’quavion Tarver, Jalen Greene, Dax Raymond, Aaren Vaughns and company was supposed to be a hard task, one that would take a chunk of the season to sort out. Cut to now, where two weeks into the season, the Aggies have no questions at wide receiver or tight end. From Siao Si Mariner to Caleb Repp to Jordan Nathan, Savon Scarver or Thompkins, there is a bevy of options for Love to pick and choose from the pocket. Through two games, five players have at least seven catches. Siao Si Mariner leads all of them with 13 followed by Caleb Repp (10), Jordan Nathan (nine), Deven Thomp-



PHOTO by **Chantelle McCall**
Graduate transfer receiver Siao Si Mariner dives for a ball in the endzone in Utah State’s 62-7 win against Stony Brook on Saturday night. Mariner is the Aggies’ leading receiver two games into the season.

kins (seven) and Gerold Bright (seven). Four Aggies have already topped 100 yards: Mariner (191), Thompkins (136), Repp (117) and Nathan (116). “We’ve caught the ball extremely well and made some plays and in this offense,” USU head coach Gary Andersen said. Having a Davey O’Brien Award semifinalist at quarterback certainly has not hindered the breaking in of new receivers and hastening the development of guys stepping into larger roles. Andersen has certainly been privy to just how much Love elevates the receiving corps. “The biggest thing is we have Jordan Love to make those plays,” Andersen said. “He is a special quarterback, he stays so steady in the moment, takes what’s there.” Through two games, Love has completed 58 of 82 passes, a 70.7 success rate at finding his intended target. The 58 completions is the second-most (only to Chuckie Keeton) through two games by an Aggies since at least 2000. That success through the air has been spread around to the numerous receivers. “They’re unselfish as a crew,” Andersen said. “There’s nobody out there counting catches. They’re just excited when their opportunity comes to make a play.” Simply catching the ball though is not the goal Andersen has in mind for his wideouts. He wants more from them and so far he has seen just that. “I say it all the time, you can’t just be a guy that catches the ball and falls down,” he said. “You have to catch the ball and make something happen with it and we had numerous guys who were able to do that tonight.”

@thejwalk67



PHOTO by **Chantelle McCall**
Sophomore receiver Deven Thompkins evades a defender on his way to the endzone for the Aggies’ first touchdown of the game. However, it wouldn’t be the last, as Utah State would go on to win 62-7 with Thompkins scoring two touchdowns.



FILE - In this April 28, 2016, file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, bottom second from left, greets supporters after a rally in Costa Mesa, Calif. State Republicans have approved a rule change intended to ensure the party can send delegates to the GOP's national convention next summer, even if President Trump is kept off the state's 2020 primary ballot. The measure is a response to a law signed by Democratic Gov. Newsom in July that requires presidential candidates to release their tax returns, a move clearly aimed at the Republican president. (AP Photo/Chris Carlson, File)

It's Time To Look the Horse-Race in the Mouth

Is horse-race election coverage the bane of democracy?

By Taelor Candiloro
OPINION COLUMNIST

As the 2020 presidential primaries creep ever closer, it seems like a swarm of journalists appear ready to condemn the offenses domestic media outlets will apparently recycle from their coverage of the 2016 presidential race, while others bare their joy and excitement at the sound of the political starting pistol.

For all this diversity of opinion, horse-race coverage on candidate's likeability and gaffe-capacity seem to steer political discussion, whereas their policy proficiency and political literacy occupy a backseat. Bar graphs and roundtable speculation may appear glamorously informative or as a necessary use of journalistic access, but the oversaturation of these practices diminishes the integrity of news reporting and damages the democratic methods of election as a whole.

I wouldn't dream of denying news outlets the adrenaline rush accompanied by a close watch of public opinion trends. However, the supposition of Politico's senior media writer, Jack Shafer, that without horse-race reporting, "coverage would come to an endless series of policy white pages that nobody reads" is a rather vilified approach to the value of political discourse (2019). This attitude is precisely why coverage so rarely denies the drama of controversy and instead shuns the relevancy of policy proposals.

Regardless of who you believe should have been sworn in January of 2017, the election coverage the year prior was substantive in everything but substance. An analysis conducted by the Columbia Journalism Review's Duncan J. Watts and David M. Rothschild reveals that "only five out of 150 front-page articles that The New York Times ran over the last, most critical months of the election, attempted to compare the candidate's policies, while only 10 described the policies of either candidate in any detail"

(2017). This is an appalling deficit. It feels as though pundits and journalism elites spend their waking hours enraged because of America's low voter efficacy, yet neglect their responsibility to perpetuate and heighten quality debate amongst voters. Horse-race coverage ironically reduces readers to spectators. Without legitimate policy coverage, we're left to regurgitate the projections made by political talking-heads. Rather than giving voters the opportunity to improve their understanding of legislative nuances or candidates' policy proposals, horse-race journalism leaves us standing in an indiscernible tide of public opinion polling and pundit speculation.

As entertaining as it is to see Joe Biden let [Freudian] slip that "poor kids" are just as bright and talented as "white kids," candidate faux pas don't deserve to monopolize print space that could be used to help millennials

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decide which candidate can support an economy or run a country. Institutions that tout a commitment to informing the public, or champion phrases like "Democracy Dies in Darkness," shoulder the responsibility of clearing the dust partisan commentators inevitably stir up when the race begins, and the articles they print should reflect that acceptance. Having little but candidates' most laughable moments, controversial statements or national likeability to decide who might be most qualified to balance the gradation of holding a public office is absurd satire. Democratic elections require an informed public, and horse-race journalism only serves to perpetuate the idea that the details don't matter, that the office of the presidency only requires a newsworthy personality and a

grandiose sense of self-importance. So, as we get closer to 2020's Iowa caucus, we're cracking open our refreshments and listening for the loudspeaker to tell us who to watch for. Press editors are brushing off their running shoes and gearing up for a race that is riding a tumultuous wave of public discourse brought on by the political paradigm shifts of 2016. But despite the inevitable excitement we all feel, it may be in our collective best interest to ignore the white noise and to practice some restraint when the first shot rings out across the nation in February.

Taelor Candiloro is an undergraduate transfer to the Anthropology department at USU focusing her study on American ways of constructing meaning. Her desire to travel has led her to live in four states over the past three years, and allowed her to expand her understanding of American communities. Her interests include writing about and researching politics, public policy, the American identity and studies in the humanities.

If you have a contrary opinion to the one found in this article, please email it to opinion@usustatesman.com.



PHOTOS BY AP Photo / Robert F. Bukaty
First: Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the New Hampshire state Democratic Party convention
Second: Kathy Davis of Norton, Mass., cheers at a rally for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

“Rout” FROM PAGE 1

45 yards to the endzone. But as the game progressed, his electricity amplified. A 45 yard pass completion, a 10 yard touchdown in which he went one-on-one with the opponent and shook him out of his socks. A game like this is what lifts a player higher in the depth chart and gives them confidence to keep improving. And that’s what the team was focused on after last week’s disappointing loss.

“We felt a lot more electrifying tonight, I think everybody - we had a bad taste in our mouths after last game, you know,” Thompkins said. “We left three touchdowns out there that could have won us the game, it was like against Wake Forest we came out there and played as well as we could, it just wasn’t good enough.”

Unlike the Wake Forest



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall

A packed USU Hurd student section was present on Saturday night to welcome head coach Gary Andersen back into Maverik Stadium for the first time since 2012.

“Hoffman” FROM PAGE 1

tify, learning the art of music wasn’t always easy for him.

At the age of eight, Luke Huffman and his brother, Clay Huffman, began taking lessons from a classical guitar player who came to visit their town.

While Clay Huffman was able to understand the concepts and catch on right away, the guitar teacher told Luke Huffman’s parents that he would never be able to play anything with music because of his “big hands and short attention span.”

The teacher told his parents that he should never try to pick up music.

But Huffman’s parents refused to give up hope that their son would learn to play the guitar.

“I was shocked that a teacher would be negative instead

game, Utah State held its own on defense, and vastly improved from the week prior at defending the pass and tackling. Again, the Aggies shuffled around its secondary to fill the whole of inexperience and injury, but there was a pleasant surprise at the cornerback position in freshman Cam Lampkin.

“You know it’s just wild — Cam’s composure,” Andersen said. “I think he came in with a lot of confidence and a lot of belief and as he continues to grow and develop, he’ll gain a lot of knowledge when he watches this film. But he wants it all, he wants all of it coming back - he wants to study the film, he wants to learn how to play, he wants to be in the moment. A week ago he was learning how to get on an airplane for the first time with his team.”

Good tackling and superior coverage led to a better product for the Aggies. Last

of encouraging a young child to pursue his interests,” Melissa Huffman said. “That was followed by a little righteous anger.”

While his brother was still taking lessons, Luke Huffman would play around on his brother’s guitar to see what he could do.

“Eventually, it got to where it frustrated him enough that I was playing the same stuff as he would without lessons,” Huffman said.

The Huffmans ended up switched guitar teachers and encouraged Huffman to keep playing. He continued lessons for a few months, came home one day and said he’d “learned all they could teach him.”

He quit lessons soon after and started teaching himself. He never had another lesson.

Huffman’s earliest exposure to songwriting began by



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall

Junior QB Jordan Love stiff arms a Stony Brook defender during Utah State’s 62-7 victory on Saturday night.

week, Wake Forest gained 579 yards on offense and ran the ball 58 times. On Saturday, Stony Brook

was only able to gain 263 yards and rushed the ball nearly half as many times as the Demon Deacons last weekend. In the process, Utah State broke a couple school records on Saturday night. The Aggies were constantly driving and ended up converting 35 first downs. Also the team has had an unprecedented run of scoring over its past three home games, scoring over 60 points in each contest.

Saturday night also represented head coach Gary Andersen’s first game back at Maverik Stadium since 2012. The last time an Andersen-led team took to Merlin Olsen Field, the Aggies were celebrating a WAC title courtesy of a 45-9 victory

over Idaho on Nov. 24, 2012. That season, Andersen led USU to an 11-2 record, a program record for wins, and the school’s first bowl victory in nearly two decades with a 41-15 win over Toledo in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. Utah State ended the season ranked No. 18 in the country.

“It’s great to be back in that stadium for me personally. It was a great day,” Andersen said. “I’ve never been on the field like that with the press box, and the new Jumbotrons, and obviously they got some quality speakers. It’s awesome. Crowd’s awesome. It was a very good crowd. They were vocal, they were loud, they were excited. I don’t know what else to say, but

for myself, it was awesome.”

Andersen accrued a record of 26-24 in his first stint as USU’s head football coach, going 16-7 within the confines of Maverik Stadium.

Andersen will have to wait for his next opportunity to reacquaint himself with Maverik Stadium. Utah State will rest and recover next week on its first of two byes of the 2019 season, before traveling to San Diego to face the Aztecs on Sept. 21. The Aggies will return to Logan on Sept. 28 to take on the Colorado state Rams.

@dren_sports

“Bag Search” FROM PAGE 1

sealable bag will be expedited through the process.

The expedition of clear bags through the line is not just a way to speed up the line. According to Eckman, USU decided to implement the security checks in a two-stage approach. During the 2020-2021 season, a clear-bag-only policy will be instituted.

“In essence, if you can see through it, there’s no need to stop and conduct a bag search. Most major sporting events around the country have now instituted a clear bag policy,” Eckman said. “This is something the Department of Homeland Security recommends, and we felt comfortable moving in

this direction.”

According to Eckman, USU has been working towards getting the check installed over the past 6 months. However, security checks have been in discussion by the university for the past couple of years.

“Recent events regarding mass shootings do illustrate that these types of events can happen anywhere in a post 9/11 world,” Eckman said. “Our intent was to implement policies and procedures that provide a safer environment for Aggie fans to come and cheer on our teams.”

Aggie fans will have a chance to experience the changes firsthand at USU football games this fall.

jshwilki@gmail.com



PHOTO BY Tashina Eggleston

Luke Huffman, who started guitar lessons when he was eight years old, wrote “College with a View” to capture the essence of college life through his wild adventures in Logan Canyon and his time spent outside.

Huffman and his friend, Chuck Deakins.

As she made friends with the two men, she told Deakins and Huffman they should go to a concert the next night she had heard about on Instagram.

It just so happened to be Huffman’s album release party.

The two became fast friends, spending almost every day together since they met. Their friendship developed into a relationship over the past year, complete with trips through Logan Canyon and talks by the river where Huffman would sit and play his guitar.

Tolman remembers listening to his songs from the beginning of his music releases and desperately wanted to be the subject of his songs.

“I recognized that he had such a unique way to describe his experiences and world views,” Tolman said. “I also have loved music with such a passion, so it is way cool that we have been able to connect through that love. My original dream has been fulfilled, like, 20 times over.”

Luke Huffman’s ability to overcome even the toughest challenges has become apparent through his talents and the songs he has released. He has written over 1,000 songs and has released over 17 of them, with 20 more to be released in the near future.

Tolman describes Huffman as an inspired person and one

of the happiest, most optimistic people.

“He can turn any regular venture into the most extraordinary adventure, and every time I’m sad, he picks me up upside-down and spins me around until I’m laughing my guts out,” Tolman said.

Gonter describes Huffman as someone who lives his life as “bravely bold.”

“He is someone I look up to when it comes to the way I want to interact with the people around me because he is the perfect quintessence of a magnificent human being,” Gonter said.

Huffman hopes that his new song inspires people to de-

velop more of a love for USU, just as he has by writing it.

“I would hope that my song would instill a further passion for this awesome university,” Huffman said. “Every time I’m on the Quad, I look around and it feels like an Ivy League. Everything seems so perfect, and it seems like a little paradise here.”

To find out more about Huffman and his music, follow @lc_huffman on Twitter.

—kortni.marie.wells@aggie-mail.usu.edu

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B

BACKBURNER

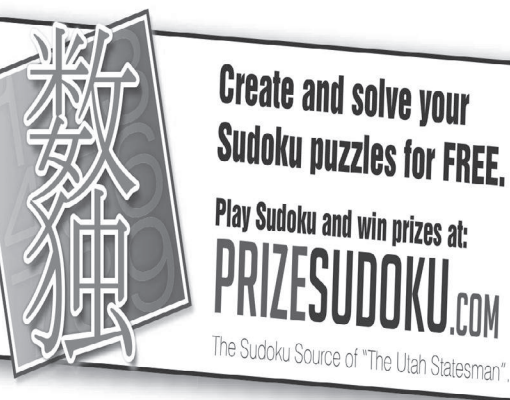
Hard

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SOLUTION FOR : 09/03/2019

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