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## The Utah Statesman, November 16, 2020

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**Thousands  
tested for  
COVID-19**

p. 8

# Utah imposes new mandates



STATESMAN FILE PHOTO

## Gov. Herbert issues mandatory mask policy

By Taylor Cripe  
NEWS CONTENT MANAGER

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert declared a state of emergency Sunday evening. The announcement came following Utah's worst week of the COVID-19 pandemic so far.

Herbert said the emergency was being declared to address hospital overcrowding and protect intensive care unit capacity.

Addressing Utahns from his office, Herbert said he had four critical announcements. The announcements involved mask mandates, social gatherings, most sporting events and target testing.

"I am placing the entire state of Utah under a mask mandate until further notice," he said.

Businesses will require employees to wear masks and post signage encouraging patrons to do the same. Anyone who fails to comply will be fined by the Labor Commission.

"Masks do not negatively affect our economy and wearing them is the easiest way to slow the spread of the virus," he added.

According to Herbert, requiring someone to wear a mask is no different than asking someone to obey traffic laws or wear a seatbelt.

When it comes to social gatherings, Utahns may not participate in or host social gatherings with individuals other than those in their immediate household for the next two weeks.

Anyone who sponsors or holds large events and gatherings will be prosecuted and subject to a fine of \$10,000 per occurrence.

For the next two weeks, all sports and after school activities are cancelled, with the exception of high-school championship games and intercollegiate sports.

"Our data shows that individuals 18 to 24 have not been careful in their casual social gatherings and that the highest rates of the spread are now occurring among this age group," Herbert said.

Because intercollegiate sports are already required to test their players, they will be allowed to continue their sporting events.

Herbert also said that testing operations will expand.

In addition to testing people who have symptoms, they will do target testing for those who do not have symptoms. This will include weekly tests for college students, high-school students who participate in extracurricular activities, high-school teachers and people in the workplace under 35.

"Our hospitals in Utah are among the best in the world, but they cannot give the best care when hospitals are at capacity and medical professionals are exhausted and spread too thin," Herbert said.

"In our war against COVID-19, we need our doctors and our nurses," he added.

Herbert also said Utahns must do their part to keep infections low until a new vaccine is available.

"This is about so much more than just mandates, this is about personal responsibility. I ask you now and I implore you to do everything in your power to stop the spread of the disease.

## USU adds testing facility to meet needs

Utah State University is working to add another Coronavirus testing center to help with the weekly testing mandated by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert Sunday evening.

"Our hope is that all students will be tested," USU spokesperson Tim Vitale said.

Currently, Maverik Stadium is being used for COVID-19 testing. However, the governor's order will require that more students are tested more frequently.

As a result, the university is setting up another facility to make it easier for students to access COVID testing.

Although Vitale said, "the details are still being worked on," he suggested the new testing facility could be somewhere on Logan's main campus.

Students with symptoms, or anyone who would like to get tested immediately, can still access Maverik Stadium.

Information about the new testing facility should be sent out in the next few days.

According to Vitale, although it may be difficult to ensure that everyone gets tested, he has faith that students will do the right thing.

"I think students recognize how important this is," he said. "We are in a pandemic. I think students recognize the risk to their communities and their families if they don't get tested."

Students who only take classes online are not required to get tested. However, Vitale said he still hopes everyone will want to be evaluated.

"We have a predicament now with students going home for Thanksgiving break," he said. "We don't want them taking something back to their communities. We knew we had to jump on this and take action."

Although he believes USU has done a good job when it comes to the pandemic, Vitale said it can't be ignored that cases are rising at an alarming rate.

"At first we didn't think young people were high risk," he said. "We are now seeing that much of the spread from the virus is coming from people 18-24."

In an email sent out to students yesterday, President Noelle Cockett also said this increase in testing is important as students head home for Thanksgiving break.


"We want you and your families to be safe over the holiday season, and getting tested is essential for this," Cockett said in the statement.

According to the email, classes will continue as planned until Nov. 21.

All events, including student clubs, intramurals, club sports and speaker events not tied to classes will have to go virtual or be postponed until Nov. 30.

Campus facilities, such as the library, recreational facilities and dining services will remain open.

Students who have already left campus to study in their permanent home, students who have tested positive in the last 90 days and students athletes will not have to be tested weekly.

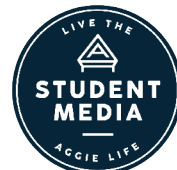
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# BEST of LOGAN

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PHOTO BY Annie Hall

# COVID-19 vaccine: The start of the end

By **Jacee Caldwell**  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

With COVID-19 cases rising each day, there is a need for a vaccine that can help bring herd immunity and stop the spread of the virus.

There is currently no Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccine.

However, a German company, BioNTech SE, announced on Nov. 9 that they got results representing 90% efficiency for a COVID-19 vaccine in phase three trials.

This doesn't mean that they are ready to release an official vaccine yet.

Pfizer, a collaborator with BioNTech, explains, "We cannot apply for FDA Emergency Use Authorization based on these efficacy results alone. More data on safety is also needed, and we are continuing to accumulate that safety data as part of our ongoing clinical study."

This new information is, however, one step closer to providing relief from the ongoing global pandemic.

Another operation, known as Operation Warp Speed, which originated from the Trump administration and established on May 15, has also been working towards a progressive solution.

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, HHS, their website states that the main goal of this operation is to produce and release 300 million doses of vaccines that are proven to be safe and effective by January 2021.

After an Operation Warp Speed briefing

that took place on Oct. 9, Paul Mango, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at HHS, confirmed that the operation is on track to have a vaccine by the end of the year.

However, it is only on track for 100 million doses.

Even though the operation will be producing less than half the number of vaccines that were originally anticipated, Mango also said, "We are still on track to have several hundred million more on the order of somewhere between 600 million and 700 million total by the March to April timeframe of 2021."

In order to meet the January 2021 goal however, Alison Hunt, a press officer for the FDA, said "to receive FDA approval, a coronavirus vaccine must be at least 50% effective."

It is unclear how close Operation Warp Speed is to meeting that 50% effective requirement.

Meeting those requirements isn't the only issue. Even with the reassurance of an effective and safe vaccine from medical professionals within the operation, along with BioNTech releasing their 90% efficiency results, some people are still uneasy about receiving the vaccine once it is released.

Some reasons for not wanting to receive the vaccine could include mistrust of science, skepticism of its safety or simply thinking it isn't worth the trouble.

These types of people, typically known as "anti-vaxxers," have others worried and some people angry that it could prevent herd immunity.

According to, Twitter user Eric Viau, "An anti-vaxxer is like a person who refuses to isolate. They benefit from everyone following the rules, yet they are a menace to the overall population."

It is inevitable that some people will refuse the vaccine, but according to The Atlantic, it's not something to worry about when it comes to preventing herd immunity.

COVID-19, according to the Atlantic article, is not nearly as contagious as the measles. Therefore "the country would achieve herd immunity even if a sizable minority of Americans refused to vaccinate themselves against COVID-19."

With the election also being a hot topic in the news, questions have emerged as to how much influence politics has on determining when the vaccine could or should be released.

Some of these questions were brought to the attention of Moncef Slaoui, the leading scientist and appointed key adviser over the operation.

According to USA Today, the EUA law originated in 2001 after the 9/11 terrorist attack. It was created for the sole purpose of ensuring that during public health emergencies, such as a global pandemic, medical products and medicines could be made available before being approved by the FDA.

*\*The rest of this story is available on  
usustatesman.com.*



PHOTO BY Mickelle Yeates

## Robbed of their final year, USU seniors share their stories

By Karcin Harris  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Freshman year at any college can be an intimidating experience. Students are in a new place surrounded by strangers, and still figuring out what to do with their lives.

Sophomores might have a little more clarity. They've made some friends, picked a major and have started to feel familiar with the college campus and town.

In junior year, college starts to feel like home. School might be a little stressful, but juniors have grown to love this life. They're excited about the future and the path they're on.

With senior year approaching, students are generally excited to spend one more year living college life to the

fullest, making valuable memories and really savoring the experience. That's what senior year is all about, right?

At Utah State University, that means cheering loudly in the stands at Maverick Stadium, going to dances and parties, singing The Scotsman — loudly and badly — in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum and celebrating years of hard work at graduation.

This year seniors won't be able to do that. At least not in the way they've been looking forward to.

USU seniors Jonah Hansen, Alyssa Hill, Kirsten Warr and Lydia Velazquez don't expect to have a graduation. They don't expect to have the same experiences as previous seniors.

And they don't expect finishing their degrees to feel satisfying.

Hansen, an economics major, said his education is en-

tirely online this semester. He was originally expecting a great semester for his last year of college and made plans to ensure it would work out that way.

Hansen handpicked his professors for this semester, and he was excited. This semester was going to be about attending his classes and getting great one-on-one time with the professors, but he can't do that now. The on-line classes, he said, are the biggest disappointment of the school year.

Just the other day, Hansen was trying to do his homework assignment. He watched a recorded lecture and couldn't find the part where the professor talked about the knowledge he needed to answer the questions.

He tried clicking on different spots, in hopes of stopping on the right part of the video, with no luck. Hansen viewed the lecture twice before turning to Google to find the answer. He wished he had a way to ask the professor for help in real time, instead of needing to resort to asking the internet.

"I was so angry I hadn't learned what the professor thought he was teaching," he said, "and I couldn't get any help from him or the online class."

Hansen said while he applauds what professors have tried to do while adjusting to this new way of teaching, they're missing the mark.

"It's my last year and I feel like I'm being robbed of a full learning experience," he said.

Most seniors taking online classes this year feel similarly.

Hill, an international studies major, is trying to focus on things she actually can control right now, but with all of her online classes and professors who aren't exactly tech savvy, it's a challenge.

"The classes are not going great," Hill said. "I have one professor who still has a hard time with recording videos or keeping up with Canvas because they didn't use it at all before this whole thing."

Seniors wanted more. They wanted to communicate with their professors and classmates. They wanted to get more out of their last few college classes.

They didn't want online classes filled with busywork and technical difficulties.

Velazquez, an English major, said all five of her classes are online this semester. She said she's thankful for her great professors and classmates, but her coursework feels pointless.


"I can confidently say that I have cried more this semester than I have during any other semester," Velazquez said. "I can't help but feel hopeless and like there is nothing to look forward to. Everyday feels like limbo."

Recreation administration major Kirsten Warr is taking five online classes and one in-person class this semester. She's trying to stay optimistic about virtual learning, but has still had her moments of frustration regarding her senior year.

One of the measures USU has taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to cancel spring break and add a week onto winter break.

*\*The rest of this story is available on  
ustatesman.com.*

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 @HarrisKarcin

# Your new favorite podcast: 'Anything Goes'



By Emily White  
LIFESTYLES SENIOR WRITER

If I met Emma Chamberlain I'm pretty sure we would be best friends. OK, probably not, but it is a nice thought. If you're not familiar with Emma's YouTube channel, you might think that she hasn't showered in a year (which was a rumor Emma started as a joke, but people actually started believing it to be true), but there is so much more to Emma. Yes, Chamberlain is hilarious and ridiculously real, but she has learned so much since she made her first YouTube video and she showcases that knowledge and growth on her podcast, "Anything Goes."

Chamberlain's podcast is very appropriately named because she talks about absolutely anything on her podcast. She reads her diary, discusses vulnerability, opens up about her anxiety and fears, and even has an episode dedicated to the illusion of money. Everything she has ever experienced in her life is on the table, nothing is off limits.

I appreciate her perspective on becoming internet famous. Most people who jump into the world's spotlight get a little bit crazy, whereas Chamberlain has been able to maintain an air of humility, which is definitely intriguing. She started getting attention from YouTube in 2017 (at 16 years old) and her subscriber count keeps growing.

One thing I love about Emma Chamberlain is she actually cares about people and shows it. She genuinely seems like a good human being who cares about her fans, not because they're giving her a job, but because they're people with real problems. Chamberlain even occasionally dedicates an episode of her podcast to her listeners, titling the episode "Advice Session." In these episodes, Chamberlain reads questions her fans send in and answers them honestly, giving advice on relationships, mental health, forgiveness and even tells the occasional embarrassing personal story to lighten the mood. In one of her recent episodes, "The Illusion of Money," Chamberlain gives her listeners some impactful advice. She explains, "If you don't work hard to keep up your mental health and your relationships with others, and you have all this money, none of the money matters."

During these last few historical months, "Anything Goes," has helped me to realign and adjust my priorities. One of my favorite episodes is called "Put Your Phone Down." In it, Chamberlain talks about not being on her phone and how it's positively affected her anxiety.

"I just got this feeling in my head that the internet was, like, the end all be all," she said. "Everything that happens on the internet is a big deal, everything that somebody says about me is a big deal. It's so easy to fall into that when you're on it all the time and you don't have a life outside of it. But the life that we all could have and can't have and do have outside of our phones is actually so much better."

"Anything Goes" is an inspiring and raw podcast that has helped me focus on the most important things in my life during the global pandemic. It's light, funny and at times, incredibly relatable.

"Anything Goes" can be found on Apple Podcasts and Spotify music with new episodes every Thursday.

—emily.white@usu.edu



The President invites nominations for the

*27th Annual*

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# In a galaxy far, far away: 'The Mandalorian' season two

By Sage Souza  
LIFESTYLES REPORTER

*Editor's note: this review contains spoilers for chapter 10 of 'The Mandalorian.'*

In the continuation of George Lucas' and Disney's revolutionary "Star Wars" trilogies, Disney+ released season two of its smash hit, "The Mandalorian."

Airing one episode per week, it is reminiscent of the time when we had to wait an entire week to watch the next episode, not just wait for the episode to automatically start. In other words, "The Mandalorian" is making watching TV an event again, instead of just a bad habit or guilty pleasure.

"The Mandalorian" has kicked off its second season with two episodes that have delivered on its legacy of success, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats while they wait for each new plot development. The first episode offered a wonderful dive directly back into the world of "Star Wars" with an entirely new goal: reuniting the Child — Baby Yoda, as he has been so lovingly rebranded — with other members of his species. While the quest trope can feel cheesy, predictable or campy, and even at times all three, "The Mandalorian" offers a genuinely entertaining spin.

The first episode of the second season sets up the Mandalorian-turned-cowboy in an intergalactic Western. In the attempt to reunite Baby Yoda with his kind, we return with the Mandalorian (Pedro Pascal) to Tatooine to connect with a fellow Mandalorian, in the hopes they will be able to provide assistance. After a brief reunion with the brash, if ever generous, mechanic Peli Motto (Amy Sedaris), the Mandalorian is directed to an uncomfortably quiet ghost town called Mos Pelgo. Thought to be destroyed in the chaos after the fall of the Empire, a sense of foreboding hangs heavy over our stroll through the town.

Eventually stumbling across the other Mandalorian in a deserted bar, we are struck with a close-up of Boba Fett's battered armor, last seen in "Return of the Jedi." Worn by the town marshal, Cobb Vanth (Timothy Olyphant), and very obviously not another Mandalorian, the threat of violence between the two is only broken by earthquake-like rumblings rippling through the sand. After witnessing an attack, we learn the livestock in Mos Pelgo has been periodically terrorized by a giant Alaskan Bull Worm called a Greater Krayt Dragon. In the moments following, Vanth and the Mandalorian strike up a deal: if the Mandalorian helps defeat the dragon, Vanth promises to relinquish the

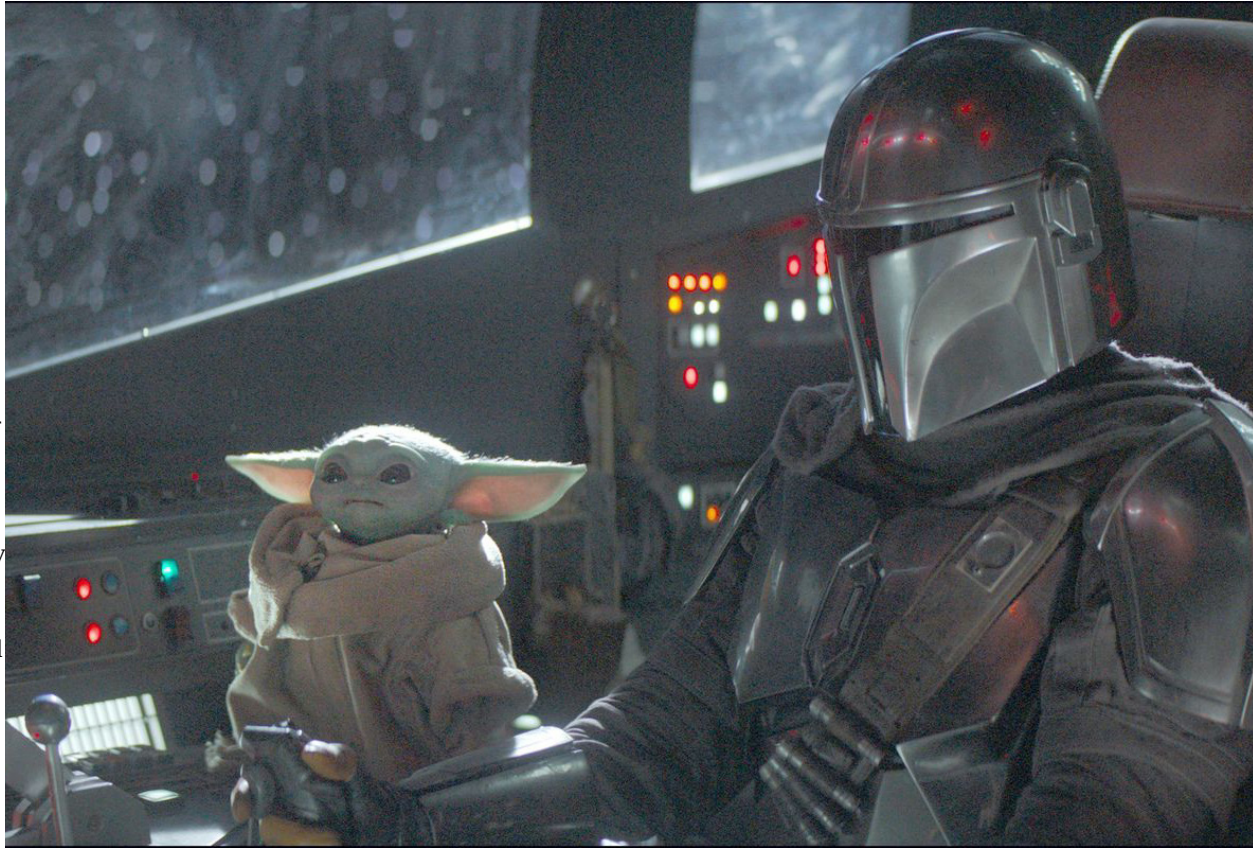


PHOTO VIA Disney Plus/Lucasfilms

armor.

National Public Radio critic Eric Deggans wrote, "there is no greater Western trope than the story of a scrappy, dusty frontier town threatened by a grand danger, depending on a stalwart sheriff and mysterious, gunslinging stranger to help save the day."

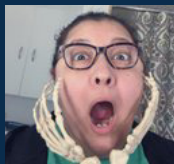
The Mandalorian exceeds expectations in the coalition formed with Vanth, the townspeople and even Tusken Raiders.

Disney+ has been offered a unique opportunity to expand the "Star Wars" universe outside of the critically controversial sequel trilogy. The Mandalorian has successfully maintained and expanded the fanbase in a way the last three movies didn't, with a promise of a new deep dive into the "Star Wars" universe. Writer-director Jon Favreau seems to be delivering on that promise — knock on wood.

—sage.souza@usu.edu

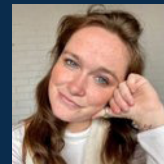
 @sagesouza

**TWEETS**  
 of the  
**WEEK**



@madiaz2

Some people are like oh no, we have to go into quarantine again and I'm like I never left!



@utahmads

normalize being a writer who doesn't write

# The Belltower Saga

By Darcy Ritchie  
LIFESTYLES REPORTER

What began as a joke on Twitter soon became a campaign to let Utah State University student Gage Duffin into the Old Main bell tower, and after one year, seven months and 26 days, Duffin — known as the Bell Tower Boy — finally made it in.

Duffin's bell tower campaign began over spring break 2019. He was exploring the different buildings on campus and wondered if there was a way to get into the bell tower. He found a few doors, but they were all locked.

"I remember walking out, and I sat on the block A and tweeted something along the lines of, 'Tried to figure out how to get into Old Main's bell tower. Failed,'" Duffin said. "And then I tweeted about it like once or twice throughout the rest of that semester. And over that summer it just kind of became a thing."

At first, Duffin was told that he wouldn't be let into the bell tower due to safety concerns, but this didn't deter him. He kept tweeting and eventually the university Twitter page started to have some fun with him.

When Matt Gerrish became the assistant director for USU's social media just over a year ago, he noticed Duffin was one of the students regularly tweeting at the university.

"He was very consistent with it, and we kept seeing mentions in our inbox over the course of months," Gerrish said. "And they were really funny, like, even everybody in our office are like, 'these are great.' Like, we need to make this happen. Like, how can we actually get this kid in the bell tower because we thought it would make for great social media engagement."

Gerrish planned to let Duffin into the bell tower early in the spring, but due to safety concerns and COVID-19, it kept getting pushed back.

"We told Gage about it long ago, so he's known he's going to be getting into the bell tower, he just didn't know when it was going to happen," Gerrish said. "He's been very patient throughout the whole process."

Though Gage knew he was going to be let in at some point, he was worried when he didn't hear from Gerrish for a while.

"At the end of September, they messaged me and they're like, 'all right, we got the green light we're going,'" Duffin said. "And then I didn't hear from them for a couple weeks, and I thought they were ghosting me. And I was a little frustrated. I was like, man, I got so far. They told me like they were gonna let me up and now they're not, like that sucked. And then a week or two ago, he messaged me again."



PHOTO BY Gage Duffin via Twitter

After waiting since spring, Duffin was finally given the go ahead, and on Nov. 6, one year and seven months after his first tweet about the bell tower, he made it in.

Gerrish came up with the idea to turn the bell tower story into an Instagram TV series where Duffin will take students on virtual tours to places on campus that they may not know about or have access to.

The first episode will be the bell tower, and there's a long list of potential locations to take Duffin next, including the Aggie Chocolate Factory, the theater costume shop, the Caine Dairy Farm and maybe even St. Ann's Retreat — or the nunnery — in Logan Canyon.

Gerrish is aiming to release the first episode this Friday, and the goal is to release new videos monthly until the end of the school year.

If there's anything Duffin has learned from the great bell tower saga, it's to never give up.

"Never give up on your dreams. And if anybody tells you you can't accomplish something, take it personally and prove them wrong," Duffin said. "If your dream is getting into a bell tower, it's accomplishable."

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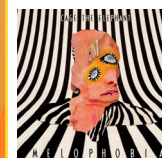
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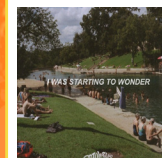
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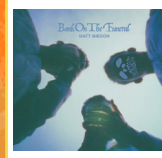
I Want it All — COIN



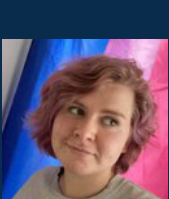
I Feel Good About This — The Mowgli's



On The 5 — Winnetka Bowling League

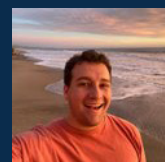


Cringe — Matt Maeson



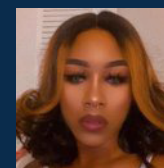
@fr0g\_enthusiast

Am I extremely upset about leaving my leftovers in my parents fridge an hour away, or am I using that as an outlet for other problems I don't want to think about?? I'll never tell



@rodeoman

spiritually, twilight was the first A24 film



@koolgalkay

Every day around midnight, I'm shocked to find out it's only 6pm.



# PUT TO THE TEST



The TSC ballroom acts as a COVID-19 testing center as the school provides testing to students before Thanksgiving break.

## TSC ballroom transformed into COVID-19 testing center

By Alek Nelson  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Taggart Student Center ballroom hosted a flurry of gowned workers, plexiglass dividers and masked students beginning on Thursday, Nov. 12.

The spacious room was transformed into a COVID-19 testing center after Gov. Gary Herbert announced plans to test university students weekly. The mandate was announced Nov. 8 as case counts have risen across the state in recent weeks.

This week, the center focused on on-campus residents. While the center allowed 500 appointments on Wednesday as a trial run, President Noelle Cockett said they would test up to 2,000 students a day beginning on Nov. 12. As of Nov. 13, around 3-4,000 students had been tested, according to Elisabeth Spraggins, USU's COVID-19 testing supervisor. Logan students can be tested this or next week by scheduling an appointment at [aggiehealth.usu.edu](http://aggiehealth.usu.edu).

"I can't say enough about how much I appreciate our students doing this," Cockett said. "The whole point is to keep others safe."

Cockett expects the case count to increase at Utah State University, not only because of increased testing, but because of increased socialization among students over the past few weeks, with Halloween a week and a half ago. Cockett said she feels the university as a whole is doing well, though.

"There have been no incidents of infection through any of our classrooms," Cockett said.

While Herbert requested university students be tested on a weekly basis, Cockett said they are concerned about the number of tests available. In addition to the current testing, which comes just before Thanksgiving break, she said they will test students when they return from winter break, as well.

Third year biological engineering student Cheng Chen said the testing process was convenient and painless. He said it was nice that the testing swabs the school is using do not need to go as

deep into the nose as s

about an inch into the n  
He also appreciated t  
works as a teaching assi  
basis. He wanted to ma  
and infant son.

"I'm the only one who  
generous places, so I need

The testing process too  
students scheduled an a  
and received a QR code  
code and were given a l  
the test to quickly retur

Testing center voluntee  
dent Affairs employees,  
istration. Volunteers wo  
plastic face shields.



PHOTOS BY Alek Nelson

## g center in effort to test students before Thanksgiving

Some other tests. The swabs are inserted into the nostrils by the patient.

He has the opportunity to be tested because he is a frequent, meeting with students on a weekly basis. "I want to make sure he is safe when around his wife."

"I work outside in, maybe some very dangerous situations to make sure I am clear," Chen said.

It takes about four minutes per student. First, students make an appointment through [aggiehealth.usu.edu](http://aggiehealth.usu.edu). Students checked in, scanned their QR code barcode sticker. This barcode is kept with the student's test results to students.

Participants included everyone from Office of Student Health, pre-med students, and university administrators. Staff wore PPE, including gowns, N95 masks and

McKenna Rich, a pre-med student studying human biology, was one of the students volunteering at the center. Rich said she would be working there for multiple days for about eight hours per day. She said she felt the testing center operations were going pretty smooth.

"I think, given all the circumstances, the school has done really well with navigating all the changes because things are getting thrown at them, as well," Rich said.

While signage at the center said results would be available within 24-48 hours, John Cockett, director of technology for the education college, said students could receive results as soon as Wednesday evening through the Aggie Health website.

Cockett, who is President Noelle Cockett's spouse, said the university's testing centers were the result of a team effort, with departments across campus helping out.

"I think it's been incredibly good for the university because you have all these different groups ... that are working together," John Cockett said. "Normally, that doesn't happen in the day-to-day op-

erations of the university."

The testing center will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 12 and 13 and will be open Monday through Wednesday this week. The center near Maverik Stadium, which is now reserved for those with symptoms, will continue to process tests, as well. An email sent out Wednesday evening encouraged students to sign up for a time at the ballroom unless they:

- Received a test in the past week

- Received a positive test result in the past 90 days

- Have COVID-19 symptoms (These students should be tested at the stadium, which can be scheduled through the same website.)

- Are currently in quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19

As of Nov. 11, the university reported 369 active cases, with 347 on the main Logan campus.

—[alek.nelson@usu.edu](mailto:alek.nelson@usu.edu)

[@nelsonalek](https://twitter.com/nelsonalek)

# Andersen out: What's next?



PHOTO BY Chantelle McCall

**By Jason Walker**  
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

And just like that, Gary Andersen is out as head coach of Utah State football. After a four-year run spanning the early 2010s, Andersen lasted just 16 games in his second stint. For some, the glory of that earlier run now slightly tainted by the completed dud of the last year-and-a-half.

So where do the Aggies go from here? Two issues dominate the immediate future. Firstly, there remain five games on the schedule, and though Andersen is now out, Utah State football has to try and salvage this season. Frank Maile, the assistant head coach/co-defensive coordinator, will take the reins as interim head coach and attempt to do what Andersen could not do with this team this season: win a game. Secondly, the program needs a new head coach.

Let's look at the latter of those two issues first.

All eyes turn to athletic director John Hartwell for that task of bringing in the next head of Utah State football. His resume for hiring new coaches is already impressive but he will have to nail this pick or it could set the program back for a long time. During a Nov. 9 press conference addressing the coaching change, Hartwell gave a long-winded answer about finding the right guy for the job.

"I don't want to establish any preconceived parameters. I want us to find the best guy for this job," Hartwell said. "Do they need to have an understanding of the return mission program, things like that? Do they need to have an understanding of Utah? Yea. But do they have to have coached here, lived here, have a certain number of people on the staff that have been here? No. I'm not going to box us into that, nor am I going to box us into saying that you have to have been a head coach.

I want us to be wide open in this search and go find the

best person, the best candidate to lead Utah State football forward. I've got some ideas about what qualities I'd like to see but I'm not going to be boxed in terms of candidates from that perspective."

As for other things said at the presser, they were the usual clichés that pop up. A "national search" will be undertaken and interim head coach Frank Maile will be considered. All that jazz.

The outside candidates could be anyone, though speculation will be rife for weeks. A current fan-favorite candidate is Weber State head coach Jay Hill (and Hartwell may have subtly acknowledged that fact in his press conference). The 45-year old coach has built the Wildcats into a perennial FCS playoff contender with four consecutive postseason appearances, three straight Big Sky titles and three straight 10-win seasons. Aside from that prominent local name, Hartwell could reach anywhere to find his new man. Countless coordinators are eager

to move up the coaching ladder and some head coaches would consider Utah State an upgrade from their current programs.

The timeline for hiring a new head coach is something fans are laboring over as well. Hartwell himself said he would prefer to have the new coach as quick as reasonably possible.

“The sooner the better,” he said, “because what that does is it alleviates the anxiety of ‘Who it’s going to be? What kind of coach

**“I’m not going to rush to a decision. I want to make sure that we get the right person.”**

— John Hartwell

But I’m not going to rush to a decision. I want to make sure that we get the right person.”

Hartwell went on to state he would like to hire a new head coach “on or before Dec. 15,” adding that if they did so they’d be “doing well.”

As for what the football team will do in the immediate future, interim coach Maile will attempt to avoid being the coach of just the second winless team in Aggie history (the last and only winless year was 1941 when they went 0-8).

As many are aware, this isn’t the first time Maile has been interim head coach. When Matt Wells accepted the job for his current position as head coach of Texas Tech, he left the Aggies — taking all but four full-time coaches with him — when they still had one game left to play: the New Mexico Bowl. Maile and his ‘little staff that could’ prepared that team for the game which they ultimately won 52-13 over North Texas.

As for how different that experience and this opportunity will be, Maile said he doesn’t see a difference, aside from the fact that unlike the New Mexico Bowl, he’ll have an entire staff and coordinators under him.

“I was put in a place where I had to lead young men and coaches forward and I feel like I’m in the same situation again,” Maile said. “The experience of doing that for the bowl game helped a little bit.”

While problems abound on both sides of the ball, Utah State’s anemic offense has drawn plenty of ire. When asked about what his philosophy would be, Maile didn’t

say he’d go with one style and seemed willing to keep the current style. But earlier in the press conference he did expound on the things that needed to be in place for success on offense.

“It’s always been about two things for me football-wise and it’s effort and execution,” Maile said. “Effort’s never been a problem with our team. Right now it’s really execution of our game plan and sometimes that means simplifying things.”

In that same answer he also commented on the talent the team has and the staff’s duty to put them in the right place.

“We have talented kids, we have good players,” Maile said. “They’ll play hard for us. They’ll play fast, they’ll play physical. But we’ve got to put them in better situations to be able to execute that game plan.”

Much like the man whose position he is taking, Maile is a defensive head coach by trade, meaning offensive coordinator Bodie Reeder will retain much of the responsibility as the resident offensive expert. Maile said he has no intent of getting in Reeder’s way.

“I told Bodie when I sat down with him about the offense to be him. Be him and do what he came here to do,” Maile said. “I’m the last guy to walk into that offensive room and start telling him what to do so I ain’t going to do that.”

The Utah State football program is going through a major pivot. Since 2009, Andersen has had an influence on this program both as the head coach and from Wells who was Andersen’s successor. In short time, the Aggies are going to permanently move away from that Andersen influence, the source of one of the best decades in program history.

—sports@usstatesman.com

@jwalker\_sports

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NOV. 1 - NOV. 30  
2020

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Check the box to choose who you think is best or write-in your favorite. You must vote for a minimum three categories to be counted. If you have questions contact studentmedia@usu.edu or 435-797-1775

What is the best overall restaurant in Logan? (Select one)

- Firehouse Pizzeria  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Who makes the best pizza in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

Who makes the best burger in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best sandwich shop in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best Mexican restaurant in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best breakfast place in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

Who makes the best coffee in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best soda shop in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best grocery store in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best engagement ring store?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best place for date night in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best apartment complex in Logan? (select one)

- Millennial Towers  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best hiking trail in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best bank in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best sporting store in Logan?

- \_\_\_\_\_

Best place for food on-campus?

- \_\_\_\_\_

Where is the best study spot on campus?

- \_\_\_\_\_

Where is the best place to nap on campus?

- \_\_\_\_\_

Where is the best bathroom on-campus?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best Fraternity at USU?

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best Fraternity at USU?

- \_\_\_\_\_

Enter your information to be entered to win prizes<sup>(optional)</sup>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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OPINION

# A day in the life: contact tracing

*The following only represents the personal experiences, views, and opinions of the author. It does not represent an official statement nor recommendation by the Utah Department of Health (UDOH). Names mentioned are pseudonyms and some other details have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

The first and last time I talked to Jorge, he was the 6th person in the queue of my COVID-19 contact tracing shift for the Utah Department of Health (UDOH). A few of the people before had been able to complete the interview, a few more would need another try tomorrow, and one had refused to talk any more at all. That much was typical and easy to handle within the rhythm of selecting a new case of COVID-19, checking their lab results, calling to ask about their symptoms and contacts, and finally recording all my notes on the computer with a few follow-up emails afterward.

Any given call usually lasts 20 minutes, and Jorge said it was a good time to talk. I could imagine his eyes squinting as we laughed about my rusty Spanish, maybe glinting in the last light of the Autumn sunset. He seemed to have an easy, patient personality and I was glad to work with him. As we continued talking, my own smile faded, and the situation shifted into something far more serious.

My heart sank with every wheeze he took to maintain the conversation. I discovered that he had been lying on the couch for days, unable to walk around the house without a tight, painful chest siphoning his breath away. His *cuñada* (sister-in-law) had been fighting a mild fever last week before she tested positive. Jorge's kids had convinced him to get tested once his own cough started.

That was three days ago, and it was only now that we had been able to reach him by phone. Bit by bit, the severity of his disease became clear, and so did the distance between him and the nearest hospital. I gave him all the information and encouragement I could and let him go to call the ER.

The next day when I logged on to follow up, a different phone number was listed. Jorge's son answered and told me how he drove two hours to spend the night in the ER with his Dad. Jorge was in the ICU by the time I called, so I answered some questions for his son and thanked him for his efforts. After I hung up, I noted Jorge's status and marked his investigation "complete." The hospital would finish his contact tracing.

I will never know what happened to Jorge after that. Contact Tracers have access to the records of the people we are working with right then, but after that, we cannot look up records for any other reason. We cannot check up on people we care about or friends or friends—not even our own records.

Since I began working with the UDOH I am grateful that Jorge's combination of symptoms and access to healthcare has been an exception. Most people we talk to fend off the infection with some aches and a low fever (if that), but then, that's part of the problem. More often now than earlier in the year, people do not know how or when they got infected. The virus slinks silently, and at times I feel like we are chasing the shadow of a shadow.

The contact tracing team works by computer. We log into a secure network that encrypts every byte of information we view. The backbone of our actual contact tracing in Utah is a network called EpiTrax, part of our link to the larger National Electronic Disease Sur-

veillance System (NEDDS). Our job is to boil down all the little details of how COVID-19 affects people into something we can record and learn from as the mountains of data continue to pile up.

We ask about the symptoms people feel to get a grasp on when they were most infectious and how long it may be until they can return to (a new) normal. Sometimes we can happily say that there is no need to worry about Uncle Billy's BBQ last week; sometimes the list of people exposed to the virus gets a bit longer. It all depends, and it makes every mouse click seem a bit heavier.

We might be facing this pandemic in the Information Age now, but for coronavirus, it has always been the information age; a virus is genetic misinformation, pre-packaged to rip apart any cell on its way to another one. This time we have ones, zeroes, and the ingenuity of the planet to tip the scale. I am glad for our successes, reverent for those we have lost along the way and looking forward to how we can all improve together.

*Keith Wilson is a cartoonist for the Statesman. He is majoring in Biochemistry and enjoys puns, drawing, and big band swing dancing.*

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# Vote for the ladies

In 1776, Abigail Adams wrote her husband, John, a letter urging the Continental Congress to “remember the ladies.” They did not. As a country, neither have we. Not only have we forgotten the women we have ignored them and deemed them unqualified to lead. Unchecked sexism and oppressive standards have kept women from the presidency for far too long.

In the 2020 election, both major party candidates were male, in their seventies, had at least one sexual assault case filed against them, and have both reportedly made racist remarks. Yet, these candidates inspired more voters to vote than ever before.

Were Joe Biden and Donald Trump the best America had to offer?

The truth is they probably were not. Biden and Trump were the safest options available to each party. Americans are comfortable recognizing old white men as their leaders because it is the status quo.

Maintaining the status quo is a pastime afforded the privileged group, and privilege usually prevents consideration for those who are marginalized. It is discouraging that enough Americans are willing to look past the sexism and racism exhibited by both candidates because they are comfortable with the current system.

Women, and especially women of color, do not make voters comfortable. Instead, they are demonized.

Kamala Harris, the first female, person of color and biracial vice president, has been called a “Monster.” Harris has been continually criticized and deemed unfit to lead because half of the nation is afraid of an “ambitious woman.”

Harris’s mantra—“you may be the first but don’t be the last”—underscores the reality that all women who shatter a glass ceiling must face. Their every move is scrutinized and their mistakes will not just be tied to them, but to every woman who tries to come behind them.

We demand near perfection of women running for office. Meanwhile, a man who tweets at 2 a.m. with the fervor and accuracy of a rabid dog can be president, while women running for office have to watch their every word.

If we truly want the best for our nation, we must hold male candidates to the same standards we expect of female candidates—an equal playing field. We should demand excellence from anyone seeking to serve our nation. Most importantly, we need to give women a chance.

When we look through American history, it is dis-



The United States Senate - Office of Senator Kamala Harris, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

heartening to recognize what we have lost by dismissing women. Many principled and driven women could have led our nation had we not been blinded by our sexism for so long.

To name a few:

**Abigail Adams** would not have forgotten the ladies and women would have been granted suffrage long before 1920.

**Alice Paul**, the organizer of the last stand for women’s suffrage, led a hunger strike, withstood abuse outside the White House gates, as well as in prison, and inspired women of every class and social standing to fight for their rights. She would have been a courageous leader during the despair of World War 1.

Due to her husband’s failing health, **Eleanor Roosevelt** fulfilled many of his duties. Her wisdom and temperament would have been beneficial during the Great Depression and Second World War.

**Shirley Chisholm**, the first African American woman elected to congress, ran for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination in 1972 and would have been an inspiring and decisive leader. She could have used the momentum of the civil rights movement to keep the nation moving forward and probably would have pulled our troops out of the Vietnam war long before 1975.

Six women ran for the nomination of the Democratic Party this election cycle and six failed. I cannot help but think their leadership would have been beneficial

during our nation’s continuing battle with Covid-19 and that their perspectives would have been essential in facing the civil unrest.

We need to recognize the competency and wisdom female leaders can bring to the table. We have lost too many great potential presidents to sexism. For our nation to thrive, we cannot continue to let misogyny deny us our right to principled and qualified leadership.

Moving forward, we must not only remember the ladies but we must vote for them.

*Addy Kirkham is a senior studying English with an emphasis in literary analysis. She enjoys reading, running, and mountain biking.*

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# Hope on Venus

This September, astronomers from Cardiff University, MIT, and other institutions published an exciting discovery: evidence of the gas phosphine in Venus's atmosphere, which is a possible indicator of life.

Venus has long been regarded as a barren, inhospitable planet. But, as MIT News reports, there is a small, theoretically habitable layer in the planet's atmosphere, with temperatures between 30 to 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

The report continues, "Scientists have speculated, with much controversy, that if life exists on Venus, this layer of the atmosphere, or cloud deck, is likely the only place where it would survive. And it just so happens that this cloud deck is where the team observed signals of phosphine."

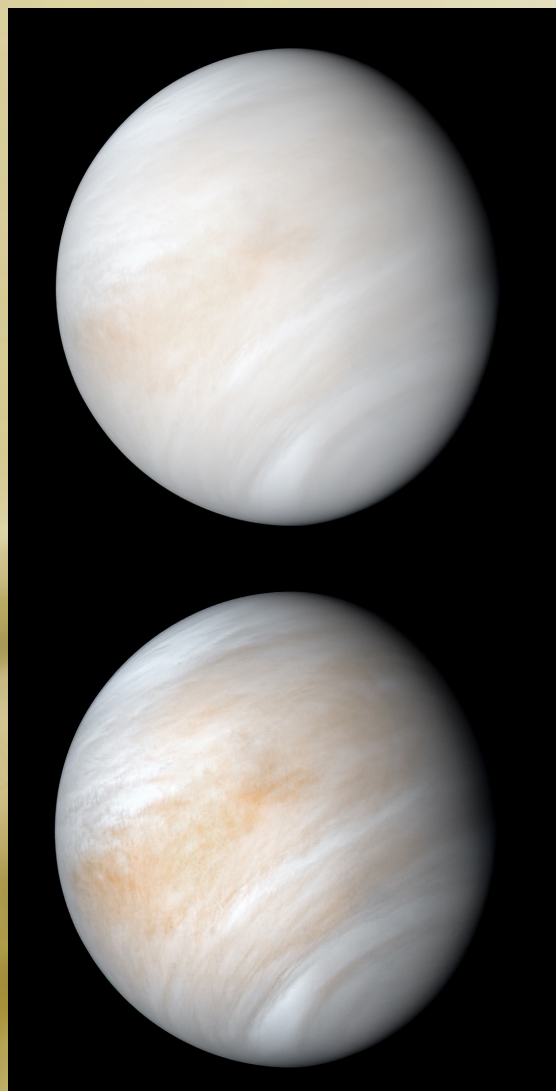
On Earth, phosphine can only be made by life. While it's possible that the finding is a miscalculation, or a previously-unknown, non-biological source, the potential implications are dizzying.

According to National Geographic, scientists earlier this year have suggested searching distant planets for the gas. To stumble upon it so close to home feels like nothing short of a miracle.

What would it mean for us to cast out far and wide through our galaxy for company, only to find it first on our sister planet? While this life (if it is life) is likely to be closer to microbes than Spock or E.T., it could be the first sign that we're not alone in this universe – that possible companions aren't nonexistent or long-dead or so far away we can never reach them.

It could be a beginning.

In some stories, humans put aside their differences and unite under one banner when they make first contact. I don't think that will happen. World peace, easily accessible space travel, and interstellar trading networks like we see in sci-fi movies are still a long



NASA/JPL-Caltech

way off. In many ways, very little has changed since this news broke.

The pandemic and the election continued, and students continued going to class, doing their homework and looking forward to the next break.

But underneath all that, the research continues, bringing us step by step into the future we've only dreamed of. Every breakthrough is a validation.

We have been right to look at the stars and ache to experience them firsthand. Incredible as this planet is, it doesn't even register on the scale of everything. The universe is enormous and mysterious and beautiful, and there is so much yet to discover.

So even while we fret over our anxieties, as we make dinner and set alarms and brush our teeth, as we struggle to get through each week — we know that, out there, the universe is still turning.

Even in the cradle of our own solar system there are miracles just waiting to be uncovered.

*Katelyn Allred is an opinion columnist for the Utah Statesman.*

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CARTOON BY Keith Wilson

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

Last week's solution:

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

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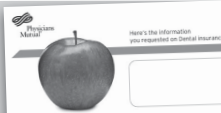


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OF THE DAY



# C CALENDAR

NOV 16 - NOV 21

MONDAY  
11/16

**Lazyman Triathlon**  
Nov. 16-Dec. 16  
USU Campus Recreation  
Sign up: [bit.ly/2UoTyVX](https://bit.ly/2UoTyVX)

**Indigenous Be Cookin'**  
10 a.m.  
USU Inclusion Center  
IG Live: [@usu\\_inclusion](https://www.instagram.com/usu_inclusion)

**Thank You Week  
Tables**  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Nov. 16-Nov. 20  
TSC First Floor

**Faith Challenges  
Support Group**  
2:30 p.m.  
CAPS  
Zoom Meeting  
ID: 837 3352 8590  
Passcode: 836612

**Mountain Biking  
Basics**  
5 p.m.  
Virtual Workshop  
Sign up: [bit.ly/3kr5yAN](https://bit.ly/3kr5yAN)

TUESDAY  
11/17

**Mindful Self-  
Compassion Workshop**  
2:30 p.m.  
CAPS  
Zoom Meeting  
ID: 830 1800 7092  
Passcode: 765319

**Emotional Wellbeing  
for Young Women**  
6 p.m.  
Virtual Workshop  
Sign up: [bit.ly/3ng4tO2](https://bit.ly/3ng4tO2)

**HR Leaders Lecture  
Series: Tyler Orr**  
6:30 p.m.  
Virtual Workshop  
Sign up: [bit.ly/36ykHeL](https://bit.ly/36ykHeL)

WEDNESDAY  
11/18

**Study Abroad Virtual  
Fair**  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
Sign up: [bit.ly/36zmL65](https://bit.ly/36zmL65)

**Virtual Trivia Night**  
7 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
[virtualrec.usu.edu](https://virtualrec.usu.edu)

**Big Bands Concert**  
7:30 p.m.  
Daines Concert Hall  
Logan, UT

**Global Perspective on  
Adoption of Electrified  
Transportation**  
8 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
[bit.ly/3psXcwc](https://bit.ly/3psXcwc)

THURSDAY  
11/19

**Huntsman Research  
Symposium**  
12-4 p.m.  
Virtual Event

**Career Services:  
Designing Your Life**  
5 p.m.  
Virtual Event  
[virtualrec.usu.edu](https://virtualrec.usu.edu)

**Football at Wyoming**  
7 p.m.  
CBS Sports Network

**USU Symphony  
Orchestra Concert**  
7:30 p.m.  
Daines Concert Hall  
Logan, UT

FRIDAY  
11/20

**LinkedIn Masterclass -  
How to get a job using  
LinkedIn**  
1 p.m.  
Virtual Workshop  
Sign up: [bit.ly/3nmpmN](https://bit.ly/3nmpmN)

**Holiday Blues**  
2 p.m.  
CAPS  
Zoom Meeting  
ID: 864 551 0186  
Passcode: 68

**November Demo Show**  
7 p.m.  
USU Physics  
Virtual Event  
[bit.ly/2UrR5dw](https://bit.ly/2UrR5dw)

**String Chamber Music  
Recital**  
7:30 p.m.  
Streaming at  
[ccapresents.usu.edu](https://ccapresents.usu.edu)

SATURDAY  
11/21

**Smithfield Holiday  
Turkey Trot**  
10 a.m.  
Smithfield Rec. Center  
315 E 600 S  
Smithfield, UT

**Country Cowboy  
Christmas Market**  
10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Tremonton Fairgrounds  
320 N 1000 W  
Tremonton, UT

**Stroke of Paint**  
7 p.m.  
Harmony Arts and  
Music Academy  
8985 W 11200 N  
Tremonton, UT

**Bar-J Wranglers  
Benefit Concert**  
7 p.m.  
Box Elder County  
Fairgrounds  
905 N 1000 W  
Tremonton, UT

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