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## The Utah Statesman, March 24, 2020

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With graduation ceremonies initially cancelled and now delayed, how are seniors feeling?

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STUDENT LIFE | Meet your Arts Senator

Learn what Caine College of the Arts Senator Nathan Scott has prioritized this year.

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SPORTS | Softball season cut short

How is the USU softball team dealing with a season suddenly cut short? Read about the players' and coaches' thoughts.

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# WILL WORK FOR TIPS

## Servers share the struggles of working at restaurants during a pandemic

By **Alison Berg**  
NEWS CONTENT MANAGER

Paige Rollins grew concerned Monday when she read Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson issued an order requiring bars to close and restaurants to provide takeout food only.

Rollins, a server at Elements Restaurant in Logan, said managers told staff the restaurant would close only if Gov. Gary Herbert issued a statewide order requiring them to do so.

“That definitely alleviated some of my worries,” Rollins said.

While at work the next day, Rollins heard the governor’s order requiring restaurants to close their dine-in operations and switch to take-out only, effective the following day.

“My initial reaction was stress because I had just gotten back from Spring Break, where I dipped into my savings account thinking I would be able to work and replenish it when I got back,” she said.

The next day, Rollins had to move back to her parents’ house in Provo because she no longer had the resources to live on her own in Logan.

In the week before Herbert’s announcement, several Logan servers said they received a small fraction of the tips they normally received and their hours were cut significantly.

Savannah Fleming, a hostess

at Elements, said she had a series of shifts in which she was sent home several hours earlier than normal, meaning she lost out on about half the hourly income she was expecting for the day.

“I pay all of my own bills, I have a dog to take care of,” she said.

Her birthday is also in a week and she may not be able to celebrate due to her cut income.

“I’ve just sat here and wondered how I’m going to make money,” she said.

While Fleming understands why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asks people to socially isolate and stay home, “it’s really hurting the restaurant industry,” she said.

“Either people are going to get sick and spread it everywhere or I won’t be able to pay my bills in a month or so.”

Sophia Demiris, a manager at Elements, said the restaurant has created to-go “meal kits” for families to try and make up for the lack of dine-in business. The kits include four servings of an entree, side dish and dessert. The meals are precooked and customers receive instructions on how to prepare the rest when they pick up.

“It’s like a full restaurant style meal and you get to do it at home,” Demiris said. “We’ve improvised because we really want to help the community.”



Romo's Mediterranean Grill is just one of Logan's restaurants that has been forced to shift to takeout and delivery only, putting servers in a difficult position.

PHOTO BY **Alek Nelson**

Other Cache Valley servers have also struggled financially the last week.

Jake Renn, a server at Takara Sushi, first thought Salt Lake County’s announcement was “extreme” and didn’t worry about his job at Takara being jeopardized.

Last week, when people started growing concerned, Renn said business slowed down “a bit,” but not to a largely noticeable extent.

A few days later, Renn’s man-

ager called and told him he wouldn’t be able to work for at least two weeks after the governor’s announcement.

“That was stressful,” he said. “Essentially, two weeks of unpaid leave.”

Similarly, Sam Hendricks, a server at Sizzler, said she made about one-third of the tips she normally makes in the week before Herbert’s announcement.

“Throughout the night, I’ll sit there and be stressed about it. I

know I’m not making any money,” she said. “It’s an opportunity-loss type thing because I could be at home doing homework and generating value that way or I could be at work making way less money than I’m supposed to.”

Hendricks paid her way through school and avoided taking out loans by waiting tables at Sizzler the last three years. But her job as a server no longer exists for the foreseeable future.

“It’s frustrating, and it makes me kind of mad because I know how my life is supposed to be moving along right now, and it’s not because of this thing that’s completely out of my hands,” she said. “All we can do is attempt to social distance as much as possible.”

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# USU women’s basketball introduces new head coach

By **Jason Walker**  
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

After struggling through a full season under its interim coach, Utah State’s women’s basketball will have a new direction under recently-announced head coach Kayla Ard.

“I am truly blessed, thankful and honored to be the head women’s basketball coach at Utah State University,” Ard said in a press release on Monday. “This is a dream come true for me.”

Ard, who was most recently an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Denver University, held similar roles at Dayton, Clemson, Troy and Pensacola State across a 10-year coaching career. For the last 11 games of 2019-20 at Denver, Ard was elevated to interim head coach, taking over an 8-11 squad and going 7-4 to finish with an even .500 record of 15-15. The Pioneers finished third in the Summit League standings.

In USU’s press release, Athletics Director John Hartwell listed off a long list of attributes the athletics department wanted to see in its next women’s basketball head coach.

“High energy, tireless recruiter, impeccable work ethic, strong basketball knowledge, committed to player development,” Hartwell said. “And a great fit for Utah State and Cache Valley.”

The epithet “tireless recruiter” could very easily apply to Ard, who has had numerous great recruiting classes among

her many roles. According to ESPN recruiting rankings, she has brought in 11 players who were top-50 players at their positions and recruited four junior college All-Americans. In 2015, while with Dayton, her work led in part to the 19th-best recruiting class in the nation. And in her first year with Denver, the Pioneers pulled off the top recruiting class in the Summit League according to ASGR Basketball.

“Kayla’s passion for the game and her high-energy level are clearly on display in the student athletes she recruits and coaches,” Hartwell said. “I am excited for our women’s basketball student-athletes to learn and develop under Kayla’s leadership. I am also excited for our women’s basketball fan base to see this exciting brand of basketball. Today is a great day for the future of Utah State women’s basketball.”

Ard’s hiring follows the tenure of Jerry Finkbeiner, who coached the Aggies to a 96-124 record in six full seasons. Finkbeiner underwent a medical leave of absence at the start of the 2019-20 season, which later became a permanent retirement. His son Ben, an assistant coach with the team, served as interim head coach for the duration of USU’s 8-23 season that saw the Aggies finish last in the Mountain West standings.

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PHOTO COURTESY **Kayla Ard**

Kayla Ard was hired by USU after working as Denver’s interim head coach.



# DISAPPOINTED

## USU seniors express sadness over canceled commencement

**By Taylor Cripe**  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Kimmie Stewart was overcome with disappointment when her phone lit up with a notification from Utah State University: graduation was canceled.

The university announced Wednesday it would cancel its 133rd commencement ceremony. The announcement came less than a week after USU moved all classes online and shut down many university events and facilities.

“I was hoping they would wait to announce until April like they said they would,” Stewart said.

After classes moved online, University President Noelle Cockett sent out a letter to students and faculty stating that a decision about graduation would be made by April 1. Many students were still hoping that graduation could happen.

“Unfortunately, this is a done deal at this point,” USU Public Information Officer Emilie Wheeler said. “No school in Utah will be having a graduation ceremony this spring.”

Some were still surprised by the university’s response.

“When the university first decided to go online, I thought commencement would still happen,” senior Ethan Maul said.

Maul is set to graduate in April with a degree in electrical engineering.

“As the week went on, it started to seem less likely, but I was surprised the decision was made so soon,” he said. “It seemed like a quick and slightly irrational response.”

Others began preparing themselves for the disappointment.

“As more developments concerning the nation’s status were received, the postponing of graduation was something I anticipated,” senior Tarren Jessop said. “I would be happy to wait for however long it may take to get the full experience though, and I know many other seniors feel the same way.”

Jessop is graduating with degrees in psychology and sociology.

“We will definitely be having some sort of celebration,” Wheeler said. “We are not going to let our seniors go without something to commemorate their time here.”

Wheeler said it is still not certain what an end-of-year celebration would look like. She said it may be different departments having a ceremony, or there may be some sort of reception for all seniors. According to a press release from the university, the latter will occur on August 28-29, rather than the original April dates.



PHOTO BY Matt Halton

Utah State University President Noelle E. Cockett stands surrounded by other Utah State University officials at the 2018 commencement ceremony.

“The big question for us is when we will be able to do it,” Wheeler said. “We don’t want to plan something too soon and then have to cancel.”

For the seniors graduating however, being able to walk is an important milestone.

“It means everything to me,” Jessop said. “As a first-generation student, this would be the first college graduation ceremony my family attends. It’s something I have dreamed of my entire life.”

Maul said it’s not as big a deal for him, but he was still looking forward to it.

“Not having the ceremony means I don’t have a defining moment where I feel I am done with my undergraduate degree,” Maul said. “It’s very anticlimactic.”

Stewart, who is graduating with a degree in international studies, said she’s trying to look at this from an optimistic standpoint.

“I realized I was most looking forward to the chance to celebrate with family and close friends,” she said. “This is something I can

still do and look forward to.”

Wheeler said the university has received quite a bit of feedback about graduation being canceled and said USU “shares in the sadness and the anger.”

“Most have been understanding,” Wheeler said. “We also want everyone to know we didn’t do this immediately because we didn’t want to make rash decisions and wanted to align with other institutions.”

Wheeler also wanted to inform students that caps and gowns can still be purchased from the campus store. However, no one will be charged until the university finalizes its plans for end-of-year celebrations.

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# Four confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cache, Box Elder Counties

**By Alison Berg**  
NEWS CONTENT MANAGER

The Bear River Health Department has announced three confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cache County.

All three patients are more than 60 years old, and while the first two did not need hospitalization, the third is being hospitalized, according to Bear River Health Department spokeswoman Holly Budge. Budge also said all three cases were travel-related.

“Please continue to practice social distancing, that’s the way we’re going to slow the spread,” she added.

This announcement comes a day after the department reported a confirmed case in Box Elder County.

According to the Utah Department of Health, 53 Utahns have tested positive for COVID-19 in nine of the state’s 13 health districts. In the meantime, Budge said people experiencing light or mild symptoms should practice self-isolation. She added there is really no need to seek emergency medical treatment unless symptoms become severe, and people can call the Utah Coronavirus

information line at 1-800-456-7707 if they have concerns.

“The message we need to convey in all of this is if you are sick, and it doesn’t matter with what, just stay home,” Budge said. “If you have the flu, stay home. If you have a bad cold, stay home. Please don’t go out and get others sick.”

Brad Gillman, a media relations manager with Intermountain Healthcare, also said there is little information on when new tests will be available. However, due to the growing number of cases in Utah, hospitals are updating some procedures and guidelines.


According to Budge, the Utah.gov website will be updated each day by 1 p.m. with any new cases and related information. Relevant news can be found by going to <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/latest/>.

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PHOTO BY Rick Bowmer/Associated Press

Travelers stand in line with luggage before getting to the ticket counter at the Salt Lake City International Airport Sunday, March 15, 2020, in Salt Lake City. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)



# The Census is Here

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United States Census 2020



# Meet your senator - Nathan Scott

## Advocating for mental health as the Arts Senator



PHOTO COURTESY OF Nathan Scott

Nathan Scott (second from left) serves as the 2019-2020 Caine College of the Arts Senator at Utah State University.

By Darcy Ritchie  
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

When Nathan Scott heard about the arts senator position his freshman year at Utah State University, he was immediately interested, and he ended up running as a write-in candidate his sophomore year. Though he wasn't able to win the election that year, Scott — now a senior — currently serves as senator for the Caine College of the Arts.

"I did it because I feel like the students I represent in my college need a representative who has a strong voice, who is willing to go up to bat for them, who is their advocate, who is a good liaison between them and the administration, who is able to voice their concerns and issues regardless of what they are," he said.

As the arts senator, Scott's focus has been advocating for and prioritizing student's mental health.

"The students in my college are known to have greater mental health needs than most other students on campus," Scott said. "I am a huge advocate for mental health, and I know it's an absolute need for the students of my college and the university."

Scott has organized events and trainings for students at CCA focused on student well

being, including an entire day of Arts Week dedicated to mental health. As a member of the fee committee board, he also supported proposals to hire a psychologist counselor at the Student Health and Wellness Center and to increase the stipend that interns at Counseling and Psychological Services receive, both of which passed.

"I think the primary priority a student senator should have is the students' well being," Scott said. "My goal for this semester specifically is to represent the students and advocate for them as best as possible."

Scott holds weekly meetings with the USU Arts Council to discuss the needs of the students, as well as plan and run events for the college. Abbigayle Welch, the president of the Arts Council, has been impressed by Scott's ability to execute the council's ideas.

"Nathan's ability to take the ideas of the council and put them into action is incredible. Our ideas were never compromised," Welch said. "He has gone above and beyond to make sure that our talents and capabilities are being utilized and amplified."

Welch also admires Scott's passion for his work as senator. "Nathan is very passionate about the work that he does. He always has the betterment

of the students in mind as he is planning, working with administration, and executing events," Welch said. "He has worked very hard to eliminate stigmas around mental illness by providing events and training for students at the college to utilize."

In addition to his position on the student senate, Scott has

the president's cabinet, a member of the Student Alumni Association and a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity's USU chapter.

With a list like that, it's no wonder that Scott's ambition is a trait that many people in his life admire him for.

Tiernan Thorley is also in Alpha Tau Omega and has been



PHOTO COURTESY OF Nathan Scott

also been an ambassador for Caine College of the Arts, the events coordinator for the university's Music Therapy Student Association, a member of

impressed at the effort Scott puts into every aspect of his life.

"Nathan truly challenges himself in everything that he

# TWEETS of the WEEK



@UntoNuggan

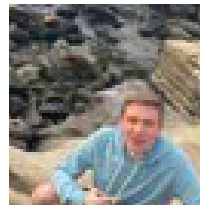
I don't know who needs to hear this, but you're allowed to be disappointed about something being cancelled or delayed because of the pandemic

You can know intellectually that social distancing is more important right now, and still be sad about missing things



@GageCarling

When this is all over I am going to stand in the middle of Main Street in Logan and just scream for like an hour



@tmonson23

\*gestures at everything\*



does," Thorley said. "Whether it be his education, his religion, or his fraternity and senate involvement, he commits completely and puts in the maximum effort. Like anyone, he has had plenty of opportunities to be lazy about the things that are important to him. But unlike many of us, he has never taken the easy road by putting anything less than 100% of his energy into what he is doing."

Thorley said Alpha Tau Omega recruited Scott because they knew he would be a great leader.

"People like Nathan who come in and get passionate and

work hard have helped us get back on our feet," Thorley said. "He has been instrumental in turning our organization into something that other people want to be a part of."

Scott's father, Jeffrey, also admires his son's ambition.

"Nathan is relentless when he sets his mind to do something. He got up every morning at 5 a.m. to practice for basketball tryouts his sophomore year. He would practice every shot until it was second nature. One morning, not long before tryouts, he made 78 free throws in a row," Jeffrey said. "Nathan

see "Nathan Scott" PAGE 6

# A ticking clock of societal pressures

By Kristian Fors  
STUDENT LIFE STAFF WRITER

It's not uncommon for Utahns to feel like they're 'behind schedule' if they haven't settled down and gotten married by a certain age. But why?

Social psychologist Bernice Neugarten's social clock theory can lend one explanation. Her theory explains how aging within a culture is generally determined by a timetable by which certain life events are expected to occur. This timetable is not a conscious choice but rather imposed on us by the society in

which we live. Graduating high school, going to college, receiving a driver's license — these are similar across the United States. But in the unique microcosm that is Utah, there are more relationship-based milestones that are judged.

Due to the overwhelming percentage of the population with some tie to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Utah is a cultural anomaly. This is reflected in everything from the state's alcohol laws to Utah's desolate streets on Sunday afternoons. This unique culture creates a unique cultural time-

table.

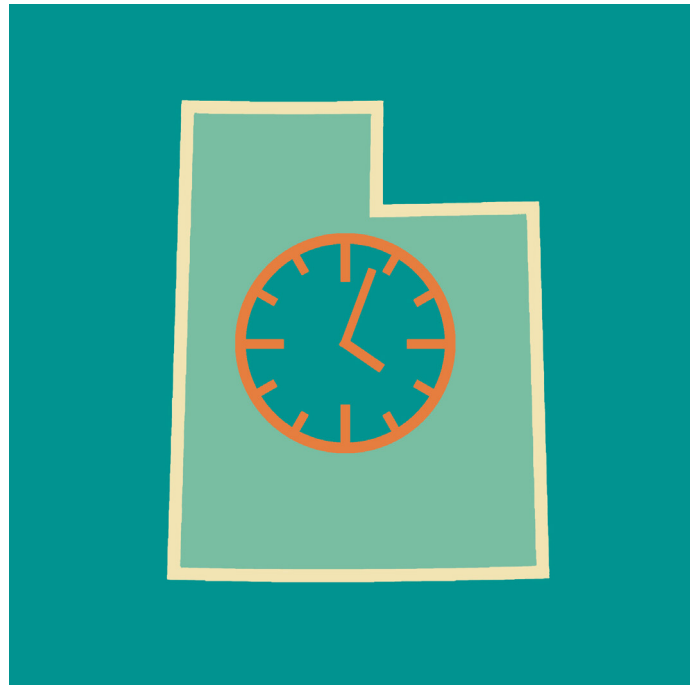
Utah has the youngest average age of marriage in the entire nation: 24 for women, and 26 for men. This stands in stark contrast to my native state — California — where men typically get married at 30 years old and women at 28. In fact, the national average for both men and women is on par with California's averages. My California friends look absolutely astonished when I tell them that many of my friends are already married.

This is not an anomaly. This is a statistically significant dif-

ference, and therefore, it's reasonable to suggest that the Utah culture creates immense pressure towards commitment and the legal union of marriage and, for many, the social clock is ticking.

Another interesting phenomenon is Latter-day Saint missions. For those who live outside of Utah, young members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints often choose to serve missions to spread word of their religion, typically two years for young men and a year

see "Mission" PAGE 6



GRAPHIC BY Regan Johnson



# 2020: The season that never was

## USU softball players, coach reflect on their season ending early

By **Scott Froehlich**  
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

“It was disheartening and heartbreaking.” Those were the words junior outfielder Stephanie Reed used to describe her reaction after learning the softball season was ending for her and the rest of Utah State University’s team. On March 12, one day before a home-and-home against Utah Valley University, the NCAA announced it would be suspending athletics indefinitely. Soon after, it was announced all Division I spring sports were canceled.

The news came as a shock, and just as the Aggies were heading into the most important games on the schedule.

“Everyone was set to go, with conference play

right around the corner. [There] was a lot of emotion,” Reed said. “We were building on a lot this season.”

Head coach Steve Johnson echoed Reed’s words, noting that the team had “just got things rolling.” The unexpected announcement left him at a little bit of a loss for words, something he called “uncharted territory.”

“There’s not a chapter in the book of coaching that deals with a situation like this,” he said. “[There are] no easy words to put this into perspective.”

Despite the season coming to an abrupt end, Johnson said the players handled the situation “with a lot of maturity,” even though it was a tough pill to swallow.

“Given what else is going on in this world right now, it’s a small price to pay to make sure everyone is healthy,” he said.

Senior Riley Plogger was especially hit hard by the news that her record-setting career had come to a screeching halt.

“Them canceling the whole season right away just kind of blew me away,” she said.

The team was initially informed the season was being put on hold. Then, shortly after, it was revealed the window on the 2019-20 campaign was shuttered for good.

“It hurts, a year of play that you can’t get back,” Plogger said.

Her career as an Aggie included being named to multiple All-Mountain West teams, both in

athletics and academics. Plogger’s most recent achievement came on March 6, when she became the all-time runs leader in USU softball history. However, the veteran outfielder looked past her personal accolades, instead acknowledging the team’s growth.

“Seeing this team perform this year — this is a really good team,” Plogger said.

Reed said one of the biggest heartbreaks was losing the time remaining with seniors, such as Plogger.

“You only have a few months left to play, [but suddenly,] you’ve played your last game with them,” Reed said. “It’s tough, knowing that we weren’t going to be able to play together.”

As big of a letdown as it was, the team is aware of the severity surrounding the college’s actions.

“Overall, as athletes, we understand that this situation is bigger than our sport,” Plogger said. “What’s being done is necessary for the safety of others. [However,] it doesn’t make it any less heartbreaking for the time... it is kind of hard to take that loss away.”

Ultimately, the fate of the season was out of their hands, but Johnson considered the bigger picture.

“We talk in life, and in softball, about Controlling the ‘controllables,’” he said. “All we can control is our attitude and our effort.”

While the players prepare for the next steps, whether it be looking for jobs or moving back home, they’re relishing in the last moments they have with each other. With the newfound free-time, the group went on hikes.

“We didn’t want to leave each other and tried to enjoy each other’s company as much as we could,” Reed said.

In the end, the players expressed appreciation for the time they had, with Plogger saying she was “blessed” to be part of the team. Reed, who will be returning next spring, believes the season would have been competitive and that “we will be ready to pick it up next year.”

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PHOTO by **Iain Laurence**

Utah State University softball played just 24 games – going 13-11 – before its season was canceled, along with all NCAA spring sports, due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19.

# Record Breakers: Part 1

## Detailing what went into USU gymnastics’ best season in 20 years

By **Dalton Renshaw**  
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

The last time Utah State University gymnastics celebrated a winning season was in 1999.

This season, concerns over the spread of COVID-19 forced the Mountain West to cancel winter sport championships prior to the end of the season. But before the season was shut down, the Aggies earned a victory against No. 17 BYU on senior night, ultimately finishing the year with a record of 7-6-1.

The 2020 campaign not only brought the team its first winning season in 21 years, but also a perfect home season for the first time in 41 years. Utah State took home three of four titles against BYU — two going to junior Autumn DeHarde and one split between senior Brittany Jeppesen and freshman Sofi Sullivan. A career-high 9.900 earned Jeppesen the title on senior night and was a highlight in what would be the final days of her time at Utah State.

“I actually have been waiting for that number for a really long time,” Jeppesen said. “I kept getting 9.875 throughout my career, just never really getting that 9.900. So just going up there on senior night, I was really actually pretty nervous but I felt prepared. So I don’t know when I hit that, when I stuck it, I was just so excited.”

The following days were filled with a different emotion, however. Uncertainty and confusion stemming from the rapid spread of the



PHOTO by **Hailey Larson**

Utah State University gymnastics had its best season since 1999 when the team went 17-5. In 2020, the Aggies finished a perfect 4-0 at home and beat every team in the Mountain Rim Gymnastics Conference.

coronavirus has put a stop to nearly every sport in the world. Utah State was scheduled to take on No. 4 Utah in Salt Lake City on March 13, the last meet of the regular season. After that, the strong possibility of heading to NCAA Regionals.

Decisions were made quickly. By Thursday afternoon, spring sports and winter championships were postponed indefinitely. By the evening, they were officially canceled by the Mountain West and the NCAA. According to third-year head coach Amy Smith, the uncer-

tainty of whether or not the team would be heading to face the University of Utah that following Friday was left until the last minute.

“It was very hectic. It was very chaotic. And things were really changing by the minute,



“Gymnastics” FROM PAGE 4

literally,” she said. “We were on a call in the morning and the meat was ago. And then I think by two o’clock that day, everything had been shut down.”

Not a lot was known about the coronavirus at that point, especially in the United States where the spread was still somewhat unknown. As the athletes were still learning about the virus, still digesting information on what precautions should be taken, they were informed that they could no longer compete. Needless to say, it was hard for them to grasp that they had performed for the last time that season. For a few, the last time in their careers.

“I don’t think any single one of us would have expected our season to end here. It just seemed so unrealistic,” Jeppesen said. “We would have never imagined that it’s just completely done. You know, especially being a senior, Ellie and I were just so shocked because it’s like the end of our career like we’ll never do gymnastics again.”

Jeppesen said that while they were frustrated with the decision, “There’s people like our university that make decisions, and so we really just put our trust in that.” She believed it was the right move to make. In times of a pandemic, it’s essential to focus on what’s most important — everyone’s safety should be first priority. Still, the team kept working until they were forced to stop. According to Smith, up until the team’s last practice on March 12, the group was training harder than it had all season and was starting to recognize their potential.

“I just really think they finally really looked at it and believed, ‘oh my gosh, we really could win the conference championship,’” she said. “We’ve beat everybody in this conference. We could do this. And I think that was one of the

has done the same thing in pursuing his musical talents.”

Jeffrey has seen his son continue to push himself in college, especially as the arts senator.

“Each year of college Nathan has done more to challenge himself and be more involved. After doing well as a write-in candidate a couple of years ago for arts Senator, Nathan got going much earlier on the next year’s campaign and was elected and continues to serve as arts Senator. It hasn’t just been a title,” Jeffrey said. “He really listens to the students in the college and does all in his power to address their concerns.”

Scott ventured out of his comfort zone many times this year, performing in both Mr. USU and Aggie Voice.

“I’ve never really put myself out there before in front of so many people, but it was great,” Scott said. “One of my goals this year was to take risks because I want to be ambitious. I want to challenge myself, so I figured those events would be big risks for me. I wanted to expose myself as an artist and musician and a talent on campus.”

With a rigorous major and a hefty list of responsibilities, life can get stressful for Scott. When he is overwhelmed, he makes sure his email inbox is empty and then turns to music.

“I obviously love music, so whenever I’m stressed, music is therapeutic,” Scott said. “I just sit down and jam on my guitar before I start homework or before I go back to responding to students’ concerns.”

Nathan Scott has always loved music, but he wasn’t always sure what he wanted to do with that passion. He began college as a vocal performance major, but he decided to make the switch to the music therapy program, a decision he described as a “no-brainer”.

“I love performing. If I could do it for the rest of my life, I would, but I’m wanting to do something a little bit more practical and something that gives back to people,” Scott said. “I really loved the idea of being some type of counselor or therapist working in the psychological field.”

Outside of academics, Scott enjoys watching movies and playing basketball and tennis. He also enjoys playing pickleball with his dad and brother, with whom Scott swept the Education Week pickleball tournament last year.

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hardest things too... seeing it in their eyes, that little little glimmer in your eyes, and like, ‘yeah, we can do this.’ It was just, that was hard to walk away from.”

By season’s end, the group was No. 29 in the nation and No. 19 in beam, with Sullivan and DeHarde leading the way. Nicknamed “Beam Queens,” the pair capped the year joint No. 22 in the nation in beam, a huge accomplishment for Sullivan.

“You know, that’s huge for us, 19th, ending there on beam. It was really exciting,” she said. “I think that we just trained really hard on beam throughout the season and preseason and everything and it really paid off.”

Earlier this season, Sullivan — as a freshman — set the school record with a score of 9.975 on beam in the program’s first win of the 2020 campaign against Air Force.

DeHarde already holds the school’s all-time record for beam titles at 12, which she set against BYU. However, one record does not suffice, according to DeHarde.

“I want to break more records,” she said. “I’ve been working for 10, I want the 10 so bad. I’ve been so close for how many years? So I’m really hoping to do that senior year.”

With winter championships and spring sports being canceled by the NCAA, the idea that this season could be lost in the memories of people years down the road isn’t unthinkable. Sure, most will probably remember how the coronavirus pandemic caused nearly every sports organization to take unprecedented action and postpone seasons. But hopefully what won’t be lost are the results that transpired when games were still safe enough to be played.

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“Mission” FROM PAGE 3

and a half for young women. It seems this clock creates a deep desire for many people to undergo similar experiences.

I myself left for a mission only to come back earlier after realizing that it wasn’t in my interest to do so, but it was a sociological urge.

There are likely many more elements of Utah’s culture that create such a timetable, but it is hard to explore this issue empirically. At best, we are left to speculation and qualitative analysis.

When people conform to their social clock, it can often lead to social validation and personal accomplishment. On the other hand, nonconformity or failing to meet the expectations of the social clock can lead to anxiety and stress.

It is important to acknowledge the existence of the social clock so an individual can either free themselves from it, or so that they can consciously work to align themselves with the clock, as to minimize anxiety.

It is hard to say how strong the impulses created by the social clock are, just as it is hard to say positively which impulses are the result of the social clock. Nonetheless, acknowledging the existence of such a tendency in human nature can prove to be a valuable exercise in self-reflection.

In life, it is up to us to determine what we truly want. If we are ignorant to the sociological mechanisms that underlie our everyday lives, we might interpret the expectations of others as our own desires. You may perceive yourself as an independent person, but until you acknowledge the existence of the social clock, it will continue to tick, with every passing moment becoming louder and louder.

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Spring break revelers party together Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in Pompano Beach, Fla. As a response to the coronavirus pandemic, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis ordered all bars be shut down for 30 days beginning at 5 p.m. and many Florida beaches are turning away spring break crowds urging them to engage in social distancing.

# Coronavirus: We can't afford to not care

By Daedan Olander  
OPINION CONTENT MANAGER

*Editor's note: This column was condensed for the print edition. To read the full article, go to the Utah Statesman's website.*

A catching attitude of stark indifference toward COVID-19 seems to be sweeping across the nation as quickly as the pandemic's spread. We witnessed as people in positions of power and influence propagated this narrative, and we've also seen several of them backpedal and publicly apologize for their lackadaisical words and actions.

COVID-19 is scary. Leading

health officials remain pessimistic about slowing the spread of the disease, and the director-general of the World Health Organization officially labeled the novel coronavirus a "pandemic" during a media briefing on March 11.

"Pandemic is not a word to use lightly or carelessly," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "It is a word that, if misused, can cause unreasonable fear, or unjustified acceptance that the fight is over, leading to unnecessary suffering and death."

For many, these reports stir up justified feelings of fear and anxiety, and a major focus of news

outlets has been to quell terror and promote smart prevention practices. Like many other issues of today, however, there seems to be a trend toward polarization, and the opposite side of the spectrum isn't discussed enough.

Apathy and a disregard for science have spread just as fast as fear, especially among young people.

If nothing else, the more than 300,000 confirmed cases and 16,000 deaths worldwide, and the alarming degree of contagiousness of the disease, should be enough to make the most brash among us abandon our cavalier attitudes.

As a world society, we need to overcome our lack of care regarding COVID-19 as much as we need to not panic. The former attitude is primarily built on false scientific principles, a pervasive mistrust in our government and media and a lack of knowledge about the situation. Perhaps the most prominent example of this was Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert's actions leading up to his diagnosis. The NBA center was noted for his careless attitude in the locker room. He was also criticized for brazenly touching reporters' recorders following a media session.

Although unconfirmed, it is speculated that Gobert infected teammate Donovan Mitchell and a child who received an autograph from him, both of whom tested positive for the virus. He may have unwittingly infected others as well.

However, as ill-advised as Gobert's actions were, he wasn't alone in underestimating the disease's capabilities. President Donald Trump tweeted a message comparing the virus to the flu — despite initial estimates of the disease being nearly 10 times more deadly than the seasonal flu — and he even dismantled a pandemic response

team of sorts in 2018. Politicizing scientific issues is usually a fallacy, but Trump's actions and words regarding the U.S.'s handling of the disease cannot be overlooked, especially as many Americans look toward him and his administration for information and hope.

Just because the coronavirus may not mean a death sentence for you, that doesn't mean your lack of care won't pronounce a very different sentence on someone else.

*Daedan Olander is a sophomore at USU studying journalism and accounting.*

# Legality and human welfare of abortion

By Taelor Candiloro  
OPINION EDITOR

Abortion has been a central subject of political debate since Roe v. Wade in 1973. It's a subject some politicians are keen to speak out on while others shy away from. But the polarizing nature of abortion politics is largely due to the legal bearing of the discussion — what should be or shouldn't be legal. Introducing legality into abortion practice, however, has only served to harm women and belittle our collective understanding of the problems underlying the abortion debate.

Hopefully, we may all remember pregnant Marshae Jones of Alabama. After being shot in the stomach in December of 2018, authorities arrested Jones and indicted her on the charge that she was responsible for starting the conflict that resulted in the

loss of her five-month-old fetus. Alabama District Attorney Lynne Washington dismissed the manslaughter charge brought against Jones, but, as NPR's Bobby Allyn noted, "Alabama's law defines 'person' to include fetuses and embryos, 'regardless of viability,' in cases of assault or criminal homicide," meaning the same charges could possibly be brought against plenty of Alabama women under similar circumstances.

The linguistics of the law have a heavy bearing on how the actions of individual citizens are addressed by the state, and these effects too often come to rest on the shoulders of those absent from the skeleton of legality. In addition to reinforcing infrastructure that internalizes racial and gender discrimination, "heartbeat" bills threaten the health of millions of women across the United States.

In Georgia, a similar bill was passed on June 28 of last year, criminalizing abortion in a way that Vox's Anna North and Catherine Kim said "doesn't explicitly exempt women who perform their own abortions with drugs, leading to speculation about whether they would also be subject to criminal charges." Some have suggested that the ambiguity of Georgia's ban could lead to other women suffering similar circumstances as Jones. The law even suggests a woman could be charged for conspiracy to murder if caught helping a friend or family member seek an abortion out of state.

Aside from permanently altering the lives of women across the country with a prison sentence, the rhetoric of "heartbeat" bills usually leaves room for something like the horrors of Lysol induced abortions in the mid 20th century, the mortality rate

for which Caitlin Flanagan of The Atlantic noted "averaged an astounding 50 to 66%." She outlined that it wasn't until the '60s that physicians realized how common it was for women to seek an abortion from a third party, unlicensed individual, who often helped induce using dangerous household chemicals.

There are a plethora of reasons why someone might seek out abortion services, and it is not, nor will it ever be, my place to decide at which of them to draw a line in the sand. It is my responsibility, though, to be informed on how abortion laws are not limited to their reach into the uterus.

Public health is contingent on structural realities: laws that inform both what kind of services we can receive and how we are able to seek those services. For so long, the law has focused on painting a black and white pic-

ture: a world where abortion is either legal or it isn't, and much of public discourse reflects this binary.

Abortion, if policed solely on the basis that we cannot harm another human life form, can appear oversimplified. If it were truly as simple as saying a 6-week-old fetus deserves the same rights as any other fully grown (and birthed) child, I would ask all those who oppose the medical practice to openly oppose the way countries wage war — an industry sometimes responsible for thousands of children's deaths per year. Because that's really what we're talking about. Sovereignty.

When we speak about abortion, sovereignty underlies our discourse. We are concerned about the sovereignty of the fetus, of the pregnant woman, of the family unit, etc. But we too often ignore the sovereignty any

citizen should be able to exercise over their own health, and their rights to tools that are necessary before pregnancy.

Women who sought out Lysol abortions in the '40s, '50s, and '60s were making a choice based on the absence of realistic alternatives. When abortion is illegal in a society that provides no alternatives — no comprehensive contraceptive education, no family planning facilities — women are forced to make a decision they often never want to be faced with. In some cases, the unfortunate truth is that legalizing abortion fills the voids left by a lack of health care education and access.

*Taelor Candiloro is an undergraduate transfer to the Anthropology department at USU focusing her study on American ways of constructing meaning.*



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

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



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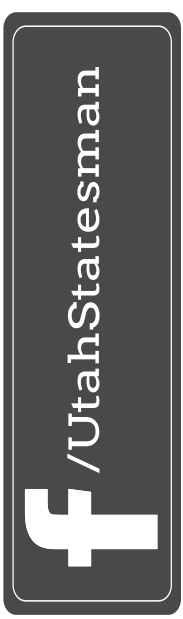
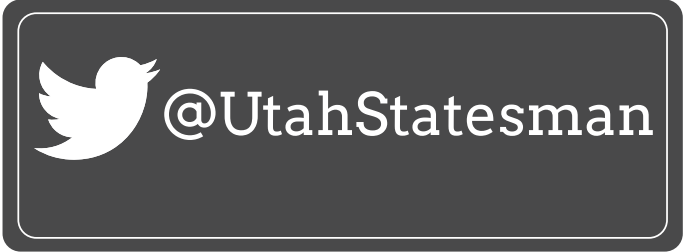
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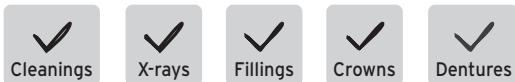
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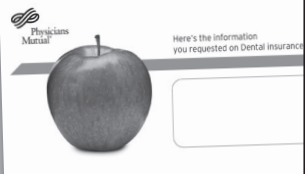
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